

MACEDONIA MESSENGER

E-Bulletin Update of the City of Macedonia

A bi-weekly publication of The City of Macedonia

330.468.8300

The Crossroads of Northeast Ohio

www.macedonia.oh.us

Mayor

Don Kuchta

Economic Development

dkuchta@macedonia.oh.us

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Administrative Executive

daugustine@macedonia.oh.us

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City Council 330-468-8341

Shane Barker

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Jan Tulley

Josephine Arceci, Clerk

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Finance 330-468-8350

Loren Sengstock,

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Fire 330-468-8339

Tim Black, Chief

HR/Personnel 330-468-8353

Denise Mulhollen

Personnel Administrator

Police 330-468-1234

Jon Golden, Chief

Recreation 330-468-8370

Angela Gmerek, Director

Service 330-468-8324

Jim Crevar, Director

December 18, 2009

Announcements

*Merry
Christmas*

A Message from our Mayor

Dear Readers:

First and most important, on behalf of everyone at City Hall, I would like to take this opportunity to say to all of you.....**Happy Holidays!!**

At the New Year hour it is incumbent of us to think about what lies ahead. I believe that I am witnessing one of the biggest retail sales months ever. The Route 82 bridge is accomplishing what our businesses have needed forever. Location, location, location means nothing without the ability to access that location. This past year has seen more infra-structure improvements than ever before. What a difference! ***Sometimes I actually feel lonely on Route 82 & Route 8!***

I love how the light works at the intersection of Crow and 82. ***I would like to see every light in our City be LED and have cameras that notify them to change.*** I am sure our Police Department feels the same! Those lights have a battery back-up. That means if the power fails..... ***a policeman is not in the middle of the intersection directing traffic.*** Tremendous!



Thank you for paying taxes that have allowed us to expand our horizons. Macedonia has a new face because of that and will definitely be better off for having it.

My hope for next year would be for our City to advance another step closer to being able to live up to our expectations. I have a dream that I hope we all share. Increasing the value of living here in Macedonia has to be the focus. During the next year I will need your help more than ever.



My best Christmas present ever would be your faith in me and all of your elected officials. Faith gives us the courage to face the present with confidence, and the future with expectancy.

THE LISTENING CORNER

Have questions for the Mayor, concerns about the City, or suggestions?

Email Mayor Don Kuchta at dkuchta@macedonia.oh.us or call 330-468-8322



Mayor Don Kuchta

*May your home be filled
with Christmas joy,
days of happiness and love.
May each year bring to you
and yours new blessings
from above.
May family and friends
who gather there,
fill the rooms with laughter
and cheer creating memories
that grow more treasured
with every passing year.*

**Merry
Christmas**



Santa and Diana Augustine, Mayor's Adm. Executive

*Message from Diana Augustine
Mayor's Administrative Executive
330.468.8322*



NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

Dear Member Communities

NOPEC GAS RATES LOCKED IN THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010

We are very pleased to announce that NOPEC has locked in gas rates through the end of June, 2010. These rates are lower than the prices we have seen in several years. The prices are as follows:

DOMINION EAST OHIO GAS AREA

November – December 2009	\$8.42 per MCF
January – March 2010	\$7.99 per MCF
April – June 2010	\$6.96 per MCF

COLUMBIA GAS AREA

November – December 2009	\$8.30 per MCF or \$0.83 per CCF
January – March 2010	\$7.98 per MCF or \$0.798 per CCF
April – June 2010	\$7.86 per MCF or \$0.786 per CCF

Residents should also be aware that NOPEC offers a variable rate that can be secured by calling the NOPEC gas call center at 888.848.7914. However, our experience shows that most people prefer to be on a fixed rate so they will know what their price is going to be each month.

Because natural prices have continued to go down, your residents will find that they can periodically find a lower fixed rate. Does NOPEC always have the lowest rate: NO.? The beauty of NOPEC's gas program, however, is that we often beat the competition because we have 127 communities and a large load. NOPEC does have a rate that is very competitive and provides the vast majority of your citizens who want a fixed rate and don't want to shop, a reasonable alternative. Remember, NOPEC doesn't make a profit and consumers can leave at any time at no charge.

