

**CAP Sponsor of the Month!**

**BPU and TitanX Sign Flex-Rate Agreement**



The Customer Assistance Program (CAP) Fund is here to assist customers who experience emergencies that prevent them from paying their utility bills. Sudden job loss and unexpected medical bills are examples of an emergency of this nature. To qualify for CAP Fund help, a customer must receive no form of public assistance.

The CAP Fund may supply up to \$150 a year customers in such situations on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications are available at the Salvation Army, Brooklyn Square, and at BPU Customer Service.

"Neighbors" who would like to contribute to the CAP Fund, may do so at BPU Customer Service and through the mail with bill payments. Customers may "round up" their bill payments to benefit the CAP Fund.

Donors of \$250 or more to the CAP Fund are eligible to appear in one of our customer newsletters as a "CAP Sponsor of the Month." The monthly sponsor or sponsors will be recognized in one customer newsletter by the printing of a logo in our newsletter which circulates to 20,000 households. The logo will appear in a 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 inch space. For more information about CAP Sponsor of the Month, contact Becky Robbins, BPU Communications Coordinator, at 661-1666.

**December Solid Waste News**



The BPU Solid Waste Division will mail its 2011 recycling schedule in December, in place of the regular monthly newsletter.

The calendar also will be posted in English and Spanish on the utility's website at [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com) and may be requested in the BPU Customer Service Office or by calling the Garbage Hotline at 661-1651.

Normally, the Solid Waste Division provides a sanitation truck and a recycling truck at BPU Customer Service to collect excess cardboard resulting from the holidays. **This year, however, regular cardboard recycling takes place the week following Christmas, so customers are advised instead to recycle their cardboard on their normal garbage and recycling days.**

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and local employer TitanX recently signed a "Flex Rate Agreement" to lower the company's energy ex-



penses. The four-year rate plan took effect on November 1, 2010.

The BPU's Flex Rate Program is an economic development tool used by the utility to assist area companies by slightly reducing electric costs, in exchange for a manufacturer's pledge to invest in its local facility.

"TitanX is owned by EQT, a private equity fund headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden," said BPU General Manager David Leathers. "The BPU's Flex Rate Program helps to preserve the economic well-being of TitanX, the BPU and our customers. TitanX is a major electricity customer and we need to do what we can to maintain its stability in our region."

President of TitanX North America Matt Moore stated, "TitanX is pleased to participate in the Jamestown BPU flex-rate program. Western New York is a difficult environment in which to operate a manufacturing business. Anything that can be done to help us become more competitive is good for our employees and the community."

"The BPU has developed into a good working partner to help business in this area," added TitanX Vice President of Human Resources Andy Johnson. "I believe that this cooperation is one of the reasons we are seeing an increase in manufacturing jobs in this community."

TitanX is an independent local group focused on the design, manufacture and sale of engine cooling components and modules for medium and heavy duty trucks, buses and off-road applications. The company's roots in Jamestown reach back to 1914 when Gabrielson Manufacturing was established by Oscar Lenna. A machine shop, Gabrielson products included automotive radiators, washing machines and metal furniture. In 1947, the company

changed its name to Blackstone Corporation. Blackstone built engine cooling products and expanded into the Canadian, Mexican and Swedish mar-

kets.

In 1989, Valeo, a Paris-based automotive parts manufacturer, purchased Blackstone and all Blackstone sites assumed the Valeo name. The company continued to build engine cooling products with more focus at the Jamestown facility on the medium and heavy truck market as well as buses and special applications. In 2008, Valeo sold the Jamestown plant and two related Valeo operations in Sweden to EQT. The new operation was named TitanX.

TitanX currently employs a total of 339 people, increasing from 237 employees in 2009. The company credits the rise in employment to the launch of a new customer product line, Navistar, and the investment of more than \$4 million in new equipment.

Jamestown TitanX provides everything from research and development, wind tunnel testing, to proto-type development and manufacturing of the final design for the customers.

Commenting on the Flex Rate Agreement with TitanX, BPU Board Chair John Zabrodsky stated, "TitanX is a valuable member of our community's industrial base. We are pleased that the flex rate tariff agreement can be utilized in this way to contribute to the positive economic health of our region."

"TitanX, through its longtime history in our City, has been an important area employer," said BPU Board President and Jamestown Mayor Sam Teresi. "The BPU is grateful that TitanX will continue to invest in its facility here, assuring jobs and participating as a vital BPU customer and strong contributor to the life of our local economy."

**Visit our website:**  
[www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com)



## No Rate Increase in 2011 for Solid Waste Customers

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) voted in October to approve the 2011 Solid Waste budget with no rate increase in the coming year.

BPU General Manager David Leathers noted that a slight increase in customers and strong financial controls permitted the division to hold the Solid Waste rate at \$12.10 per month.

"This is a significant reduction from the planned increase included in last year's five-year plan," said Leathers. "Managers and employees of the Solid Waste Division worked hard to hold the line on expenses and to increase customer numbers. We are pleased by the success of these efforts."

