



**Hometown People.  
Hometown Power.**

**2009 BWL Chili  
Cook-off - June 5!**  
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## BWL Qcorner

**Q:** I want to figure out how much it costs to run my lights per hour. How do I do that?  
-- T.D., Lansing

**A:** It will take a little time, but there is a formula that allows you to calculate your lighting costs.

First, you need to know the wattage of each fixture (for example, a 75-watt light bulb).

Next, you must determine the number of hours each fixture operates each day.

Once you have those facts, here's the basic formula:

- Multiply the wattage of a bulb by the hours of operation. This gives you watt hours.
- Divide the watt hours by 1,000 to get kilowatt hours. Kilowatt hours are used to determine your electric bill.
- Multiply the kilowatt hours by the cost per kilowatt hour that appears on your bill. The resulting number is your lighting cost.

Do you have a question about some aspect of Lansing Board of Water & Light operations? Include your name, city of residence and phone number, and send it to Q Corner:

E-mail: [mdn@lbwl.com](mailto:mdn@lbwl.com)  
Fax: (517) 702-6855  
Mail: Lansing Board of Water & Light  
1232 Haco Dr., P.O. Box 13007  
Lansing MI 48901-3007

### Medical Alert Form

If in-home medical equipment depends on electricity or water, you probably should be on our medical priority list. Call (517) 702-6006, or go to [www.lbwl.com](http://www.lbwl.com) and click on Medical Alert Form.



## Beware of the energy 'vampires'

Don't look now, but there may be a vampire lurking in your home. But they're not the kind that prey on humans. Instead, they prey on our wallets.

They're called "vampire loads" because they suck energy, even when you're not using electrical appliances or equipment.

There are other names for these unnoticed energy thieves, such as phantom loads. Whatever they're called, it's estimated they cost Americans about \$3 billion a year.

How do they do it? Look around your house. Do you see any "ready" lights on electrical equipment, such as a TV? That's a vampire load. It's using electricity, even though the equipment may not be operating.

According to a recent article in the New York Times, the biggest culprits are stereos, DVRs, game systems and plasma TVs.

So, how do you rid your home of the vampires? You can do the obvious – unplug the appliances or equipment they're not in use.

But that can be a hassle. Consider investing in what are called "smart power strips." These will shut off automatically after awhile, when the equipment is not in use.

The Lansing Board of Water & Light is committed to helping customers reduce their energy bills. Just recently, we unveiled a **Hometown Energy Savers<sup>SM</sup>** program. Among the features of the program:

- We will pick up an old, operating freezer or refrigerator at your home – free. And, you will get a \$25 check toward a new, energy-efficient appliance. Call **877-NRG-LBWL (877-674-5295)** for details.

- For qualified customers on limited incomes, the BWL will provided qualified replacement ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> products. Call Capital Area Community Services to apply: **517-393-7077**.



Is an energy "vampire" robbing you?

## New Call Center hours

The Lansing Board of Water & Light's Customer Service Call Center has new hours of operation.

The Call Center's new hours are: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During those hours, customers may call (517) 702-6006 with questions about such matters as their billing statements.

The BWL's emergency phone number will still operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call our main number, (517) 702-6006, and you will be prompted to connect with the emergency line.

Please continue to use the above phone number to report such matters as a downed power line, a water main break or damage to BWL equipment.





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# CONNECTIONS

## More in store for Lansing's birthday!



Lansing's 150th birthday celebration is well underway.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Lansing 150 Summer Picnic – August 2. Join the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's Big Band for an old-fashioned community picnic in downtown Lansing. Enjoy summer fun and games as we celebrate Lansing's sesquicentennial with birthday cake and ice cream.
- Lansing 150 Labor Day Festival – September 5. This family-focused event will celebrate residents who serve for the benefit of others, including police, firefighters, teachers, and military personnel. Adado Riverfront Park, downtown Lansing.
- Lansing 150 Holiday Sing-Along/ Grand Finale – November 20. This musical celebration will feature local church choirs, school choirs, and community vocal ensembles singing secular holiday music at the Lansing Center, with instrumental accompaniment. A named gospel singer will perform. This event will conclude with a Grand Finale Reception at the Lansing Center.

For more information, visit  
[www.Lansing150.com](http://www.Lansing150.com)

## Chili Heads, unite!

Tantalize your tastebuds at the 14th annual BWL Chili Cook-off, June 5 in downtown Lansing's Adado Riverfront Park.

Area restaurants and organizations will again compete for bragging rights during mid-Michigan's premier chili competition.

The hot times begin at 5 p.m. and run until 10 p.m.

Here's a special note to all attending the BWL Chili Cook-off: Because of construction on the east side of the Grand River, the event is moving to Adado Riverfront Park on the west side of the River. This is the same location where the Common Ground Festival is held each July.

For the first time, there will be ticket pre-sales. Chili fans age 13 and over can buy \$5 tickets in advance at the BWL Customer Service Center, 1232 Haco Drive, Lansing. Tickets for ages 6-12 are \$2 each, and children under 5 get in free.

Ticket prices at the gate are: \$8 for those 13 and over; \$3 for ages 6-12. Children under 5 get in free. As always, proceeds from the BWL Chili Cook-off go to local charities and non-profits. Hundreds of gallons of chili, live music and cool refreshments: C'mon down to the BWL Chili Cook-off!



Spicy night: The 14th annual BWL Chili Cook-off turns up the heat on June 5.

## BWL honored for tree stewardship; 'tapping team' wins state title

The Lansing Board of Water & Light has been honored by the national Arbor Day Foundation for its ongoing programs to encourage proper tree growth and tree planting.

The BWL was recently awarded the foundation's Tree Line USA Utility designation for tree stewardship.

"For many years, Lansing has been known as the 'City of Trees,'" said BWL General Manager J. Peter Lark. "In keeping with that designation, the BWL has an ongoing commitment to promote the proper planting of trees in our community, and to perform tree maintenance around power lines that adheres to the industry's best practices."



J. Peter Lark,  
General Manager

In the past three years, the BWL has given more than 6,000 trees to customers.

Separately, a BWL team recently placed first in statewide pipe-tapping competition. The BWL team is eligible for the national finals. The competition, sponsored by the American Water Works Association, is a timed event that involves tapping into a cement-lined iron pipe that holds pressurized water. The entire pipe-tapping procedure is done entirely with hand tools and muscle power.

The BWL's operates 784 miles of water mains, which deliver about 23 million gallons of clean drinking water every day to more than 54,000 customers.



## YES! I WANT TO HELP NEEDY FAMILIES

Pennies for Power helps provide shut-off protection for local families that are struggling to make ends meet. Help out by mailing this coupon back to us with your utility payment.

- Round my utility bill each month to the nearest dollar and contribute the difference to Pennies for Power
- Please add \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my bill each month as a contribution to Pennies for Power
- Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my one-time contribution to Pennies for Power

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

BWL Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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