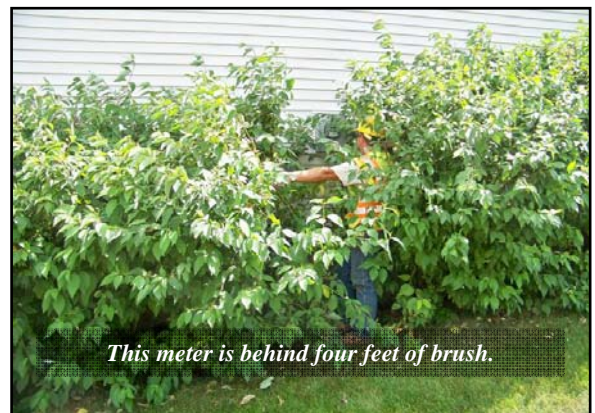


Utility Friendly Landscaping

Landscaping on a city lot presents some challenges, “What do we do with that big green box in our front yard?” Although it may seem like a good idea to try to “hide” the green box, please keep in mind the transformer supplies electricity to you and several of your neighbors. When the power goes out, the transformer is a key part to restoring power as soon as possible. Digging through bushes and avoiding stepping on flowers to repair or replace the transformer adds time and expense to the project as well as making restoration difficult. *Note - If the DMU digs up the grass around a transformer to repair a faulty conductor, we will re-seed the grass in the affected area. Mail boxes in front of the transformer present a similar problem. In some cases the mail boxes would have to be completely removed before any work could be performed on the transformer. Safety is a primary concern to both the residents and our crew. If there is a fault while the lineman is working on the transformer, we need the worker to be able to evacuate the area as soon as possible. Shrubbery around a transformer also presents a fire hazard. If the transformer faults, the possibility of igniting the surrounding landscaping increases significantly, creating more delays and increasing the duration and size of the outage as utility crews have to disconnect power from neighboring transformers for the safety of the fire crews.

Landscaping around the electric and water meter also creates safety issues. Once a month utility crews venture out into the city to read all electric and water meters in town and having meters covered prevents us from being as efficient as possible. We all want the landscaping around our house to be classy and attractive. Having a gray box with a silver bubble sticking out of it doesn't match with most landscaping schemes. The National Electrical Code requires three feet of clearance in front of the utility meter. Often times during a home fire, the firemen call the utility out to disconnect power to the structure. The damage to the building increases for every second we can't get to the transformer or meter because of thick foliage.



Safety is our Primary Concern

Safety for our customers and safety for our crews can be accomplished by rethinking landscaping around the transformer, moving mailboxes a safe distance, and trimming hedges, bushes, and shrubs around the meters. The utility staff participates in monthly safety classes conducted by the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA). We are regulated by OSHA regulations, National Electrical Code, and the National Line Code just to name a few. All these regulations are designed with safety at the forefront. Please help us keep our crews safe and help us keep our costs down.

New at the DMU

Starting **August 1st, 2009**, customer's payment by personal checks will be processed via **ACH** (Automatic Clearing House). This means your check will be converted to an automatic payment and will be debited directly from your checking account. Our goals with this new system are to keep up with banking technology and to streamline our payment system. As always, our primary goal is to keep costs as low as possible.

Another Payment Option available:

Also available, your payment can be taken directly from your bank account **WITHOUT** sending a check in every month. If you are interested in this option, please complete the form on the back of your billing and send the completed form in along with a voided check. With this option, your payment is taken out of your bank account on the **22nd** of every month. You still receive a monthly statement to keep for your records.

Summer Construction

The construction in front of the Utilities will begin after the **4th of July**. Please keep this in mind for dropping off payments at the utility or in the drop box. We appreciate your cooperation through the construction!

TRIVIA

Who is the Measure of Electric Current named after?

- a) André-Marie Ampère
- b) Benjamin Franklin
- c) Francois Marie Voltaire
- d) Gorge Ohm

The answer is (a) Andre Ampere. Ampère's fame mainly rests on his establishing the relations between electricity and magnetism, and in developing the science of electromagnetism, or, as he called it, electrodynamics. On 11 September 1820 he heard of [H. C. Ørsted's](#) discovery that a magnetic needle is acted on by a voltaic current. Only a week later, on 18 September, Ampère presented a paper to the Academy containing a far more complete exposition of that and kindred phenomena. On the same day, Ampère also demonstrated before the Academy that parallel wires carrying currents attract or repel each other, depending on whether currents are in the same (attraction) or in opposite directions (repulsion). This laid the foundation of [electrodynamics](#). (Information found on Wikipedia).

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Thank you from the employees of Delano Municipal Utilities