

Adopt A River Day

May 4th



Q: Does the BWL have energy-saving advice for lighting in big buildings, such as warehouses?
- D.G., Delta Township

A: Yes. Buildings with high ceilings -- usually 25 feet or higher -- often use a lighting system called "high bay lighting." Commercial storerooms and school gymnasiums use high bay lighting.

If you're considering an energy efficiency upgrade, consider this: Replacing standard 400-watt high intensity discharge (HID) style fixtures with multi-lamp fluorescent fixtures containing electronic ballasts can lower electric use by 30-50 percent.

To learn more about lowering your bills with high bay lighting financial incentives, call 877-NRG-LBWL (877-674-5295) or visit our Hometown Energy Savers® website at www.lbwl.com/EnergySavers.

Do you have a question for the Q Corner? Email us at sxs@lbwl.com, call (517) 702-6735 or fax us at (517) 702-6855.

Restored

BWL puts the finishing touches on historic depot

More than 100 years after it was built – and more than 20 year since it was open to the public – the historic Grand Trunk Western Railroad depot in Lansing's REO Town is getting a new lease on life.

As part of the BWL's project to build a \$182 million cogeneration plant and headquarters building, the nearby depot is being painstakingly restored to its former glory.

And it recently added a new chapter to its 110-year history. In January, the depot was the host site for Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's State of the City Address.



REO Town train depot circa 1940s



Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero (right) confers with BWL General Manager J. Peter Lark in the near fully restored Grand Trunk Western depot built in 1902. The depot served as the backdrop for Bernero's 2013 State of the City Address. The depot is on the same parcel of land where the BWL is building its cogeneration plant and headquarters project.

Everything from the interior woodwork and vaulted ceilings to the terra cotta roof tiles were either refurbished or replaced. Amazingly, the company that furnished the original roof tiles in the early 1900s is still in business, and supplied new tiles to replace old, broken ones.

There's good reason why the depot is on both the U.S. and Michigan Register of Historic Sites. The Tudor Revival-style structure was built adjacent to a factory constructed by auto pioneer Ransom E. Olds. REO Town gets its name from Olds' initials, and because REO trucks were once built in this Lansing neighborhood.

The depot also hosted a sitting U.S. president, Gerald R. Ford. In 1976 during a whistle stop campaign through Michigan, Ford stopped at the depot, made an election speech and then dined inside (after Grand Trunk Western closed the depot in 1971, it was reopened for several years as The Depot restaurant).

The past two decades have not been kind to this historic structure. It was boarded up for many years, and incurred significant water and weather damage.

But that's all changing. The building is being used as a training center for BWL employees who will run the new cogeneration plant when it comes online July 1. In succeeding months, the depot will serve as a meeting place for the BWL's governing Board of Commissioners and the REO Town neighborhood.

In short, this grand old structure will again be bustling with life, as it did for much of the 20th century.

Report Outages

Power or Streetlight
1-877-295-5001

Water Main Break
517-702-5490

SeeClickFix.com

Medical Alert Form

If in-home medical equipment depends on electricity or water, you probably should be on our medical priority list. Call (517) 702-6006, or go to www.lbwl.com and click on Medical Alert Form.



Seniors Shut-off Protection

If you are 65 or older, the BWL will not shut off your electricity during the heating season. Call (517) 702-6006.

Military Families

Families with active members of the U.S. Military are protected from shut-offs. For details, call (517) 702-6006.

Low-Income Families

You may qualify for a winter protection payment plan. Call (517) 702-6006.

Send your home a 'Valentine'

It's February. In addition to sending out valentines to loved ones, why not do something sweet for your home, like treating it to energy-saving improvements?

The BWL can help. Visit select Lansing-area retail stores to find rebates from BWL's Hometown Energy Savers® Program. Below is a list of products eligible for rebates. The rebates will help you save electricity where you use it the most: lighting, appliances, and heating and cooling. You'll love the savings, and so will your home.

Home Energy Rebates from Local Retailers		
ENERGY STAR® Lighting	Appliances	Heating & Cooling
CFLs – up to \$1.50 per bulb	Advanced power strip – \$10	Programmable thermostat – \$15
CFL indoor fixture – \$15	ENERGY STAR dehumidifier – \$15	High efficiency electric water heater – \$25
LED replacement bulb – up to \$10	ENERGY STAR room air conditioner – \$15	ENERGY STAR heat pump water heater – \$150
LED replacement down light fixture kit – \$20	ENERGY STAR refrigerator – \$25	
Ceiling fan with ENERGY STAR light kit – \$15	Advanced electric clothes dryer with moisture sensor – \$25	

To find a participating retailer, download rebate applications and view rebate requirements, visit lbwl.com/EnergySavers. For more information, call 800-573-3503.

Tips for winter energy savings

Here's a number worth remembering - 44.

As in: The average household spends 44 percent of its energy bill on heating and cooling.

Clearly, making home heating and cooling systems more efficient can significantly reduce energy costs. Here are six ways to achieve long-term savings:

1. Have your furnace checked every year by a professional to ensure it is operating correctly. Typically, this should be done prior to the heating and/or cooling season, but can be done at any time during the year.
2. Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
3. Install a programmable thermostat, which can save you more than \$100 a year. Programmable thermostats will automatically dial back the heat when you are away from home and automatically turn up the heat before you return.
4. Lower the temperature in your home by a couple of degrees. For example, lowering the thermostat from 70 degrees to 68 degrees saves about \$85 a year. Note: We urge elderly customers and customers with health issues to consult their doctors to see if lowering thermostats is advisable.
5. Keep the draperies and shades on the south side of your home open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter. Close them at night.
6. Fireplaces are notoriously inefficient heat sources. Why? Because air heated with your furnace goes right up the chimney. Be sure to keep the fireplace damper closed if there is no fire going.

As an incentive, BWL offers \$50 in cash to customers who get a central air conditioner tune-up done when their furnace is checked. We also offer a \$15 cash incentive if you purchase and install a programmable thermostat.

YES! I WANT TO HELP NEEDY FAMILIES

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Pennies for Power helps provide shut-off protection for local families that are struggling to make ends meet. Help out by mailing this coupon back to us with your utility payment.

- Round my utility bill each month to the nearest dollar and contribute the difference to Pennies for Power
- Please add \$ _____ to my bill each month as a contribution to Pennies for Power
- Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ as my one-time contribution to Pennies for Power

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

BWL Account Number: _____