

108 E MAIN  
PO BOX 386  
BATTLE LAKE, MN 56515  
218-864-0424  
E-mail: blcity@eot.com

#### BATTLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL:

- Gene Kelm, Mayor
- Marjorie Quammen,  
Council Member
- Donald Maslow,  
Council Member
- John Salvevold,  
Council Member
- Ryan Christensen,  
Council Member



#### BATTLE LAKE CITY STAFF:

- Todd Quantance,  
Police Chief
- Tim Sweazy,  
Police Officer
- Dave Wilson,  
Police Officer
- Val Martin, City Clerk-  
Treasurer, Zoning  
Official, EDA Director
- Karalee Brandner,  
Deputy Clerk-  
Treasurer
- Tami Olson,  
Admin. Assistant
- Chris Johnson, Public  
Works Director
- Trevor Meece, Public  
Works Technician
- Adam Schwartz, Public  
Works Technician
- Brad Grewe Public  
Works Employee
- Adam Freyholtz,  
Liquor Store Manager
- Jack Uselman,  
Assistant Liquor Store  
Manager



# Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2020

**What's Happening at Hatchery Row?** There are still plans for development! Last year the EDA purchased the building along with the property directly to the north. Since that time, we have been working on the environmental study which resulted in a need for remediation of some contaminated soil. This was expected but the process is taking much longer than anticipated, especially with COVID-19. We are finishing up the remediation plan and hope to demo the buildings this fall. Good Neighbors Properties is the developer the EDA continues to work with and are out of Alexandria with close ties to Battle Lake. They have several years of development experience and are currently working on a similar project in Alexandria. Good Neighbors have come up with a plan for mixed use of apartments and commercial space. To assist in their efforts, they hired a firm to do a Battle Lake Housing Study to find out the needs of Battle Lake. They plan to start construction in the spring.

The developers are in tune with the community vision that was completed a few years ago for Hatchery Row. They plan to incorporate the look of the old Hatchery buildings to maintain as much of the history as possible. Their vision is to complement what is already built in the area and to make Hatchery Row another "must see" component of Battle Lake.

**FALL SAFETY TIPS** Lions and Tigers. Goblins and Ghouls... It's that time of year again – scary and cute costumes galore and mountains of candy... **HALLOWEEN!** Even with all the excitement and fun of the festivities, safety is still very important to remember. Here are few tips to ensure the night stays fun:

- \* Walk in groups
- \* Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you
- \* Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible
- \* Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you
- \* Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them
- \* Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible
- \* Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe
- \* Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls
- \* Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

Of course, you do not want to forget your pets on Halloween, either. The following are some tips to keep them safe and healthy:

- \* As much as your dog or cat may beg for some of your Halloween candy, remember that chocolate is deadly to them in any amount. Also, the wrappers, such as tin foil, can get stuck in your pet's digestive tract and make them ill or cause death.
- \* Large dogs can have lethal tails when it comes to wagging them. Don't leave any lighted candles or Jack-O Lanterns where they could be knocked over by a swinging tail or by a curious cat. Not only could your pet start a fire but they could severely burn themselves in the process
- \* Be careful your cat or dog doesn't dart out through the open door as you hand out candy. Best bet is to just put them in a room with some food and water for the night and check on them once in a while to let them know everything is fine.

[www.Ci.Battle-Lake.mn.us](http://www.Ci.Battle-Lake.mn.us)



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The Energy Assistance Program helps low-income households pay their home heating bills. Payments are made directly to the household's fuel dealer. To receive assistance, household income for the last three months must be below the following guidelines:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Gross Income for the Last 3 Months</u>
1	\$7,066
2	\$9,240
3	\$11,415
4	\$13,589
5	\$15,763
6	\$17,937

- ◆ **Deadline to apply for assistance is May 31, 2021.**
- ◆ **There are no deductions from income.**
- ◆ **Households must provide proof of income when they apply.**

**To request an application call Mahube-Otwa at:**

<b>847-1385 Detroit Lakes</b>	<b>739-3011 Fergus Falls</b>
<b>935-5022 Mahnomen</b>	<b>732-7204 Park Rapids</b>
<b>632-3600 Wadena</b>	<b>Toll Free at 1-888-458-1385</b>

*Energy Assistance is administered in Mahnomen, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail and Wadena Counties by Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc., PO Box 747, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502. Mahube-Otwa offices are located in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Mahnomen, Park Rapids, and Wadena.*

Program funding provided by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services.

