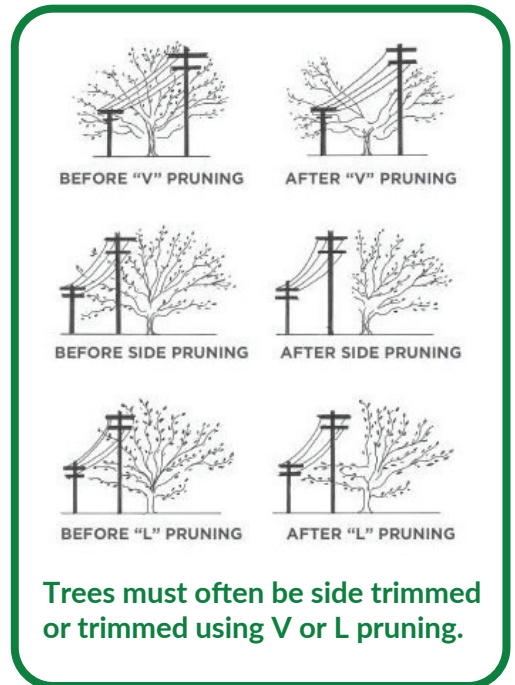


Tree Trimming for Reliable Power

In our modern world, it's easy to take certain things for granted like the invisible force that powers virtually everything in your home: electricity. Since electricity has become such an integral part of everyday life, it's easy not to think much about it – until it becomes unavailable. One of the most common causes of power outages nationwide are weather related storms, especially ones involving wind. This type of weather can cause branches over power lines to make contact causing an electric short or physical damage to the system, both causing outages.

Keeping power lines clear of trees and brush is essential for safe, reliable electric service. Austin Utilities adopted a tree-trimming program which involves cycle based pruning schedules. Services are contracted annually through a sealed bid process and the bid is awarded to tree-trimming professionals trained in the latest ANSI A300 pruning standards. Using a four-year cycle, a section of our service territory is scheduled for inspection and trimming each year. The savings achieved through reduced call-outs and outages provides a benefit for the entire community.

The long-term effect of this program has given AU some of the lowest outage rates in the state. In fact, we have earned the American Public Power Association RP3 designation which includes industry-recognized leading practices in reliability. Most recently we earned the Diamond Level award with a score of 100%.

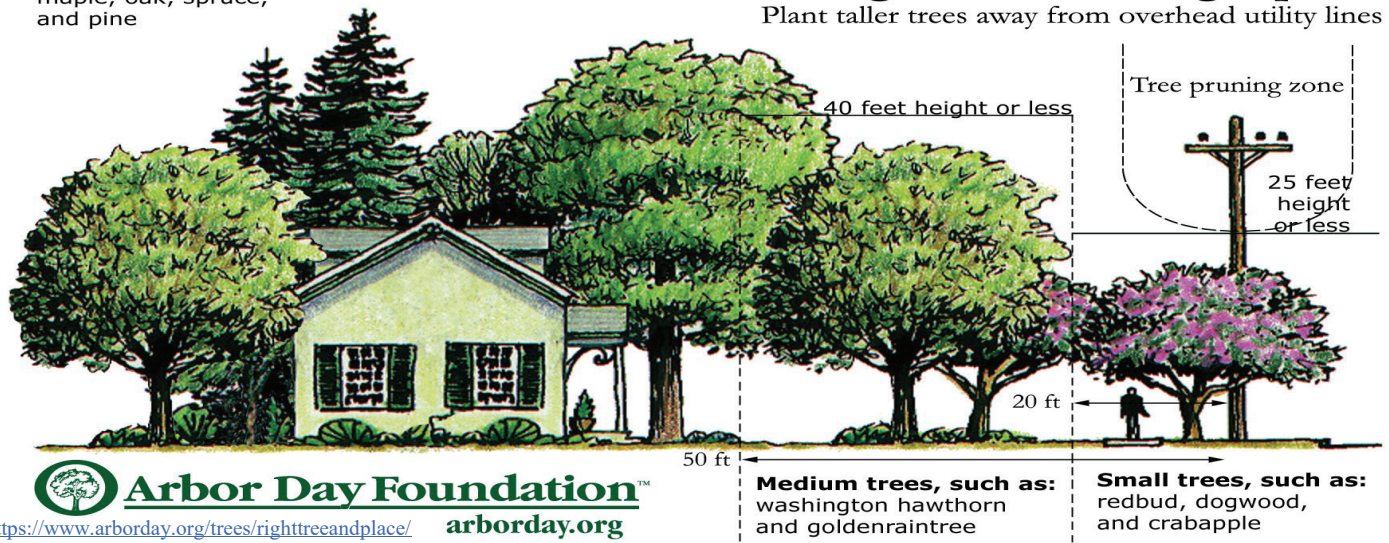


Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard...especially to power lines.

Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



 **Arbor Day Foundation**
<https://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/> arborday.org

Medium trees, such as:
washington hawthorn
and goldenraintree

Small trees, such as:
redbud, dogwood,
and crabapple

National Arbor Day is April 29, 2022. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the tree planter's holiday. If you are planting a tree to celebrate be sure to think about the type of tree and where to plant your new tree. Take time to follow these basic rules and your new tree will save energy and money on your utility bills:

Plant deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees on the south and west sides of your home and:

- Provide energy saving shade and save on your utility bill.
- Reduce the demand on your air-conditioning system in summer months.
- Allow sunshine to warm your home during winter months.

Plant evergreen trees on the north and west sides of your home and:

- Create a windbreak that blocks cold winter winds.
- Save energy and money on your heating bill.
- Ease the load on your home heating system

Before you plant, remember to:

- Call before you dig! Gopher State One-Call 811
- Locate your trees the proper distance from your home.
- Avoid placing trees under power lines.
- Contact your nursery or garden center professional for help.

<https://www.arborday.org/trees/climatechange/summershade.cfm>

Partners in Planting
\$10 REBATE on a qualifying tree from:

Berg's NURSERY | **Stiver's Nursery & Landscaping** | **Dolan's Landscaping & Tree Care**

AUSTIN UTILITIES
 Connections for Better Living®

CONSERVE & \$AVE™

Ask the nursery for a Partners in Planting Rebate Form or download one at: www.austinutilities.com

Austin Utilities reminds you...

811

**Know what's below.
 Call before you dig.**

**Call 811 or visit
www.gopherstateonecall.org
 at least 48 hours in advance
 (not including weekends and holidays).**

COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

- Electric
- Gas-Oil-Steam-Propane
- Communication-CATV-Fiber
- Water
- Reclaimed Water-Irrigation
- Sewer
- Temporary Survey Markings
- Proposed Excavation

