

Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

December 2019



LELWD Employees Deliver Gift Baskets & Tree Lights

Two popular holiday traditions returned this year as LELWD employees donated food and assembled Thanksgiving dinner baskets for three families in need. A special thanks goes to Gary's Farm Stand for donating the bushel baskets and butternut squash. Also, crews strung 4,150 LED holiday bulbs on the Littleton Common in time for the Tree Lighting Ceremony held Dec. 8.



LELWD Named a Smart Energy Provider

LELWD has been named a Smart Energy Provider by the American Public Power Association for its commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support a goal of providing low-cost, quality, safe, and reliable electric service. LELWD is among 60 public utilities nationwide to achieve the honor.

Despite Winter Precipitation, Water Restrictions Result from Pollution & Supply Challenges

While heavy snow and rain blanketed the region in December, the supply of water remains a concern for LWD as it manages demand with reduced sources. The discovery of the pollutant PFAS in the Spectacle Pond well is adding to the stress on the water supply.

As a result, LWD has a ban on outdoor watering even in the winter months. The restrictions are expected to carry into the spring and summer months and will prohibit unattended lawn watering. LWD is urging residents and businesses to anticipate ongoing outdoor water restrictions in 2020 and plan accordingly.

LWD is pursuing short-term and long-term solutions to first reduce and then remove the PFAS in the water. The Spectacle Pond well is offline because tests showed an average PFAS level of 25 parts per trillion. The current federal and state guidance values limit PFAS to 70 parts per trillion, but the state is expected

to adopt a stricter 20 ppt standard in 2020.

In the short-term, Beaver Brook well water will be mixed with Spectacle Pond water starting next spring to reduce the PFAS levels to below 20 ppt. While up to three years away, a planned water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue will remove the PFAS.

Private well owners and consumers in sensitive subgroups (defined by Mass-DEP as pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants) may contact LWD's environmental analyst, Corey Godfrey, at 978-540-2282, to discuss options available to them.

LWD wants to keep its water consumers informed with regular updates mailed or posted on lelwd.com/pfas, where visitors may sign up to be notified when new information is available.

New Water Tank Planned for Cedar Hill

A new water storage tank is planned for Cedar Road next to the existing tank, which will later be demolished. The water tank on Cedar Hill is critical to maintaining proper water pressure in the Long Lake neighborhood and meeting the town's needs.

The existing tank was built in 1950 and holds about 485,000 gallons of water. The new tank will be a composite concrete pedestal with a steel tank of about the same volume, similar to the tank (pictured at right) in Georgetown, Mass.

For more information and project updates, visit lelwd.com/cedarhill.





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

LELWD Collecting Donations for MA Good Neighbor Energy Fund

LELD customers will see a donation envelope for the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund with their electric bills over the next few months. This program, a partnership between sponsoring energy companies and caring neighbors throughout the state, provides help to those struggling to pay fuel costs.

LELD customers can help a Massachusetts family receive relief this year by using the green donation envelope enclosed with the monthly electric bill or by donating online at www.magoodneighbor.org.

Local families who need assistance should visit the website for eligibility requirements. This year's maximum disbursement is \$250 per household.

Residents Urged to Enroll in



Keeping citizens informed.

LELWD uses Code Red, the town's emergency communications network, to inform residents of planned service disruptions necessary for upgrades. The system also notifies residents and businesses of critical community alerts and emergency situations.

To sign up, follow the "Community Notification Enrollment" link on lelwd.com homepage.



In early November, crews completed the removal of the old town highway shed on Whitcomb Avenue, as shown in these before and after photos. The property is being restored to a natural state to protect the nearby drinking water wells. The brick pump house is visible in the top right. Removal of the shed and impervious surfaces is important because they were located within the Zone 1 aquifer protection area and wetlands resource area.



www.LELWD.com

Office Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays

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