NOPEC periodically evaluates its prices against those available from the gas marketers. If you were comparing NOPEC prices a few weeks ago to the multiple gas marketer offers on the PUCO "Apples to Apples", you would have found only two were offering pricing that were more than 10% below NOPEC's pricing. Of the 30 fixed price offers only 10 were below NOPEC's. Most appear to come with hooks and/or hefty early termination fees.

Being at the absolute lowest possible price in the market all, or nearly all the time, is incredibly difficult and, based upon information we have gathered, not necessary for NOPEC customers to be satisfied.

An example – when NOPEC locked in at \$8.30, some of our residents opted-out of NOPEC. Those that locked in for a year in another program at over \$8.00 will probably pay more than the NOPEC price because we are now down to \$6.96 for next spring.

As gas market prices have continued to decline, our communities have lost very few customers: I believe that is because

- 1. The residents of our communities have faith that their communities and NOPEC will watch out for their best interests and not just today or tomorrow but at all times.***
- 2. Most people don't necessarily want the variable price, even though it is lower. (Look at June of 2008; the variable prices went to \$16). They would rather have a fixed price that they can rely upon.***
- 3. We charge no one a fee if they want to leave the program.***
- 4. The biggest problem people have is that they leave NOPEC and then want to come back in to the program.***

If you become aware of a better rate, you may choose to inform your residents that they have choices and they may individually choose to leave the program. Please be aware, however, that at the end of their lock in period with the new supplier they will be at the mercy of that supplier unless they regularly watch their price compared to other prices. Too often we have heard horror stories about people that switch and then find sometime later they are paying much more than our program. I cannot tell you how frustrating it is for your residents to want to come back to NOPEC and find out it could take up to five or six months. This is where the majority of your residents get upset.

At NOPEC there is no mystery. We try to have at least a significant portion of our prices fixed six to nine months ahead and we regularly let you know of the prices. We also put our prices on the NOPEC website. We, also, use a gas expert to advise us on our purchasing decisions.

If your residents want to take the time and effort to develop their own expertise so they are comfortable individually shopping the market and taking their own risks on when to purchase, they are free to do so. Most of your residents, however, would rather that you (NOPEC as your representative) do it for them. By being part of our aggregation, you spend no staff time or money on deciding when to lock in and you are not taking the risks that you would have to take if you were an individual community buying gas. It cannot be emphasized enough that NOPEC charges your community no fees and NOPEC is not for profit.

We encourage you to provide whatever information you believe appropriate to your community. If, however, a gas company asks you to promote their product, we encourage you to contact us first to discuss these options and how you can best provide information without putting your community in a position that might not be in your best interest or in the best interest of your aggregation.



City Council
330.468.8340



December – 2009
City of Macedonia Public Notice of Meetings
Calendar of Events & Dates of Interest

Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Dec 2	9:30am
Finance Meeting	Thursday	Dec 3	7pm
BZA	Monday	Dec 7	To be announced. May be held Tuesday Dec 8
BZA	Tuesday	Dec 8	To be announced. May be held Monday Dec 7
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Dec 9	9:30am
Regular Council Meeting	Thursday	Dec 10	7:30pm –(Work Session at 6:30pm, unless otherwise posted)
Planning Commission	Monday	Dec 14	5:30pm
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Dec 16	9:30am
Re-Elected and Elected Officials Swearing-In Ceremony	Tuesday	Dec 22	7pm- Council Chambers, Judges Elinor Marsh Stormer and Tom Teodosio officiating.
<i>Regular Council Meeting</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>	<i>Canceled in Observance of Christmas Eve</i>
<i>Adm. & Council Offices Closed</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>In Observance of Christmas</i>
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Dec 30	9:30am



Building Department
330.468.8360
Mike Hlad, Commissioner



Engineer's Project Report – December 16, 2009

Rt. 82 (Aurora Rd) Railroad Bridge Project – The Route 82 widening project is wrapping up. ODOT anticipates some cleanup, landscape work and the application of the final striping in the spring. The project is on budget and has been relatively smooth considering the challenges and the need to keep traffic flowing. The benefits of this project are self evident to anyone who travels Aurora Road through the project area.

Rt. 82 (Aurora Rd) Repaving and Signal Project – The City is submitting a “Letter of Intent” with the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to apply for funding for the repaving of Rt 82 from the terminus of the Bridge Project to the eastern Corporation Limit. The funding is scheduled for release in 2014 and 2015. The project will also include storm sewer upgrades, new signals and left turn lanes at the intersection of Aurora Road and Shepard Road.

