

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

Diana Augustine 330-468-8322
Administrative Executive
daugustine@macedonia.oh.us

Mayor's Court 330-468-8379
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City Council 330-468-8341
Shane Barker
Dave Engle, President
Ken Martin
Nick Molnar
Peggy Spraggins, VP
Jan Tulley
Josephine Arceci, Clerk

City Directory

Building 330-468-8360
Mike Hlad, Commissioner

Finance 330-468-8350
Loren Sengstock,
Finance Director

Fire 330-468-8339
Tim Black, Chief

HR/Personnel 330-468-8353
Denise Mulhollen
Personnel Administrator

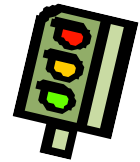
Police 330-468-1234
Jon Golden, Chief

Recreation 330-468-8370
Angela Gmerek, Director

Service 330-468-8324
Jim Crevar, Director



A Message from our Mayor...



Dear Constituents:

I would like to take this opportunity to answer questions about the light at North Bedford and Ledge Road.

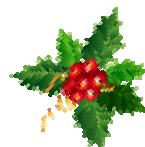
It is understandably confusing that the light was put up to the consternation of some residents. It is understandable that there is some concern about taking it down now! ***Please let me explain.***

In the early stages of engineering the Route 82 Railroad Bridge, detours and alternate routes became a concern. ***Why?*** Because the Engineers deal with worst case scenarios. ***It is always better to ere on the side of caution.*** Their concern was traffic backups due to construction on the Route 82 bridge project.

"But Mayor, that didn't happen"!

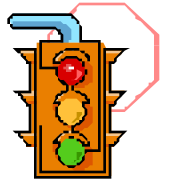


Well....that's a good thing. However, right at the tail end of the project, we experienced those backups. The railroad had shut down Highland Road in order to repair and perform track maintenance. At that time, I was attacked for being the dumbest guy on the planet for allowing that to happen. ***I don't know if you are aware of the fact that road rage can be part of emails from a blackberry. Of course the Mayor had no say as to what the railroad can or can't do. My***



Police and Service Departments begged the Railroad to wait a week, but to no avail. People began looking for alternate routes and the temporary light played a large part in accommodating the traffic.

You may have noticed that I said temporary light. We were and still are **renting that light**. The alternative for us is to buy a new light to replace the one that was there! The cost for the light could be as high as \$50,000 or more. All of our lights are being changed to LED's so that they continue to function when the power is out. They have a battery backup. This is crucial for the safety of our police officers when they are needed at an intersection for traffic control. Storms usually affect visibility and we owe them all the protection we can give them.



For a light to be put up at that intersection you need to justify it with traffic counts. The Engineers predictions reached the threshold. Now they cannot justify the need because the Route 82 Bridge is done. Is that really the case? We will be doing a traffic count in the spring and if justifiable, you may have the light (a permanent one) back up in that intersection. ***Time will tell.***

Please remember that the light is not going up or down on a whim. It was there for a reason and could be there again for a reason.

We made it through having the bridge built, and traffic is flowing so well on 82 that sometimes I feel lonesome!

I am told that everyone has thought of all the ways to deal with traffic...except *staying at home!*

Mayor Don Kuchta



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

*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



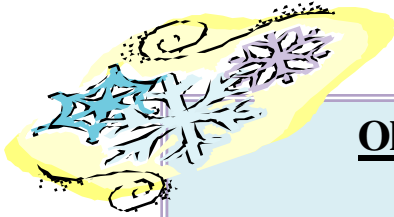
December – 2009
City of Macedonia Public Notice of Meetings
Calendar of Events & Dates of Interest

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



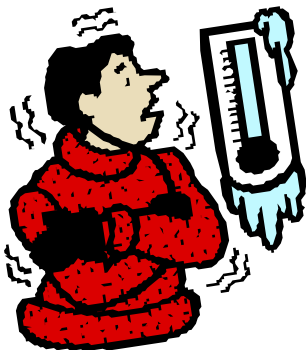
Ohio Department of Development

Now that cold weather has arrived, we suggest taking a glance at the Ohio Department of Development web site at:
<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/energyhelp.htm>. They offer assistance to low-income residents to help pay for heat, electricity and weatherizing their homes.



Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

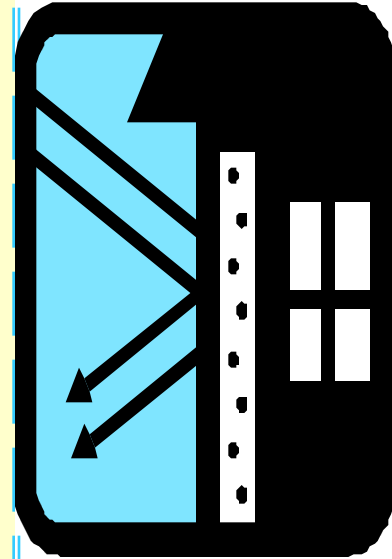
The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Service (OCS). It is designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating. If you are eligible for assistance, the amount of your one-time HEAP benefit will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, the one-time benefit will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company (or fuel vendor). <http://www.development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/heap.htm>



Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)

Ohio's Home Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded low-income residential energy efficiency program. The program reduces low-income households' energy use, thus creating more affordable housing for those in most need. Services include attic, wall and basement insulation; blower-door-guided air leakage reduction; heating system repairs or replacements; and health and safety testing and inspections. All measures are provided based on an on-site energy audit and on cost-effective guidelines developed using the NEAT computerized energy audit. Individualized client education is an important component of the program.

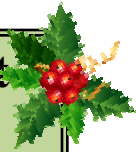
<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/hwap.htm>



Electric Partnership Program (EPP)

As part of Ohio's electric industry restructuring act (Senate Bill 3), a Universal Service Fund (USF) was established to serve low-income residents who have high electricity usage. USF's Electric Partnership Program (EPP) is designed to improve the electric efficiency of low-income households who participate in PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) by performing in-home audits and installing appropriate electric base load and thermal energy efficiency measures. Consumer education that helps PIPP participants get the most benefit from their electricity while learning ways to lower the amount of it they use is an integral part of the service delivery to every household. <http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/epp.htm>

Fire Department
330.468.8339
Tim Black Chief



Santa Delivery Program – a visit from the North Pole

*Each year, in the City of Macedonia, Santa Claus rides the fire truck and delivers Christmas gifts to the children of the City. Please join in the fun and become part of this annual tradition! Parents/Guardians who wish to participate are asked to pick up a “special” bag (**one per household**) at either city location listed below. Upon filling the bag, it can be returned to the Macedonia City Center (see below for bag drop off details).*

Bag Pick-up

Dates: *November 12, thru December 11, 2009.*

Location: **Macedonia Family Recreation Center**

1494 E. Aurora Road

Time: Monday – Friday 5:30 am to 9:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: **Macedonia City Center, Main Lobby (enter thru doors by flag poles).**

9691 Valley View Road

Enter in the main doors by the flag poles!

Time: Building is open 24 hours a day.

Bag Drop Off

Dates: *December 1, 2009 thru December 11, 2009*

Location: **Macedonia City Center**

9691 Valley View Road

Enter in the main entrance by the flag poles!

Time: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Enjoy the fun of interacting with Santa on his route through Macedonia by joining him at www.macedonia.oh.us. Follow the link to Santa and the instructions!!



Santa Delivery Dates	Delivery Zones
Monday, December 14, 2009	Zone 1 & 2
Tuesday, December 15, 2009	Zone 3 & 4
Wednesday, December 16, 2009	Zone 5 & 6

Zones can be found on information sheet in gift bag.



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...

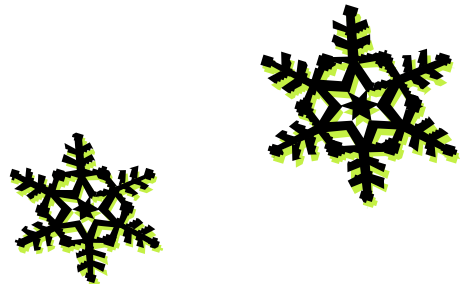
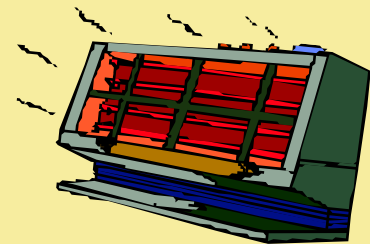
Fireplaces and Wood Burning Stoves



