

JUNE 2021



## Reliability Upgrades

The reliability of LELWD's electrical system is the direct result of regular improvements and maintenance. With the arrival of spring, line crews are busy with improvements to keep the lights on:

- **Gilson Road/Matawankee Area Tree Wire:** Crews will continue to work in the Matawankee area installing more reliable tree wire. This project will last another 1.5 months.
- **Substation:** Crews replaced one of the bus tie breakers at the substation that failed a test during an annual station testing last fall. This new breaker, installed with a crane, will help ensure reliability of the system.
- **Porter Road:** Porter Road wire replacement to begin next month. Crews will be replacing existing open wire with more reliable spacer cable. This is a continuation of the wire upgrade that was completed on Taylor Street the past two years.

## Transfer Station Traffic Use Route 2A

Residents visiting the transfer station are asked to enter Spectacle Pond Road from Ayer Road (Route 2A) this summer to avoid road construction. Crews are installing a portion of a 3.5-mile water transmission line on Spectacle Pond Road between Hartwell Avenue and the transfer station. The narrow road is open only to local traffic and delays should be expected.

## Construction Begins on Water Treatment Plant to Remove PFAS Compounds

Construction of the new water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue started in June. The facility will filter PFAS chemical compounds, iron and manganese with a capacity of 1.8 million gallons per day.

At a groundbreaking ceremony on June 16, state and local officials praised the community for swift action to remove the pollutant PFAS. It had been found in levels over the state limit in the Spectacle Pond well. The plant will treat water from that well and two Whitcomb Ave. wells.

"We are delighted on behalf of the Baker-Polito Administration and MassDEP to work with the Littleton Water Department, which addressed the local PFAS problem early," said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. "MassDEP will continue to work with communities on testing, and if there are issues, on solutions."

PFAS has been linked to serious health effects, and state officials strictly limit the levels allowed in drinking water. Despite PFAS in the Spectacle Pond well, Littleton's public water delivered to consumers is safe and meets all MassDEP drinking water standards.

The project will allow the full use of the Spectacle Pond well, ensuring a safe and reliable water supply. Construction is expected to be completed in Spring 2023.

The \$24.5 million project was supported by the Littleton Select Board, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Finance Committee and Town Meeting. It will be financed through the State Revolving Fund Loan Program with a zero percent interest rate. Littleton Water also received a \$200,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection to offset some of the engineering and design costs.

In 2019, the water department's proactive testing discovered PFAS at 25 parts per trillion in the Spectacle Pond well, above the state limit of 20 ppt. In response, LELWD stopped pumping from the Spectacle Pond well while it developed short-term and long-term solutions. In the short-term, LELWD reduced the use of the Spectacle Pond well as much as possible, and when it was used, the water was blended with water from the Beaver Brook wells to reduce the PFAS below the state limit. The long-term solution is to build a new treatment plant, which will result in all Littleton water being treated prior to distribution.

Read more about the project and PFAS at [lelwd.com/pfas](http://lelwd.com/pfas).



From left to right, Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director, of the Mass. Water Works Association, MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg, James Karr, Chairman of the Littleton Board of Water Commissioners, and Nick Lawler, General Manager, LELWD.



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Closed Fridays

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## State, Local Officials Break Ground

State and local officials gathered June 16 to break ground on the construction of the new water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue. "I'd like to thank the people of Littleton for their overwhelming support for this project, including multiple Town Meeting votes on funding. By building one plant to remove PFAS, iron and manganese, we are going to get the most out of our money. With this plant, we will be able to continue to deliver clean water to the residents," said James Karr, chairman of the Littleton Board of Water Commissioners. For more on the project, see the opposite page.



Members of the Select Board, Board of Water Commissioners and other town officials break ground on the project.



State and local officials gathered at the site of the new water treatment plant.



James Karr, chairman of the Littleton Board of Water Commissioners



MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg



## Rain Barrels Back By Popular Demand

Rain barrels used to water lawns and gardens reduce customers' water bills. Using less water helps LELWD conserve the resource for future use.

Customers can select a variety of barrels and colors from the Great American Rain Barrel Co, starting at \$79. Littleton Water customers receive a \$20 discount when they use the coupon code LELWD21. Noncustomers may buy the barrels but are not eligible for the discount.

To learn more and make a purchase, visit [greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community](http://greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community) and select Littleton, MA. The barrels will be delivered to LELWD, 39 Ayer Road, for pick up at a Saturday in September to be announced.

## Reserve Shade Trees Now

Shade trees can provide years of cooling for your home in the summer and naturally clean the air. The popular Shade Tree Program is again offering LELWD customers the chance to reserve two tree saplings for planting this fall. LELWD crews will deliver and plant the saplings at no cost as part of our Green Rewards Program. Visit [lelwd.com/greenrewards](http://lelwd.com/greenrewards) to reserve your tree today.