

NEWSLETTER

OWNED BY THE
PEOPLE IT SERVES



National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry was created to help cut down on unwanted telemarketing calls. Signing up your home or mobile number is free, and once registered, your enrollment never expires. Adding your number to the Registry can greatly reduce the sales calls you receive, though it won't stop all unwanted call. Especially those made illegally by scammers.

To add your number, visit DoNotCall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone you wish to register. Your number will typically appear on the Registry by the next day, but it may take up to 31 days before you notice a decrease in unwanted calls.

If unwanted calls persist after 31 days, you can report them to the FCC by using the same phone number above or by submitting a complaint online through their website.



OFFICE CLOSING

OMU offices will be closed on Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday

641-832-3731

www.osage.net

Natural Gas Update for Our Customers

On January 16, 2026, Northern Natural Gas experienced a pipeline incident near Willow River/Carlton County, MN. This required the temporary shutdown of a section of their system that partially supplies natural gas to our area.

Northern Natural Gas installed a temporary repair solution, that was functional on February 1, 2026. During that period, regional natural gas supplies were reduced. When supply becomes limited unexpectedly, natural gas prices can rise. These price changes are due to market conditions, not increased usage by customers.

OMU has strategies in place to help reduce the impact of these types of supply events. However, you may notice a slight increase on your upcoming gas bills. We understand the concern this may cause and want to assure you that we actively worked with our supplier every day during this time to secure reliable supply at the lowest possible cost.

Call Before You Dig

Iowa requires that all underground utility locates go through Iowa One Call. Whether you are starting a home project or hiring a contractor, be sure to request a locate at least 48 hours before you dig. This excludes weekends/holidays.

Are you digging deeper than 12 inches? If so, you must notify Iowa One Call. Routine gardening and normal farming are exempt.

When you call be ready to share:

- Exact location
- Type of work
- Your name
- Company doing the work (if applicable)

Utility crews mark lines with colored flags or paint so you know you can dig safely. Those colors are on the left.

Call **811** or **1-800-292-8989** or visit IowaOneCall.com before you start.

Safe digging starts with Iowa One Call!

Rate Adjustments

At the November and December 2025 monthly meetings, the OMU Board of Trustees voted to adjust the electric rate schedule and the telecom rate schedule as illustrated below. This is due to rising infrastructure and maintenance costs. The last electric rate change was in January 2025 and the last telecom rate change was in January 2023.

ELECTRIC RATES - The following will be effective with the January 2026 meter reading:

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	PREVIOUS	NEW
Monthly Facilities Fee	\$ 11.00	\$ 12.00
All kWh Per Month	\$ 0.1151	\$ 0.1209

RURAL SERVICE	PREVIOUS	NEW
Monthly Facilities Fee	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.50
All kWh Per Month	\$ 0.1219	\$ 0.1280

SMALL GENERAL SERVICE	PREVIOUS	NEW
Monthly Facilities Fee	\$ 17.00	\$ 18.00
All kWh Per Month	\$ 0.1213	\$ 0.1274

PUBLIC AUTHORITY	PREVIOUS	NEW
Monthly Facilities Fee	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.00
All kWh Per Month	\$ 0.1166	\$ 0.1224

LARGE GENERAL SERVICE	PREVIOUS	NEW
Monthly Facilities Fee	\$ 28.50	\$ 30.00
All kW Demand Per Month	\$ 7.72	\$ 8.11
All kWh Per Month	\$ 0.0870	\$ 0.0914

LARGE INDUSTRIAL SERVICE	PREVIOUS	NEW
Monthly Facilities Fee	\$ 58.00	\$ 61.00
All kW Demand Per Month	\$ 7.35	\$ 7.72
All kWh Per Month	\$ 0.0852	\$ 0.0895

TELECOM RATES - The following will be effective with the February 2026 billing:

PLUS	PREVIOUS	NEW
Residential	\$ 59.95	\$ 64.95
Business	\$ 69.95	\$ 74.95

PREMIUM	PREVIOUS	NEW
Residential	\$ 79.95	\$ 84.95
Business	\$ 89.95	\$ 94.95

ULTIMATE	PREVIOUS	NEW
Residential	\$ 109.95	\$ 114.95
Business	\$ 119.95	\$ 124.95

