

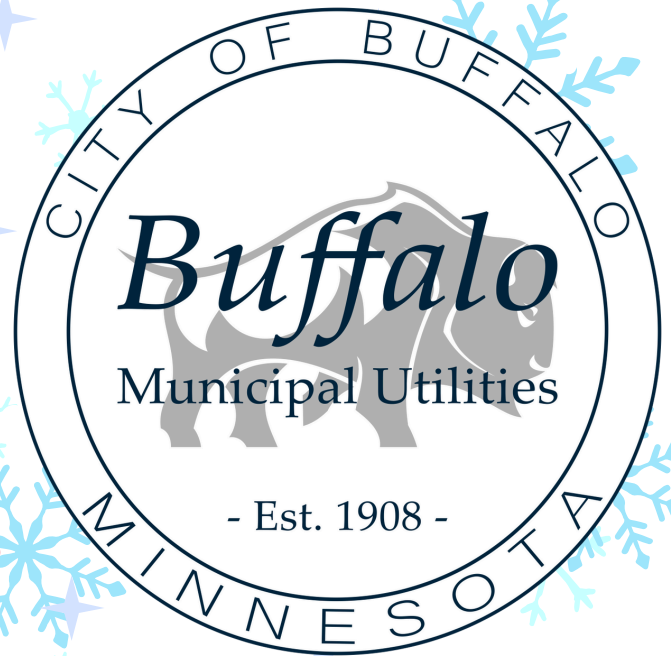
# THE BUFFALO BUZZ

[WWW.CI.BUFFALO.MN.US/157/UTILITIES](http://WWW.CI.BUFFALO.MN.US/157/UTILITIES)

**BMU**

**YOUR HOMETOWN UTILITIES  
STRONGER TOGETHER**

*Happy  
Holidays*



## 2025 a Year in Review

- \*Letter from the Utility Director
- \*Project Management
- \*BMU Water
- \*Water Reclamation
- \*Buffalo Fiber
- \*Buffalo Electric

## More Buzz

- \*Adopt A Catch Basin
- \*Smart Salting
- \*Upcoming Events
- \*Report a Sewer Back Up
- \*Prevent Frozen Pipes  
and MORE!!!





## From the Utilities Director: 2025 Year in Review

This year was about alignment, accountability, and serving Buffalo with a unified purpose. While each department will share their operational highlights, I want to focus on how we worked together as one utility.

Across all divisions, we faced rising costs, staffing pressure, and increasing service demands. Instead of slowing down, our teams coordinated more closely, supported one another, and kept customers at the center of every decision. We strengthened communication, clarified expectations, and built a culture of reliability and professionalism.

We also reinforced our responsibility as financial stewards. We are taking care of the old debt we inherited, while still maintaining and modernizing aging infrastructure.

As Buffalo grows, we must take on new debt to support critical projects and maintenance, and we are doing that responsibly by spreading work across years, timing it methodically, and ensuring every investment is something we can sustain without overburdening our excellent customers.

We know that behind every meter, every service call, and every system we maintain, there is a family or business counting on us. That is why we plan responsibly, care for our infrastructure, and invest in the future. Our commitment is simple: provide dependable service today while building the systems that will support Buffalo for multiple decades.

Overall, this year proved that Buffalo Utilities is aligned, resilient, and focused on delivering reliable service and long-term value to our community.

Sincerely,  
Jason Meusbarger  
Utilities and IT Director  
Buffalo Municipal Utilities



**Your Hometown Utilities  
STRONGER TOGETHER**

## GIS to Project Management: A New Path Forward

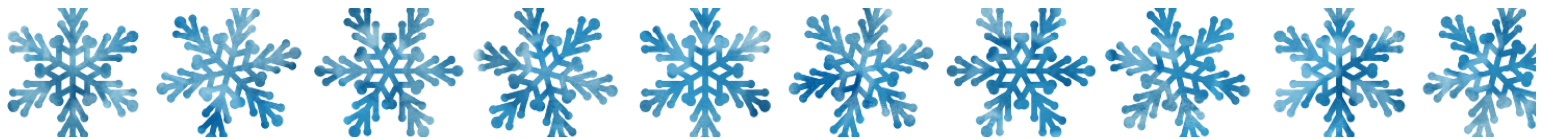
This has been a landmark year for the Project Management Department. In alignment with staff needs and the City's long-term vision, the GIS/Engineering Department was restructured into the Project Management Department, including the addition of a new team member! With this growth, came increased efficiency in managing workloads and advancing key initiatives. A few accomplishments include:

- \*Navigating the complex transition to ArcGIS Enterprise/Pro.

