



Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2022

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

BATTLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL:

- Richard Bullard, Mayor
- Marjorie Quammen, Council Member
- Donald Maslow, Council Member
- Julia Everts-Demars, Council Member
- Ryan Christensen, Council Member



BATTLE LAKE CITY STAFF:

- Todd Quantance, Police Chief
- Tim Sweazy, Police Officer
- David 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
- Dennis Pederson, Public Works Employee
- Adam Freyholtz, Liquor Store Manager
- Jennifer Nickolite, Assistant Liquor Store Manager



2022 Minnesota Statewide General Election



Election Day is November 8

mnvotes.gov

CITY OF BATTLE LAKE
MAYORAL CANDIDATES:
Richard Bullard
Gene Kelm

CITY OF BATTLE LAKE
COUNCIL CANDIDATES:
Vote for up to 2
Donald Maslow
Marjorie Quammen

City Residents—Vote at City Hall 7am to 8 pm



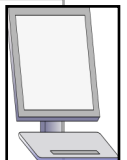
Natural Gas pricing

continues to be volatile. The City of Battle Lake contracts with the City of Perham for natural gas and pricing to our customers is based on the price we have to pay Perham. Over the last few months, here is what the pricing has done: October: \$1.07; November-\$1.63; December-\$1.09; January-\$1.09; February-\$1.15; March-\$1.19; April-\$1.10; May-\$1.52; June - \$1.60 July - \$1.66; August - \$1.51; September - \$1.66 We do receive a contract price from Perham from November through March. With the contract price this year, customers will see a price of \$1.56 per ccf for most of those months but we have a limit on the amount we can contract so the higher usage months may have a different rate to our customers.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 1ST. 72.06

SPECIAL PARKING PROHIBITIONS DURING SNOW REMOVAL Subd. 1. Snow Removal Period Defined. "Snow Removal Period" means the time from November 1 to March 31 of the next year following. Subd. 2. Parking Prohibitions. It is unlawful for any person to park or leave standing a vehicle during the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on all streets and avenues within the area identified as the city limits of Battle Lake, each year from November 1 to March 31 of the next year following.

Smart Room is available at City Hall for public use complete with access to Wi-Fi and technology. A great idea for job interviews, on-line learning, virtual meetings, and more. Contact City Hall for more information.

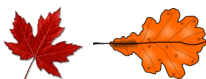


WE WILL BE



- November 11, 2022 Veterans Day
- November 24, 2022 Thanksgiving Day
- November 25, 2022 Day after Thanksgiving
- December 26, 2022 Christmas Day (Observed)
- January 2, 2023 New Years Day (Observed)
- January 16, 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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 2022-2023 guidelines:

Household Size	Gross Income for the Last 3 Months
1	\$7,643
2	\$9,994
3	\$12,346
4	\$14,698
5	\$17,050
6	\$19,401

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
<u>1</u>	<u>\$30,572</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>\$39,979</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>\$49,386</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>\$58,793</u>

To request an application call Mahube-Otwa at:

218-739-3011 Fergus Falls Toll Free at 1-888-458-1385

Energy Assistance is administered in Mahnomon, 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, Mahnomon, Park Rapids, and Wadena.

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

SCAN TO APPLY
FOR ENERGY OR
WATER
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS



mn **COMMERCE DEPARTMENT**
MINNESOTA'S ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
A free grant for home energy & water bills
mn.gov/energyassistance

Overdue water bill? Water disconnected or scheduled for disconnection? **You may qualify to have your bill paid off.**

The Water Assistance Program pays for the water/wastewater bill for eligible households. Households who are currently disconnected from water/wastewater, or have a pending disconnection or a past due bill.

You can apply for energy and water assistance with your local energy assistance partner. If you are eligible, you can get help with both energy and water bills.

COLD WEATHER RULE INFORMATION - During the period from October 1 through April 30, 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**

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.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

HeatShare is a Salvation Army Program that provides emergency utility assistance for people with no place left to turn. The program is funded in part by Salvation Army

donors and by local utility companies and their customers. Funds are typically used to pay for natural gas, oil, propane and electricity. The HeatShare program is offered at most Salvation Army centers in Minnesota. To request assistance call the HeatShare hotline at 1-800-842-7279 for immediate help. Contact the Fergus Falls Salvation Army at 218-739-9692 for more information. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause—Donations are tax-deductible and can be sent to: The Salvation Army HeatShare Program, 2445 Prior Ave N., Roseville, MN 55113



The Battle Lake Planning Commission and City Council have been working on some changes to the zoning code. Some of the changes include:

1. Listing criteria for home occupations.
2. All accessory structures have a maximum height of 20 feet.
3. There is a limit of two accessory structures that are over 120 square feet on any one parcel.
4. Restrictions in Residential Districts: Construction Material -
 - a. Single-family dwelling roofs shall be shingled with asphalt, wood, tiles, metal (with concealed fasteners) or other comparable materials.
 - b. Building materials shall be attractive in appearance, of a durable finish, and be of a quality that is compatible and harmonious with adjacent structures. All buildings shall be of good aesthetic and architectural quality, to ensure they will maintain and enhance the property values of the neighboring properties.
 - c. Single-family dwellings, garages, and accessory structures over 120 square feet of floor space or over 120 square feet of roof and roof overhang shall be constructed of materials similar in quality and appearance to that of the main dwelling structure on the lot.
 - d. Buildings constructed of canvas, fabric or straw shall not be permitted.
 - e. Building exteriors must be finished within one year of starting construction unless a one-year extension is granted by the zoning official.



Regulations on short-term vacation rentals will be reviewed and completed at the October council meeting.

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.

BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION - We all must take responsibility to follow the law, pay attention and share the road to keep everyone safe.

WHEN DRIVING

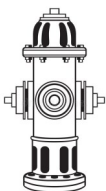
- Be patient when passing a bicyclist - slow down and pass only when it's safe. Allow clearance of at least three feet.
- Look before you merge - check mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.
- Be on the lookout - watch for and yield to bicyclists before making a turn.
- Use extra caution around young bicyclists - children's movements can be unpredictable.
- Be respectful - don't speed past a bicyclist to make an upcoming right turn. It's easy to misjudge how fast bicyclists are traveling.
- Exit your vehicle safely - look for bicyclists before opening your car door.
- Think before you honk - honking may startle a bicyclist and cause a crash.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted driving

WHEN BICYCLING

- Follow the law - obey all traffic signs and signals. Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Ride predictable - maintain a straight course and avoid weaving between parked cars.
- Communicate your intent - look, yield to traffic and signal before turning or changing lanes.
- Use extreme caution near commercial vehicles - pass only on the left and recognize drivers' blind spots.
- See and be seen - wear bright colors, reflective gear and use head and taillights.
- Protect yourself - wear a helmet.
- Stick to roads and trails - sidewalk riding puts you at risk for crashes at driveways and intersections. Always yield to pedestrians.
- Avoid distracted bicycling - put away mobile devices and headphones.

NOTICE

The City of Battle Lake Public Utilities Department will be flushing hydrants on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, OCT 4,5,6. Doing laundry during these designated times is not recommended. When flushing is underway within a two-to-three block area of your home, it is common to experience discoloration and sedimentation in your water supply. If this occurs, turn on an outside tap and let the water run for a few minutes until it clears. We apologize for any inconvenience this work may cause, however it is a necessary component of our water distribution systems maintenance. Thank you for your cooperation.



Chris Johnson, Public Works Director
City of Battle Lake

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.**

