



*City of Mountain Lake &
Mountain Lake Municipal
Utilities Newsletter*

April 2024



City Hall Hours

9AM — 4PM
Monday — Friday
24 Hour Drop Box

City of Mountain Lake

or
Mountain Lake Municipal Utilities
930 Third Ave – Drawer C
Mountain Lake, Minnesota 56159



Phone (507) 427-2999
Fax (507) 427-3327

www.mountainlakemn.com



Facebook:
City of Mountain Lake, MN

**City-Wide Clean-Up
Information**

Please see the additional
enclosed sheet with city-wide
clean-up information. City-wide
clean-up will be

May 4, 2024



**2024 Golf Cart Permits
Now Available!**

A golf cart permit is needed to
operate a golf cart on city
streets. Permits are \$10. Stop
by city hall to fill out the permit
application and pay the \$10 fee.
Please bring proof of insurance.
See below for more details.



Open Burning of Leaves

The open burning of leaves in the City of Mountain Lake is permitted
between April and May.

The following rules apply:

- Only in residential areas.
- Only between the hours of 8 AM and 8 PM.
- Fires must be extinguished by 8 PM.
- Fires must be more than 25 feet from any structure, wood fence, hedge or bush.
- Fires must be more than 5 feet from any property line.
- The burning of leaves is prohibited on city streets, boulevards, lake shore, or any other public property by private citizens.
- Fires must be attended at all times.



City Burnsite

- The city burn-site is now open for the season in 2024.

MOUNTAIN LAKE'S NEW POWER PLANT

When you flip on a light switch, the Mountain Lake Utilities want to make sure the power always comes on.

To understand how the Mountain Lake Utilities operate and why it was decided to build a new power plant, we have to review capacity and energy.

Capacity is the maximum output an electricity generator can physically produce measured in kilowatts (kW), megawatts (MW), gigawatts (GW), etc. A Capacity Factor is the ratio of the net electricity generated to the energy that could have been generated at continuous full power over time.

Energy is the amount of electricity a generator produces over a specific period of time, measured in watt hours– kilowatt hours (kWh), megawatt hours (MWh), gigawatt hours (GWh). **Many generators do not operate at their full capacity all the time.**

Every year, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) has a capacity auction. MISO determines the amount of credits all qualified capacity resources, load modifying resources and energy efficiency resources receive annually for each planning year (June 1—May 31). Every load serving entity has to have enough capacity to cover its peak demand plus a reserve margin.

If an entity does not own capacity or have enough to cover its peak demand plus a reserve margin, that entity must pay for capacity each year.

The cost of capacity is determined by MISO each planning year at the cost per kWh when their auction clears. The auction determines how much capacity is needed in our market for the planning year.

The concern in the energy market is the future cost of capacity has become volatile, due to the closures of natural gas plants, coal plants, and nuclear plants. Those particular plants are considered our base load, which means their capacity and energy produced are reliable and consistent. Those plants are being closed because of renewable energy (wind and solar). However, the capacity factor for renewable energy is minimal as it is difficult to rely on the sun to be out or wind to blow on demand.

Two primary reasons for having a new power plant and having diesel generators, it provides local capacity (keeps the power on in Mountain Lake) and provides regional capacity (keeps the power on in MN and the region).



EDA Happenings

Latino Universal 2

**Congratulations and welcome to downtown
Mountain Lake!**

**Stop in and check out their store. Located on
10th Street.**

CITY OF MOUNTAIN LAKE BUILDING PERMITS

What's a building permit?

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawing and specifications.

What good does a permit do?

Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by the city or the state, the value of your investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety, and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends, or future owners.

When do I need a permit?

Permits are required for:

- ⇒ Shingling and roofing
- ⇒ Siding
- ⇒ New house
- ⇒ Any new additions
- ⇒ Egress windows
- ⇒ Fences
- ⇒ Decks
- ⇒ Mechanical items (furnace, air conditioner, rooftop unit, fire place, etc.)
- ⇒ Plumbing items (adding new fixtures or changing piping)
- ⇒ Attached or detached garages
- ⇒ All commercial work
- ⇒ Moving buildings onto property lot (house, shed, garage, etc.)
- ⇒ Any exterior structural change to a building including changing door or window size or location
- ⇒ Any interior remodeling that includes moving walls, sheetrock, insulation, plumbing, finishing basements (tiling or water proofing), etc.
- ⇒ Storage sheds or buildings 200 square feet or larger (under 200 sq feet only requires a zoning permit)

Permits are not required for:

- ⇒ Garage doors
- ⇒ Replacing same size windows or doors
- ⇒ Painting, papering, and similar finish work
- ⇒ Swapping in new sinks, toilets, bathtubs (no changes to piping)

Type of Permit	Permit Fee
Siding/Shingles	\$45
Fence	\$25
Mechanical	\$15
Deck	\$15
Building (interior remodel, detached garage, additions, porches, egress windows)	Based on evaluation.
Moving Permit	Actual Costs

How do I begin the permit process?

Permit documents can be picked up at City Hall or viewed on the city's website. Return the permit and any other required documents to City Hall. Once approved by city staff and the city's building inspector, work can begin. Please call City Hall or the building inspector directly to schedule needed inspections or a final inspection. If a project is not inspected, the permit remains open leading to potential hazards, unsafe construction, or potential property insurer issues. Beginning a project without a valid permit could lead to a fine twice the permit cost. For any questions, please contact the city administrator at 507-427-2999 x1.

