

## General Manager's Letter



Now that the holidays are here, we can give added thanks that it seems we have turned the corner and the pandemic appears to be behind us. Although vigilance and caution should

be maintained as we celebrate the holidays with family and friends, we are happy that we are able to renew traditions like the annual tree and Star of David lighting, and our annual school safety program.

During the next few months, Georgetown residents will be spending more time indoors as winter winds and adverse weather descend upon us. This is a great time to check your doors and windows for any gaps that may let in cold air, making your heating system work longer and harder to keep you warm. Georgetown Light offers some great rebates and energy incentives on everything from heat pumps to insulation to appliances. Make sure to review the information in this newsletter or check our website [www.georgetownlight.com](http://www.georgetownlight.com) for more information and to see how you may qualify for a rebate or energy incentive.

Winter weather brings the possibility of snow-laden branches resting on – and sometimes bring down – our electrical wires. Georgetown Light has a robust tree trimming program that lessens the possibility of tree limbs and branches bringing down wires along our roadways. This program will resume in the spring when weather conditions improve and will continue into the fall. As a reminder, if you do see a downed wire, stay away and call us at (978) 352-5730. You should always assume that the wire is live.

On behalf of Georgetown Light employees and Commissioners, best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Dave Schofield,  
General Manager



## What is Public Power, and Why is it Special?

Georgetown Light is one of the more than 2,000 locally owned public power utilities in 49 states and five U.S. territories. Although the traditional October Public Power Week celebrations at Georgetown Electric and other utilities were not held in 2020 and 2021, public power is celebrated every day in Georgetown. That's because public power utilities are not for profit, community-owned, and locally controlled, meaning lower rates than those paid by customers of investor-owned utilities, more reliable electric service, and support for strong local economies.

Public power utilities are one of three primary types of electric utilities that serve customers in the United States, according to the American Public Power Association (APPA), and one in seven Americans are served by a public power utility.

"Many new residents sometimes ask why public power is special and why we herald the benefits – and uniqueness – of public power," Georgetown Light General Manager Dave Schofield said. "We simply tell them that we work for them, and with them, to provide safe, reliable electricity at lower rates. As a locally-owned utility, the ratepayers elect a governing board – in our case the Board of Light Commission – to make sound decisions on their behalf."

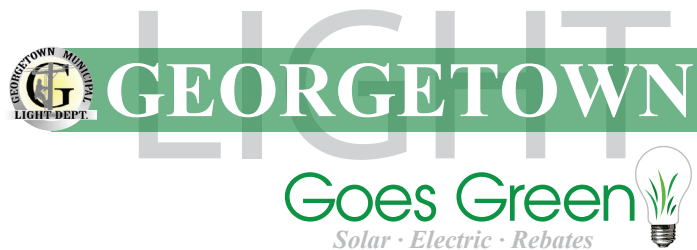
As for reliability, the General Manager noted that outside of major events like a severe storm, customers of a public power utility are likely to be without power for less time than customers of private utilities.

According to APPA, 10% of electricity generated in the U.S. is from public power facilities and approximately 40% of this electricity was generated from non-carbon emitting sources in 2019. This is important as the commonwealth and the country work toward near-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Public power utilities also invest into their communities by offering energy saving rebates and energy saving opportunities, as well as supporting local organizations.

"As a public power utility, Georgetown Light has been able to offer its ratepayers programs and opportunities not available to customers of privately-owned utilities," General Manager Schofield added. "These benefits are available year-round, and we use opportunities like Public Power Week to remind our ratepayers of our services as a locally-owned and controlled electric utility. As a municipal utility, our job is to provide power to Georgetown at reasonable rates that benefit all ratepayers. We can do this because, unlike private utilities, we don't have shareholders. We can charge not-for-profit rates and keep the proceeds right here in Georgetown. Georgetown Light ratepayers know they can count on us to be there when they need us."

For information about Georgetown Light, visit the website at [www.georgetownlight.com](http://www.georgetownlight.com).



Georgetown Light offers exclusive rebates and incentives to its customers to help reduce energy consumption and save natural resources. Georgetown Goes Green can help reduce your home's environmental impact and lower your electric bill.