Operating expenses are anticipated to increase by \$10,000 compared to the 2010 budget. Contributions to the New York State Retirement System are expected to increase by \$11,000 in 2011. Labor costs are projected to increase by \$16,000; landfill tipping fees by \$16,000; truck and building repairs by \$11,000 and administrative costs by \$20,000.

Vehicle repairs continue to be a major concern which staff is attempting to contain by updating the fleet. The tentative five-year capital budget plan includes money to continue the vehicle replacement plan with funding for two new recycling trucks in 2012. Included in the budget for the coming year is funding for a concrete floor in the garage addition which was built in 2009. The Board approves only the one-year budget for 2011 and not the five-year outlook.

### The FAC: What Is It? How Will It Affect Your Electric Bill



Electric bills may vary significantly each month, and are affected by weather, time of year (more dark hours in winter months), days in the billing cycle and other factors. Your bill is for service you already have used.

The Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC) is the third charge on your electric bill after the *Basic Service Charge* and the *Energy Charge*. The FAC represents the cost of our Niagara hydropower, the cost to transport the hydropower to Jamestown by National Grid, the charges by the New York System Independent Operator (NYISO) and the cost of the coal or gas needed to make electricity for our customer territory at the Jamestown plant. The FAC rises with the price of coal, gas and hydropower; and with fees charged to the BPU by NYISO and National Grid.

Similar to past years, the FAC will be higher during the winter months due to the increased use of electricity by our customers. We will need to use more coal or natural gas or to purchase more electricity to supply the increased energy. Saving electricity is a must! For information about energy efficiency programs, call Dan Reynolds, 661-1646 or check on [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com)

## BPU Participates in Chautauqua County Energy Conference

The BPU and its employees participated in the third Chautauqua County Energy Conference, held October 22-23 at the Chautauqua Suites Conference Center in Mayville. The conference was organized by the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency.

As part of the BPU's sponsorship of the event, BPU Energy Efficiency Coordinator Dan Reynolds presented a program about efficiencies in commercial lighting and motors. Reynolds also participated in a panel with National Fuel representatives concerning utility energy efficiency programs, while Electric and Gas Resource Manager Dave Gustafson moderated.

An exhibit featuring the five divisions of the BPU, staffed by volunteer employees of the utility, was part of the conference. The BPU exhibit focused on the electric efficiency programs of the utility, recycling, the waste water treatment plant, district heating and chilling and the water division.

## Dishwasher Blues: Dishwasher Soap Manufacturers Required to Drop Phosphates, Resulting in White Residue on Dishes



BPU water customers who use dishwashers may notice a recent change: white streaking or residue on glasses after washing. This change has prompted customers to wonder if the BPU has done something different to our water. Our BPU water remains the same!

According to the *New York Times*, dishwasher soap manufacturers, responding to laws that went into effect in almost 20 states in July, have been forced to reduce or eliminate what had been a crucial ingredient, phosphates.

Phosphates help prevent spotting of dishes in the wash cycle by suspending particles so they do not stick to dishes and softening water to allow suds to form. Unfortunately, according to the *Times*, phosphates also end up in lakes and reservoirs, stimulating

the growth of algae that deprives other plants and fish of oxygen.

BPU customers should be aware of the potential problem and contact dishwasher manufacturers or sources such as [Consumer Reports.org](http://ConsumerReports.org) for suggestions of how to improve the situation. *Consumer Reports.org* states that manufacturers of the soap are working to develop non-phosphate soaps that do a better cleaning job than what is available currently.

Water systems in New York State are required to report annually to customers about the quality of their water. Entitled the "Consumer Confidence Report," (CCR) the publication is distributed each May to BPU customers in place of the monthly newsletter. The CCR also may be found on our website at [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com).

## BPU's Residential Energy Efficiency Programs Continue into 2011

**ENERGY STAR rebates** will be available to BPU customers in 2011, with one change. Entry doors and windows have been removed from this program for 2011, but remain on the rebate list until the end of 2010. Instead, BPU rebates on entry doors and windows are available through the utility's Home Energy Audit Program that continues into next year. ENERGY STAR rebates in 2011 are available on the purchase of refrigerators, clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, window air and central air conditioning units and hvac heat pumps.

**Home Energy Audits and Weatherization Rebates** continue in 2011. The BPU subsidizes the \$300 audit with \$200, while the customer pays \$100. The customer must own the home to be audited. The audit must be performed by a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified auditor in order to qualify for any rebates in this program. A list of these auditors is available by calling BPU Energy Efficiency Coordinator Dan Reynolds.

Rebates will cover 25% of the cost of the weatherization improvements made as a result of the audit, up to \$1,000. New in 2011: rebates for those who have heated with electricity for at least three years receive 50% of the cost of the weatherization improvements up to a \$2,000 limit. For details on these programs, contact Reynolds: 661-1646 or [dreynolds@jamestownbpu.com](mailto:dreynolds@jamestownbpu.com).