



Upcoming Events

- 1st Monday of Month — Plan Commission 6:30 p.m.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday of Month — Village Board 7:00 p.m.
- December 24th & 25th — Village Hall Closed
- January 1st — Village Hall Closed

Please see the Meeting Calendar at [prairiedusac.net](http://prairiedusac.net) for village meetings and agendas.



**HOLIDAY TRASH**

**COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 recyclable/trash collection will be on Tuesday, December 24, 2019.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 recyclable/trash collection will be on Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

Property Tax Information

**When writing your check out make sure it matches the exact amount of the payment as printed on the tax bill.**

Property tax bills will be printed and mailed from the Sauk County Treasurer’s office sometime between the first and middle of December. The tax bills will be mailed to the name and address as listed on County records. Property Tax information will be available from the Sauk County website, [www.co.sauk.wi.us](http://www.co.sauk.wi.us), under the County Treasurer Department. The Village will not have tax bill information until the bills are printed and mailed by the County. In most cases, tax bills will be mailed by the County around the same time the Village receives the information.

First installment or entire tax bill must be paid on or before January 31, 2020, with payments made payable to the Village of Prairie du Sac. The Village does not accept credit card payments for taxes. Mailed payments must be postmarked on or before January 31, 2020 and mailed to the following address:

Village of Prairie du Sac  
335 Galena Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Second installment must be paid to the Sauk County Treasurer (**not the Village of Prairie du Sac**) on or before July 31, 2020 at the following address:

Sauk County Treasurer

Sauk County West Square Building, Room #148  
505 Broadway  
Baraboo, WI 53913

The Village of Prairie du Sac is not responsible for late second installment payments that are incorrectly delivered or paid to the Village of Prairie du Sac.

If you require a receipt of payment and are not paying in person, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope (this would include using the Village’s payment drop box). If your taxes are escrowed, it is your responsibility to make sure full payment is received by the due date. If you are **only paying the first installment** by January 31, 2020, you must make sure you **pay the full amount of the first installment**. If this payment is short, the entire tax owed will be considered delinquent and subject to interest penalty.

You may claim the lottery and gaming credit for 2019, payable in 2020, if on January 1, 2019 you were the owner of the property and used the property as your primary residence. You can have only one primary residence. The credit cannot be claimed on business property, rental units, land, garages or other properties that are not your primary residence, or by a non-Wisconsin resident. If you qualify, please review your tax bill to ensure you are receiving this credit.

Dog/cat licenses, utility and tax bill payments **cannot** be made with one check. Each must be paid with separate checks.

**Dog & Cat Licenses Expire on December 31, 2019**

All residents owning a dog or cat that is 5 months of age or older must have their pet licensed. The license year is January 1 through December 31. Send rabies vaccination certificate from veterinarian along with payment to the Village of Prairie du Sac. If not paying in person, a self-addressed stamped envelope must accompany payments for us to send the new tag and receipt. Fees: \$10 for each spayed/neutered pet; \$30 for each non-spayed/non-neutered pet. Failure to license \$100 fine plus court cost.





335 Galena Street  
 Prairie du Sac, WI 53578  
 (608) 643-2421  
 pdsutilities@wppienergy.org  
 www.prairiedusac.net

**After Hours Emergency Street  
 or Utility Condition**

Call (608) 643-3133

**Police, Ambulance or Fire  
 Emergencies**

Call 911

**Police Non-Emergency**

Call 1-800-377-1195



**KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.  
 CALL 811 OR CLICK  
 DIGGERSHOTLINE.COM  
 BEFORE YOU DIG.**



The Village encourages residents and businesses to sign up for the community information service designed to deliver important and timely information. This service delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community notifications by e-mail and text message. If you have not yet signed up to receive these messages, please visit [www.prairiedusac.net](http://www.prairiedusac.net) and click on the Nixle image.

**Garbage Collection Fees Increasing**

Previously much of the items recycled in America were sent to China. China would take "dirty" items even though they may have not been rinsed, still contained food, or were not properly separated. China has taken measures to clean up its own heavily polluted environment. This has resulted in China no longer taking much of the items meant for recycling from the United States due to their not being "clean". The result is the cost of handling recycling has gone from \$0 to \$60 or more a ton as the revenue from recycling has decreased. The increase cost to process items for recycling has led many cities in the U.S. to modify or cancel their recycling collection programs. Those that cancel are sending the items to landfills.

The Village of Prairie du Sac contracts with Tim's Trucking for the collection of garbage and recycling. Since April of this year, Tim's Trucking has attempted to absorb the increase costs for processing items for recycling hoping the situation would get better. It has not, it actually has gotten worse and costs are expected to continue to increase. Therefore,

Tim's Trucking has had to increase what it charges the village.

