

Mansfield Live wire

A newsletter for
customers of the
Mansfield Municipal
Electric Department

December 2002

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

Add energy savings to your shopping list

This season, why not give the gift of lower electric bills? Your friends will appreciate your thoughtfulness long after the holidays are over.

Bulky sweaters, thermal socks, warm slippers and cuddly lap blankets warm a body house-bound by foul weather, and let the recipient turn the thermostat a bit lower. Some other stocking stuffers that might give your buddies a break on the electric bill:

- “Draft-dodgers,” those snake-like fabric bundles that span the width of a door, prevent cool air from sneaking in through the bottom of windows and doors.
- Portable electric heaters allow you to make just one room as toasty as can be, while unused rooms stay cooler.
- Magnetic vent covers make sure heat isn’t wasted on rooms you never use. They come in various sizes and stick right to any metallic vent.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs burn for some 10,000 hours before they need changing. The savings in time and trouble are a gift in itself!
- A programmable thermostat is a year-round money saver. It turns the heat down a few degrees while everyone’s at work or asleep, and inches it back up so the house is comfortable by the time the family is home or awake.

Shop smart for new appliances

If a new appliance is on your holiday shopping list, be sure to consider how much it will cost to operate before you buy. That way you’ll know which model is the best deal in the long run.

One easy way to compare the efficiency of different models is to read the EnergyGuide label that you’ll find on all new refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, water heaters, clothes washers, air conditioners and furnaces.

The federal government also has the EnergyStar program, which rates items such as computers and large appliances based on their energy efficiency. To find a listing of manufacturers of energy-efficient appliances, visit www.energystar.gov.



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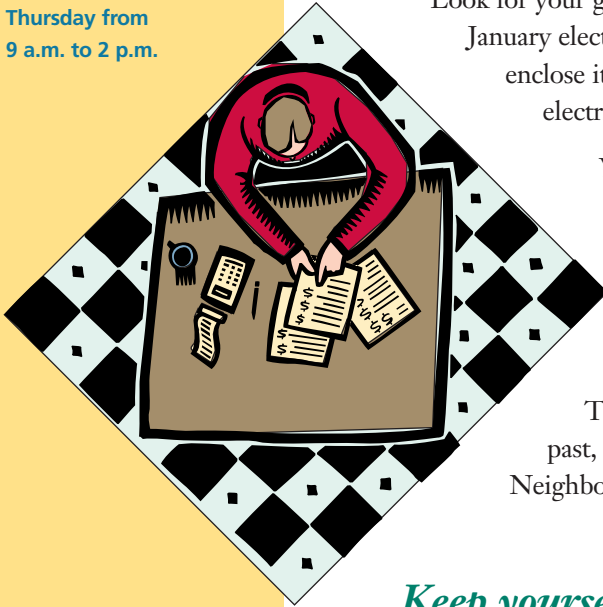
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DO YOU KNOW
SOMEONE WHO
NEEDS HELP?

If you or someone you know is experiencing financial difficulties and needs help paying winter energy bills, there's a local resource that may be able to offer assistance. Contact Mansfield Social Services, 6 Park Row, Mansfield, at 508-261-7464 or 508-261-7465. They are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Give the gift of warmth this winter

As winter's cold days and dark nights close in upon us, you can help area families stay warm with a contribution to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund. To make it as easy as possible for you to help, we're enclosing a donation envelope with each bill during the month of January.

The fund helps those in temporary financial crisis who cannot pay their energy bills and do not qualify for federal or state funds. This may include the working poor, elderly, and others experiencing short-term financial problems.

Any amount you can contribute would be sincerely appreciated. The Salvation Army, which administers the fund, is already beginning to receive phone calls from families in need.

As a way to emphasize the Fund's appreciation to those who "give the gift of warmth," **donors who give more than \$25 to the fund this year will get a free five-minute long distance phone card**, courtesy of a generous donor.

Look for your green donation envelope that will be with your January electric bill. If you can send a contribution, please enclose it in the special donation envelope, not with your electric payment.

You can also simply make a check out to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund and send it to the Salvation Army, 147 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. Most donations are tax deductible, since the Fund qualifies as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt recipient.

The people of Mansfield have been generous in the past, and we thank you in advance for being a Good Neighbor this year.

