

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Thanks!

Winner Listing:

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

* Prizes can be picked up at the CRMU Office.

WINNER OF FREE CRMU PILLOW

Harry Olesen

WINNER OF FREE CRMU POLO SHIRT

Ron Smith

WINNER OF FREE CRMU BLANKET

Doug Lloyd



Lighting Energy Saving Tips

In a typical home, one compact fluorescent bulb can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 260 pounds per year. If every American household replaced one of its incandescent light bulbs with a CFL, it would save the same amount of energy as a large nuclear power plant produces in a year.

Board of Trustees Approves First Loan from CRMU's Revolving Loan Fund to Coon Rapids Medical Center



Medical Board President, Kevin Dorpinghaus signing loan documents.

The CRMU Board of Trustees approved a \$25,000 loan, from CRMU's Revolving Loan Fund, to the Coon Rapids Medical Center at their regular April meeting.

The Coon Rapids Medical Center Board proposes to use the funds to purchase and renovate a building on Main Street for the purpose of locating a dentist practice in Coon Rapids.

In May of 2007, CRMU

sponsored an application for the Thomas Rest Haven Assisted Living Project and was selected to receive Rural Economic Development Grant Funds in the amount of \$300,000 from

the USDA.

The grant from the USDA helped establish a revolving loan fund which CRMU currently administers. CRMU initially loaned the \$300,000 to the Thomas Rest Haven at 0% interest over a ten-year term with the first payment deferred for one year.

Another requirement of the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan-Grant Program was that CRMU had to con-

tribute \$60,000 or 20%, into the revolving loan fund as seed money. This \$60,000, along with the future payments from the initial loan to Thomas Rest Haven, will then be available to re-lend for local and regional development projects.

CRMU is very excited about this revolving loan fund and the additional financial resources it brings to Coon Rapids to help contribute to the long-term improvement in our local economy.

CRMU understands the importance of playing an active role in rural development and hopes this newly established revolving loan fund can help foster future business expansion and community development in Coon Rapids.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2009 SWITCH TO DTV

WHO'S AFFECTED?

If you subscribe to CRMU's cable television service—this switch to DTV **should not affect you**. Non-CRMU cable television customers who receive over-the-air signals through antennas on television sets with analog tuners will be affected.

WHAT CHANNELS ARE AFFECTED BY THE SWITCH?

The switch to DTV **only** applies to channels that can be received over-the-air. In Coon

Rapids, there are only six channels affected: ABC on Channel 5; FOX on Channel 6; CBS on Channel 8; IPTV on Channel 11; NBC on Channel 13; and WB on Channel 23. **All other channels are unaffected by this switch.**

DO I NEED TO GET A NEW TV?

No. If you subscribe to CRMU's cable television service nothing **should** change. Presently, the FCC rules permit CRMU to convert the over-the-air digital signals to ana-



log so that CRMU customers shouldn't have to do anything.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

To keep updated on the latest information about the switch to DTV, simply call the CRMU office or visit the following web sites:

www.dtvanswers.com
www.dtv.gov

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION NOTICE

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) requires that all utilities in the state publish an annual notice advising customers of their right to appeal on certain complaints and where a qualified utility representative can be reached. The following is a required notice to CRMU customers.

Customers of Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities who desire assistance in the resolution of a complaint may ask for the customer service representative at Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, 123 3rd Avenue South, Coon Rapids, Iowa, 50058.

CRMU's telephone number is 712-999-2225. Business hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If your complaint is related to electric or natural gas service disconnection, safety or renewable energy, and Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from:

Iowa Utilities Board
350 Maple St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
877-565-4450

or email

iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us



Wind Power Q&A

Q. Why hasn't CRMU built wind turbines here in Coon Rapids?

We've taken a serious look at doing so. In fact, CRMU hired a consultant in 2007 to evaluate the potential of placing a wind turbine locally. However, the economics of placing a wind turbine locally are not there yet.

As a member of NIMECA, CRMU has affordable access to transmission in northern Iowa where wind resources are significantly better, producing more electricity per turbine.

Q. How much Wind Power does CRMU receive?

In 2002 & 2006 respectively, CRMU entered long-term agreements to receive wind energy from the Hancock County Wind Farm, in Hancock County, Iowa, and the Crosswind Wind Project located between Ruthven and Ayrshire, in Palo Alto County,

Iowa. Output from both of these resources will account for approximately 5% of CRMU's energy requirements.

CRMU is also currently in negotiations for participation in two additional wind projects. When coupled with our existing wind resources, these wind farms will provide approximately 15% of CRMU's energy by the end of 2009.

Q. Why doesn't CRMU stop using coal and switch to 100% wind energy?

If 100% of our electricity came from wind, the power would go out every time the wind died down. U.S. research and experience in Europe point to 20% as the maximum share of wind energy that can be reliably distributed through the power grid.

Q. Will electric rates go down if CRMU gets more of our electricity from wind power?



Our cost for wind energy today is higher than our cost for coal power. CRMU is adding wind power because we consider today's cost premium a good investment in light of the environmental benefits and longer-term economics. Over time, we believe the cost of coal generation will rise, a carbon tax will be enacted, and other legislative initiatives will be passed making wind plants more cost competitive.

CRMU Renewable Resource Information - *Did you know???*



CRMU has a long-term power supply contract with the Western Area Power Administration "WAPA" which provides power to Coon Rapids from hydro-electric power plants located on the Missouri River.

When you combine the energy output from WAPA with CRMU's other wind resources, approximately 63% of CRMU's total energy needs are supplied by a renewable resource.

- *The picture to the left is the Fort Randall Plant in South Dakota.*



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
Common Ground Alliance



ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