## BATTLE LAKE BUCKS

Make great gifts for that "hard to buy for" individual. They can also be used for door prizes, employee incentives, birthdays or Christmas gifts and more!

Battle Lake Economic Development Authority in conjunction with First National Bank have established the Battle Lake Bucks program. Battle Lake Bucks are pre-paid checks that are available in any denomination and can be used at any establishment in Battle Lake.

Stop in to First National Bank to purchase yours today!

## Zoning Ordinance Changes

The City of Battle Lake's Planning Commission and City Council made some changes to the Zoning Code in regard to Recreational Camping Units (RCU).

**Definition:** *RECREATIONAL CAMPING UNIT (RCU).* A relocatable single-family dwelling unit, less than 40 ft. in length, which in the traveling mode, is less than 8 ½ body ft. in width, and is less than 399 square feet when erected onsite, including, but not limited to tents, motor homes, Fish houses with sleeping quarters and travel trailers.

**(5) Use of RCU's The use of RCU's are allow with the following provisions:**

**(a) A lot without a dwelling may contain one (1) RCU provided**

the lot meets minimum requirements for size and all requirements of this ordinance for structures are met there are no water or sewer connection to the RCU.

The RCU cannot be used as a permanent dwelling.

No RCU may be skirted or permanently placed.

An RCU may be allowed in conjunction with a Land Use permit for a permanent structure for a maximum of 12 months during the construction period.

**(b) A lot containing one dwelling may contain one (1) RCU for use, not to exceed ten (10) days within any sixty (60) day period provided that:**

**(6) Storage of an RCU - Storage of one RCU on a residential lot will be allowed provided:**

It is not located in the right-of-way and is placed solely on the owner's property.

It will not impede City services or obstruct traffic visibility.

It can only be used for storage and not for use and cannot be hooked up to City utility services.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS**

- November 11, 2020 Veterans Day
- November 26, 2020 Thanksgiving Day
- November 27, 2020 Day after Thanksgiving
- December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve
- December 25, 2020 Christmas Day
- January 1, 2021 New Years Day

**BATTLE LAKE NATURAL GAS** - During winter months, snow and ice can damage your natural gas meter and appliance vents, or cause them to malfunction. Follow these simple tips and stay safe all winter long:

- \* Gently brush away any ice or snow that has accumulated around the meter, regulator vent and other outdoor piping
- \* Clear the snow or ice using a broom or by hand—not with a shovel.
- \* When plowing, blowing snow or shoveling, do not push or pile snow around your meter.
- \* Clear a path to your meter so Battle Lake Natural Gas employees and emergency responders can access it in an emergency.

**Keep appliance vents clear of snow and ice:**

- \* All outdoor appliance vents should be cleared of snow, ice and foliage—the best time to locate your vents is before the first winter storm hits.
- \* A clogged vent may cause your appliance to shut down or malfunction and create a hazardous buildup of carbon monoxide.

**Watch for falling snow or ice near your natural gas meter:**

- \* Falling snow and ice can seriously damage natural gas meters and regulators.
- \* Be aware of the locations of utility meters when removing snow and ice from your roof or contact a qualified contractor to perform this work for you.

**Anytime you smell a natural gas odor leave the area immediately and call 911 or Battle Lake Natural Gas at (218) 862-5550.**

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE** During a long, cold winter, your heat bill swells and you receive a notice from your energy provider that all utilities will be disconnected unless you can pay the overdue balance. Or, maybe a job loss forced you to choose between paying rent or paying your utility bill. You choose rent and just received a shut off notice. The HeatShare program is offered at most Salvation Army centers in Minnesota and can pay your utility bill once you have a shut-off notice in hand. Call the Heatshare hotline at 1-800-842-7279 for immediate help. To contact the Fergus Falls Salvation Army at 218-739-9692 for more information.

