

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

2016



City of
BRAHAM

"Building A Better Tomorrow"

Friendly Winter Reminder

Ordinance No. 215

2.1 It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of property fronting on any sidewalk within the City of Braham to keep the sidewalk on which their property fronts clear of snow and ice, and to remove all snow within 24 hours after each snowfall. **In case of failure to remove the snow and ice as above specified, the City may remove the snow and ice, and the costs thereof assessed to the property.**

2.2 When possible and as a public courtesy, the City will attempt to remove snow from the business area sidewalks, portions of West Central Drive and portions of 2nd Street Southwest, that have heavy pedestrian traffic. **This does not in any way remove the responsibility from the property owner or occupant as provided for in the above section, Paragraph 2.1.**

2.3 It is strictly prohibited for any residential property owner or occupant to put snow onto a City street or onto City property.

3.1 From November 1 through April 1, it shall be unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle, or any owner to permit a motor vehicle be parked on any street or public way in the City of Braham between the hours of 2 o'clock a.m. and 7 o'clock a.m.



Put Snow in its Place

Braham's Public Works department's equipment and drivers make sure the streets of our city are safe. But we need property owners to help by blowing, shoveling, or plowing their snow onto their own property, not into the street. These restrictions are detailed in **Ordinance No. 202 Snowplowing and Snow Removal**. Property owners shall not put their snow in the street because snow deposited in the street becomes compacted and can freeze into large lumps of ice on the roadway. If a truck with its plow down catches these unexpected lumps of ice, it can spin the truck around, break the plow off the truck, or send the truck out of control—all dangerous situations. Large mounds of ice on the roadway can also be a hazard for the traveling public, so please help us out by keeping it out of the street.



Water Conservation Tips

Don't let your toilet waste water

A silent leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of water each year and place unnecessary demands on your sewer system or septic tank.

- Usually you cannot hear the leak because it runs slowly out of the tank.
- A leaking toilet is a sad toilet! How can you discover if your toilet leaks? Simple. Follow these easy steps and you'll know.
 1. Lift off the lid from your toilet seat.
 2. Place three or four drops of ordinary food coloring into the toilet tank (note - do not use dye - it could stain).
 3. Do not flush or otherwise disturb the toilet for one or two hours or longer. D.) At the end of the waiting period, observe the toilet bowl. If the color you placed into the tank shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.

How do you fix a leaking toilet?

- Most frequently, leaks in toilets are caused by a defective flush valve. A flush valve is a flap or ball plunger device that is supposed to act as a stopper in the bottom of your toilet tank. After several years and many flushings, the stopper can be knocked out of shape or simply worn out.
- To make your toilet happy and to save water, see your hardware dealer or plumber and obtain an inexpensive and easy to install replacement valve or complete replacement kit. **USE WATER WISELY! !**

Provided by MRWA Water Conservation Facts

COLD WEATHER TIPS FROM MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES

USE LESS HOT WATER

Use less hot water and you'll not only save on energy costs, you will reduce your water bill and help preserve natural resources, too. Run your automatic dishwasher only when full and wash and rinse full loads of laundry in cold water. Install low-flow showerheads, and don't forget to check for and repair plumbing leaks.

Skill Level: Basic

All it takes is a few changes in your normal habits and a small investment or two to start using a lot less energy.

Cost Range: Varies

Using less hot water is free in most cases. Even installing a low-flow showerhead is an affordable way to reduce water consumption during a typical shower by half.

Savings: Varies

Replacing older showerheads with low-flow units can save 15,000 gallons of water a year and \$145-\$150 a year in water heating costs. And a faucet that leaks one drip of hot water per second can waste 400 gallons of water a year and \$8 in water heating costs alone.

CAN YOU BE FESTIVE AND FRUGAL?

Absolutely, especially with these holiday energy-saving tips.

ENTERTAINING TIPS

- When using your oven, check cooking progress by looking through the window. Opening the oven door for even a few seconds lowers the temperature inside by as much as 25°F.
- If your stove doesn't have a window, try not to open the door to check your food until it's as close to the expected finish time as possible.

