

General Manager Dave Schofield Receives Individual Achievement Award



Georgetown Light General Manager Dave Schofield recently received the Francis "Skip" Willey Individual Achievement Award from the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA). The award is presented to an employee of a NEPPA system who demonstrates a professional commitment to public power through personal development and participation in NEPPA's educational programs and other association activities. Barbara Grimes, President of the NEPPA Board from 2012-2014 and retired General Manager of Burlington Electric Department in Burlington, VT presented the award.

Georgetown Light notified of a scam involving termination of service

Georgetown Light has been notified by several customers that they have been targets of a sophisticated phone scam that falsely tells customers that their electric service will be terminated if they do not make an immediate payment using a credit card or similar payment method, including Green Dot. The customers are also told that service will be remotely terminated if they do not take immediate action.

This scam, which has been taking place in many utility territories around the Commonwealth and the country, utilizes technology that falsely displays Georgetown Light's information on telephone caller ids. Some customers have also reported that they have been approached at their home or business.

"We want our customers to know that these calls and visits are not made by Georgetown Light staff," General Manager Dave Schofield said. "Georgetown Light follows specific steps before service is terminated and customers are notified well before such action would occur. This includes working with them to make payments or to set up a payment plan."

According to General Manager Schofield, Georgetown Light provides customers with a minimum of two past due notices and does not shut off service for non-payment on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or on holidays, the time when these calls or visits were made. If service is scheduled to be terminated, customers receive specific written information at the time of termination which explains their rights and the services which are available to them from Georgetown Light staff who provide proper identification. Customers are also reminded that Georgetown Light does not accept Green Dot payments. Customers are advised that if they receive a call which mentions Green Dot, it is not legitimate.

"We also remind our customers that they should always call Georgetown Light or come in during business hours to verify any call or visit made by the department seeking payment." For additional information, or to alert Georgetown Light to a possible scam, please call Georgetown Light at 978-352-5730.

Commissioners receive NEPPA awards for service

Georgetown Light Commissioners Scott Edwards and Pete Dion recently received Commissioner Service Awards from the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) for their years of distinguished service to the Georgetown Municipal Light Department. General Manager Dave Schofield was on hand for the award presentation.



Commissioner Pete Dion, left, receives his award from NEPPA President Barbara Grimes.



Commissioner Scott Edwards, left, accepts his award from General Manager Dave Schofield.

Natural gas is plentiful, but is difficult to get to New England

Although natural gas is plentiful and inexpensive in other areas of the country, getting it to New England has proven to be a challenge. The six New England states are supplied by only two major pipelines and both are at full capacity. This limited infrastructure, coupled with growing natural gas demand, has increased the price of electricity during the colder months when natural gas is also used for heating.

Until additional natural gas pipelines are built, or expanded, we may experience higher costs for our electricity. While it is always a good idea to conserve electricity and energy whenever possible, it may be more important this year if you want to save money on your electric and heating bills.

Georgetown Light continues to monitor the situation and make prudent power purchases. In the meantime, customers can help by taking simple – but effective – steps to keep the costs low:

- Remember to unplug chargers when not in use. This vampire energy, the term referring to the electricity many gadgets and appliances use just by being plugged in even if they're switched off, could be absorbing a good percentage of your bill.
- Upgrade some inexpensive items around your home. You can save money over time by replacing your most frequently used light bulbs with Energy Star certified bulbs. These light bulbs use less energy and last up to ten times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.
- Buy a smart thermostat if you can. Look for smart thermostats that have proximity control technology, which adjusts the thermostat's settings based on your daily activities.

News from The Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library

The Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library support and cooperate with the library to develop library services and facilities for the community, and elicit public support and community involvement on behalf of the library. The "Friends" raise funds to support library programs and free museum passes. In addition, they host a number of programs for library patrons and the Georgetown community.

Upcoming events:

The third annual **Georgetown Quilters Exhibition** for the month of February and March throughout the library.

A **reception on February 7th** for the Quilt exhibit and in celebration of the birthday of library benefactor George Peabody.

Books in Bloom March 21st includes a gorgeous array of floral arrangements - each depicting a book and created by Georgetown residents.

Join us. Family memberships are \$15. Individual memberships are \$10. Senior and Student (13 to 18 years of age) memberships are \$5.00. Checks can be made payable to Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library and mailed to 2 Maple Street, Georgetown, MA 01833.

Public Power Week Celebration



Among the many local residents who stopped by the Georgetown Light office during the Public Power Week open house were neighbors Jeannette Laing, (center), and Leonard Laing, (right), along with their dogs. The celebration provided General Manager Dave Schofield, (left), and the local utility the opportunity to remind Georgetown Light customers of the benefits of public power, including low rates, reliable service and a commitment to the community.



Georgetown Light General Manager Dave Schofield, center, welcomed local residents to the Public Power Week open house held during Public Power Week. Joining him at the event to celebrate the benefits of being a local-owned and operated public power utility were Jackie Brockelbank, left, and Margaret Weaver, right.



Raia Montero and Jayden Marchand enjoyed their visit to the Public Power Week open house. The children received hard hats, refreshments and giveaways during the celebration.



During the Public Power Week celebration, Georgetown residents Kandy (left) and John Shamberger (center) entered the raffle for a basket filled with energy saving materials, gift cards and seasonal items. Georgetown Light Business/Customer Service Coordinator Karen Marchand, helped them with their entry and answered questions about the locally-owned, public power utility.

