

Mansfield Live wire

A newsletter for
customers of the
Mansfield Municipal
Electric Department

February 2002

MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER

Save money with a no-hassle thermostat

It's hard enough to keep the kids' schedules straight, let alone remember to turn your thermostat down a few degrees before you dash out in the morning. And it's easy to doze off before you get a chance to turn down the heat at night.

Luckily, there's an easy solution — a programmable thermostat that does the remembering for you. By automatically adjusting the temperature twice a day — while the family is out of the house during the day and again while everyone is asleep — it can cut your energy use between a quarter and a third.

Here's how a programmable thermostat can work in the winter:

- As you leave for work, it automatically lowers the temperature.
- When you return for the evening, the thermostat brings the temperature back to a comfortable range.
- When you go to bed, it lowers the heating level to conserve energy at night.
- You wake up to a warm home because the thermostat automatically raises the temperature before your wake-up time.

Of course, any schedule is possible because you can preselect the temperatures and the times when the thermostat will change. Programmable thermostats are available at most hardware and home improvement stores.

Use portable heaters safely

If you're using a space heater to help take the chill out of winter days and nights, please use them safely.

- Keep heaters away from flammable materials such as drapes, blankets or furniture.
- Don't leave a heater unattended, especially if there are children or pets around.
- Unplug the heater when it's not in use.
- As with any appliance, keep heaters away from water, and be particularly careful if you use a space heater in a bathroom or another location where water is present.
- If you're buying a heater, make sure you get one that automatically turns off if it tips over.



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Protect your electronics from power surges

In every home or business, costly electronic equipment is at risk from unavoidable power surges and drops.



That's why we at Mansfield Electric urge you to take steps to protect your valuable electronics.

Power surges can result from outside forces, such as lightning strikes and downed power lines, and from factors within the home such as appliances cycling on and off. These events can damage or destroy sensitive electronics — if not immediately, then over time.

A simple protection method, if practical, is to unplug equipment when it is not in use. Another relatively easy safety measure is to purchase surge protectors for each electric outlet used by electronic equipment. Surge protectors are available at most hardware, home improvement, and office supply stores. Although they do not protect against power loss, surge protectors ensure that sudden voltage changes won't damage your equipment.

A way to safeguard computer files during an outage is to install an uninterruptible power supply — a battery with an inverter — that can provide enough short-term power to allow a safe computer shutdown. Also, save or “back up” your computer projects often so you will have an up-to-date copy of all work.

If you have equipment that is particularly sensitive to voltage variations, please call our office at 508-261-7361 for specific advice.

Save energy and money this winter

Here are a few tips to help you save energy and money this winter and all year long:

- Use fireplaces with care. Use your fireplace only in mild weather. When the outside temperature is very cold, more heated indoor air is used to keep the fire burning in a standard fireplace than is replaced by the warmth of the fire.
- Change your filters. If you have a hot air heating system, remember to clean or replace the filter each month during the heating season to keep it operating at peak efficiency. Clean filters reduce your energy costs and can prolong the life of your furnace.
- Tighten up your doors. To seal doors against air leaks, caulk from both the inside and outside between the door frame and wall. Weatherstrip where the door closes against the frame, and install a door sweep on the bottom edge of the door.
- Use your drapes. In cold weather, keep drapes or shades open during the day to let in the heat of the sun. Close them at night to hold heat in.

CREDIT CARD
PAYMENTS
ACCEPTED

Did you know you can pay your electric bill with either your MasterCard or Visa? Just bring your bill and credit card to our office at 125 High St., Unit 4, or to the Treasurer's Office at Town Hall. Or simply call our office at 508-261-7361. It's as easy and convenient as that!

2002 Calendar of Events

Friday, March 1

Chamber Afternoon, 2 p.m., QMS
Southeastern Junior District Festival, location to be announced

COA — Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.
Call 508-261-7368 for details.

Saturday, March 2

Southeastern Junior District Festival, location to be announced

Monday, March 4

P&R — Registration begins for Summer Camp, ages 5-12, Town residents ONLY.
Call 508-261-7384 for details.

Thursday, March 7

MHS Bands/Color Guards perform at Council on Aging, 10 a.m. at MM+C

COA — Morning Melodies, 10 a.m.
Call 508-261-7368 for details.

Sunday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 20

Intergenerational Visual Arts Exhibition and professional artist guest lecture for MHS and COA art students, 9 a.m. to noon.
Spring begins.

