

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

Holiday Gatherings or Events?
BARNESVILLE
Event Center
Info: barnesvillemn.com/reserve



A Monthly Newsletter for our Utility Customers • 24/7 www.barnesvillemn.com • October 2024



IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

Barnesville residents are reminded that Election Day is **Tuesday, November 5**. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Senior Citizens Center located at 501 2nd Ave. NE. Please bring an ID with your current name and address or a photo ID plus a document with your current name and address.

The **Clay County Auditor's Office, 3510 12th Avenue S. in Moorhead, will be open extended hours to help accomodate absentee voters:**

Saturday, November 2 from 9 am to 3 pm, Sunday, November 3 from 9:00 am to 3 pm and until 5 pm on Monday, Nov. 4 for absentee voting.

The ballot includes President & Vice President, U.S. Senator and Representative, District 7 State Representative and County offices.

Voters will also be electing a Mayor for a two year term; Council members from Wards 1, 2 and 3 for a four year term.

There are three School District Questions and voters will also be electing three School Board members.

Lastly, the ballot will include Judicial Offices.

A sample ballot is available at: <https://myballotmn.sos.mn.gov/>. **Questions?** Call City Clerk Jeri Reep 218.354.2292.

City Hall Closed Nov. 11 and 28

City Hall will be closed on **Monday, Nov. 11** in observance of Veteran's Day and **Thursday November 28** in observance of Thanksgiving.

Happy Thanksgiving!

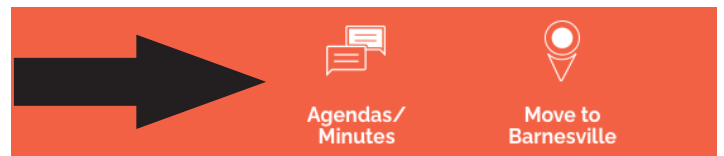


JOIN US!
NEW DIGITAL TV OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY, OCT. 29
3:00 - 7:00 PM
BARNESVILLE EVENT CENTER
101 2ND ST SE, BARNESVILLE, MN

FREE MEAL / DIGITAL TV DEMONSTRATIONS / DOOR PRIZES

It's Easy to find Agendas - Minutes

The City of Barnesville is now using Diligent software which makes it really easy for residents to access both agendas and minutes for City Council and Planning Commission meetings on the City's website! Go the barnesvillemn.com, look for the orange bar and click on the icon above Agendas/Minutes!



Winter Parking Restrictions

Barnesville winter parking restrictions state that after a snowfall of two inches or more, vehicles parked on any city street, that is not otherwise posted, must be removed prior to 8 am on the day following the day that the street is first plowed.

Vehicles may not be returned until after such street has been widened to its full width.



Please remember to place your garbage totes on **your driveway**, not on the street so they are not in the way of the plows!

BARNESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting • September 9, 2024

Regular City Council Meetings are held the second Monday of every month beginning at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers located at the rear of City Hall. The public are welcome. The agenda is posted on the City's website and Facebook page.

These are summaries of the minutes. The complete minutes are available online at www.barnesvillemn.com or at City Hall.

Mayor Rick called this regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Member's present were Council members Dawn Stuvland, Scott Bauer, Brad Field, Don Goedtke, Alyssa Bergman, and Tonya Stokka.

- 09-09-24-01 Motion Stokka, second Stuvland to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of discussion of meeting portfolios and agenda format to the agenda. Motion carried.
- 09-09-24-02 Motion Stuvland, second Stokka to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.
- 09-09-24-03 Motion Bauer, second Field to support the HRA Board of Commissioners resolution to the Clay County Commissioners, which will have an approximate tax burden on the City of Barnesville in the amount of \$7,695.00. Motion carried.
- 09-09-24-04 Motion Field, second Bergman to approve the 2025 levy resolution. Voted aye: Stuvland, Bauer, Goedtke, Bergman, Field and Stokka. Motion carried.
- 09-09-24-05 Motion Goedtke, second Stokka to approve the 2025 preliminary budget resolution. Voted aye: Council members Stuvland, Bauer, Goedtke, Bergman, Field and Stokka. Motion carried.

Mayor Rick adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.


Get Your E-mail When You're Gone!

