



# City of McHenry

## Newsletter for McHenry Residents

December 2009



### Comments...from Mayor Low



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

As the end of 2009 approaches, I would like to thank all of you who helped in some way to provide enjoyment throughout the year for the residents of our community. Volunteerism is truly the heart of our city, and so many of you do so much to provide a great quality of life for all that live here. Whether you are part of a service club, serve on one of the many boards or agencies in our area, are elected to public office, or have been appointed to one of our commissions, your willingness to serve your community is truly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our city employees for doing such a great job and for taking pride in their work. Our staff is committed to McHenry and I am grateful for the job they all do on a daily basis.

This year marked the retirement of Ward 4 Alderman Steven Murgatroyd. Steve was Alderman and Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee since May 1997. Prior to that, he served on the city's Planning Commission from 1994 to 1997. On behalf of the City Council and staff, we wish Steve happiness in his future endeavors and will be forever grateful for his service and commitment to the City of McHenry.

After careful deliberation and interviews with eight competent residents of Ward 4, I have appointed Geoffrey T. Blake to fulfill the remainder of Alderman Murgatroyd's term. Alderman Blake took his seat on the City Council at the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. He is a lifelong resident of McHenry and a teacher and coach at Parkland Middle School with a strong leadership and public service background.

Looking ahead, in April 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will be conducting surveys in McHenry and around the country to determine how many people live in the

United States. The last survey was performed in 2000. The census count is important to McHenry because the amount of state and federal funding we receive is based on population. In addition, the census measures population so that seats in the U.S. House of Representatives can be correctly apportioned among the states. The 2010 survey is much shorter and less intrusive than past surveys with only ten questions on the form. If you would like more information about the census or to preview the form, you may visit the U.S. Census Bureau website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

May your holiday season and the New Year be blessed with peace and happiness. McHenry is a wonderful place to live, work, and play thanks to our residents, business community, and workforce. It is a community of partnerships, cooperation, and collaboration where character truly does count! I am very proud to serve as your Mayor and very proud to call McHenry my hometown.

*Susan E. Low*

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**MAYOR  
CITY CLERK  
TREASURER  
ALDERMEN**

Susan E. Low  
Janice C. Jones  
David M. Welter

Ward 1 Victor A. Santi  
Ward 2 Andrew A. Glab  
Ward 3 Jeffrey A. Schaefer  
Ward 4 Geoffrey T. Blake  
Ward 5 Richard W. Wimmer  
Ward 6 Robert J. Peterson  
Ward 7 Geri A. Condon

**MUNICIPAL CENTER HOURS**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings are held in the Municipal Center on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> **Monday** of the month. When there is no 5<sup>th</sup> **Monday**, meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Monday** of the month. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

**CITY PHONE NUMBERS**

**Municipal Center** (815)363-2100  
**Mayor's Office** (815)363-2108  
Susan E. Low  
**Clerk's Office** (815)363-2105  
Janice C. Jones  
**City Administrator's Office** (815)363-2108  
Administrator Doug Maxeiner  
**Construction & Neighborhood Services Department** (815)363-2170  
Director Ryan Schwalenberg  
**Finance Department** (815)363-2100  
Director Christopher Black  
**Parks & Recreation Department** (815)363-2160  
Director Peter Merkel  
**Public Works Department** (815)363-2190  
Director Jon Schmitt  
**Police Department**  
Chief William Brogan  
**Emergency** 9-1-1  
Non-Emergency (815)363-2200  
**Fire District**  
Chief Wayne Amore  
**Emergency** 9-1-1  
Non-Emergency (815)385-0075  
McHenry Rescue Squad 9-1-1  
**Weekend & After Hours Contact** (815)363-2200

City Website: [www.ci.mchenry.il.us](http://www.ci.mchenry.il.us)  
Information e-mail: [info@ci.mchenry.il.us](mailto:info@ci.mchenry.il.us)

**CHARACTER COUNTS!**

The purpose of CHARACTER COUNTS! is to fortify the lives of America's young people with ethical values called the "Six Pillars of Character." Each of the Six CHARACTER COUNTS! Pillars is associated with a specific color.