Through Georgetown Goes Green, Georgetown Light customers may be eligible for a weatherization incentive of 50% of project cost up to \$500 for air sealing and insulation, an Energy Star-rated appliance rebate ranging from \$25 for a qualifying smart WiFi thermostat to \$500 for a qualifying hybrid water heater, or an air source heat pump and ductless mini-split rebate of \$100 or \$500. Georgetown Light also offers rebates on solar installations and electric vehicle chargers.

To qualify for a 2021 rebate and incentive, qualifying items must be purchased between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 and applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2021 for appliances and weatherization incentives, and January 15, 2022 for ducted and ductless heat pumps.

For a complete list of rebates and incentives along with qualifying criteria and deadlines, visit the website [www.georgetownlight.com](http://www.georgetownlight.com).

### Location:

Georgetown Light Office  
94 Searle Street  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
Tel: 978-352-5730  
Fax: 978-352-5733

### Customer Service hours:

Monday - Thursday  
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
info@georgetownlight.com

### Emergency number:

978-352-5730

### Payment Options:

Walk in payment  
94 Searle Street

Payment online  
www.invoicecloud.com/georgetownlight

Drop Box payment  
Water Dept. parking lot -  
W Main St at Moulton

Light Dept parking lot at  
94 Searle Street

### Holiday Closings:

Monday, December 27 – Christmas

Monday, January 3 – New Years

Monday, February 21 - Presidents' Day

If you have an emergency, call  
Georgetown Light at (978) 352-5730.

### Commissioners:

Nick Lawler, Chairman  
Peter Dion  
John Smolinsky

### General Manager:

David Schofield



## Georgetown Light in the Community...



*The Town of Georgetown celebrated the start of the holiday season during the annual tree lighting celebration held recently at Harry Murch Park. Committee members and friends (from left to right) State Representative Lenny Mirra, Committee Chair Dave Schofield, Committee member Mary Janson, Georgetown Light Commissioner John Smolinsky, and Committee member Joseph Bonavita celebrated with local residents at the event.*

we were able to resume this wonderful tradition this year. We are especially grateful to the scores of townspeople who joined us as we kicked off the holiday and Hanukkah seasons.”

Georgetown Light was instrumental in planning the Town's annual tree lighting and lighting of the Star of David on **Sunday, November 28th**. The family-friendly event at Harry Murch Park included music and refreshments along with the traditional lighting of the tree and the Star of David.

“The annual celebration was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but went on this year as scheduled,” Georgetown Light General Manager Dave Schofield, chairperson of the event said..

“The committee, the Board of Selectmen and town departments are grateful that

## Safety Programs

Safety expert Ray Gouley visited the Penn Brook School to talk to the elementary children about the safe use of electricity as part of the safety program sponsored and conducted each year by Georgetown Light. (Safety program photos by Ray Gouley)



*Dave Schofield, Georgetown Light General Manager, (center in group photo) was welcomed by local seniors and Georgetown Council on Aging Director Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello during his annual electrical safety presentation at the Council on Aging's Senior Community Center. The General Manager and safety expert Ray Gouley talked to the seniors about how to stay safe in their homes, not only during the winter months, but throughout the year.*

## During a Storm – Be Informed

In the event of an outage, Georgetown Light encourages its customers to check the website: [www.georgetownlight.com](http://www.georgetownlight.com), if possible, to see if any outages have been reported and to get an estimated time of restoration (ETR), if it is available. Customers can also call 978-352-5730 to report the outage and/or receive an update.

If an outage occurs, remember to avoid the unnecessary opening and closing of refrigerators/freezers as much as possible to keep the cool air inside.

Electrical devices such as a TV, DVD player, microwave, computer, stereo, etc. that are not plugged into surge protectors should be unplugged. When power is restored, wait a few minutes to plug devices back in. And, avoid using your oven for heat to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Ranges and ovens are not designed for heating homes and should only be used for cooking.

If the home has a generator, use it wisely. Avoid running it indoors, even in a garage. It should be placed at least 15 feet away from open windows so exhaust does not enter the home. The generator should be kept dry and should be placed on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.

As a public power utility, Georgetown Light works only for Georgetown. That means that line crews are dispatched to address the outage as soon as it is safe to do so. As a result, our restoration times are much less than those of customers who receive their electricity from investor-owned utilities.