

# NEWS FROM YOUR BPW



**Board of Public Works**  
**1600 O Street, PO Box 288**  
**Auburn, NE 68305 (402-274-4981)**  
**auburnbpw.com**



## Equal Pay Customers Please Take Note...

Your equal pay monthly utility amount is re-calculated/re-evaluated every January & July of each year. Your new monthly equal pay amount may go up or go down depending on the previous 12-month usage.

## REMINDER ABOUT SEWER BILLS

All residential customers' usage shall be calculated based on water consumption for the billing months of January, February, and March. Sewer use fees are calculated on this three months' average water usage and will then remain the same for the next 12 months. New sewer use fees will be reflected on your April 2022 billing.

All other customers' usages (commercial and general service) are calculated each month based on the previous month's usage.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

## Be Prepared for Unexpected Power Outages due to Winter Storms!

Your BPW strives to ensure that you always have electrical service; however, power can be interrupted due to winter storms. Be prepared for such an emergency.

Here are some things to think about:

- If you are on power dependent life support, register with the BPW. This will put your home in a higher priority when there is a power outage.
- Insulate your pipes.
- Have flashlights, a portable radio, and batteries on hand.
- If you take prescription medicine, have at least a three-day supply available.
- Have at least a three-day supply of canned and non-perishable foods. Some examples include bread, peanut butter, canned tuna, fruit, granola bars, jugs of water, etc.
- Have a manual can opener on hand.
- Dress for the temps. Wear layers of clothing and use blankets to keep warm.
- Food in your refrigerator should be good for up to six hours and the freezer will keep food good up to two days. However, if there's any doubt, throw it out!

**Contact the BPW [402-274-4981](tel:402-274-4981) if you are without power.**



# 2021 IN REVIEW

As 2021 comes to an end, Auburn Board of Public Works takes a minute to reflect on the past year.



The year started off with a bang as the Polar Vortex brought extreme cold weather to the Midwest in February. BPW Plant operators manned the Power Plant and contributed to the grid allowing customers to avoid rolling brownouts. Their contribution assisted in avoiding a total blackout that could have affected multiple states.

Water operators jumped into action as the Auburn Fire Department and surrounding communities that provided mutual aid were called out to a devastating fire in downtown Auburn. Emergency responders were able to perform their duties without interruption. Preparations for emergency situations such as this, ensured that damages to the surrounding businesses were kept to a minimum.



Photo Credit to Nemaha County World Herald

Weather wreaked havoc in December and brought a windstorm that resulted in hurricane force gusts into the area. As temperatures dropped, BPW Linemen braved the elements and brought customers back online with minimal service disruption.

Service technicians and office staff are kept hopping as they work to provide efficient process for workflow. Meter reading, updating payment options, rate changes, software updates, maintenance of inventory levels and field support for all departments are just a handful of the many tasks that ensure customer service is top notch.



Photo Credit – Scott Helms

Adverse situations can push utility companies to their limits. BPW looks to the future by striving to maintain a strong and healthy infrastructure. There are many avenues that are taken to achieve this. Tree trimming and pole maintenance keep lines free of potential damage during storms. Maintaining water lines reduces loss of valuable resources and the updated Water Plant has the capacity to assure water pressure levels are stable during emergencies. In addition, progressive sewer line maintenance provides groundwater protection. To avoid fluctuating market costs for electricity, BPW continually reviews contracted prices and keeps abreast of changes that assist with keeping costs from excessive increases. We appreciate our customers and are grateful for your support. Best wishes to you in 2022!