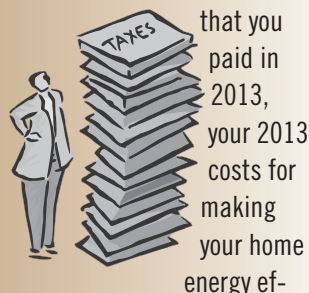


FEBRUARY–MARCH 2014

### Free help with your taxes

Free tax preparation with electronic filing is available on Saturdays from Feb. 1 through April 12 at the RMLD cafeteria, 230 Ash St., Reading. Walk-in hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bring your W-2 forms, Social Security and pension information, tax forms sent by financial institutions, property tax and water bills, copies of your 2013 state and federal tax returns, estimated taxes



that you paid in 2013, your 2013 costs for making your home energy efficient, and a health insurance card for you and your spouse. Also bring your Social Security card(s) and a photo ID.

Those age 60 and older should call in their town for an appointment during other hours: Lynnfield, 781-334-5411; North Reading, 978-664-5600; Reading, 781-942-6608; Wilmington, 978-657-7595.

For more information about this program, visit [irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers](http://irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers).

# In Brief

## RMLD honors local students

RMLD recently honored 14 local elementary school students for their prize-winning entries in our annual T-shirt art contest.

Third-graders in Reading and fourth-graders in North Reading, Wilmington and Lynnfield took part in the program, which includes lessons about electric safety and energy consciousness that students use to create T-shirt art.

“We reach over 1,000 new students annually, and RMLD is proud to know that we are succeeding in getting these important messages about safety and conservation across to the students,” said RMLD General Manager Coleen O’Brien.

The program’s success relies on local teachers and school staff, who work together to help students learn, brainstorm, create and select entries.

“We do take it seriously around here,” says Laura Gomez, art specialist at

North Reading’s Little School. “It truly is a group effort.”

Congratulations to the winners:

**Reading** – First place, Abigail LeBovidge, Birch Meadow School; Second place, Kate Leone, Joshua Eaton School; Third place, Nora Lafferty, Barrows School; Honorable mention, Marcello Maitino, Wood End School and Victoria Costa, Killam School.

**North Reading** – Annie MacLellan, Little School; Second place, Charlotte Cuneo, Batchelder School; Third place, Amanda Sherman, Hood School.

**Wilmington** – First place, Rowan Fortier; Second place, Kelli Schuler; Third place, Tori Ciampa, all of the West Intermediate School.

**Lynnfield** – First place, Anna MacPherson; Second place, Nick Julian; Third place, Evan Fair, all of the Huckleberry Hill School.



Congratulating the winners of RMLD's T-shirt art contest are, from left, Public Relations Manager Priscilla Gottwald, General Manager Coleen O'Brien, Light Commission Chairman John Stempeck and Light Commission Vice Chair Phil Pacino.

# 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 Closing

Monday, February 17

Presidents Day

## Events

Wednesday, February 26,

5:30-7:30 p.m., North Reading  
and Reading Rotary Clubs'  
*Taste of Metro North*, RMHS  
Field House, 62 Oakland Road,  
Reading. Area restaurants present  
samplings from their menus.  
Individual tickets \$25, family  
tickets \$50 for two adults and  
children under 18. Call Priscilla  
Gottwald at 781-942-6419 for  
more information.

# JANUARY 2014 BILL COMPARISON

RMLD .....\$92.73

NATIONAL GRID .....\$131.05

NSTAR .....\$138.64

750 kilowatt-hours, average monthly home use

## Rate change is effective February 1

RMLD has implemented an approximate 4.5% increase (varies slightly by rate class and usage) to its overall bill to align closer to the approved FY 14 Budget.

"The necessity of the increase is a result of a diligent review of budget to actuals which delineated a shortfall of revenues due to unrealized load growth projections over the last several years," said General Manager Coleen O'Brien. "It is with fiduciary duty that this matter was proactively addressed to maintain reliability and to show consistency in its rate of return for the purposes of solid financial positioning, continued excellent low credit risk for both RMLD and the Town of Reading, and to ensure that RMLD remains attrac-

tive to low cost power suppliers."

RMLD will continue to have amongst the best reliability and lowest rates in the state with the increase. The longer-term solution includes a full Cost of Service Study, due later this spring, and a Long Term Strategic Plan that focuses on rates, staffing, process efficiencies and reliability.

To assist in keeping your bill its lowest, RMLD's residential time-of-use rate can save you money if you're able to shift much of your home's power use away from on-peak hours, which are noon to 7 p.m., weekdays excluding holidays. For details on this option, visit [rmld.com](http://rmld.com) or call us at 781-944-1340.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



• **Lynnfield Tricentennial Committee** is gearing up for Town Day, to be held **June 21** with a parade, a fair, and other attractions. Also part of the year-long Tricentennial celebration is an exhibit of historically important photos opening **Feb. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m.** at the Meeting House. For details or to ask about hosting a Tricentennial event, call Bob Mackendrick at 781-334-6765.

• **Lynnfield Special Service's** second annual Community Connections event will be held **May 4** at Lynnfield Middle School with children's games, face painting, a balloon artist, DJ, food and more. For details call Cynthia Fallon at 781-245-5050.

• **Burbank YMCA** invites parents and kids to wear PJs and bring a blanket to see "Despicable Me 2" on **Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m.** Free to members, \$5 per family for non-members. Runners can join certified trainers at area YMCAs for marathon training

runs every Saturday through April 12. Runs start at 8 a.m. and all are welcome. For locations and other details, email [ymarathonteam@ymcaboston.org](mailto:ymarathonteam@ymcaboston.org)

• **Reading Public Library** will discuss the must-have apps for your tablet during *Gadgets, Gizmos and Apps*, on **Feb. 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** in the library's meeting room. Mark your calendar for the Big Read kickoff event, set for **March 28, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** There will be copies available of "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri, food, music, Indian dance and more. Call 781-944-0840 or visit [readingpl.org](http://readingpl.org) for details.

• **Flint Memorial Library in North Reading** will spotlight "Beautiful Ruins" by Jess Walter as part of North Reading Reads 2014. Two related events include Pasta and Conversation with Jaclyn Strycharz, the cooking librarian, on **March 13, at 7 p.m.** and Books into Movies with

Fred Barzyk, film/TV producer and director, on **March 27, at 7 p.m.**

• **Wilmington Memorial Library** presents *Beginning Herb Gardening* on **April 10, at 7 p.m.** with Suzanne Crooker from Mahoney's Garden Center. *Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms of New England* with Russ Cohen is the topic for **April 17, at 7 p.m.**, including a 90-minute slide show. Register for both programs at [wilmlibrary.org](http://wilmlibrary.org) or call 978-658-2967.

• **Lynnfield Public Library** will host a discussion by Paul and Asher Molyneaux of their book "A Child's Walk in the Wilderness: An 8-Year Old Boy and his Father Take on the Appalachian Trail," on **March 29, at 2:30 p.m.** at the Meeting House on the Common. A teen book discussion of "Navigating Early" by Clare Vanderpool is on **April 14, at 2:30 p.m.** with Laura Brosnan. No registration required for either event.

READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

230 Ash Street, Reading, MA • 781-944-1340 • 781-942-6598 • Fax: 781-942-2409

• E-mail: [pgottwald@rmld.com](mailto:pgottwald@rmld.com) [www.rmld.com](http://www.rmld.com)