

# Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

Jennifer A. Pederson, Editor

Summer/  
Fall 2004

## New transformer raises system capacity

A new transformer was installed at the Beaverbrook Substation this summer. The 67 megawatt transformer replaced a 40 megawatt transformer that was installed in 1971. The upgrade raises LELD's firm capacity from 80 megawatts to 107 megawatts, making the electric system more reliable. The transformer was trucked down from Canada and took more than one week to get to Littleton. A large crane was used to place it on the concrete pad and it was energized at the end of July.



## 2505 circuit progresses

The 2505 circuit has been successfully installed down Hartwell Avenue. This installation completes the first phase of this project, which will extend a new circuit into Boxborough in order to upgrade the reliability and capacity of our electrical system.

Phase two of this project will begin sometime in the early fall. Phase two consists of upgrading the conductor on King Street from the intersection of Hartwell Avenue to the intersection of New Estate Road. LELD will also be upgrading the conductor on Lawrence Street and Wychwood Drive. Please be mindful of our crews as they work in these areas and once again we apologize for any inconvenience this construction may cause.

## LELD announces new appliance calculator

LELD is pleased to announce a new product to help you calculate your energy bill. The appliance calculator, designed by Energy New England will allow you to select the various appliances in your home and will give you an estimate for what your monthly bill should be. You can access the calculator on our website, [www.lelwd.com](http://www.lelwd.com).



Please remember that the calculator is based on certain assumptions regarding the wattage and run time for the appliance. If the default is not correct for your particular appliance, simply type in the correct information and it will calculate the cost to run the appliance based on LELD rates.



## LELD purchases new hybrid vehicle

LELD purchased a new Toyota Prius for our Meter Reader, Rick Bourassa. The Prius is a gas/electric hybrid that allows for greater fuel efficiency. The Prius gets approximately 42-45 miles per gallon, which is approximately a 2/3 reduction in fuel. It is perfect for the stop and go travel that Rick does on a daily basis.



# Meet the Business Office

We would like to introduce you to the LELWD business office. In addition to handling all of the billing for our customers in Littleton and Boxborough, the staff in the business office answers the phones, greets customers at the front counter and processes customer applications. The business office recently completed training on our new billing software and the transition was seamless. All of the employees in the business office have been with LELWD for over 15 years and they remain committed to providing you with outstanding customer service.



From left to right: Business Service Associate Sue Gilmore, Business Manager Jerry Young, Associate Accountant Mae Thompson, Business Service Associate Erlene Campbell, Business Service Associate Peg Larsen, Office Supervisor Eileen Marcotte, Business Service Associate Judy Hunt.



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One of the 40 Municipal Electric Utilities of Massachusetts... **localight**

# Fall flushing upcoming

Please be advised that LWD will be conducting the annual water main flushing during the month of October. A listing of streets scheduled for flushing will appear weekly in *The Littleton Independent*, on the department's web page, [www.lelwd.com](http://www.lelwd.com) and via a recording at 486-3104, ext. 460. The schedule is subject to change without notice based on the progress of the utility specialists, so residents are advised to regularly check the newspaper, consult the website and call the recording for the most current, accurate information.



Residents are also advised to restrict water use while their neighborhood is being flushed to avoid drawing dirty looking, but perfectly safe, water into their homes. Fluctuations in water pressure – including periods of low- or no-flow – may occur as well during the flushing, but normal pressure will be restored when the procedure is completed. Residents in the general area of direct flushing may also experience these conditions. The purpose of this yearly maintenance is to remove mineral buildup from the interior surfaces of the water mains. Water is flowed through hydrants in the opposite direction of its normal flow until it runs clear.



# Irrigation systems should have annual inspection

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recommends that homeowners have pressure-type vacuum breakers on in-ground sprinkler systems tested annually. For more information, please contact Don Callahan, Water Operations Administrator at 978-486-3104.



Lead Lineman Dave Lizotte demonstrates the thumper to a group of 4th grade students from the Russell Street Elementary School during a recent field trip.