- + 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

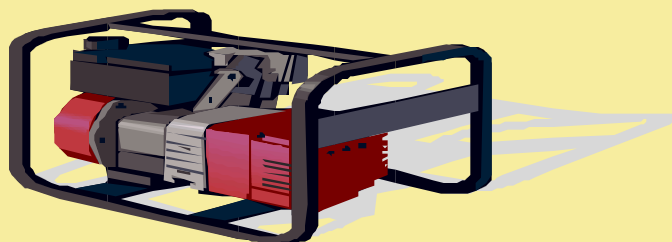
- + Make sure the room has proper ventilation.
- + Fill your heater with only crystal clear, K-1 kerosene. Do not use any fluid that is not recommended for your heater. Refuel outside, and *only after the heater has cooled down*.
- + Check the wick every couple of weeks during the heating season. If 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.



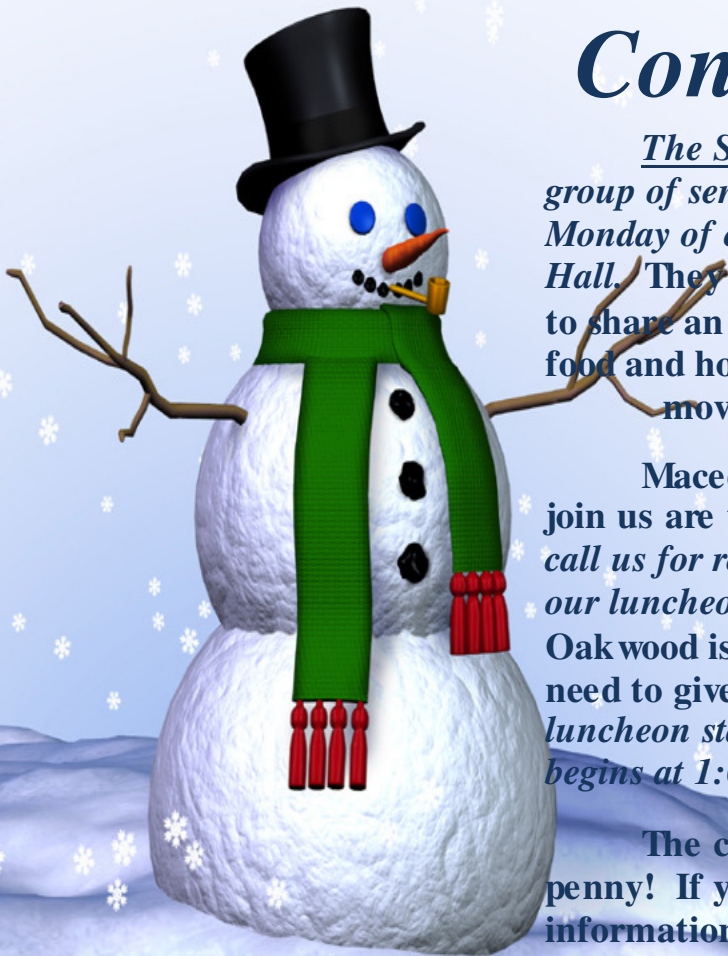
Generators

- + 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

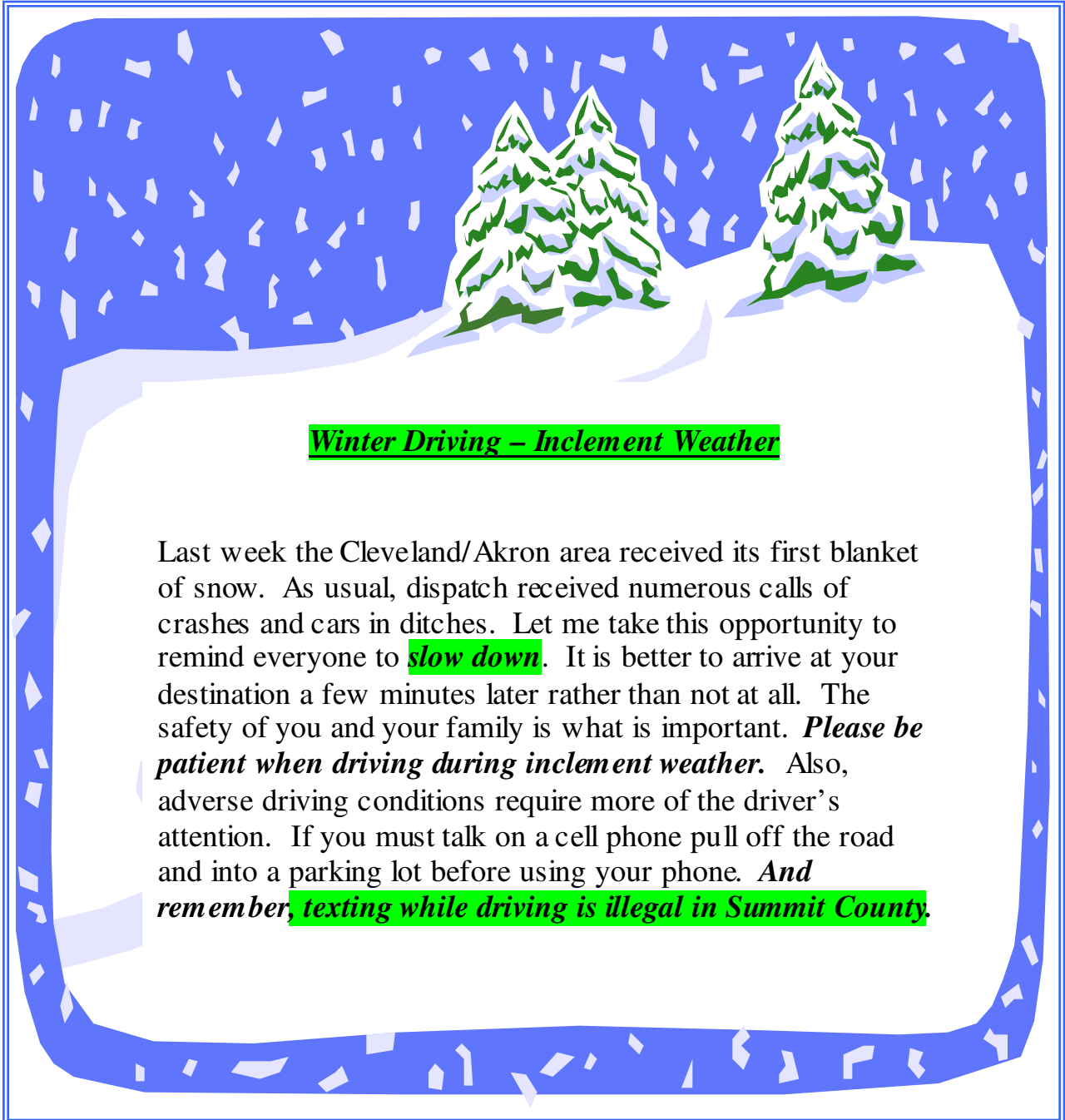
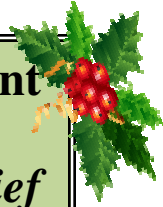
“Caitos Nutrition”

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

Last week 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



Kids Garage Sale
Saturday December 5
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Get an early start on holiday shopping! Kids will have the opportunity to sell their own items. Only Kid's items should be sold.

Breakfast with Santa
Friday December 11
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Children can visit with Santa as he drops by to spread some holiday cheer! Enjoy cereal, doughnuts, and juice or milk. Children will make a small craft they can take home.



Santa's Mailbox

November 30 – December 13

A mailbox dedicated to the North Pole will arrive in the lobby of the Rec. Center on November 30, and Santa has promised to respond to each child!

Letters may be dropped off anytime during Rec. Center hours. Parents please include a self-addressed stamped envelope so that Santa has more time to spend in his workshop. All letters must be received by December 13 to ensure response.



City of Macedonia Annual Tree Lighting
Saturday December 5
6:00 p.m. Outdoor caroling



This event is free and open to the public! Santa will arrive by fire truck to the Macedonia Family Recreation Center, which will be transformed into a winter wonderland! Activities will include a children's coloring contest, face painting, holiday caroling, refreshments and more!

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.

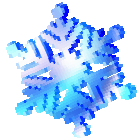
The holidays are as follows:

- 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



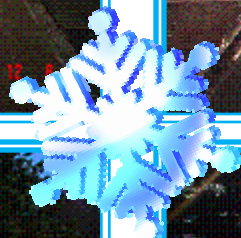
As winter approaches, the Macedonia Service Department is asking residents to examine their mailbox and post to determine if it is stable and within the requirements of the United Postal Service. It is the responsibility of each resident to ensure that their mailbox is sturdy enough to withstand snow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



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

