

THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded

Community Proud

Community Owned



September, 2016



PUBLIC POWER

AN AMERICAN TRADITION THAT WORKS®

Public Power Week • October 2-8, 2016

This year will mark the 25th annual Public Power Week Celebration. Rice Lake Utilities along with 2,000 other municipal utilities will celebrate the fact that we are owned by the community that we serve at not for profit rates. As a matter of fact Rice Lake Utilities rates are among the lowest in the entire state of Wisconsin!!

Here at Rice Lake Utilities we are proud to be a municipal utility and to be owned by the consumers that we serve. Our commitment to the City of Rice Lake goes beyond keeping the lights on. We are dedicated to making the lives of those we serve more powerful. Our services are available to our consumer/owners while they are working, playing, learning, dreaming, sleeping, eating, and growing. Rice Lake Utilities understands that by providing safe and affordable electricity to our consumer/owners whenever and wherever they want, we give them the power to embrace more freedoms and opportunities in their lives. We're also here to save customers money and to protect their homes and environment while they enjoy their daily routines with family and friends. Investor owned utilities measure their success by the amount of profits gained for shareholders in distant communities. Public power utilities measure success by how much money stays in the community.

As we think about the future and the present, we also pay homage to those who have helped pave our way. We are grateful to the many business and community leaders who were instrumental in electrifying our community. Today Rice Lake Utilities serves over 4,500 residential customers, 156 industrial customers and more than 800 commercial users. Public power is one of the oldest forms of electric utility ownership in the U.S. Public power utilities are not-for-profit local institutions that provide electricity as an essential public service at a reasonable cost. Public power utilities are supported by customer revenues, not taxes. In fact, public power utilities provide substantial payments in lieu of taxes to state and local governments. Rice Lake Utilities payments in lieu of taxes to the city in 2015 were over \$469 thousand.



Rice Lake Utilities would like to invite our Consumer/
Owners in helping us celebrate Public Power Week
October 2nd-8th.

Please stop by during the week of October 2nd-8th for a chance to win door prizes and to have some refreshments as we celebrate you our consumer/owner.

The city breaks another record in the Workmen's Compensation Experience Rating for Safety resulting in lower premiums!



Workers Compensation Experience Rating is a mandatory program designed to measure and rate the risk of individual companies. Experience rating compares an employer's actual claims experience to the expected or average experience of all similar business types within a state. An experience modification is developed and applied to risks with premiums large enough for the insured's past experience to be an indicator of how much benefit, or claims, costs will be paid on behalf of the insured in the future. If an employer's past experience is better or worse than average, the premium is adjusted downward or upward, respectively, or in basic English, how much we pay every month for our insurance premiums. The city's 2017 WC experience mod is .75 (down from the 2016 record low 0.76 rate)...According to the City Clerk "0.75 rate is almost unheard of for a Wisconsin municipality of our size". The city is only paying for 3/4 of the full premium!!

Leo Diehl, GM/CEO of Rice Lake Utilities congratulated Rice Lake Utilities employees by telling them:

"Absolutely AWESOME. THANK YOU! Everyone of you is responsible for such an achievement. Making Safety important every day, going home in the same or better condition than the day before. Being an example to your co-workers and customers really has / is paying dividends and benefits.

A .75 frequency means we are paying 3/4 of the full premium. This is one heck of an achievement. Please don't rest on these accomplishments. Continue your commitment, continue to help your co-workers work safely. In the end...each and every one of us benefit. We get to go home and enjoy our hobbies, our children, grandchildren and friends. We get to enjoy life".

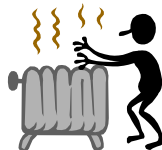


Why did we pick the hilltop site for well drilling? While it's not the ideal location for a well driller... it was the ideal location for cost savings. By having the existing land on which to construct our well we avoided having the costly expense of purchasing new land. The well also requires a three-phase electric service for operation, which currently exists at the Hilltop site. We also have the ability at this location to connect to both the upper and lower water systems which saves even more costly expense for infrastructure, thus saving hundreds of thousands of dollars. All of this combined has saved roughly a half million dollars and will make the Public Service Commissions mandated rate increase for the water utility to have a minimum impact on our Consumer/owners water utility bill. Even after we implement the water rate increase we will still be in the 20% range for the lowest water rates in Wisconsin.



Are you a landlord.....with rental property in Rice Lake? If so, you may benefit from our landlord program. As part of Act 419, Rice Lake Utilities offers this free service to notify landlords of the status of their tenants utility accounts. To receive notice of delinquent utility charges incurred by your residential tenants you will need to fill out a *Landlord Request for Information* form provided by Rice Lake Utilities. For more information about this program contact Linda at Rice Lake Utilities.

Heating Assistance Available for 2016-2017



Wisconsin's Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) in conjunction with Rice lake Utilities Public Benefits Program, is once again offering a one-time benefit for the heating season (October 1st through May 1st). The amount of the heating assistance benefit depends on your household size, income level and household costs. To find out more information or to see if you may qualify, please contact the Barron County Energy Assistance Office at 715-537-5691.

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