



Light Subjects

Community Owned. Not for Profit. It's Ours.

Spring 2019

QUICK FACTS

EMERGENCIES 24/7
978-531-5975

OFFICE INFO:
201 Warren St. Ext.
Peabody, MA 01960
978-531-5975

HOURS:
Weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

OFFICE CLOSINGS:
5/27 - Memorial Day
7/4 - Independence Day
7/5 - Day after Independence Day
9/2 - Labor Day

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
Online at www.pmlp.com

By Mail,
PO Box 3199
Peabody, MA 01960

In Person,
See our cashier at our office during regular business hours.

After hours, our mail slot is to the right of the front door. (Gate is open 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.)

Drop Box Locations:
* South Branch Library
* West Branch Library
* City Hall, Chestnut St. side
Peabody Institute Library
Torigian Senior Center
*- Indicates 24/7 availability. Otherwise normal business hours apply.

WEBSITE:
www.pmlp.com

MANAGER:
Charles Orphanos

COMMISSIONERS:
Thomas J. Paras, *Chairman*
Robert O. Wheatley, *Vice Chair*
Thomas M. D'Amato, *Secretary*
William C. Aylward
Charles W. Bonfanti

Commissioners meet monthly during the school year in the PMLP McCarthy Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday, except in November and December when meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday.

Spring Cleaning. Spring Planting



As we transition out of winter and into spring, lawns grow, flowers bloom and trees inch higher. New shrubs and flowers will be planted to beautify yards and neighborhoods all over Peabody and Lynnfield.

Please remember to take caution around electrical equipment, especially the green pad-mount transformers that are in many sections of our communities.

As trees grow higher, they provide shade which can keep moisture in the ground around the transformers. Since transformers are made from steel, they rust in a constantly damp environment, creating a hazard. This condition occurs when there is not proper air flow and sunlight around them. The issue is compounded when mulch is raked up over the transformer foundation, covering the metal base.

In the example pictured above left, shrubs are overgrown, and the transformer is not



accessible. In an emergency, PMLP crews would have to remove the vegetation before any repairs could be made. This would lengthen an outage and put people at serious risk.

The picture on the right shows an acceptable use of plants and mulch around the pad-mount transformer. Some minor trimming may be needed, but there is room to access the device.

Specifications (posted on the unit) **require 2' of clearance around them, and 7' of even level and cleared ground** in front of them.

Inside pad-mount transformers are wires and connections with high voltage electricity. There is also oil that acts as an insulator between the electrified parts. The oil also dissipates heat that is generated and reduces humming noise.

When contained, the oil is completely safe. In the soil however, oil is an environmen-

tal challenge. A rusted transformer can leak oil, and over time, cause an expensive and lengthy repair.

As you consider beautifying the ground near pad-mounted transformers, we ask you to remember the environmental and safety risks associated with improper landscaping.

Additionally, replacing a unit, usually means a 4-6 hour power outage and significant disruption (or even destruction) of the landscaping in the immediate vicinity of the transformer.

To avoid a problem, we encourage you to be proactive in keeping the area around the pad-mounted transformer clear of trees, shrubs, and mulch.

If you have a situation outside of specifications mentioned, we ask that you address it this summer. Please feel free to contact us regarding landscaping located near PMLP equipment. Call community relations at 978-531-5975, ext 150.

Did you know? In 2018, PMLP residential customers paid \$1,150 LESS for their electricity than National Grid customers. (Based on 750- kWh monthly usage and prompt payment discount applied.)

Powering Up the Ipswich River Substation



PMLP's new Ipswich River substation project has hit some major milestones over the last few months. In mid-February, in conjunction with National Grid, final connections were made from one high voltage transmission line, and power was delivered to our new substation. In late March, PMLP's contractor State Electric successfully re-directed the existing line outside Ipswich River

so that is now being fed from the new substation.

In early April, again working with National Grid, high voltage connections were made to the second transmission line feeding the new substation. Also during that week, existing high voltage transmission lines to our old Ipswich River substation were removed, permanently de-energizing that station.

Current work includes demolition of the old Ipswich River substation, and returning it to its natural state. Also, new steel structures will be installed along the bike path between the new substation and Russell Street in the next few weeks. These will carry new lines which will add capacity and reliability to the area.

When work is completed, the working section of the bike path will be re-paved. We expect to be wrapped by mid-summer.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation during this project.



"HARD TIMES" Not Just in Winter

PMLP and North Shore Community Action Program (NSCAP) ask for donations each winter season for those people in need in our service area of Peabody and South Lynnfield. We are always thankful for your generosity.

Please remember that Hard Times can hit a family during any season. If you are able, please consider a donation now.

Donations are tax-deductible, and checks are payable to NSCAP-Hard Times Partnership Fund.

NSCAP
119R Foster St #13
Peabody, MA 01960.

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Commissioner Profile



Lighting Commissioner Thomas M. D'Amato has been an elected member of your light plant's Commission since 2002. He was Chairman of the PMLC in 2004, 2009, 2013, and 2017, and served as Vice-Chairman in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

A lifelong Tanner, class of '79, Tom is a proud member of the Peabody High School Athletic Hall of Fame! He's a graduate of Bowdoin College and has worked for the Mass State Lottery for the past 15 years.

His heart and soul are deeply woven into the fabric of his hometown! His community service, however, does not begin and end with the

Lighting Commission. Over the years Tom has **been deeply involved in many of Peabody's** youth sports programs as a coach and board member, and is still active today.

Married 32 years to fellow Tanner, Donna Levesque, they have three children ... Jaimie, an assessor at City Hall, TJ, a second year law student at New England Law, Boston, and Mattie, a sophomore at Salem State.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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