

SUBreports

Volume 15 Issue 2 Summer 2016



Summer in the City of Springfield kicks off with July 4th Fun!

Put a spark in your summer! Head over to Island Park on Monday, July 4th and celebrate Independence Day at Springfield Utility Board's annual Light of Liberty celebration!

Now in its 13th year, this fun, family-friendly event features everything you're looking for in a summer party – and more!

Live Music – This year's main stage entertainment is none other than Rock & Roll legends **The Lovin' Spoonful**. They'll sing their hits *Summer in the City*, *Daydream*, *You Didn't Have to Be So Nice*, and more. You'll take this trip down memory lane on your feet and dancing!

SUB's 13th annual Light of Liberty Celebration

Monday, July 4th

Gates open at 4 pm

Tickets - \$5 in advance at SUB and both Jerry's Home Improvement Center locations
\$8 at the gate

Complete event details at subutil.com

As always, great local talent will open the day, with Cherry and the Lowboys bringing their bluesy sounds to the afternoon, and Light of Liberty's house band Mystery Train singing all your rock-and-roll favorites.

Kids Activities – If you have kids, 4th of July in Island Park is the place for you. Your admission ticket provides access to our giant kids area, where all the activities are free. Pony rides? Free. Body art and face painting? Free. Magic shows? Free. Photo booths and obstacles courses and giant slides? Free. Marimba music and steel drumming and balloon twisting? Free, free and free. A complete list of all the fun is on SUB's website at subutil.com

Food – Enjoy food from the area's most popular food vendors. Indulge in everything from barbecue and burgers, to noodle dishes and pizza, and top it off with something sweet. Whether you're hankering for an ice cream cone or craving cotton candy or kettle corn, we've got you covered.

Fireworks – The star of the show, of course! Set to music and reflected over the Willamette River, this gorgeous display is the only way to end your 4th of July festivities. Fireworks begin promptly at 10:00 pm.

Best of all – as always – SUB donates every dollar of your admission to Project Share, a charity that helps low income Springfielders with wintertime heating emergencies. So come enjoy a great party this summer, knowing that this winter, you'll be engaging in that greatest of American pastimes – lending a hand to a neighbor.

Come party with SUB!





Spring into Summer Savings

Use these cool tips to save money on your utility bill!

With the change in seasons comes changes to daily routines – in summer, we open windows, turn on sprinklers, run air conditioners, spend more time out of doors.

That makes now a perfect time to look for opportunities to try something new (hanging clothes on a line rather than filling up a dryer?) or to take a fresh look at things you rely on every day (does a certain appliance use a filter? Now's a good time to check it!)

For a few low-cost or no-cost ideas that can jumpstart your savings this summer, check out the lists below. These tips were supplied by the fabulous folks in SUB's billing department. They love helping people find ways to keep water and electric bills as low as they can go!

Clean

- out your dryer exhaust vent (the vent that directs air outside).
- off coils on fridge & freezers (either underneath or in back).
- the filter on your window-mount air conditioner.
- away overgrown plants and other obstructions from around your water and electric meters. It costs extra to send staff back to re-read meters!

Check

- your ceiling or baseboard heat to be sure it's off at the breakers before running your air conditioning.
- your drapes and curtains to be sure they're closed during the day to keep out the heat.
- the aim of your sprinklers. Drenching sidewalks and driveways wastes water while it drains your wallet!
- the direction of your ceiling fans. They should rotate counter-clockwise in summer, so air gets directed into the living space.

Limit

- how often you open and close of refrigerators/freezers.
- cooking on the oven and stove. Try grilling out instead!
- that run-away energy hog, the dryer. Make use of the sunshine and dry clothes on a line outside!
- the rooms you cool. Close vents and shut doors to rooms you rarely use.

MEET the Board

SUB's water and electric 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.