Town Clerk — Last day to register to vote for Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

COA — Art Show, MHS, 9-11 a.m.
Call 508-261-7368 for details.

Thursday, March 21

Senior citizens invited to MHS Broadway Musical dress rehearsal, afternoon time to be announced.

Friday, March 22

MHS Broadway Musical, 7:30 p.m.

SEMSBA Senior Festival, location to be announced

Saturday, March 23

MHS Broadway Musical, 7:30 p.m.

SEMSBA Senior Festival, location to be announced

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 25

P&R — Registration begins for Summer Youth and Adult Tennis; Youth Fishing Derby; Adult Softball, Volleyball and Basketball; Adult Tennis League.
Call 508-261-7384 for details.

Wednesday, March 27

COA — Friends' Bake Sale, 9 a.m.
Call 508-261-7368 for details.

Tuesday, March 28

Passover begins.

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

All dates, times and events are subject to change. Please contact the program organizer for confirmation.



Housing Authority sets meeting schedule

Members of the Mansfield Housing Authority Board of Commissioners wish to inform the residents of Mansfield that Board meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. on a rotating basis at one of the Authority's elderly developments. If a holiday should fall on the first Monday of the month, the meeting will be held the following Monday unless otherwise posted. The meeting schedule for the next six months is:

Monday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. at 15 Park St., Community Room

Monday, March 4, 7 p.m. at D-3 Cedar Court on Wilson Place

Monday, April 1, 7 p.m. at 22 Bicentennial Court

Monday, May 6, 7 p.m. at 15 Park St., Community Room

Monday, June 3, 7 p.m. at D-3 Cedar Court on Wilson Place

Monday, July 1, 7 p.m. at 22 Bicentennial Court

For more information, please contact the MHA at 508-339-6890.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The public health nurse will be available the second Wednesday of every month from 3-4 p.m. at Town Hall, Social Services II Room, third floor.
Call Chris Delano, R.N., at 508-222-0118, ext. 2144.

The Board of Health meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

You can call the Department of Public Works at 508-261-7335 for 24-hour information on Town Hall hours, trash pickup and possible emergency bulletins.

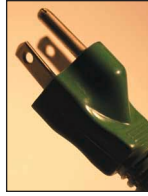


Attention, dog owners

A reminder from the the Town Clerk's office — dog licenses are due May 1. After this date a \$10 late fee will be charged.

SAVE ON
LAUNDRY COSTS

To save on laundry costs, follow detergent instructions carefully. Too many suds actually hamper effective washing action and may require more energy in the form of extra rinses. Also, check washing instructions on garments and set the wash temperature to cold or warm as often as possible. Avoid washing many small loads — you'll save energy by running full loads less often.



safety tips

DON'T
TOUCH
THAT WIRE!

There are just three words to remember if you ever see a power line lying on the ground — don't touch it!

You can't tell just by looking at a wire if it is potentially deadly or not. That's why every wire on the ground or in the air should be considered energized and dangerous.

If you see a power line on the ground or anywhere else it does not belong, call 911 or call Mansfield Electric at 508-261-7395. While waiting for help, keep others away from the wire until the professionals arrive.

To stay safe, follow these safety rules:

- If you are involved in a traffic accident that results in a power line touching your car, do not get out of your car unless it is on fire. In case of a fire, jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Warn people to stay away from your car.
- Do not approach a car that is touching power lines. Keep the victim in the vehicle and wait for emergency personnel to handle the situation.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- Do not touch downed power lines or use any object — including brooms, boards, limbs or plastic — to move them.
- Never touch a person who is in contact with a power line or with an object that's touching the wires. Do not touch a person who has been shocked by a power line.
- Do not try to cut or remove a tree that is entangled with power lines.
- Never assume that a downed line is a cable television or telephone wire. Assume every downed wire is dangerous — it could save your life.

Mansfield
Live wire

**Mansfield Municipal
Electric Department**

125 High St., Unit 4
Mansfield, MA 02048

Phone 261-7361

Fax 261-7391

DIRECTORY

Customer Service & Billing.....261-7361
Emergency.....261-7395
Off-hours Emergency.....261-7300

PAYMENT BOX:

Town Hall parking lot, Six Park Row, Mansfield

PAYMENT LOCATION:

Town Hall, Treasurer's Office: Six Park Row, Mansfield
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to noon

NEW SERVICE, DEPOSITS & CUSTOMER INQUIRIES:

125 High St., Unit 4, Mansfield
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to noon