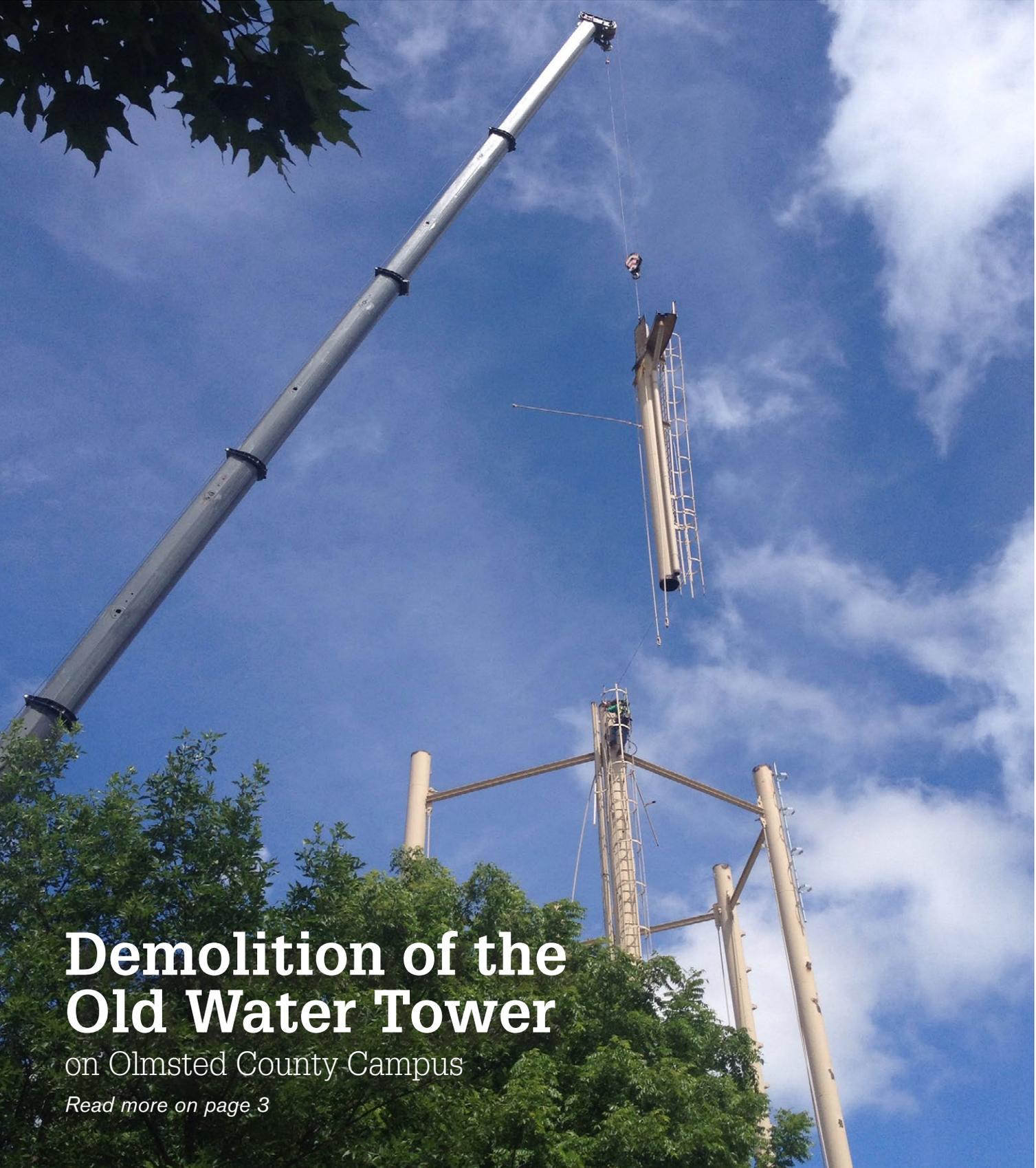


RPU *Plugged In*



Demolition of the Old Water Tower

on Olmsted County Campus

Read more on page 3



Back to School

with the Neighborhood Energy Challenge and Community Education

Learn about simple ways to improve how you use energy and how you can lower your monthly bill by attending a Neighborhood Energy Challenge (NEC) workshop or learn about solar energy or LED lighting at an upcoming Community Education class.

