

Reedsburg Utility to be ^{4/26/07} flushing hydrants, water mains

Flushing water hydrants and having routine water main maintenance is an important procedure when it comes to a community's safety. It's necessary to flush water hydrants in order to test that there is adequate water flow and pressure. Flushing is also done to remove any sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes. Throughout the next couple of weeks you may see Water Utility personnel in various areas releasing water from hydrants Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., the expected completion date of the maintenance is May 31.

Occasionally when water hydrants are flushed you may notice a discoloration in your tap water. If this happens, run the cold water tap for a few minutes until the water runs clear. If the water does not run clear the first time, wait a few minutes and run the water again, rest assured the water is safe to drink. If you have any questions concerning the hydrant flushing or your community owned Water Utility, please contact the Reedsburg Utility Commission at 524-4381.



Students report on energy saving experiments at RAHS

What will actually save energy at Reedsburg Area High School? That was the subject of a report on energy saving experiments at RAHS given by advanced placement environmental science students when the Reedsburg school board met Monday night. The students worked with Reedsburg Utility and Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPP) and teacher Joyce Johnson in a study to look at the effectiveness of energy-saving measures that could be taken at the building.

Natalie Westerman reported on the effects of having open and closed classroom hall doors in terms of energy saved or used, done two consecutive days in March. She found opened and closed classroom doors did not have any energy effects during the winter. However she will repeat the experiment in May to see if makes a difference then.

Laura Ritt and Alex Masica conducted an experiment on saving energy by keeping classrooms two degrees lower during the week of Feb. 19-23. They found they would save 2.5 percent in therms, a unit of heat energy, for 12 hours and would save more if the temperature was lowered two degrees for 24 hours. The school saved about \$3.74 a day. In May an experiment will be run to have the school kept two degrees warmer in May when weather warms up.

Nathan Hart reported on the effects of fans in the RAHS commons because students complained about cold when the ceiling fans were running. He ran the tests in order to prove the fans actually keep the commons warmer. He said not having the ceiling fans run is a waste because air handlers push out warm air near the ceiling and the fans push that warm air down.

Kyle Adelman and Ryan Bodendein reported on

the use of old versus new refrigerators in their school. They found replacing the older refrigerators would save money in electrical costs. They said it would take years to pay for new refrigerators out of the electrical cost savings. However replacing some of the oldest ones would save around 20 kilowatts of electricity a day.

Blake Fish reported on the results of examining classroom lighting practices. For it one of three banks of lights was shut off in each of the 57 classrooms at RAHS. If done in each room all day all year, \$4,201 could be saved.

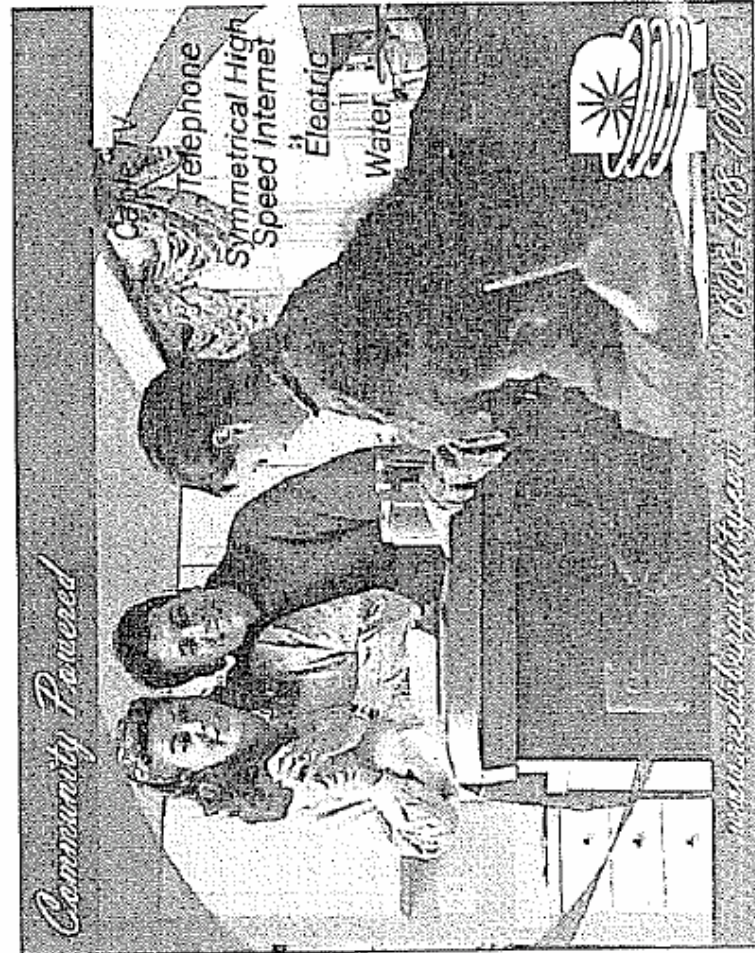
Levi Lavender and Lindsay Churchill took a look at hallway lighting. While security lights were kept off for the experiment, permission was gained to shut off the regular hallways lights during class times. The experiment reduced electrical use daily by several hundred kilowatt hours.