TURN OFF YOUR OVEN SEVERAL MINUTES BEFORE YOUR FOOD IS FULLY COOKED. AS LONG AS THE DOOR REMAINS CLOSED, ENOUGH HEAT WILL BE STORED INSIDE TO FINISH.

HEATING TIPS

- Set your thermostat between 66°F and 68°F, a comfortable range for most people. For every 1°F you lower your thermostat, you may reduce your energy use by 1-3 percent.
- Start the heating season with a new furnace filter, and clean or replace it monthly to keep your furnace running efficiently.
- Setting your hot water heater to 120°F can cut your water heating costs by 10 percent.

Open-hearth fireplaces draw heated air from your home, sending it and possibly your energy budget up the chimney. If you use your fireplace, install a snug-fitting set of glass doors and crack open a nearby window. Doing so reduces the amount of heated interior air drawn into the fireplace and improves efficiency by up to 20 percent.

Braham Water/Sewer Customers:

The City of Braham is committed to providing the highest quality sewer service to its customers. From time to time, we experience a problem with the City sewer line which, if not detected early, can result in a backup of raw sewage into a residence. The City requests all residents to report any change in their sewer immediately. Toilets flushing slowly or water coming up through a basement drain may be a sign of a sewer problem. A quick, friendly check by a City worker will determine if there is a problem in the City line. The City also wants to remind residents not to flush diapers, towels and rags down the toilet.

Also, it is important to know that the City's insurance will not pay sewer backup damage claims if the City's insurance adjuster determines that the City was not negligent. In most cases, this has been the outcome of claims, so **it is important for residents to make sure they have sewer backup coverage included in their homeowner's policy. Especially for those with finished basements.**



When snow flies, the Public Works department asks residents to refrain from putting trash cans in or right next to the street during plow season. Snowplow drivers want to clear the streets for your safety and obstacles such as trash cans need to be out of the way.

The City of Braham Public Works employees are now preparing for winter and the upcoming plowing season. **Now is a good time for residents to take a look at your mailboxes and posts.** Check for obvious damage such as cracked boards or posts, missing screws, etc., but also look below at ground level to make sure the post is still in good condition. A rotted post will not stand up to a Minnesota winter very long, and repairs are more difficult after the ground has frozen. In addition, the Public Works department can not be responsible for mailboxes knocked down as a result of snow thrown off a plow onto a weak post.





Come for a fabulous evening of beer, liquor, wine, food, music and friends!

Pre-sale tickets available Oct. 3rd-12th at Home Town Liquor.

Pre-sale price is \$15. Tickets at the door are \$20. Bring a non-perishable food item for the food shelf.

Cash bar will be available.

Annual Fall Tasting

Fri., October 14th
From 6 to 8:30 pm
Braham Event Center
655 8th St SW, Braham

Sponsored by
Home Town Liquor



Dad's Belgian Waffles

All You Care to Eat



Serving:
Waffles
Sausages
Flavored Syrups
Drink

Saturday, October 29th
8:00 am-11:30 am
BRAHAM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Proceeds go to help support the Confirmation Program.

Adults \$6 advance/\$7 at the door
Kids 6-12 \$4 advance/\$5 at the door
5 and younger free

Volunteers needed!

Help us make this a special event by donating your time, prizes or financial donations! Please call the Braham Area Community Education office at 320-396-5218 if you are able to help in any way. Thank you!



Monday, October 31st
5:30-7:30pm
Braham Elementary School
FREE of Charge



24TH ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
HALLOWEEN PARTY!



Fire Dept. Open House Chili Feed and Sportsman Raffle

Fri. Oct. 14th
3 to 7 pm at the Fire Hall
Enjoy a bowl of chili, bouncy house, and demonstrations.

