

QUARTERLY CONNECTION



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!

* Prizes can be picked up at the CRMU Office.

Winner of CRMU Green Jacket

Kay Anthofer

Winner of CRMU Red Jacket

Mike Esdohr

Winner of Travel Cooler

Jen Derner

Mark Your Calendar!

Support your local Fire & Ambulance Departments by attending the 8th Annual New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance!

December 31, 2014
Coon Rapids American Legion
Starts at 5:00 pm!

CRMU Contact Corner



123 3rd Avenue South
Coon Rapids, IA 50058
Monday-Friday: 7 am - 5 pm
Phone: 712.999.2225
Emergency / Outage After Hours: 877.999.4572
E-mail: info@crmu.net
Ch. 3 Ads: office@crmu.net
On the Web: www.crmu.net

Retransmission Agreements with ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX Demand Significant Rate Increases to Cable Providers



What is Retransmission Consent? The U.S. Congress has authorized broadcast stations, such as those that air ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX programming, to grant or deny permission (provide "consent") for a cable television operator to "retransmit" the signal to its customers. In order to acquire consent, the owner of the television station will demand some form of compensation from the cable operator, which is typically renegotiated every three years.

Frequently, a broadcaster demands the smaller cable operators pay an exceptionally higher per-customer fee than other larger operators in the same market. *Broadcasters charge smaller cable operators retransmission consent fees as much as twenty times more than what the largest distributors pay.* There is no justification for the price discrimination faced by small cable operators because the retransmission is costless for the broadcast station owner. The burden to a broadcaster of having its signal carried on a large system or a small one is identical.

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Cable operators who refuse to accept the higher charge (as it frequently would result in higher rates for customers) face retaliation from the broadcaster - a dropped signal and the refusal to allow a cable operator to deliver its programming to customers.

How Does Retransmission Consent Harm Consumers? When independent cable operators are dealt disproportionately higher per-subscriber fees to broadcast a signal, the result is increased costs for consumers and reduced competition by undercutting smaller companies' ability to compete on price. Notably, independent cable providers often have to redirect investment that should go towards increasing system capacity and improving infrastructure for broadband to instead line the pockets of big broadcasters and programmers, putting already underserved markets even further behind the Digital Divide.

Currently, the FCC is reviewing whether revisions to the wholesale cable programming and retransmission consent rules would provide consumers with more choice and value. The American Cable Association has presented the FCC with multiple filings to demonstrate how the current marketplace harms both independent cable operators as well as consumers.

Happy Holidays from Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities!

We wish each of you a great holiday season and a very Happy New Year!



New Channel

KCCI has launched a new local channel featuring some of the most iconic police shows of all time, including Hill Street Blues, NYPD Blue and The Commish paired with new drama classics like The Walking Dead and Law & Order: SVU.

To receive this channel, you may need to re-scan your TV to find the new channel or simply type 8.3 into your remote.

New Internet Speeds!



Upgrades complete! New packages ready!!

Downstream (Mbps)	Upstream (Mbps)	Package Name
0.256	0.256	Essential
6	1	Standard
12	2	Basic
18	3	Plus
36	6	Ultra
50	15	Premium
100	20	Extreme
200	30	Ultimate

Contact the CRMU at 999-2225 for pricing and additional information!

Gift Idea

Do you know someone struggling to make ends meet? Help them out this holiday season by purchasing a

CRMU Gift Certificate!

You select the amount and we'll apply it to their account or allow them to use it at a later date!

Contact CRMU for more information or stop in and see us!



Energy Efficiency

Don't Forget!

CRMU has Energy Efficiency Rebates Available on:

- Lighting
- Refrigerators
- Water Heaters
- Freezers
- Clothes Washers
- Room Air Conditioners
- Dehumidifiers
- Furnaces
- Central Air
- Geothermal Heat Pumps

Rebate applications are available at the CRMU office or online at www.crmu.net!



EnergySmart

CRMU Experiences First Water Leak of the Winter



Like many other utilities in Iowa, CRMU had numerous water line breaks last winter. With the extremely cold temperatures, the lines cracked, causing frozen areas of water on streets, disrupted water service, and difficult working conditions for CRMU employees.

We are hopeful that the 2014 - 2015 winter will be better. However, CRMU had a leak in November. The leak was noticed by an observant homeowner who noticed water bubbling out of the ground (top picture). Upon digging, CRMU employees found the crack in the pipe (middle picture). Ultimately, CRMU was able to clamp the pipe back together and restore water to the residents on Skyline Drive (bottom picture).

CRMU appreciates customer's assistance in reporting anything unusual (water bubbling up through the ground or water just running down the street).

Service Awards

This year, CRMU honors two employees with a service award:

- John Namanny - 20 years
- Mike Marsh - 25 years

Natural Gas Odorant Incident

Because natural gas is colorless and odorless, CRMU injects an "odorant" called mercaptan into our natural gas system to make natural gas easier to detect. CRMU recently refilled the odorant storage tank and a valve was inadvertently left open resulting in the over-injection of odorant.

As a result, many small natural gas leaks were exposed and CRMU received numerous gas leak calls from customers on November 25th.

CRMU apologizes for this unfortunate event; however, it was a positive that many customers found minute leaks before they could become a larger problem.

Make Your Life Easier!



Sign-Up for Automatic Bank Deduct at CRMU!

With automatic bank deduct, you'll never have to worry about making your payments on time! Utility and communication payments are deducted from your account on the first day of every month.

It's Easy, Convenient, and Free!

Just fill out the form and send it in!
Please attach a voided check or deposit slip!

Authorization Agreement for Direct Payments (ACH Debits)

I hereby authorize Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, hereinafter called COMPANY, to initiate debit entries to my:

- Checking Account Savings Account

indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of US law.

Depository Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____ *Please attach a VOIDED check.*

This agreement is effective for my (Check all that apply): Communication Account Utility Account

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until COMPANY has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford COMPANY and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: All written debit authorizations must provide that the receiver may revoke the authorization only by notifying the originator in the manner specified in the authorization.