



NEWSLETTER

CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS



SEPTEMBER 2009

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ENERGY OPTIMIZATION PLAN CHARGES ADDED TO ELECTRIC BILLINGS

Our community and its citizens are committed to preserving precious resources for future generations and improving the quality of life right here in the Upper Peninsula. As a result of careful planning, The City of Crystal Falls is prepared to meet Michigan's 10 percent renewable energy portfolio standard, the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act," and reduce energy usage in the state. The City of Crys-

tal Falls is committed to make greener choices to benefit our community.

As a result of the Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act, state legislation requires Michigan electric utilities to develop energy optimization plans to help customers save energy. Under the legislation, all electric and natural gas utilities in Michigan are required to implement a new program, called Energy Optimization, to

create energy saving goals now and in the future.

As a customer of the City of Crystal Falls bills sent after Sept. 1, 2009 will have an Energy Optimization charge, a charge required to fund the reduction of energy usage. The charge for the City of Crystal Falls' electric customers will be \$.00146/KwHr for residential customers and

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LINCOLN PARK PLAYGROUND GRAND OPENING HELD

On August 6th the Lincoln Park Playground Committee (LPPC) held a grand opening ceremony in celebration of the installation of the new playground equipment. This celebration took place in conjunction with the CoVantage Credit

Union Concert Series with 2 bands playing on the boardwalk throughout the evening. A bouncy house was also on hand to add to the festive event. The committee offered free popcorn and beverages (donated by Pepsi and

Coca-cola) to the visitors at the park. The committee began the project in the summer of 2008 with the initial idea coming from the former VJ Day Committee with seed money (\$1000) donated



Children enjoy the new playground equipment at Lincoln Park during the grand opening

to the City of Crystal Falls that was earmarked for playground equipment for the park. The committee first began fund

DIGITAL TV

The switch to digital TV has proven to be a challenge to some TV stations. The City of Crystal Falls has been ready to receive the digital signal for the channels offered on the City's cable system, HOWEVER, some of those stations were not ready to send the signal. The most notable is the receipt of CBS program-

ming from WJMN TV-Escanaba. The signal for this channel (5 on the City's system) is too weak to be picked up. Currently the City is broadcasting this CBS station on channel 36. This signal is being streamed via internet and is not the best, however, it is better than nothing. This will continue until the station completes work on a new tower that is capa-

ble of sending a stronger signal to the City. Work on that tower is scheduled to being in November.

Customers have been demanding a refund on their cable bill because of the missing CBS channel—this will not be offered as the City has always received and retransmitted this channel free of charge to its customers.

FOX Marquette is now back on Channel 35. It

can also be seen on digital 6.1.

Customers also have been experiencing intermittent interruptions of receipt of Channel 6—WLUC TV-Marquette. This is due to some conversions being made in Marquette.

We ask that you be patient during this transitional phase as stations are tweaked to bring you the best signal available.

ENERGY OPTIMIZATION (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

\$3.99 per month for commercial customers. The additional charge will be used for energy conservation programs for low income, residential and commercial customers. All of the City of Crystal Falls' customers will be eligible for the programs offered.

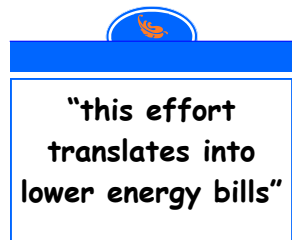
Through shared membership in WPPI Energy, Michigan's seven Upper Peninsula electric power customers share a common market, which provides greater customer value and the opportunity to develop common programs. WPPI Energy staff has assisted our Michigan members in creating these pro-

grams, gathering public feedback, and developing implementation strategies in cooperation with other Upper Peninsula municipal utilities and electric cooperatives. The City of Crystal Falls is also collaborating with the Michigan Electric Cooperatives Association to develop and implement such energy efficiency programs for the benefit of its municipal customers.

Spending money for the Energy Optimization now will enable our customers to lower their bills over the long term and achieve significant savings. More importantly, this effort translates into lower energy bills, resource

preservation and a healthier, more sustainable future. We have a responsibility to strengthen the region's commitment to environmental stewardship and do our part to reduce energy use in Michigan.

The City of Crystal Falls is currently offering a light bulb exchange and an appliance rebate as part of its Energy Optimization program. Residential electric customers may exchange up to 3 incandescent bulbs for 3 compact fluorescent bulbs, commercial customers can exchange up to 5 bulbs. Simply bring your bulbs to the City Clerk's office for the exchange.



We are also offering an appliance rebate on certain Energy Star® appliances. The eligible appliances are: clothes washer (\$100); refrigerator/freezer (\$100); dish washer (\$50); window air conditioner(\$50); and dehumidifiers (\$50). (The rebate amount is not to exceed 20% of the purchase price of the appliance.) The rebates will be issued as a credit on the customer's utility billing. Applications may be picked up at the City Clerk's office.