*Free Will Offering *

Sportsman Raffle tickets available at area businesses and City Hall

Early Packet Pickup
(no shirt guarantee) for the
ScholarDASH 5K Run/Walk

Braham Area

Dollars for SCHOLARS[®]

A Program of Scholarship America[®]

5th Annual 2016 ScholarDASH
5K Fire Run/Walk
Saturday, October 15 @ 9:00 AM



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Blue Star Moms Chapter #16

Are collecting items for our Holiday Packaging

(We are packaging items Nov. 6th)

Our goal is to package 50 large flat rate boxes to be sent overseas to the men and women serving our country.

Below is a list of items needed:

- * Puzzle/game books (Sudoku, crossword, word find)
- * Magazines (hunting, fishing, cars, motorcycles, sports)
- * Baby wipes
- * Hand & feet warmers
- * Hand sanitizer
- * Toothpaste
- * Toothbrush
- * Foot powder
- * Mouse traps
- * Protein bars/breakfast bars
- * Beef jerky
- * Gum
- * Hard candies
- * Nuts
- * Flavored packets for water bottles
- * Soup (Ramen, Dinty Moore cans)
- * Instant coffee
- * Hot cocoa
- * Coffee creamer (powdered)
- * Instant oatmeal
- * Spices & hot sauces (packets)

Items for them to give to kids that line the streets when our soldiers drive by:

crayons, markers, colored chalk, paper

Please note that the soldiers emphasize:

NO CHOCOLATE-it melts before they get it (summer)

Nothing that would melt in shipping

Liquid in plastic cups (ie: Fruit cups)

Gel caps don't ship well

We will also accept cash donations, mail to:

PCBSM PO Box 258 Pine City, MN 55063

If you know of a soldier that could use a little holiday cheer, please forward info to our email: pinecitybluestarmoms@gmail.com

We are always looking for new members: check us out on Facebook:
[PineCityBlueStarMoms](https://www.facebook.com/PineCityBlueStarMoms)

Crafters CRAFT SALE

& Home Based

Business Vendors

SAT. NOV. 12, 2016

9:00AM - 4:00PM

BRAHAM EVENTCENTER

655 8TH STREET SW

BRAHAM, MN 55006

Pulled pork sandwich, chips,

bar & pop or water \$5.00



Crafters and Vendor

SPACES STILL Available

10 X 10 SPACE FOR \$30.00

FORMS Available at

www.brahamcenter.org

FOR INFO CALL TISH

AT 763-244-4556



Braham Area Girl Scouts Season of Giving

Nov. 3rd to Dec. 16, 2016

Please join us in our efforts by donating needed items:

Hats * Mittens * Scarves

Gifts and toys for all ages (children, teens, adults), non-perishable food items, gift cards

Look for donation boxes at Braham Area Businesses, Churches, and City Hall
Donations will also be accepted at the community tree lighting Dec. 1st

Flag Retirement



Thurs. Nov. 10th, 2016

6:30 pm at Freedom Park

Flags can be dropped off at City Hall



BRAHAM AREA GIRL SCOUTS

COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE

SHARING WARMTH FOR THE WINTER

Girl Scouts would like your help with our community project. Our group will collect coats and jackets to be distributed free to children and adults in our community.

Coats should be new or gently used, but clean and in good condition.

Coat drive will begin on:

Thurs. Oct. 27th, 2016 until Thurs. Nov. 3rd, 2016

Look for donation boxes at Braham Area Business,
Churches and City Hall

Coats will be distributed thru the months of Nov. & Dec.
at Braham Event Center

On Thursdays during food shelf hours 8-noon

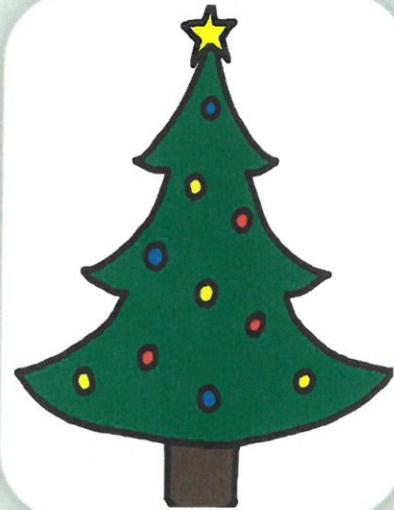
Great Reasons to help with this Project

- * Help people in need stay warm throughout winter.
- * Get more involved with your local youth organization.
- * Use the coat drive as a reason to get together with neighbors.
- * Help recycle clothes that aren't being used in your home.

