

Watts&Drops

AUGUST 2026



Old Sewer Plant at LHS Removed

The small, obsolete sewer treatment plant at Littleton High School was decommissioned over the summer. The plant served municipal buildings prior to the expansion of the sewer system to serve Littleton Common and nearby areas. Decommissioning involves removing above-ground equipment and filling underground tanks. The remaining small building was transferred to LHS for storage.



Summer Heat, Outage Triggers Mutual Aid Call

The summer's scorching heat strained electrical grids across the nation and here in Massachusetts. In early July, exceptional demand for electricity caused a townwide outage in Marblehead. To restore power quickly, the municipal light department requested mutual aid.

LELWD joined fellow public power providers from Braintree, Groveland, and Kennebunk, Maine, in providing crews and equipment to help restore power and return cooling to the ratepayers of Marblehead.

Drought Conditions Remain Despite July's Above-Average Rainfall

In July, Littleton received 4.51 inches of rain, the first month this year that rainfall exceeded the 30-year average. As the graph shows, rainfall from January through June was below average. Littleton remains under drought conditions, and residents should continue to conserve water.

LELWD maintains one of 150 monitoring stations across the state that collects daily precipitation data and reports it to the state's Office of Water Resources' Rainfall Program. Rainfall is one of several factors state officials use to determine drought status, along with

stream flow data and groundwater levels. The Littleton Participation Report is updated monthly and available on lelwd.com.

Another useful graph appears on water bills. It shows monthly water use in gallons for the past year, helping customers easily track usage over time and identify periods of high demand. On the second page, a table explains how the bill is calculated based on gallons used and tiered pricing. This information can help pinpoint causes of increased use and the potential savings from conservation.



Sign-Up for Free Shade Trees by Labor Day

The Labor Day deadline to request up to two free shade trees for planting in your yard is fast approaching. LELWD staff will plant the trees during the first week of October after consulting with the property owner to determine a suitable location.

The Shade Tree Program is free to LELWD electric customers. Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, and a mature tree can reduce a home's energy use by 100–250 kilowatt-hours per year. Since 2016, the program has planted 1,310 trees in Littleton and Boxborough.

Free shade trees are one of many customer benefits available through the Green Rewards program, which offers rebates to help customers save money, electricity, and water.

Request your trees online at <https://www.lelwd.com/greenrewards/trees/>



39 Ayer Road, PO Box 2406
Littleton, MA 01460

978-540-2222

Office Hours:

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

Closed Fridays

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Interns Report on Their Summers at LELWD



**Lukas
Binggeli**
Water
Resource
Intern

I am a rising junior at Georgetown University studying economics and mathematics and am aspiring to a career in city/town planning. In my role at LELWD, I assisted Environmental Analyst Michael Grega in collecting regulatory samples, conducting chemical analyses, and monitoring data trends in Littleton's groundwater, wastewater, and drinking water.

Through this experience I learned about how water distribution and wastewater systems function and gained familiarity with chemical testing and software such as Excel and QGIS. The atmosphere at LELWD is fantastic. All the staff are knowledgeable and passionate about their work and consistently strive to ensure your access to clean water. Moreover, they are friendly and welcoming people, always willing to engage in conversations about both work and everyday life alike. It has been an honor to be a part of and learn from this team!



**Kristin
Macdonald**
Electrical
Engineering
Intern

I am entering my second year at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill, where I am majoring in electrical engineering. I am very grateful for the opportunity to spend the summer working with the department and everyone involved.

I worked primarily with fellow intern Cainan Pletcher and Electrical Engineer Catherine Merritt. Together, we worked on various projects and investigated issues throughout the summer. Some of our tasks included inspecting transformers, testing utility poles to ensure they were in good condition and inspecting the substations.

I worked with a wide variety of equipment and systems used by electric utilities. I am incredibly thankful to everyone at LELWD who took the time to teach me and share their knowledge. I leave with valuable hands-on experience, a greater appreciation for the work that goes into providing reliable electric service to the community, and confidence as I continue my education.



**Cainan
Pletcher**
Electrical
Engineering
Intern

I am a freshman at Lehigh University as a mechanical engineering major, and even though this internship does not completely align with my major, I have found learning about a different field of knowledge greatly interesting. I grew up in Littleton, so learning about how my hometown runs behind the scenes has been wonderful.

In addition to tasks Kristin mentioned, we have been assisting with GIS edits, creating and updating inventory of the meter, current transformer, and meter socket supply, as well as updating the new utility operations application to track work orders, trouble calls and switching orders.

Interning has been a great experience in learning how a town's electrical system is managed. It has been a great way to get used to an office setting and gain real field experience. I have had the opportunity to work with great people. I can confidently say I enjoyed my time here at LELWD.

A 2025 Littleton High School graduate, Cainan received LELWD's Denise M. Pagacik Memorial Scholarship.