

# Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

February 2017



## Silveria Retires After 10 Years with LELWD

A familiar face to many LELWD ratepayers, Joni Silveria has retired after 10 years as the Executive Assistant/Human Resources Specialist. To many residents, Joni was known as the planner of community events, including the annual senior citizens' lunch and the many school field trips to LELWD. She also coordinated filling the Green Rewards' product orders for customers.

"I liked the community involvement aspect of my job, and I also enjoyed helping individual employees with anything they needed assistance with," she said.

Joni joined LELWD in 2006 and had been an IT specialist at Littleton High School since 1998. She and her husband, Rich, plan to spend more time with their children and grandchildren and travel.



## Grant Will Replace Boxborough Lights

LELD has won a state grant to replace street lights in Boxborough with light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. The \$3,000 grant will fund 31 new LED fixtures that provide the same level of illumination as older lights, but consume less electricity.

## LELD Delivers Lowest Rates in State

The Littleton Electric Light Department delivered the lowest residential electric rates in the state in 2016, continuing a pattern of consistently outperforming other municipal and investor-owned utilities.

A typical monthly bill for the Littleton and Boxborough residents served by LELD averaged \$79.04 based on usage of

750 kilowatt hours. In a comparison of nearby communities, Groton was the second lowest with an average of \$91.24 per month and Unitil was the highest at \$176.80.

Based on current energy market conditions and forecasts, LELD predicts rates will remain relatively stable for the remainder of 2017.

### Residential Rate Comparisons



\*Municipally owned utility

Source: Residential rate comparison for 750 kWh based on 12-month average rate, Jan-Dec. 2016, as compiled by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Co.

## LWD Focusing on System Efficiencies & New Sources

The Littleton Water Department is planning for the future with a two-pronged approach to increasing its sources of drinking water. LWD's goal is to develop a plan to sustainably provide sufficient water to current and future customers, including Patriot Beverages, which plans to reopen the Veryfine bottling plant.

In the short-term, LWD is analyzing the existing water system for efficiencies. Areas under consideration to boost yield from the current system include replacement of wells and increased withdrawal on existing wells. LWD is also conducting leak detection and maintaining its infrastructure to ensure critical assets maintain their service levels.



In the long-term, LWD is conducting flow tests at the Cobbs Well site, a new series of wells in the southeast corner of town. Flow tests will determine how much water the wells can produce and are a necessary step in receiving a permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection.



Visit [www.LELWD.com](http://www.LELWD.com) to pay your bill and to learn more about us.

## Replacing Utility Poles Improves System Reliability

LELD crews are busy this winter replacing worn-out utility poles as part of ongoing efforts to maintain the electric system and ensure reliability.

Last summer, LELD inspected more than 1,500 poles, about 30 percent of the total in the system. About 80 poles were identified as candidates for replacement.

As of early February, crews had 25 poles remaining to replace and expected to complete the work by spring.

Inspections are conducted using a special digital drill that measures wood quality at the core of the pole. The expected life span of a utility pole is about 55 years.



## Community Bulletin Board: Library Welcomes Author

Author Susan Clark will talk about her book, "Slow Democracy," at 7 p.m., March 14, in the Couper Room of the Reuben Hoar Library. Co-authored by Woden Teachout, the book is available at the library as part of a community-wide read. For more information, call the library at 978-540-2600.

*Publicize your upcoming event in Watts & Drops, mailed every other month to Littleton and Boxborough residents. Send event information, including telephone number, to [mlyonnaise@lelwd.com](mailto:mlyonnaise@lelwd.com).*