For more information call Tish Carlson at 763-244-0450



The Alice Studt Library is located on the North entry to the Event Center. The library is a link site with the East Central Minnesota Regional Library system. The site is open on Mondays from 12:30-4:30 pm. In addition, the library is open on Thursday from 8:00-noon. Wi-fi is available in the library as well as computer workstations. You may print out documents at the rate of \$.25 per page.



Community Tree Lighting and Caroling

Thurs., December 1st, 2016
6:30 pm—Freedom Park

Share in the Holiday Spirit with Hot Cider, Holiday Carols, the Girl Scouts and Community as we light the Braham Christmas Tree. Cider and cookies served after.



VFW Breakfast
Braham Event Center
First Sat. of each month
7-11 am

Letters from Santa

Get a personalized letter from Santa to be mailed to your loved ones, young and old. The cost per letter is \$3.50.

To complete the letter, the following information is required....

1. Child or person's first name.
 2. Your name and/or relationship to the child/person.
 3. Activity the child/person likes.
 4. Gift the child/person wants or is getting.
 5. Child/person's hometown.
 6. Name & full address where the letter will be sent.
- *All proceeds will go to the Braham Area Girl Scouts***

Please mail the above information to:
Girl Scouts
400 Circle Drive
Braham, MN 55006



Santa's helper can be reached at
320-396-3628 to answer any questions.
Deadline is Dec. 18, 2016.
All letters will be mailed by Dec. 19, 2016.

Santa Day

Sat. Dec. 10th, 2016
Braham Area
Event Center



Cookie Go Day
Sat. Feb. 11th!



Knights of Columbus
Free Throw Contest
Sat. Feb. 11th
Braham High School



**Braham Ambassador & Little Miss
Masquerade Ball
& Silent Auction**
Sat. Jan. 28th, 2017

Braham Area Event Center
7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Presale tickets will be available.

Follow
**Braham Ambassador &
Little Miss Braham**
on Facebook for more information.

2015 Progress Report Wellhead Protection Plan Implementation

The City of Braham, with the assistance of the MN Dept of Health and MN Rural Water Association, adopted a Wellhead Protection Plan on September 6, 2011. The City held its first Wellhead Plan Implementation Meeting on February 22, 2012, when it began implementation of the 10-Year Action Plan. The following items were completed in 2015:

- The MDH's County Well Index was checked for any newly identified wells within a 1-mile radius of the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). (Action 1)
- Based on the results of the 4/1/14 survey, 5 more private wells were identified within the (DWSMA) and placed on the Potential Contaminant Source Survey. (Action 4)
- The City contracted with MaGuire Iron for biannual cleaning and inspection of the City's water tower from 2016-2024. (Action 9)
- A 200' radius of the City's Well #3 is continually monitored to ensure that setback distances for new potential contaminant sources are met. At this time, there are no setback concerns to work with adjoining properties owners. (Actions 10, 11)
- Zoning Administrator continues to be aware of the City's DWSMA when working with the City's Planning Commission. (Action 13)
- Mr. Lind continues to meet with the Isanti County Local Water Management Committee to discuss water and land use management issues within the DWSMA. At this time, there are none. (Action 14)
- Mr. Lind continues to be aware of the City's DWSMA in all aspects of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Subdivision Ordinance. (Action 15)
- No drilling of new wells was identified in Locate notifications. (Action 19)
- An update for well locations within a 2-mile radius of Braham was pulled from the County Well Index. (Action 19, 20)
- The City prepares an annual report of Wellhead Protection Activity. A copy of the report is available on the City Website, in the City Newsletter, and in City Hall. (Actions 26, 28)
- Inserted information in the City's Spring 2014 Newsletter regarding Chisago County's Hazardous Waste Collection Program. (Isanti County does not have one.) This was scheduled for 2015, but done early in 2014. (Action 25)
- The City includes Wellhead Protection in its annual budgeting process. (Action 33)

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally A. Hoy
City Administrator

Report Date: April 21, 2016

Sealing Unused Wells

Protecting the Groundwater is Everybody's Business

What is an unused well and why is it a problem?

