

A report on activities of interest to SUB customers

# SUBreports

Volume 10 Issue 2 Summer 2011



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Pomp(adour)

### Grease back your hair, turn back the clock, and rock with Sha Na Na!

With gas prices still in the stratosphere, many Springfielders are planning a stay-cation this fourth of July.

Never fear – SUB’s got you covered. For the price of a gallon or so of gas, you can get a ticket to Light of Liberty, Springfield’s Independence Day extravaganza!

Advance tickets are just \$5 – and SUB donates all of your admission fee to Project Share, a charity that helps low-income Springfielders with wintertime heating emergencies. That means your dollar does double duty!

This year, we’re bringing classic 50’s style rock-and-roll to Island Park with world renowned Sha Na Na! You might know these legends from Woodstock, or the movie *Grease*, and even from their eighties syndicated TV show. Wherever they go, Sha Na Na puts on a fun, high-energy fifties-style nostalgia show with lots of great music, laughter and audience participation.

Opening for Sha Na Na is the amazingly talented blues guitarist Brooks Robertson, and

Mystery Train, a band that has become as traditional in Springfield as fireworks on this holiday.

But music’s not the only thing going on in the park. Bring the kids early and enjoy plenty of activities, including face painting, crafts, obstacle courses, games, gymnastics demonstration – you can even hold a snake at the fabulous reptile exhibit.

Bring a picnic, or buy food and treats at one of the many vendors in the park. There’s something for everyone!

And of course, the evening ends with a fantastic fireworks show. Set to music and reflecting off the beautiful Willamette River, there’s really no comparison.

So dig out your leather jacket, grab a gold lamé tank top, grease up that pompadour – and plan to head down to Island Park on Monday, July fourth!

See the insert in this edition of SUBreports for details on the event, including the musical line-up, ticket sales, things to bring (and not bring) to the park, shuttle service and more!

**See the insert in this edition of SUBreports for details on the Light of Liberty Celebration!**





## Summer water rates now in effect

During our area's hot, dry summer months, water use skyrockets. Because utilities must plan for peak demand, it pays to keep water use under

control during high-demand times. That's because if Springfield's water use spikes, SUB will need to build more infrastructure to meet just those few days in summer when usage goes through the roof. And here's something that won't come as a surprise: building infrastructure isn't cheap. It's far better to conserve during those times, and avoid or forestall more costly construction.

One way SUB does this is by sending a price signal to customers. That means that during the summer months, water costs a little more. For example, from October through May, a unit of water (748 gallons) costs most residential customers \$1.11 per unit, up to the first 100 units. (Keep in mind that most customers use about 11 units a month.) But for the summer billing periods June through September, the first 13 units cost \$1.15 and additional units up to 100 cost \$1.65.

### Drying up your water bill

There are lots of things you can do as a homeowner to make sure your water bill stays low. Here are the "bang for the buck" opportunities:

- **Fix leaks.** A leaky toilet can drain away 200 gallons of water a day, which means an entire unit of water gets wasted in just a few days! Irrigation leaks are another common problem. Keep an eye out for soggy spots in your yard, especially near sprinkler heads. If you suspect a leak, visit SUB's website at [www.subutil.com](http://www.subutil.com). There's lots of helpful information on how to determine if you have a leak, and where it might be coming from.
- **Use native plants.** Landscapes guzzle water, especially designs that feature large swaths of golf-course quality grass. Try native species, which tend to use less water, or even consider reducing the size of grassy areas and keep them close to the house.
- **Only run full loads.** Whether it's laundry or dishes, make sure you've filled up your machine before you turn it on. And while you're at it, check out SUB rebates for energy-efficient clothes washers. These clever appliances use less water in the cleaning process, meaning clothes spend less time in your energy-hog of a dryer. So, you'll save water and money!

**So remember, when it comes to water – use all you need and not a drop more!**

## MEET the Board

SUB's water and electricity services are provided under the direction of SUB's Board of Directors, five Springfield citizens who are elected to four-year terms, and who serve at-large and without pay. The Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in these meetings, at which SUB policies and procedures are formulated and adopted.



**Ken Boyst**  
Chair, Position 4  
Term exp. 12/31/14



**Bobbie Jean Adams**  
Vice-Chair, Position 5  
Term exp. 12/31/12



**Ted Johnson**  
Position 3  
Term exp. 12/31/14



**Virginia Lauritsen**  
Position 2  
Term exp. 12/31/14



**Joe Mathieu**  
Position 1  
Term exp. 12/31/12

# True Value green lights energy-saving upgrades

## “The perfect pick.”

That’s what Roger Hansen, operations manager at True Value Company’s regional distribution center in Springfield, asks his employees to aim for. In the parlance of the warehouse world, it means searching acres of hammers and levels and nails for just the right item, snagging it from the right shelf, then delivering it to the right person, right on time.

Being accurate with “the pick” is vital to operational efficiency at the company’s vast facility along Olympic Street. With merchandise shelved in a building the size of nine football fields, this doesn’t happen by chance.

Says Roger, “It helps to have great, well-trained employees. It also helps to have great lighting. We’ve always had the first, now through this project and partnership, we have the second.”

