LIGHT UP YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
See page 2
There aren’t many things more festive than holiday lights decorating the inside and outside of a home during the holidays. Whether it be a gentle glow of soft white lights or the blinding splash of color from thousands of blinking lights, they all add to the holiday cheer. If you are planning to string five strings or 500 strings of lights, make sure to do it right this year.

Lighting technology has improved greatly in recent years, making the selection and benefits even better for the consumer. LED (light-emitting diodes) lighting is the newest and most energy-efficient string lighting available. LEDs are available in clear, single color, or multi-color strands and can be connected together to offer many different color combinations. There are blinking light options available along with the traditional icicle lights using LEDs. The options are almost endless when it comes to using LED holiday lighting.

LEDs use a fraction of the energy that standard incandescent lights use. Based on the type of LED used and the application, LED holiday lighting could save you up to 90% in energy costs when compared to incandescent lighting. In addition, LEDs don’t burn a filament to produce the light so they also do not produce excess heat in the process.

LED lighting options, including holiday lighting, can be more expensive when compared with standard incandescent lighting, so RPU is again offering a rebate for LED holiday lighting and decorations. The rebate (depending on the number of lights) can be up to $12 per string of lights. There is no cap on the number of strings you can purchase, and it is available no matter where you purchase them. Some restrictions apply, so make sure to visit the RPU website, www.rpu.org, for full details.

Once you’ve purchased all of the LED holiday lighting strings that you need this season, now what do you do with all of your old strands? RPU can help with that too. Due to such high demand last year, RPU will again recycle all of your old holiday light strands for FREE this year. Just bring your old strands of lights into the RPU Service Center lobby and drop them into the bins designated for holiday lighting recycling.

Celebrate with Savings!

BUY ENERGY EFFICIENT LED HOLIDAY LIGHTS OR DECORATIONS & APPLY FOR A REBATE:

1. Purchase new LED holiday plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2017.

2. Complete this page and submit it to your utility:
   - by March 31, 2018
   - with original sales receipt
   - with LED packaging showing the LED logo and number of lights per string.

3. Rebate is limited to 50% of LED string or package cost, tax excluded.

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<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamp Size</td>
<td># of Lamps per String</td>
<td># of Strings</td>
<td>Cost per String</td>
<td>Rebate per String (D x .50) up to max amounts*</td>
<td>Total Rebate (C x E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini</td>
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* Rebate is 50% of string or package cost (tax excluded), up to maximum amounts listed below:

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<tr>
<th># of Lamps</th>
<th>Maximum Rebate per String</th>
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<tr>
<td>less than 99</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 - 199</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>200 - 299</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>300 or more</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GRAND TOTAL REBATE:

OFFICE USE ONLY: ID #

DATE Received

Date Processed

Rochester Public Utilities
Attn: Rebate Processing
4000 E River Rd NE • Rochester, MN 55906-2813
507.280.1500 • www.rpu.org

Recipient must be an electric customer of Rochester Public Utilities. Valid only on purchases made in 2017. All Electric Efficiency Rebate terms and conditions apply.
The Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) crew of lineworkers that went to Florida to help with Hurricane Irma power restoration returned back to Rochester on Thursday, September 21.

The crew left on Saturday, September 9, along with crews from over 15 other Minnesota municipal utilities. The restoration effort began in Kissimmee, FL, and then moved on to Lake Worth, FL, which was also hit hard by hurricane damage.

According to the Kissimmee Utility Authority, at the peak of the storm, over 38,000 of their 72,000 customers were without power.

Once back and settled, the lineworkers were interviewed by the local media and recognized at the September RPU Board Meeting.
What Are Plug Loads?

Plug loads are exactly as they sound. They are anything you can plug in that draws electricity. This could be a computer, mini-fridge, or space heater. While an organization can easily determine the electric load from lighting and estimate the load from HVAC equipment, few know their plug load. For many organizations this is a moving target, depending on the type of plug load, frequency of use, and even the time of the year.

