THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!
Owatonna Public Utilities is required to submit performance report measures, annually, both on our integrity management program and our pipe infrastructure. PHMSA and MNOPS use the report to monitor program in meeting the requirements of the gas distribution integrity management regulations, and also respond to inquiries from both PHMSA or MNOPS.

Along with PHMSA, MNOPS has its own procedures to follow. MNOPS inspections include an evaluation of operator’s policies, procedures, training and qualification records, along with field observation of practices and conditions. Once a year, MNOPS will schedule a three-day inspection on Owatonna Public Utilities distribution system on varying aspects. Once the inspection is concluded, a report is completed with a corresponding evaluation of possible system or operational deficiencies (if any) to be corrected and a written plan within an allotted amount of time and approved by MNOPS.

Along with all the rules and regulations that exist in the natural gas world, public awareness is probably the most important. Public awareness, education and damage prevention are interconnected initiatives aimed at increasing the understanding and knowledge of people who work and live along pipeline rights-of-way. Federal pipeline safety regulations require each pipeline operator must develop and implement a written continuing public education program that follows the guidance provided in the PHMSA’s “Public Awareness Programs for Pipeline Operators.” Under the regulations, an operator’s program must provide pipeline safety information to four stakeholder audiences, including the affected public, emergency officials, local public officials, and excavators. OPU must provide the public with information about how to recognize, respond to, and report pipeline emergencies. Teaching the significance of one of the one-call notification system prior to excavation is to be emphasized for all stakeholders. Emergency officials and local public officials must be provided the location of distribution pipelines to enhance emergency response. Also, Owatonna Pipeline CAER and Minnesota Distribution Operators work together jointly to support efforts increasing awareness of pipeline damage prevention to excavators, emergency, and local officials by developing a customized (real-life) pipeline safety training scenario involving local transmission or distribution pipeline companies which will collaborate for the best response possible with all parties directly involved.

As you can see, natural gas distribution operators, like OPU, take great pride and responsibility in teaching safety awareness and reliability of our distribution system. Not many people are aware of the lengths operators go to, ensuring the community a safe and reliable distribution system.

Registration dates for spring and summer programs are listed below. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss out. Please note that dates are subject change due to govern- ors’ orders and restrictions.

Registration 1
February 22 to March 4
Little League
Minor league
Mini/Junior Crunch
Crush Traveling program
Tackle Football 3-6 grade program
Association Golf

Registration 2
March 10 to March 18
Soccer
Spring swimming

Summer Registration
May 3 to 12
Tee-ball
Mini Sluggers
TR Friday Camp
Summer Swimming
Girls Camp

Registration System
We have a new registration system so if you have not created your account please do so by following the instructions below.

Creating your new account:
1. Visit the Owatonna Park & Rec web site: http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parks-
recreation
2. Click on the Register Now button
3. On desktop, select Log in/Create Account in the upper left corner, then select Create your OWMMPR Account.
4. On a mobile device, select Account in the upper right corner and then select Sign Up.
5. Fill in the required information.
6. To receive text alerts (i.e. schedule cancel- lations, facility closings), indicate your mobile carrier next to your cell number.
7. That’s it! You’re ready to register for our programs.
8. Add additional members (spouse, chil-
dren, etc.) at any time in your account settings. Keep your entire household informed.
9. When you’ve found a program, make sure to select the correct account member before adding it to your cart.

River Springs Water Park – River Springs Water Park is open 7 days a week and offers Lap Swim, Water Walking, Water Aerobics, Tiny Tot Time, Free Toddler Water Lessons and Open Swim. We are located at 3065 St. Paul Road on the north side of Owatonna, just off of 26th Street. River Springs Water Park of- fers Daily Pass Punch cards as well as Sea- son Passes, both are now available for pur- chase online and at the park and Recreation office. You can find out more information by checking out the Parks and Recreation Office Facebook pages: Owatonna Park & Recreation and Owatonna Dog Park.

Greetings, I’m Jenna Tuma the new Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Owatonna! My first day was February 8, and I’m thrilled to be part of the Owatonna team and leading the Parks and Recreation Department.

A little bit about myself. I graduated from Northfield High School, grew up in the rural Webster area, and I currently live in Prior Lake. I’ve been in the Parks and Recreation field for over 20 years and feel like I won the lottery by find- ing this career! I worked for Three Rivers Park District for 20 years managing the parks in Scott County and recently worked for Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; both are outstanding organizations. Before Directing a Parks and Recreation Department has been a career goal of mine and I look forward to sharing my knowledge to help evolve the park system here.

My 6-month goal is to get to know the staff, the parks and the residents, users and stakeholders to work on ways to collaborate to continue building an exceptional park system for the community. I look forward to meeting you! If you’d like to contact me email my Jenna.tuma@ci.owatonna.mn or call me at 507-744-7361.

We are now hiring for part-time, season- al positions for spring and summer. Keep checking the website, http://agency.gov- ernmentjobs.com/owatonna/mn/default.cfm, for a complete listing and application deadlines. Many positions offer a variety of hours available, including evenings, weekends, holidays, and overnight. Communication is very important to us, and we use a variety of outlets:

• Owatonna People’s Press – Wednes -day’s article has West Hills Social Commons information, and Saturday’s article has upcoming Parks & Rec events and focuses on different areas each week.
• Steele County Times – monthly cal-endar of events, and quarterly Park & Rec happenings.
• Websites - www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/ parksrecreation, Facebook Pages – Parks & Recreation, Brooktree Golf Course, River Springs Water Park, SeniorPlace, West Hills Tennis & Fitness and Owatonna Dog Park.

