

Efficiency In your Home Office

Long-Term Savings Tip

Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; laptops use much less energy than desktop computers.

If you are one of the many Americans who have a home office, these steps can be taken to help you become more energy efficient and save money on your electric bills.

1. Start by utilizing the energy saving settings on your computer. For example, **set your computer to automatically go into sleep mode** when it is not in use instead of using a screen saver.

2. You can also **use a power strip or a smart strip** to prevent electronics from drawing electricity when not in use. Plug all office electronics—including your computer, printer, chargers, and scanners—into a **power strip**, and simply switch off the electric current when done working. **Smart strips** will do this automatically!

3. If you have **window blinds** use them to your advantage. Close them in the summer to keep the room cool, and leave them open in the winter to let the heat from the sun warm up the room.

4. Also make sure nothing in your home office is covering HVAC vents. This allows for continuous air flow and reduces the load on your furnace or air conditioning unit.

American Public Power Association's 2013 RP3 **GOLD** Designation Recipient

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power is nationally recognized as a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3). This award is given to public utilities that demonstrate high proficiency in four (RP3) areas; reliability, safety, work force development and system improvement.



Reliable Public
Power Provider



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 is a publication of the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power. Questions and comments may be submitted to our **Customer Service Department at:**

1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

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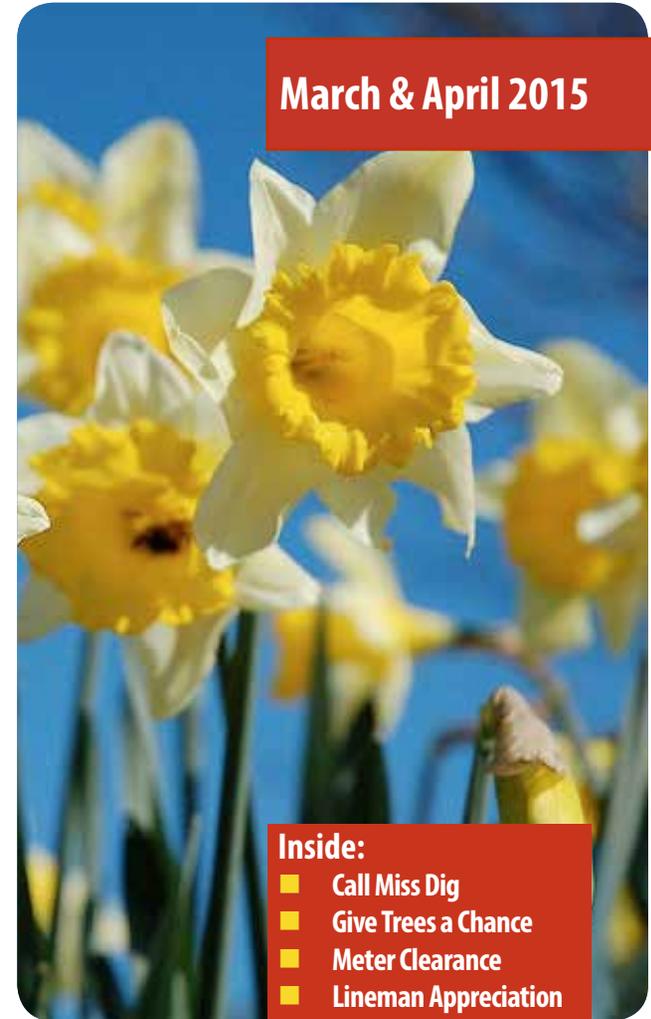
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PLUGGED IN

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

March & April 2015



Inside:

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**GRAND HAVEN
BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER**

ghblp.org

Community-Owned. Locally Controlled.
Not-for-Profit. Environmentally Responsible.

Call Miss Dig 1-800-482-7171



MISS DIG System, Inc. is a Michigan wide one-call excavation safety and utility damage-prevention company that has received in excess of 20 million dig notice requests since the one-call center opened in 1970.

The mission of MISS DIG System, Inc. is to safeguard the public, environment, property, and utility infrastructures and promote utility damage prevention through a quality, cost-effective process for our customers.

When to Contact? At least 3 business days prior to conducting excavation on your property contact MISS DIG. Excavators, landscapers, farmers, homeowners and contractors can call **MISS DIG at 800-482-7171 or 811 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's the Law!**

Source: MISS DIG System Inc

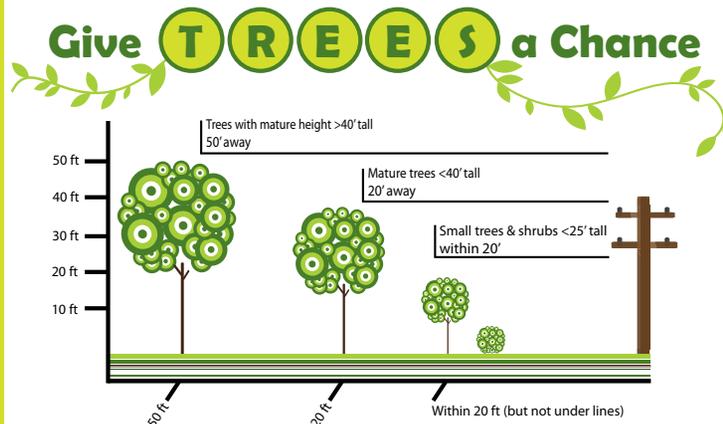
Determining where to plant a tree is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Many factors should be considered prior to planting. When planning what type of tree to plant, remember to look up and look down to determine where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines.

The location of these lines should have a direct impact on your tree and planting site selection. The ultimate mature height of a tree to be planted must be within the available overhead growing space. Just as important, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate the particular rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter of the tree. Proper tree and site selection provide trouble-free beauty and pleasure for years to come.



Red Flags are used to mark your Electric Line

| MICHIGAN'S UTILITY COLOR CODE | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| RED | | Electric |
| YELLOW | | Gas, Oil, Steam or Petroleum |
| ORANGE | | Communications |
| BLUE | | Potable Water |
| PURPLE | | Reclaimed Water Irrigation |
| GREEN | | Sewer & Drain Lines |
| WHITE | | Proposed Excavation |
| PINK | | Temporary Surveying |



Trees planted too close to power lines grow into a BIG problem. To prevent power outages and safety hazards, these trees need to be trimmed and sometimes removed. Do your part to keep trees healthy and prevent power outages.

Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines.

Call Miss Dig 800-482-7171 before you plant!

Meter Clearance

A BLP technical service employee visits your property each and every month, always in uniform with an employee ID card.

Maintaining clear access to your meter ensures efficient and accurate reads. If we detect an unusual meter read, we will verify its accuracy with a re-read prior to sending your monthly statement. If we are unable to read the meter due to severe weather, a locked gate, a dog, **or overgrown shrubs or trees**, we will estimate your bill based on the past usage history at the residence.



If we are consistently unable to gain access to your meter for monthly readings, you may contact the BLP to arrange for reading the meter yourself. **Please call our Customer Account Representatives at 846-6250 to discuss any meter problems or to set up your own meter reads.**



Lineman Appreciation Day, April 18, 2015

The Board of Light & Power recognizes April 18th as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Be sure to thank your line workers for placing their lives on the line to keep electricity flowing in our community.

Did you know?

According to Forbes Line workers have the seventh most dangerous job in the nation.