Neighborhood Energy Challenge (NEC) Workshops

RPU and Minnesota Energy have teamed up with the Center for Energy and Environment to offer Rochester homeowners the Neighborhood Energy Challenge, a full-service residential energy audit program.

NEC workshops are being held on the following dates:

When: Saturday,
September 24, 2016

Time: 10 to 11 a.m.

Where: RPU Community Room, 4000 East River Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906

When: Saturday,
November 19, 2016

Time: 10 to 11 a.m.

Where: RPU Community Room, 4000 East River Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906

The NEC workshops are FREE to attend, but registration is recommended.

How to register: Call Rochester Community Education at **507.328.4000** or register online at <https://rochester.thatscommunityed.com>.

Community Education Classes



Solar Energy for Your Home or Business

An overview of solar electric and solar heating systems will be presented. There will be many photos of solar installations so that you can get a good idea of what they look like and how they are installed. Many basic questions will be addressed such as: How well does solar energy work in Minnesota? How much energy do the systems produce? What are the costs involved and overall economics? What incentives are available? Is there any maintenance? There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. The instructor is the operations manager of Solar Connection, www.solarconnectioninc.com, a solar energy design and installation company located in Rochester.

Instructor: Micah Johnson

Bio: Micah is the operations manager for Solar Connection of Rochester, MN. In business since 2010, Solar Connection installs solar energy systems for commercial, residential, and farm applications. Solar Connection is a licensed general contractor and NABCEP™ Certified for PV Installation. NABCEP is the National Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

When: Saturday, October 8, 2016

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: RPU's Community Room, 4000 East River Road NE

How to register: Call Rochester Community Education at **507.328.4000** or register online at <https://rochester.thatscommunityed.com>.



Get Out of the Dark: Brighten Your Knowledge on Home Lighting Purchases

Deciding what lighting to purchase for your home can be a confusing process ... LEDs, CFLs, watts, lumens, soft white, warm white, 2700 K ... what does it all mean? LEDs may use the least energy but they may not be the smart choice for every room in your home. This workshop will help you make sense of all of it so you can make smart decisions.

In this workshop you will learn:

- What to look for when choosing light bulbs and how to make the right choice.
- Why and when to choose LEDs.
- The cost of lighting on your energy bill.
- Utility lighting rebates.
- Why choose ENERGY STAR®.

Instructor: Kelli Lewis

Bio: Kelli is a District Sales Representative with Phillips Lighting, selling lamps, ballasts, fixtures, and controls through distributor customers in Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and North Dakota.

When: Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: RPU's Community Room, 4000 East River Road NE

How to register: Call Rochester Community Education at **507.328.4000** or register online at <https://rochester.thatscommunityed.com>.

Demolition of the Old Water Tower on Olmsted County Campus

The water tower on the Olmsted County campus was demolished in mid-July since it was no longer needed to provide water storage for the campus.

The demolition of the tower only took one day. Demolition involved cutting large sections of the tower and lowering them to the ground with a crane. The sections were cut up on the ground into smaller pieces and then loaded into semi-trailers for disposal at a metal recycling facility. RPU crews followed up with removal of the top of the concrete foundations after the steel was removed from the site. The crane started lowering steel at 7 a.m. and by 5 p.m., the site was cleaned up and the crew pulled off site.

The tower, erected back in 1949, held 200,000 gallons, which is relatively small in comparison with other towers in Rochester such as the Apache Tower (500,000 gallons) or the 50th Ave. Hydropillar (3.3 million gallons).



Seeing Double?



You may do a double take when you receive your October billing and see two energy charges. This actually happens twice a year: once in June and again in October. The reason behind the dual energy charge is the change in the rate. As of October 1st, the cost per kilowatt drops from eleven cents to nine cents per kwh (kilowatt-hour). This means that part of your usage is prorated at the higher (summer) rate and part of your usage is prorated at the lower (non-summer) rate, and that's why two separate energy charges appear on your bill.

As of June 1st, the rate then goes back up to the summer rate. The rate is adjusted twice a year to accommodate the costs of increased demand for energy during the summer months. Increased usage in summertime results from higher usage of air conditioners and dehumidifiers.

