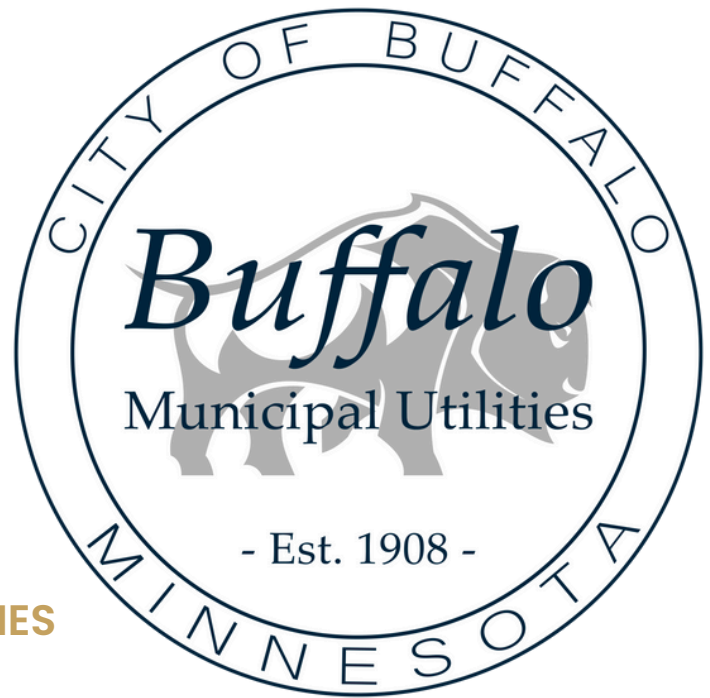


THE BUFFALO BUZZ

WWW.CI.BUFFALO.MN.US/157/UTILITIES

BMU

**YOUR HOMETOWN UTILITIES
STRONGER TOGETHER**



Top News

- *Letter from the Utility Director
- *GIS: What's it all About
- *Buffalo Fiber Phase 2
- *Manhole Rehab Saves \$\$\$
- *NEW Metering Systems
- *Electric Crew Goes to Florida

More Buzz

- *SMART Salting
- *Preventing Frozen Pipes
- *REBATES 2025



Photos: 2024 Customer Appreciation Day

A message from the Director

Dear Valued Customers,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you to our quarterly utility newsletter, The Buffalo Buzz. This is a beginning of a new chapter in how we connect with you---our customers, neighbors, and partners in building a thriving community.

At Buffalo Municipal Utilities, your city-owned utility we're more than just providers of electricity, water, sewer and fiber services. We are your hometown utility, a team of dedicated professionals who live work and serve in this community. Our goal is to deliver not only essential services but also a sense of trust, reliability, and innovation that you can count on.

Our hardworking and talented local staff take immense pride in what they do, whether it's ensuring reliable power, maintaining clean water systems, collecting sanitary waste, expanding cutting-edge fiber technology or keeping our community's infrastructure safe and secure. Their commitment to excellence is the backbone of our operations, and I am constantly inspired by their dedication to serving you.

We understand that our water and sewer utilities are currently in a high- rate period, and we acknowledge the challenges this presents for our customers. Much of this is due to debt that has built up over time, but we are actively strategizing ways to overcome it and minimize our operations and maintenance costs and align our rates to more reasonable and sustainable structures. To address this, we are engaging expert studies and conducting comprehensive fiscal reviews to identify opportunities for improvement. These efforts will help us plan and enhance our competitiveness in the cost of providing water and sewer services.

As we move forward, we are embracing innovation to enhance the services we provide. The implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) will offer greater efficiency and convenience for you, including real-time insights into your utility usage. Our fiber network will bring faster and more reliable internet, empowering homes, and businesses with state-of-the-art connectivity. Additionally, the construction of a new electric substation will strengthen our electric grid, ensuring even greater reliability as our community grows.

We recognize that the strength of a hometown utility is built on trust and collaboration. We are here because of you, and we want to thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are committed to rebuilding and elevating our reputation through transparency, exceptional service delivery, and a renewed focus on putting our customers first.

To us, "hometown utilities" means more than just lights turning on or water flowing through the tap. It means being there when you need us most. It means investing in the future of our community and ensuring that every decision we make reflects your needs, values, and aspirations. You can attend City Council meetings or provide solutions that meet your desired standards.

