

# the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department April 2009

Community-owned since 1893

## Thank you for speaking out

Over 500 MG&E customers responded to our recent call to speak out against unfair electric costs – thank you! As a result, our Campaign for Fair Electric Rates had a real impact with federal legislators.



## “Please help the working class survive this profiteering climate!”\*

With your strong support, General Manager John Granahan and Commissioner Don Triner traveled to Washington, D.C. this winter. They joined the Northeast Public Power Association

## “Deregulation is not working!”

\*MG&E customer comments, Fair Electric Rates Campaign. Find more at MG&Eonline.com.

## “Enough with greed. Think as a nation...”

delegation that met with Representatives Barney Frank and Edward Markey, and with aides from both our U.S. senators.

Your powerful cards and letters, along with those from consumers throughout New England, helped persuade our legislators to support several key measures aimed at controlling wholesale electric costs.

For more details on this visit, go to MGandEonline.com and click on the story on the left side under the masthead. Read future editions of *the Messenger* as we continue to report results.

## “It is past the time to right a wrong.”



## We're watching stimulus funds

The current federal economic stimulus package includes \$5 billion in additional funding for weatherization assistance, \$300 million for energy-efficient appliance rebates, and an increase in tax incentives for home energy improvements.

It's possible that many MG&E customers will be able to take advantage of these new federal incentives. As details of the new programs are released, we'll let you know what is available. Check with your tax analyst to learn about energy efficiency tax incentives effective this year.

## Sidebar stats: The cost of the lost discount

# \$65

Annual amount saved by taking advantage of the discount on a typical residential 750 kilowatt-hour electric monthly bill.

# \$180

Annual amount saved by taking advantage of the discount on a typical residential 200 ccf natural gas monthly bill.

# \$1.89

Current cost of a gallon of gasoline to drive to one of our convenient drop boxes to assure payment by the end of the next business day, or to drive to our Administrative Office by 4 p.m. to be credited right away.

# 60 years

Age of a customer eligible for our Senior Rate that extends the discount date to 30 days – never losing the discount!

Sign up for Direct Pay and always get your discount without the bother of writing a check, buying a stamp, or driving to mail a bill. Call our office for details.

## What you need to know: natural gas safety

Nothing is more important than our customers' safety, which is why we protect you by carefully and regularly surveying our natural gas service lines and mains for potential problems. We are a hometown utility with a thorough knowledge of our local system, use state-of-the-art safety equipment, and operate on a more frequent survey schedule that well exceeds code requirements.

*Below, MG&E employees use gas detection "sniffer" equipment to survey the ground and area near station piping. Some vehicles have gas detection devices for driving surveys.*

## When to call us

If you smell gas and you don't know where it's coming from and you wonder if you should call us – **Call Us!** – at 508-947-1535.

If the smell is strong, *leave first*, then call us from another location.



**ALWAYS  
CALL  
BEFORE YOU  
DIG**



## HomeWorks: backyard gas safety

Installing a fence or deck?  
Putting in a new mailbox?  
Thinking about an irrigation system? Before you dig a hole, call 811 and be connected to your local Dig Safe® center to learn the location of underground lines.

The depth of utility lines varies and lines may have been relocated. Hitting one could disrupt service to an entire area, cause serious injury, and result in fines and repair costs.

One easy phone call starts the process. It's free, it's smart, and it's the law.

## Get \$15 off

**Schedule an MG&E Energy Mizer** gas furnace inspection and cleaning now, have it completed before Labor Day, and you'll pay just \$40. That's \$15 off the regular price.

An annual service keeps your gas furnace running efficiently. Save \$15 now, and then save on fuel costs all next winter. For an appointment call 508-947-1535.

## DIRECTORY

### Emergency:

**Gas** 508-947-1535

**Electric** 508-947-3023

### Service:

**Customer Service & Billing**  
508-947-1371

**Gas Service Questions**  
508-947-1535

**Electric Service Questions**  
508-947-3023

### Payment locations:

#### Main office:

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

#### Pay Boxes:

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

**Oak Point**  
Middleborough

**Savas Plaza**  
Route 18, Lakeville

**Stop 'N Shop Plaza**  
Route 28,  
Middleborough

### Holiday Closings:

Monday, April 20  
Patriots' Day

Monday, May 25  
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.

## MG&E's Gas Survey Schedule

Areas	Code requirement	MG&E's schedule
Business district	1 time per year	3+ times per year
Bridge crossings	2 times per year	4 times per year
Outside the business district	Every 2 years	Every year