- \*Launched stormwater re-use and retrofit studies.

- \*Strengthened oversight of high-level projects occurring throughout the City. We also rolled out individual webpages for major city projects offering clear and accessible information on what's happening around town - check them out here:

[ci.buffalo.mn.us/736/City-Projects](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/736/City-Projects) .



### REMINDER

**Please report sanitary sewer backups immediately to the  
City of Buffalo**

**Water Reclamation Department.**

**Water Rec Staff will be deployed to check the main lines  
during the incident.**







Northwinds Water Tower



Buffalo Lake

## BMU Water Department

**This year BMU Water Department made significant progress in strengthening system reliability, enhancing customer service and supporting the Buffalo community.**

**\*To improve operational efficiency, we continued installing an upgraded metering system, that in the future will give customers easier access to their account and real-time insights into their water usage.**

**\*Worked with the EPA and MN Department of Health on completing the water service line inventory, and sought grant opportunities to improve the Community's water infrastructure.**

**\*Throughout the year our team implemented key distribution and operational improvements, all while remaining well within the departmental budget.**

**\*We welcomed visitors for facility tours, participated in environmental events, and connected with BHM High School students over career opportunities.**

**We are committed to providing the Buffalo Community with safe, reliable, high quality drinking water and excellent customer service.**

**[ci.buffalo.mn.us/236/water](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/236/water)**



## Water Reclamation

Our Water Reclamation Staff did an excellent job in sampling, compliance and operations of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The MPCA 2024-2025 annual compliance report was exemplary with zero missed sampling events. This level of performance keeps our community safe and our environment clean. Strong wastewater treatment is an important service Buffalo Municipal Utilities provides, and our results reflect that commitment.

[ci.buffalo.mn.us/354/Water-Reclamation](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/354/Water-Reclamation)



Do you love our local lakes, rivers and streams?! Check out Buffalo's Adopt a Catch Basin!!! YOU can make a difference and protect the waterways you LOVE!!!

[ci.buffalo.mn.us/753/Adopt-a-Catch-Basin](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/753/Adopt-a-Catch-Basin)



# Buffalo Fiber

Fast. Local. Reliable.

The City of Buffalo is expanding  
**our Buffalo Fiber!**

A cutting-edge fiber-optic internet service designed for our Buffalo Residents to have speed, reliability, and affordability!

- ✓ Priority installation at NO upfront cost
- ✓ First month FREE
- ✓ Quick and detailed service setup

To claim these benefits,  
complete our short survey!

\*Once completed, you'll receive an email with next steps for full sign-up in your area.

## Scan the QR code



Or Visit our Website and click: **Take Our Survey**  
<https://www.ci.buffalo.mn.us/531/Buffalo-Fiber>

Call for Details: 763-373-9272





# BUFFALO FIBER PHASE 2



*Fast. Local. Reliable.*

2025 Fiber Phase 2 has taken Buffalo by storm! The Fiber Department has been working nonstop to connect the Phase 1 and Phase 2 corridors. Fiber installations to homes and businesses are being completed daily. This year 341 new installations have been completed. This is a very exciting time for the Buffalo Community! Locally owned Fiber Internet provides quality service, competitive pricing, and creates a stronger more connected network for the Buffalo Community. Our dedicated Fiber Team is ready to serve you. [ci.buffalo.mn.us/531/Buffero-Fiber](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/531/Buffero-Fiber)

## SMART SALTING REBATE



Up to  
**\$40.00\***  
rebate  
upon completion of  
a MPCA  
SMART SALTING  
COURSE



- Must be a City of Buffalo Utilities Customer.
- Available to businesses, institutions, industrial, and commercial properties.
- Homeowners Associations are eligible for rebate credit.
- Limit 1 (one) rebate per utility account.
- First come first serve as there are limited funds available.
- Rebate request forms must be submitted after January 1, 2026.
- Copy of Course Completion Certificate must be submitted with this form.

