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www.algomautilities.com

Phone: (920) 487-5556

October 2019



Celebrate
Public Power

Algoma Utilities is celebrating Public Power during the month of October along with 80 other community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities across Wisconsin.

Collectively, Wisconsin's 81 public power utilities provide service to nearly 300,000 customers and distribute 11% of the state's electricity.

Most public power utilities were formed in the late 1800's when investor-owned utilities focused on earning profits from building infrastructure to serve large cities. Recognizing their own need for electricity, leaders in smaller and more remote areas took initiative to

develop community-owned power utilities – with local control and with service provided by workers in the community.

Today more than 2,000 towns, cities and villages across the country (including large cities like Los Angeles, Nashville and Seattle) own and operate their own electric utility, delivering reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible service to some 49 million Americans.

This year, during the month of October, Algoma Utilities would like to support the Algoma Elementary School Child Care Center. The center began in 2012. The center provides quality child care for children ages 3 – 12 years old that are enrolled in the Algoma Elementary School. Before and after school child care is offered as during the day, year round. Daily activities include play time, project time, circle time, outside time, rest time, lunch time, snack time, homework time and more.

Donate a **new-packaged item from the list below** to benefit the child care center and **receive a gift! Supplies are limited.**

- Disinfectant spray
- Hand sanitizer
- Cleaning wipes
- Tissues and Q-tips
- Paper plates and plastic spoons
- Glue sticks (purple disappearing)
- Watercolor paints
- Colored pencils and sharpies
- Cereal (bags of Fruit Loops, Cheerios, etc.)
- Individually wrapped snacks: granola bars, fruit snacks, animal crackers, pretzels, chips.



Notice To All Algoma Utility Customers

For your convenience, Energy Services for Kewaunee County will be accepting applications for energy assistance at the Algoma Utilities on the following date:

Monday, Oct 14th 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Please call Energy Services at **920-388-0652** for more information.



Water System Maintenance

Algoma Utilities will be doing routine water system maintenance **during the month of October**. It is necessary to flush the hydrants and exercise the water valves in order to test the water flow and pressure and also to remove any sediment in the pipes.

Maintenance will be performed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Customers may notice discoloration of the water. If this happens, run the cold water for a few minutes until the water runs clear. Water is safe for cooking and consumption. To avoid any discoloration, customers are asked to refrain from washing light colored fabrics when we are flushing in your area. If you have any questions, please call the Algoma Utilities' office at 920-487-5556.



Water Leaks can be costly

Whether you own your home or rent, if you pay for water and sewer on your utility bill, water leaks can be costly.

A common source of a water leak is your toilet and can be the most costly because you can't always see what is happening. If you "wiggle the handle" to stop it from running, that is a good indication that your toilet needs attention. If you see rippling water in your toilet, it could be a silent toilet leak. And of course, if you hear it running for a long time, check it out. You can do a food coloring test to look for silent toilet leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and if color appears in the bowl without flushing there's a leak that needs to be checked out.



As much as half of the

energy used in your home goes to space and water heating. Making smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems can make a big impact on your utility bills and your comfort.

Focus on Energy's Heating and Cooling Improvements Program offers incentives to customers for the replacement of furnaces, boilers and water heaters with high-efficiency equipment. In addition to the Focus rebate, Algoma Utilities is offering an additional rebate. Visit the homepage of our website, www.algomautilities.com and click on the New Furnace Incentive icon to learn more about the incentives and to obtain the rebate forms.



Do you have vampires in your house?

The vampires we are referring to are the gadgets and appliances plugged in wall outlets that continue to use electricity even if they're switched off. These are also known as standby power, phantom load or wall warts.

- **Unplug devices you don't use often.** This probably won't work for your cable box or clock radio, but if you have an extra TV, an old desktop computer or a stereo you only use from time to time, you should consider unplugging them completely until the next time you need to use them.
- **Use power strips.** Power strips allow you to toggle the power flow on and off. This will allow you to control the power usage of clusters of devices so that they're not consuming electricity when you're not around. **Using a light switch** that turns power outlets on and off works the same as a power strip.

HEATING TIP

Another heating season will be here soon. Have your furnace inspected & maintained by a professional to ensure safety and efficiency. Also, remember to clean or replace the furnace filter regularly and to replace programmable thermostat batteries annually.



Make room in your garage or basement by getting rid of that extra fridge or freezer taking up space and hogging energy. A Focus on Energy partner will pick it up from your house for FREE, responsibly recycle it, and give you \$20. Plus, you'll save up to \$150 per year in energy costs. Appliances must meet the program guidelines including the unit must be in working order and between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size to qualify for the program.

Call the Focus on Energy Appliance Recycling Program at 800-354-1898 to schedule a pick up or you can visit our website at www.algomautilities.com and look for the Appliance Recycling icon at the bottom of our home page.