

October 2015

City of Hawley Newsletter

305 6th St, PO Box 69

Ph#218-483-3331 www.hawley.govoffice.com



National Fire Prevention Week Oct 4th - 10th

You are invited to a free brat feed at the Hawley Fire Hall on Thursday, October 8th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Please make sure that there are working smoke detectors in your home.

Minnesota New Construction Code States;

there should be 1 detector in each bedroom, and 1 on each floor not in bedrooms.

HAFD has some smoke detectors and batteries available free of charge if you should need them.

<p>Upcoming Council meetings 5:30 p.m. on Channel 14:</p> <p><u>October</u> 5th and 19th</p> <p><u>November</u> 2nd and 16th</p> <p><u>December</u> 7th and 21st</p>	<p><u>Fall Street Sweeping</u></p> <p>The City crews will be street sweeping once the tree foliage has fallen.</p> <p>It is important to keep the storm water catch basins free of leaves, grass clippings and debris to allow rain water to enter the storm water system and to prevent water from backing up into the street.</p> <p>Thank you for your help in keeping the storm drains clear in your area.</p>	<p>Hawley Motor Vehicle 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. Mon.-Fri.</p> <p><u>Registration Renewals - "Tabs"</u></p> <p>Your vehicle registration ends on the last day of the month and year displayed on your license plate. If you purchase your registration after that date the state does not impose a late fee, however you can be ticketed by law enforcement for not having current registration. There is no "grace period". Feel free to stop into City Hall if you have any questions.</p>
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There is now a central number for the entire state that people can call to report suspected abuse of vulnerable adults: 1-844-880-1574. There is also a website available for additional information: <http://www.mnaging.org/News/MAARC.aspx>

REMINDER: Daylight Savings time, turn clocks back one hour on Nov 1st

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOT FOR SALE 314 MAIN STREET, HAWLEY, MN

The City of Hawley Economic Development Authority offers for sale, the following real property: 314 Main Street, Legal Lots 11—15, Block 32, less railroad right of way, Original Townsite, City of Hawley Parcel #:56.650.2540

Current Use: Vacant Lot Zoned: R-2 Neighborhood Residential
Special Assessments on the lot: \$13,975

Special Requirements: Development of Housing - buyer must commence building a housing unit on the lot within 1 year of closing.

Interested buyers should submit a written offer at City Hall, 305 6th St, PO Box 69, Hawley, MN 56549. (218)483-3331

Secure Document Destruction Personal - free service

Sensitive material including personal income tax information, bank statements, credit card statements, credit card offers, regular unwanted junk mail and other personal documents should be handled appropriately and securely. Reduce your risk and find peace of mind on identity theft issues by having your personal documents destroyed by MinnKota Secure Document Destruction, a NAID AAA certified company. MinnKota will accept and destroy documents and hard drives at its central location located at 809 4th Ave. North, Fargo, ND.
For larger volumes (exceeding two boxes), please call ahead for an appointment.
Call 701-293-8428 -MinnKota Secure Document Destruction 1-800-726-3164

Recycling Center

Mon. and Thurs. 4-8 p.m. & Sat. 8-2.00 p.m.

Did you know: **By recycling an aluminum can per day we can save enough energy to operate a television set for 3 hours.**



Fall Leaf Pickup Dates

Monday, October 19th and

Thursday, October 22nd

Monday, October 26th and

Thursday, October 29th

Clay County Safe Roads Coalition - HIGH VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT: OCTOBER 10-26—SEATBELTS/CHILD SEATS

- All children under age 8 must ride in a federally approved car seat or booster seat, unless the child is 4'9" or taller.
- Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Infants (under 20 pounds and one year of age) must be in a rear-facing safety seat.
- Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts.
- Law applies to all seating positions.
- Driver is responsible.
- Petty misdemeanor fine for violation is \$50 (may be waived if violator shows proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days).
- Applies to both residents and non-residents of Minnesota.

COLD WEATHER INFORMATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

CHAPTER 111 –H.F. NO. 532 An act relating to consumer protection; regulating certain contracts entered into by military service personnel; authorizing cancellations; requiring utilities to establish payment arrangements for military service personnel; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 325E; 325G.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Section 1. [325E.027] UTILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

Subdivision 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules.

(a) A municipal utility, cooperative association, or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

1. Has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility under which the residential customer pays ten percent of the customer’s gross monthly income toward the customer’s bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.
2. Has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, “household income” means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subdivision 2. Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.