## Energy savings

According to David Harris, one of SUB’s energy management specialists, the utility was more than glad to help. “This is the largest commercial energy efficiency project in SUB’s history. The energy savings alone are estimated to be 1.25 million kilowatt hours per year – enough energy to power more than 1,350 homes for a month.”

He notes that lighting is a terrific place for companies to save money. “My job is to help managers pencil it out... what kinds of savings can be realized, how much a project will cost, and what kinds of resources are available to make it all work. For example, in this case, SUB was able to provide financial incentives under its agreement with Bonneville Power Administration, and encouraged True Value to apply for state tax credits.”

After consultation with SUB, Roger and his corporate managers gave the project the green light. Work began in mid May with a local electrical contractor, which began replacing more than 1,800 fixtures with more efficient models. It is scheduled to finish the first of July.

## Better lighting

Although energy conservation and money savings were driving forces behind the retrofit,

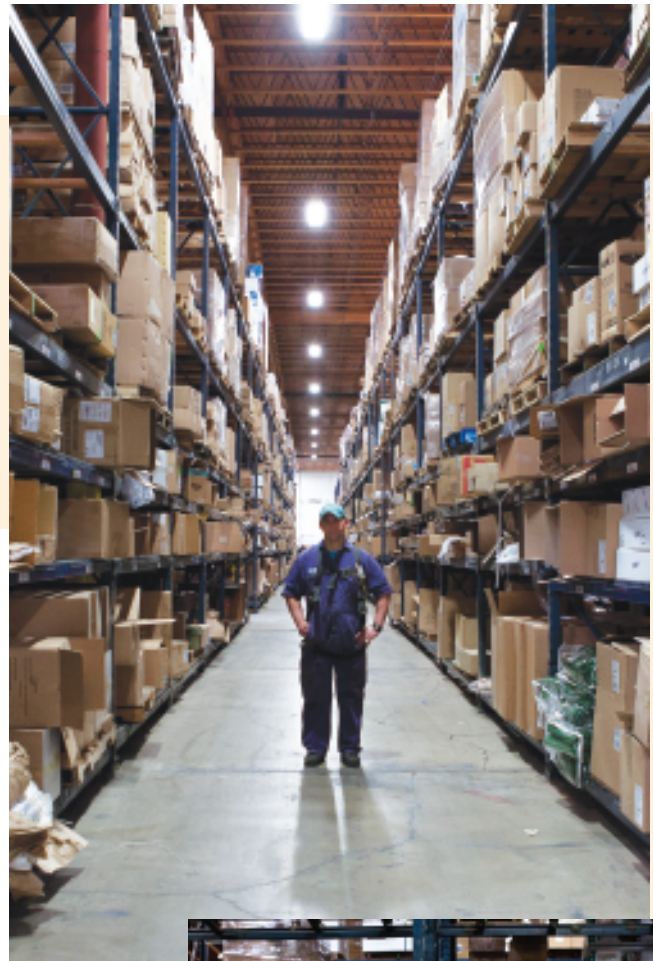
Roger says they aren’t the only benefits. In fact, they wouldn’t make sense at all unless the lighting they got out of the deal was better than what they had before.

“Let’s just say the difference is not subtle,” he says.

Higher quality lighting has made for an even safer warehouse environment. It has increased worker accuracy by making shelved items easier to spot. And, because of efficiencies in the new lighting plan, maintenance costs are lower.

Roger also notes another important, if less tangible, benefit. “Great lighting is a shot in the arm for everyone’s mood, especially in the dark days of winter. You walk into a brightly lit work environment, and it’s a lift.”

Which means that picking the right item from acres and acres of product is a lot easier than picking which part of the upgrade will benefit the company most. They all seem pretty perfect.



*SUB’s David Harris, left, holds an energy-efficient fixture. Alex Warthen of True Value holds one of the old metal halides.*

**The lighting upgrade will save enough energy to power more than 1,350 homes for a month.**

*SUB has energy efficiency programs for residential, commercial and industrial customers in Springfield. If you would like more information on how these programs could benefit your home or business, call SUB’s Conservation Connection at 541-746-0963 or visit our website at [www.subutil.com](http://www.subutil.com). Chances are, SUB has a program that can help save you money!*

# Watts Happening

## Too many balls in the air?



### Knock one out of play with AutoPay

Let's face it, life gets crowded. Shuttling kids, grocery shopping, scheduling the dentist, work meetings, school activities – there's a lot to track. Wouldn't it be nice to have one less thing on your mind?

Of course! That's why SUB's AutoPay Program is so popular! With AutoPay, you can have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. With no checks to write or stamps to find, you'll save time and money. It's easy

to sign up and it's free. And you'll still receive a monthly statement, so you can keep tabs on your utility usage.

#### Just follow these steps to get started:

- Make sure your SUB account is paid in full
- Complete and cut out the Auto-Pay Authorization form
- Attach a check with VOID written across it. (NOT a deposit slip.)
- Mail the voided check and the authorization form to SUB, PO Box 300, Springfield OR 97477

There, you're done! Allow two weeks for processing, and you're on your way. We can't guarantee you won't be late picking up the kids – but we can assure you your utility payment will always arrive on time!

