



the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department February 2008

Community-owned since 1893

New wire along Thomas Street

You may have noticed our crews on Thomas Street in Middleborough, where they are replacing existing wire with insulated, stronger cable to improve reliability in this part of town.

The new cable is designed to reduce power outages due to contact with tree branches, weather extremes including snow, ice and high winds, as well as contact with animals and birds. The project will be ongoing throughout the year.

Did you know?

Low-Income Heating & Energy Assistance Program funding has been increased to reach even more eligible families this year. Go to EnergyBucks.com to find your local agency.

What you need to know:

natural gas costs

Natural gas costs have risen substantially this heating season. Even though the increase is not as dramatic as home heating oil, it required that we pass through an increase of 20 cents per ccf (hundred cubic feet) on January 1. Our typical heating customer using a winter average of 250 ccfs per month now pays \$458.

HomeWorks: furnaces & flues

Furnaces combust (burn fuel) to heat water or air that is circulated in your home to heat rooms. Anything that interferes with the flow of air around the furnace or blocks the flow of flue gases coming out of the furnace is **dangerous**. Either of these two dangers can cause carbon monoxide to build up inside your home and kill. When was the last time you checked your flue or furnace to keep them clear? Remember, external flues that come close to the ground can be blocked with snow.

Sidebar stats: Spring is right around the corner!

Here are some facts* to brighten a cold winter day:

86°
Fahrenheit

Highest temperature recorded in Boston in March

1 to 3

Ratio of water to snow produced by melting old, compressed snow

11 hours,
17 minutes

Total daylight time on March 1 – growing by 2.5 minutes each day

1,718

American robins counted in Massachusetts during the Great Backyard Bird Count in 2007

*Time and temperature facts from the National Weather Service

Did you know?

You may be able to take a federal tax credit of up to \$500 for adding insulation to your home.

Do you do this?

Do you print on only one side of a page at your office or home?

Do this instead:

Many printers today offer double-sided printing. Check your printing options before you hit "Print" to take advantage of this feature. Yes, it does save energy – the energy to produce the extra sheet of paper.

Hi, Neighbor!

The Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund helps those in temporary financial crisis to pay their energy expenses. It is often the last resort for families who have not qualified for federal and state assistance.

Harsh weather and high energy costs mean that many families are now struggling to make ends meet. Donations to the fund in any amount are sincerely appreciated.

You can find out more about the fund and make an online donation at magoodneighbor.org. Our website at MGandEonline.com also has a link to the site in the "Our Community" section.

Connections: find the right stuff

What type of insulation is best for your home? Find out at these helpful websites:

Go to ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html to find the most economic insulation level for your home based on your zip code.

At insulationsmart.com there's a calculator to estimate your monthly savings with insulation.

Visit builderonline.com for "how-to" information.



How much does it cost?

For 5 hours of supplemental space heating*

Always use with caution.

Tall ceramic room heater **\$1.05**

For a 1,500-watt unit heating a 140-square foot room

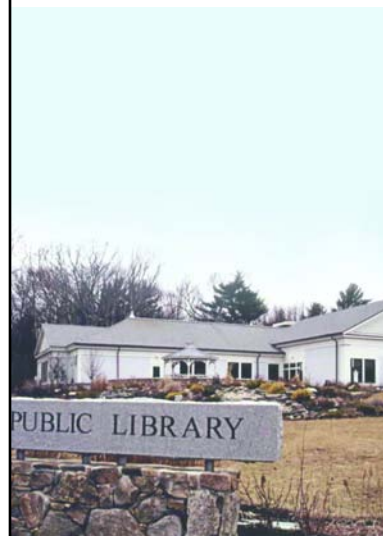
Reflective personal heater **56¢**

For an 800-watt unit heating personal space with protected halogen lamps

Electric baseboard heater **70¢**

For 1,000-watt, 4-foot installed convection heater on a thermostat

* Source: manufacturers' specifications. Check MGandEonline.com Home Appliance Calculator for other home energy uses.



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, February 18

Presidents' 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