Let’s look at a few different examples of plug load:

- Commercial Coffeemaker – 1000 watts
- Computer Monitor – 65 watts
- Mini-Fridge – 200 watts
- Space Heater – 2500 watts

Individually, they operate for pennies per hour. But when you add up all of the hours that these items are on, they add up to a significant portion of your electricity bill. If these few items operated eight hours a day for a month, they would cost approximately $66 to operate.

The first step in reducing plug load is determining your plug loads. Take a visual survey. Write down the plug load name or location, its wattage (usually found on the device), and how often it is being used. Many times you may find that you can just eliminate the plug load. For example, you may go from two coffeemakers to one just by making coffee a bit more often. Concentrate on reducing the electrical heating loads (e.g., space heaters, coffeemakers, etc.), as these are the biggest plug load energy consumers. Then look at ways you can reduce use on other loads by adding occupancy sensors or timers.

If you would like to find out more about plug load or ways to reduce it, please contact us.

2017 Public Power Week Celebration Recap

Almost 600 visitors came to the Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester to celebrate Public Power Week with RPU on October 7. We had a lot of fun meeting with the families and community members and sharing what we do to provide safe, reliable electricity every day to the citizens of Rochester.

Two RPU lineworkers, Rob and Tanner, stopped by a couple times during the day-long celebration to share a little about what they do, along with the equipment and truck that they use.

Thanks to everyone for coming out to our Public Power Week Celebration! Look for more fun and educational opportunities from RPU at the Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester in the future.
WATER CONSERVATION
Monthly Tip on Saving From the Tap!

If your dishwasher is new, cut back on pre-rinsing your dishes. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones!

SHARE THE POWER, BUT NOT YOUR ROOF!
JOIN RPU’S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM.

How does the SOLARCHOICE program work?
Instead of putting panels on your roof, we build a large solar project called a community solar garden with thousands of panels. You subscribe to a portion of the energy produced by the community solar garden, along with many other residents who share your commitment to renewable energy. Each month you receive a bill credit for the solar electricity generated by your subscribed panel(s).

How do you join?
For more information about joining RPU’s SOLARCHOICE program, visit www.rpu.org.

Informational Meeting
Learn more to decide if it’s right for you.

Thur, Nov 30, 2017 • 5:30–6:30pm
Tues, Dec 12, 2017 • 12-1pm
Rochester Public Utilities
4000 East River Road NE
Register by calling 507.280.1500
You must register to reserve your spot; seating is limited. No children please.

Pick up your FREE RPU 2018 calendar!

FEATURING:
- Arbor Day posters drawn by Rochester area elementary school children
- Information on RPU’s CONSERVE & SAVE® rebate and educational programs
- Monthly energy and water conservation tips
Choose Your Way TO PAY YOUR RPU BILL

**Go Paperless**
Receive an email that your bill is available to view.

**Budget Billing**
Call us at 507.280.1500 to verify your eligibility. Want to take the surprise out of your utility bill? With Budget Billing, monthly payments stay the same each month based on the average annual usage at your service address. **NOTE**: Account must be at a zero balance to start. Late payments will result in removal from the program.

**Automatic Payments**
- Automatic Checking or Savings Account Debit
- Automatic Credit/Debit Card Payment
- Can be combined with Budget Billing

**How to Enroll**
Enroll at www.rpu.org or fill out the form below and mail it to:
RPU Customer Relations, 4000 E River Rd NE, Rochester, MN 55906-2813

Visit www.rpu.org to learn how to Pay Online, Pay By Phone, or use Pay Stations and Drop Boxes.

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**RPU BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS ENROLLMENT FORM**

You may also enroll at: www.rpu.org

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Last Name (As It Appears On Your Account)  
First Name (As It Appears On Your Account)  
RPU Account Number

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Service Address

Mailing Address (If Different Than the Service Address)  
City  
State  
Zip

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Primary Phone Number  
Phone Type:  
[ ] Home  
[ ] Cell  
[ ] Other: ______________

Email Address (Required to Go Paperless)

By signing below, I hereby request RPU to enroll my account in the options I have checked below, and acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions as outlined on www.rpu.org.

