

Highlights

Winter 2017

9th annual WMGLD Energy Conservation Essay Contest

WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion will meet with Galvin Middle School and St. Joseph's School 5th graders this winter to talk to them about electricity, how it gets to their homes, and how they can help save energy at home and school, as part of the 9th annual WMGLD Energy Conservation Essay Contest to promote energy awareness and conservation in home and at school.

Using the information they learned during the General Manager's visit, the students will compose essays about what saving energy means to them. Semi-finalists will be chosen from which the winning essays will be selected. A ceremony will be held to recognize the winners at a later date.

2017 Historical Calendars

The 2017 WMGLD historical calendar is available at the WMGLD business office, 480 North Avenue, Wakefield, while supplies last. This is the 31st year that the WMGLD has produced the popular calendar for its customers.

This year's calendar contains historical photographs from the past, including Wakefield Town Hall, circa 1880s; damage from the Hurricane of 1938; a locomotive traveling to Pleasure Island through downtown Wakefield; Company A leaving for Fort Devens; and the Vernon Market.

The calendar also provides tips on how to save energy throughout the year.

Due to the limited number of calendars printed, only one calendar will be distributed per WMGLD customer family or business, while supplies last.

Help Save the Environment... Save Paper ... Save Energy ... Save Time!

The WMGLD wants to save the environment ... and you can help us!

By signing up for the Paperless Billing option, customers choose to receive an email rather than a traditional paper bill when their bill is ready. They'll also receive two (2) free 7.5 watt LED bulbs just for signing up.

Customers who also sign up for the auto pay option will receive a free power strip, as an added bonus.

To sign up for paperless billing and/or autopay, log on to www.wmgld.com and click on the Manage my Account link.



Go Green Sweepstakes Winner



Congratulations to Joseph Perez, left, the winner of a 7th generation iPod Nano from the WMGLD. Joseph received his prize from Assistant Manager Gene Sullivan, as the winner of the Go Green sweepstakes. Hundreds of WMGLD customers were entered into the contest when they signed up for an online account, agreed to opt out of a paper bill, paid on line, or signed up to pay by text for the first time between August 1st and October 31st, 2016.



WMGLD Energy Monitors and Detectors at the Beebe Library

Thanks to the WMGLD and the Beebe Library, Wakefield residents and businesses can borrow a Kill A Watt Electricity Usage Monitor and/or a Black & Decker Thermal Leak Detector to see how much energy their appliances use and what areas of their homes and businesses let heat out and cold air in through gaps, cracks and inadequate insulation.

The equipment, purchased by the WMGLD in conjunction with the library, has been put into circulation and is available at the Beebe Library to library patrons who have an active card/account in good standing. Patrons must be residents of Wakefield over the age of 18 to borrow the monitor and/or detector. Patrons will be able to borrow the equipment for a one-week period, based on availability. A waiting list is initiated if necessary to accommodate all requests.

Hundreds of Wakefield residents have taken advantage of the three monitors and three detectors that have been in circulation for the past year.

To learn more about the Kill A Watt Electricity Usage Monitors and Black & Decker Thermal Leak Detectors lending program through the Beebe Library, visit the library website www.wakefieldlibrary.org.

Keep Everyone Warm this Winter

The WMGLD is again collecting new and gently used twin and full-size sheets, pillows, blankets, comforters, and bedspreads for people in need through its partnership with Mission of Deeds. This is the 13th consecutive year that the WMGLD has participated in the program that assists the Reading-based nonprofit organization.

The WMGLD will be accepting donations of bed linens and monetary donations throughout the winter at the 480 North Avenue office.

Since its inception in 1993, Mission of Deeds has provided furniture and related items to thousands of area households based on referrals from social workers and clergy. The WMGLD has partnered with Mission of Deeds since 2004 and has been an active supporter of the organization's Buy-a-Bed program.

For information about the WMGLD's participation in the Mission of Deeds program, please call (781) 246-6363.

Contact

WMGLD

WMGLD
480 North Ave.
Wakefield, MA
781-246-6363
www.wmgld.com

Payment Locations

WMGLD Office
480 North Ave.
Wakfield, MA 01880

After hours drop-off box is located at the front of the building.