All Barnesville Internet customers have FREE access to Webmail services, available anywhere you have internet access, simply by going to www.bvillemn.net and clicking on Webmail Access on the left. You will need to enter your entire e-mail address and e-mail password, and then you can read, write and respond to all your e-mails. Forget your password or just need help? Call the Internet Help Desk at 218.354-2222.

Going south? To utilize Webmail, you will need to put your phone and internet service on winter hold, which is a \$15 monthly charge. For more info call City Hall at 218.354-2292.

"Smart" Thermostats Save You \$\$

Winter is just around the corner! One of the easiest ways to way \$\$ on your heating bills is to install a "smart" thermostat!. You may qualify for a \$25 rebate - go to brightenergy solutions.com.



CITY OF BARNESVILLE
WATER HARDNESS
READING
OCT. 18, 2024 **29**

Caller ID "SPOOFING" Notice

Caller ID service is very susceptible to fraud known as Caller ID "spoofing". The term Caller ID Spoofing refers to a practice whereby the calling party uses commonly available technology to falsify the number of the telephone line from which the call is made, the name of the calling party, or both as they appear on the called party's Caller ID screen. This practice has the potential for fraud and harm to the called party.

To protect yourself, do not take what the Caller ID screen displays for granted. If what the caller is saying does not seem legitimate, do not divulge personal information until you can verify the source, by hanging up and calling them back on a verified number (from a mailed statement or printed directory).

If you would like more information on spoofing, visit www.fcc.gov, search "spoofing".

Secure your Wireless Internet!

If you're using your router to create a wireless connection within your home, be sure that you have a secure connection requiring a password. With the popularity of iPads we're seeing more people sitting in parked cars and tapping into unsecured wireless connections. Your unique IP address could be attached to all sorts of activity and websites. Not sure if your in-home wireless connection is secure? Call the Internet Help Desk at 354-2222 - 24/7/365 and they would be happy to help!



TAKE JACK BACK
PUMPKIN COMPOSTING
November 1st-14th

Did you know? Pumpkins CAN NOT go into yard waste piles.
Pumpkins will now be reused for compost on a local farm!

Barnesville
Recycling Center

Prep Bowl on Barnesville CableTV

The Minnesota Prep Bowls games will be on Antennae TV on November 29-30. This is Channel 110 for Barnesville Cable TV customers.

Is the Water Heater Load Management a new program?

No. Load Management systems are very common across the nation. Barnesville's Load Management system has been in place for 30 years! City ordinance requires that electric water heaters have a controller installed on them.

By controlling water heaters during times of very cold weather and high demand, it lowers our peak demand for electricity; saving each of our residents hundreds of dollars each year! If we didn't control we would have to pay a higher rate for the power we buy for the next 12 months!

Is it possible to opt-out?

No. City of Barnesville ordinances require water heaters to be controlled.

Why does my hot water heater get turned off at various times?

Sometimes demand for electricity becomes very high and results in more electricity than usual being used across the system. This occurs most often in winter, especially in the morning or early evening as people wake up or arrive home from work and turn on heaters, lights and start cooking.

At those times, the City of Barnesville temporarily turn off water heaters in order to reduce the electricity demand across our system.

Does this turn off the hot water altogether?

No. Load management only turns off the electricity supplying the element that heats the water in your hot water heater. The hot water already stored in the tank can still be

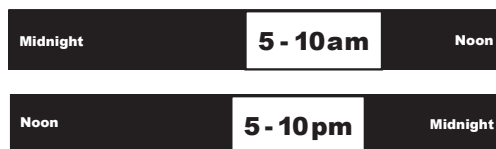
used and will stay hot or warm for several hours. The difference is it won't be reheated during load management. Once the hot water in the tank is used, the cold water that replaces it won't be heated until the end of the load management period.

How does turning off the hot water heater help?

Turning off the hot water heating during peak times helps reduce the amount of electricity being used at that time. Hot water can be heated at non-peak times rather than during the peak when households need electricity for heating and cooking. Essentially, it is a simple, effective way of flattening out the peaks and troughs of demand for electricity.

When does the water heater usually get turned off?

Load management kicks in when loads on the electricity network are very high. This is mostly in the winter (December-February), especially in the morning and early evening when the demand for electricity peaks as people are turning on heaters and cooking. Peak demands are usually between 5 am and 10 am, and between 5 pm and 10 pm.



How long will my hot water heater turned off?

It's off for 45 minutes and on for 15 minutes. Controlling will usually only last for 3-4 hours at a time except on extremely cold days when controlling could last all day.

