



## APRIL 1—APRIL 30 ¢ENTS for ST. SUSAN FOOD DRIVE OFF TO GREAT START!

The 4th Annual “¢ents for St. Susan” Food Drive got off to a great start April 3 at Farm Fresh Foods where drive sponsors raised \$451.31 in hot dog sales and donations! Thanks to Steve Senske and Dave Waller of Farm Fresh Foods for hosting the exciting first event of the month-long drive. Donors also filled a van with redeemable bottles and cans.

The sponsors listed to the left have set their goal for the drive to collect \$7,500 in cash and 500 pounds of food in this the 20th anniversary year of the St. Susan Center, the local soup kitchen.

There are many ways to participate in the drive. Food donations, especially canned meats, peanut butter and dry cereal, can be dropped off at the BPU Customer Service at 92 Steele Street from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. In addition, the Drive sponsors are soliciting your redeemable cans and bottles which may be taken to the utility offices. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted. Checks should be made out to St. Susan’s and can be sent with your utility payments or dropped off at the offices as well.

Sponsors will repeat their bottle and can collection day and hot dog roast at the Foote Avenue Quality Markets on Saturday, April 24 from 10 am to 2 pm. Any time you take your bottles and cans to Quality Markets for redemption, you may donate the refund slip to benefit St. Susan by depositing the slip in the canister at the Customer Service Desk.

Friendly’s Restaurant will donate 10% of the proceeds from its food sales between 4 pm and 8 pm on Thursday, April 22 to the St. Susan Food Drive. Plan to take your whole family for dinner on the 22nd and help St. Susan’s at the same time.

Large donation canisters, marked with the colorful logos of the participating sponsors, have been placed in many restaurants, stores and other

businesses throughout the community to make it easy for you to drop in your spare change. A nutritious meal can be served at the Center for only 80¢.

The Center, which opened February 1, 1984, was made possible by a \$10,000 gift to local clergy by the parents of a young lady named Susan who died as a result of an accidental injury. Twenty years later, more than 935,000 meals have been served to Jamestown’s neediest. In 2003, St. Susan Center served 62,991 meals—6% more than in 2002. This in the face of a 6% decrease in funding.

St. Susan Center is NOT subsidized by federal or state monies. In addition to a daily meal, the Center occasionally provides groceries for families struggling to make ends meet.

## **REPORT FAULTS INDUSTRY TREE-TRIMMING PRACTICES, SAYS BLACKOUT COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED**

*Reprinted from PUBLIC POWER WEEKLY, March 8, 2004*

More stringent vegetation management systems would have prevented the Aug. 14 blackout in the Northeast, but the tree-trimming practices of First Energy, Cinergy and American Electric Power are not substandard within the industry, says a new report to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission.

A document review and field investigations suggest that four line outages that triggered the blackout last August were caused by conflicts between high-voltage transmission lines and vegetation, said CN Utility Consulting, the company that prepared the report for FERC. “Had all these specific trees been pruned or removed prior to these outages, the blackout most likely would not have occurred,” the company said.

The consultant recommended that the three investor-owned utilities whose line failures led to the Aug. 14 outage develop best management practices for vegetation management. The company also called for establishment of industry-wide vegetation management standards that are measurable and enforceable. Vegetation management programs are always a prime target for short-term budget cuts, but perceived savings often lead to exponentially higher costs in the future, the report said. Utilities also face the challenge of bearing responsibility for keeping tree limbs and other plant growth clear of power lines, without always having the

right to perform the work. Tree-trimming work near one line implicated in the August blackout was halted by a landowner, the report noted.

The government of New Zealand has in the last few months instituted a controversial new program requiring owners of vegetation to beat the cost of keeping trees away from power lines, the report said.

The consultant recommended the utilities consider getting involved in the National Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Line USA program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. The two programs are baseline utility vegetation management programs, the company said.

Careful planning about the kind of trees or shrubs planted near power lines could save hundreds of millions of dollars annually in avoided power outages, the report said.

(The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities has recently carried out an aggressive tree trimming program with the cooperation of the City of Jamestown Parks Department. From July, 2001, when the program began, through December, 2003, the utility has spent \$859,250 to clear power lines of tree limbs and shrubbery and remove dead trees. The Parks Department has a number of trees that they recommend to replace those that are removed.)

## SPRING WATER MAIN FLUSHING BEGINS APRIL 24

**WEATHER PERMITTING**, the Water Division of the BPU has scheduled spring flushing of the water mains to begin Saturday night, April 24 at 9:00 PM in the Village of Falconer. The Village will have its mains cleaned all night Saturday and continue Sunday until completed, then Sunday evening, flushing will begin in the north side neighborhoods of Jamestown.

Crews will work every night, Sunday through Thursday, from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM. **THERE WILL BE NO WATER MAIN FLUSHING ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NIGHTS.**

Water crews will flush Jamestown's north side and all of the downtown business district first, then proceed to the west side of town, including West Ellicott and Celoron. Coming back into the city, crews will then move through the southwest quadrant of the city towards Foote Avenue, followed by the Neighborhoods east of Foote Avenue, including the English Hill reservoir.