EVERGREEN MEMORIAL CEMETERY RATES INCREASED

In April 2009, the long-standing agreements held with the surrounding Townships of Crystal Falls, Mansfield, and Mastodon expired and came under fire. Since 1942 the City and Townships have entered into an annual agreement that allowed the Township residents to be buried at the same cost as the residents of the City. This agreement called for a cost sharing of the previous years losses. The loss for the fiscal year ending September 2008 was \$108,112.17. This was nearly double the previ-

ous year's loss resulting in a huge cost sharing for the City and Townships. The biggest factors were employee benefits, gas prices, and a reduction in the number of cemetery lots sold.

The increased cost sharing caused the Townships to re-evaluate their participation and several meetings were held to discuss the matter. To date, only Mastodon Township has entered into an agreement with

the City allowing it's residents to be buried at "local" rates. Because Crystal Falls and Mansfield Townships have not entered into and paid the cost sharing agreements the City has found it necessary to dramatically increase the cemetery rates for both "local" and "non-local" users. In addition, the work crews at the cemetery have been reduced and a "Michigan Works" employee was placed there. It is the hope of the City that these measures will al-

low the cemetery to be kept up to the standards to which we have become accustomed and in keeping with the City's slogan "City of Community Pride".

A complete copy of the rates now being charged at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery are included in this newsletter on page 4.

Lincoln Park (continued)

raising with a sport bottle sale (bottles are still available at the City Hall for a mere \$2 each). A smear tournament, ski hill concessions, and various gift drawings were also held to raise funds. The biggest donation came to the committee in the form of a grant from the Youth Advisory Committee in the amount of \$4,659.52, followed by ACFA, DDA, and Verso Paper who added \$1,000 each. All in all, a total of



Lincoln Park Playground Committee members Mary Jean Thoreson, Mary Lahna, Tara Peltoma, and Dorothea Olson test out the slide as Mayor, Janet Hendrickson, looks on from on top..

\$17,067.38 was collected for the project. (A complete listing of the donors is available at the City Clerk's office.)



In addition to the refurbishment of the old swing set the fund raising led to the installation of a new slide, a T-swing, horizontal bars, Triple Twist, EZ Digger, a button loop, and spring riders. The equipment was installed by City employees.

Once all the bills are paid the remaining funds will be used to purchase a Merry-go-Round and perhaps some benches and/or picnic tables.



The Lincoln Park Playground Committee extends it's thanks to all who contributed their time and/or money to make this project a success.

PLAY

IS

GOOD!



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**TARA'S
FLAVORITES**

Breakfast Souffle

- 1 ½ pounds bulk pork sausage
- 1 tsp. salt
- 9 eggs beaten
- 3 slices bread,
cut into ¾ inch cubes
- 3 c. milk
- 1 ½ c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 ½ tsp. dry mustard

Cook sausage over medium heat until done. Drain well on paper towels, set aside. Combine sausage and remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into well greased 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking dish. Refrigerate overnight (well covered). Bake at 350° for one hour. Serves 8 to 10. (Bacon can also be used)



The Breakfast Souffle is perfect for those early morning family gatherings. It's easy to make and very yummy!

Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Rates

(Effective June 1, 2009)

Grave Opening/Closing	Local Rates*	Non Local Rates
Infant/Ashes	\$400.00	\$800.00
Child (under 4' casket)	\$400.00	\$800.00
Vault	\$1000.00	\$3000.00
Premium Rates (add on to above)		
Weekend (infant/ashes)	\$150.00	\$200.00
Weekend Vault	\$325.00	\$400.00
Holiday**	\$325.00	\$400.00
Holiday** (infant/ashes)	\$150.00	\$200.00
Winter Opening Vault***	\$600.00	\$700.00
Winter Opening Ashes***	\$150.00	\$200.00
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. burials	\$150.00	\$200.00

Mausoleum Use

LOCAL BURIALS	\$45.00
ALL OTHERS	\$100.00

Disinterment of Vault- \$1000.00 + Vault charge

Disinterment of Ashes = \$250.00

Reinterment - Same as Grave Opening/Closing fees

Cemetery Lot

Cost per square foot - Lot	\$10.00
Cost per square foot - Perpetual Care	<u>\$ 3.00</u>
Cost per square foot - Total	\$13.00

Lot/Monument Repair - Time and Materials

Lot Transfer Administrative fee - \$25.00

Local is described as a person whose main residence is located in the City of Crystal Falls, at the time of his/her death, or a person who moved from the City directly into the nursing home or hospital in which they passed away. Local also includes surrounding townships that enter into an annual cost sharing agreement with the City.

**** Holidays**

New Years Day	Good Friday
Memorial Day	4 th of July
Labor Day	Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving	Christmas Eve
Christmas Day	Floating Holiday **** (selected by Employees annually)

******* Winter rates will take effect November 20th of each year.

********Current Floating holiday is December 26, 2008

ABOVE RATES PER CITY COUNCIL ACTION 5/11/09