**Trustworthiness:** Blue  
**Respect:** Yellow/Gold  
**Responsibility:** Green  
**Fairness:** Orange  
**Caring:** Red  
**Citizenship:** Purple



*Employee Anniversaries  
Congratulations to:*

5 yrs  
*Sean Johnson, PW Water Dept*

10 yrs  
*Laura Cox, Police Dept*

*Remember - Shopping in McHenry ensures that your sales tax dollars come home to help our community!*



*Please note the  
McHenry Municipal Center  
will be closed:  
Thursday, December 24th  
Friday, December 25th  
and  
Friday January 1st*



## Identity Theft -What do you need to know?

It is almost impossible to avoid having your identity stolen in today's world of high technology. Names, addresses, social security numbers, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, as well as many other identifying account numbers, are easily available to an enterprising individual.

**Ways to protect your personal information** through simple, practical prudence, care, and caution:

**Utilize** passwords on credit card, bank and phone accounts when using the internet;

**Avoid** using easily available information in passwords, such as your birth date, last four digits of your social security number or your phone number;

**Verify** that personal information is secure at your workplace;

**Do not** give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the internet;

**Guard** your mail and trash from theft;

**Before** revealing any personal information, **inquire** as to how it will be used and secured;

**Keep** your social security card in a safe place and give your SSN **only** when absolutely necessary;

**Limit** the identification information and the number of credit and debit cards that you carry;

**Update** virus protection on your computer on a regular basis.

**What steps should you take** and whom should you contact if you suspect your personal information has been compromised? Here are some helpful guidelines to assist you if you find yourself in such a situation:

First, notify your local Police Department immediately. The sooner law enforcement knows about the possible identity theft, the more effective they can be. Second, notify affected businesses, i.e. bank, credit card companies, credit bureau.

**Skilled identity thieves use a variety of methods to gain access to personal information such as:**

**Rummaging** through trash or recycling;

**Stealing credit** or debit card information through skimming at ATM facilities;

**Stealing wallets** or purses;

**Stealing mail** to obtain bank and credit card statement information, pre-approved credit offers, new checks or tax information;

**Filing a "change of address"** form with the post office to divert mail to another location;

**Scamming** information by posing as a bank representative or government official.

**Once identity thieves have secured confidential information they may:**

Go on spending sprees using stolen credit or debit card account numbers;

Open a new credit card account using stolen name, date of birth and social security number;

Change the mailing address on credit card accounts which results in a delay in finding out personal identity information has been compromised;

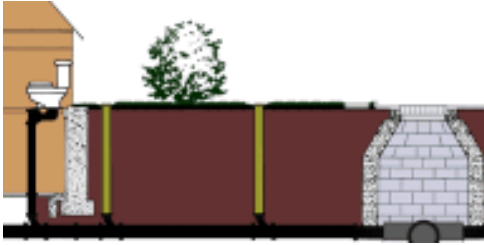
Establish auto loans, phone service, counterfeit checks or debit cards, or bank accounts, based on stolen identity.



**Remember - Be aware - There are easy precautions you can take to preserve your Identity!**

## Public Works Department Information

### Experiencing a sewer backup? Call Public Works first!



If you experience a sewer backup, contact the Public Works Department at 815-363-2186 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After 3:30 p.m., call the non-emergency police phone number at 815-363-2200, **before** you call a plumber. Public Works personnel will be sent to your location to assess the problem. If the blockage is in the City's sewer main line, the City will take corrective action as quickly as possible.

If the blockage is in your line (that portion from the building to the sewer main line), you will need to call a plumber to clear your building's service. In this instance, all necessary repairs and restoration are the responsibility of the homeowner.

If you have any questions, need additional details or assistance, call Public Works.



