

General Manager's Letter



Happy New Year!

The past year was one which began quietly, then surged into record-breaking weather as the Northeast was hit with four Nor'easters during the month of March, which resulted in high tides, whipping winds and, unfortunately, power outages which impacted our service area.

Since we are a locally-owned power utility, Georgetown Light customers fared significantly better during this record-breaking weather than their neighbors who receive their electricity from investor-owned private utilities. Because our staff works only for Georgetown Light, and because we have been proactive all year with tree-trimming and preventative maintenance programs, these weather-related outages were significantly less in number and duration.

The same happened in October when an unexpected and unusually-early winter storm impacted the area, leaving a few inches of snow on trees which still had most of their leaves. This led to snow-laden branches and limbs which broke under the added weight. Once again, our tree-trimming and preventative maintenance programs came into play and saved the day for Georgetown Light customers. While many cities and towns around us were without power, we did not have a single outage.

Our record and our performance stand for themselves, not only in 2018, but throughout the past 106 years. As we begin our 107th year of exceptional service to Georgetown residents and businesses, we look forward to a new year of serving our ratepayers.

Dave Schofield,
General Manager



Conservation Program Undergoes Enhancements

Georgetown Light is putting the final touches on enhancements to the energy conservation program which includes the appliance rebate program. Georgetown Light is working with Energy New England (ENE) to launch the program in the next few months.

To further enhance the program, the conservation charge on customer bills will be updated from a flat rate of \$0.20 to a kilowatt (kW) usage charge of \$0.0003/kW as of the January 30th billing. Ratepayers who use an average of 600 kW monthly will not see any change, while those using more or less than 600 kW will see a slight increase or decrease.

Survey Results to be Released

Georgetown Light and the Georgetown Water Department are reviewing the results of the recent survey regarding the proposed merger of the two departments. The merger is proposed to streamline operations to enhance services to Georgetown residents.

According to Georgetown Light General Manager Dave Schofield, an informational meeting is scheduled within the next few months to discuss the results after they are released.

Additional information about the upcoming meeting can be obtained by calling Georgetown Light at 978-352-5730.

Council on Aging's Senior Center

General Manager Dave Schofield, center, recently visited the Council on Aging's Senior Center where he answered questions and talked to local residents and staff about the light department and public power, as well as ways they can save energy in their homes. The seniors and staff also learned about electrical safety from safety expert Ray Gouley. (photo credit: Ray Gouley)



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, January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
Monday, February 18 - Presidents' Day
Monday, April 15 - Patriots Day
Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day
If you have an emergency, call
Georgetown Light at (978) 352-5730.

Commissioners:

Peter Dion, Chairman
Nick Lawler
John Smolinsky

General Manager:

David Schofield



Public Power Week

Georgetown Light celebrated Public Power Week in the community in October with its annual open house at the 94 Searle Street office. Dozens of local residents joined in the celebration of Georgetown Light's unique status as a locally-owned and controlled electric utility.

"Public Power Week gives us the opportunity to remind our ratepayers that we are locally owned, which makes us special," General Manager Dave Schofield said. "Unlike investor-owned for-profit utilities, public power utilities are owned by the community and are governed by an elected Board of Light Commission. That means that our ratepayer owners have a direct voice in utility decisions and policymaking."

In addition to local control, public power utilities have lower rates and offer greater reliability. According to the American Public Power Association, customers of a public power utility are likely to be without power for just 59 minutes a year, compared to customers of private utilities that may lose power for 133 minutes a year.

Special thanks to all those who stopped by during Public Power Week to say hello!



Many local residents visited the 94 Searle Street office during the open house.



Brody Montiero enjoyed some of the refreshments at the Public Power Week open house.



John Shamberger, left, deposited his entry into the drawing for a basket of energy efficient materials with the help of Business Coordinator Mary Snow, center, and Office Manager Karen Marchand, right, during the Public Power Week open house.

Stay Warm During the Cold Weather

- Add caulk or weather-stripping to seal any air leaks around doors and windows.
- Change your drape to tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades if you feel any drafts after you've weatherized.
- Keep your heating system operating efficiently. Schedule service for your heating system if you feel it's inefficient. Or you can wait until the spring once you find out what maintenance is required.
- Replace your furnace filter once a month or as needed, no matter what time of year it is.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as tight as possible. Make sure the flue is closed when the fireplace is not in use.