

Harlan's Premier Provider  
Electric, Gas, Water &  
Telecommunications  
2412 Southwest Ave | PO Box 71  
Harlan, IA 51537

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June 2022

*Regular Office Hours:*  
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM M-F

*Office Closings:*  
June 22 | 7:30 - 8:30 AM  
July 4 | Closed -  
Independence Day  
July 27 | 7:30 - 8:30 AM

## New Face at HMU

On May 12, 2022, the HMU Board of Trustees announced the hiring of Joseph "Joe" Rueschenberg, of Harlan, as its new CEO, effective, July 1, 2022. Joe, who is a Westphalia native and HCHS graduate holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University. Joe's three (3) year employment contract will start June 6, 2022, and expires, May 31, 2025. Board Chairperson, David Tyrrel, states, "The Board feels Joe will be an excellent fit at HMU. His engineering experience in water related matters will be beneficial to the challenges we currently face. He's been a long-term member of the community and familiar with Harlan. We think we've hit a home run."

Ken Weber, current CEO, announced his retirement earlier in the year as June 30, 2022. Ken would like to thank the Community, HMU Staff and the HMU Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve the City of Harlan and Harlan Municipal Utilities.

There will be an Ambassador Visit on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm to Congratulate both individuals.

## Summer Energy Saving Tips

- Use shades and blinds on south and west windows to block afternoon solar heat.
- Keep the air moving. Don't block vents with furniture or curtains.
- When possible, turn off the A/C and open doors and windows.
- Sometimes, opening windows on cool nights can increase air flow. But if it's humid, your cooling system may work harder the next day to remove all the moisture you let in the night before.
- Keep shrubs and ground cover away from your outside central air equipment.
- Have a professional A/C tune up every year or two to ensure your system works at peak efficiency.
- Replace filters regularly. Remember, keep the air moving. Blocked filters add to your cooling cost.
- Install ceiling fans or use box fans to circulate air.
- Check duct work for air leakage.

## Water Conservation Tips

- Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for full loads only.
- Don't leave the water running for rinsing dishes or while washing fruits or vegetables.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch helps slow the evaporation of moisture.
- Consider purchasing a rain barrel. These are a great way to catch excess rainwater that you can then use to water plants and complete outdoor cleaning tasks.
- Water plants with the water from your dehumidifier or air conditioner.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving and washing your hands. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water in which to rinse your razor. This can save 8 gallons per day. Instead of leaving the faucet running during the 20 seconds you should be lathering your hands for public health, tap it off with the top of your wrist – and do that every time! Since you wash your hands multiple times a day, you will save even more water than when you brush your teeth.

*Thank you to all our customers for helping with the Water Conservation efforts.*

*HMU is still in a Water Watch and has not had to advance to a Tier I Water Warning.*