

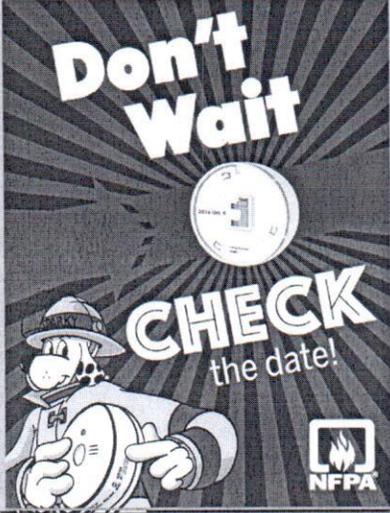
October  
2016

# City of Hawley Newsletter

305 6th St, PO Box 69, Hawley, MN 56549

Hours: City Hall Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Motor Vehicle 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (218)483-3331

Recycling center Mon & Thurs 4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



**Don't Wait**

**CHECK**  
the date!

**REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 9-15, 2016**

[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

**National Fire Prevention Week Oct 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**

**You are invited to the Hawley Area Fire District  
Open House and free brat feed  
at the Hawley Fire Hall  
on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

There will be fire extinguisher demonstrations.  
Hawley Area Fire Relief Raffle Drawings @ 7:00 p.m.  
For 2016 Artic Cat Prowler HDX500 & other prizes.



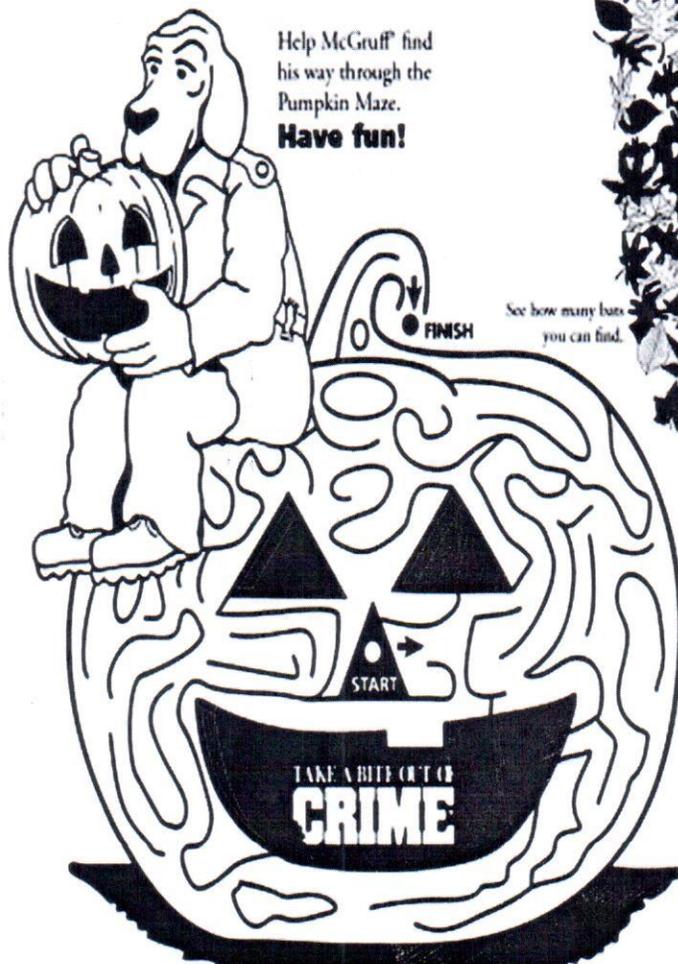
Does your home have a smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes. But do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not so sure.

A recent survey conducted by NFPA revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. **National Fire Alarm Code®**, requires smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

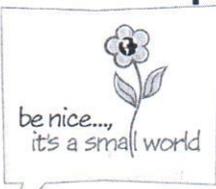
As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA is promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."

## McGruff's Halloween Safety Tips and Maze

- ▶ Trick-or-treat in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Go with friends. Ask your parents, older sister or brother, or a neighbor to go along.
- ▶ Carry a flashlight, glowstick, or reflective bag.
- ▶ Have parents check all treats before you eat them. Visit [McGruff.org](http://McGruff.org) for more tips.



## Do Something Nice Day October 5th



*Do Something Nice Day.* Go ahead, do something nice, anything nice. And, do it to, or for, another individual. It won't hurt.....we promise.

Doing something nice for someone almost always evokes a very pleasant response. At the very least, it results in a smile. And, best of all, doing something nice just might be contagious.

In keeping with the spirit of this day, set a goal to do something nice for someone. Perhaps, you can do this for several people. Then, sit back and watch the results!

## COLD WEATHER RULE 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.

## HEATING SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

I hereby verify that my primary source of residential heating is:

electric  natural gas  
(check one)

And as my primary source of residential heating I request that Hawley Public Utilities deduct the applicable sales tax from my bill.