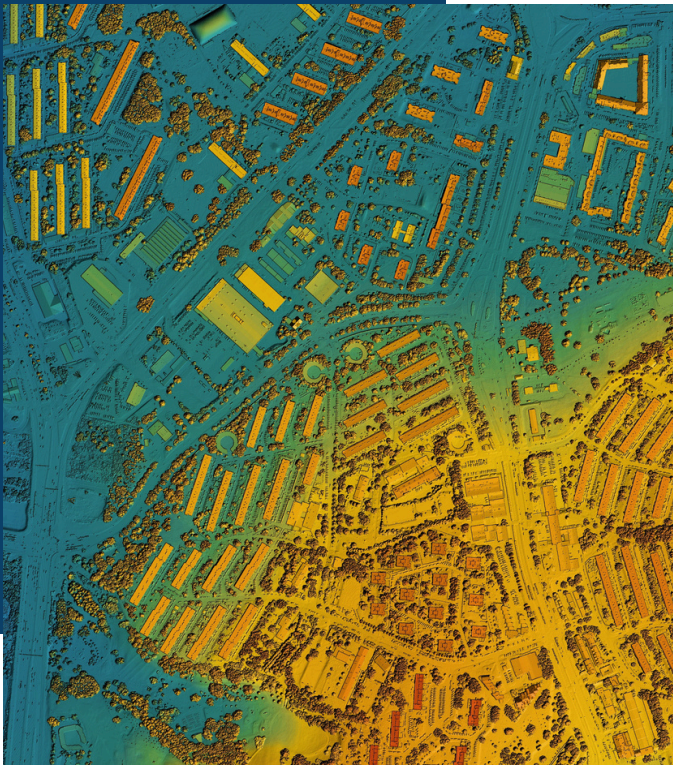
Together, we will achieve great things and build a future that we all can be proud of. Thank you for allowing us to serve you--it's a privilege we do not take lightly.

With gratitude,
Jason Meusburger
Utilities & IT Director



**Your Hometown Utilities
STRONGER TOGETHER**

Buffalo Fiber PHASE 2 Build Out is Coming Spring of 2025



GIS: What's It All About?

The City of Buffalo's geographic information system or GIS uses computer systems and applications to capture, store and display data related to positions on the earth's surface. Buffalo's GIS staff primarily manages utility data, which includes water distribution, sanitary and stormwater collection systems, electric and fiber distribution networks, along with data as it relates to parks, streets and planning. GIS is vital to field locating, project visualization and future planning.

This past fall, the City Council approved a 10-million-dollar project budget to continue building out the Buffalo Fiber system .

The project will begin in the residential neighborhoods of Rodeo Hills, South Pulaski, and the Greenbriar/Arbor Meadows /Buffalo Ridge areas.

New developments will also have fiber conduit, as our Electric crew continues to add fiber lines jointly with electric lines.

Buffalo Fiber will be adding additional fiber technicians and utilize seasonal employees to help with the additional workload.

2025 is going to be a year for growth!

For information about Fiber in your neighborhood contact:

Dan Amundson, Fiber Sales Rep
DanA@ci.buffalo.mn.us 763.373.9272.

Aimee Dreger, Business Support Specialist
buffalo_fiber@ci.buffalo.mn.us 763.684.5423



Buffalo Fiber
Fast. Local. Reliable.



New Electric and Water Utility Metering Systems

Buffalo Municipal Utilities is standardizing its utility metering systems.

Benefits of the new system equipment are to allow BMU to better serve your utility needs through operational efficiencies, improved service, lower environmental impact and provide more detailed utility usage information.

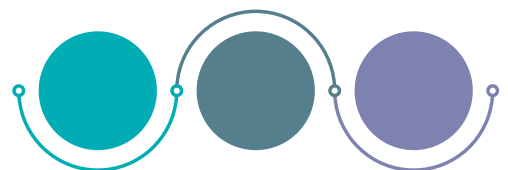
You will also have access to your account through a customer portal. Where you will be able to monitor your electric and water usage, by remote access and two-way communication that provides near real time data.

BMU is working with the company Utiliuse to streamline the meter installation process. Currently we are experiencing a slight delay of the final delivery of meter inventory that is needed before beginning meter installations. The tentative start for the meter project is spring 2025.

Installation and updates will be provided throughout the project through mailings, the City of Buffalo and BMU websites, social media and newsletters.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the project please contact BMU at

email: ami_faq@ci.buffalo.mn.us



Water Reclamation: Protective Coatings Save Money

The atmosphere in the sanitary collection system and water reclamation process can be very hard on concrete surfaces and can corrode them to the point of failure. The Water Reclamation Department has taken a forward thinking approach saving the Utility time, resources and money! The Water Rec Department has expanded its use of protective coatings, lining critical parts of the collection system and Water Reclamation Treatment Plant infrastructure. Lining can be used as a repair method to avoid digging, and be used to protect structures proactively during construction!

BMU Electric Crew Goes to Florida

When Hurricane Milton was forecast to hit Florida in October, the MN Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) put out the word that it needed municipal electric crew volunteers to provide mutual aid assistance to Florida's public power utilities.

The BMU electric crew members were quick to respond and joined 14 other Minnesota municipal electric utilities in a convoy to Florida.

Once in Florida they prepped for the hurricane and were ready to get to work once the storm had passed.

BMU electric crew volunteers were Journeymen Linemen, Paul Senstad and Zach Raymond. Their most memorable part of the trip was, helping the people and communities when they needed it the most.



Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes

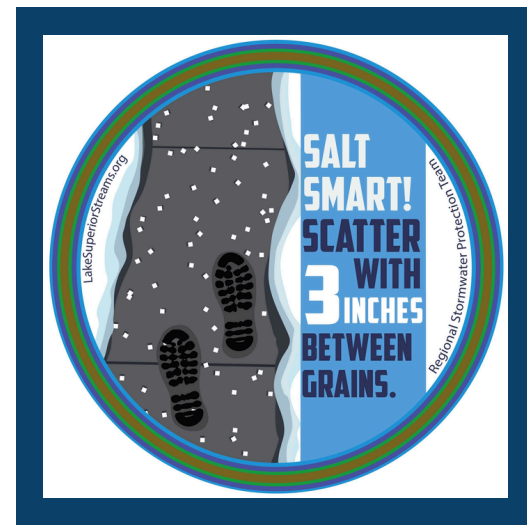
When the air temperature drops below 32 degrees the chance of water pipes freezing and bursting increases!

***Eliminate cold air drafts near water pipes. A common source of cold air, is the furnace fresh air intake. The intake looks like a big black or silver hose and is often located near your furnace. Move the end of the intake hose away from the water line and circulate warm air into the area.**

***Check to make sure the air temperature is warm under the kitchen and bathroom sinks, if it is cold, leave the cupboard doors open.**

***Monitor the water temperature too. If your water temperature is 38 degrees or less, consider allowing the water to run, with a stream of water the width of a pencil lead. Please notify Buffalo Municipal Water Dept . 763.684.5432**

Prevention is the BEST policy when it comes to frozen water pipes.



FACT: One teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute 5 gallons of water....Be Salt Smart!

2025

Residential & Commercial Rebates

*Lighting, Appliance, AC and MORE

NOW AVAILABLE

Check out BMU's Electric and Water Rebates at
ci.buffalo.mn.us/159/services

Visit BMU Staff at the
Community Center every Friday, starting
February 14th - April 11th,
9am to NOON.

We will be handing out
FREE Energy Conservation Kits
and
Refreshments.

Please stop by and say Hello!
MMPA sponsored energy conservation kits

SALTED CARAMEL CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE BARS: BAKE UP SOME LOVE ♥

INGREDIENTS

1 CUP BUTTER, ROOM TEMP
1 CUP BROWN SUGAR, PACKED
1/2 CUP SUGAR
2 EGGS
1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
1 TEASPOON SALT
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
2 1/2 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
2 CUPS CHOCOLATE CHIPS
14OZ CAN SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK
10 OZ CARAMELS UNWRAPPED
FLAKY SEA SALT

DIRECTIONS

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. LINE A 9 X 13 PAN WITH PARCHMENT PAPER AND LIBERALLY COAT WITH COOKING SPRAY. IN A LARGE BOWL, MIX TOGETHER THE BUTTER AND BOTH SUGARS UNTIL FLUFFY. ADD EGGS, VANILLA, SALT AND BAKING SODA, MIX UNTIL SMOOTH. ADD FLOUR UNTIL COMBINED. STIR IN CHOCOLATE CHIPS. PRESS 3/4 OF THE DOUGH INTO THE PREPARED PAN.

IN A SAUCE PAN COMBINE THE CARAMELS AND CONDENSED MILK, COOK OVER LOW HEAT STIRRING FREQUENTLY, UNTIL THE CARAMELS ARE MELTED. POUR THE MIXTURE EVENLY OVER THE DOUGH. DROP TEASPOONFUL AMOUNTS OF THE REMAINING DOUGH OVER THE TOP OF THE CARAMEL. BAKE 25 - 30 MINUTES. SPRINKLE FLAKED SEA SALT OVER THE TOP. ALLOW TO COOL COMPLETELY IN THE PAN BEFORE CUTTING INTO BARS.



NOTICE: BMU Electric Department will be conducting their annual tree trimming maintenance around overhead power lines. This work will continue as weather allows.

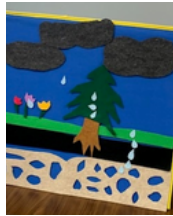
2024 BMU Community Events



**Customer
Appreciation
Day**



Library Touch A Truck



**How Does a Raindrop
get to the Aquifer?**



**Buffalo Days Little
Sprouts: Garden for the
Community**







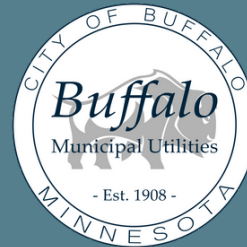
**TROOP 18216
Pollinator Garden**



**Thank you Everyone for
making 2024 such a
memorable Year!
2025 is Going to be GREAT!!!**

4 Steps to Be Salt Smart

- 1 Shovel first.** Clear all snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice. 
- 2 Sprinkle.** More salt does not mean more melting. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt should be enough for a 500 sq ft driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares. 
- 3 Spread.** Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps. 
- 4 Switch.** Rock salt stops working if the temperature is below 15 degrees. When temperatures drop that low, switch to a different deicer formulated to colder temperatures. 



**TOGETHER we can
protect our
precious
resource...WATER!**



**Delivering Energy
Conservation Kits to
Senior Citizens**