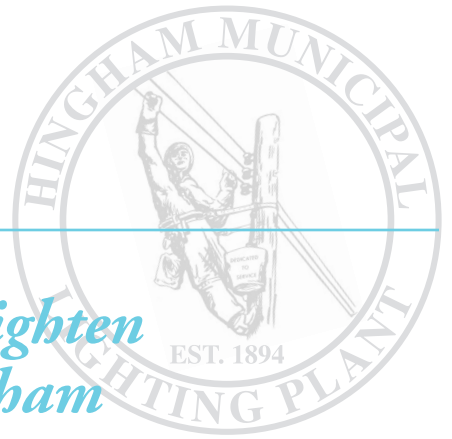


Light



Winter 2005

**Hingham
Municipal
Lighting
Plant
Newsletter**

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HMLP Helps Brighten Downtown Hingham

The Streets of Downtown Hingham were a little brighter this holiday season thanks to the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant.

The Hingham Downtown Association, The Friends of Downtown Hingham and the staff of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant all joined together this Christmas Season to adorn trees with thousands of twinkling lights along the downtown roads from Whitney Wharf to Walsh and Packard.



“It’s something that the Downtown Association has wanted to do for many years,” said HDA President Richard McManus of the Fluency Factory. He adds he is very pleased with the Association’s first year efforts to help lend a little sparkle to the downtown for the holidays. “But it wouldn’t have happened without the cooperation of the merchants and the help of the Friends of Downtown Hingham and the Lighting Plant.”

The Hingham Municipal Light Plant supplied the labor to get the lights glowing in time for Christmas in the Square, a staff of four workers carefully placed thousands of feet of holiday lights on trees throughout the historic district.

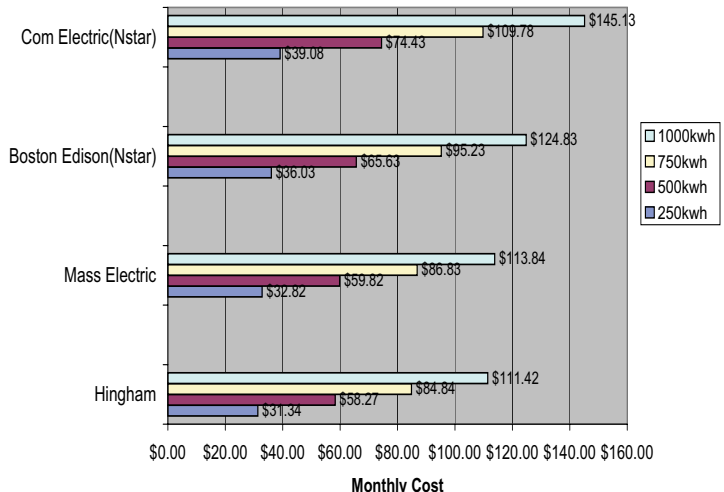
“We [HMLP] were very glad to help,” said John Tzimirangas, HMLP General Manager, who noted that he too understands the importance of supporting the downtown, particularly at a time when Greenbush construction makes the normally orderly downtown area difficult to navigate.

McManus stressed that he is most proud of the collegial nature of the collaboration. “Everyone worked together to make this happen. It’s true to say that if one group failed to do their part the whole effort would have failed. I’m very pleased that things worked out so well.”

“It’s just one more example of what a special place the town of Hingham really is,” said McManus.

HMLP Rates are Competitive

This chart shows that in 2004, your average monthly bill is lower than the average paid by customers of nearby investor-owned utilities. HMLP has always provided Hingham customers with competitive rates and reliable service.



A Message from the General Manager



There have been several stories in the newspapers lately discussing the next phase in the electric deregulation process in Massachusetts starting March 1, 2005. The change is that all customers of the investor-owned utilities will move to the “default” service category, which better presents the market for purchasing power. This will lead to increased bills for most customers of investor-owned utilities. This is not the case here in Hingham. The deregulation legislation did not force municipal utilities to have to move to this type of pricing. The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant can, and will continue to purchase short and long term contracts, own generation assets and structure their power purchase portfolio in the best interest of our customers as well as limit the market fluctuations experienced by the customers. Natural gas and oil prices have been at all-time highs and continue to hover around those levels through this winter season. The customers of the investor-owned utilities will be subject to those spikes under the new default service pricing structure.

I am pleased to report to the customers of Hingham that the reliability levels of the HMLP infrastructure continues to perform at first quartile or near first quartile levels for the second year in a row. This is due to the hard work and continuous monitoring of the system by the employees of the Light Plant. In the upcoming year, we plan to continue to improve our system and our customer service efforts for you our customers.

Please visit our website for information on the company and send us an e-mail with your thoughts.

John G. Tziorangas, General Manager
Visit our website at www.hmlp.com

FREE Help with ENERGY Conservation is just a Phone Call Away 1-888-772-4242

Expanding our long-standing commitment to energy conservation and the community we serve, the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant is once again offering residential conservation services to help you conserve energy and enhance your comfort level. These services are designed to help our customers become more enlightened users of our product, and to also identify means to attain greater energy savings.

