



A newsletter for customers of the South Hadley Electric Light Department



LOCAL CONNECTIONS



Summer 2008



WWW.SHELD.ORG

You can pay your electric bills online

Looking for a quick and convenient way to pay your electric bill? Now you can go online to send a payment directly from your bank account to SHELD.

To get started, visit our website at sheld.org and click the Online Payment link on the home page. You'll need your SHELD account number to enter the secure payment area. You can find your account number on the upper left section of your bill and on the lower right part of your payment stub.

There is no charge or obligation to use this convenient new option. Pay your bill online just once, or every month if you want. The process is safe and simple, but you are welcome to call our office if you have questions or need help.

Substation work takes major step forward

Our project to completely rebuild and expand the capacity of the PINESHED substation took a major step forward this spring with the delivery and installation of a new main power transformer.

The 65-ton transformer came on a 114-foot flatbed truck and was lowered into place by an 80-foot high, 350-ton hydraulic crane. New switchgear – equipment used to operate and control a substation – is set to arrive this fall. Current work also includes acquiring environmental permits to complete upgrades along certain rights-of-way near the substation.

SHELD employees are completing all work on this massive engineering and construction project, which will enhance our system's efficiency and reliability for years to come. Since the substation was last upgraded more than a decade ago, local demand for electricity has grown by 2% a year.



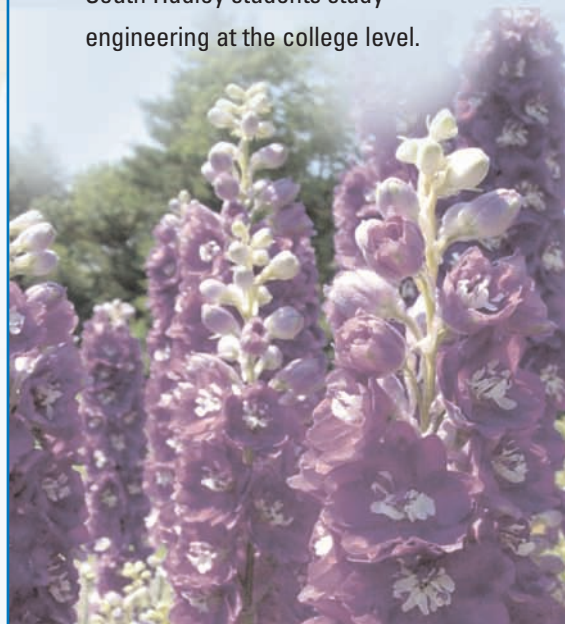
A new main power transformer is delivered and installed at the PINESHED substation.

Congratulations to our winners!

Three local students have been named winners of this year's Carl G. Johanson Scholarship, an annual awards program aimed at helping local students who want to study engineering.

Congratulations go to Andrew Bosowicz of 32 Kimberly Drive, Sean Flanagan of 6 Meadowood Drive, and Cameron Neveu of 14 Priestly Farms Road. They each received a scholarship award for the 2008-2009 school year.

The late Carl G. Johanson served SHELD for 18 years, retiring in 1972 after managing the utility for a decade. The scholarship fund was established at his bequest to help South Hadley students study engineering at the college level.



South Hadley Town Hall Connection



South Hadley fireworks will be held Thursday, July 3 at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. Festivities begin at 6 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9:30.

The Recreation Department's summer program flyer is now available at the Department's office. There are many activities for children, so stop by and pick up a copy. Beachgrounds Park renovations will begin later this fall and will include a new spray park, playgrounds, picnic area, basketball court and other features. Watch for details on all Recreation Department activities later this summer online at southhadley.org.

Center lighting project is complete

The current phase of our work to bring underground electric service and state-of-the-art decorative lighting to South Hadley Center is now complete. As a result, the area is an attractive and functional community asset for all to enjoy.

The new lights are not just attractive – they are also technologically advanced. The advanced fixtures feature full cut-off functionality to reduce light pollution by focusing light just where it's needed. The cut-off feature is also part of the new, decorative lights that SHELd installed on existing poles along side streets.

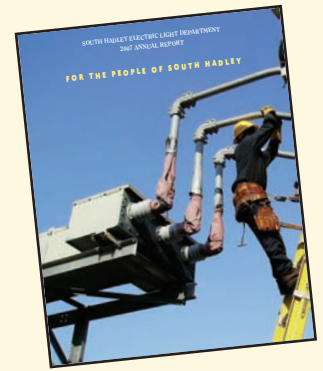
SHELd invested some \$1.125 million in this project, which began in late 2005 in conjunction with a highway improvement project. We are now considering extending the work down Route 116 from Leahey Avenue to the intersection of Mosier and Brainerd Streets.

Always call before you dig

Before you begin any project that includes digging, call Dig Safe at 1-888-DIG-SAFE (1-888-344-7233) to find out what you need to avoid underground.

Don't think that a small hole won't matter – some underground lines are just a few inches below the surface. Damaging buried lines could cut service for electricity, gas, water, telephone and more. Even worse, someone could be seriously injured.

Call Dig Safe first and they'll notify area utilities who will mark the locations of underground lines. You can also make Dig Safe requests online at digsafe.com.



Quick Tips

Annual report is available

Copies of the SHELd 2007 Annual Report are now available for free at our office, while supplies last. The report contains 2007 financial statements, highlights of what was accomplished in 2007, and a look at what's on the horizon. You can also find the report online at sheld.org.

Having bill problems?

If you are having trouble paying your electric bill due to financial problems, please let us know right away. Don't wait until your electric service is in jeopardy. We may be able to work out a payment plan. Drop by our office or call us at 413-536-1050.



South Hadley Electric Light Department
85 Main St., South Hadley, MA 01075-2797
413-536-1050
www.sheld.org

Municipal Light Board

Cheryl Scott Nickl, Chair
Rita M. Lawler
Jeffrey Labrecque

Office hours are Monday through Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**In case of a power outage or
other electrical emergency,
call 413-536-1050 anytime.**

Wayne D. Doerpholz, P.E., Manager