For more REBATE information contact:  
[cara.hesse@ci.buffalo.mn.us](mailto:cara.hesse@ci.buffalo.mn.us)

## Christmas Tree Electrical Safety

Use lights that are approved by the National Testing Lab, UL certified.

Check your electrical holiday decorations to make sure they are in good working condition.

Turn off Christmas tree lights before bed.

Wishing you a Safe and Merry Christmas.  
Buffalo Municipal Utilities





## 2025: A Power Filled Year for BMU's Electric Department

- **Buffalo Manor Reconductoring Project**

Completed major phases of the Buffalo Manor reconductoring project, significantly improving system capacity and reliability. Remaining work is scheduled for completion in Q2 of 2026.

- **Distribution Substation and System Maintenance**

Performed comprehensive maintenance on distribution infrastructure – transformers, switches, cut outs, and poles, including equipment inspections, testing, and corrective actions to ensure continued safe and reliable operation. Developed a system of record to properly maintain the infrastructure routinely.

- **Underground Distribution System Upgrades**

Drill crew installed approximately 30 miles of new underground conduit and primary wire, modernizing the distribution system and improving long-term resiliency.

- **Reliability and Asset Condition Improvements**

Focused on proactive asset management through inspections, maintenance, and system upgrades to strengthen overall system performance and support future electric demand.

- **Substation Design and Interconnection Progress**

Completed substation design, procured substation transformer, and advanced coordination with Xcel Energy, with interconnection approval targeted for Q1 of 2026. Construction of the substation will occur in 2027, with long lead times, these planning efforts started in 2025.

[ci.buffalo.mn.us/234/electric](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/234/electric)



## Tips to Prevent a Frozen Water Line

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



Eliminate cold air drafts around your water service line and circulate warm air into the area.



Move the end of the furnace fresh air intake to ensure cold air is not blowing on the water service line.



Check that the air is warm under the kitchen and bathroom sinks, if not leave the cupboard doors open.



Shut off water to outside spigots and irrigation systems.



Protect your pipes from extreme cold, insulate your pipes that are on outside walls.



Check your water temperature, if it is 40 degrees or lower run a stream of water the width of a pencil lead to prevent freezing. Please **notify** the Buffalo Municipal Utilities Water Department.

**BMU**  
Your Hometown Utilities  
Stronger Together



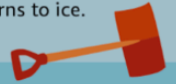
[ci.buffalo.mn.us/157/utilities](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/157/utilities)

763.682.5370



## 4 Steps to Be Salt Smart

**1 Shovel first.** Clear all snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice.



**2 Size up.** 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 for colder temperatures.



Learn more at [saltsmart.org](https://saltsmart.org)

## Coming in 2026

**BMU Electric and Water Rebates for Residential and Commercial Utility Customers!!!**

**EV Charger - Lighting - Appliances - AC - Landscape and MORE!!!**

**Put some GREEN back in your Pocket!!!**

**Check out BMU's Electric and Water Rebates at [ci.buffalo.mn.us/159/services](https://ci.buffalo.mn.us/159/services)**



# POWER OUTAGE: WHAT to DO

Safety is Buffalo Municipal Utilities' priority during power outages or when recovering from a storm.

- ⚡ Please be aware of electrical hazards.
- ⚡ Stay away from downed power lines.
- ⚡ Be sure to report branches on lines that are arcing or sparking, even if your power is still on.

Buffalo Municipal Utilities has 24/7 On-Call Crews to handle all Emergency Situations.

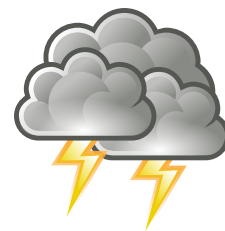
When reporting an outage please call 763.682.1001, follow the prompts and leave a message.

Messages are monitored.

Crews are alerted and immediately deployed.

Due to the high-risk nature of the work, and to safely do their job, the crew needs to remain focused, so please leave a message.

