

THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded

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March, 2014



KEEP YOUR WATER RUNNING UNTIL MAY 1ST TO AVOID FREEZE UPS!!



Please let your water run!!!!!! Due to the extreme frost depths causing service lateral freeze-ups at an alarming rate, Rice Lake Utilities is continuing to authorize all water utility customers to let a continuous pencil stream of cold water run until **MAY 1st, 2014**.

Do not shut the water off even on warm days! The frost is still deep in the ground and will freeze the water in the pipe if not active. Usage adjustments will be made. By each of us doing our part and taking preventive action we can avoid costly expenses that occur with thawing operations.

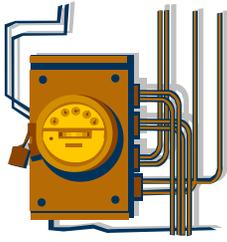
This is a serious situation. Rice Lake Utilities water crews have thawed over 200 water services and fear that number could rise dramatically if people turn their water off too soon. Thank you to all of our customers who have been taking the preventative measure of running water as directed.

PLEASE KEEP THE WIPES OUT OF THE PIPES



The so called "flushable wipes" are creating a big pain in the rear for the wastewater treatment facility. The wipes are gaining popularity due to the disposable & antibacterial qualities they possess as well as their many different uses. While they say "flushable" they don't say what happens after they are flushed.....The cloth-like material doesn't break down as it courses through the sewer system like toilet paper. The resulting mounds of accumulated wipes can cause massive clogs, damage to pumps and an increase in maintenance and repair costs. All of these costs have to be passed directly on to our ratepayers. So please help us to keep the wipes out of the pipes and **never** flush "flushable" or "disposable" products, no matter what a label says! The only items you should flush are human waste and toilet paper. Just because something disappears down your toilet doesn't mean it won't cause a problem **in your** sewer pipe lateral—or further down the line at our wastewater treatment facility. We thank you for your help!

RICE LAKE UTILITIES PREPARES FOR RESIDENTIAL DISCONNECTS APRIL 15TH, 2014.



If you have fallen behind in your utility payments, Rice Lake Utilities may be able to offer you a deferred payment plan that will help you pay your current bill and any past due amounts owed. You also may be eligible for emergency fuel assistance. To find out, please contact the Barron County Energy Assistance office at 537-5691.

Turn your recyclables into rewards!

The City of Rice Lake has partnered with Recyclebank to reward residents for recycling. Recyclebank works with communities to find out how much recyclable material was collected. The collective weight is then converted to Recyclebank points and shared amongst all of the residents in the community that recycled. So, the more everyone recycles, the more points you earn! You can use points on everything from groceries, merchandise and discounts. If you like magazines such as: People, Glamour, Golf Digest, Country Living etc, you can have a 12 month subscription for free using your points. So don't wait, the sooner you sign up the sooner you start earning your points. Join today at Recyclebank.com. No access to a computer? You can still join Recyclebank. Just call 1-888-727-2978.



Chances are the older refrigerator or freezer in your basement or garage is running up your utility bill by an average of \$150 a year. Recycle it, reduce your energy use and keep

harmful materials out of landfills. Focus on Energy (FOE) offers FREE pick up and recycling of your old, inefficient, working refrigerators and freezers. You'll not only be saving approximately \$150 per year per appliance in energy, but you'll also receive a \$40 reward per appliance recycled. For a free pickup, call FOE at 1-855-398-5226. *Appliances must be in working order to qualify.

Look for the box top labels and save them for our area schools. Each box top is worth **10¢** and they add up fast! Schools can use their Box Tops cash to buy whatever they need most, from books to field trips to playgrounds. If you don't have a student to give them to, you can send them directly to Hilltop Elementary at 202 Cameron Rd in Rice Lake!



The City of Rice Lake will be hosting Operation City Pride on Saturday April 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Recycling stations will be set up in the North Industrial Park where you can recycle almost anything

-from the most basic items to tree limbs & bathroom fixtures. City Hall will be sending out a notice with full details regarding the event. For more information contact the city clerk's office at 715-234-7089.