David Willis
Vice-Chair, Position 1
Term exp. 12/31/16



Virginia Lauritsen
Position 2
Term exp. 12/31/18



John DeWenter
Position 3
Term exp. 12/31/18



Ken Boyst
Position 4
Term exp. 12/31/18



Pat Riggs-Henson
Chair, Position 5
Term exp. 12/31/16

Lead and drinking water: what you should know

by Jeff Nelson, SUB General Manager

In the last edition of SUBreports, I committed to sharing with SUB's customer-owners information about pending legislation that has consequences for utility operations. In this way, customers can judge for themselves the value of proposed laws and, by exercising their right to vote, can apply leverage at a point in the process where substantive change is possible.

But as questions about lead in drinking water have captured not only national headlines, but more recently local ones, I wanted to use this space to provide customers with information – and healthy dose of reassurance – on this issue.

Lead not detected

SUB's drinking water undergoes thousands of tests every year and it meets or exceeds every federal and state standard. Lead has not been detected in the water SUB delivers into the distribution system, and the system itself contains no known lead service lines.

Importantly, SUB, like thousands of other water utilities in the country, treats its water in order to raise the pH, which reduces the corrosivity of water before it enters the distribution system.

For a finely grained look at all the results of SUB's comprehensive testing program, visit our website at subutil.com/CCR.

Annual and other test results

CCR stands for Consumer Confidence Report, a federally mandated report to customers on a community's drinking water. You'll find this year's report – and an archive of reports from past years – on our website. Information about lead and copper in the "customer tap water" section.

So, if there is no lead in the water in the distribution system, how are elevated levels showing up in drinking fountains and faucets? The answer is simple: old plumbing in buildings.

Lead solder was commonly used in structures built or plumbed with copper pipes before 1986. Lead also can be found in brass plumbing fixture and plumbing components, including those in drinking fountains and faucets.

Because of concerns in surrounding communities, Springfield Public Schools, out of an abundance of caution, has contracted with an independent outside contractor to conduct a comprehensive water testing program. Previous

water testing conducted at SPS facilities in 2002 met all regulatory requirements. Of course, SUB and Rainbow Water District, who partners with us to supply water in north Springfield, stand ready to provide support if needed.

Regulations that work

That brings me back to legislation. Sometimes, proposed laws or regulations can be well intentioned, but leave me

wondering about ultimate efficacy. But water quality requirements, laws and regulations have proven their value in keeping our water safer. Although often costly to implement, their worth is indisputable.

For example, as of January 2014, regulations require that all pipes, fittings and fixtures sold or manufactured in the United States are required to contain less than 0.25 percent lead.

And over the decades, regulations around water quality testing have become more stringent as science continues to advance our understanding of

the health effects of environmental and other contaminants, and as our ability to detect these substances is possible at lesser and lesser concentrations.

Excellent information about lead in drinking water can be found on the Environmental Protection Agency's website: www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water

In the meanwhile, know that SUB will continue to provide our community with the pure, healthful water they've come to expect.



“SUB water meets or exceeds every federal and state standard.”

**See SUB's Annual Water Quality Report
Subutil.com/CCR**

For a printed copy, contact SUB's Water Service Department at 541-726-2396

Watts Happening

Act now - Shop later!

Register your account online by the end of September, and you could win one of several local shopping sprees and other gifts!

SUB's new online customer portal is live! To celebrate, SUB will be drawing the names of 16 lucky customers who either register their accounts online with us for the first time, or who re-register their existing accounts.

Customers who sign-up (or re-up) by September 30, 2016 will be automatically entered into the drawing – no forms to fill out, clip out or send in.* Once you register your account, we'll take care of the rest!

If you had an online account through our previous provider, you've experienced the convenience of having 24-hour access to your SUB account. Although re-registering your account will be necessary in order to keep that access, it will take just a minute the next time you log in.

For those without an online account, now's the time to sign up! Online account customers can view previous bill statement and payment history, check their



usage, sign up for payment reminders, enroll in special programs, like paperless billing, and can see account payments applied in real time.

