

Celebrations

Thomas Edison's Birthday! February 11, 1847

The 1800's were a busy time for Thomas Edison! After being granted a patent for the light bulb in January 1880, Edison set out to develop a company that would deliver the electricity to power and deliver light to the cities of the world. That same year, Edison founded the Edison Illuminating Company, the first investor-owned electric utility, which later became the General Electric Corporation.

Valentines Day! February 14

Special occasions bring family and friends together to celebrate with decorations including balloons. However, many people are unaware that the popular metallic or Mylar balloons are actually powerful conductors of electricity.

When a Mylar balloon touches a power line or floats into substation equipment, their metallic properties cause a surge of electricity that can cause equipment to short circuit and lead to power outages, fires and possible injuries.

The BLP wants everyone to safely enjoy your special occasions. If your celebration includes Mylar balloons, please remember to keep them secured and, when the celebration is over, dispose of them properly.



Created in 1896, the Board of Light & Power is one of more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities serving homes and businesses across the United States. We are locally-controlled by a five-member Board of Directors elected by Grand Haven residents with approximately 13,500 customers in the greater Grand Haven area.

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PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility,
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power

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Photo Credit: Grand Haven Visitor's Bureau

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Programmable Thermostats Are Where It's At

Programmable thermostats have become hugely popular due to their energy saving benefits, improved comfort, convenience and cost – effective savings. These thermostats save energy and money on utility bills by allowing residents to set home temperatures according to various factors, such as when you are away from home for work, during sleeping hours or away on vacation. Below you will find the benefits of installing a programmable thermostat in your home.

- Programmable thermostats supply personal comfort through pre-set temperature levels and are generally more convenient and accurate than manual thermostats.
- If you're looking to cut back expenses, you will usually see the return on your programmable thermostat investment within one year. When used properly, this device can save residents about \$150 annually. Programmable thermostats are also a plus for the environmentally conscious because they contain no mercury and are eco-friendly.
- These are especially handy when you are going to be away from your home for a long period of time on a vacation or business trip. The thermostat allows you to pre-set the temperature of the household according to its occupation.
- Comfort is another key factor, next to savings, that comes from owning a programmable thermostat. Being able to program your thermostat means that you won't have to walk into a freezing cold or stifling hot house after a long day at work.
- Your HVAC system will be using less electricity and gas while you're away, which means that you will be saving more energy while also reducing your carbon footprint.
- Another beneficial feature of owning a programmable thermostat is that many systems feature remote capabilities, such as changing settings or temperatures directly from your smartphone or computer.

With all these benefits, you should consider investing in a programmable thermostat for your home! These facts about programmable thermostats have been brought to you by your Grand Haven Board of Light & Power and homeimprovement.com.



Photo Credit: Nortekenvironmental.com

SAFETY MATTERS

Think Safety, Use Your Generator Safely

It is critical that proper safety precautions be taken when using a stand-by or portable generator to avoid electrical fires and personal safety hazards. Read these tips on how to properly operate a generator to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon monoxide.
- When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.
- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home wiring.
- Never plug a portable generator into a regular household outlet. Doing so could energize "dead" power lines and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Don't operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. Overloading can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics.

Generator Safety Continued

Just like any time you are working with or around electricity it is important to be aware of the fire hazards of the objects you are working with, as well as burn hazards and child safety. To be aware of these things, one must be well informed of how to run the generator properly.

- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- Never use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- Be sure cords don't present a tripping hazard.
- Do not run cords under rugs where heat might build up or cord damage may go unnoticed.
- To prevent electrical shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded. Consult your manufacturer's manual for correct grounding procedures.

These generator safety tips have been brought to you by your Grand Haven Board of Light & Power and www.dom.com.