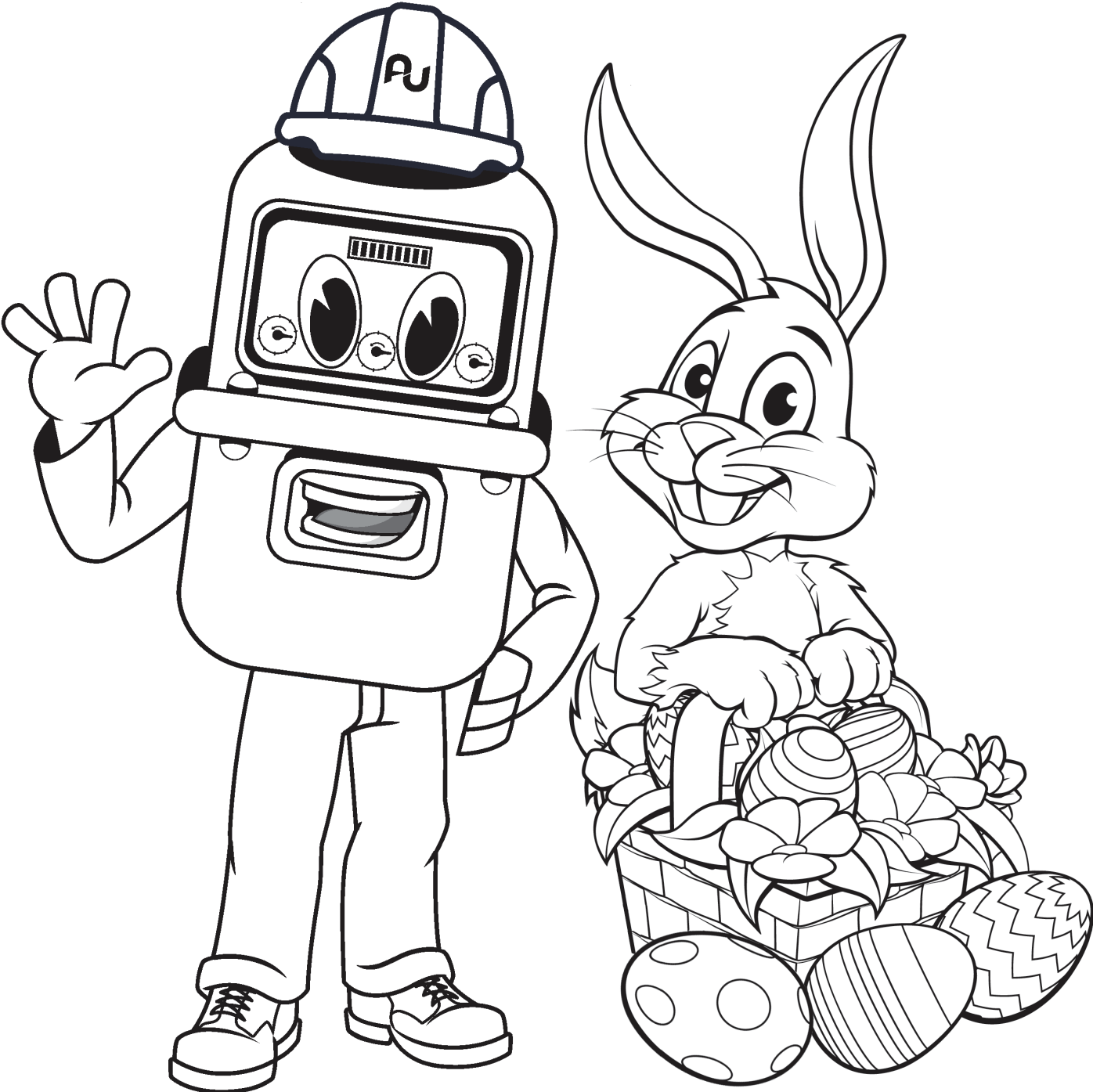
GSOC www.gopherstateonecall.org

WHO OWNS WHAT
 ELECTRIC | NATURAL GAS | WATER

AU | AUSTIN UTILITIES
 Connections for Better Living®

Interested in knowing Who Owns What? Our new brochure identifies the responsibility of the utility and the customer as it applies to the services we provide. Available now on our website.

Austin Utilities Easter “Buddy” Coloring Contest



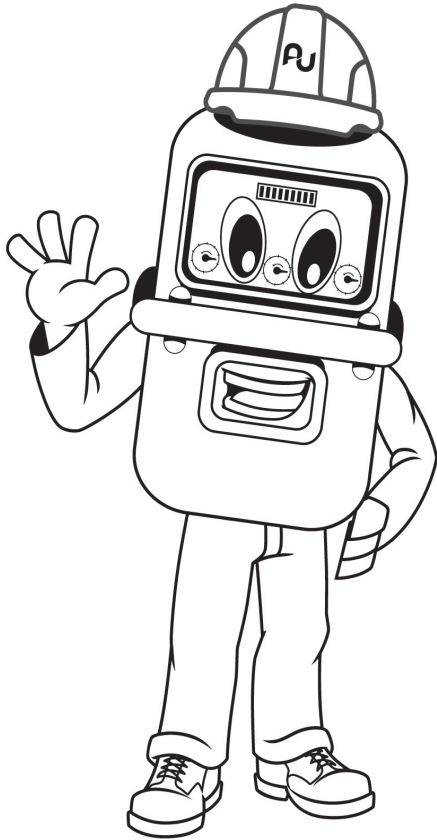
Meter Buddy says, “Turn off the lights when you *HOP* out of the house!”

CONSERVE & \$AVE®

See backside for coloring contest rules and other important information

First Name _____ Age _____

Just for Fun - Word Find



N	Y	D	N	A	C	A	N	C	N	G	P	B	E
C	S	G	O	E	I	S	E	I	T	S	U	I	G
S	R	E	W	O	L	F	I	Y	P	P	A	H	O
K	T	Y	G	T	H	I	N	E	S	S	N	T	Y
W	T	G	P	H	Y	B	B	A	S	G	S	Y	K
S	E	F	H	P	A	S	T	P	N	N	E	S	Y
R	C	A	N	I	K	E	H	I	H	E	P	B	E
G	E	H	A	C	N	N	R	T	D	K	N	A	E
W	C	K	I	O	Y	P	E	W	E	G	G	S	C
P	S	H	H	N	S	K	N	A	H	H	K	F	W
S	C	W	N	U	S	I	K	E	A	S	T	E	R
E	H	U	R	A	K	S	E	I	T	G	N	T	I
N	B	U	B	L	S	A	B	P	B	H	U	A	Y
A	S	D	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	I	R	T