New and returning online customers will have a chance to win shopping sprees at these great Springfield outlets:

Grand Prize:

(1) \$250 shopping spree at Jerry's Home Improvement Center!

Other Prizes:

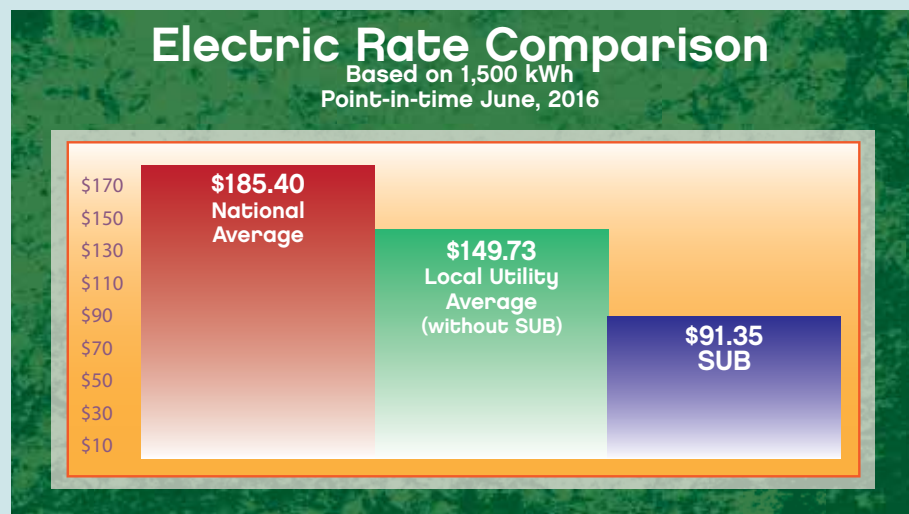
- (2) \$100 shopping spree at Cabela's
- (2) \$100 shopping spree at Kohls
- (1) \$50 Roadhouse Grill gift certificate
- (1) \$50 Applebees gift certificate
- (1) \$50 Outback Steak House gift certificate
- (8) Target gift cards (\$25 each)

SUB will notify winners during our Customer Appreciation week celebration, which begins Monday, October 10th. **Good luck!**

* Customers without online accounts can enter the contest by sending their name, service address and account number to SUB, Attn: Community Relations at PO Box 300, Springfield, OR, 97477 by 9/30/2016.

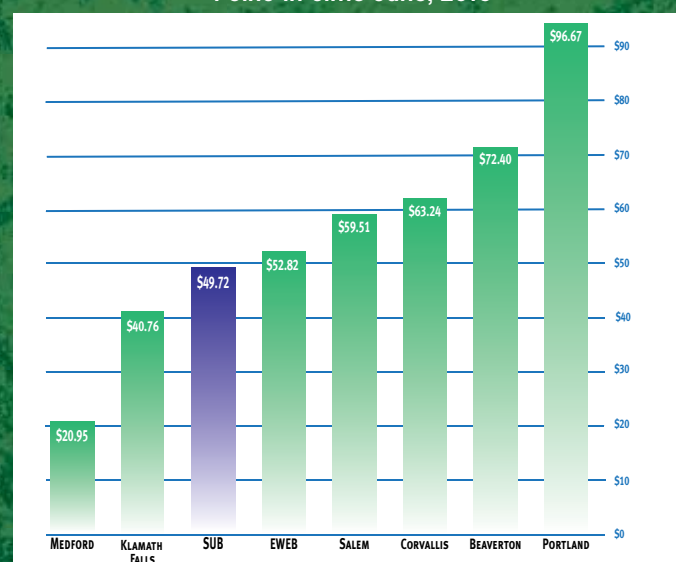
SUB rates are low

Our average residential customer pays nearly \$430 less annually for electricity than other consumer-owned utility customers in Lane County!



Residential Water Rate Comparison

Based on 20 units/month (14,960 gallons)
Point-in-time June, 2016



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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