

### *Lineworker training is extensive*

Lineworkers are an invaluable asset to any electric utility as they work to deliver safe, reliable electric service to all customers in all weather conditions.

To help utilities ensure that their lineworkers are properly trained to work on or near energized equipment, a lineworker must complete a comprehensive 5 1/2 to 7-year electrical training program that combines practical and theoretical curriculum to reach a 1st Class Journeyman Lineworker status.



Qualified programs focus on industry training set by OSJA 1910.269, the National Electrical Safety Code, and the American Public Power Association's Safety Manual. Ensuring quality training and practical opportunity to develop the proficiencies and experience in each of the lineworker skill sets, including underground and overhead construction, electrical troubleshooting, emergency operations, etc., is the utility's best means for ensuring the safety of the worker, the public and the electrical system.

If you're interested in preparing to become an apprentice lineworker, please contact local community colleges for related utility course availability.

APRIL-MAY 2014

# *In Brief*

## *New E&O Director joins RMLD*



Engineering and Operations  
Director Hamid Jaffari

Hamid Jaffari is RMLD's new Director of Engineering and Operations, bringing more than 31 years of diverse utility experience to our utility.

Jaffari comes to RMLD from Danvers Light where he served in the same capacity since 1998.

"Respected as an industry leader, Hamid brings with him the skill sets that are an exact match for the objectives of RMLD," said General Manager Coleen O'Brien. "We are extremely fortunate to have him on board as we work to develop long term reliability and financial plans to ensure RMLD's successes in meeting the

future electric industry challenges."

Jaffari earned his BS, MS and EED in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University. He also holds a Doctor of Business Administration from Argosy University, with his dissertation on leadership performance optimization modeled in the electric municipal utility industry.

Before joining Danvers Light, Jaffari held positions as a reliability engineer supervisor at Boston Edison, an assistant professor abroad, an analytical advisor and engineering consultant to both public and private utilities, a staff engineer and consultant at Chillicothe Municipal Utilities in Chillicothe, Mo., and the chief supervising engineer at South Norwalk Electric Works in Norwalk, Conn. He is also a technical instructor at several area universities.

## *Linemen complete four-year program*



Ray Melvin

RMLD Lineworkers Ray Melvin and Dan Follis completed the Northeast Public Power Association's (NEPPA) Apprentice Lineworker School and graduated on December 6, along with 10 other New England lineworkers.



Dan Follis

"Safety is priority at RMLD," said General Manager Coleen O'Brien, "and goes hand in hand with training." RMLD has developed a 5 1/2 to 7-year

Journeyman Apprentice Lineworker Program where the NEPPA Line School is an integral component to the development of the necessary lineworker skill sets to

ensure safety, quality and efficiency."

The NEPPA Apprentice Lineworker Program adheres to a four-year curriculum of the Northwest Lineworker's College Lineworker Certification Program and combines both practical hands-on and formal theoretical classroom training. The NEPPA skills assessment focuses on professionalism, safety and proper lineworker technique.

"The lineworker profession demands a high level of proficiencies in the hazards of working with live electricity to ensure the safety of the worker, the public and the assets of the electric system," O'Brien said. "I congratulate and admire the accomplishments of Dan and Ray in their completion of the NEPPA program."

# RMLD Directory

## Customer Service & Billing

781-944-1340 or 781-942-6598

## Customer Service Manager

781-942-6480

## Emergency

781-944-1340 or 781-942-6598

## Payment Locations

### RMLD office:

230 Ash St., Reading  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Drop box is in the parking lot.

### Town of Reading drop box

Town Hall parking lot  
16 Lowell St., Reading

### Lucci's

223 Lowell St., Wilmington  
Drop box inside door-daily pick-up

### New England Beverage

158 Main St., North Reading  
Outside drop box only

### Reading Co-operative Bank

at these locations:

Reading: 180 Haven St.

North Reading: 170 Park St.

Wilmington: 230 Lowell St. and  
352 Middlesex Ave.

## Holiday Closings

**Monday, April 21**

Patriots' Day

**Monday, May 26**

Memorial Day

## Events

**Thursday, April 10, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.,** Women Celebrating, Boston-Woburn Hilton, 2 Forbes Road, Woburn. Pre-event tickets \$25. Call Priscilla Gottwald at RMLD, 781-942-6419.

**April 1-30,** North Reading Rotary phone-a-thon.

# MARCH 2014 BILL COMPARISON

RMLD .....\$96.56

NATIONAL GRID .....\$131.05

NSTAR .....\$138.64

750 kilowatt-hours, average monthly home use

## Call 811 before you start to dig

If you plan to dig, call Digsafe at 811 at least 72 hours before you start your project. DigSafe will notify utility members who are responsible to mark only the facilities that they own or maintain.

Digsafe does not mark privately owned utilities on private property. Certain underground utilities may be utility owned up to the property line; call the utility to be sure you know what the utility owns



and what the property owner owns.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to investigate privately owned utilities and to contact a private locating company.

DigSafe is a free service through member utility companies, including RMLD, who want to help ensure your safety when digging. More information about DigSafe and contacting private locating firms can be found on the DigSafe.com website.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



• **Burbank YMCA** will hold a Black Light Glow Family Dance on **April 12, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** to support the Annual Fund. Dress in bright colors and plan to dance. Celebrate a healthy and active lifestyle at Healthy Kids Day on **April 26, from 1 to 3 p.m.** Enjoy fun games and activities for all ages. These are both free community events.

• **Reading Public Library** hosts their annual House Tour **May 4, from 1 to 5 p.m.** The tour features five centuries of Reading homes with a livability theme highlighting how homes can be accommodated for modern families. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$20 for members of the Friends of the Reading Public Library. Proceeds benefit library programs and discounted museum passes.

An author panel will wrap up The Big Read community-wide reading celebration on **May 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Parker Middle School.

Join Mitali Perkins, Fransisco Stork, and David Yoo as they discuss their new book "Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices."

For all program details call 781-944-0840 or visit [readingpl.org](http://readingpl.org).

• **Flint Memorial Library-North Reading** will hold a poetry reading on **April 10, at 7 p.m.** with Kathleen Aponick and Tara L. Masih in honor of National Poetry Month. "Music in the Air: The Life and Music of George Root," will be held **May 9, at 7 p.m.** His great great granddaughter, Ann-Elizabeth Root Barnes, will present the program with music by Graham and Barbara Dean. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the North Reading Historical and Antiquarian Society.

• **Wilmington Memorial Library** has launched Grow a Reader, an early literacy initiative. Register for these programs: Fun with Science and Math: Parent-Child Workshop (RR), **May 3, at 9:30 a.m.,** for ages 2-5.

This interactive workshop demonstrates strategies for helping your child learn about the world through exploration. Digital Tools for Early Literacy (RR), is **May 12, at 7 p.m.,** with strategies for sharing media experience with children, how to choose quality apps, and recommendations for apps. For more details, visit [wilmlibrary.org/grow-a-reader](http://wilmlibrary.org/grow-a-reader) or call 978-694-2098.

• **Lynnfield Public Library** will host an animated multi-media shadow puppet performance of the picture book "Swimmy" by Leo Lionni, presented by The PuppeTree, on **April 24, at 1 p.m.** No registration required.

Kori Feener will present "Hard Way Home," a documentary film of her through-hike of the Appalachian Trail, on **May 6, at 7 p.m.** at the Meeting House on the Commons. Meet the hiker, filmmaker and producer. Recommended for ages 15 and older.

READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

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