Find these words:

SPRING

HAPPY

BASKET

EGG

CANDY

CHICKS

BUNNY

FLOWERS

EASTER

SUNSHINE

Coloring Contest Rules:

Scan and submit your entry to Talk2AU@austinutilities.com -OR- Drop at our office located at 1908 14th St NE, Austin. Entries will be separated into two categories: Age 0-6 and Age 7-12.

Entries must be received by April 29; winners will be announced May 3 on the AU Facebook page. By submitting an entry you agree to allow AU to post your entry in our lobby and your winning entry on AU's Facebook page.

3 winners will be randomly selected from each age category, Age 0-6 and Age 7-12. One grand prize winner will be selected by the AU Coloring Contest Committee.

Each winner will receive an AU Gift bag with a FREE Mini Murph Pizza coupon courtesy of Papa Murphy Pizza! One Grand Prize winner will receive an AU Gift bag plus \$10 in Chamber Bucks.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

**NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION
DAY**
APRIL 18



Each year on April 18th we celebrate our line workers on National Lineman Appreciation Day. Since 2013, when Senate Resolution 95 was passed, this has been a day to celebrate the effort of people who maintain power and protect public safety. Lineman work outside at all times of the day, in all weather. They are sometimes first responders, there to restore power after storms and natural disasters and make the area safe for other first responders. We celebrate to show our honor to them on National Lineman Appreciation Day!

Annual Rain Barrel Sale

Limited Supply Available; Online Purchase Only; More detailed information on rain barrel specs is available online at austinutilities.com



\$90 + tax

- 1) Order Online
- 2) Pick up May 12th
- 3) Get a \$10 bill credit

(AU water customers only)



**Drive through
Pickup May 12
from 3-6 pm**

REMINDER: Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule expires April 30th. If your account is behind, please make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection.

Employee Spotlight

Melissa Swenson

Customer Service Supervisor

Melissa Swenson joined AU in 2010 as a Customer Service Representative. She came with experience from the Austin City Employees Credit Union and 10 years as an optician at Shopko Eye Care. Melissa was promoted to Customer Service Supervisor in 2015. "I like helping people and finding solutions to make a situation better. I have been a part of initiatives that make it easier for customers to do business with AU – like applying for utility service online or communicating with customers using text messages. And I am fortunate to get to do those things everyday with a great customer service team!"

Melissa has been married to her husband Chad for over 14 years. They have two boys, Cameron is in 11th grade and Aidan is in 7th grade. Melissa loves watching Minnesota sports teams – especially the Vikings! She calls herself a Viking super fan. When she's not at a middle or high school football or basketball game, she enjoys riding bicycle, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. One of her personal goals is to learn how to play golf. Although retirement is still a few years off she already has hopes to travel the country in an RV and ... watch the Vikings win a Superbowl.



Mower County & City of Austin Electronics Recycling Event

**Saturday, May 14th
9am to 2pm
Mower County
Fairgrounds**

**To volunteer please
contact Mower County
Recycling at 437-9551.**



Please help our crews by slowing down and steering clear of our vehicles and workers when we are doing our jobs. We want to keep you and our fellow co-workers safe.

UPCOMING STREET PROJECTS

3rd Ave NE–Oakland PI NE to 19th St NE
Water main and service replacement
Electric service crossings

9th St NW–10th Ave to 12th Ave NW
10th St NW–8th Ave NW to 13th Ave NW
Water main and service replacement
Electric service crossings

21st Ave NE–11th Dr NE to 14th St NE
Water main and service replacement
Electric overhead replacement

3rd St NE – 16th Ave NE to 18th Ave NE
Street repair

Red Cross Blood Drive



**Tuesday, April 5th
Austin Utilities
1908 14th St NE
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

redcrossblood.org

1-800-REDCROSS

Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners

**Thomas C. Baudler Jeanne Sheehan
Steve Greenman Kristin Johnson
Jay Lutz**

To contact or find more information on
AU's elected Commissioners visit
www.austinutilities.com/pages/board



**Austin Utilities Office
will be Closed
Friday, April 15th**