All locations of The Savings Bank, including its Wakefield Offices:
357 Main Street
599 North Ave
979 Main Street

Pickup Locations:
yellow box at the corner of Smith and Lincoln Streets

Outages
781-246-6363

Find us on Facebook 

The WMGLD office will be closed on the following dates:

Martin Luther King Day - January 16th
Presidents' Day - February 20th
Patriots Day - April 17
Memorial Day - May 29

In case of an emergency, please call 781-246-6363.

WMGLD appliance rebate program



Did you know that WMGLD residential customers who purchase an energy efficient ENERGY STAR® rated appliance may be eligible for an appliance rebate through the WMGLD's ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program?

This program provides a rebate of \$25 to \$100 on the purchase of qualified ENERGY STAR rated appliances and thermostats:

Dehumidifiers	\$25
Programmable Thermostats	\$25
Refrigerators	\$50
Washing Machines	\$50
Dishwashers	\$50
Room Air Conditioners	\$50
Central Air Conditioners	\$100
Water Heaters with an energy factor above .61	\$100

Customers may be eligible for one rebate (or two rebates on the purchase of two ENERGY STAR programmable thermostats) per customer of record during each calendar year. The rebate will be automatically applied to customer accounts.

Information about the appliance rebate program can be obtained on the website www.wmgld.com, or by calling 781-246-6363.

Heating Tips

According to the Department of Energy, heating your home uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home -- typically making up about 42% of your utility bill.

No matter what kind of heating system you have in your house, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing, and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bill while reducing environmental emissions.

The DOE offers the following helpful hints:

- Set your programmable thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and lower the setpoint when you're sleeping or away from home.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as recommended.
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Eliminate trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if unsure about how to perform this task, contact a professional.
- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Natural Gas Safety

As the winter progresses and the winter chill is upon us, WMGLD customers have turned up their thermostats to stay warm. More than 6400 residential and commercial customers rely on the WMGLD to provide natural gas to heat their homes and businesses.

Customers should note that because natural gas is a colorless, odorless hydrocarbon, a chemical odorant is added making the presence of gas detectable for safety purposes.

"The odorant has a distinct smell, one that resembles rotten eggs," WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion said. "If you ever detect even a small amount of the odor of natural gas in the air, there are several steps you should follow."

According to the General Manager, you should learn all you can about natural gas. The more you know...the safer you'll be.

If you smell gas in your home:

- Put out all open flames and don't smoke. Don't attempt to light any appliances.
- Don't touch electric switches, thermostats, appliance controls or electric panel breakers. These items may cause sparks that could lead to an ignition.
- Do not use an automatic garage door opener.
- Do not start your car if it is in the garage or close proximity to the house.
- Open windows and outside doors for ventilation.
- If the odor is strong, don't use your telephone or cell phone inside the house.
- Leave the premises on foot and call the WMGLD at 781-246-6363 from a neighbor's home and remain outside until WMGLD crews arrive. WMGLD provides 24-hour emergency service every day of the year. If you sense it is an emergency, call 911.
- Do not assume someone else will report the condition.

To stay safe you should...

- Look for the blue flame on your gas stove. If pilot lights and burners have a steady, blue flame, they are operating correctly. (Decorative gas fire logs are the only exception. Their flame is usually yellow.)
- Have all gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home or business inspected every year or two by qualified industry professionals.
- Keep the areas around all appliances and equipment clean and unblocked to allow for proper airflow.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for the care and use of gas appliances and equipment.
- Make sure there is at least one multipurpose fire extinguisher in your home or place of business.
- Review these natural gas safety tips regularly with all family members and coworkers.

What you shouldn't do...

- DON'T let children play with or near natural gas appliances or pipes, even the knobs on the oven or cook top.
- DON'T use your stove or oven for anything other than cooking (for instance, to heat your home,) under any circumstances.
- DON'T move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.
- DON'T use a space heater UNTIL you are sure it has been vented properly. If using a vent-free heater, make sure the automatic cut-off switch is operational.
- DON'T install a gas appliance yourself, unless you are a qualified contractor. You should always seek professional assistance.
- DON'T store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.

"Natural gas is very safe when used properly. It is important to remember to call 781-246-6363 or 911 if you smell gas; it's better to be safe than sorry," General Manager Dion concluded.



WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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