

## **CUB, Bradley want to help local customers cut high phone bills**

**By Marion Daily Republican Staff**

**Marion, Ill.** - The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is holding a free “phone-bill clinic” to inform Marion-area residents about new opportunities to cut their calling costs by potentially hundreds of dollars — including how to get a CUB-negotiated \$20 long distance credit.

CUB has shown consumers how to save an average of \$150 a year at free phone-bill clinics around southern Illinois. This event, sponsored by Rep. John E. Bradley, will take place next Thursday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Illinois Centre Mall Community Room in Marion.

“Most people shouldn’t be paying more than \$25-\$30 a month for phone service,” CUB Executive Director David Kolata said. “CUB has simple tips to help you save hundreds of dollars a year. You can’t get a free service like this anywhere else.”

Bradley said the tight economy makes it necessary to watch every dollar.

“The current condition of the economy is causing most citizens to keep a tight budget, and consequently it is critical to provide protection consumers from unneeded charges on everyday bills,” Bradley said.

Consumers frequently complain that they can’t get reliable information from the phone company, which often just throws them a sales pitch for a more expensive plan. At CUB’s clinics, however, citizens will receive helpful tips about:

- CUB Cellphone Saver—a state-of-the art online tool that automatically analyzes individual wireless bills, potentially cutting a caller’s costs by hundreds of dollars a year.
- Illinois’ best long distance plans, including how to get an automatic \$20 credit CUB negotiated. That amounts to nearly 11 hours of free calls.
- Inside Wire Maintenance Plan, a costly—and optional—Verizon service that most people don’t need.
- Free directory assistance. CUB can help you find numbers for free, saving up to \$2 a call.

Attendees should bring their Verizon phone bills so CUB experts can analyze them and give tips on how to cut them.

CUB was created by the Illinois legislature in 1983 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$10 billion by blocking rate hikes and securing refunds.

For more information, call CUB’s Consumer Hotline, at 1-800-669-5556, or visit [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).

Bradley’s office may also be called with questions: (618) 997-9697.