

Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

August 2019

New Program Launched: LELWD Drives Electric



LELWD Drives Electric is a new program to increase awareness of electric vehicles and provide incentives to customers who drive them. LELWD and local officials launched the program August 14th with a demonstration of an electric vehicle and charging station at the Ayer Road office.

LELWD Drives Electric offers customers information on electric vehicle types and charging options, on available rebates and on upcoming EV events. LELWD has teamed up with Energy New England, which provides EV specialists available to assist customers via a toll-free support line (833-443-8363) or email, ev@ene.org.

To learn more, visit lelwd.com/greenrewards/ev and sign up to receive the latest information about incentives and upcoming events.



Water Quality Top Priority as LELWD Voluntarily Tests Three Well Sites

LELWD delivers clean and reliable water and actively protects its water sources from man-made and naturally occurring contaminants. So when the groundwater in a neighboring community tested positive for high levels of a contaminant, LELWD proactively tested its three well sites.

The latest test results show LELWD's water meets all federal and state guidelines for quality and safety. Nonetheless, LELWD is addressing the presence of a pollutant in one of the three water sources. While the level is well within current federal and state guidelines, LELWD is working to remove it.

LELWD voluntarily tested for the presence of chemicals known as PFAS, short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Current federal and state guidelines call for no more than 70 parts per trillion in the water. However, the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is currently considering lowering that limit to 20 parts per trillion.

One source, the Spectacle Pond wells, tested at 28 parts per trillion of PFAS. (The Whitcomb Avenue well had no presence

of PFAS and the Beaver Brook wells showed trace amounts.)

Since receiving the test results, LELWD has:

- Informed customers of the test results via a letter, and expects in September to send a formal notice, in conjunction with MassDEP.
- Engaged the CDM Smith engineering firm to evaluate the options for treating the water to remove PFAS. CDM is also working for the Town of Ayer, which has experienced much higher levels of the contaminant.
- Met with the Ayer Public Works Department to discuss its experience and potential solutions, as well as sources of the contamination.
- Briefed the regional office of the MassDEP and received guidance and technical advice.
- Conducted additional sampling for which the lab results are pending.

For more information, see lelwd.com/pfas or call 978-540-2222.

Sign Up for Free Shade Trees by Sept. 2

The popular Free Shade Tree Program is accepting applications from customers for new maple trees planted in their yard. When they mature, shade trees offer many benefits including lowering home cooling costs in the summer and consuming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

In its 4th year, the program has planted more than 450 trees in Littleton and Boxboro. "Ours planted last fall are thriving!" commented one customer.

To apply for up to two trees, visit www.lelwd.com/greenrewards/trees and complete the form. (Sorry, no repeat customers.) The deadline for requesting a tree is Labor Day, Sept. 2nd.



Visit www.LELWD.com to learn more about us. Like LELWD on 

Study Shows Municipal Electric Depts. Lead on Low Rates & Reducing Emissions

Littleton Electric Light Department and its fellow public power providers lead the state in both reducing carbon emissions and offering the lowest rates to customers, according to a new study.

As a group, the 41 municipal light departments in Massachusetts deliver nearly 60 percent more of their total electricity from non-carbon-emitting power sources like solar, wind, hydro and nuclear compared to investor-owned utilities serving other communities. In addition, the rates for reliable municipal electricity are on average 42 percent lower than the state average.

Among the key findings from the study by Analysis Group for the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts:

- While Massachusetts' investor-owned utilities source just 15.7 percent of their total power from renewable generation, Massachusetts' municipal utilities source 34.9 percent, more than twice as much.
- Based on 2018-19 rate data, Massachusetts' municipal utilities continue to beat the state's electricity cost average by 42 percent. A typical customer using 500 kilowatt-hours per month pays municipal utilities on average \$70.43 per month.

Two Long-Time Public Servants Retire



RICK BOURASSA



DAN PATTERSON

LELWD wishes to congratulate two long-time, faithful employees on their new retirements. After 32 years each, Dan Patterson, fleet and facilities manager, and Rick Bourassa, meter technician, have retired with the traditional engraved captain's chairs, custom-made electric meter lamps, and heart-felt sendoffs by their colleagues.