### Auto-Pay Authorization Form

Fill out the following information as it appears on your bill:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SUB Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

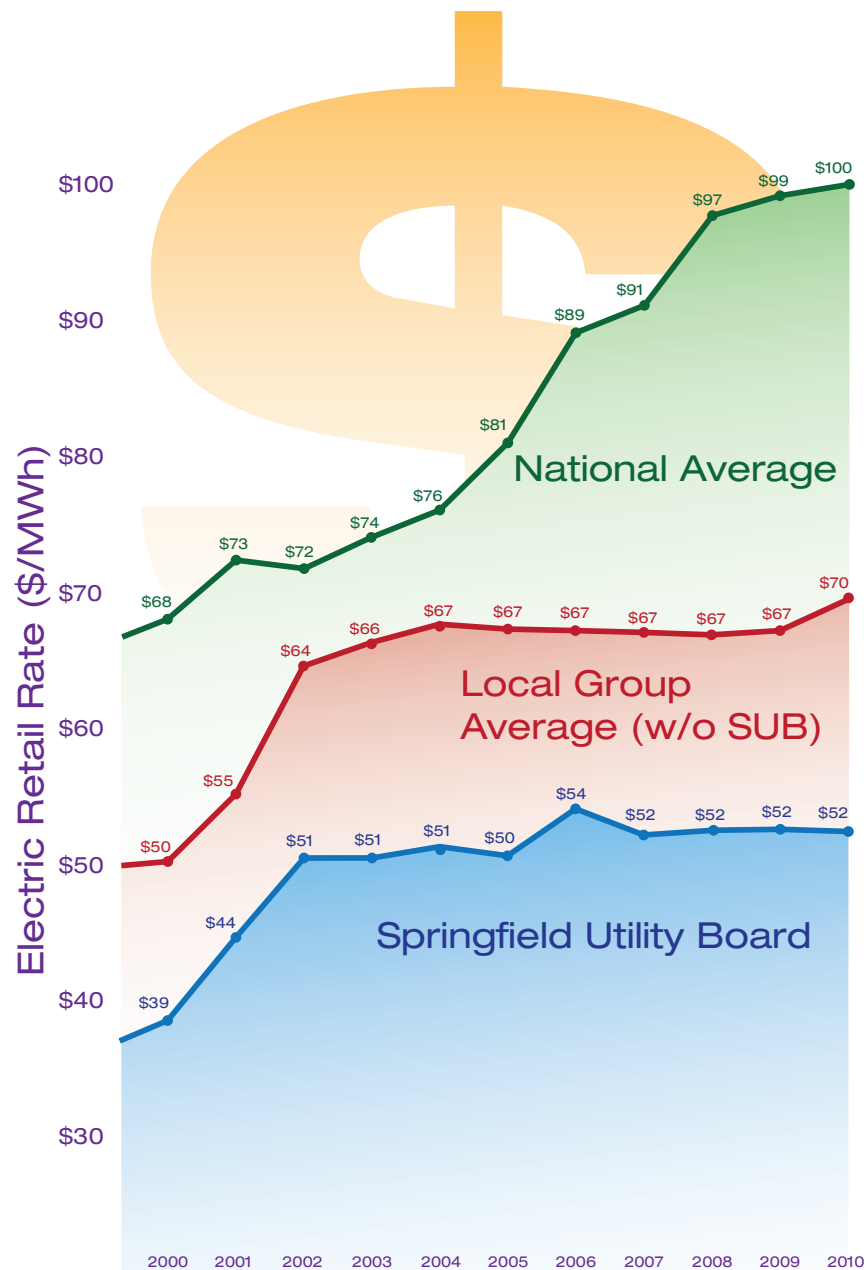
I authorize SUB to initiate a deduction from my financial institution and authorize the transfer of payment to SUB in the amount showing as Amount Due on my monthly bill.

Signature of Checking/Savings Account Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form, along with **voided** check to SUB, P.O. Box 300, Springfield, OR 97477 — or enclose it with your current payment in the SUB-addressed envelope. Please allow two weeks for processing.

## How do SUB's electric rates compare?

There is no comparison! As you can see, SUB has a long history of keeping rates low.



## It's Time for Bingo!

Mark your calendars! SUB will again present Bingo! at the Lane County Fair Wednesday, August 17, through Sunday, August 21. All proceeds from the Bingo! event benefit Project Share, a charity that helps low- and fixed-income Springfielders with wintertime heating emergencies. It's fun. It's fast-paced. And at 50 cents a game, it's the cheapest thrill you'll find at the Fair! Odds are, you'll have a great time, so follow the crowd to the Bingo! tent, and support a terrific cause!

### Independent spirit. Low rates.

The Springfield Utility Board is a customer-owned municipal utility operated independently from the city and responsible only to its ratepayers. We deliver exceptional service, and some of the very lowest utility rates in Oregon!

*SUBreports is a regular publication of SUB's Community Relations Department. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions, comments or story ideas, please call 541-744-3794.*

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