The increase has led to an increase in what the village charges residents and businesses. Starting December 15, 2019, the fees for garbage collection, which includes recycling, will increase. For residents, the monthly charge will increase by \$1.00 per month to \$10.85. Businesses will see their monthly fee increase by 10%. The increase will be seen on bills mailed out in February 2020.

While the village did not want to increase the fee, it had to in order to keep its recycling collection going. Even if the village ceased the recycling collection and sent the items to the landfill the costs of processing the garbage would have also went up resulting in the monthly fees increasing. Besides, sending the items to the landfill would not be a good choice for the environment. Please remember when recycling to remove caps from containers, rinse out containers, and do not mixed plastic or other materials with cardboard or paper.



**Avoid the "Second Shovel"**

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway only to have it plowed in when your local snowplow comes through? Clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below), giving the snow on the plow a place to go other than your driveway, should keep you from having to do the same job twice.



## Assistance from the PSC

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### How can the PSC help?

Prior to contacting the PSC, contact your utility company to try to resolve the problem. If you cannot resolve the problem with your utility company, you may contact the PSC Consumer Affairs Division at 608-266-2001, 1-800-225-7729, or on the web at:

<http://psc.wi.gov/consumerInfo/complaints/index-complaints.htm>

A staff member will obtain information from you and the utility company, and try to resolve the issue.

## Meter Readings

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### Meter Readings

If the utility cannot read your meter, you will get an estimated bill. To avoid estimated readings, you can read your own meter. The PSC requires utilities to read your meter at least once every six months and when there is a change of customer. You must allow these readings or your service can be disconnected.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is an independent state agency that oversees more than 1,100 Wisconsin public utilities that provide natural gas, electricity, heat, steam, water and telecommunication services.



### Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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P.O. Box 7854

Madison, WI 53707-7854

Telephone: 608-266-5481

Toll free: 888-816-3831

Consumer affairs: 608-266-2001 / 800-225-7729

TTY: 608-267-1479 / 800-251-8345

Fax: 608-266-3957

Website: <http://psc.wi.gov>

# Your Rights as a Residential Gas and Electric Utility Customer

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## Disconnections

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Utility services can be disconnected if you:

- Fail to pay your utility bill
- Fail to comply with a deferred payment agreement
- Tamper with your meter
- Fail to pay a deposit
- Have a safety hazard
- Live at an address where the prior customer failed to pay his or her utility bill and continues to reside at that address.
- Fail to provide utility access to your meter

A utility must send you a notice before service is disconnected unless the disconnection is due to a safety hazard or self-reconnection.

Reasons for the disconnection, when the disconnection can happen, and ways to contact the utility must be included in the notice. The dispute procedure must be printed on the disconnection notice. Both you and the utility company must make reasonable attempts to resolve the problem.

### Winter Disconnection Rules

If the utility service provides the primary heat source to your home, a utility cannot disconnect service from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Before winter, the utility must attempt to contact customers whose service was disconnected for non-payment. Utilities are also required to check the customer's well-being, attempt to negotiate payment plans, and inform the customer about any special assistance available to avoid disconnection.

## Deposits

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Utility companies may require a deposit for service to ensure payment. A standard deposit cannot exceed the sum of the two largest consecutive bills during the last twelve months. A deposit requested due to non-payment during the winter months cannot exceed the four highest consecutive bills during the last twelve months. The following rules apply to payment and refund of deposits:

- **Existing Residential Service:** A standard deposit can be requested if your service was disconnected during the last 12 months for nonpayment of an undisputed account or your initial application was falsified or incomplete. A winter non-payment deposit can be required if you had debt incurred during the winter that was 80 days or more past due and you had the ability to pay.
- **New Residential Service:** A deposit can be requested if you have an unpaid bill for the same type of service anywhere in Wisconsin during the last six years which remains undisputed. A deposit can also be required if there is good reason to believe that you do not intend to, or will be unable to pay your bills at the time payment is due.

For residential service, the deposit will be refunded, with interest, after 12 consecutive months of prompt payment. You do not have to post a deposit if you can document that your income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

## Installment Plans

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To manage high winter gas bills or high summer electric bills, ask your utility about budget payment plans. This allows you to average estimated annual use into even monthly payments. Every six months, your payment amount is readjusted to reflect your actual use. At the end of a budget year, your bill is adjusted to correct over-billing or under-billing.

You may use installment plans to pay what you owe your utility. They can be used for both current bills and overdue bills. A down payment and installment payments will be negotiated between you and your utility depending on your situation. If the agreed installment payments are not paid, the utility may disconnect your service.

If the disconnection will aggravate a medical or protective services emergency, the utility may delay service shut-off for up to 21 days. The utility may require documentation from a professional involved with the medical emergency or crisis.

### Moving?

If you are expecting to move to another location, contact your utility for an estimation of energy costs at the new location. They can provide you an average of how much energy was used or the largest and smallest bills in the last twelve months.