

Watts & Drops

NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLETON
ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER DEPARTMENTS

OCTOBER 2020



October Storm Causes Outages

Line crews worked overnight and restored power to portions of Littleton and Boxborough after strong winds the evening of Oct. 7. Fallen trees snapped utility poles, including two along Fort Pond Hill Road and Countryside Road. Scattered outages included Taylor Farm Road in Boxborough and Mattawanakee Trail in Littleton.



Watch Sewer Forum Online

A public forum to brief the community on the current plans for a new sewer system was held Oct. 14. A recording of the hearing is available on lelwd.com. During the briefing, LELWD staff discussed what areas of town would most benefit from a sewer system, both to allow economic growth and protect the environment.



Voters Give Final OK for Water Treatment

Littleton voters at the Special Town Meeting on Oct. 18, approved \$17 million in borrowing for a new water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue. The plant will remove PFAS chemical compounds, manganese and iron from water pumped from the Spectacle Pond and Whitcomb Avenue wells.

Town Meeting previously approved \$13 million for the initial phases of the \$30 million project, which will be paid for by water rates. The plant is necessary to ensure safe and reliable water supplies.

Town Meeting voters also approved a home-rule petition, which requires approval of the state Legislature, to permit the treatment plant construction on the Whitcomb Ave. lot. While also passed last year, the Legislature had not acted as of Town Meeting. The vote allows the petition to be refiled in the 2021 legislative session. Voters also approved borrowing at 0% interest through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.



A Step Closer to Sewer System

Town Meeting voters also greenlighted construction of a larger sewer discharge site underneath the playing fields adjacent to Littleton High School.

Voters approved borrowing up to \$2.5 million to design, permit and construct the discharge site. The project will be repaid in part by a \$1.5 million MassWorks grant and sewer rates.

The approval moves the town one step closer to installing a sewer system in neighborhoods that could benefit both economically and environmentally.

Essentially a large leach field, the discharge site could receive up to 175,000 gallons per day of treated sewer water via underground pipe for reintroduction to the environment.

The location, which already hosts a smaller discharge site, will not be the site for the treatment plant.

Voters also approved a home-rule petition to establish the Littleton Common Smart Sewer District. While also passed last year, the Legislature had not yet acted, and the new vote enables the petition to be reintroduced in January.



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Office Hours:

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

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LELWD Plants 729 Shade Trees in 5 Years

LELWD employees fanned across Littleton and Boxborough earlier this month to plant Autumn Blaze maple trees in the yards of customers who requested them. In one day, 140 trees were planted by 17 staff volunteers.

The free trees are part of the Shade Tree Program, which encourages the use of trees to cool homes. In five years, the program has planted 729 trees in the two towns.

This year, three trees were also planted at Littleton High School and two trees were planted at the historic Richardson Icehouse in Boxborough.

Trees provide natural cooling and consume carbon dioxide. A mature tree can lower energy use between 100-250 kilowatt-hours per year.

The Shade Tree Program is part of LELWD's Green Rewards program that helps customers save money on their bills while conserving electricity and water. It includes rebates on energy-efficient products and low-cost, lower-impact light bulbs and water fixtures.



Celebrating Public Power

The first week of every October is national Public Power Week. Its when we celebrate that LELWD is one of 2,000 community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities in the nation serving 49 million customers. The benefits of community-owned electric utilities include lower bills, fewer outages and quality service.

Sign Up for Renewable Energy Bill Credit

LELWD offers a renewable energy credit to all residential electric customers who sign up for it. LELWD receives financial incentives to invest in and develop renewable projects. It passes them on to residential electric customers with a bill credit up to \$5 off per month. The state requires customers to sign up to receive the credit, which can be done at lelwd.com/rec.

OUR NEW LOOK!

New design for Watts & Drops

In this edition of Watts & Drops, readers will notice a new look with design changes to improve the bimonthly newsletter. The design is intended to be easier to read, include more photos and contain more useful information for our customers.