



Shared strength through  WPPI Energy

[www.algomautilities.com](http://www.algomautilities.com)

Phone: (920) 487-5556

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### ***Tree Trimming***

Algoma Utilities will be trimming trees located near the overhead power lines during the next several months. This work is necessary to provide adequate clearance around the power lines to ensure safe and reliable electric service to our customers. If you have any tree branches that you think are too close or are touching power lines, please contact us and we will determine if the trees need to be trimmed.

Trimming will take place from January through April in the Algoma Utilities service area. If you have any questions please call Algoma Utilities at 920-487-5556.

## **Did You Know?**

The Public Service Commission allows utilities to collect deposits (similar to a security deposit) for a variety of reasons. One of which is if you become disconnected due to non-payment of a utility bill or are 80 days past due during the winter moratorium, some exclusions may apply.

The amount of the deposit can vary depending on the reason for the deposit request. If your account is 80 days or more past due during the winter moratorium the deposit can be equal to the highest four consecutive bills in the past 12 months.

For example, if the four highest bills total \$300, the customer would be required to pay a deposit of \$300, in addition to the regular monthly service bill.

Please contact the Algoma Utilities office to discuss your account to avoid a deposit request.



### **Manage Your Account with e-Care**

Need your payment history for 2017? You can obtain your payment history through our customer web portal. Our customer web portal offers you the option of managing your account from home at any time - day or night. Visit our home page at [www.algomautilities.com](http://www.algomautilities.com) and view the **Manage Your Account with e-Care** article to learn how to get started.



### ***Do you own property in Algoma that is not occupied during the winter months?***

Normally if the building is adequately heated the property will be o.k. However, what happens if your furnace or the electricity goes out? The potential is that your water pipes and/or water meter could freeze and break causing property damage.

Here are a few suggestions to help prevent potential problems:

- Winterize your property and turn off the main water valve and possibly individual valves for toilets, dishwashers, water heaters, etc.
- Have someone check to ensure the furnace is working properly.
- Request the Utility shut off the water at the curb stop. (A reconnection fee will apply when turned on in spring.)
- Replace programmable thermostat batteries annually.
- After a power outage, check that the thermostat resumes its normal settings.

Contact Algoma Utilities at 920-487-5556 if you have questions about unoccupied property.



Scholarship

## **WPPI/Algoma Utilities High School Public Power Scholarship**

Each year, Algoma Utilities along with our power supplier WPPI Energy, offers a scholarship to high school seniors. This year two Public Power Scholarships will be awarded to essay contest winners. Each scholarship will be \$500. This scholarship is open to high school seniors planning to attend a two-year technical college or four-year college or university. The student (or their parent or legal guardian) must be a customer of Algoma Utilities.

Scholarship applicants should compose a 500-1,000 word essay that addresses the following topic: **Our Community Connection: The Value of Our Municipal Utility.**

Please stop at our office for details or visit our website at [www.algomautilities.com](http://www.algomautilities.com) and click on the scholarship icon at the bottom of home page to view complete eligibility requirements. You will also find out how the essay will be assessed and the steps necessary to submit the essay.

The deadline for submitting essays is April 16, 2018.



### ***Adopt a Hydrant Program***

Please consider adopting a hydrant in your neighborhood. Assist by keeping it clear of snow and ice. In the event of a fire, *open access saves time and lives!*



## **Water Conservation Tips**

Water is a household amenity that is often taken for granted – at least until the utility bill comes. Here are several steps you can take to save water that are conservative not only to the environment, but also to your budget.

### **1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks.**

A small drip from a worn faucet can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

### **2. Don't use the toilet as wastebasket.**

Every time you flush a facial tissue or other small bit of trash water is wasted.

### **3. Check your toilets for leaks.**

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

### **4. Check for hidden water leaks.**

Read the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

### **5. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.**

"Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.

### **6. Consider buying "low flush" toilets.**

They use 1 to 2 gallons per flush instead of the usual 3 to 5 gallons.

### **7. Insulate your water pipes.**

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your pipes with pre-slit pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

### **8. Take shorter showers.**

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower while soaping up then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.

### **9. While brushing your teeth turn off the water.**

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth.

### **10. Rinse your razor in the sink.**

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water.

### **11. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units.**

Garbage disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste.

### **12. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.**

Rinse them with a spray device or a panful of hot water.

### **13. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge.**

Store drinking water in the fridge to keep it cold rather than running the tap until the water is cold.