

Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

October 2019



Banners Honor Town's Veterans

In time for Veteran's Day, LELWD crews have installed banners on light poles honoring Littleton's veterans.

The banners feature a photo of the veteran, his or her name and branch of service. LELWD also provided the brackets to install the 112 banners featuring 135 veterans.

The banner project was a successful fundraiser for the Friends of Littleton Veterans to help with upgrades to the Edgar P. Romilly Veterans Corner on Littleton Common.

With the addition of two new monuments and nearly 400 names, the Veterans Corner is scheduled for rededication on Nov. 10.

LELWD Seeks Town Meeting Support on Water Treatment & Smart Sewer Projects

LELWD has been working closely with the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection and its consulting engineers CDM Smith to develop the best strategy to address the presence of the manmade contaminant known as PFAS.

PFAS have been found at levels of concern in the Spectacle Pond well, with smaller amounts in samples from Whitcomb Avenue and Beaver Brook sources. While the levels are all below current federal and state guidance values, LELWD plans to install filtration to remove it in anticipation of a much lower drinking water standard to be established by MassDEP in the next few months.

CDM Smith is evaluating multiple options, and LELWD will proceed with the most expedient, effective and fiscally responsible one. The most cost-effective solution may be piping raw water from Spectacle Pond to the new water treatment plant already planned for Whitcomb Ave.

In order to move quickly, LELWD is seeking Town Meeting approval to borrow \$6 million for:

- Installing temporary, emergency facilities and infrastructure to reduce PFAS levels in the near term.
- Designing and starting construction of a permanent filtration system.

Article 12 also asks Town Meeting to declare the purpose of the Whitcomb

Ave. property – site of the planned treatment plant – is for water system use and not conservation land. To learn more about PFAS, visit lelwd.com/pfas/.

Outdoor Watering Ban

Customers can help LELWD reduce the levels of PFAS in the water by complying with an outdoor watering ban instituted earlier this month. LELWD is minimizing use of the Spectacle Pond wells, where the highest levels of PFAS have been found. This increases the demand on the Beaver Brook and Whitcomb Ave. wells, but that can be reduced by stopping outdoor watering.

Transferring Smart Sewer to LELWD

Article 9 at Town Meeting would transfer control of the Littleton Common Smart Sewer Project to the Board of Water Commissioners. While managed by the Board of Selectmen in the early stages, the project is entering the design, installation and operations phases. Both boards agree control should now be transferred to the water commissioners because LWD has:

- The technical expertise and personnel.
- The operations infrastructure, customer service, billing and other management functions.
- A commitment to fiscally responsible environmental stewardship and community development through smart infrastructure design and management.

Littleton Town Meeting Oct. 28

A Special Town Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 28, at the Littleton Middle School, 55 Russell Street. The Town Meeting Report with articles, motions, recommendations and explanations has been mailed to all Littleton households and is available online at littletonma.org.



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



Celebrating Public Power Week with Our Communities

LELWD recognized national Public Power Week by holding special events for our community members. Public Power Week recognizes that municipal utilities are publicly owned and provide reliable, low-cost service and caring for the community. Students at the Blanchard and Shaker Lane Elementary Schools saw how LELWD bucket and digger trucks help set poles and wires. At the Littleton Council on Aging, staff served coffee and doughnuts while giving residents LED bulbs and other handy kitchen items. And across Littleton and Boxborough, LELWD crews planted more than 130 free shade trees for residents. When fully grown, the trees will shade the homes from summer sun and remove carbon dioxide from the air.

www.LELWD.com

Closed Fridays

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

978-540-2222

39 Ayer Road, PO Box 2406
Littleton, MA 01460

