

Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

June 2020



Sign Up Now for Free Shade Trees

The popular Free Shade Tree program returns for 2020, and LELWD customers have until August 31 to sign up for two maple saplings to be planted in their yards.

The program is part of the Green Rewards Program that helps customers save money and natural resources. Shade trees will grow to provide natural cooling for homes and consume carbon dioxide. A mature tree can lower home energy use between 100-250 kilowatt hours per year.

LELWD crews will plant the trees in the fall in a mutually agreeable location on the property. Raking leaves and future maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner.

For more information and to sign up, visit: lelwd.com/greenreward/trees/

Watch PFAS Webinar On-Demand

The June 6th webinar to discuss LELWD's solution to the presence of the chemical PFAS in the Spectacle Pond well is now available to watch online. Visit lelwd.com/pfas to view the webinar, read the questions and answers asked during the event, and review LELWD's continuing efforts to lower PFAS levels and ensure the delivery of safe and reliable water.

Outdoor Watering Follows Even-Odd Schedule

New conservation restrictions allow for an odd-even schedule for outdoor watering on assigned days of the week.

Watering of lawns using automatic or conventional sprinklers will be allowed at specific times:

- No outdoor watering is permitted on Mondays.
- Odd-numbered residences will be permitted to water after 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays until 7 a.m. the next morning.
- Even-numbered residences will be permitted to water after 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays until 7 a.m. the next morning.

LELWD's overall well capacity has been reduced since last summer due to the presence of a family of chemical compounds known as PFAS in water samples from the Spectacle Pond well site. The tests showed levels of 25 parts per trillion, over the 20 ppt standard set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Earlier this month, LELWD completed a water main connection to deliver water from the Beaver Brook Water Treatment Plant to mix with water at the Spectacle Pond Water Treatment Plant. The blending pipeline allows for the water between the two plants to be mixed prior to entering the distribution system, reducing the level of PFAS to below 20 ppt.

With the completion of the temporary blending pipeline, the water department has recovered a portion of the lost pumping capacity. LELWD's long-term solution calls for filtering PFAS from the water supply at a new water treatment plant planned for Whitcomb Avenue. However, building and commissioning the plant is expected to take two years once construction starts.



For a full explanation of allowed and prohibited outdoor watering, visit lelwd.com. Non-essential outdoor water uses that are prohibited include:

- Watering of lawns outside of permissible hours.
- Washing exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways, or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.
- Filling swimming pools.

Any person violating this regulation shall be liable to the Town of Littleton Water Department as follows: 1st Violation: Written warning; 2nd Violation: \$50.00 fine; 3rd Violation: \$200.00 fine; 4th Violation: \$400.00 fine and reduction in water availability to allow for basic water use needs. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Residents and consumers are encouraged to call the water department with any questions at 978-540-2222.



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

LELWD Receives National Recognition for Safety, Reliability

LITTLETON – The Littleton Electric Light & Water Departments has received national recognition for providing reliable and safe electric service.

The American Public Power Association has designated LELWD as a Diamond Level Reliable Public Power Provider. The RP3 designation recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. Diamond is the highest of four levels.

“We’re honored to receive this national recognition,” said Nick Lawler, LELWD’s general manager. “Our staff takes great pride in providing safe, reliable service to the communities of Littleton and Boxborough and this designation validates those efforts.”

Of 2,000 public power utilities, 278 hold the RP3 designation for exceptional reliability. The designation lasts three years. LELWD is one of five award recipients from New England.

Aaron Haderle, chair of the APPA’s RP3 Review Panel and Manager of Transmission and Distribution Operations at Kissimmee Utility Authority, Florida, said an RP3 designation demonstrates a utility’s commitment to implementing industry best practices in utility operations.

“RP3 utilities are consistently looking to improve their workforce, system reliability, and safety to serve their communities better,” Haderle said.

Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

The American Public Power Association, which advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training and operations, has offered the RP3 designation for 15 years.



LELWD’s award for reliable service is in part due to the proactive maintenance on the system. The installation of squirrel guards on the system has sharply reduced the number of outages due to wildlife. Lineman Todd Burnham installs a squirrel guard on Whitcomb Ave.

LELWD has been providing reliable power to the towns of Littleton and Boxborough, and clean drinking water to the town of Littleton for over a century. LELWD consistently ranks among the lowest residential electric rates in the state.

www.LELWD.com

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

978-540-2222

39 Ayer Road, PO Box 2406
Littleton, MA 01460