Highland Road Railroad Grade Separation Project – The City has been working with ODOT to complete the plans for the grade separation project on Highland Road. The roadway at the railroad crossing near Patio Enclosures and Fun-N-Stuff will be elevated to allow vehicles to pass **over** the railroad. During 2010 and 2011 the plans will be completed, property acquired and utilities relocated. Significant construction may start in the fall of 2011, but possibly not until 2012. This construction of this project has been budgeted for several years and is projected to have a total cost of \$8.5 - \$10 million. Macedonia's share will be less than 10% of the total project cost. When the project is complete, the crossing will be much safer, safety forces will have reduced response times, traffic flow will improve and the use of train horns will be reduced. Highland Road will be closed during construction. Future updates will narrow down the expected closure period.

South Bedford Sidewalks - The City is submitting a “Letter of Intent” with the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to apply for funding for the installation of sidewalks along the west side of South Bedford. The project will provide continuous sidewalks from Highland Road to Aurora Road. The funding is scheduled for release in 2014 and 2015. If application to AMATS is unsuccessful, the City will apply to ODOT's Safe Routes Program.

Valley View Road Repaving - The City is submitting a “Letter of Intent” with the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to apply for funding for repaving Valley View Road from Aurora Road to Highland Road. The project will consist of milling off 3” of the surface course, repairing base failures and repaving. The funding is scheduled for release in 2014 and 2015. This would allow repaving of this stretch of road after the Highland Road Railroad project is complete.

General Road Maintenance – Due to the current economy the City has limited plans for major road rehabilitation projects in the City for 2010. While the City reduces costs and continues to address past project commitments, the City Service Crews will do their best to address problem areas as they develop.

Fire Department
330.468.8339
Tim Black Chief



State Fire Marshal Reminds Ohioans **“Heat Homes Safely”**

State Fire Marshal Michael P. Bell is reminding Ohioans to focus on fire safety when heating their homes this winter and to use extra care if utilizing secondary heating sources. See below...

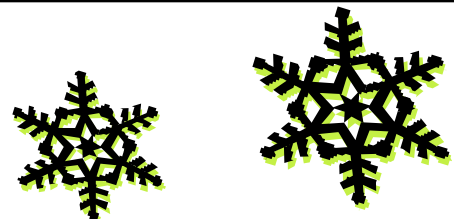
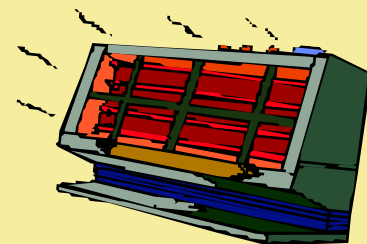
Fireplaces and Wood **Burning Stoves**



- + Allow enough clearance between a wood burning stove and combustible materials such as walls, floors and ceiling.
- + A wood stove should be placed on an approved stove board to protect your floor from heat and hot coals.
- + Make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire, and never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering.
- + Use a fireplace screen to prevent any sparks from reaching out and igniting nearby objects.
- + Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- + The immediate area in front of a fireplace (approximately 3 feet) should not have a rug, carpet or exposed wood flooring.
- + When lighting a gas fireplace, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- + Burn only dry, seasoned wood, and dispose of the cooled ashes in a closed metal container outside and away from your home.
- + Never leave a fire burning unattended in the fireplace.

Portable Space Heaters

- + When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- + Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep, and do not leave children or pets unattended around any heating source. Unplug the heater when you are not using it.
- + Don't use an extension cord with an electric portable heater. The current to the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- + Don't plug more than one heating device into an outlet.
- + Never use electric heaters near water – as in your bathroom or near a water heater.



Propane and Natural Gas

- ✚ Like many other efficient fuels, propane is highly flammable. That means it can be dangerous if not handled properly.
- ✚ If using a propane fueled heater, make sure it is designed for indoor use and properly vented. Read all of the manufacturer's instructions and make sure it is properly vented.
- ✚ Do not use propane barbecues (or any other type of barbecue) indoors.
- ✚ If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances or thermostats. A spark from one of these could ignite the gas. Get everyone outside and away from the building. Shut off the gas supply. Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone.
- ✚ Do not attempt to heat your home by opening the door to your natural gas or electric oven.



