

Watts & Drops

NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLETON
ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER DEPARTMENTS

APRIL 2021



LELWD Recognized for Safety

Littleton Electric has received national recognition for safe operating practices with an honorable mention in the 2020 Safety Award of Excellence category from the American Public Power Association. It is the first time LELWD has been recognized for this workplace safety honor, which is based on total hours worked versus number of injuries in a year.



Welcome New Customers

Littleton Electric recently welcomed 44 Boxborough residents as new customers. Located near the Stow town line, they had been served by the Hudson Light & Power Department. This meant duplicate infrastructure from LELWD and HLPD that created a hazard for line crews. The two municipal power utilities recently entered an agreement to transfer the residents to Littleton Electric. The new customers are reminded to be sure to register for new service on lelwd.com.

Long-Term Water System Upgrade Requires Short-Term Traffic Impacts

Work to link the Spectacle Pond well to a new treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue will start early this summer. Residents can expect traffic delays and detours as crews install water mains along the seven-mile route.

Roads impacted will include Hartwell Ave., Spectacle Pond Road (and all of its side streets), Ayer Road, King Street, Taylor Street and Whitcomb Ave. A new water treatment plant to remove the chemical compound PFAS, as well as nuisance minerals iron and manganese, will be constructed on Whitcomb Ave., on a lot adjacent the VFW building.

The new plant is one of several ongoing projects to maintain and improve the drinking water infrastructure and sources available to Littleton:

- Construction of a new water tank on Cedar Hill begins this spring.
- Important maintenance on Beaver Brook wells to ensure the longevity of that source was done in April.
- The development of additional water sources is ongoing, including a new well project near Cobbs Pond and securing the legal right to withdraw water from Nagog Pond.

In March, the state's top environmental official advanced development of the Cobbs drinking water wells by certifying the project can move forward. "The project is proposed to expand the sources of supply, improve water quality, and provide operational flexibility that will increase redundancy and resiliency in the municipal water supply system to meet future demand," the certificate states.

On Whitcomb Ave., the new treatment plant will treat raw water from adjacent wells and the Spectacle Pond well. The plant project took on a new importance when LELWD discovered PFAS in 2019 in those two sources. While within drinking water standards at the Whitcomb Ave. wells, PFAS levels at the Spectacle Pond have hovered at the state limit of 20 parts per trillion in regular testing. PFAS is a family of chemical compounds known for their non-stick properties. The state last year adopted limits on six of the compounds. Learn more about PFAS at lelwd.com/pfas.

High Court Agrees: Littleton May Tap Nagog Pond

Littleton is entitled to draw water from Nagog Pond, according to a March ruling from the state's Supreme Judicial Court. The ruling secures Nagog as a potential source as Littleton Water plans to meet future demand.

In 2019, the Town of Concord sued to stop Littleton from tapping the pond, which is located in Littleton and Acton. An 1884 act granted the three towns rights to the water. Concord unsuccessfully argued the more recent state Water Management Act stripped Littleton and Acton of their rights to access a water source within their boundaries.



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Office Hours:

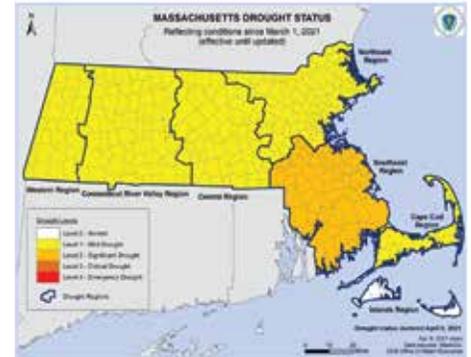
Mon. - Thurs. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

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Drought Declared in Littleton & Region

Residents with public water or private wells are being asked to conserve water as the town and region are in a mild drought. Due to below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures in the past two months, the state has again started to experience drought conditions. State officials declared a significant drought in the Southeast Region, and a mild drought in the rest of Massachusetts.



Senior Drive-Through Luncheon Serves 200

This year's grab-n-go style luncheon for seniors in Littleton and Boxborough was a success. LELWD handed out 200 individually wrapped meals with gift bags as seniors drove through the Il Forno parking lot.

Special thanks to Il Forno Restaurant and Catering, the Littleton Police Department and Selectman Chuck Decoste for helping make this event a success. LELWD has held a luncheon for more than 20 years as a "thank you" to seniors for their contribution to the communities.



Job Openings at LELWD

LELWD is currently hiring, including job postings for electrical lineworker and executive assistant. Openings, job descriptions and instructions for applying are posted on lelwd.com.

Planned Outage for Wire Upgrade

Line crews planned an outage in the Gilson Road and Matawanakee neighborhoods in mid-April to replace existing electrical wires with tree wire, which is designed to better withstand fallen tree limbs that can lead to outages. While a short inconvenience, the one-day outage should result in increased system reliability during storms.

Sewer Update

LELWD recently mailed a sewer project update to all Littleton residents including a proposed route for expanding sewer service to properties near the Littleton Common. The mailer can also be read at lelwd.com/sewer-department.