

Light



Summer 2004

Hingham
Municipal
Lighting
Plant
Newsletter

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John A. Stoddard, Jr.,
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Board Member

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Direct Payment

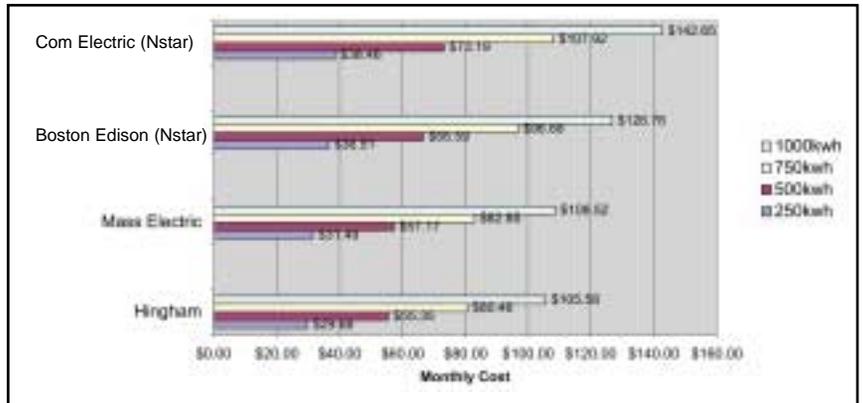
Direct payment of your electric bill is an excellent option for all customers. Customers can pay their monthly bills without writing a check, mailing an envelope or having to visit the office. Instead HMLP will simply deduct the amount due from the bank account you choose. As an HMLP residential or commercial customer, you can enjoy the convenience of automatic

bill payment. Sign up, and your bill will become a monthly statement and will include all current information. You will always receive the prompt payment discounts long as your account is current. Your statement will arrive before your bill is paid. This allows you to discuss any questions with our staff before payment is made. Call us at (781)-749-0134 for more information on this program.

Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant is Competitive

The chart below shows the average bill for a typical residential customer is from January to December 2003. The 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.



WELCOME TO NEW GENERAL MANAGER

The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant would like to welcome our new General Manager, John Tzimirangas. Mr. Tzimirangas is a former Director of Station Operations for Nstar and was responsible for all substations on Nstar's entire system. John brings with him 17 years of extensive electrical utility experience a degree in electrical Engineering with a minor in Power Systems from WPI and a Masters in Business Administration from Western New England College.

Tzimirangas is proud to join the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant which continues to provide low cost reliable service to the residents of Hingham. Please feel free to stop by the lighting plant office at town hall to discuss any issues with John.

Letter from the General Manager



I am honored to have been named the 12th General Manager of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant. The Light Plant is entering its 111th year of serving the residents of Hingham with safe and reliable electric service. This is an exciting time in Hingham, with all the new growth and a growing customer base. The new Derby Street Shoppe's, Linden Pond Community, Black Rock Golf Club and Community, the Shipyard plan and potential new growth in the Industrial Park makes this a great time to be joining the company.

The advent of electric utility deregulation in Massachusetts continues to create an evolving market and we continue watching the power markets with significant interest. As of March 1, 2005, the transition phase of deregulation will end and the customers of the investor-owned utilities, such as Mass Electric and NStar, will have to choose a power supplier. This will be similar to when the

telephone companies deregulated leaving their customers to choose their long distance carriers. This results in fewer suppliers who are actively chasing large blocks of power, leaving residential customers with little or no options at the present time. This will not be the case for the customers of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant. HMLP will be here to provide a reliable supply of energy to our customers as we have for the last 111 years.

The company is actively reviewing the market for energy in order to strategically place HMLP in a good position to serve the current requirements, as well as the future needs of the customers of Hingham. We continue to search out all the available energy and watch the every changing market structure to make sure the costs for this energy are in-line with the marketplace. While we can not accurately predict the future, our mission remains the same, to deliver a reliable supply of electric energy at a reasonable cost to our customers.

The HMLP Light Board and I thank you for being our customer and will continue to serve the customers of Hingham with a reliable electric system.

John G. Tzimirangas, General Manager

Springtime Planting

Look up before you plant it. Sprawling tree limbs look beautiful when in bloom. But if your springtime gardening plans include planting trees, please be careful. If you see an overhead line, do not plant a tree (even a small one) underneath the lines. If your baby tree is expected to reach within 10 feet of a power line, plant it in a different location. Also, keep all plants at least three feet from your electric meter so it is accessible to HMLP employees.



Meter Reading Access

It is very important that our meter readers have proper access to all electric meters. With your help, our meter readers will be able to read your meters more efficiently and accurately. Please clear any obstructions in and around your meter so that the meters are visible and accessible. It would also be helpful if you would keep the meter clear of any shrubs, bushes and plantings.

Also keep in mind that if you have a dog in the family, although it may be friendly around family and friends, it may be protective of its family and property. We would greatly appreciate any efforts you could make to protect our meter readers from harm.

Kite Safety

Kite flying can be great family fun, and it's a popular way to pass the time on a windy spring day. But be sure to follow these tips to be safe, and take a few minutes to explain them to your children:

- Do not use metal of any type when making a kite. Always use dry string – never wire.
- Fly kites in open fields, well away from power lines
- Never fly a kite in wet or stormy weather.
- Call us at 781-749-0134 if your kite gets caught in a power line or in any type of electrical equipment. Never try to remove it yourself.
- Don't ever climb trees near electric lines. If your kite gets caught in a tree, don't try to remove it unless you are certain there are no power lines running through the tree or near it. If there are, leave it alone and call us for assistance.
- Tell children about power lines, transformers, substations and high voltage towers, and teach them to stay away. Help them to recognize the high voltage warning signs on electrical equipment, and to understand what they mean.

What is Public Power?

Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant is one of over 2,000 public power systems in the country, offering important benefits not enjoyed by customers of private, investor-owned utilities.

LOCAL CONTROL – Citizens of Hingham have control over how their utility is run by electing a three member Light Board to set company policy.

LOCAL SERVICE – If you need service, you can call or visit us right here in Hingham. Our employees and equipment are also nearby, so we can handle emergencies quickly and efficiently. At HMLP, you pay for only the services you receive, not for stockholder dividends.

RELIABILITY – Because we're owned by the people we serve, our utility has one focus – to provide reliable, low-cost electric service to our customers. Private utilities must balance their service with the need to deliver profits to stockholders.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT – The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant is part of the community, which is why we are active in local programs and services in our community.



Liberty Pole Upgrade

HMLP began redesign and engineering work on the Liberty Pole neighborhood in 2003 in order to improve reliability of the electric service to our customers. HMLP started replacing aging poles in the summer of 2003 in preparation of re-conductoring the lines with new wire. Within the next few months, our line crews will begin to focus on installing new transformers and replacing all overhead high voltage wire. We appreciate your patience while we work in your neighborhood to improve reliability. HMLP is confident that you will be satisfied with your service as a result of the infrastructure improvements.

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Outdoor Safety



After a long harsh winter, it's great to be able to get outdoors to work and play.

Here are some tips to protect yourself from electrical accidents:

- When working outdoors, inspect power tools before each use for frayed power cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings. If the item is damaged, stop using it and have it repaired or replaced.
- Turn off power tools when not in use, and never use them in the rain or while standing in water. Make sure power tools are stored in a dry place, since dampness accumulated in a stored tool could also be shock hazard when tools are used.
- Only use extension cords rated for outdoor use. Electrically powered lawnmowers should not be used on wet grass.
- Watch out for overhead wires and other electric equipment when using ladders or other long objects. Carry ladders parallel to the ground and never move a ladder when it's extended.