

Watts & Drops

JUNE 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLETON
ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER DEPARTMENTS



Two LHS Seniors Awarded Scholarships

The Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments awarded scholarships in memory of Denise M. Pagacik to two Littleton High School seniors this year - Akshaya Naapa Ramesh and Cameron McLeod.

Akshaya graduated with a 4.98 grade point average and plans to study computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor this fall. Cameron graduated with a 4.95 GPA and will attend Tufts University for environmental science.

“We are pleased to award scholarships this year to two deserving students who have given back to their community, excelled in academics and plan to pursue careers in engineering or environmental science,” said Nick Lawler, LELWD’s general manager.

The \$2,000 scholarship is an annual, merit-based scholarship that focuses on rewarding a highly motivated high school senior interested in the

fields of engineering or environmental sciences.

This scholarship was created in memory of Denise Pagacik, the late wife of LELWD Commissioner Ivan Pagacik. A Littleton resident for more than 25 years, she was a loving mother who is remembered for her selfless commitment to the community and helping others.

Cameron first became interested in environmental science and sustainable farming methods at the Littleton Community Farm, where he started working six years ago.

“Sustainable land usage can benefit the community by protecting local water sources from harmful runoff, increasing available recreation and conservation land, and creating a healthy, local food source for nearby residents,” he said in his application essay. “I hope to lead a career in environmental science which not only protects ecological systems, but also allows for land use in a way which benefits both the community and the environment.”



Scholarship winners Akshaya Naapa Ramesh and Cameron McLeod with the LELWD scholarship committee, left to right, Commissioner Ivan Pagacik, General Manager Nick Lawler, and staff members David Lizotte, Connor Reardon and David Ketchen.

Akshaya plans to combine her two passions – service and technology into a career.

“My multilingual background and experiences tutoring students of various ages and cultural backgrounds have fueled my interest in language and the influence of communication on learning,” she said in her essay.

Drought Declared, Please Conserve Water

The Town of Littleton is officially in a drought, and non-essential outdoor water use is prohibited. State officials declared a Level 2 - Significant Drought for Northeast and Southeast Regions of the state on June 15th.

Littleton Water is asking the public to help conserve water by following these restrictions:

- No non-essential outdoor watering such as car, patio and house washing.
- Outdoor watering of vegetable gardens is permitted.
- Watering with a hand-held hose or watering can is permitted between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

LELWD has also suspended its spring water main flushing.

In addition to drought conditions, Littleton is experiencing a water shortage with the reduced use of the Spectacle Pond well site due to the presence of the contaminant PFAS above regulatory limits. The new water treatment plant under construction will allow the full, safe use of Spectacle Pond when it comes online next spring.



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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Littleton Receives \$250K Grant to Improve Public Safety Communications

The Town of Littleton has received a \$250,000 state grant that will improve communication capabilities and cybersecurity for its public safety, electric and water departments.

The funding will enable extension of the town's municipal fiber network to the Newtown Road Water Storage Tank. This will replace existing cellular connections and enhance communication capabilities for the Littleton Police Department, Littleton Fire Department and the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments.

"It's crucial to have reliable and high-speed communications for each of these departments throughout Littleton for public safety purposes," said Nick Lawler, General Manager of LELWD, which will manage the project and perform the work.

Currently, this area in town has no municipal fiber and only cellular communication is in use. The cellular communication can be intermittent and does not always provide the proper quality communication required for each public safety department.

"Our departments work as a team to



Assistant General Manager David Ketchen (left) and Engineering and Operations Manager Patrick Laverly with Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito at a ceremony to receive the \$250,000 grant on June 2nd at Taunton City Hall.

protect and serve Littleton, and we know we can always count on Littleton Electric Light and Water to provide the support the police and fire departments need," said Littleton Police Chief Matthew Pinard.

Another key aspect to adding this fiber line extension would be to enhance cybersecurity. Cyberattacks are much more difficult for hackers on a fiber network versus a wireless network.

The project, estimated between \$300,000 and \$350,000, is expected to be completed in about six months. After the grant money, the remaining cost will be assumed by Littleton Light as a capital project. The project is scheduled to start late fall at the earliest and be completed by September 2023.

LELWD Named Smart Energy Provider

The Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments (LELWD) continue to be nationally recognized as a Smart Energy Provider (SEP) from the American Public Power Association for demonstrating a commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support the goal of providing safe, reliable, low-cost, and sustainable electric service.

The SEP designation, which lasts for two years (December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2023), recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices in four key disciplines: smart energy program structure; energy efficiency and distributed energy programs; environmental and sustainability initiatives; and customer experience. LELWD was designated as a smart energy provider in 2019 and had to reapply to hold the designation. LELWD continues with fewer than 100 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities nationwide to hold the SEP designation.