

the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department December 2007

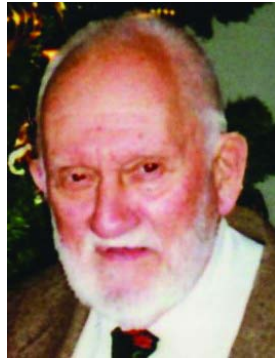
Community-owned since 1893

Edward Parks:

A lifetime of service

Commissioner Edward W. Parks passed away November 17 after a lifetime of service to his country and community. He was first elected to the Gas & Electric Commission in 1995, served for four years, and was reappointed in 2003.

Mr. Parks was a committed guardian of ratepayer rights and interests at MG&E, often visiting with managers to gain insight into current issues and sharing his concerns. Well known for his professional and community work, Mr. Parks will be especially remembered for his vigorous efforts on behalf of veterans' interests.



Edward W. Parks

What you need to know: payment info

When you **mail a payment**, please make sure it goes to P.O. Box 92, Middleborough for prompt credit. Payments sent to our street address may be delayed.

If you **pay by credit card**, we now accept Discover Card along with MasterCard and Visa. Just call us with your information to make an immediate payment.

TreeWorks:

A plague of caterpillars has left great numbers of dead trees behind, and we are working harder than ever to clear branches that threaten our lines. For 2008 we doubled our tree-trimming budget to \$300,000 to help maintain service reliability, especially during stormy weather.

However, we do not remove entire trees when they are on private property. Property owners with large dead trees should contact a professional service, properly licensed to remove trees near utility lines.

Sidebar stats:

What will you do with your Holiday Discount?

Our Commission voted in November to give all customers an additional 10% off electric energy charges, excluding the purchase power adjustment. It's included in this December bill – for a typical home use of 750 kilowatt-hours a month, that's \$5. Here's what the savings could buy:

Trip to Grandma's house 1.4 gallons of gasoline to travel an average of 26 miles

Greeting cards

Two regular or one "singing" card to get that special smile

Another string of twinkling lights

100 minis, adding to your neighbors' holiday joy

A warm & bright holiday season Priceless!



Nemasket River at Oliver's Walk

Do you do this?

Do you look at the calendar and think that it's really too late to start saving energy this winter?

Do this instead:

Call our Energy Saving Hotline at 1-888-772-4242 and talk to a true energy advisor right away. You might be surprised at what you can do immediately without major renovation.

Keep meters clear

To help avoid estimated readings, please keep a clear path to your meters. Remove ice and snow, and cut back landscaping. Make sure pets are restrained on reading days, and unlock gates if needed. Remember, if you can't get to your meter, neither can we.



There is help

If you are having trouble paying heating and utility bills this winter, here are two good numbers to know:

Call the state's "Heatline" at 800-632-8175 to find out if you can get help with heat or weatherization, and to find out which agency covers your town.

Call the Good Neighbor Energy Fund at 800-334-3047 if you are in temporary crisis and do not qualify for federal or state energy funds.

Reminder: winter safety tips

If you use space heaters this winter, make sure you follow all manufacturers' safety guidelines. Place heaters on nonflammable surfaces, not rugs. Keep them well away from furniture, bedding, and drapes. Turn them off before bed, and never leave them unattended.

Install carbon monoxide detectors on all levels of your home. Never use a gas oven to heat your home, or a charcoal grill indoors. Make sure outside vents are clear, and don't sleep in a room with an unvented gas heater.

Always turn off holiday lights when you leave your home or go to bed. Discard worn or frayed cords and, for outside displays, only use cords rated for outdoor use.

For more safety tips, visit usfa.dhs.gov.

What uses more energy?

1 large spotlight on your Santa display

150 hours per month	30 Kwh*	\$ 4.20
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10 strings of holiday mini-lights

150 hours per month	648 Kwh**	\$ 5.25
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1 giant snow globe on lawn

150 hours per month	1,296 Kwh***	\$ 10.50
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* kilowatt-hours for 200-watt spotlight

** for 10 strings of 25 watts each

*** for 50 watts, equivalent to one small fan; models vary



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:

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 Closing:

Monday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Day

Tuesday, January 1
New Year's Day

Monday, January 21
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.



MIDDLEBOROUGH
Gas and Electric Department
www.MGandEonline.com