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Printed Name  
Customer Signature  
Date

☐ **GO PAPERLESS** (Provide an email address above.)

☐ **BUDGET BILLING** (Call us to verify your eligibility.)

☐ **AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS** (Payments will be deducted on your due date.)

☐ Checking Account Withdrawal (Please attach a VOIED check.) Bank Name: ________________________________

☐ Savings Account Withdrawal (Please attach a VOIED deposit slip.) Bank Name: ________________________________

☐ Credit / Debit Card (Please fill out your credit/debit card information below.)

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WE VALUE YOUR PRIVACY! The portion of this form above this line will be retained for authorization purposes. To protect your privacy the portion below this line, as well as any attached voided checks or deposit slips, will be destroyed.

☐ DISCOVER  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ VISA

Name (As it Appears on Card): ________________________________

Card #: ___________________________  
Exp Date: ____ / ____

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Lake Zumbro Drawdown to Begin October 28

The annual drawdown of Lake Zumbro is scheduled to begin on Saturday, October 28. The drawdown is necessary for planned maintenance and sediment assessment work. These plans are subject to change depending on rainfall and resulting runoff. RPU’s drawdown plan is as follows:

- **Saturday, October 28** – Start the gradual drawdown from summer pool of 914.5 MSL to 907.5 MSL by Sunday, November 12. This would be approximately 0.5 feet per day.

- **RPU will maintain the lake level at 907.5 MSL from Monday, November 13, through Wednesday, November 15**, which will give our maintenance staff three working days to complete de-icing system maintenance and also give Olmsted County time to complete the sediment assessment work.

- **Thursday, November 16** – The lake level will slowly be raised back up to normal winter pool of 913.0 MSL at a rate of no more than 0.5 feet per day. A minimum of 11 days will be required to raise the lake level back to winter pool, to ensure that the downstream flow is minimally impacted while maintaining a minimum release of 70 cfs.

During the months of November through March, Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) will attempt to maintain the lake level at the winter pool level of 913.0.

Real-time lake level information, along with Lake Zumbro Hydro Electric updates are available on the RPU website (www.rpu.org). For additional information regarding the Zumbro Hydroelectric Facility, please contact Tony Benson at 507.280.1534.

Tips for Lake Ice Safety

- Be extremely careful during winter activities that involve Lake Zumbro such as ice fishing, snowmobiling or just walking out on the frozen lake.
- Watch the weather and river flow conditions.
- Ice thickness and condition can vary greatly. Be very cautious.
- Look out for ice heaves and exposed logs and snags.
- Be cautious in the vicinity of the dam. De-icing equipment has been installed along the upstream face of the dam resulting in open water and/or thin ice.
- Do not proceed past the warning signs and buoys.

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Energy Education

**FREE WORKSHOP and $50 ENERGY AUDIT!**

**SAVING ENERGY 101: NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY CHALLENGE**

Attendees qualify for a $50 home energy audit where you will receive FREE “first step” water and energy saving products! You’ll also get expert help with “next step” efficiency improvements.

Saturday, November 18, 2017
10:00-11:00 am
Northrop Community Education Center
Room 308
201 8th St NW

**TO REGISTER**
Call: 888.734.6365
Email: sbootscamp@mncee.org

Learn more at www.rpu.org
Freezing Temps Can Cause Broken Pipes!

A water service line repair or replacement can cost $4,000 to $6,000 – or more!

Make sure you’re covered by RPU’s Service Assured® program.

For only $1.99 per month*, you can rest assured if your water service breaks, you won’t have to pay costly repair bills out-of-pocket. And for only $1.00* more, you can cover your underground electric service also!

To learn more and/or enroll, please visit: www.rpu.org

*Contact us to determine your eligibility; some exclusions apply. Visit www.rpu.org to review our Terms & Conditions.

RPU is collecting holiday lights for recycling again this year! Drop off your unwanted holiday light decorations and light strands at RPU’s Service Center this holiday season, now through January 31.

RPU SERVICE CENTER
Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed on:
• Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans Day
• Thursday-Friday, November 23-24 for Thanksgiving