A well that is not in use, sometimes referred to as an "abandoned" well, can be a potential threat to health, safety, and the environment. Wells that are no longer used may be buried or forgotten. Often they have not been sealed properly. Sealing is the process of clearing an unused well of debris and filling the well with a special material called *grout*. A licensed well contractor must do the sealing. Unused wells that have not been properly sealed can be a source of groundwater contamination, potentially affecting nearby drinking water wells. They may threaten the quality of water in the city water wells, your neighbor's well, or even your own well. *Groundwater is the main source of drinking water for three of out every four Minnesotans. Protecting groundwater is everyone's business.* As wells age, the casing may rust, joints may leak, the pump may become stuck in the well, or the well may fill with debris. If the well is covered with boards or concrete, the cover will eventually decay and break open. Surface water runoff, debris, and other contaminants can then enter the well. A well may be taken out of service for a variety of reasons. It may no longer provide enough water. It may not have been repaired when it needed to be. It may have become contaminated. A well may be "lost" or abandoned when property changes hands, or when use of the land changes from agricultural to industrial or residential. *Old, unused wells are easily forgotten.*

How do unused wells threaten the groundwater?

Groundwater is found in underground geologic formations called *aquifers*. The layers of rock and soil that lie between an aquifer and the surface, or between aquifers, typically act as a natural barrier against the spread of contamination. However, an unused, unsealed well can provide an open channel between the surface and an aquifer or between a shallow aquifer and a deeper aquifer. An unused well can act as a drain allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.

Do unused wells pose any other problems?

If unsealed large diameter wells are not covered or otherwise protected, the open well hole can be a safety hazard, especially for children and animals.

What does the law require?

By law, a well must be in use, be under a *maintenance permit*, or be sealed by a licensed well contractor. A well must be sealed if 1) the well is not in use, 2) the well is contaminated, 3) the well has not been properly sealed in the past, 4) the well threatens the quality of groundwater, or 5) the well otherwise poses a threat to health or safety. If you have an unused well and wish to keep the well for future use, you must apply for a special *maintenance permit* from the Minnesota Department of Health. The permit requires an annual fee, and is only issued if the well meets minimum sanitary requirements.

How can I find out if I have a well on my property that is not in use and not sealed?

Whether you live in the country or in town, you could have one or more wells on your property, which are not in use and not sealed. If you live in town, there may be one or more wells that were used before city water became available, or a well that was used for watering lawns and gardens. If you live in the country, wells may have served current or former houses and barns. To locate old wells, it may help to:

- Find out when your home was built and when public water was first available in your area. If the house was built before public water was available, there was likely a well on your property.
- Look for any physical evidence of a well on your property such as a well casing, pipe, or water pump; water pipes which may indicate the presence of a well; a small room, often in the basement, that may have housed a well or a small building located away from the house; a windmill or water pump; or a depression in the yard.
- Consult former owners of your property, or people who have lived in the area a long time. They may remember the locations of old wells.
- Look at old photos of your property. They may show windmills, houses, barns, or outbuildings where a well may have been located.
- Consult city and county records of building and land use permits.
- Consult the *Well Disclosure Certificate* available from the MDH, required for all property transfers in Minnesota since November 1, 1990 to obtain specific information about the location and status of wells on your property. Minnesota law requires any owner of property, which is sold or transferred, to disclose to the buyer the status of all wells on the property.

What does a well look like?

