

the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department June 2003

The future of automotive fuel has begun for drivers in our area now that the new CNG fueling station is open on Route 44 in Middleborough. MG&E helped to bring this project to our customers.

New CNG fueling station now open

MG&E is providing the clean-burning natural gas available at the new compressed natural gas (CNG) facility now open in Middleborough on Route 44. This is the first public CNG fueling station in southeastern Massachusetts. Owned and operated by AVSG, Inc., the station fuels CNG vehicles for the state and MG&E, and is also open to the public. To use the facility, customers must first register with AVSG and receive simple training on how to use the specialized pump to fuel their CNG or hybrid vehicles.

An important alternative fuel

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fuel available for automotive transportation today. It is also truly domestic – more than 90% of all natural gas used in the United States is delivered from wells in North America. These and other advantages are why MG&E began working in 1988 to bring a CNG station to our area.

By partnering with a respected leader in CNG station construction, MG&E is able to expand our core natural gas business while leaving station ownership and operation to the experts. Even better, the facility will benefit today's environment at the same time it provides a bridge to the future of clean-fuel technology.



Thanks for letting us know

Our sincere thanks to the 400+ customers who recently took the time to answer our telephone survey on customer service. Surveys are one way we make sure that the service you want is the service you get. We don't guess about what our customers want – we ask!

Celebrating



Middleborough
Public Library

100 Years of Excellence

PPA adjustment up slightly June 1

The Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) charge on all electric bills increased from 3.9 to 4.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, effective June 1. The half-cent increase appears in the part of the bill commonly known as the fuel charge.

This is MG&E's first PPA increase in more than 10 years, and is mainly due to higher fuel prices caused by harsh winter weather and the worldwide political climate.

Even with the increase, bills here remain very competitive with nearby investor-owned utilities.

Specifically, residential customers who use 500 kilowatt-hours per month now pay \$53.52 to MG&E, while Mass. Electric customers pay \$55.62 and Commonwealth Electric customers pay \$66.51 for the same amount of power.

TOWN LINES

Celebration continues

Middleborough Public Library's year-long centennial celebration continues this summer with fun events for all.

Be sure to catch the Library's centennial float in the Independence Day parade on July 4 in Middleborough. And don't forget to wish a happy birthday to Thomas S. Peirce, a noted Library benefactor, on June 19.

For more information on all upcoming Library events, call 508-946-2470.

Middleborough Historical Museum is open

The Middleborough Historical Museum, located behind the police station at 18 Jackson St., is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays, June through October. The museum includes seven different buildings featuring a large collection of memorabilia on General and Mrs. Tom Thumb, and on life in 1800s Middleborough. For more information, or to schedule an off-hours visit, call the museum at 508-947-1969.

Happy birthday, Lakeville!

The Town of Lakeville marks its 150th birthday this month and we just want to say *well done*. Check out their website at www.lakeville150.org for more details on this momentous occasion.

Why we're using more electricity

If your household's electric use has grown over the past few years, you're not alone. Data from the U.S. Energy Administration, as quoted in *Home Energy* magazine, has some interesting statistics about the rising presence of electric appliances in homes across America.

For example, in 1980 just 14% of homes had microwaves ovens; it was up to 86% by 2001. Personal computers didn't even exist in 1980, yet at least 56% of today's homes have at least one. Just 27% of American homes had central air conditioning in 1980, compared to 55% in 2001. And more than half of all households now have dishwashers, while just 37% had them in 1980.

For more information, see the long-term appliance use reports at www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/reps/appli/contents.html.

Remember to always call before you dig

If you're planning any type of project this spring that includes digging, always call Digsafe at 1-888-DIG-SAFE (1-888-344-7233) at least three working days before you begin work to learn where underground utility lines are located. You can also send Dig Safe requests through the Internet at www.digsafe.com. Call first, then dig when you know what's below. Better safe than sorry!

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 Closing:

Friday, July 4
Independence 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.