The final report came from Donovan Houtler, who reported on light usage and energy consumption in the commons. He shut off all the lights in the commons for a couple of days, using just window lights. Now half the lights are being turned off, creating a potential savings of \$535 per year. He said some students said it was more comfortable with the indoor lights off.

Joyce Johnson said the students came up with the experiment ideas and how to measure results for their projects. She thanked WPI and school administration for its support of the experiments, which were done the final week of March. The RAHS experiments may serve as a model for other school district students to do in other communities with municipal utilities.

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Reedsburg, WI

Fiber Optics Provides Many Advantages



Reedsburg Utility Commission
 501 Utility Court, Reedsburg
 524-4381

By Matthew Goins
 Capital Newspapers

The Reedsburg Utility Commission's use of fiber optics gives consumers several advantages over other forms of non-fiber communications. Fiber optics are long strands of pure glass, as thin as a human hair, that carry digital information over long distances faster than other forms of both wired and wireless communications. This is because fiber optics transmit data using light signals. Reedsburg Utility uses fiber optics to produce a high quality, crystal clear connection for voice, internet and cable services. Because optical fibers are thinner than conventional metal wires, more fibers can be bundled into a given diameter cable than copper wires. This allows more phone lines to go over the same cable or more channels to come through the cable into a consumer's cable TV box. And, unlike electrical signals in copper wires, light signals from one fiber do

not interfere with those of other fibers in the same cable. This means clearer phone conversations or TV reception and overall less signal degradation. An optical cable weighs less and is smaller in diameter than a comparable copper wire cable; therefore, fiber-optic cables take up less space in the ground. And because no electricity is passed through optical fibers, there is no fire hazard. This lack of electricity use also ultimately results in lower prices. Because signals in optical fibers degrade less, lower-power transmitters can be used instead of the high-voltage electrical transmitters needed for copper wires. Also, several miles of optical cable can be made cheaper than equivalent lengths of copper wire. High bandwidth speeds provided by Reedsburg Utility allow for easy download and upload of files such as movies and songs. In addition to being consumers, Reedsburg Utility customers also are part owners. Because the commission is municipally owned, citizens of Reedsburg have a voice in the way it does business.

Reedsburg to be one of three broadband research communities

4/19/07

Reedsburg is one of three U.S. communities selected to be part of a ground-breaking research project to quantify the economic and social benefits of high-speed broadband services delivered via direct fiber-optic connections. "Reedsburg Utility Commission enthusiastically supports this initiative and is actively participating to further explore how our community and others like Reedsburg can realize the benefits of fiber connectivity," said Dave Mikonowicz, general manager.

The project is sponsored by the Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Council, a non-profit organization that promotes accelerated deployment of next-generation fiber optic networks to homes and businesses across America. The FTTH Council has contracted with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University and Strategic Networks Group to research the power of vastly higher bandwidth as it relates to business investment, economic growth, job creation and various educational and lifestyle benefits in the communities where these networks have been deployed.