(a) A municipal utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer’s request.

Subdivision 3. Application to service limiters. For the purpose of this section, “disconnection” includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Subdivision 4. Income Verification. Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subdivision 5. Appeal process.

(a) The municipal utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission-approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriate governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness, or modification of a payment schedule, or on the reasonable timeliness of the payments under a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer’s receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first class mail notice in the United States mail.

(b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal, or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subdivision 6. Enforcement. This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B.

**Events at the
 Hawley Community Center**
October 3rd
**Women of Today
 Ladies Night Out**
October 16th
**Hawley Area Jaycees
 Men’s Annual Fall Stag**

**“Live your life each day as you would climb a mountain.
 An occasional glance towards the summit
 keeps the goal in mind,
 but many beautiful scenes are to be observed
 from each new vantage point.”**
– Harold B Melchart

Business Highlight

WHO: Muscatell-Burns Ford

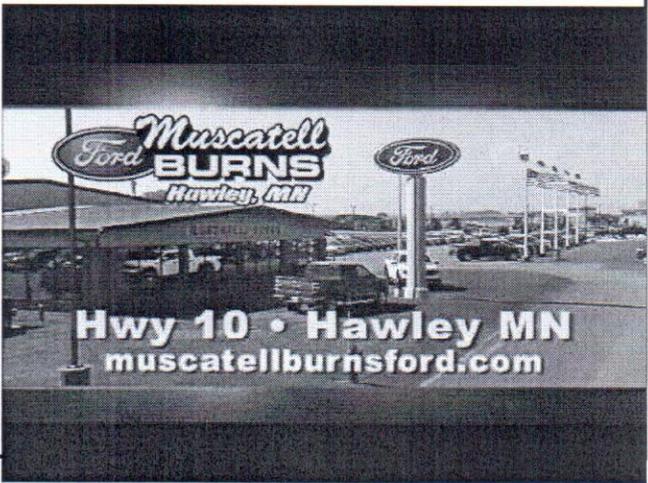
WHAT: The Ford store has been a Hawley business anchor, since 1927. Imagine the history of all the models sold, first on Main Street before being moved out to Highway 10! Ward Muscatell purchased the store from the Burns family in 2007, and many of Don & Mark Burn’s team is still at the store today. Muscatell-Burns Ford sells new and used cars, trucks, vans and SUV’s. Check out the new 2016 models arriving now. The dealership is full-service with sales, financing and a service department second to none! Stop in for a cup of coffee or a pop anytime. We enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones.

WHEN: Sales: Mon-Fri. 8-6:00pm
 Sat. 8-3:00pm

Service: Mon-Fri. 8-5:30pm
 Sat. 8-12:00pm

WHERE: 910 Hwy 10, Hawley

CONTACT: (218) 483-3356
www.muscatellburnsford.com



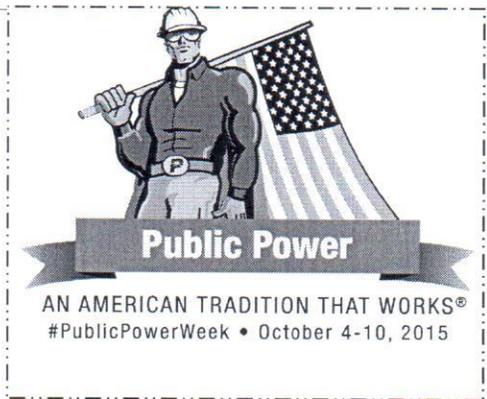
Suspected Natural Gas Leaks

Indications of a possible gas leak include:

- Unusual odor inside or near the pipeline outdoors
- Hissing noise, bubbles in puddles, dirt being blown into the air, or dead or discolored vegetation near an underground pipeline
- Fire or explosion involving pipeline facilities

If You Suspect a Leak:

- EVACUATE the area immediately-travel upwind to escape any potentially dangerous accumulation of gas and do not reenter until told it is safe to do so
- CALL the gas supplier from a safe location-NOT the building where you smell gas
- DO NOT light a match, operate light switches, appliances, engines, or any other potential sources of ignition
- KEEP other people out of the area until help arrives



Remember, suspected gas leaks are potentially dangerous and must be reported and investigated immediately. We need your help to continue to operate a safe distribution system.