Kerosene Heaters

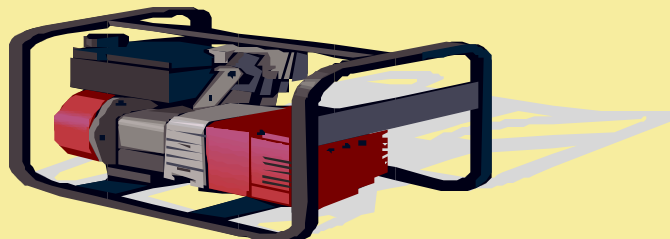
- ✚ Make sure the room has proper ventilation.
- ✚ Fill your heater with only crystal clear, K-1 kerosene. Do not use any fluid that is not recommended for your heater. Refuel outside, and *only after the heater has cooled down*.
- ✚ Check the wick every couple of weeks during the heating season. If the wick is dirty, clean it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✚ Because a kerosene heater has a constant open flame, it should not be used in a room where there are flammable solvents, aerosol sprays, gasoline or any type of oil.



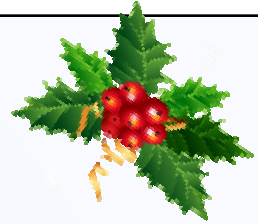
Generators

- ✚ If you have a portable generator, make sure you place it in a well-ventilated area. Read the manufacturer's instructions before using it.
- ✚ Be sure generator fuel is properly and safely stored according to fire regulations. Never store fuel or flammable liquids in a basement or near an open flame. Always refuel the generator outdoors and away from any ignition sources.
- ✚ If you choose to have a generator permanently connected to your home's electrical system, make sure a licensed electrician installs it and be sure to notify your electric company. Improperly installed generators can cause multiple types of hazards not only for you but for power company workers.

Also, make sure to have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area to alert you in the event of a fire. Test the batteries on a weekly basis.



“The Silverdonian



Connection”



The Silverdonians of Macedonia are a group of senior citizens that meet the first Monday of each month at Macedonia City Hall. They gather in the Community Room to share an afternoon of good friends, good food and hopefully some good speakers or a movie!!

Macedonia Seniors that would like to join us are welcome, but we do ask that you call us for reservations the Wednesday before our luncheon. The Village Restaurant in Oakwood is our wonderful caterer, and we need to give Sharon a total count. The luncheon starts at 12 noon and the speaker begins at 1:00 pm.

The cost is only \$3.00 and worth every penny! If you are interested in more information about our luncheon, please feel free to call Dianne at 330-468-8339 or Denise at 330-468-8300.

Events coming up include...

Monday – January 4, 2010

“Caitos Nutrition”

