

Anonymous Donor to the Johnson/BPU Good Neighbor Fund Honors Military Veterans

The Johnson/BPU Good Neighbor Fund is helping more people than ever, thanks to donors to the fund.

This month, we thank a generous, anonymous donor as our Good Neighbor of the Month for donating to this vital cause. This donor honors Military Veterans.

Sometimes customers who normally pay their BPU bills run into problems that prevent them from doing so for several months. If they do not receive government help for utilities and normally pay their bills, they can obtain help by contacting the Salvation Army in Jamestown to complete a quick and easy application. Call (716)664-4108 and ask to speak with someone about the Johnson BPU Good Neighbor Fund.

Customers also may donate at www.jamestownbpu.com when paying online or by writing a check to the Johnson/BPU Good Neighbor Fund when paying by mail or inside the Customer Service Office.

Interested in donating as a Good Neighbor of the Month? Contact Becky Robbins at (716)661-1680 or by email: brobbins@jamestownbpu.com.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Selects BPU Microgrid Project for \$17,377,945 in Funding

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected the Jamestown BPU to receive \$17,377,945 to enhance the power grid's ability to deliver affordable, clean energy to American communities across New York State. The funds will advance the "Jamestown Community Microgrid Project," with the BPU providing a \$5,792,648 match, to deploy a microgrid, electric vehicle charging, battery storage and replacement of underground cabling.

The funds are part of the DOE's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program, which seeks to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change. The GRIP program leverages federal and private investments to ensure that communities throughout the nation have a reliable grid that's prepared for extreme weather while also delivering affordable clean energy and creating robust local opportunities for economic investment and jobs. The selection was announced by DOE Energy Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm and later by Senator Charles Schumer.

The BPU works hard to provide dependable utilities at an affordable price for customers. This Microgrid Project will create a significant upgrade to its electrical system, to further enhance consistency and durability.

The Jamestown BPU microgrid involves utilizing existing power generation equipment to power a strong network of underground electric distribution circuitry to ensure a high plane of utility service reliability and resiliency in the core of downtown Jamestown, independent of the regional system. The microgrid will ensure that energy will be delivered to public services, the hospital, designated emergency shelters, schools and other businesses as well as to make certain that electric vehicles could be charged during an emergency.

The core area of downtown Jamestown either will remain in electrical and thermal service or experience only a brief outage in a disruptive event if the microgrid is in place. The microgrid will enable most of the community's first responders and critical services to operate more efficiently in case of a major interruption of service during a disastrous event. These organizations will include the Jamestown Police Department, the Jamestown Fire Department, the Jamestown Department of Public Works, the BPU Electric and Water Resources Divisions, Alstar EMS Ambulance Service, UPMC Chautauqua Hospital, the urgent care medical facility and several large community buildings that could host shelters in case of a prolonged emergency event.

The proposed microgrid system would take advantage of the BPU's existing gas turbine, its network of underground circuits, the district heating system and the addition of a black start battery storage system.

BPU General Manager David L. Leathers expressed thanks to the BPU team and to members of the community who assisted in the grant application by submitting favorable public comments in support of the funding selection process. He noted that the award negotiation process is expected to take approximately 120 days before commencement of the project may occur and follow a five-year project timeline.

"We are extremely grateful to the Department of Energy for this remarkable award," continued Leathers. "Federal funding of our microgrid project allows us the opportunity to deliver reliable and resilient electricity in the case of a widespread outage, directly impacting our customers and community. We look forward to working with the DOE to finalize this work."

"For over 100 years, the BPU has been at the forefront of providing resilient, reliable electricity to residents of our city—even in the most extreme weather events," stated Jamestown City Mayor and BPU Board President Eddie Sundquist. "With this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law announcement and the creation of the Jamestown Community Microgrid Project through a \$17 million investment, we will continue that tradition and have never been more equipped to limit outages and ensure that our public services continue running smoothly in times of crisis."

"Not only will the microgrid support our city and enable life-saving energy to be accessed during the times it is needed most, it will be developed entirely by our local workforce," said the Mayor. "Our people are our greatest asset and with the BPU commitment to hire 100% unionized labor, every dollar from the grant will remain within this community. We thank the DOE, the BPU and Senator Schumer for their continued belief and tireless advocacy for this investment."

BPU Board Chair Gregory C. Anderson added, "This DOE funding will improve our ability to provide services to the downtown corridor, should a disastrous electric outage occur in Jamestown. We are gratified by this support."



For the fifth year in a row, the BPU Health & Wellness Program is recognized as one of the top 100 companies' health & wellness programs nationally. The BPU placed as #65 out of 100 U.S. employers.

The Healthiest Employers assessment is scored & powered by Springbuk, a health intelligence platform. The assessment is comprised of six categories of yes/no, multiple choice & short answer questions. To qualify for the national award, applicants are scored based on an additional section called the Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America, which scores the applicant's essays & asks additional questions related to chronic conditions and workplace health.

