

## General Manager's Letter



In the spring of 2016, a LED streetlight conversion grant offered by the state was brought before the Board of Selectmen. The grant paid for 50% of the capital cost of materials or roughly \$100,000. The result of the project would include lower annual streetlighting costs to the town as well as a

much cheaper cost to convert, which made this the right time to convert to LEDs. The eventual annual savings would equal around 50% or roughly \$25,000. The new streetlighting system will provide more efficient roadway lighting using roughly half of the energy than the existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) system. The LED lighting fixtures and photo eye controllers carry a warranty for 10 years and are expected to last much longer. This compared to a high pressure sodium bulb and photo eye which must be replaced every three years.

The state grant stipulates that this project must be approved by the Board of Selectmen as streetlighting is a service provided by the Municipal Light Plant to the town and paid for by the taxpayers. The Board of Selectmen voted 3 to 1 to move forward with the project. After a mandatory streetlight audit / study, it was determined that a 23 watt 3000k Dark Sky compliant LED fixture be used to replace the existing 70 watt HPS fixtures in the residential areas. This fixture is in line with the American Medical Association's recommendation of a color rating of no more than 3000k in the residential areas. As of February 2018, we have 600 of 900 LED fixtures installed.

The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive with residents citing the absence of light trespassing that was unavoidable with the previous HPS system. They also claim to be able to see better at night which is a common reaction to a whiter light. This project is supported by our local emergency services due to the better visibility at night. We have had several calls about glare after a new installation which can be addressed with an adjustment of the fixture angle or the installation of a shield in rare cases (less than 1%). Please contact us if you need us to adjust the fixture. It is our goal to make this conversion as seamless as possible and closely match if not improve the quality of streetlighting in Georgetown. There is a different look to this lighting and for some it will take some getting used to. I hope this update will satisfy some of the questions that people may have and if not, please contact us here at the plant and we will be happy to discuss.

Dave Schofield,  
General Manager



## Heating Assistance Programs

Several programs are available to local residents who may be having trouble paying their heating bills this winter.

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - (Fuel Assistance)

Funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), LIHEAP assists low-income individuals and families with the cost of heating their homes during the winter season. Georgetown residents who have not participated in the program in past years can contact Community Action at 978-373-1971. Applications are mailed to households after the first year and households must re-apply each year from November 1st to April 30th.

LIHEAP provides fuel assistance to low-income people with annual household gross income less than or equal to 60% of the estimated state median income. The program pays benefits of fixed amounts based on household income and size. A single member household would be eligible if the income is under \$34,380. A family of four would be eligible if the income is under \$66,115.

### Salvation Army Good Neighbor Energy Fund

The Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund provides energy assistance to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.

Household income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. Income eligibility guidelines for 2017 - 2018 vary from \$34,380 - \$45,840 for an individual and \$66,115 - \$88,153 for a family of four.

This heating season's maximum fund disbursement is \$425 per eligible household regardless of amount owed. Grants for a household must be paid directly to the vendor(s).

For more information about eligibility criteria, call 978-374-7571, 978-465-0883 or 1-800-334-3047.

## New 2nd Class Lineworker



Georgetown Light recently welcomed 2nd Class Lineworker Mike Correale to the department. A resident of Danvers, Mike worked for the Peabody Municipal Lighting Plant for nine years, and is currently in his fourth and final year of lineworker apprenticeship training.

### 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

Patriots Day - Monday, April 16  
Memorial Day - Monday, May 28  
If you have an emergency, call  
Georgetown Light at (978) 352-5730.

### Commissioners

Peter Dion, Chairman  
Scott Edwards  
John Smolinsky

### General Manager

David Schofield



## In Memoriam

Georgetown Light is saddened by the loss of former Foreman Ray Roberts and Lois Hazen, wife of former General Manager Jim Hazen.

Ray Roberts passed away on December 22, 2017 at the age of 90. He worked at Georgetown Light as a Lineworker and a Foreman from 1962 to 1982 and was instrumental in training many new lineworkers during his career. He moved to Northboro, Maine following his retirement.

Lois Hazen died on January 15, 2018 at the age of 84. A lifelong resident of Georgetown, Lois was the wife of former General Manager Jim Hazen. Jim served as General Manager from 1969 to 1984.

Georgetown Light sends its condolences to the Roberts and Hazen families.

## Books in Bloom

The Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library will sponsor Books in Bloom, a spectacular display of floral arrangements by local floral designers inspired by favorite literary works, on

Saturday, April 29th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Georgetown Peabody Library, 2 Maple Street in Georgetown.

Proceeds from the event will benefit library programming. Tickets are \$20 per person and includes complimentary refreshments. Many of the displays will be available for raffle.

To purchase tickets, contact Betty Hastings at betty.hastings@verizon.net. Tickets will also be available at the door.



## Call 8-1-1 to Dig Safe®



Georgetown residents, or their contractor, who plan to do any work that involves digging this spring should call Dig Safe® at 8-1-1 before doing any digging, regardless of the size and scope of the job. This communications network assists excavators, contractors and property owners by notifying participating utilities before any digging begins.

State laws require that anyone who digs must notify utility companies before starting any work, and that digging within 18" of a marked underground facility must be done by hand.

Member utilities use paint, stakes or flags to identify the location of their underground lines. Color codes are used to identify the type of utility:

**Red** – electric

**Purple** – reclaimed water

**Yellow** – gas, oil, steam

**Green** – sewer/drainage

**Orange** – communications

**Pink** – survey marks

**Blue** – potable water

**White** – proposed excavation

Dig Safe is funded entirely by member utilities like Georgetown Light to promote public safety, protect utility services, and safeguard against property and environmental damages. Massachusetts state law requires advance notice of at least 72 business hours (3 days), excluding weekends and holidays.

Dig Safe® should be contacted by calling 8-1-1, as the previous telephone numbers are no longer used. Additional information is also available on their website [www.digsafe.com](http://www.digsafe.com).

