



Call Before You Dig, Know What's Below

There could be many things below ground in your yard besides earth worms. It's also where utility lines are located, including the infrastructure for electricity, water, sewer, gas/ petroleum, and communications.

Before you begin any construction project (even small jobs like planting trees and shrubs), call 811 to get utility lines located and marked for free. Keep in mind that the depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, or even potentially result in fines and repair costs.

With one quick call to 811, all utilities in your area will be notified to come and mark the location of their lines. When you call, be prepared to pinpoint the location of your dig site, describe the type of work to be done, and provide your planned start date for the project. **Remember to call at least two business days before you dig.**



Large Print Bills Now Available

La Porte City Telephone Company has great news for customers who would like the print on their bills to be larger. Beginning this month, you can now request a large print bill. Your account information will be printed in a 16-point font, which is similar to a small headline in many newspapers. There is no extra charge for a large print bill and you may switch back to a regular bill at any time.

To begin receiving large print bills, call our office at 342-3369.



Lightning Season - Stay Safe During Spring Storms

Spring is here, and with it will undoubtedly come another wave of thunderstorms. Remember — a lightning bolt can carry billions of watts of electricity. If a strike occurs near your home, it can send a powerful surge that could damage your electronics and potentially injure you.

To help stay safe and protect your electronic investments, be sure to unplug your computers, televisions, modems, fax machines, VCRs, cable outlets, and telephones before bad weather hits, so you're not in contact with these items during the storm. In addition, avoid contact with metallic items and plumbing, including faucets and bathtubs, until the storm is over.

Of course, a storm can strike any time, and you may not be home to prepare adequately. With that in mind, it's a good idea to have a surge protector with a built-in phone line. It won't provide 100% protection, but it will help. And while you're at it, you may want to ask your insurance provider what's covered under your homeowner's policy in the event of storm damage.

For more tips on staying safe this season, and throughout the year, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation website at www.esfi.org.



Hop around the Internet Faster with High Speed Internet from La Porte City Telephone Co!

Ask us how.



Seeking new recipes!
 Receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed.
 Email your favorite recipes to
 lpctel@netins.net or mail them to:
 La Porte City Telephone Company
 PO Box 185, La Porte City, Iowa 50651

Recipe Corner

Best Carrot Cake

Yield: 1 (9-inch) 3-layer cake

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 2 cups all-purpose flour | 2 teaspoons vanilla extract |
| 2 teaspoons baking soda | 2 cups grated carrot |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 1 (8-ounce) can crushed
pineapple, drained |
| 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon | 1 (3 1/2-ounce) can flaked
coconut |
| 3 large eggs | 1 cup chopped pecans or
walnuts |
| 2 cups sugar | |
| 3/4 cup vegetable oil | |
| 3/4 cup buttermilk | |



Annie Gardner

Directions: Line 3 (9-inch) round cake pans with wax paper; lightly grease and flour wax paper. Set pans aside. Stir together first 4 ingredients. Beat eggs and next 4 ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Add flour mixture, beating at low speed until blended. Fold in carrot and next 3 ingredients. Pour batter into prepared cake pans. Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Drizzle Buttermilk Glaze evenly over layers; cool in pans on wire racks 15 minutes.

Buttermilk Glaze Ingredients:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup sugar | 1 tablespoon light
corn syrup |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/2 cup buttermilk | |
| 1/2 cup butter or margarine | |

Preparation: Bring first 5 ingredients to a boil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Boil, stirring often, 4 minutes. Remove from heat, and stir in vanilla. Remove from pans, and cool completely on wire racks.

Cream Cheese Frosting Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (3-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 3 cups sifted powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Preparation: Beat butter and cream cheese at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy. Add powdered sugar and vanilla; beat until smooth. Spread Cream Cheese Frosting between layers and on top and sides of cake.



INS Superior Student Nominate Someone You Know!

La Porte City Telephone Company and Iowa Network Services bring you the INS Superior Student of the Month program. This program recognizes students in grades 9 - 12 who have demonstrated excellence through their achievements in academics, arts, community, church, sports, political, club and/or entrepreneurial involvement. Or, they may have overcome a challenge that shows their strength and commitment to being a positive example for others. For complete program details and nomination instructions, visit www.INSSuperiorStudent.com.



La Porte City Telephone Company Named Business of the Year

The La Porte City Economic Development Commission presented La Porte City Telephone Company with the 2010 Business of the Year award.

Nominated businesses are rated on a number of criteria:

- Chamber member
- Community involvement
- Facade upkeep
- Staying power
- Use of local resources
- Future growth potential

Thank you for this honor. We are grateful to call this vivacious community "home"!

La Porte City Telephone Co. was a recipient because of the employees' volunteerism, dedication and participation in community events and organizations, and the company's proven leadership in the business community.

We're here when you need us.

306 Main Street
 P.O. Box 185
 La Porte City, Iowa 50651
 Monday - Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(319) 342-3369
 email: lpctel@netins.net

Internet Tech Support

800-205-1110
 Iowa Network Services
 SecureIT Tech Support
 877-373-3320

After Hours Repair

(319) 342-2213

Payments are due on the 20th of each month. Please include bill stub with your payment. For your convenience, La Porte City Telephone offers Automatic Bank Deduct. (Payments can be taken out of your checking or savings account.) There is a drop box in the front of the office.