The Crew will continue working until ALL power is restored!



## Happy New Year!

P V K E E H Q P H R E S O L U T I O N V B N B E  
 U T G N I N N I G E B D E Y A Y A N A M G O H D  
 E H O Y W R F Q B L S J T R F B I G B E N Q P K  
 Q G Y S J W K K W D X E O A A D S X W Z S F E S  
 Y I N G Z J C A N V A W E U N S I C J R X C P L  
 L N U N Z X W E E T A V S N C R W O H F L M E L  
 I D F A V R I M X T D T A A V E I U Z A F J N E  
 M I K L G R G Z X H R B B J A P K N G T T R Y B  
 A M W D F R A D N E L A C Y E P L T N X V V N K  
 F C N L Q W E N N C H L P P N O W D E C N I P X  
 G E S U U R L N T V B B J S V P U O W N S N C E  
 G L O A H S E S G B B L V F Q Y E W Y E E W C S  
 Q E W A U B C T K A K Y S L V T K N E Z S N E D  
 P B A W V G P S H R P E Y F A R U S A P I A L U  
 T R N O E B Y F I G O M N Q D A J E R S M O A R  
 X A E M Q P M H W N U W A W A P C J S S O G R U  
 I T W Y V F L D P I G A E H N G S F D M R E A D  
 D I Y Y C V Y J Z B M I L R C H S E A P P O S O  
 E O E V E S R A E Y W E N F I J M F Y G U L L I  
 P N A K L T G J A F T Z U G N F F U K I S S Y I  
 H E R A Y G N E W U H U I R G Q W Q S G H Z X K  
 J Q D P A R T Y D E C E M B E R P Z P I A R Z P  
 Q O E U Y O L H S T E F O U E S Z L F J C I U U  
 P J W J B I E A E V P V R Z U G W G S N A G P S

NEW YEARS EVE  
 DANCING  
 PARTY POPPERS  
 BIG BEN  
 SINGING  
 PROMISES  
 CELEBRATION  
 PARTY

NEW YEARS DAY  
 LAUGHTER  
 KISS  
 HOGMANAY  
 OLD  
 AULD LANG SYNE  
 JANUARY  
 MIDNIGHT

DECEMBER  
 FUN  
 FAMILY  
 NEW YEAR  
 NEW  
 BELLS  
 FIREWORKS

CALENDAR  
 MUSIC  
 FRIENDS  
 COUNTDOWN  
 BEGINNING  
 RESOLUTION  
 CHAMPAGNE



**FREE**

**FAMILY EVENT**

**OPEN SKATE**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**1:00PM - 3:00PM**

**BRING YOUR ICE SKATES**

ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY  
**HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES**

**Buffalo Civic Center**  
**1306 County Rd 134 NE**

SPONSORED BY: BUFFALO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES, BUFFALO AREA COMMUNITY CENTER  
 & BUFFALO FIBER







# Christmas Morning Croissant Bake



## INGREDIENTS

- 6 - 8 Croissants (Use day old or stale croissants)
- 10 - 12 slices of Deli Ham (or your favorite thin sliced meat)
- 4 large eggs
- ½ c of Heavy Cream or Milk
- 1 tsp Salt
- ½ tsp Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp Black Pepper
- 1 Tbs finely chopped Rosemary or Thyme
- 8 -10 slices of Swiss Cheese
- ¼ c Mozzarella
- ½ c Butter
- 2 Tbs Dijon or Grainy Mustard
- ½ c Honey
- ½ Tbs Everything Bagel seasoning or more Fresh Herbs (optional)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Cut croissants into thirds.
- In a mixing bowl whisk together eggs, cream, salt, garlic salt pepper and rosemary.
- Dunk croissant pieces into the egg mixture and layer them in the baking dish.
- Fill in the gaps with the ham and cheese.
- Mix honey, melted butter, mustard and Everything Bagel seasoning together and drizzle over the top.
- Bake for 30 - 35 minutes until golden brown and cheese is melted. ENJOY!!!



From all of us at Buffalo Municipal Utilities we wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and warm wishes for a bright and successful New Year! We are grateful and proud to be a part of the Buffalo Community and look forward to serving you in the year ahead!