

OMU QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



OWNED BY THE
PEOPLE IT SERVES



SEPTEMBER 2024

WELCOME

Mitch Wigern

Mitch Wigern joined OMU on July 29th as an Apprentice Electric Generation Operator/Technician in our Plant Department. Mitch, his wife and four sons live in Osage. Previously, Mitch worked in the wind turbine industry for 16 years. In his free time, Mitch enjoys football, golfing with his family and fishing. Please help us welcome Mitch to the OMU team!



OMU OFFICE CLOSINGS

Monday,
September 2nd
for Labor Day

Monday,
November 11th
for Veteran's
Day



OMU METERS

OMU's meter reader spends numerous hours each month to reading more than 6,000 meters across neighborhoods and business areas. This task comes with its own set of challenges, and we ask for your cooperation to make this job smoother.

One significant hazard is unsupervised and unleashed dogs. If you own a dog, please ensure it is secured when our meter reader visits your property.

Another issue is meters becoming inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation. Keep your meters clear of weeds and shrubs. Also, ensure that the emergency shut-off valve is not obscured by dirt, stones, snow, or anything else. Keep all landscaping materials and snow below the level of the riser valve. These obstacles not only hinder the reading of your meters but also obstruct emergency and repair access.

We appreciate your help in addressing these issues.



osage.net EMAIL TO END DECEMBER 31, 2024

As a notice to our customers with an OSAGE.net email address, we wish to inform you that this service will be discontinued as of December 31, 2024, with continued access to your email available until that date.

We strongly encourage you to transition to an alternative email platform promptly if you have not yet done so. This proactive step will ensure ample time for setting up your new email address and communicating the change to your contacts, minimizing the risk of data loss.

For assistance with this transition, please reach out to OMU at (641) 832-3731 before December 31, 2024.

AIR CONDITIONER TUNE-UP REBATE

Fall is a great time to give your central heating system a tune-up. Furnace tune-ups help make sure your heating systems will work at peak efficiency this winter when you need it the most. A central heating system operating at maximum efficiency will use less energy and save you money.

OMU will offer a \$20.00 CREDIT on your utility bill. To qualify, have one of the following professionals complete and return to OMU the heating system tune-up checklist along with a copy of your bill.

- ADAMS PLUMBING & HEATING (641) 732-5623
- ALLISON'S PLUMBING & HEATING (641) 732-4415
- KENNY'S SERVICES (641) 832-2473
- WRIGHT PLUMBING & HEATING (641) 732-5208



CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS

Each year, a significant number of individuals succumb to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, while thousands sustain injuries due to inadvertent exposure to this colorless, odorless gas. Research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has revealed a common misconception among the public, who often underestimates the severity of CO as a hazard compared to other household dangers.

The risk of CO poisoning is highest during the winter months when furnaces are reactivated to combat colder temperatures, as well as when portable generators are utilized. To safeguard yourself and your family from CO gas, follow these precautions:

- Place battery-operated CO detectors near every sleeping area in your residence.
- Regularly check the functionality of CO detectors to ensure they are working properly.
- Arrange for annual inspections of gas or oil furnaces by a qualified professional.
- Refrain from operating generators indoors, including in the home or garage, even with doors and windows open.
- Use generators and power washers outdoors, positioned more than 20 feet away from the house, doors, and windows.
- Avoid leaving vehicle engines running in enclosed or partially enclosed areas like a garage, to prevent CO accumulation.

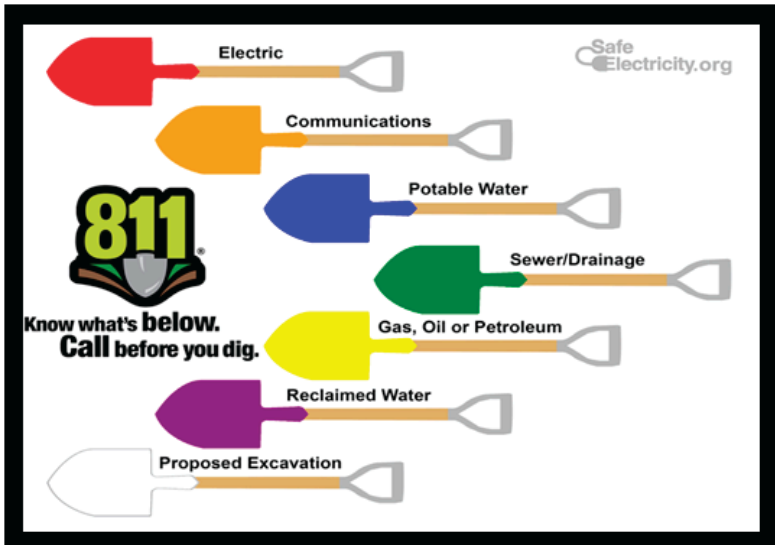
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Iowa requires that all requests for locating underground utilities go through the Iowa One Call System. Therefore, all customers or contractors who call OMU for utility locations will be referred to the Iowa One Call Service. Their toll-free number is 1-800-292-8989. You can also call 811 or visit their website www.iowaonecall.com for all requests.

Excavations exceeding 12 inches in depth require notification to Iowa One Call, excluding regular farming and gardening activities. Iowa One Call requests a 48-hour notice period (excluding weekends and holidays) before any digging commences. When contacting Iowa One Call, be prepared to provide:

- Specific location of digging site
- Type and scope of work
- Caller's name
- Company name performing the work

All underground utilities are marked with colored flags or paint, with each utility identified by a distinct color code.



CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS



MILD
Slight headache
Nausea
Vomiting
Fatigue



MEDIUM
Severe headache
Confusion
Drowsiness
Fast heart rate



SEVERE
Unconsciousness
Convulsions
Cardiorespiratory failure
Death

CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU ARE SICK FROM CARBON MONOXIDE.

OMU MORE CENTS PROGRAM



Local nonprofit organizations benefiting from our More Cents initiative extend their gratitude to OMU customers who actively participate in this program. Thanks to the generosity of our customers, OMU has been able to assist various clubs and organizations within the Osage area.

By choosing to round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar, OMU customers can contribute voluntarily to this program, with each individual's donation capped at \$0.99 per month. These small contributions can accumulate into hundreds of dollars monthly, aiding valuable community projects. Your participation significantly impacts our community.

To enroll in the More Cents program, kindly reach out to our office at (641) 832-3731. Nonprofit organizations seeking funding can access application guidelines and forms at www.osage.net.

2025 OMU PHONE DIRECTORY

The 2025 OMU Telephone Directory is scheduled to be published soon. Please check your current listing in our directory to make sure everything is accurate. If you are an OMU telephone customer and would like something changed or corrected, please call our office at (641) 832-3731 by November 15, 2024, so we can make the correction before they are printed. If you are a new business in the Osage area and would like to appear in our directory or yellow pages, please also contact us at the number above.