Excavation Safety

Dig-in (excavation) damage is a leading cause of gas system damage. To minimize this hazard, the most important thing you can do is **Call Before You Dig**.

Gopher State One Call is a free statewide service that allows utilities to locate any buried facilities they own before you start digging. Just call 2 business days before digging and provide the requested information to the operator. GSOC can be reached at **800-252-1166** or dial **811**.

Gas Odor

Enclosed is an important brochure relating to the "odor" of natural gas. Hawley Public Utilities supplies natural gas to many customers within city limits. As part of our safety program, we want everyone to be aware of this odor and how to report it. If you have any indication of a gas smell, leave the building immediately and go to a neighbors house to call City Hall. We will have one of our trained utility workers check for a gas leak immediately. We provide this gas sniffer information twice a year in an effort to educate and promote safety.



Natural Gas Notice

The City of Hawley does not maintain the buried gas piping downstream of your meter. If you as a homeowner have buried gas piping, it needs to be maintained as it is subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage.

Buried gas piping should be inspected for leaks as frequently as needed, but at intervals not exceeding 5 years; periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic; and repair if any unsafe condition is discovered.

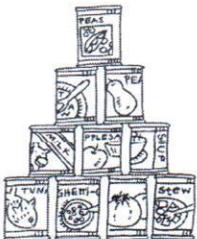
Always use a licensed contractor for your Natural Gas plumbing.

Natural Gas Pipeline Safety—Hawley Public Utilities

The Hawley Public Utilities operates a system of underground natural gas pipelines to provide safe and economical

energy to the residents and businesses of our community. Pipelines are one of the safest transportation methods available, but in the unlikely event a natural gas leak occurs it can cause a fire or explosion. We want to help you stay safe around gas facilities. This brochure is designed to assist in that effort, providing information on reacting to and reporting suspected gas leaks and on excavation safety. If you have further questions please contact us:

Hawley Public Utilities City Hall 305 6th St (218)483-3331
After Hours Emergency: (701)238-7657 or 911



HAWLEY LIQUORS FOOD DRIVE.....

Consider donating Non-perishable Food Items during the month of October. Hawley Liquors is participating with the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association and Coors Light to sponsor the food drive—bring items to Hawley Liquors. All donations collected will be given to the Hawley Food Pantry at REACH.

Cold Weather Rule

Notice of Residential Customer Rights & Possible Assistance

READ CAREFULLY

(Sept 2015)

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; CO-OPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Subdivision 1. **Application; notice to residential customer.** (a) a municipal utility must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and **all** of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of 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, which uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.
- (2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- (3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.
 - (b) A municipal utility must, between August 15 and October 15 of each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subdivision 2. **Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.** Before disconnection service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility must provide the following information to a customer:

- (1) A notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) A statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) A list of local energy assistance providers;
- (4) Forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- (5) A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subdivision 3. **Restrictions if disconnection necessary.** (a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

- (1) On a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by phone by a municipal utility;
- (2) On a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;
- (3) When utility offices are closed; or
- (4) After the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue services, offers a payment agreement to the customer. Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven (7) days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subdivision 4. **Application to service limiters.** For the purpose of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

City of Hawley, Hawley Public Utilities Commission, 305 6th St, PO BOX 69,

Hawley, MN 56549 Phone: 218-483-3331

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

West Central MN Communities Action Inc.

411 Industrial Park Blvd, PO Box 596

Elbow Lake, MN 56531

Phone: 1-800-492-4805

Clay County Social Services

715 11th ST N

Moorhead, MN 56560

Phone: 218-299-5200

REACH

421 Fifth ST

Hawley, MN 56549

Phone: 218-483-3145

Consumer Credit Counseling Service

15 South 10th ST

Fargo, ND 58102

Phone: 701-237-9247

Family Life Services

1201 25th ST S

Fargo, ND 58102

Phone: 701-235-3328

50 % STATE MEDIAN INCOME GUIDELINES FOR 2015- 2016			
Household Size	Max annual 50% of SMI	Max. 3 month 50% of SMI	
1	\$23,949	\$5,987	
2	\$31,318	\$7,829	
3	\$38,687	\$9,671	
4	\$46,056	\$11,514	
5	\$53,424	\$13,356	
6	\$60,793	\$15,198	
7	\$62,175	\$15,543	
8	\$63,557	\$15,889	