Data gathered from this study will help the FTTH Council in its efforts to inform network service providers – as well as business leaders, government officials and other policymakers – of the returns that investing in fiber optic connections can bring to

communities across the country.

Because businesses and organizations in Reedsburg are using this next-generation technology, they will be invited in the next week to participate in a brief survey that will explore the impact that broadband over optical fiber has had on their operations. Senior managers are being requested to complete the survey, which asks about the specific operational and economic impacts of your high-speed fiber optic connection.

"The more businesses and organizations that participate in the survey the more accurate our results will be," said Catherine Rice, director of marketing and sales. "We hope that our results will help us to better understand our customers needs as well as to help promote Reedsburg in its economic development efforts," said Rice.

Through understanding how Reedsburg businesses and organization use and benefit from fiber-optic connections the research can help other organizations and communities learn from our collective experience. Local support of the survey will help build a storehouse of knowledge that other communities will be able to use to learn from Reedsburg's experiences and build their own next-generation fiber networks.



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Sauk City, WI

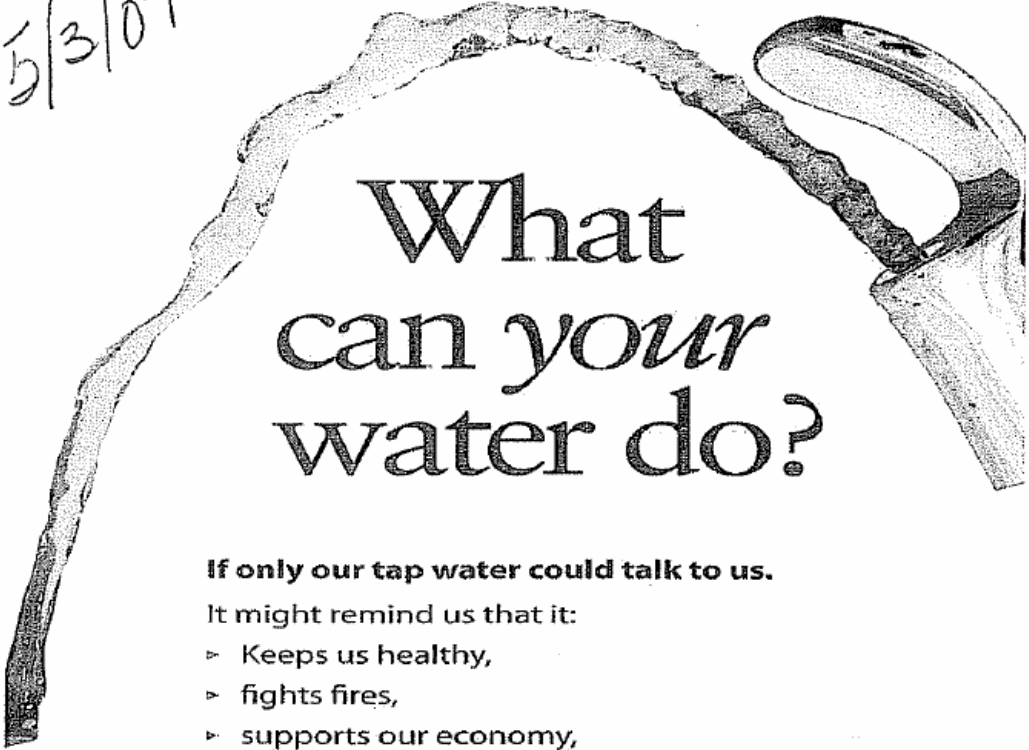
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5/3/07



What can *your* water do?

If only our tap water could talk to us.

It might remind us that it:

- ▶ Keeps us healthy,
- ▶ fights fires,
- ▶ supports our economy,
- ▶ and provides us with the high quality of life we enjoy.

It might also remind us that it's up to us to keep it strong and reliable. During Drinking Water Week, help us celebrate what Only Tap Water Delivers. Visit www.ReedsburgUtility.com for more information.



Reedsburg
Utility
Commission


524-4381

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Drinking
Water Week
2007

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