So, when you receive your October statement, don't fret. It's not a double billing. It's just a prorated adjustment to your bill based on the shift in the rates. The energy customer charge is a flat fee on the billing statement and that will stay the same regardless of how much energy you use.



If you have questions about summer and non-summer rates, contact RPU customer service at **507.280.1500**.



VOTED
"BEST TASTING WATER"
AGAIN IN 2016!

RPU water was voted "Best Tasting Water" again by the southeast Minnesota section of the American Water Works Association. This recognition marks the fourth time in five years that RPU has received this distinction.

RPU water is a safe, great-tasting, and inexpensive choice for drinking water.



5 YEARS OF RPU PLUGGED IN

This edition marks five years of sharing valuable information on RPU news, programs, products, rebates, and people in our monthly newsletter, *RPU Plugged In!* We hope that it has been a valuable resource to help keep you informed. Through our customer satisfaction survey we have heard that many enjoy reading it and look forward to receiving it on a monthly basis.

In order to help us improve *RPU Plugged In*, we are asking you for ideas. **Do you have an article idea for us? Do you have a question that you'd like to be addressed in a future issue?** If so, contact RPU by emailing RPU Customer Service at customerservice@rpu.org or call **507.280.1500**.

WATER CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip on Saving From the Tap





When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your plants, trees or shrubs.



CONSERVE & \$AVE
we pledge, we deliver

HOW TO READ YOUR UTILITY BILL

Below is a detailed description of what's included in your utility bill. If you have any questions that are not fully answered here, please call one of our helpful Customer Service Representatives at 507.280.1500.

RPU CHARGES: RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC

- Energy Charge** is calculated according to the metered kilowatt-hours (kWh) consumed during the billing period. The per kWh rate is multiplied by the metered usage for the set billing period.

Note: Two energy charges may appear during the transition between summer (June-Sept) and non-summer rate schedules. This reflects a meter read during two rate schedules. In the example bill to the right, the customer's bill is for usage from May 9 to June 8; usage in May is charged at the non-summer rate and the usage in June is charged at the summer rate.

- Energy Customer Charge** is a set charge for all residential customers regardless of energy usage. This charge covers the cost to maintain facilities and infrastructure to continue supplying customers with reliable electricity. This charge can include items such as meters, distribution poles, safety equipment, miscellaneous supplies, and account administration.

- Clean Air Rider** covers the bond payments for the Emission Reduction Project (ERP). The amount that customers pay on the clean air rider is dependent on energy usage. The rate of the clean air rider will change each year depending on the debt service payment schedule. The payments are scheduled to be complete by 2030.

- Power Supply Adjustment** is charged if the cost to supply customers with the electricity needed exceeds projections. This adjustment is made in cases such as high fuel costs, higher market pricing for electricity, or the load is higher than projected. This adjustment is based on usage.

RPU CHARGES: RESIDENTIAL WATER

- Water Usage Charge** is calculated according to the metered water usage during the billing period. The usage is based on the number of units of water used. Each unit of water equals 100 cubic feet of water or 748 gallons. The rate is an increasing block rate to encourage water conservation

- Water Customer Charge** is a set charge to cover the cost to maintain water facilities and infrastructure. This can include items such as meters, pipes, fittings, excavation tools and machinery, and account administration.

- Fire Hydrant Charge** is for the installation, maintenance, and availability of water for the City and other emergency services, e.g. the fire department. All residential, commercial, and industrial water customers are impacted by the charge. It is based on the rate class, not the meter size.

- State Mandated Water Charge** is required by the MN Department of Health and funds the required testing for drinking water.

- Products and Services** area is where charges for additional offerings will appear. The additional offerings include SERVICE ASSURED® (RPU's Underground Utility Repair Coverage) and RPU's CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM, which offers renewable energy credits (REC) for purchase as units of renewable energy.



