

# POWER Connection

Belmont Light Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2017

## Blair Pond Substation Ribbon Cutting

Belmont Light recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the 60 MW substation and connecting 115kV transmission line at the Blair Pond Substation. Belmont Light General Manager Jim Palmer was joined by State Senator Will Brownsberger, Selectmen Jim Williams, Mark Paolillo, and Adam Dash, and former Selectman and current Light Board Advisory Committee Member Ralph Jones in cutting the ribbon on the 20 Flanders Road building.



The May 6th ceremony marked the completion of a decade-long undertaking to address the utility's increasing electric demand that was near-capacity at 30 MW, and an aging distribution system that was becoming unreliable and expensive to maintain. The project, which began its construction phase in 2011, is the result of the cooperative efforts of several Town boards, officials, and committees, State agencies, Town Meeting, and Eversource.

The Blair Pond Substation was completed in October 2016 and the transmission line installation was completed the following December. Following a series of testing, the project was energized and will soon be powering Belmont.



Several local and state officials helped cut the ribbon to officially open Belmont Light's Blair Pond Substation at 20 Flanders Road in Belmont. Taking part in the ceremony were (from left to right) Selectman Adam Dash, State Senator Will Brownsberger, Belmont Light General Manager Jim Palmer, former Selectman and current Light Board Advisory Committee Member Ralph Jones, Selectman Chair Jim Williams, and Selectman Mark Paolillo.

## Belmont Light Dedicates First Public Electric Car Charging Stations

Belmont Light joined Town officials in dedicating the electric car charging stations in the Claflin Street Municipal Parking Lot in Belmont Center during the Town Day festivities in May. Belmont Light and the Town of Belmont Facilities Department each received grants to install the charging stations for public use. Belmont Light staff worked with the town's Energy Committee, other town departments, including the Department of Public Works, and Belmont Drives Electric to help bring the project to fruition. Belmont Drives Electric, which promotes the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and "charging smart" throughout town, is sponsored by the Belmont Energy Committee, Belmont Light, Sustainable Belmont, and EV enthusiasts.

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The new public charging stations in Belmont Center were dedicated during Town Day. Joining in the unveiling ceremony were: (from left); Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall, Selectmen Jim Williams, Adam Dash and Mark Paolillo, Energy Committee's Marty Bitner, Belmont Light Energy Resources Analyst Becca Keane and Belmont Light General Manager Jim Palmer.

*Belmont Light's business office will be closed on the following dates:*

**Tuesday, July 4th - Independence Day**

**Monday, September 4th - Labor Day**

*If you have an emergency, please call Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.*

# BELMONT LIGHT

POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

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## Belmont Light Participates in Town Day



*Belmont Light Customer Service Representative Kerri Benson (left) talked with members of the Koumpikova family about Belmont Light and the programs and services provided by the utility at the recent Town Day celebration. The family also picked up a Belmont Light tote bag, along with give-aways and information about Belmont Light programs, including the popular appliance rebate program.*

## Belmont Light Dedicates First Public Electric Car Charging Stations

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The public charging station is expected to be a popular spot, according to Belmont Light General Manager Jim Palmer and Marty Bitner, a member of the Energy Committee and Belmont Drives Electric. There were electric vehicles, either leased or purchased, in Belmont as of May 30th in the Commonwealth. Belmont has seen the highest increase in EV ownership since September 2016, when the Belmont Drives Electric campaign began. Belmont Light has also purchased its own electric car which was the first car to plug into the station.

"It's been incredible to watch the Belmont community come together to support EVs," General Manager Palmer said during the dedication. "Belmont residents are ahead of the curve," he added, noting that 2016 was a landmark year for electric vehicles in general.

In addition to the availability of the new public charging station, participants in Belmont Drives Electric who own or lease an electric car are also eligible to sign up for Belmont Light's Smart Charger Incentive Program, which offers a discount of up to \$250 off the price of an approved EV smart charger, as well as an annual rebate of approximately 15% off the retail rate for participants who charge their EVs between the hours of 10pm and 9am.

Belmont Drives Electric has hosted several successful Ride N' Drive events during the past year. Test drives and other program features are available on a continuing basis for those who want to learn more about the cars. For more information on Belmont Drives Electric or to schedule your own test drive, visit [www.BelmontDrivesElectric.org](http://www.BelmontDrivesElectric.org) or call (617) 855-5405.

## Be on the Lookout - Track an Outage

Belmont Light will launch an interactive and up-to-the-minute Outage Map through DataCapable's Utilisocial platform to enable customers to report and track outages in realtime. The site will also help Belmont Light customers track severe weather. The program will be accessed on the Belmont Light website [www.belmontlight.com](http://www.belmontlight.com), or on the Facebook and Twitter pages.

## Come See Us at the Farmers' Market

Belmont Light will be at the Belmont Farmers' Market on the following Thursdays: June 15th, August 3rd, September 14th and October 5th. Stop by and check out Belmont Light's new Chevy Bolt EV and EV charging stations.

## 2017 ENERGY STAR® Residential Appliance Rebate Program

If you are considering purchasing a new appliance for your home this year, Belmont Light wants you to make a smart energy choice through the 2017 ENERGY STAR® Appliance Rebate Program. The program offers rebates of up to \$200 annually per residential account for certain ENERGY STAR-labeled products.

The 2017 program includes the following rebates and appliances:

### \$100:

**Refrigerator** 15.0 cubic feet or larger, with proof of Belmont DPW or vendor disposal.

**Central air conditioner** with a SEER rating greater than 14.

**Room air conditioner**, with proof of Belmont DPW or vendor disposal.

### \$75: Dehumidifier.

**\$25: Room air conditioner**, without proof of disposal.

To participate in the 2017 program, residential customers must complete an application and submit required documentation by January 31, 2018. Applications are available at the Belmont Light webpage and going to the "Energy Solutions" page and then to "Residential Programs" or at Belmont Light's office at 40 Prince Street.

For additional information, please call Belmont Light at 617-993-2800 or email [EnergyResources@BelmontLight.com](mailto:EnergyResources@BelmontLight.com).