



*City of Mountain Lake &  
Mountain Lake Municipal  
Utilities Newsletter  
August 2020*



**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](http://www.mountainlakemn.com)



Facebook:  
**City of Mountain Lake, MN**

**2020 PRIMARY ELECTION**



The 2020 Primary Election is August 11, 2020. Polls are open 7AM—8PM at the Mountain Lake Community Center — 1027 2nd Ave. For information on absentee voting, visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)

**PAYING BY CREDIT  
OR DEBIT CARD**

Want to pay your utility bill by credit/debit card? Visit our website to pay!

Processing fees will arise when customers pay but the Utility will take the fee paid and apply it as a credit to the customer's next bill only if the customer processes the payment. If paid by credit card or debit card and processed by staff at city hall, a processing fee will be added.

**New Drop Box Location!**



We have installed a new drop box that is now attached to the east wall of City Hall. The old drop box will be removed in the upcoming future.

**5 Energy Saving Tips**

1. **Service your air conditioner.** Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Also, the first day of spring could serve as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.
2. **Set the thermostat.** On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10 percent.
3. **Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.
4. **Cook outside.** On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.
5. **Install window treatments.** Energy efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds, shades and films can slash heat gain when temperatures rise. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.



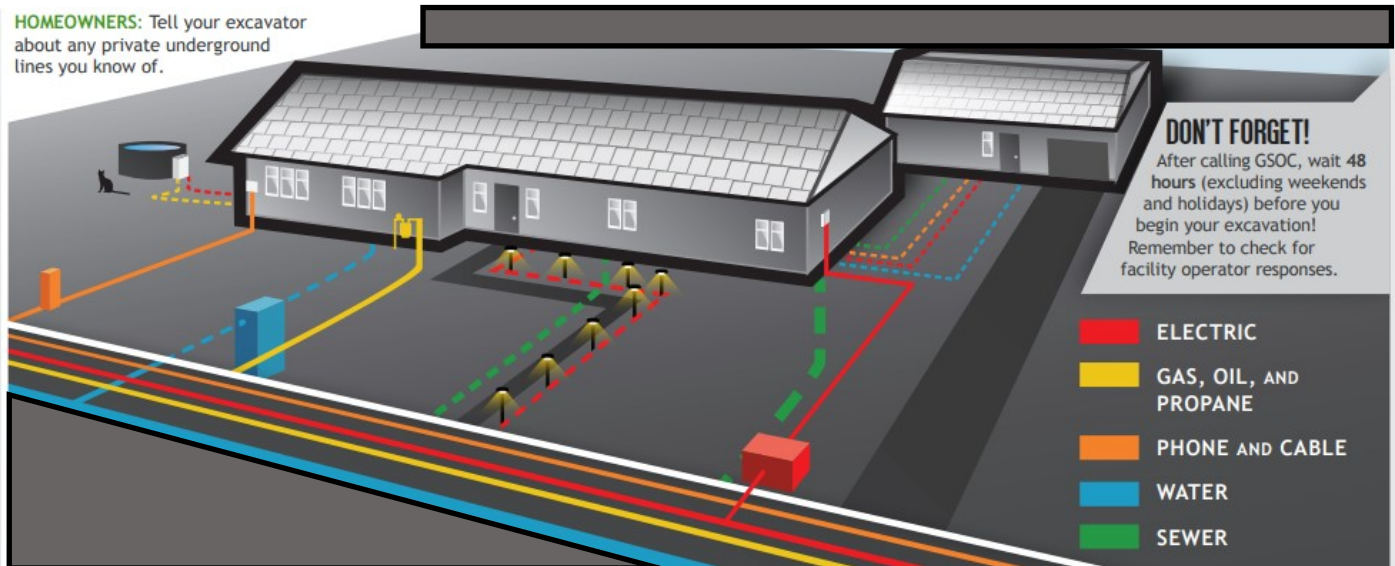
## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING GOPHER STATE ONE CALLS

### NOT EVERYTHING GETS MARKED WHEN YOU CALL!

Some underground lines in your work area may not be utility owned. *These are considered private facilities and will NOT be marked by public utility companies.* Types of private facilities include, but are not limited to, heating systems for pools, electricity for outbuildings, invisible fences, fiber optic lines, and satellite dishes. If you think you may have private facilities you should contact a private utility locator to identify and locate them. For more information about private underground facilities and homeowner responsibilities, please visit the Gopher State One Call website at

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

**HOMEOWNERS:** Tell your excavator about any private underground lines you know of.



## Four Common Culprits of Electrical Fires

There are 24,000 electrical fires per year across the country. To reduce your risk for damage, check the following areas of your home:

- ⇒ Electrical outlets: Faulty outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them. Any loose, damaged or warm to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.
- ⇒ Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, contact a qualified electrician.
- ⇒ Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into extension cords, it's time to have additional outlets installed.
- ⇒ Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets.



## THE ONE CALL PROCESS

When you have a project that requires digging, your first step is to contact Gopher State One Call. You can do this by using GSOC's Homeowner Online Locate Request system or by calling the One Call Center.

**(651)454-0002 -or- (800)252-1166**

[www.gsocsubmit.org](http://www.gsocsubmit.org)

### BE PREPARED

When you contact GSOC with a locate request, a series of questions will be asked.

- What is your name, address and phone number?
- What type of work will you be doing? (i.e. planting a tree, installation of fence)
- What is the dig location's address, city, county and nearest intersecting street?
- At the dig location, where will you be digging? (i.e. east side of house, within 5 ft radius of white stake.)
- When will you be digging? (i.e. 3 days, next week)

### GET YOUR UNDERGROUND FACILITIES MARKED

Once you have submitted your dig information it is created as a "ticket" which is sent to any utilities that may have underground facilities in the area of excavation. Those utilities will send a locator to the site to either paint or flag the area in question.