Business Partner Name:
Business Partner Number: Bill Date: Account Balance:
Contract Account Number:

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES BILLING DETAILS

ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

Balance Forward	\$108.67
05/28/2015 iPay	\$108.67 CR
Previous Balance	\$0.00

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES CHARGES

RPU CUSTOMER SERVICE
507.280.1500 or 800.778.3421

PAYMENT OPTIONS
PAY BY PHONE: 855.210.2285

PAPERLESS BILLING & PAY ONLINE

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT
For electronic, automatic, or credit card payment options visit www.rpu.org

PAY IN PERSON
- RPU's Service Center
4000 East River Rd NE

CONSERVE & SAVE
For rebates and program information visit www.rpu.org

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC

Meter #93489 Readings
JUN 08 45004 Actual reading
MAY 09 44632 Actual reading = 372 KWH

1 Energy Charge	\$11.18
2 Energy Charge	\$26.88
3 Electric Customer Charge	\$16.40
4 Clean Air Rider	\$0.83
4 Power Cost Adjustment	\$0.06 CR
RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC	\$55.23

RESIDENTIAL WATER (1 Unit = 748 Gallons)

Meter #22001728 Readings
JUN 08 617.70 Actual reading
MAY 09 610.67 Actual reading 7.03 Unit(s)

5 Water Usage Charge - 7.00 Unit(s) @ \$0.727	\$5.09
- 0.03 Unit(s) @ \$0.799	\$0.02
6 Water Customer Charge	\$5.53
7 Fire Hydrant Facilities Charge	\$1.22
8 State Mandated Water Charge	\$0.53
RESIDENTIAL WATER	\$12.39

9 PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Service Assured Electric & Water for July	\$2.99
PRODUCTS AND SERVICES	\$2.99

CITY OF ROCHESTER CHARGES



ROCHESTER PUBLIC WORKS

201 4th St SE Rm 108
Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
For more information visit:
www.rochesterstormwater.com

RESIDENTIAL WASTE WATER

10 4.73 Unit(s)	\$14.67
11 Waste Water Customer Charge	\$13.37
RESIDENTIAL WASTE WATER	\$28.04

RESIDENTIAL STORM WATER

12 Storm Water Utility Fee	\$3.18
13 Storm Water Customer Charge	\$3.00
RESIDENTIAL STORM WATER	\$6.18

TAXES

City Sales Tax 0.50% and County Transit Tax 0.25%	\$0.43
State Sales Tax 6.875%	\$4.00
TAXES	\$4.43

Total charges billed 06/08/2015 \$109.26

Account balance Please Pay \$109.26

CITY OF ROCHESTER CHARGES: RESIDENTIAL WASTE WATER

- Unit Charge** is per 100 cubic feet (CCF) or one unit (one unit is equal to 748 gallons of water). For the first three months of the year, your waste water charge is determined by the actual units of water used. Your base charge for April-December is determined by your average water usage during the months of January, February, and March. You will be charged this same "base" rate throughout the remainder of the year.

- Waste Water Customer Charge** is a fixed charge per sanitary connection made per month to cover the cost to maintain sewer facilities and infrastructure.

CITY OF ROCHESTER CHARGES: RESIDENTIAL STORM WATER

- Storm Water Utility Fee** is proportional to a property's contribution to storm water runoff and impact on water quality. Every developed residential and non-residential property parcel is charged a fee based on its size, land use and the amount of impervious (or hard surface) area.

- Storm Water Customer Charge** is a monthly charge used exclusively to support the Public Works Storm Water Management program.

WASH. DRY. \$SAVE. It's That Easy!

REBATES FOR CLOTHES WASHERS & DRYERS



CONSERVE & \$SAVE®

*Visit our website at www.rpu.org to download a rebate application with minimum efficiency requirements and complete terms and conditions.



Photo by John Ohm

WHOOOO IS YOUR HERO?

Environmental Achievement Awards are given annually for outstanding environmental achievement in Olmsted County.

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS!

Nominations are sought for individuals, families, youth, organizations, or businesses in any or all categories:

- Climate Change
- Conservation
- Education
- Energy
- Renewables
- Sustainable Food Production
- Water
- Other

APPLICATIONS: www.rpu.org • DEADLINE: October 21



4000 East River Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507.280.1500
www.rpu.org

PRESORTED
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US POSTAGE
PAID
BlueSpire



IT'S NOT JUST FOR FROZEN PIPES!

Invasive tree roots, seasonal changes, and aging pipes can cause a water or underground electric service to break. You can't prevent it or predict it. Worst of all, most homeowner insurance policies do not cover repairing it, so you'll have to pay for it. **Is your home protected?** Visit www.rpu.org to learn more about **Service Assured®** and enroll online.