The flushing procedure is expected to take three to four weeks to complete. Each day, the area that will be flushed that night will be announced in the media to remind residents. The process is expected to cause roily water in the immediate vicinity of the flushing and in some instances, it will affect larger areas. Residents should stock a 2 day supply of water for drinking and cooking before flushing begins in their immediate area. Residents should also take care

not to draw the roily water into hot water tanks, heating systems and clothes and dishwashers.

A number of commercial rust and stain removers are available at local supermarkets should residents accidentally wash their clothes in the roily water.

Flushing of the water mains occurs each spring and fall in our community and is accomplished by systematically opening hydrants and allowing water to run full force, flushing out sediment and minerals that have settled in the main. In addition to the cleansing, this also allows the utility to achieve greater flows through its mains. Flushing provides a good opportunity for operators to perform valve and hydrant inspections for optimal fire protection as well.

The alternative to flushing would be the addition of rust-inhibiting chemicals to the water. The BPU has made a conscious decision NOT to add these chemicals as they would affect other water qualities such as taste, smell, and mouth feel and, it would increase water distribution costs.

## JAMESTOWN TIRE AMNESTY DAY JUNE 5

**Tire Amnesty Day will be held from 9 AM to 1 PM, Saturday, June 5 at the Fluvanna Avenue Waste Site. Residents are limited to 4 tires FREE per household. There will be a charge of \$1.00 per tire for each tire over the first four.**



### STORM SEASON NEARING

As spring nears, ice is melting off roofs and bringing down power lines. In addition, temperatures are swinging from the

30's to the near 60's which makes for thunderstorms to appear out of seemingly no where and cause disruptions in power.

**Be safe—remember NEVER touch downed power lines! Let the professionals at the BPU worry about it. Call 661-1640 anytime of day or night, any day of the week to report problems with your power, water or sewer lines.**

**When you know a storm is coming, unplug your valuable electronic equipment to avoid any problems resulting from lightning strikes or power surges and always have your battery-powered radio and flashlight ready for emergencies.**

## SPRING CLEANUP May 2-14

If your garbage is normally picked up on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, your spring cleanup week is May 2nd. If your garbage pickup is on Thursday or Friday, your spring cleanup week is May 9.

Please place your items curbside **NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 PM** the night before your scheduled pickup.

Items that are acceptable include anything that would normally go to the landfill: toys, dishes, clothes, household computers, old luggage, carpet remnants (cut in pieces that can easily be handled by one person); PORTABLE TVs, small appliances such as toaster ovens, microwaves, etc.; and lawn furniture.

Please place items in plastic bags if possible—**NOT CARDBOARD.**

Please **DO NOT** put metal or wood at the curb; metal should be taken to the landfill and wood to the yard waste site for recycling.

Arrangements for pickup of large items such as mattresses, couches, refrigerators and other items weighing more than 40 pounds may be made by calling 661-1651.

QUESTIONS???? Call 661-1651 for more information

## FLUVANNA AVE. YARD WASTE SITE OPENING DATES

The Fluvanna Avenue Yard Waste Site will open for the season Saturday, April 17. Hours will be from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Site will open on Wednesdays beginning May 19 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Maintained by the Board of Public Utilities to receive yard waste from area residents, the site can be used to dump brush, tree limbs and unpainted wood waste that can be ground to mulch. The mulch is available for free to local residents, who may take what they need in their own containers.

The Sanitation Department of the BPU maintains a garbage truck on the premises as well to receive weekly garbage and recyclables from those who may have been on vacation at the time of their normal pickup.

Huge brown Kraft bags are available at the BPU at a cost of 4/ \$10. Residents may fill the bags with yard waste and call the BPU at 661-1651 BEFORE 4:00PM on Monday for pickup curbside on Tuesdays.

## TO REACH THE BPU

**Dial 661-1660—if you know the extension of the person you wish to speak to dial it immediately or spell the last name and first name of the person you wish to reach and press the # key.**

Otherwise:

Press 1 for the Garbage Hotline

2 for Customer Service

3 for the BPU Trouble number. (The Trouble Number may also be reached directly by dialing 661-1640.) In either case, then...

Press 1 to report an electric outage or problem;

2 to report a street light problem;

3 to report a tree limb problem;

4 to report a water problem;

5 to report a wastewater problem;

9 to replay the list of options.

When reporting street light or tree limb problems, leave a detailed message including your name, address and telephone number.

## THE BPU IS NOW ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR ITS

### CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

The CAP program will help qualifying residential customers as soon as sufficient funds have accumulated. Add your donation to the amount of your monthly bill or, if you are on Balanced Billing or Electronic Pay, a separate check made out to BPU CAP (Customer Assistance Program) will be most gratefully appreciated.

**You MUST be sure to check the CAP donation box on your bill stub in order for your donation to be credited. Otherwise, excess funds submitted must be credited to your bill.**

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, April 29, 2004

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

BPU BUSINESS OFFICE

92 Steele Street

Everyone Welcome

Drop in or call 661-1666 for appointment



## BPU BALANCED BILLING

Call 661-1660 to join other BPU customers who have signed up for Balanced Billing to make your bill paying more convenient.

Pay the same amount monthly for 11 months and true-up the 12th month. It may be just what you're looking for to make your bill paying more predictable than the weather.

**WATCH FOR APRIL FLUSHING ANNOUNCEMENTS in THE NEWSPAPER, on CABLE TV, on THE RADIO AND ON THE WEBSITE, [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com).**