Is everyone's hot water turned off at the same time?

No. The City controls about 700 customers in nine zones. A computerized system determines where and how much load management needs to occur. Generally, only one zone is controlled at a time by the computer system.

Does this mean a cold shower?

It shouldn't. In most hot water heaters, the water will stay hot enough for several hours. If you don't use all the water available in your water heater, you probably won't notice any difference. **In fact, most of the time, most people don't notice that load management has been used!**

However, you could notice cool or cold water if you use all the hot water stored in the water heater - if you have a long shower, a number of people have showers during this time or you use the washing machine or the dishwasher during this time.

You might also notice lower water temperature if the thermostat on your hot water heater was due to come on again to reheat your water just before the load management took place. This would mean your water was already cooling, and if you have a shower, you could use all the hot water stored in the tank in which case you will notice the water going cool or cold.

If you do experience ongoing cold water issues it wouldn't hurt to have a plumber check if both elements in your water heater are working correctly. It's always good to make sure you have a larger enough water heater for the size of your family!

OVERVIEW

Water Heater Load Management

- ✓ Load management temporarily interrupts electricity supply to hot water heaters
- ✓ Used to limit demand for electricity at peak times on the electrical system
- ✓ Mainly occurs in winter months, 5-10 am and 5-10 pm
- ✓ Typically less than 3 hrs/day, sometimes up to 5 hrs in total during a day
- ✓ Shouldn't mean cold water unless you use up the hot water stored in the tank or if your water heater has a bad lower element

WATER HEATER REBATE

Barnesville residents who replace their electric water heaters are encouraged to apply for the City's Rebate Program.

Receive a **\$2.00 per gallon** rebate when you install a new electric water heater with a storage capacity of at least 50 gallons, or **\$3.00 per gallon** for new electric water heaters with a minimum storage capacity of 80 gallons.

Water heaters must be controlled by the city's load management system.

Demand water heaters without storage do not qualify for this rebate.

Submit proof of purchase to City Hall to receive your rebate

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Water Heater Load Management Program please contact the City of Barnesville.



102 Front Street North
Post Office Box Box 550
Barnesville, MN 56514
218.354.2292
www.barnesvillemn.com

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
After Hours Emergencies: 218.354.2281



Electric Water Heater Load Management Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



October 2024

Become a NEIGHBORHOOD HERO

In an emergency, every second counts

ADOPT a FIRE HYDRANT!

help us keep hydrants clear!

See
Form on
Back!

EVERYONE that
adopts a fire hydrant
will get a
FREE
BLIZZARD

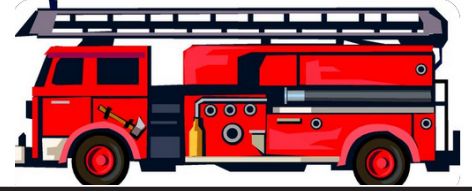


Courtesy of
the Barnesville
Dairy Queen

The 5 people
who do the best job of
keeping their hydrant
clean all winter will
each get \$50 in
Barnesville
Bucks!



EVERYONE who adopts
a fire hydrant will be
invited to a special
Fire Hall Open House
and receive a ride in a
fire truck!



KEEP'EM CLEAR

If there's a **fire hydrant** near your house,
help keep it accessible this winter:

DO YOUR PART SO THEY CAN DO THEIRS



CLEAR -AWAY ZONE

Remove any snow and ice
Clear a wide enough **perimeter**
around the hydrant for firefighters
to work (about 3 feet)
Clear a **path** from hydrant to street

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT!

There are 146 fire hydrants in Barnesville. In the case of a fire in winter, having access to a fire hydrant can be a matter of life and death. **CAN YOU ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT** to protect your family and neighborhood? Please complete this form and return with your utility bill payment. **THANK YOU!**

The hydrant is in front of _____ ADDRESS
2nd hydrant is in front of _____ ADDRESS

Your first and last name _____

E-mail address _____

This will allow us to contact you if someone has already adopted the hydrant(s) that you have selected.

THE OTTER EXPRESS IS COMING TO BARNESVILLE SOON!



- **Public Transportation for all Barnesville residents**
- **Transportation in the city & up to 5 miles outside city limits**
- **\$2.00 one way ride**
- **ADA accessible**

Call for additional information 218-998-3002

OtterExpress.com