

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**Thanks!**

**Winner Listing:**

CRMU appreciates your business! As a token of our appreciation, each quarter we will have small drawings for our customers. Please check the newsletter to see if you are a winner and THANK YOU for your business!

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU TRAVEL MUG**

Harry Olesen

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU WATER BOTTLE**

Don Patrick

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU PILLOW**

Alyssa Jackson

**Energy Saving Tip  
Icicles & Attics**



Look for icicles hanging from your gutters. If you find any, heat may be escaping from your attic. Icicles appear when the temperature radiating off your roof melts accumulated snow and the outdoor temperature refreezes it. If this is happening to your home, you may need to insulate your attic. This is often the easiest room to insulate, and it's also one of the most cost effective—paying for itself in just a few years! Check it out & save!

## 2010 United States Census

- Your participation is important!



The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. Census data determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data also helps determine the allocation of federal funds for community services, such as school lunch programs and senior citizen centers, and new construction, such as highways and hospitals. Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to local and state governments based on census data. Your participation is very important.

The form package will be delivered between March 1 and April 30. The head of house-

hold should complete the form on behalf of every person living in the residence on April 1, 2010, including relatives and non-relatives who live and sleep at the address most of the time.

Every residence will receive a short form of just 10 questions. This is one of the shortest census forms in history and will take only about 10 minutes to complete. The four general questions asked are:

- 1) If the housing unit is owned or rented
- 2) Telephone number
- 3) How many people live in the residence
- 4) If any additional people who lived at the residence on April 1, 2010 were not included.

Your participation is very important for many reasons. But, even more importantly, your participation is required by law!

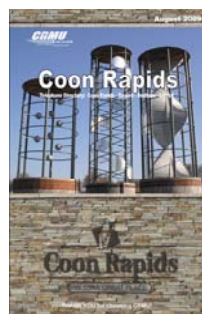
The Census forms are due on receipt and should be returned by April 1, 2010. Census workers will visit households that do not take a count in person.

The population counts will be delivered to the President of the United States within nine months of Census Day (on or before Dec. 31, 2010). This will also show the apportionment population by state, and the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by state.

More information is available at [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

*"When you fill out the census form, you're making a statement about what resources your community needs going forward."*

[www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov)



## CRMU Phone Book Updates

Please contact CRMU with any changes by June 1st!

CRMU is in the process of reviewing and updating information for this year's directory which will be distributed this fall. If any customer would like to modify their listing (i.e. change name, change address, bold, italic, etc.) or advertising information, please call our office at 999-2225, or email us your changes at: [info@crm.net](mailto:info@crm.net).

Also, if there is any additional information or content material that customers would like to see included in the directory, please let us know.

## Poster Contest



CRMU is sponsoring an Energy Efficiency Poster Contest with the 3rd graders at Robert Deal Elementary School. Prizes will be awarded at the local level. All posters will then be entered into the Iowa Poster Contest sponsored by the Center for Energy and Environmental Education and the Iowa Energy Center. Stop by the Coon Rapids Municipal Building in April to see the students' hard work!!

## Energy Efficiency Tree Program



CRMU is committed to being environmentally responsible and to enhancing the quality of life within Coon Rapids through energy conservation and efficiency.

This year, CRMU will provide a limited number of Autumn Blaze Maples to residential electric or gas customers (one tree per customer, please). The tree must be planted in the city limits of Coon Rapids.

To request a tree, call the CRMU office at 999-2225!



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Did You Know?



CRMU offers Budget Billing! Pay the same amount every month. It's convenient for you! Budgets are an average of previous charges to provide a level payment for the next 12 months. Because usage varies due to weather, living habits, etc., customers are typically behind or ahead of the actual charges incurred. This is shown on your bill and should be monitored on a monthly basis. New budgets are calculated on a yearly basis. Call CRMU for more information – 712.999.2225.

## HDTV Basics - What to Know about Buying a TV

CRMU currently offers 28 channels in high definition, including off-air channels. As the popularity of high definition has increased over the last several years, customers are asking, "What do I need to know before buying an HDTV?" and "What should I buy?" CRMU is always here to help you make the right decision. Below are a few HDTV basics for you to understand before you make the "big purchase."

### Should I choose LCD, LED-LCD, or Plasma?

Plasma TVs work the best in dark or dimly lit rooms and produce the best quality for blacks and bright colors. They are also great for action, sports, and video games.

LCD TVs work great in well-lit rooms and are available in the widest range of sizes. They are more energy efficient than plasma tvs per square inch and are generally your lowest cost option compared to plasma and LEC-LCD.

LED-LCD TVs offer good performance in all lighting conditions and produce the best quality for blacks and bright colors. Many models have ultra-slim 1.2" depth panels. This is typically the most expen-

sive compared to the LCD and plasma.

*The Future:* 3-D HDTVs are also expected to hit the stores in 2010. 3-D channels and special 3-D glasses will be required to get the full effect of this television.

### What do 1080p and 720p mean?

A digital television picture is made up of hundreds of vertical lines, one line stacked on top of another. Therefore, a 1080p HDTV has 1,080 vertical lines. Every 720p HDTV has 720 vertical lines. A rule of thumb to remember is the greater the number, the greater the picture definition.

Currently, 1080p HDTVs provide the best resolution for

content that is produced in 1080p, such as Blu-ray movies.

### What size should I buy?

To determine the best size for your needs, check out the chart below.

Don't forget! After you purchase your new HDTV, call CRMU at 999-2225 to sign-up for the HD programming package. Channels include: Big Ten HD, ESPN HD, Food Network HD, Outdoor Channel HD, Fox News HD, Golf Channel HD and more! Not sure if you want the extra channels? Call CRMU to try it before you buy it. The cost of the added programming is only \$9.95/month.

16:9 TV diagonal screen size	Min. viewing distance (in feet)	Max. viewing distance (in feet)
26	3.3	6.5
30	3.8	7.6
34	4.3	8.5
42	5.3	10.5
47	5.9	11.8
50	6.3	12.5
55	6.9	12.8
60	7.5	15
65	8.1	16.2

## Carbon Monoxide Detector Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors save lives – especially during Midwestern winters. But many consumers are unaware of important facts regarding CO detectors. Chief among them: CO detectors should be replaced about every five years. The operating mechanics of CO detectors are different from smoke detectors, and their reliability has a much shorter lifespan. Consumers should also understand that while having CO detectors in their homes is important, they should not be considered a replacement for an annual

inspection of their heating systems for potential CO dangers. CO detectors should comply with updated standards implemented by Underwriters Laboratories (UL 2034) which state that CO detectors should sound an alarm at low levels of carbon monoxide contamination in addition to higher levels.

Hundreds of unintentional deaths from non-fire related CO poisoning occur in the United States each year, with

thousands of non-fatal CO exposures. CO is the leading cause of unintentional poisonings in the U.S. and January is

the peak month for occurrences. Fuel-burning appliances such as stoves, furnaces and water heaters are among the leading culprits of CO poisoning, in addition to fuelburning emergency generators incorrectly used indoors.



*Reprinted from the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities Informer.*