

the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department December 2011

Community-owned since 1893

Happy holiday tradition

MG&E's Commissioners are continuing the annual tradition of an extra discount for all residential customers just when it's really needed – in December bills.

All residential electric and gas customers will see their Prompt Payment Discount double to 20% on customer and energy

charges, saving more than five dollars extra for the typical electric bill and even more for gas heating customers.

This special discount has already been added to the Prompt Payment Discount. Be sure to pay the amount due on your December bill in full by the due date listed in order to take advantage of your extra discount.

MG&E's solar project stats*

Lifetime energy produced
38,031 kWh

Lifetime CO₂ emission offset
47,539 lbs.

*From Oct. 6, 2009 to Nov. 9, 2011 for solar array at the Electric Division garage. Details are at MGandEonline.com.



Bright new gift certificates to warm their hearts

Looking for a unique and caring holiday gift idea? Give the gift of light and warmth with a gift certificate from Middleborough G&E. We have handsome new gift cards that are available in any amount, and can be used to credit any MG&E account. They're a perfect fit for so many reasons. Just drop by our office to pick them up, or call us at 508-947-1371.

Lower fuel charges all winter

Here's more good news with excellent timing – fuel charges are dropping again, too.

All customers – residential and commercial, electric and natural gas – will be charged lower energy costs this winter thanks to decreased Purchased Power and Purchased Natural Gas adjustments (PPA and PGA on the bill). The recent longer-term lower pricing in the natural gas and electricity supply wholesale markets flow to all customers through these adjustable charges.

For natural gas customers, the PGA charges were dropped to 65.24 cents per ccf beginning November 1, which will save residential gas heating customers more than \$100 this season compared to last winter's heating costs.

For electric customers, PPA charges will drop starting in the December bill to 7.55 cents, reducing the average cost per kilowatt-hour from 15.5 cents last winter to 13.4 cents this winter. This will cut a typical residential peak winter bill by more than \$20 compared to last winter.

We're listening to you

We'll be calling some customers in November and December to ask about our customer service. If you're asked to participate in our survey, thank you for helping us to continually improve.

Sidebar Stats

White Way lampposts

Take a moment to enjoy our beautiful White Way lampposts in downtown Middleborough, all dressed up for the holiday season and festivities.

75

The number of White Way lampposts that line Middleborough's downtown four corners area on Everett Street, Main Street, Wareham and Center Streets, including connecting side streets. Their name echoes the famed New York White Way first illuminated by Thomas Edison.

1928

The year MG&E completed state-of-the-art street lighting as part of the new underground service for this bustling center. Merchants were so thrilled they threw a party with vaudeville acts on Centre Street, an evening parade and window displays for happy strollers.

2000

The year MG&E replaced all the original wrought-iron lampposts with state-of-the-art replicas that now use high-efficiency bulbs and technology, thanks to a grant secured by the Office of Economic and Community Development for the downtown streetscape plan, keeping the beauty of this historic town center alive.



Low-tech ways to deck the halls

Back by popular demand, our timeless brochure is filled with smart, low-tech ways to create eye-catching holiday lighting displays while saving energy and staying safe. It was written more than 20 years ago with the help of the late Adolf Arnold, curator of the A&D Toy Train Museum in Middleborough.

Ideas like finding a focal point, adding another dimension, and taking advantage of structural elements are just some of the gems hidden in this popular pamphlet. Stop by our lobby for a copy or email Sandy Richter for an electronic copy at srichter@middleborogande.com.



Please read this!

It's hard to read the news of so many tragedies this season due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. But we need our customers to listen and to think! Power outages in other parts of New England left many without heat and, trying to stay warm, they used sources not meant for indoors or extended use.

If you face any time this winter without an operating furnace in your home, please remember; your gas stove or oven cannot be used to heat your home. They are not vented to the outside and will produce CO if used for long periods. Portable fuel-fired heaters are not vented for indoor use and will produce CO. Standby generators must be operated outside of your home and the exhaust must flow outside and away from the home or CO can accumulate inside.

Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that is colorless and odorless. Produced by burning fuel, CO is why all fuel-fired appliances must be carefully and properly vented to the outside. Make sure your working CO and smoke detectors have a fresh battery as backup power, too. ***If you suspect CO in your home, call 911 immediately!***



High-tech holiday glitz – at what cost?

We've all seen them – those blow-up lawn decorations that look like giant globes, complete with blowing snow. They're fun and festive, but how much do they cost to run? Visit MGandEonline.com and click on the EnergySense logo to read **Lighting Up the Holidays**. The comparison to light displays just might dazzle you.

Heating help for those in need

MG&E is lending a hand this winter to help needy local families become more energy efficient. Our utility has pledged \$30,000 to support a comprehensive weatherization program administered by South Shore Community Action Council (SSCAC) serving Middleborough and Citizens for Citizens (CFC) serving Lakeville.

Designed for households that qualify for fuel assistance, the program is aimed at cutting energy costs through a wide variety of home improvements. With MG&E's help, the weatherization assistance program will be able to provide more recommended improvements, including everything from increased insulation to heating system improvements and even replacement.

The fuel assistance application also serves as the application for weatherization assistance. For specific questions about eligibility and priority status, call SSCAC at 508-746-6707 or CFC at 508-823-6346.

TownLines:

Eat to Heat serves food and warmth. Each year Middleborough Key Club students, with support from the local Kiwanis, serve a community dinner to raise money to help needy local families pay winter electric and natural gas bills. This year's event is Wednesday, December 7 at the Council on Aging, with seatings at 5 and 6:30 p.m. The menu includes ham and beans, macaroni & cheese with brown bread, beverage and dessert for just \$5. Get tickets from Middleborough Key Club students, Kiwanis members, the COA, or call Pat Bettencourt at 508-946-2010, ext. 104.

Downtown Middleborough lights up the season. Come gather on Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m. for carols and tree lighting at Town Hall. Refreshments served inside and out. Stroll through historic Thatcher's Row and along streets and shops decorated to win your vote for the best display. You may win a basket of local fare, including one of three \$50 MG&E gift certificates, good for local light and warmth.

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:

Friday, December 23
Closing at 3 p.m.

Monday, December 26
Christmas holiday

Monday, January 2, 2012
New Year's holiday

Monday, January 16, 2012
Martin Luther King Jr. 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.