WIRELESS PLUS	PREVIOUS	NEW
Residential	\$ 55.95	\$ 60.95
Business	\$ 65.95	\$ 70.95

WIRELESS PREMIUM	PREVIOUS	NEW
Residential	\$ 75.95	\$ 80.95
Business	\$ 89.95	\$ 94.95

WIRELESS PLUS GOVERNMENT	PREVIOUS	NEW
Business	\$ 43.00	\$ 48.00

WIRELESS PREMIUM GOVERNMENT	PREVIOUS	NEW
Business	\$ 63.00	\$ 68.00

PLUS GOVERNMENT	PREVIOUS	NEW
Business	\$ 47.00	\$ 52.00

PLUS PREMIUM GOVERNMENT	PREVIOUS	NEW
Business	\$ 67.00	\$ 72.00

ULTIMATE GOVERNMENT	PREVIOUS	NEW
Business	\$ 97.00	\$ 102.00

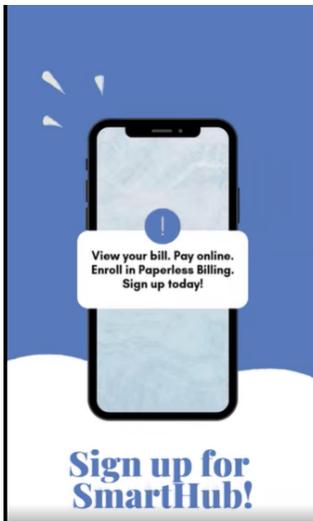
Simplify Your Monthly Utility Costs with Budget Billing

Seasonal changes can make it difficult to estimate your utility bill each month. To help customers maintain a more predictable budget, OMU offers Budget Billing. This is a payment option designed to even out seasonal highs and lows. While it doesn't reduce your utility rates, it does provide a steady, more manageable monthly payment.

Budget Billing is calculated by taking your electric and gas usage from the previous 12 months and dividing it into equal monthly installments. You will pay this same amount each month, no matter how much energy you actually use. Some charges, however, cannot be included in this set amount and will appear separately on your bill. Water and sewer services are also excluded because they are based strictly on usage.

Each year during your account's anniversary month, OMU reviews your usage and adjusts your budget amount if necessary. Your bill also tracks a "budget balance", which shows whether you have used more or less energy than what you have paid for to date. This balance, which is either a credit or an amount owed, appears on the back of your bill. If you ever want to adjust your monthly budget amount, the OMU office can assist.

OMU recommends having a full year of usage history before enrolling to ensure the most accurate monthly estimate. You may opt out of Budget Billing at any time; any remaining credit or balance will be added to your next bill. Some programs may not be eligible, and your account must be current to participate. For questions or to learn whether you qualify, contact our office at 641-832-3731.



Sign Up for Smart Hub

Ready to make managing your utility account easier this year? SmartHub gives you convenient access to your account whenever you need it.

With SmartHub, you can:

- **View your bill** as soon as it is available
- **Pay Online** quickly and securely
- **Track your usage** and better understand your energy habits
- Access your account **anytime, from anywhere**

Getting started is simple! Just give our office a call at 641-832-3731 we will be happy to get you signed up.



Telephone Directories

OMU phone directories were delivered the end of January 2026. If you are needing any additional phonebooks, you can pick them up at the OMU office.

Thank you to Chuck Hackenmiller for the beautiful cover for our phonebook.

Keep Your Meters Clear and Accessible

Please help us by keeping all your meters accessible throughout the year. Clear access allows our meter readers to take correct monthly readings, and it also helps our departments reach your meters quickly should an emergency arise.

During winter weather, please:

- Keep snow and ice cleared from around your meter
- Avoid kicking or striking the meter or pipes to remove ice
- Use a broom to gently brush away snow instead
- Make sure snow isn't shoveled or piled against the meter

If your meter is located behind a fence or gate, please keep the entrance free of snow and make sure the gate is unlocked.

We truly appreciate your help in keeping our equipment accessible.