



**BMLD**

**Your Community-  
Owned Utility**

# Watt's Up?

New web page: [www.belmont-ma.gov/electric](http://www.belmont-ma.gov/electric)

September/October 2009 Issue

A public power community for over 111 years

## Message from the Manager *By Tim Richardson*

Hello Belmont. It's hard to believe that the summer is done. The Red Sox are making a playoff run and we have the beautiful New England Fall to look forward to.

I want to thank our customers for their patience as we work out power quality issues around Concord Ave and Mill Street. It has been an interesting challenge to identify the cause of these transients. The cause is rooted in the effects of ground currents during fault conditions. We have upgraded our relay equipment to provide quicker detection and to minimize the effects of these disruptions. We are going to bid for new equipment that that will further reduce the impacts felt by our customers. The proposed 115 kV substation will provide electrical isolation from these off system faults.

When looking for a new appliance, make sure that you purchase an Energy Star model. The Energy Star label ensures that the appliance exceeds federal efficiency standards. Fred Battistini, owner of Haverhill TV & Appliance, says they always recommend purchasing Energy Star appliances. Electricity costs contribute to the lifetime cost of an appliance. The energy savings over the lifetime of the appliance outweigh the incremental cost for the more efficient model. Don't forget that BMLD provides rebates for Energy Star purchases. We also offer discounts for Energy Star efficient lighting. Watch our website for a new energy saving surge suppressor. It will shut down computer peripherals (printers, modems etc.) when the computer goes into sleep mode.

With the cold weather approaching, it's time to insulate. There are tax credits available if you install energy saving windows and storm doors. Replace your manual thermostats with an Energy Star programmable unit. BMLD offers a \$25 rebate for the thermostat purchase. You will be surprised how comfortable energy savings can be.

We will be looking for your support of the proposed 115 kV substation this fall. This project will provide Belmont with access to the transmission grid, reduced transmission costs and more reliable service today and in the future. We would be happy to hear your thoughts on this project at any of our public meetings this fall.

Good luck to all of our students this year. Enjoy the season. **Let's Go Red Sox!!**

## Prepare Now for Old Man Winter

Winter will be here before we know



**Sustainable  
Belmont**

it, and now is the time to prepare to save energy and money. First things first, schedule a free home energy audit through the BMLD by contacting Energy New England at **888-772-4242**. An advisor will come to your home and make recommendations for energy-saving improvements for your living space. One of the most cost-effective actions you can take is to insulate your home's attic and exterior walls. According to the US Department of Energy, only 20% of homes built before 1980 are well insulated. And thanks to the recently passed energy bill, homeowners can now get a federal tax credit of up to \$1500. Check out [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more details. Your home will be warmer in the winter and stay cooler in summer.

Also consider purchasing a programmable thermostat. The BMLD offers a rebate of \$25 for qualifying thermostats and you won't waste money and energy heating your home when you're away. Visit the BMLD website to download an appliance rebate brochure at [www.belmont-ma.gov/electric](http://www.belmont-ma.gov/electric) or call with questions at **(617) 993-2800**. These are just a couple of steps you can take that can add up to a cozier home, more money in your pocket, and less waste and pollution in our environment. *For information about Sustainable Belmont, visit [www.sustainablebelmont.net](http://www.sustainablebelmont.net).*

### QUESTION : What is the *Customer Charge* for on your monthly bill?

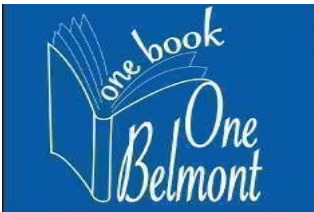
A fixed charge based on the cost of the meter and the electric wires to bring electricity to your home or business. This charge also covers the cost of reading your meter and maintaining customer account records. A Customer Charge is billed even if no electricity is used.

**Congratulations to BMLD customer Excel Roybal was the winner of the Energy Conservation Basket Give-a-Way at last month's Meet Belmont.**

# Watt's Up around Belmont?

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join us **September 9 through October 8** as we read *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by best-selling author Barbara Kingsolver with husband Steven L. Hopp and daughter Camille Kingsolver. The book describes the family's adventures eating locally-produced food for one year, relying in part on food they grew or raised on their farm.



Please visit the Belmont Public Library Web site, [www.belmont.lib.ma.us](http://www.belmont.lib.ma.us), for a complete menu of events, including a film, art exhibit, lectures, workshops for children and teens, and cooking demonstrations at the Belmont Farmers Market on Oct. 8.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, thirteen co-sponsoring civic organizations, and local businesses for their support!

**FALL YARD WASTE INFORMATION from the DPW** Leaves and yard waste will be collected curbside EVERY week on your regular rubbish day between October 26<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> if they are in trash barrels (no greater than 32 gallons weighing no more than 50 pounds) marked with two yard waste stickers (stickers are provided by the Town) or put in 30 gallon brown biodegradable paper bags (weighing no more than 50 pounds).



### No plastic bags accepted

From October 26<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> residents may bring LEAVES ONLY in any type of clean container and empty them into the community compost pile at the Transfer Station at 1130 Concord Avenue. The hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 am and 12:30 to 3:00pm (except November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day and November 26<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Day). The Transfer Station will also be open on seven Saturdays (Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) from 8:00 to 11:30 am and 12:30 to 4:00 pm. Residents should bring identification (driver's license) so we can verify Belmont residency.

Please call the Highway Division at **(617) 993-2690** if you have questions or would like information about composting.



## FREE SEMINAR on Home Energy Savings for Renters and Homeowners

Date: **Thursday, October 1st, 2009 7pm-9pm**

Location: **Assembly Room**, Belmont Public Library, 336 Concord Ave.

Sponsors: Sustainable Belmont, Vision 21 Implementation Committee and the Belmont Municipal Light Department

*Mood Lighting* Dimming the lights can relax the mood in a room. Did you know it also could save you some money on your energy bill? The dimmer the light, the less energy it uses. In fact, a light that's dimmed by 75percent will use about 20 percent less energy than one burning at full brightness. A light that's turned off doesn't use any



energy. So while you're installing your dimmers, consider adding motion sensors to lights in rooms where there's a lot of foot traffic but people don't stay for long-like the garage and hallways.

Motion sensors turn the lights on when someone enters a room and shuts them off when the room empties out. They save your family from remembering to turn the lights off when they leave-so you waste less energy.

**Come and visit BMLD at Belmont's own Farmer's Market and pick up your FREE CFL bulb.**

BMLD will be at the Farmer's Market:

- \* **September 17**
- \* **October 1**
- \* **October 15**
- \* **October 29**

