

# THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded

Community Proud

Community Owned



June, 2017

*MPLS Star Tribune 2016-A father and son were killed Sunday morning when the farming auger they were handling hit an overhead power line, authorities said. The men — ages 53 and 25 — were unresponsive when they were found by a family member. The two had been lifting a farming auger when it came in contact with a power line, authorities said. Rescue workers tried to resuscitate the men, but the 53-year-old was declared dead at the scene. The 25-year-old was flown to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, where he was pronounced dead.*

*Buffalo News-NY 2017- A 26-year-old Wellsville man was electrocuted and died after a power line fell on him in Allegany County, according to State Police. It happened Wednesday night on Ingraham Road in Amity. A backhoe hit an overhead utility line, causing the utility pole to break and fall, bringing the power line down with it. The power line landed on Derek Roeske, who was standing nearby helping the backhoe operator. Roeske was taken to Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville where he was pronounced dead.*

*Dallas Forth Worth Telegram 2017-"Alex and Isaiah Lopez were exploring Oakland Lake Park after school on Wednesday as they did almost every day. They were playing in the wooded Fort Worth park with friends when Alex, 12, stepped into a puddle near power lines downed in a storm the night before. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports an electrical shock passed through the puddle and into his body, killing him. Isaiah went to check on his older brother while the friend ran to find help. But when Isaiah touched Alex, he was electrocuted and killed as well.*

**Please don't become a news headline like the ones above!! Always remember the basic safety rules when encountering power lines.**

Power lines bring electricity from generating plants to our communities and into our homes. They are a vital part of the electrical transmission and distribution system but they can also be dangerous.

Here are some basic rules about power line safety:

**Never climb trees near power lines.** The human body is an excellent conductor of electricity and you could become its path from the lines to the ground.

**Stay away from downed power lines.** Always assume a downed power line is live and life-threatening. Keep children and pets away from downed lines. Do not attempt to remove a person or animal caught in power lines. Call 911 for help. Do not attempt to remove tree limbs or any other object from a downed line. If you see a downed line, call Rice Lake Utilities at 715-234-7004 or 911.

**Never drive over a downed line or under a low-hanging line.** Beware of downed lines touching a vehicle. Stay away from the vehicle and the line. If a power line hits your car while you're inside, stay put and wait for help. If the car catches fire, then jump clear without touching metal and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away keeping both feet on the ground.

**Keep ladders, antennas, kites and poles away from power lines.** Remember: Weatherproofing on overhead wiring is not insulation. If you are holding any of these items and they come into contact with a power line, you could receive an electrical shock.

## What are tax equivalent payments and why you should care



Each year Rice Lake Utilities makes payments to the City of Rice Lake because the city cannot levy (collect) property or sales taxes on Rice Lake Utilities as a government entity.

For the fiscal year of 2016 **Rice Lake Utilities has contributed over \$500 thousand dollars** to the city of Rice Lake. By contributing to the property tax base this lessens the dollar amount that the citizens of Rice Lake have to contribute.

The City of Rice Lake uses the property taxes to support a variety of initiatives for the public, including streets, fire department, police department, community development, parks and recreation, library, etc.



## Rice Lake Utilities Wastewater Treatment Plant earns a 3.4 out of 4.0 for overall performance!!

The Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) is an annual self-evaluation reporting requirement for publicly and privately owned domestic wastewater treatment works. The purpose of the CMAR is to evaluate the wastewater treatment system for problems or deficiencies. The management, operation and maintenance activities are described in the report. Owners identify proposed actions to prevent violations of Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits (WPDES) and water quality degradation. The CMAR program also encourages actions that: promote the owners' awareness and responsibility for wastewater collection and treatment needs, maximize the useful life of wastewater treatment systems through improved operation & maintenance and initiate formal planning, design and construction for system upgrades.



Congratulations Wastewater crew!! If you would like more information you can access the report on our web page at [www.ricelakeutilities.com](http://www.ricelakeutilities.com).

## Rice Lake Utilities Financial 2016

### (Electric Utility)

Serving 5,790 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$13,784,805
Operating expenses	\$13,692,995
Operating income	\$91,810
Rate of return on rate base	1.05%
Total plant in service	\$16,892,201
Purchased power costs in 2016	\$10,872,553
<b>Tax Equivalent paid to the City of Rice Lake in 2016</b>	<b>\$287,630</b>

### (Water Utility)

Serving 3,932 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$1,398,994
Operating expenses	\$1,310,865
Operating income	\$88,129
Rate of return on rate base	1.92%
Total plant in service	\$11,671,411
Gals. Pumped in 2016	544,378,000
<b>Tax equivalent paid to the City of Rice Lake in 2016</b>	<b>\$213,274</b>

### (Wastewater Utility)

Serving 3,872 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$2,507,249
Operating expenses	\$2,251,575
Operating income	\$255,674
Rate of return on rate base	2.04%
Total plant in service	\$19,947,085
Wastewater gallons treated in 2016	539,130,000

## Drinking water report



This year's annual Drinking Water Report is now available. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services that are available from Rice Lake Utilities. If you would like a copy of this report you can log onto our website at [www.ricelakeutilities.com](http://www.ricelakeutilities.com) and you will find it on our front page or if you would prefer to have a hard copy you may stop by Rice Lake Utilities between the hours of 7:00 a.m-4:00 p.m. and pick one up.

In an effort to provide our consumer/owners with quality water, Rice Lake Utilities is asking that if you are experiencing any type of issues related to taste, color or staining with your water please contact us and we will try and mitigate the situation as best as we can.