How to reach us:
Office Hours – Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. – 540 West Hills Circle
Main office phone: 507-444-4321
E-mail: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
Message us on Facebook
The gas and water department at the Owatonna Public Utilities consists of 6 crew members. The crew members are Dan Cammock (Gas/Water Crew Lead), Jeff Wend (Gas/Water Crew), Dave Fox (Gas/Water Crew), Byron Brady (Gas/Water Crew & Welder), Joe Cadorette (Gas/Water Crew & Welder) and Brent Glennie (Gas/Water Crew). The Owatonna Public Utilities prides itself on customer relations and the gas/water crew are the first on the scene to help residents with a number of possible problems related to gas or water. Along with customer relations, response time is also very important to OPU. The quicker the response, the quicker the fix. Whether it’s water or gas issues, this crew is an important asset to the daily operation of the Owatonna Public Utilities.

On the natural gas side of things, to become a seasoned crew member, proper training is a must as well as a federal requirement. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, developed the Operator Qualification (OQ) rule which was adopted into the Code of Federal Regulations. Under the rule, each pipeline operator is responsible for developing an OQ program, following their written OQ plan, establishing a covered task list applicable to their system, and defining the training and qualification requirements for personnel performing covered tasks on their pipeline facility. It is the operator’s responsibility to ensure their contractors and vendors comply with their program requirements. OPU crew members are required to be Operator Qualified at a number of tasks. The knowledge requirements include; Operations & Maintenance, Emergency Plan, OQ plan, Public Awareness, and Procedure Review. The specific hands-on tasks include; Stab Fittings, Butt Heat Fusion, Sidewall Heat Fusion, Electrofusion, Socket Heat Fusion, and Visually Inspecting Pipe and Components prior to installation. There are additional tasks required for the welders including Steel Welding and Steel Welding Inspection. The OQ process begins with a number of computer modules to educate the crew members on the background of each task as well as teach them how to execute each hands-on task. Once each module is completed, a short quiz is administered which must be passed before the subsequent hands-on training can be conducted. Once the knowledge portion is successfully completed, the hands-on tasks will follow, supervised by a qualified individual. Welders will have additional modules and hands-on tasks to complete to be qualified to weld on the OPU gas distribution system. As you can see, natural gas is an essential energy which includes rigid requirements for qualification and inspection of construction techniques to maintain the integrity of our natural gas system.

OPU’s Gas/Water Crew are involved in a number of projects throughout the year. Projects include exercising ALL system gas valves on an annual basis to ensure smooth operation, performing leak detection on certain parts of our gas system annually, installing new gas service lines to new houses, replacing old steel gas piping as needed, repairing gas leaks as they happen all year long, welding larger gas meter sets when required, and installing and replacing gas meters. The Gas/Water Crew also work hand in hand with the Owatonna's street projects to verify old abandoned gas mains, rework gas piping when conflicts arise, and when necessary, replace gas mains and services to move the utility out of the street which eliminates future conflicts.

Gas is not the only utility the Gas/Water Crew is responsible for! Along with all the responsibilities that come with the natural gas system, water is also an important aspect of their daily routines. They drop everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night. They repair everything to repair water main breaks at any time of the day or night.

Thank you to the entire team for all you do!
Don’t Gamble on Your Furnace or Boiler!

- Smell gas? (odor is like rotten eggs)
- Can’t immediately find the source?
- Do NOT turn on a light switch or use the phone because the potential spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion!
- Get out and call OPU from your mobile phone or a neighbor’s house.

Learn more about Gas Safety at www.OwatonnaUtilities.com

Help Keep Chloride Out of Our Lakes and Rivers:
1. Hire a Smart Salting Contractor, visit pca.state.mn.us to find certified contractors.
2. Educate your family, friends, and coworkers on the importance of proper and safe use.
3. Apply minimum amount necessary. Less is more.
4. Sweep up any excess salt. Remember if it is visible on pavement, it will just wash away.
5. Be patient, more salt never results in faster melting. Shovel, shovel, shovel.
6. Make sure to check your water softener for proper ratios or stop using a water softener altogether.
7. If you store large piles of salt (commercial or industrial business), make sure it’s covered and on an impervious surface. Furthermore, make sure continuously sweep transfer and storage areas.

Learn more about our Stormwater Program at ci.owatonna.mn.us/stormwater or contact Brad Rademacher, Stormwater/Water Quality Specialist at 507-774-7300 or stormwater@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Conserve & Save

$25 Rebate!

Visit www.owatonnautilities.com to learn more and download rebate applications with complete terms and conditions.
Gas leak?
If you smell gas and can't find the source immediately, go to a neighbor's house and call OPU at 451-1616.

Don't turn electrical switches on or off or use a flashlight or telephone in the home, because an electrical spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.

Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Program

OPU is accepting scholarship essays and applications for the MMUA Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship. The essay deemed to best address the subject of “Municipal Utilities: Good for All of Us” will receive a $500 scholarship from OPU and will be forwarded on to the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for entry in the Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship state-wide contest. MMUA splits their scholarship fund into $2,000, $1,500, $1,000 and $500 scholarships.

For more information visit our website at http://www.owatonnautilities.com/residential-customers/energy-education/

Conservation Tips

Using rainwater to water plants not only keeps your plants healthier but also reduces your water bill! Other benefits of collecting rainwater include reduced stormwater runoff in your yard helping the environment.

Moving?
Remember to contact the Customer Service Department ONE WEEK prior to moving, 451-2480.