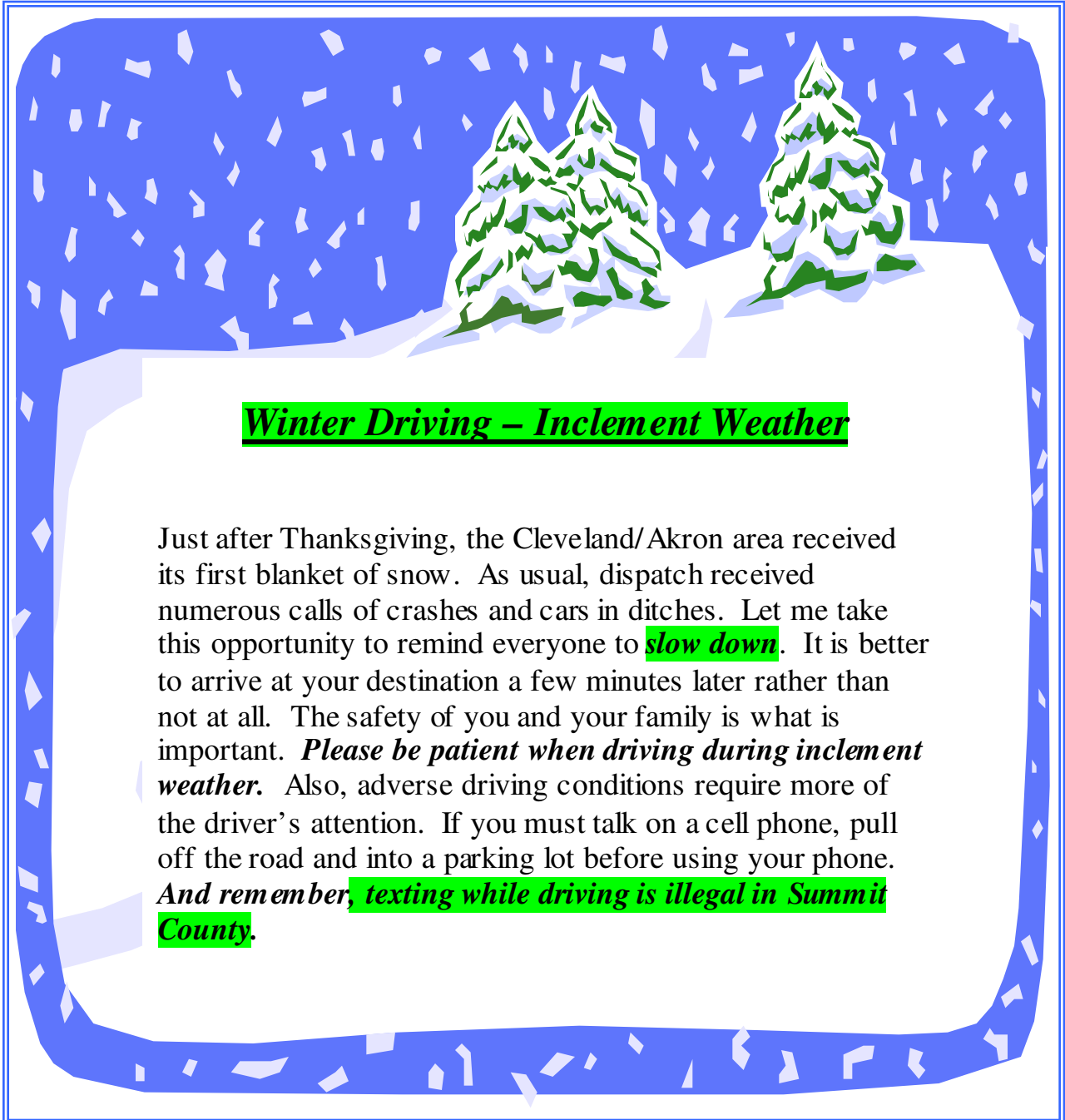
Speaker – Sandra Caitos

Hope you can join us!!

For more information, check our web site: www.macedonia.oh.us



Police Department
330.468.1234
Jon Golden, Chief



Winter Driving – Inclement Weather

Just after Thanksgiving, the Cleveland/Akron area received its first blanket of snow. As usual, dispatch received numerous calls of crashes and cars in ditches. Let me take this opportunity to remind everyone to **slow down**. It is better to arrive at your destination a few minutes later rather than not at all. The safety of you and your family is what is important. ***Please be patient when driving during inclement weather.*** Also, adverse driving conditions require more of the driver's attention. If you must talk on a cell phone, pull off the road and into a parking lot before using your phone. ***And remember, texting while driving is illegal in Summit County.***

Recreation Department
330.468.8370
Angela Gmerek, Director



*City of Macedonia
Annual Tree Lighting*

Happy Holidays



A special visit with Santa & Kaitlyn Milani



Nick Milani hands out popcorn treats!



Parks & Rec Director, Angela Gmerek with Santa

Service Department
330.468.8330
Jim Crevar, Director



8123 JONES RD.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44105
1-800-968-7789

Trash & Recyclable
Collection Information

RECYCLING DO'S
BROWN BIN RECYCLE

NEWSPAPERS/CARDBOARD

Place **newspapers** in brown paper bag. Place them next to your trash. If not in a paper bag, they must be bundled with string or rope.

Please cut and bundle **cardboard** also.

PLASTIC *

Rinse; remove the lids and neck rings before placing them in BROWN BIN. Containers may be crushed to conserve space so
"STEP ON IT"

We accept **#1** and **#2** Plastic only.

GLASS *

Rinse, remove lids and neck rings before putting glass containers in BROWN BIN. Paper labels don't have to be removed. Please recycle only your glass food and beverage containers.

ALUMINUM AND METAL CANS *

Rinse and place in BROWN BINS. You do not have to remove paper labels from your cans. To conserve space, you may crush your cans,

"STEP ON IT"

Please recycle all food and beverage cans.

