



Dispatch

a bi-monthly news update for CWLP customers

Timothy J. Davlin, Mayor • Todd Renfrow, General Manager

Water Division receives stimulus funds and IEPA loans for two major infrastructure improvements

In January, CWLP announced it had received two loans from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), as well as funding from the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus program, that will reduce the utility's cost of undertaking two important [Water Division](#) infrastructure improvement projects.

The first funding announcement came early in the month when the utility accepted a zero-interest loan of \$4.6 million from the IEPA and a principal-forgiveness guarantee through the ARRA for 25% of the loan. The principal-forgiveness arrangement amounts to the equivalent of a \$1.2 million grant.

These monies will be used to construct a new chemical storage and chemical feed facility at CWLP's Stevenson Drive [Water Purification Plant](#). The new building will greatly improve the plant's ability to properly store large quantities of certain chemicals used in the purification process and will enhance workplace safety for workers who handle those chemicals.

Also included in the project will be an upgrade of the water plant's 1950s-era electrical system to meet today's standards and efficiency needs.

Crawford Murphy & Tilly is serving as the design and construction engineer and Evans Construction Company as the general contractor for this project.

The second water system improvement project that will be financed by IEPA and ARRA funding involves the replacement of approximately 215 aging three- to eight-inch water meters with new automated meter reading (AMR) systems. In late January, the utility announced it had received a zero-interest loan from the IEPA to cover the \$666,000 cost of purchasing the AMRs, as well as a partial-principal-forgiveness guarantee through the ARRA that provides the equivalent of a \$167,000 grant.

The AMRs will more accurately measure the water used by some of the utility's largest customers and allow for remote reading, which will improve safety for meter readers who often must gain access to difficult locations in order to read the meters.

State program provides instant efficiency rebates for a number of major home appliances

Illinois consumers planning to purchase new heating and cooling equipment, refrigerators, dishwashers, clothes washers and other major home appliances might be able to benefit from a \$12 million instant rebate program being offered by the State of Illinois.

The program is being funded by the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). It provides point-of-sale rebates on qualifying, high-efficiency equipment until all funds are exhausted.

Qualifying heating and cooling systems — including gas furnaces and central air conditioners and heat pumps — are eligible for fixed-price rebates (for example, \$1,000 for air-source heat pumps and \$500 for central air conditioners). ENERGY STAR® clothes washers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers can earn a 15% rebate on the purchase price from April 16 through April 25.

CWLP customers benefitting from the state's instant heat pump and central air conditioner rebates can reap even greater savings by also taking advantage of the utility's rebate programs for those types of systems. To qualify for the state and utility rebates, you must make sure the equipment you buy meets the eligibility requirements of both programs. More information about CWLP's [efficiency rebates](#) can be found elsewhere on this website. Details about the state rebates can be found at the DCEO website, www.helpgreenillinois.org.

You're invited . . .

CWLP holds quarterly **Community Energy Meetings** to keep the public informed about what the utility is doing to provide customers with smart, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. The public is encouraged to attend and provide input. Check the [2010 Community Energy Meeting schedule](#) for the next meeting date.

Around Springfield . . .

■ **Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake.**

March 12, 13 and 19, 1-4 p.m., King Pin Lanes, Sangamon Avenue and Dirksen Parkway. Free. Form a team, collect pledges, choose a date, bowl, and join the party. Proceeds support Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Illinois Capital Region. 753-1216; www.bbbscapitalregion.org.

■ **Sangamon County Historical Society Events.**

All events are free and take place from 7-9 p.m. at Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th Street. For more information call 522-2500 or visit www.sancohis.org.

How Illinois Became a State. March 16. Historian David Scott discusses Illinois' 1818 entry into the union.

Springfield's Donner Family: Trials of the Pioneer Trail, 1846. April 20. Donner family descendant Don Springer looks at the tribulations faced by the Donner family in their ill-fated trip west.

■ **A Community of Quilters.** March 19-20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds. Free. Members of the Springfield-Area Quilt Guild will display their creations. The event also includes demonstrations, quilt appraisals, a raffle, and more. 872-2717.

■ **Shamrock Games.** March 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Illinois State Fairgrounds Coliseum. Free. Kilted athletes will participate in the world's only indoor Highland Games, demonstrating their skills in ancient Celtic tests of strength. 652-0399; www.ancientathletics.com.

■ **Maple Syrup Time Pancake Breakfast.** March 20-21 and 27-28, 8 a.m., Lincoln Memorial Garden. Admission. Feast on sausage and pancakes smothered in maple syrup made from the Garden's own trees. Reservations are required. Proceeds benefit Garden operations. 529-1111; www.lmgnc.org.

■ **Brookens Auditorium (UIS) Events.** All events are free and, unless otherwise noted, take place from 7-9 p.m. For more information call 206-6245.

American Indian Traditions: Black Elk's Legacy. March 23. Aaron Black Elk DeSersa will describe the unique contributions his great-grandfather and family have made to our culture.

Sara Evans: Women Candidates for the American Presidency. March 24. Celebrate Women's History Month and the 90th anniversary of the 19th amendment with this discussion of women and the presidency.

The Myth of the Three Abrahamic Religions. April 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Gabriel Said Reynolds' sober analysis of the way Abraham is used for the sake of religious competition offers a useful starting point to address conflicts between Jews, Arabs and Christians.

■ **Flower/Plant Sales.** Admission is free to all events.

Spring Wildflower and Tree Sale. April 10-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Lincoln Memorial Garden. This annual sale features native spring wildflowers and dozens of varieties of native trees. 529-1111; www.lmgnc.org.

Plant and Attic Treasures Sale. April 23-24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., State Police Museum, 4000 N. Peoria Road. Varieties of day lilies, iris and other plants, as well as donated items, will be for sale to benefit the State Police Museum. 528-0764; www.isphf.org.

Springfield Civic Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. May 8, 8 a.m.-noon, U of I Extension Building #30, Illinois State Fairgrounds. Greenlady2004@juno.com or 546-1578.

■ **Appearances: A Prairie Art Alliance Exhibit.**

April 30-June 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th Street. Works by photographer Robert Leffler, ceramics by Deborah Nickelson, and multiple media art by Joan Beeman are featured. 544-2787; www.prairieart.org.



Information

WASTE & RECYCLING



Did you know? Your paid residential garbage service entitles you to:

- **Weekly curbside recycling** (available to one- to four-unit homes); AND
- **One free large item pickup** per year (up to three items). This service is available only to residents living in single or duplex homes with can pickup (not dumpster service). To schedule a pickup, call 522-7797.

Earth Awareness Fair scheduled for April 24

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at the 18th Annual Earth Awareness Fair, Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine, at the Old State Capitol. Eco-friendly information and activities will abound, as will giveaways and games for the kids. Food and drink sales will benefit the Old State Capitol's historic preservation efforts.

Unless otherwise noted, programs described above are available for all Springfield city residents. Also unless otherwise noted, more information about these programs can be obtained by contacting the Waste and Recycling Program Coordinator at 789-2327 or wynne.coplea@cwlp.com.