I further certify that the heating source I have checked above will be the primary source of heat at this residence until further notice and I am responsible for notifying the Hawley Public Utilities when this status no longer applies, MN Statute 297A.67 Subd 15.

Printed Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Customer Signature

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to City of Hawley,  
PO Box 69, Hawley, MN 56549  
ONLY if your primary source of residential  
heating has changed in the last year.

**Electricity or Natural Gas sold for residential use is not taxable for the billing months of November, December, January, February, March, and April when sold to metered customers who use it as their primary source of residential heat.**

If more than one type of heat is used, only the *primary source* of heat is not taxable. Primary source of residential heat is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

If the primary source of residential heat is natural gas then all the gas is not taxable during the winter heating months. If the primary source of residential heat is electricity, and there is only one meter, then all electricity measured through that meter is not taxable during the winter heating months. Off Peak Residential Electric customers now have separate meters for heating and general use, and the heating meter use is tax exempt if it is the primary source of heat.

**Residential Customers Include:**

- ◆ Apartments
- ◆ Condominiums
- ◆ Intermediate Care Facilities
- ◆ Garages-residential (attached or not)
- ◆ Mobile Homes
- ◆ Duplexes
- ◆ Town houses
- ◆ Single family homes
- ◆ Rooming houses

Utilities supplied for residential heating *during* construction of a residence are not taxable. Residential use does not include use in travel trailers, motor homes, or other recreational vehicles.

**Commercial and Residential Use:**

Some buildings have both residential quarters and commercial operations. If there is one meter for the entire building for electricity or gas, square footage is used to determine if the residential exemption applies:

- ◆ The residential exemption applies if more than 50% of the square footage of the building is residential.
- ◆ The utilities are taxable if 50% or more of the square footage of the building is used for commercial operations.

**Detach and return the Exemption Certificate if your heating source has changed from last year.**

**Books broadcast on the State Services for the Blind's Minnesota Radio.**

Talking Book Network are available through the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library in Faribault. The phone number is 1-800-722-0550 and hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An online catalog is available at [www.mnbtbl.org](http://www.mnbtbl.org) Select the link "search the library catalog."

## **216B.097 Cold Weather Rule Notice - Hawley Public Utilities**

**Protections:** A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association 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 and the customer meets the eligibility criteria below.

**Customer Eligibility:** To be eligible for protection from residential utility service shutoff, a customer must meet the following criteria and requirements:

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.
2. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements 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. The utility may:
3. Obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider, if available, or
4. Require income information from the customer on forms provided by the utility and compare it to the current state median household income figure available on the Energy Assistance Eligibility page at the website of the Department of Energy Resources
5. The customer enters into and make reasonable timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

**Utility Duties:** Between August 15 and October 15 each year, all utilities must notify all residential customer of the Cold Weather Rule protections.

All utilities must provide customers seeking protection with referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

**Customer Notification Before Disconnection:** Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or co-op must provide the customer with all of the following items:

1. A notice of the 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 the inability to pay;
5. A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service

**Disconnection Restrictions:** If a residential customer is to be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15, the disconnection may not occur:

1. On a Friday, unless that day the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered by the municipal utility of co-op via personal contact or telephone;
2. On a weekend, holiday, or day before a holiday;
3. When utility offices are closed, or
4. After the close of business, unless a field representative of the utility who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the disconnection notice (described above) has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

**Non-Responsive customer:** 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.

1. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of the Cold Weather Rule.
2. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

**Customer Appeals:** Under the Cold Weather Rule, if a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection prior to disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect the customer until the appeal is resolved.

**Service Limiters:** Under the Cold Weather Rule, "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 6<sup>th</sup> St, PO BOX 69, Hawley, MN 5654 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> ST  
 Fargo, ND 58102  
**Phone: 701-237-9247**

**Family Life Services**

1201 25<sup>th</sup> ST S  
 Fargo, ND 58102  
**Phone: 701-235-3328**



### 50 % STATE MEDIAN INCOME GUIDELINES FOR 2017

Household Size	Max annual 50% of SMI	Max. 3 month 50% of SMI
1	\$24,541	\$6,135
2	\$32,092	\$8,023
3	\$39,643	\$9,910
4	\$47,194	\$11,798
5	\$54,745	\$13,686
6	\$62,296	\$15,574
7	\$63,712	\$15,928
8	\$65,128	\$16,282

### **HAWLEY PUBLIC UTILITIES UTILITY WORK TO UPGRADE ELECTRICAL SERVICE IN THE WESTGATE AREA**

Since September Hawley Public Utilities workers and our subcontractor, Arvig, have been working in the boulevard and rear yard areas of homes in the Westgate 2nd and Westgate 3rd Addition neighborhoods to Upgrade Electrical Distribution Lines and install new transformers. The new lines will replace the aging electrical lines (installed in the 1970's) with new underground lines. The Contractor will restore disturbed areas and reseed them. This fall there will be short outages when the transformers are switched over.

