

High Lights

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department • Winter 2006 Vol. 22, No. 3

Connelly Retires



WMGLD Commissioner Gil McCarthy, right, presents a meter lamp from his fellow commissioners to William Connelly, center, during a retirement party in Connelly's honor. Connelly retired as Financial Assistant to the WMGLD after 33 years of service. Manager William Wallace, left, served as Master of Ceremonies during the evening. In addition to the Commissioners gift of appreciation, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate, the Wakefield Board of Selectmen, the Wakefield Municipal Gas & Electric Employees' Association, and the Wakefield Municipal Light Dept. Professional and Supervisory Association also recognized Bill.

Stephen J. McGrail Named WMGLD Commissioner

Stephen J. McGrail was appointed to WMGLD Board of Light Commissioners during a recent joint session of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Light Commissioners. McGrail will serve the remainder of the unexpired term of former Commissioner Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr.

Commissioner McGrail is an attorney and an emergency management and homeland security specialist. Before starting his own business as a homeland security and emergency management consultant for corporate and business clients, McGrail served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and as a Regional Director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He was also chair of the state's Emergency Response Commission. McGrail is a former State Senator and member of the Wakefield Board of Selectmen.

"We congratulate Steve McGrail and welcome him to the WMGLD Board of Light Commissioners," WMGLD Manager William Wallace said. "His service to the community, along with his extensive knowledge of, and experience in, emergency management will be a welcome addition to the Board. We look forward to working with him."

WMGLD Partners with Mission of Deeds

For the third consecutive year, the WMGLD collected new twin and full size sheets, pillows, blankets and bedspreads during the holiday season for people in need through a partnership with Mission of Deeds, a Reading-based nonprofit organization that provides furniture and house wares without charge to individuals and families in northeastern Massachusetts.

This year, the WMGLD added a new dimension to the program that involved elementary school children. The Buy a Bed program encouraged local children to bring in spare change, or to earn a dollar at home, in an effort to raise \$70 in their classroom to help Mission of Deeds purchase one bed for a child in need. The WMGLD provided each school with posters that contained squares for the children to fill in to help the children keep track of the number of beds each school helped to buy.

"We reminded the children that there are boys and girls who are not as fortunate as they may be," Deacon Jack Fenton of Mission of Deeds said. "These are children from broken homes whose custodial parent may be starting out on their own, or those who are facing extraordinary hardships and can not buy a bed for a growing child."

"We are very aware that families are being solicited for donations from

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WMGLD Historical Calendars are Now Available

The 2007 edition of the WMGLD historical calendar is now available at the business office at 9 Albion Street in Wakefield, while supplies last.

The 2007 calendar is different from previous editions, in that it offers a glimpse of Wakefield's past using newspaper advertisements, from 1905 to 1950. The calendar also provides tips on how to save energy throughout the year.

Due to the limited number of calendars printed, only one calendar will be distributed per WMGLD customer family or business.



SERVING YOU

Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., Joins WMGLD as Financial Assistant

Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., a former Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE), recently joined the WMGLD staff as the Financial Assistant. He succeeds longtime Financial Assistant William Connelly who retired in September.

Prior to joining the WMGLD, Sullivan was a consultant for the New England Cable and Telecommunications Association. As DTE Commissioner, Sullivan was an integral part of the agency that regulates rates and services provided by electric utilities, natural gas, telecommunications, water, transportation, pipeline, and cable television industries in the Commonwealth. During his years at the DTE, he was responsible for reviewing hundreds of millions of dollars in energy contracts and refinancing.

A lifelong resident of Wakefield and a 1971 graduate of Wakefield High School, Sullivan received his bachelor's degree from Boston College and his master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with a concentration in budget and financial management.

Sullivan served on the WMGLD Board of Light Commissioners from 1995 to 2006. He has also served the Town of Wakefield as a member of the Board of Selectmen and as chairman of the Wakefield Charter Commission.

Brehaut Honored . . .



The WMGLD Board of Light Commissioners recognized Donna Brehaut, center, an Administrative Assistant in the Business Office of the Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD), during a retirement party in her honor. Presenting her with a gift from the Board is Commissioner Gilbert J. McCarthy, left, and Manager William Wallace, right. The Wakefield Municipal Light Dept. Professional and Supervisory Association, and the Wakefield Municipal Gas & Electric Employees' Association also recognized Donna. Donna joined the WMGLD in May 1989.

3rd Class Lineworker Excels at NEPPA Apprentice Rodeo

Brendon McDonough, a 3rd Class Lineworker for the WMGLD, recently competed in the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) Apprentice Rodeo, placing among the top three winners in all five competitive events.

According to WMGLD Electric Superintendent Dan Flynn, the Apprentice Rodeo was conducted as part of the NEPPA apprentice training classes. There were five events, with the classes divided into 17 teams.

Brendon competed in three individual events and two team events, placing second in the Bucksqueeze Speed Climb (individual), third in the Pole Top Rescue (individ-

ual), and third in the Retractable Speed Climb (individual). Brendon and teammate Mark Jones of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant captured first place in both team events: Cutout/Changeout and Insulator Changeout.

"Apprentice training classes help hone lineworker skills, specifically those skills involving rescues, pole climbing and overall safe and professional practices," Flynn noted. "Each event provides real-life situations for which the team members are trained."

"The Electric Division joins the entire WMGLD staff in congratulating Brendon McDonough for his performance at the Apprentice Rodeo," Flynn concluded.

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many different organizations throughout the year," Electric Superintendent Dan Flynn, coordinator of the WMGLD's participation, added. "During our visits to the schools, we reminded the children that this was opportunity for them to do something

on their own for others in need. It could be as simple as making money by returning 20 refundable cans or bottles to the store, or finding \$1.00 in loose change in their homes."

Since its inception in 1993, Mission of Deeds has provided furniture and

related items to over 3,700 area households based on referrals from social workers and clergy.

For information about the WMGLD's participation in the Mission of Deeds program, please call (781) 246-6363.

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