In late summer, the BPU Health and Wellness Program was named number 1 for small size companies in the Healthiest Employers of Western New York contest, competing with seven other companies.

Help the BPU “Check Your Pipes!”

Both the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation require all water utilities to complete an inventory of water service line materials in their territories.

The deadline to achieve this inventory of 16,000 water lines in our area is fall, 2024.

The BPU could use your help to identify the water service line entering your home or business.

Water lines entering buildings are made of copper, iron, lead or plastic.

Watch our video that shows you how to identify the incoming water line and its material at <https://bit.ly/checkpipes>. The video explains how to find the pipe, take the picture we need and how to submit the picture online.

If the BPU cannot identify water lines through online survey forms, the utility will set up appointments with customers to verify water service line material at the convenience of the customer.

Some employees have knocked on doors to ask for entrance to identify the water line. These employees carry BPU identification and drive BPU vehicles. They also bring door tags including a phone number to make an appointment if a customer feels uncomfortable admitting an employee without advance notice.

As the video indicates, the first step in identifying pipe material is to locate your water meter, usually found in your basement, a crawl

space or garage. Once you locate the meter, we hope you can identify the material of the water pipe coming through the foundation or floor leading up to the water meter and send a picture.

Take a copper penny to scratch the pipe. If the scraped area is copper in color, as the penny, the service line is copper. A magnet will not stick to copper.

A galvanized iron pipe is dull and silver-grey in color. A magnet sticks to an iron service line.

A lead pipe is dull and silver-grey and is easily scratched with a coin. A magnet will not stick to lead.

Plastic is easy to identify. A magnet will not stick to plastic and scratching plastic with a penny will

not identify this pipe. Plastic pipes normally are labeled and are blue or white in color.

Take a picture of your water pipe where it enters the building. Submit it online using this link:

www.jamestownbpu.com/395/Check-Your-Pipes or take a picture of this QR code with your cell phone.

Complete the small survey that requests your name, address, contact information, water service material and a photograph.

If you have questions, please call our BPU Water Department at 716-661-1613.



Are You a Loyal BPU Recycler Leaving Town for 2+ Months?



If you're a loyal BPU recycler vacationing away from home for more than two billing periods, you can maintain your recycling credit while you are out-of-town.

Sign into “My Account” by clicking on the blue button on our homepage: www.jamestownbpu.com and connect to “forms” under the home icon on the left side of the page. Complete the form and conveniently submit it online, without having to come to the utility office.

Other ways to find the form:

- Click on Home, then Seasonal Service on our website: www.jamestownbpu.com
- Call Customer Service 716-661-1660 or the Garbage Hotline 716-661-1651 and ask that a form be mailed to you.
- Stop at Customer Service, 92 Steele Street, and ask for the form. Questions? Call the Garbage Hotline number listed above.

Be in the Know!
Click on the blue Notify Me button

on our www.jamestownbpu.com homepage to sign up for BPU alerts.

You can select water events, bid announcements, electric outages, the recyclable of the week & more!
You'll receive text or email alerts!

Watch Out for Sewer Back-ups



Never pour fats, oils or grease (FOG) down any drain in your home or building.

Wipe out greasy plates, pots & pans with paper towels before rinsing in the sink. Place the paper towels in the garbage.

You may think that running hot water down a drain will break up the FOG, but that isn't true. The FOG eventually will cool, harden & clog your pipes and drains, causing a back-up of wastewater into your home or facility. Back-ups create a mess to clean and cause a terrible smell.

Sometimes tree roots also begin to grow in drain pipes, getting through even small cracks in the line. Other plant roots also can enter the lines & clog pipes, causing sewer back-ups.

If a back-up happens to you, first contact the BPU 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 716-661-1660 during business hours or 716-661-1640 after hours.

Our crews will come to clear the BPU side of the line & advise if you need a plumber.

Tips to Get Your Home Ready for Winter

- Set your programmable thermostat for winter. ENERGY STAR models are available.
- Create a clear area around heat registers by moving furniture, rugs and drapes. Vacuum dust from the registers.
- Check windows & doors for drafts. Install weather stripping and caulk where needed.
- Add insulation to your attic and walls if necessary. Check out the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) website to see if NYSERDA offers insulation programs to New Yorkers. NYSERDA also offers a home energy audit program for residents based on income levels.
- Shut off valves to outdoor faucets. Open spigots. Drain and store hoses.
- Be sure furnace intakes and outputs are clear & keep snow away from them.
- Trim back bushes and trees around windows to take advantage of sunny days when sunlight warms your home through the windows.
- Clear downspouts and gutters.
- Have your heating equipment (furnace, boiler) serviced and inspected annually.
- If you have a fireplace and chimney, have them inspected to prevent water from leaking in. A chimney cap will keep out heat-seeking animals and birds.