City crews will knock on doors and/or hang a notice on your door to inform you ahead of time of these short outages.

**This work is being done to ensure safe and reliable service to your home in the future.**

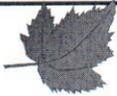
**Please talk with your family about staying clear of the crews and equipment as they work so that everyone stays safe.**

**If you have questions call City Hall (218)483-3331. Thank you for your cooperation!**

**Reminder from Chief Joe,**

Good afternoon, as I am writing this school is back in session and fall weather is approaching. I have noticed lots of new faces and new vehicles in Hawley. I thought it would be a good time for a reminder if you are a new resident of Minnesota you are required by law to update your vehicle and drivers license information. Minnesota law requires if you are a new resident of the state that within 60 days of becoming a resident that you get a Minnesota driver's license and register your vehicle with Minnesota license plates. If you're a Minnesota resident and just moved into the area you have 30 days to make the address change on your driver's license and vehicle registration.

You can stop into Hawley City Hall to make your vehicle change. If you are in need of the driver's license update there are locations in Detroit Lakes or Moorhead. For additional information please visit the Minnesota DVS website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/default.aspx>.  
**Thank you. Chief Joe Backlund**



**Fall grass and leaf pickup will be October 20th, 24th, 27th and 31st.  
Reminder grass and leaves must be in clear plastic bags to be picked up!!**

**West Central Initiative launches new forgivable child care loan pilot program.**

WCI wants to make it easier for child care providers to succeed. That's why we're launching a forgivable child care pilot program for both home-and center-based providers. Here are the details:

1. Loans up to \$3,500
2. Used to open or retain child care slots
3. Proceeds used to make property suitable for child care
4. 0% interest
5. Payments are forgiven each month child care services are provided
6. Must meet WCI loan guidelines

To learn more, contact our Director of Business and Economic Development Greg Wagner at [greg@wcif.org](mailto:greg@wcif.org) or call 218-739-2239.

**Fall Street Sweeping**

The City crews will be street sweeping once the tree foliage has fallen.

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.

**Thank you for your help in keeping the storm drains clear in your area.**

**Safe Walking, bicycling and driving needed as school is in session.**

**Pedestrians** should use crosswalks and sidewalks when available and look left, right and left again before crossing the street. When no sidewalks are available, they should walk on the left side of the road toward traffic.

About a third of all pedestrian crashes occur during the weekday morning and afternoon rush hour driving times. In 2015, 32 percent of pedestrians killed and 26 percent injured were trying to cross a roadway at an area with no crosswalk and no signal.

In 2015, the top two most contributing factors for crashes between vehicles and pedestrians were motorist failure to yield right of way and motorist inattention or distraction.

**Bicyclists** should ride predictably so motorists know what their intentions are. This means using hand signals, riding in a straight line and obeying traffic signals. Bicyclists are subject to the same laws as motor vehicles. They should wear helmets and wear reflective gear to increase their visibility.

About a third of all bicycle crashes occur during the afternoon rush hours of 3 to 6 p.m. Bicyclists' failure to yield right of way and disregard for traffic control devices were the top two contributing factors to crashes in 2015 when bicyclists were at fault. When motorists were at fault, the contributing factors were failure to yield right of way and driver inattention and distraction.

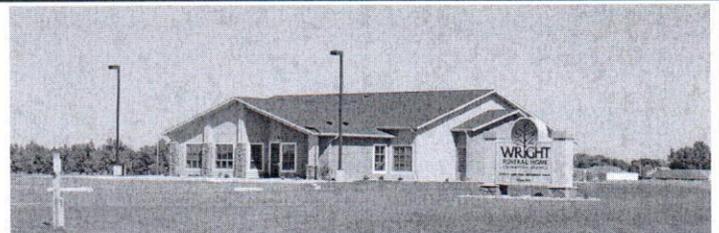
**Motorists** should look for children at intersections, crosswalks and along roads. It's the law to stop for pedestrians within the crosswalk. It's also the law to give a three-foot clearance, and to yield to bicyclists before making a turn. Motorists should also focus on driving and avoid distractions, such as eating or drinking and using cell phones, while operating their vehicles.

**Business Highlight**

**Who: Wright Funeral Home**

**Where: 404 Leonard Street, Hawley**

**When: 24 hours a day,  
seven days a week. 218-483-4411**



**Steve Wright is celebrating his family's 135<sup>th</sup> year of service in the Red River Valley. Wright's have been serving the community of Hawley for 29 years, purchasing the business in 1987.**

**A.J. Wright (great-grandfather to Steve) was an innovator when he became the 23<sup>rd</sup> person in the state of Minnesota to obtain an embalmer's license.**

**Wright's continue to innovate with a beautiful new funeral home, video tributes, life tribute boards, a robust website, custom printing, and a very talented and compassionate staff.**