

Water and Light News



EAST GRAND FORKS WATER AND LIGHT

April 2015

Energy is Subject of the Day for East Grand Forks Fourth Graders

Fourth-graders from South Point Elementary School and Sacred Heart School in East Grand Forks learned about where their electricity comes from during an educational assembly in February presented by the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA), with the support of the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The assembly gave students the opportunity to participate in learning activities that emphasized how electricity is generated, transmitted and used.

For example, through a "student-powered" power plant exercise on a stationary bicycle, students experienced how their increased pedal-pushing effort provided more power to illuminate a series of light bulbs.

"We have developed this program to align with Minnesota's fourth grade science standards, and we have partnered with the Science Museum to reach students through a unique educational experience," said MMPA's education program coordinator, Lauren Blank.



The assembly was part of MMPA's Energy Education Program for fourth-graders in MMPA member communities. The program includes MMPA's Energy Education Workbook, interactive tours, and in-school assemblies.

More than 2,500 Minnesota students are expected to participate in MMPA-sponsored assemblies and energy tours by the end of the 2015 school year. For more information, visit www.mmpa.org.



Call 811 Before You Dig!!

If you are planning any digging on your property, state law requires you call **Gopher State One Call "811"** at least two (2) business days in advance.

This free service ensures underground utility lines are marked with color-coded paint or flags (see color-codes to the right). **Keep in mind, hand digging is required within two (2) feet either side of the utility markings.**

Gopher State One Call initiates all utilities to locate their lines, electric, water, sewer, cable, gas, phone, etc. They have 2



	Proposed excavation
	Temporary survey markings
	Electric power lines, cables, conduit & lighting cables
	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum lines or gaseous materials
	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit
	Potable water
	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
	Sewers and drain lines

business days from the time you make the call to locate the utilities and digging is not to begin until that time

is up. So plan ahead. A penalty may be assessed if Gopher State One Call is not called and utility lines are hit when digging.

Spring & Summer are Good Times to do Energy Efficient Improvements to Your Home

SCHEDULE AN **ENERGY AUDIT** WITH THE WATER AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT AND HAVE OUR AUDITOR HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL TO YOU. **DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR WEATHERIZATION REBATE OF 50% OF YOUR PROJECT COST UP TO \$500.**

CALL: 773-1163



Your Hometown Utility Since 1909



EAST GRAND FORKS WATER AND LIGHT

600 Demers Ave
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Phone: 218-773-1163
Fax: 218-773-6127
www.waterandlight.info

We're On The Web:
www.waterandlight.info

“FLIP YOUR FRIDGE”



It's time to Flip Your Fridge!

Why not recycle that old energy wasting refrigerator and replace it with a new ENERGY STAR certified model? Or just recycle that old fridge in your basement or garage.

Get a \$75 rebate on your new fridge and a \$50 recycle rebate from the Water and Light. See more information on our website.

Easements and Right-of-Ways-What You Need to Know

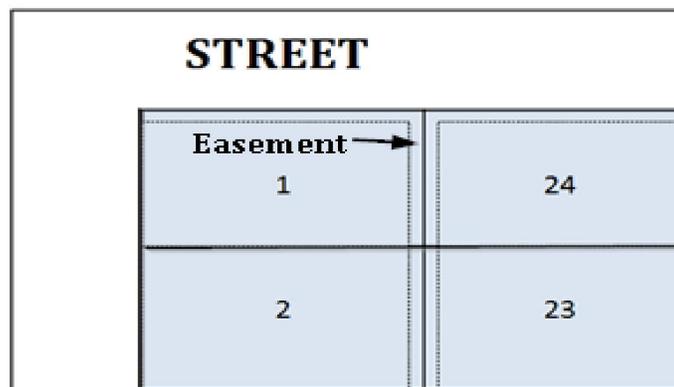
Both street right-of-ways and plat-ted utility easements on a lot may legally be used for city owned and private utility company facilities. It is important for property owners to recognize where these areas are located on their lot in order to safely and properly improve their property. The map to the right is a section of a typical East Grand Forks development plat map showing the easements.

The general purpose of easements is to provide sufficient room for construction on the lot in compliance with the codes and to provide room for streets, alleys, and installation of utilities to serve the area in an orderly, efficient and coordinated manner.

In East Grand Forks, the typical street right-of-way on a development plat is 80 feet wide. The typical finished street width from the back of one curb to the back of the other curb is 41 feet. This means that for a typical lot, the front property line is about 19.5 feet behind the back of the curb.

The typical utility easements in areas without alleys is 20 feet wide and is split equally between lots which adjoin at the rear. Each lot has a 10 foot easement across the width of its rear yard.

Examples of this are the rear easements across lots 1 and 24 and lots 2 and 23 in the sample plat map shown above. Side yard easements such as those shown for lots



1 and 24 may vary in width depending on the purpose for the easement.

In areas of town with alleys, the typical width of the alley right-of-way is 20 feet. A portion is used for the driving surface and the rest may be shared with utilities. Some old parts of town have 10 foot alleys.

Please check the plat map for your area since there are some local variations. The city Administrator's office has the official plat maps. The Water and Light Business office in City Hall also has copies.

It is important keep all utility easements free from hazards, structures and other improvements which might hinder the city's ability to serve and maintain utilities.

When considering any improvement around our green utility boxes marked with a "WARNING Hazardous voltage inside" sticker, please keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from the side with doors and 3 feet from the other sides. (see picture below).

Please know that any obstructions that are in the easement or too close to the green utility boxes may be removed during service restoration and maintenance if need be. So, keeping obstructions a proper distance from utilities will make life much simpler, easier and safer for all of us. Thank you.

