

THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded

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Rice Lake Utilities
March, 2004

Community Owned



Is your washing machine taking you to the cleaners? If so you might consider purchasing a high efficiency unit. Starting April 15th- July 15th, consumer/ owners of Rice Lake Utilities will be eligible for rebates from \$50-\$100 on select brands of washing machines. To find out exactly which brands qualify, call the Energy Star Hotline at 1-800-762-7077.



Pictured: Rice Lake Utilities first water tower built in 1925 and still in use today.

Rice Lake Water Utility Celebrates 100 Years of Service to the City of Rice Lake

This year will mark the 100-year anniversary for the Rice Lake Water Utility. Back in the 1900's as the town grew from a lumbering village to a full fledged thriving community, the citizens voted to have local control of the water system that was currently owned by the Knapp Stout Lumber Company and hence the Rice Lake Municipal Water Utility was formed. A lot has changed in the water utility since a century ago, but much hasn't. We still receive our water from deep ground water wells the same way we did one hundred years ago. Mother Nature is still producing a quality product, so much so, that Rice Lake Utilities was voted by the Wisconsin Water Association at their annual meeting in 2003 as having the best water in the entire state of Wisconsin. Rice Lake Utilities is planning a celebration in the near future to commemorate the water utilities' 100-year anniversary. Watch the local paper for details.

History of Rice Lake Utilities Wells and Towers

Rice Lake Utilities gets its water from four deep ground water wells located throughout the city. These four wells have a combined pumping capacity of 3,872,000 gallons per day and depths ranging from 309' to 450'. The first well, which is now abandoned, was drilled in 1910. The four other active wells were drilled in 1926, 1969, 1974, and 1990.

Rice Lake Utilities also has three water towers that service the city. The first one (pictured above) was built in 1925 and has a capacity to hold 150,000 gallons of water. The remaining two were both built in 1967 and have a holding capacity of 250,000 gallons of water per tower.

Rice Lake Utility's Water Goes International



Rice Lake Utilities recently entered the International Water Tasting Competition held in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia where we competed against 39 other municipal utilities from around the world. Water was judged on appearance, odor, flavor, mouthfeel and aftertaste.

In the preliminary round the top ten waters were chosen to advance to the final round by a panel of seven judges. Rice Lake Utilities placed 1st in the preliminary round and advanced to the finals which was scored by a panel of 15 different judges. Rice Lake Utilities placed 7th in the final round of competition.



Rice Lake Water Utility Customers----

Rice Lake Utilities is requesting all water utility customers to let their water run at a flow of about a pencil stream. The effort will minimize the potential of water services and sanitary sewer services from freezing up. With the coming of warmer weather it is especially important to let your water run since the warmer weather drives the frost further into the ground. This notice will be in effect until the 15th of April. All water bills will be adjusted to average and no sewer charge will be applied to the additional water usage. Customers living in Lake Shore Terrace and Camelot Mobile Home Parks will need to check with the park manager to get permission to let the water run.



Rice Lake Utility Customers Don't Get Caught in the Dark!

Rice Lake Utilities will be enforcing Public Service Commission Rules Chapter 113 for Disconnection effective April 15th. Now is the time to make payment arrangements with Rice Lake Utilities for past due utility bills. We offer a Deferred Payment Agreement as an option. Please call Rice Lake Utilities to answer any of your questions relating to disconnect procedures.



Here are some checks you can make in your home today to ensure electrical safety

- Outlets:**
Check for outlets that have loose fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates.
- Extension Cords:**
Check to see that cords are not overloaded. Additionally, extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs):**
GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. They should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. Test GFCIs monthly and after electric storms.



Planning yard work this summer? Remember to call Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511. Diggers will mark the underground utilities for you at no cost.



Rice Lake Utilities has contracted with Asplundh Tree Company and they have started overhead power line clearance tree trimming and removal activities. Customers in the areas to be trimmed will be contacted for permission prior to any work being started. Tree trimming is important to the reliability of service, as well as the safety of the public. There will be several yards of wood chips generated by the tree trimming as well as wood suitable for firewood. Anyone wishing to get on the list to receive FREE wood chips (available in truckload quantity only) or firewood generated by this project is invited to contact Rice Lake Utilities during regular business hours. We will deliver free within the Rice Lake Service Territory. Delivery outside the area will be charged applicable time and equipment rates.



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