* - Denotes items that may be placed in the same BROWN 18 GAL BIN

RECYCLING Don'ts
BROWN BIN RECYCLE

- Please **DO NOT** recycle Magazines, Catalogs, Phone Books, Junk mail or any other paper products. Receptacles for these items are available at the Macedonia Family Rec. Center
- Please **DO NOT** recycle plastic containers that are used for motor oil or antifreeze
- Please **DO NOT** recycle light bulbs, plate glass, tempered glass, mirrors, ceramics or any glass that is not a container.
- Please **DO NOT** recycle any metal other than food and beverage containers as specified in Do's



**TRASH AND RECYCLABLE
COLLECTION SERVICES:**

**Trash, recyclables and rubbish/garbage will
be collected**

AT THE CURB on your current pick-up day,
each by separate trucks. Please place your
garbage cans or bags, recycle bin and bundled
waste at curbside by **7:00 a.m.**

Yard Waste must be bagged, weighing no
more than 50 pounds and bundled no longer
than 4 ft.

*****Effective December 1, 2009*****

\$1.00 per month discount available for
Residents 65 yrs or older. Please mail a copy
of ID or Golden Buckeye Card listing your
account number to Republic Services.



**SPECIAL BULK ITEMS AND
PAINT DISPOSAL**

BULK ITEMS

Please call in advance to let us know you will
have **bulk waste** such as stoves, refrigerators,
water tanks and furniture.

FREON

Please call in advance to let us know if you
have any items containing Freon.

PAINT CANS

Paint in cans should have lids removed and
paint permitted to air dry to a hard substance.
Paint cans should not be bagged. Leave them
next to your cans or bags with the lids off.

EXTRA OPTIONS:

****95 Gallon Carts** can be rented for \$4.00 per
month.

Additional **Recycle Bins** can be rented for
\$1.00 per month.

Please contact Customer Service with your
information.**

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

If the holiday falls on a weekday, trash
collection will be delayed one day.

If the holiday falls on a Saturday or
Sunday, trash collection will be on the
normal scheduled pick up day.

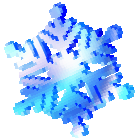
The holidays are as follows:

**NEW YEARS DAY
MEMORIAL DAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
LABOR DAY
CHRISTMAS DAY
THANKSGIVING DAY**

Service will resume on your regular
scheduled pick up day the week following
a holiday week.

See: www.macedonia.oh.us
for further details.





MAILBOXES AND THE WINTER SEASON



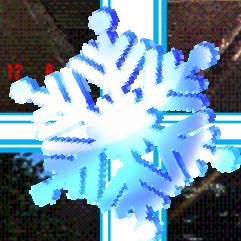
As winter approaches, the Macedonia Service Department is asking residents to examine their mailbox and post to determine if it is stable and within the requirements of the United Postal Service. It is the responsibility of each resident to ensure that their mailbox is sturdy enough to withstand snow and slush being plowed off of the road by City trucks.

In addition to making sure a mailbox is secure to a sturdy post, residents can also construct a small shield out of plywood that would block the forces of plowed snow and slush from hitting and possibly damaging the mailbox.

The City is not responsible for damaged mailboxes that are the result of plowed snow and slush, boxes that are too close to the street as defined by postal regulations, or boxes that were not sturdy to begin with. The Service Department will only replace a mailbox that has evidence that it was physically struck by a City snow plow. The City has the right to judge whether or not mailbox damage was caused by a snow plow truck or not.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE MACEDONIA SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 330-468-8324.

PLEASE DISPLAY ADDRESS ON SNOW SHIELD FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IDENTIFICATION





Season's Greetings

*From
The City
Of
Macedonia*

In Honor of Those Who Serve....



Support Our Troops
Remember our Veterans

Many of our Macedonia residents are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

On behalf of the City of Macedonia, the Macedonia Messenger would like to pay special tribute in our upcoming publications.

Please forward information including name, where they currently serve and photos if available, to Denise Sloan at dsloan@macedonia.oh.us or call 330-468-8300.

Residents who are veterans are also asked to please share their names and information as well.



In Honor of Those Who Serve....



Sergeant Matthew Foust
U.S. Marine Corps
Active Duty - Afghanistan



Frank Posar
Staff Sergeant
U.S. Army Security Agency
1964-1968
Served in 13 countries
Home base Asmara, Ethiopia



Ken Turley
Infantry Soldier
U.S. Army
101st Airborne
1979-1983



Jim Bennett
Staff Sergeant
U.S. Air Force
1968-1972