Keep yourself warm and toasty, too

Keep yourself warm and toasty without spending a fortune on heat with the help of an expert energy advisor. Just call 1-888-772-4242 on weekdays during business hours for free advice on how to save energy at home.

The advisors are highly trained energy conservation professionals who can discuss your specific concerns and also send you written information on energy conservation measures.

You can call the same number to schedule a free energy audit for a complete home evaluation. Make an appointment, and a state-certified energy advisor will visit your home and create a comprehensive report.

Help is just a phone call away!

2003 Calendar of Events

**Wednesday,
January 1**
Happy
New Year!

**Monday,
January 6**
P&R — Adult
basketball
second session begins.
Call 508-261-7384 for details.

Tuesday, January 7
P&R — Preschool Kids'
Winter Workshop begins.
Call 508-261-7384
for details.



Wednesday, January 8
P&R — Adult volleyball
second session begins.
Call 508-261-7384 for details.

Thursday, January 9
P&R — Adult basketball
second session begins.
Call 508-261-7384 for details.

Tuesday, January 7
P&R —
Adult basketball,
new Tuesday
session begins.
Call
508-261-7384
for details.

Monday, January 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
School holiday and
Town offices closed.

Thursday, January 23
Mansfield Public Library —
Sign language course begins,
6:30-8:30 p.m. Four consecutive
Thursdays, registration required.
For details and registration
call 508-261-7380.

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

Learn sign language this winter

The Mansfield Public Library will hold a four-session sign language course on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. this winter.

The course begins January 23 and will continue on January 30, February 6 and February 13 at the library. Registration is required.

For registration or more details, call 508-261-7380.

FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT

Rebate offered for toilet replacements

The Mansfield Water Department is offering a rebate when you replace older flush toilets with new, low-flow toilets.

Specifically, each resident/homeowner can receive a \$100 rebate on the installation of a low-flow — 1.6 gallons per flush — toilet that replaces a higher flush toilet. The rebate is for each toilet replaced and does not include new installations.

For more information, please call 508-261-7376.

The Water Wizard wants you!

The Water Department's own water conservation teacher is looking for classes, church groups, Scout troops and science fairs to teach conservation. We can customize a session to your needs.

For more information, please call Steve Bishop at the Mansfield Water Department, 508-261-7376.

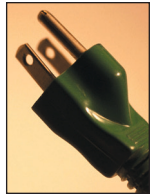
BOARD OF HEALTH

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, second floor, Meeting Room A/B. 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, third floor.

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.



safety tips

PROTECT YOUR
FAMILY FROM
CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide is a gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless and potentially deadly — and burning any fuel in your home may produce it. High concentrations of carbon monoxide can lead to unconsciousness, brain damage or death.

This deadly gas can come from furnaces fueled by gas or oil, water heaters, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, and even fumes from an automobile left running in an attached garage. Warning signs of carbon monoxide in the home include stuffy, stale or smelly air, very high humidity, and soot from a fireplace or heating system.

The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to influenza, and include headaches, fatigue, nausea, shortness of breath, weakness, vision problems and loss of muscle control. Some victims may experience one or more of these symptoms, while others may not experience any.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Open the doors and windows.
- Get everyone outside, and call 911 from a neighbor's house.
- Have your home tested by emergency response personnel.
- If carbon monoxide is detected, seek medical attention.

To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home, have your heating system inspected by a licensed heating contractor, preferably before each heating season, to ensure that it is in good working order.

Make sure your home is adequately ventilated, especially if you recently installed insulation, had major renovations done, or have enclosed your heating system to increase living space. Have your chimney inspected annually by a professional chimney sweep.

**MAKE SURE
YOUR HOME
HAS AN ALARM**

A simple way to help protect you and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning is to install one or more carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Simple, plug-in devices are available at most hardware or home improvement stores.

Mansfield
Live wire

**Mansfield Municipal
Electric Department**

*125 High St., Unit 4
Mansfield, MA 02048*

Phone 508-261-7361

Fax 508-261-7391

DIRECTORY

Customer Service & Billing508-261-7361
Emergency508-261-7395
Off-hours Emergency.....508-261-7300

PAYMENT BOXES:

**Town Hall parking lot, Six Park Row, Mansfield
Front of Billing Office, 125 High St., Unit 2, 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**

PAYMENTS, NEW SERVICE & 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**