

# Currents

Published monthly for the customer-owners of Clark Public Utilities

MAY 2019



## SAFETY KEY TO SUMMER FUN

Summer is just around the corner and we want to make sure your family takes the necessary precautions for a fun and safe summer when playing or working around electrical equipment.

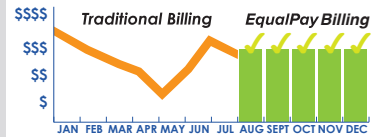
May is national electrical safety month and a reminder to play it safe around electricity when spending time outdoors.

- Be aware of power lines. Even though we can't see the electricity running through them, it's a good idea to always assume all lines are energized and dangerous.
- Look up! Be aware of your surroundings when working on outdoor projects and avoid touching overhead power lines with ladders, pool cleaners or garden tools.
- Use only ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets outdoors and close the cover on the outlets when not in use. Do not leave outdoor electrical tools unattended.
- When using plug-in equipment outdoors, only use extension cords that have been designed for outdoor use. Keep them dry and do not operate electric tools around water.
- Stay away from substations. The high-voltage equipment in our power substations is very dangerous. Remind children to never climb a utility pole or fence, play on or around electrical equipment or go into a substation for any reason. If a toy ends up in a substation, do not try to retrieve it. Call and let us know and we'll be happy to send someone who has proper training and safety equipment to get it for you.
- Be careful when trimming or climbing trees! Always look for power lines before climbing. Once in the tree it may be difficult to spot lines as they tend to blend in with the colors of the tree.

If you have questions about the safety of our equipment, give us a call and we will come check things out for you.

## LIGHT LINES

### EqualPay equals convenient budgeting



Spring is a great time to enroll in EqualPay and make your utility payments more predictable. When you sign up, we average your yearly bill into equal payments to help with budgeting. Your monthly EqualPay amount is calculated using an estimate of your yearly consumption and any outstanding balance or credit, divided into 12 equal payments. That amount is reviewed twice a year, adjusted if necessary, and you never pay for more than you use in the year. If you struggle with seasonal spikes in your utility bill, sign up for EqualPay, and the impact of higher heating bills in the winter, or the cost of cooling in the summer will be spread evenly across payments all year.

**Clark  
Public  
Utilities**

### CONTACT US

PHONE .....360-992-3000

QUICK PAY .....360-992-3400

REPORT POWER OUTAGES

.....360-992-8000

EMAIL .... mailbox@clarkpud.com

WEBSITE... clarkpublicutilities.com



## How smart is your thermostat?



One of the simplest ways to save energy is by lowering your thermostat during cold months while you're asleep or away from home and setting it higher when it's hot and you're cooling your home.

Programmable thermostats can do this for you automatically, based on your family's schedule, and they're relatively inexpensive and easy to install. Smart thermostats go one step further, actually learning your activity patterns over time and adjusting automatically. We are currently offering a \$50 rebate for Nest Generation 3, Ecobee-3, and Ecobee-4. To learn if you qualify for this rebate, visit our website.

We are also providing customers who meet limited household income and heating type guidelines with installation of a free smart thermostat and up to ten LED light bulbs over the next 12 months on a first come, first serve basis. To learn if you qualify for this program, visit [www.clarkpublicutilities.com/nestqualify](http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com/nestqualify).

Whatever your approach, the thermostat is an easy place to improve energy efficiency and small changes add up!

## Volunteers Make Earth Day Fest A Success!



Last month's Earth Day Fest was a success with more than 300 volunteers planting trees, pulling non-native garlic mustard, and picking up trash along Salmon Creek to improve salmon habitat.

Hundreds of people also enjoyed the free Earth Day Fest activities, which featured games, interactive nature demonstrations, and hands-on activities for kids provided by local community organizations. Attendees also released wild fish into Salmon Creek.

The utility's StreamTeam relies on community volunteers, and there's still a lot of work to do. If you're interested in helping, visit [StreamTeam.net](http://StreamTeam.net) or give us a call at 360-992-8585. It is all part of our year-round effort to bring salmon back to Salmon Creek.



**"Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Midsize Utilities in the West, 11 Years in a Row"**

Clark Public Utilities received the highest score in the West Midsize segment of the J.D. Power 2008-2018 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Studies of customers' satisfaction nationally among electric residential customers. Visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards)