



BLP Art Contest Supports Hometown Helping Hand

The Board of Light & Power concluded their 2nd Annual Hometown Helping Hand Art Contest with the selection of the top eight drawings out of 644 entries. Students attending greater Grand Haven area schools in grades K - 4 were invited to create a picture that reflects the purpose of the BLP's Hometown Helping Hand program, which provides assistance to families in need in our community who are struggling or unable to pay their past due electric bill. Hometown Helping Hand has provided over \$56,000 in assistance since the program's inception in 2005.

A BLP committee reviewed all art entries to select a drawing from each school that best captured the concept of Hometown Helping Hand and how it helps those in need in our community. Shea Tulloch, 4th grade student from West Michigan Academy of Arts & Academics is this year's Grand Winner. Her drawing will be featured on the BLP's Hometown Helping Hand donation form for the next year!

To help supplement the program, the BLP donates a portion of the revenues generated by its door tag disconnect notice program. The balance of the funding is collected through one-time or monthly donations from BLP customers.



"We congratulate our Art Contest winners and thank all participants for helping the BLP raise awareness of this important program," stated Renee Molyneux, Administrative Services Manager. "There are many families right here in our community who are struggling to make ends meet and we are hoping to increase this year's Hometown Helping Hand funding level so we may provide more assistance to qualifying families," Molyneux added.

Community members who wish to provide a one-time, tax-deductible donation to Hometown Helping Hand may send it to the BLP's 1700 Eaton Drive office or contact BLP customer service representatives at 616-846-6250. BLP customers may also donate monthly by having an amount added directly to their electric bills.

To find Hometown Helping Hand donation forms
Visit ghblp.org/residential-services/helping-hands

BLP CHRISTMAS LIGHT EXCHANGE

Residential customers only - bring in a string of regular, working Christmas lights to our 1700 Eaton Drive office and, in exchange for your string of lights, we will give you a string of **mini LED Christmas lights** (white or color) for FREE! One string per household while supplies last.



LIGHT UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



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.

Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smart, Chairperson

Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson

Larry Kieft, Director

John Naser, Director

Jim VanderMolen, Director



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

p 616.846.6250 | f 616.846.3114

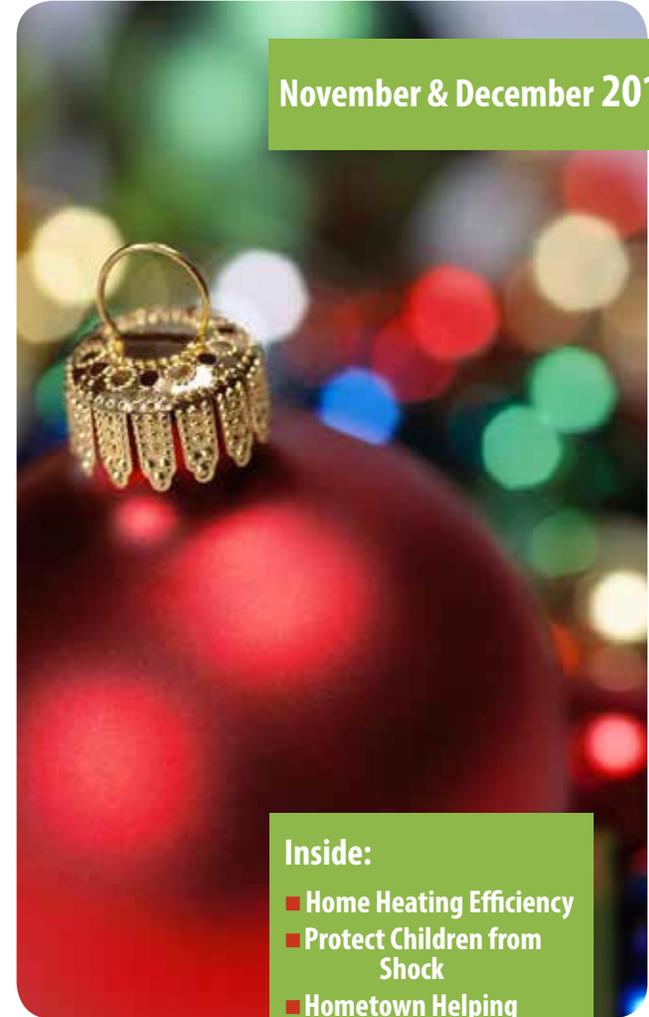
Emergency: 616.842.2241 | E-Mail: blpservice@ghblp.org

Pay your bill online - visit ghblp.org

PLUGGED IN

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

November & December 2014



Inside:

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**GRAND HAVEN
BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER**

ghblp.org

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

Home Heating Efficiency

 from your community owned electric utility, the GHBLP.

Cold winter temperatures can drive up heating costs. However, there are simple steps that can be taken to help cut those costs by making your home heating more efficient.

Here are a **few tips** to make sure you're **MAXIMIZING YOUR HOME HEATING EFFICIENCY THIS WINTER.**

1 While you are away at school or work, turn the thermostat down. Turn the thermostat down at night too when you can bundle up with blankets.



2 Replace your furnace filter monthly to save energy and improve heat circulation.



3 Use sunlight's natural heat to your advantage by opening curtains and blinds on sunny days to warm your home!



Come see us at **Light Night** November 21 5-8pm Free Light Night Mugs filled with hot cocoa to the first 600 shoppers!

Watch for our BLP truck in The Chamber Jingle Bell Parade on Saturday, December 6, 2014 - 6pm



Pet Safety Tips

Keeping Your New Pet Safe Around Electricity

A new holiday puppy or kitten can put smiles on faces and provide years of fun and companionship if all involved are well prepared. Grand Haven Board of Light & Power advises those thinking of adding a new pet to their family to take some time to learn how to keep them safe from electrical dangers in the home.

Here are some tips to help...

- One important aspect of pet-proofing is making sure your curious new puppy or kitten does not think that **electric cords or devices are chew toys. Keep electrical cords tucked away and out of sight of puppies and kittens**
- **Discourage pets from sleeping near or behind electronics.** Many pets are attracted to the warmth, but this is a potential safety and fire hazard.
- Make sure all electronics are completely plugged in. A visible electric prong may attract the attention of a pet **and allow space for a small nose or paw to fit in the gap between the plug and outlet.**



Protect Children From Shock



Watch for your Electric Outlet & Plug Safety bookmarker delivered to your mailbox Soon!

Curious children who stick ordinary household objects in the slots of electrical outlets can suffer severe, potentially fatal, shock. Protect your children from such shocks by making sure your outlets are **tamper resistant.** "Even if you don't have small children, you probably get young visitors from time to time" said Annette Allen, General Manager of the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power. **Tamper resistant outlets provide inexpensive peace of mind that a curious young one won't get shocked in your home.**



Watch for our new program coming soon.