**BATTLE LAKE NATURAL GAS  
REMINDS YOU:**

Please check your private natural gas lines for damage and we recommend PAINTING your exposed line to lessen corrosion issues.

Safely remove foliage and snow around your natural gas meter to

**KEEP YOUR  
METER CLEAR  
ALL YEAR.**



**COLD WEATHER RULE INFORMATION** - During the period from October 15 through April 15, a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect their primary heat source for the residential unit and all the following conditions are met:

The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification or income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a plan agreement that considers the financial resources of the household. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, and other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

This notice is to tell you about your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Rule. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you with winter utility bills. You must act **promptly!** If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into mutually acceptable payment schedule **your service may be disconnected.**

If you need help paying your natural gas bills, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. Weatherization or conservation programs to reduce your energy bills may also be available. To find out if you qualify and how to apply, contact the following : **MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc., 128 W. Cavour Avenue—Fergus Falls, MN 56537—Phone 218-739-3011 or 1-888-458-1385**

**SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL** Minnesota is a spectacular wonderland for winter fun. But when the snow comes it can cause problems for area drivers as well as the snowplow operators who work, on occasion around the clock, clearing our roads.

As these operators, both private and government, are working to make life easier for everyone who is snowbound we must be patient and mindful that our actions don't cause problems for snow plow operators with the way they are clearing our roads.

Many homeowners don't consider how they clear their driveway and sidewalks can affect plow operators. It is important to realize that if they push the snow across the road, lane, highway or city street, it is a violation of Minnesota statute.

According to Minnesota Statute 160.2715 RIGHT-OF-WAY USE,

(a) Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to:

(1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon;

(2) plow or perform any other detrimental operation within the road right-of-way except in the preparation of the

land for planting permanent vegetative cover or as authorized under section [160.232](#);

This means you can't push snow across the road or into the street to get it off of your driveway or sidewalk. Minnesota law prohibits the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow onto public roadways. This includes the ditch and right of way area along the roadside.

Public safety is jeopardized if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and safe accessibility. Special attention should be made to keep sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed.

My request is that you please find a suitable location for snow within the confines of the property being cleared.

**If you witness a crime or strongly suspect one is about to occur:**

**Without putting yourself in danger, carefully note any details which might be helpful to police.**

**These include:**

\* **type of crime: *automobile theft, burglary, theft from an automobile, etc.***

\* **location: *the street address or nearest cross street.***

\* **description of the suspect(s): *note height, build, color of skin, eyes, and hair, clothing description.***

\* **disguises, or special marks, such as: *unusual features, scars or tattoos, and any weapons, tools, or vehicles being used.***

\* **description of property of person(s) being subjected to criminal activity.**

\* **Don't try to deal with the situation yourself. Call the police - *the sooner the better.* But even if some time has passed, it's not too late to call the police.**

## ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD



CITY OF BATTLE LAKE MAYORAL CANDIDATES:

**Richard J. Bullard, Donald Maslow and Pat Schimid**

CITY OF BATTLE LAKE COUNCIL CANDIDATES:

**Ryan Christensen, Julia Everts-DeMars, Jennie Mills and John (Archie) Salvevold**

## Battle Lake Natural Gas—Private Line Notice

Battle Lake Natural Gas maintains the natural gas service lines up to and including each meter. Battle Lake Natural Gas **does not** maintain the customer's PRIVATE natural gas lines. Private lines include service lines that branch off the main meter to garages, guest houses, and other customer owned structures.

For customer safety, it is very important that private lines be maintained properly. A natural gas service line that is not properly maintained may be subject to potential hazards from corrosion and leakage.

Private metallic natural gas service lines should be inspected periodically for leaks and corrosion. Any unsafe conditions should be repaired immediately.

Service lines should be located in advance if excavating near the customer's buried natural gas service line. To avoid accidental nicking or puncturing of the lines all excavating near these lines must be done by hand!

Local plumbing and heating contractors may be able to assist you in locating, inspecting, and if necessary repairing your service line.

If Battle Lake Natural Gas discovers a problem with the customer's private service line, the flow of gas will be shut off and the customer will be advised of the needed repair.

