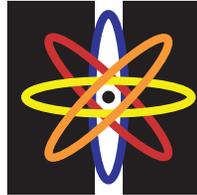


November 2018



**HARLAN  
MUNICIPAL  
UTILITIES**

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ELECTRIC GAS  
WATER**



The holiday season is coming soon and with it, HMU and City crews will decorate the town. Here are some past pictures of Christmas decorations in Harlan.



Downtown Harlan in the later 1970s.



2002: Dave Goede stringing lights downtown.



**THE BEST LIGHTED  
CITY IN IOWA**



THE ABOVE PICTURE shows the Harlan City Courthouse as it appeared at night during the Christmas season. The request for all the Christmas decorations was furnished first by the City Light Commission. The picture was a time exposure taken by Chris Zimmerman.

Courthouse  
circa 1939



2004: Frosty & Santa at 12th and Chatburn



2018: Dan Render hanging decorations

## Quick Tips

### HOLIDAY HOURS

Please note that the HMU office will be closed Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving. All emergency calls will be taken at 755-5182.

### GREAT GIFT IDEA

Certificates toward electric, gas, water or telecom make great gifts for the 'hard to buy for' person or anonymous gifts for a giving tree. See one of our CSRs to purchase a certificate.

### LOCAL EVENTS

Watch HCSO winter sports and holiday concerts on HLTV Channel 15.

### BINGE WATCHERS

A whole home DVR is great for winter binge watching. Record away and watch later from any room in the home.



# Add a name to your account

It's common to only have one name on an account. Sometimes the account is in the name of only one spouse. Sometimes, only one person lives in the dwelling and receives service. Yet, there are numerous reasons to have more than one name on an account:

1. If someone would ever need to make inquiries on your account. If, for some reason, you would need to have another person come to HMU and ask how much is left on your bill, we would not be able to tell them as they are not listed on your account. This scenario is typical of an adult child acting on the behalf of a parent who may be temporarily incapacitated.
2. If you would ever need someone to make decisions on the account. If you become infirm or are out of the area someone could act on your behalf to change, suspend or cancel services. This is not uncommon with customers that leave Harlan during the winter.
3. In case of death. We need to have the name of a living person listed on the account to help prevent fraud or theft. We highly recommend couples have both names listed on the account as protection against the passing of one or the other. Having an adult child or estate executor listed on the account helps finalize any bills and close an account.
4. For emergency contact. If we have a utility emergency and cannot reach you, it could be helpful to have a second name on the account to prevent or mitigate any property damage.
5. To limit your liability. In a roommate or temporary shared living quarters situation, it may be best to have more than one name on the account to limit your personal responsibility for payment.

Adding a name to an account does not necessarily make someone liable for payment. We have accounts where a second person has INQUIRY only ability meaning they can check on an outstanding balance but cannot make changes to the account or assume financial responsibility for the account. There are many different scenarios and reasons to add a second name to your electric, gas, water or telecom account. Not all can be covered in this column. Check with us for details on what works for you but it's always in your best interest to add a second name to your account.



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of electric, gas, water  
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Follow us!



## Death from Carbon Monoxide (CO) is preventable



Carbon Monoxide detectors operate in one of three ways: with a biomimetic sensor, metal oxide semiconductor, or electrochemical sensor.

Biomimetic detectors use gels that change color after absorbing a certain amount of carbon monoxide - and then a sensor sounds an alarm. Metal oxide semiconductors

have silica chips that detect CO and send electrical signals to trigger an alarm. Electrochemical sensors are considered to be the best in the industry. They use electrodes in chemical solutions that sense changes in electrical currents when carbon monoxide is present, and they sound an alarm.

Placement of a CO detector is different than a smoke detector. Follow all manufacturer recommendations when installing a CO detector.