

Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

April 2019

MassDEP Honors LWD

The Littleton Water Department will receive an award from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection at a May ceremony. The award recognizes the aid LWD has provided the Littleton Public Schools with testing the water in schools.

LWD will receive the Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead Award (STAR L) at an event May 8th hosted by the New England Water Works Association. Littleton is one of two water suppliers receiving the STAR L award.

"It is our belief that public water systems going above and beyond what is required to supply quality drinking water should be recognized for their endeavors," stated Yvette dePeiza, Program Director of Mass-DEP's Drinking Water Program, in a letter to LWD. "MassDEP recognizes the effort that your system has demonstrated to educate and work with the schools in your community."

LWD has assisted the schools with sampling of water at 230 faucets used for drinking and food preparation at Shaker Lane Elementary, Russell Street Elementary, Littleton Middle and Littleton High schools. The samples were tested for the presence of lead and copper, which can be introduced to the water supply by older plumbing and fixtures inside of buildings.

LELWD Hosts Annual Senior Lunch

LELWD welcomed about 200 residents of Littleton and Boxborough for the 28th Annual Senior Luncheon at the Littleton High School on April 17th. Lunch was served by LELWD staff and every guest received a gift bag as well as a raffle ticket for the prize drawings. LELWD extends its sincere thanks to the Littleton Council on Aging, the Boxborough Senior Center and the Littleton High School for assisting with the event.

Selectmen, Conservation Commission Join LWD in Opposing Article 18

The Littleton Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission have voted to oppose a citizen's petition that asks Town Meeting to place conservation restrictions on the future site of a new water treatment plant.

On April 8, the board and the commission both voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting voters not support Article 18, a citizen's petition proposed by an abutter of the project site. The Littleton Board of Water Commissioners also previously voted to oppose Article 18.

The Littleton Water Department plans to build a water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue, adjacent to the VFW property. If Town Meeting votes to restrict the land for conservation, the project would be blocked, and LWD would have to consider more expensive and less environmentally responsible options.

The plan would improve the quality and quantity of water delivered to meet the needs of all Littleton residents. The Whitcomb Ave. wells are the only water source in Littleton without a treatment plant. The project also calls for replacing the aging wells and restoring adjacent wetlands to a natural habitat by removing

the old highway garage and asphalt.

"The Board of Selectmen supports the Littleton Water Department because this project will benefit all the residents of the town, and the department has a long history of protecting our environment and delivering clean water. The citizen's petition at Town Meeting would halt a project that improves both water quality and the environment," said Paul Glavey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

The project has received approvals to begin construction from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission and is supported by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

In May 2018, Town Meeting authorized the LWD to borrow \$7 million for the project. While the initial concept had the plant at the well site, engineers determined building in the 100-year flood plain would add \$1 million to the project cost. They recommended building across Whitcomb Ave. on LWD land. This also moved the plant outside of the Zone I well protection area, a 400-foot radius buffer. To learn more about the Whitcomb Ave. project, visit lelwd.com.

Town Meeting May 6th

The Annual Town Meeting is Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m., at the Littleton Middle School, 55 Russell St. A special town meeting is called for 7:30p.m.

The warrants include:

- Article 17 – Zoning Amendment: Aquifer and Water Resource District. This article is sponsored by the Planning Board and the Board of Water Commissioners. It amends the Aquifer and Water Resource District section of the Zoning Bylaw to comply with the requirements

of the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection.

- Article 21 – to seek special legislation to authorize establishment of the Littleton Common Smart Sewer District.
- Special Town Meeting Article 6 – to create a Senior Center Stabilization Fund.
- Special Town Meeting Article 7 – to appropriate \$3 million for a Senior Center at the old DCU building.



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LELD Strings Power in Navajo Nation

Two LELD crews joined other public power utility workers from across the country and journeyed to Arizona in April to bring electricity for the first time to houses in the Navajo Nation.

The American Public Power Association’s Light Up Navajo mutual aid initiative is a pilot program that supports electrification efforts by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, the public power utility serving the Navajo Nation. Of the 55,000 homes in the territory, about 15,000 – home to 60,000 people – have no electricity.

“We are proud to help bring electricity, which powers drinking water wells, refrigeration and lights, to the people of Navajo Nation,” said LELD General Manager Nick Lawler. “This project is a perfect example of the spirit of public power – helping where the need is greatest.”



This project is expected to significantly improve the lives of Navajo families who have had no electricity due to the high cost of installing infrastructure in such remote locations. Navajo Nation is the largest Native American tribe in the United States with an estimated population of 300,000, about 190,000 of whom reside within Navajo territory.

About 38 percent of the Navajo people live below the poverty line; 48.5 percent are unemployed. The land spans over 27,000 square miles and occupies portions of northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico and southern Utah. It is comparable in size to the state of West Virginia.