You can often see the casing of an unused well sticking up out of the ground. Look for a metal pipe, typically from 1¼ inch to 6 inches in diameter. Wells that were dug rather than drilled may appear as a ring made of concrete, tile, bricks, or rocks in the ground or pit. The ring could be anywhere from 12 inches to 36 inches in diameter, or even larger. A windmill, an old shed that was used as a well house, or an old pump may mark the locations of a well. A metal or concrete cover or manhole may mark the location of a well pit. A depression in the ground may indicate a buried well that hasn't been sealed. If you had a well inside your home, a pipe sticking up out of the floor, possibly stuffed with rags, could be a well casing. Wells were often housed in a "basement offset", a small room attached to the basement, often located under exterior concrete steps. A glass block fitted into a step or concrete patch could be another clue.

How are wells sealed?

State law requires that a licensed well contractor must do well sealing. *Don't try to do it yourself.* A licensed well contractor has the necessary equipment and expertise to seal your well properly. The contractor can also handle all the necessary paperwork. To find a contractor, look in the Yellow Pages under *Well Drilling and Service*. The MDH also has a list of licensed contractors on the MDH Well Management section website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/lwc

How much does it cost?

The cost of sealing a well can vary considerably. For shallow, small diameter wells like those found at some homes and many lake cabins, the cost typically ranges from \$300 to \$600. Deeper, larger wells will cost more to seal. Things like access to the well, special geological conditions, debris in the well, and depth & diameter of the well will affect the cost of well sealing. Also, if a contractor is already on the site drilling a new well, the cost of sealing an old well will often be less because a special trip to the site is avoided. The same is true when people get together and arrange to have a number of old wells in a community sealed at the same time. It is always a good idea to get several estimates on costs. Some local governments offer cost share programs to help pay for part of the cost of sealing wells. Please contact the MDH or the local Soil and Water Conservation District for details.

What if I have an old well on my property and I only use it for watering my yard or garden, do I have to seal it?

Minnesota law does not require a well, which is in use, to be sealed unless it is causing, or has the potential to cause, a health problem or contamination of the groundwater. Your well is considered to be "in use" if you use it on a regular basis. If you sell or transfer the property, the well will have to be disclosed to the buyer at that time.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions, please contact a licensed well contractor or the well specialist at your local MDH district office.

**MDH District Office
625 North Robert Street
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808**





Winter Weather Tips

for your four-legged friends!

It's a common belief that dogs and cats are resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but it's untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia.

1. Keep Pets Inside



Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

2. Provide Choices

Just like you, pets prefer comfortable sleeping places and may change their location based on their need for more or less warmth. Give them some safe options to allow them to vary their sleeping place to adjust to their needs.

3. Make Some NOISE!

A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.

4. Play Dress Up!

If your dog has a short coat or seems bothered by the cold weather, consider a sweater or dog coat. Have several on hand, so you can use a dry sweater or coat each time your dog goes outside. Wet sweaters or coats can actually make your dog colder. Some pet owners also use booties to protect their dog's feet; if you choose to use them, make sure they fit properly.

5. Provide Shelter

We don't recommend keeping any pet outside for long periods of time, but if you are unable to keep your dog inside during cold weather, provide them with a warm, dry, solid shelter against wind. If you're able to, consider providing shelters for stray cats in the neighborhood.



6. Be Prepared

Cold weather also brings the risks of severe winter weather, blizzards and power outages. Prepare a disaster/emergency kit, and include your pet in your plans. Have enough food, water and medicine (including any prescription medications as well as heartworm and flea/tick preventives) on hand to get through at least 5 days.



thatpetplace.com

Information provided by the AVMA at <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Cold-weather-pet-safety.aspx>



Don't run the
Faucet When
Brushing
Your **Teeth**

**NICE
SAVE!**

USE WATER WISELY

EPA estimates that the average U.S. citizen wastes 2 gallons daily on oral hygiene. That might amount to 600 million gallons daily! Don't run the faucet when you aren't using it. That's a "nice save" for Minnesota's water future. It's important for each of us to save water, every day. Shutting off the faucet will help with water conservation. For more easy tips to save water in Minnesota, visit: www.mrwa.com.

Brought to you by:



Minnesota Rural
Water Association