



## Board meetings

The Vera Water and Power board of directors meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the District office. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted at [verawaterandpower.com](http://verawaterandpower.com). The meetings are open to the public, and you are welcome to attend.

## Water use triples during Spokane summer

Watering lawns is the single biggest cause of extra summer water use. So, making sure your sprinkler system is water efficient is really important to water conservation. On the Vera system, please start your sprinklers BEFORE 2 a.m.

We have some cool ways to save water this summer on our website, [verawaterandpower.com](http://verawaterandpower.com).

## It's yard sale season, please don't post signs on power poles

Did you know signs posted on utility poles can be dangerous to line workers who maintain our electricity?

- Staples or nails can snag their boots making the poles difficult to climb.
- They can tear utility workers' protective clothing, which helps keep them safe.
- Posting items on power poles can degrade the quality, effectiveness and stability of the wood reducing the life of pole.

## We are governed by a five-member board of directors

We are a public utility that's governed by directors who are elected to served staggered, three-year terms. They are also Vera Water and Power customers. To learn more about our board, visit [verawaterandpower.com](http://verawaterandpower.com).

## ENERGY SAVER

Ceiling fans can help ease summer heat. If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will let you raise your thermostat about 4 degrees F with no reduction in comfort.



THE DAUGHTERS OF OUR WATER SERVICE MAN, CHAD SEVIGNEY, ENJOY DRINKING WATER STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP. THE WATER IS FROM THE SPOKANE VALLEY-RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER AND IS THE BEST TASTING WATER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

## Best tasting water in the Pacific Northwest

*Cool, sweet, delicious, and straight from the tap. That's the taste of our water.*

And the judges agree.

Vera Water and Power claimed the top prize at the Best Tasting Tap Water Competition on May 3, 2019. The event was part of the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association's (PNWS-AWWA) Conference in Vancouver, Washington.

The water was evaluated based on scent, flavor, and after-taste. As one of 21 water systems that draws its water straight from the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum aquifer, this award shows that our community enjoys some of the best tasting water in the world. Our aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for our bi-state region which serves over 500,000 people. We are so lucky to have water resources like the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Aquifer available to our community.

As the 2019 winner, we will go on to represent the Pacific Northwest at the AWWA national conference in Denver this summer and, hopefully, earn the official title of best-tasting water in the nation.

## Crews practice poletop rescue protocol

**Our crews plan for the worst and train to be the best.**

As part of that strategy, our linemen practice the pole top rescue of their coworker.

It's one of a lineman's worst nightmares. Having to rescue a "hurt-man" who's been injured and knocked unconscious while climbing a power pole or operating a bucket truck.

As part of the annual training, our linemen practice life-saving rescue skills using a 150-pound victim dummy. The unconscious dummy is hanging at the top of the pole by their climbing belt. The lineman must climb a power pole and safely bring the "dummy" back down using a hand line.

By practicing these skills, our crew are in the best position to deal with the worst situations.



# How our rates compare

## You pay half the price of the national average

When it comes to value, publicly owned utilities provide some of the best prices for electricity, especially Vera Water and Power. You pay half the price of the national average. (Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration) Our price for power is 6.58¢ per kilowatt hour. The national average is 12.8¢, and the Washington state average is 9.46¢.

### BILL COMPARISONS

<b>VERA \$92.61</b>
<b>Inland Power \$105.15</b>
<b>Avista \$106.42</b>
<b>Kootenai Electric \$116.92</b>
<b>Puget Sound \$127.84</b>

*If you have a fully electric home and consume 1,200 kilowatt-hours of electricity your electric bill would look like this depending on your power provider.*

## Vera afterhours and in the community

### Growing friendships and meeting our neighbors



COME SEE US!  
**VALLEYFEST**  
SEPT 21-22

Kids of all ages enjoyed learning about the equipment we use in the district that keep the lights on and the water running.

Our water and power crews participate whenever they can at school events like Wheelin' into Preschool at Central Valley Early Learning Center, Reading Across America and Adams Elementary School's Spring Carnival.

If you didn't see us at school events this year, we hope we will see you at ValleyFest, Sept. 21 and 22. We will be there with the community booths.

## Electric system upgrades insure reliability

There are two seasons in the Spokane Valley, winter and construction. This construction season, we've been working throughout the Vera district to improve the electric system reliability.

This will help keep the lights on – especially in the winter when the weather gets rough.

One project you may have seen is along Sprague Avenue. Our electric crews are rebuilding the power line on Sprague Avenue between Evergreen and Adams Roads.

This investment in our infrastructure means our electric lines will continue to deliver trustworthy, and consistent electrical service that you've come to count on.



**When you see our Vera trucks out on the roads, please use caution and give our crews a wide swath for safety's sake.**

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



As summer arrives, so does the construction and irrigation season. Our crews have started the next phase installing new conductor along Sprague Avenue. By upgrading the capacity

of the poles and wires on this project, and other projects this summer, we have greater flexibility providing service on blazing hot summer days and frigid winter nights. It also helps when restoring service during storm-related outages.

Once the crews have completed the upgrades along Sprague (the entire reconductoring project will take four to five years to complete), we will be working on 12th Avenue, the old railroad right-of-way, and 24th Avenue.

When you see the crews on the job, please be careful and give them room to work. Their safety, and yours, require we work together in the construction zones.

**We are upgrading one of our wells in order to more than double its output from 2,000 to 4,800 gallons per minute.** This will help relieve the impact of the sprinkler systems on our pumping capacity by delivering more water volume between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. when demand is high due to irrigation. The equipment to do this work costs about \$200,000. While the pump, motor, column, shaft, and starting equipment have been designed and purchased, they have only just now started to arrive. They will not be installed until this coming winter.

**So once again, we are asking for your help.**

Last summer, to spread out the peak demand for water, which is between 3:30 a.m. and 4 a.m., we asked those of you with an odd address to shift your sprinklers' start time to 2 a.m. It looks like we got about a 10 percent reduction in peak water use.

**This year, we are asking everyone to shift the start time for your automatic sprinkler system to 2 a.m.**

If we get another 10 percent in completely voluntary participation, we should be in good shape this summer.

Thanks for your help with the sprinkler systems and the construction zone safety. We are a locally controlled utility, here only to provide great service to our customers. When we work together, we can provide this service at a lower cost, in a safer manner and as efficiently as possible.