

# Cold weather on its way to Bowling Green!

It's winter and time to start getting wrapped up!

When winter temperatures drop significantly below normal, keeping your home warm and safe can become a challenge. BGMU would like to remind its customers that preparation can prevent freezing – and possibly bursting – pipes at your property during severe winter weather.

## **PREVENT FREEZING PIPES**

- **OUTSIDE**
  - Caulk around pipes where they enter the house.
  - If you have a shut-off valve for outside faucets, shut it off and drain it for the winter.
  - Close all foundation vents, and seal all cold air leaks.
  - Wrap outside faucets with insulation if they aren't drained.
  - Disconnect garden hoses, and drain in-ground irrigation systems according to manufacturer's instructions.
  
- **INSIDE**
  - Insulate pipes in unheated areas like crawl spaces, attics, and basements. Use insulating tape or a molded pipe sleeve.
  - When weather is below freezing, open cupboard doors in the bathrooms and kitchen, so pipes get more heat.
  - Let the water run in faucets furthest from the street if the temperature dips below freezing. A stream smaller than a pencil width should be enough.
  
- **IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE**
  - If there is no water running at all in the house, call BGMU at 782-1200.  
- Your meter may be frozen. A Utility Representative will be sent to check the problem as quickly as possible, 24 hours a day. If you have had problems with your meter freezing in the past, call BGMU for further instructions.
  
- **IF YOUR PIPES BREAK**
  - Shut off your water and the water heater. If you cannot shut off your water at a shut-off valve, call BGMU at 782-1200.