

the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department April 2003

With fuel costs rising across the country, area investor-owned utilities raised their natural gas rates periodically this winter. But MG&E has held the line, keeping our rates steady thanks to plans put in place over a year ago.

Natural gas rates stay steady

MG&E's natural gas rates remained stable and extremely competitive this winter, despite higher wholesale natural gas costs.

Our customers were protected from these types of price increases by a supply contract signed last year that will be in effect until late 2004. The contract means that rates here should remain stable even though wholesale prices for natural gas are predicted to stay high this year due to the current world political situation.

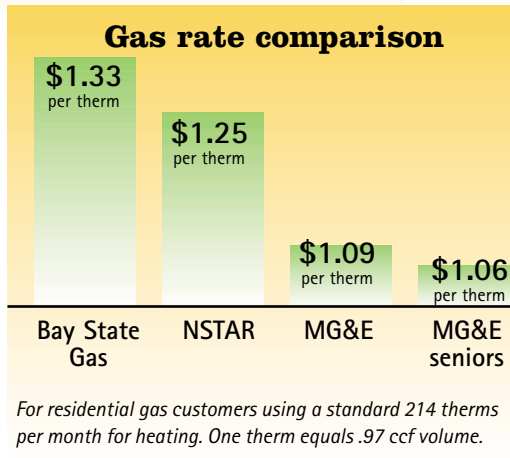
Advance planning pays off

By signing the supply contract last year, MG&E sought to stabilize costs within a volatile wholesale fuel market. This resulted in slightly higher than market costs for us last year, but paid off this year with much lower than market costs.

The timing couldn't have been better, since record gas use this winter – peaking at five million cubic feet on January 22 – compounded our customers' savings.

The dividend for local ownership

As a municipal utility, MG&E pays an annual dividend to its Middleborough citizen-owners in the form of an in-lieu-of-tax payment to the town. Based on revenue and sales growth, the payment now stands at \$320,750, an increase of more than 19 percent in two years. This yearly payment is higher than the tax payments of most large local industries – a highly prized dividend for public ownership.



Celebrating



Middleborough
Public Library

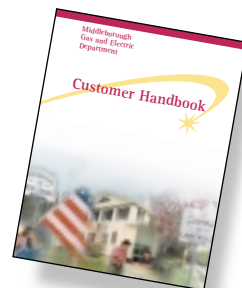
100 Years of Excellence

Customer handbook is on the way

Did you know that our meters are free to MG&E customers? Or that you can get a gas line connected to your home for free if your house is within 150 feet of our line? A new MG&E Customer Handbook is on the way this spring with those facts and more.

Designed to be a handy reference for old and new customers alike, the handbook is chock-full of information on everything from what services are available to how to stay safe around utilities.

We'll let you know when copies are available — it won't be long!



TOWN LINES

Upcoming Library events

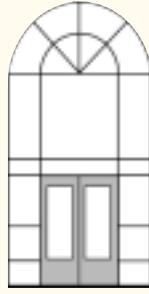
The votes are in for the Middleborough Public Library's "My Favorite Book" contest, and the winner is the Harry Potter series. Meanwhile, the centennial year celebration continues with a number of spring events.

On May 4, the library will host an American Girl party with Valerie Tripp, author of the American Girl series. This is free to the public and begins at 2 p.m.

On May 10, visitors can see the 1st Annual Student Art Exhibit at the "Art on the Spot" reception from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On May 31, there will be a street festival, book parade, Vaudeville show and birthday party on the Town Hall front lawn, all starting at 11 a.m. Dress as your favorite character and you too can join the parade!

For more information on these and many other Library events, call 508-946-2470.



Lakeville celebrates its 150th birthday

The Town of Lakeville is holding a wide variety of events to celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. Here is some of what's going on this spring:

- May 1 to June 7 – "Take a Look at Lakeville," a pictorial scavenger hunt of sites in Lakeville.
- May 4 – Kite Day at the former Ted Williams Camp, sponsored by the Park Department.
- May 18 – Historic Tour of Old Main Street and Crooked Lane. For information contact Geri Taylor at 508-947-4125.



May is the time for safety awareness

May is National Electric Safety month, when consumers across the country are asked to pay special attention to electrical safety matters. According to the National Electric Safety Foundation, each year about 3,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with electrical extension cords alone. Find out how to keep your home safe by visiting their website at www.nesf.org. Also, check out the safety section of MG&E's new Customer Handbook, available soon.

DIRECTORY

Customer Service & Billing
508-947-1371

Gas Service Questions
508-947-1535

Electric Service Questions
508-947-3023

Emergency:

Gas 508-947-1535

Electric 508-947-3023

Payment locations:

Main office:

32 S. Main St.,
Middleborough
8:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pay Boxes:

Savas Plaza
Route 18, Lakeville

Stop 'N Shop Plaza
Route 28,
Middleborough

Main office parking lot
32 S. Main St.,
Middleborough

Holiday Closings:

Monday, April 21
Patriots' Day

Monday, May 26
Memorial Day

Commission Meetings:

Meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices at 32 S. Main St., Middleborough. Please call 508-947-1371 to confirm dates and times.



MIDDLEBOROUGH
Gas and Electric Department