If you have questions concerning energy conservation, specific end-use items, such as appliances, or conservation measures, such as insulation, our Energy Advisor service can assist. Simply call 1-888-772-4242. The call is free, so we encourage you to take advantage of this professional resource. This service is available Monday thru Friday, during normal business hours, and you will be able to speak with a highly trained — and objective — Energy Conservation Representative.

A Representative will assist with your energy questions or concerns, and will be happy to send you information on energy conservation as well as tips on how to save energy. If you would like to participate in an energy audit of your residence, the representative will coordinate that service on your behalf. If requested, a state-certified energy advisor will visit your home and compile a comprehensive energy evaluation report free of charge. The report will identify the measures you could take to enhance the energy efficiency of your residence and, potentially, ways to reduce your energy costs.

If you would like more information on our energy conservation initiatives, please call the Energy Hotline at: 1-888-772-4242.



HMLP Brings Electrical Safety to Local Children

The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HMLP) has recently completed a school children electric safety program to increase electrical safety in our community. HMLP is working with Ray Gouley, safety consultant, in order to raise awareness about electrical safety at the elementary level. The R.F. Gouley Company is certified to provide educational safety programs for power companies all over the United States. Mr. Gouley recently spoke about electrical safety to public school students in grades K-5 at Plymouth River, Foster and South Elementary Schools in September and October of this past year.

When Ray Gouley talked about electrical safety, 1,800 Hingham kids listened. Gouley presents a lively, age appropriate presentation conducted in individual classrooms, which includes visual aids, booklets, certificates, and posters. A different theme, message and approach is used to cater to different ages and grades.

Gouley uses different mascots to connect with the different age groups. Mr. Ouch brings the safety message to preschool, kindergarten and first grade students. Kato the Safety Ranger, The Shocking Truth, and Volton are among other characters that provide education information to students grade 2-5.

“For all grades, I emphasize three things,” says Gouley. “You can’t see electricity, you can’t hear electricity, and you can’t smell it. That’s why you should stay away from downed power lines.”

One component of the program involves using utility trucks to demonstrate the special design of the truck, the safety equipment and safety procedures used by line personnel, and the purpose of the orange cones children often see on streets and highways. HMLP was able to provide Plymouth River students with an up close look at an electrical linetruck.

Although the program is designed to be cumulative, with each year building on the previous years, each unit works independently by addressing the most dangerous activities children engage in at specific ages. “For example,” says Gouley, “toddlers and young children tend to put electrical cords in their mouths; pre-adolescent are tempted to climb into substations and trees.” He feels that it is important to connect with the children at a level that they understand.

“Electricity and water don’t mix, so I urge kids who see a hair dryer near water to tell their parents and have the hair dryer moved,” he says. Older kids in the fourth grade, some of whom have started to use electric air dryers, are told not to use them above sinks or other wet areas.

Mr. David Whiting, Assistant Principal at the Plymouth River School is very familiar with the program and has been very pleased with the way the program is run. “This program is teaching these kids about safety and electricity and it helps the children to identify a hazard and keep our kids safe in the community,” stated Mr. Whiting.



Lineworkers Kurt Gondveer and Peter Ward provide Plymouth River kindergartners an up close look at an HMLP Linetruck.



“Safety within our community is important to HMLP. We are pleased to be able to offer this type of a school-based educational program to raise awareness of the dangers of electricity,” says John G. Tzimirangas, General Manager of the Hingham Municipal Light Department. Tzimirangas plans to work with Gouley in order to continue with further programs next year.

John Tzimirangas, right, General Manager of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant shakes hands with Safety Consultant Ray Gouley, left.

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HMLP Substation Expansion

HMLP is currently in the process of a substation expansion project to allow for the future projected growth within the Town. The current substation can cover our current needs, but it does not have the capacity necessary to serve the new developments within the town (i.e. Linden Ponds Retirement Community, the Derby Street Shoppes, the Hingham Shipyard, and the new Blue Cross Blue Shield facility).



A feasibility study was conducted by an outside consulting company this past fall. After extensive review of the options, the Light Board voted to upgrade the existing substation. This option was the least costly and most effective choice to achieve an increased capacity at the existing substation.

The study was also tasked with analyzing the possibility of acquiring an alternate site for a future substation. HMLP continues to look for an alternate location in order to increase the redundancy of Hingham's incoming power supply. HMLP is dedicated to ensuring that Hingham maintains a consistent reliable low cost power system.

The substation expansion consists of the addition of a new transformer and switchgear enclosure at the existing Hobart St. Substation. The project is scheduled to begin this year and construction will be completed by Spring 2006.

John Tziorangas, General Manager, and the HMLP staff will be overseeing this project and are committed to ensuring that this project will run smoothly and that it will help position HMLP to serve the future load growth in the town.