### Christmas Tree Pickup

The Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program will take place between January 4, 2010 and January 8, 2010. Residents are asked to place their trees at the curb prior to 7:00 a.m. on January 4th. Trees must be free of decorations, wire and lights and may not be placed in plastic bags. Wreaths and evergreen garland will not be accepted. Trees will be recycled into wood chips.

Additionally, Marengo Disposal will begin picking up trees on January 11, 2010 on your regularly scheduled garbage day. These trees will not be recycled, however.



### Yard Waste Collection

The last day for curbside collection of yard waste is December 10, 2009. The last day to bring yard waste to the Knox Park facility is Saturday, December 12, 2009 between 7 a.m. and noon.

### Curbside Leaf Collection

The last day for the curbside leaf collection program is December 10, 2009.

<i>Garbage Disposal Rate:</i>	<u>Per Bag</u>	<u>Per Toter</u>	<u>Yardwaste Sticker</u>
6/1/09 – 5/31/10	\$2.29	\$25.00	\$2.03




*CHARACTER COUNTS! in McHenry! Our pillar for December is Fairness - Be sure to share with others who may be less fortunate.*

## Things to remember during a snow fall



- ❖ Please remember that it is unlawful to shovel or blow snow into the City's streets. Doing so will cause ice patches on the streets, which are hazardous to drivers and damage City snowplows.
- ❖ It is important to keep the fire hydrant on your property free of snow and ready for use in the event of an emergency.
- ❖ Remove empty refuse/recycling containers from the curb as soon as possible following garbage pickup to avoid damage to them from the snowplows.
- ❖ Remember to remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk adjacent to your property. This enables people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. Snow removal from public walkways is an important element in providing safe passage of pedestrians during snow events.



## Water Main Breaks.....



It is that time of year again when the outdoor temperature drops below freezing. Each year the freezing and thawing temperatures can cause water main breaks. If you should see water coming out of the ground that is not normal for the area, or feel that something else might be happening with regard to the water system, please call the following number for assistance:

**Between the hours of 7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. call 815-363-2186  
After hours and on weekends call 815-363-2200.**

At times, it may become necessary to shut off water service to residents in order to repair a watermain break. When possible, residents are notified prior to having their water turned off. The Public Works crews will repair the break and get your water back in service as soon as possible. Areas around a watermain break can freeze during cold weather, so proceed with caution on roadways and sidewalks. If icy conditions exist, please call the phone number listed above. Often excavation is required to repair the watermain break. If you have an excavated area near your home, do not attempt to fill in the site. The City will leave the site in a safe manner and will return to repair the area in the spring when the ground has thawed. Should the restored area around a previous break settle, please call Public Works for assistance.

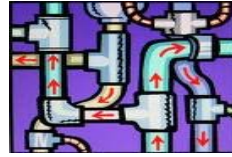


## Cold Weather Hints – Frozen Pipes

Don't let cold weather catch you unprepared. Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. You can cross that off your list of winter worries by taking a few simple precautions.

1. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe. Otherwise, a single hard, overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it is connected to.
2. Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. If you have pipelines in an unheated garage or cold crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet. Hardware or building supply stores have good pipe-wrapping materials available.
3. Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Repair broken basement windows. Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. Be sure not to plug air vents your furnace or water heater need for good combustion.
4. Find the master shutoff. It may be near the water heater or the washing machine. It is most likely located where the water line comes into your house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house – kitchen, bath, basement or crawl space – this valve turns it off. So find it and paint it a bright color or hang a tag on it. Try your valve to make sure it works and does what you expect it to do. Be sure everyone in the family knows its purpose and where it is located.

## Frozen pipes - What if it is already too late?



What if you wake up one day to find the pipes are frozen anyway? During an extended cold spell, it could happen despite precautions. Do you have the plumber's telephone number handy? Do you have your water supplier's phone number? If you live in McHenry Shores most likely you have a private water supplier. Write it down now before you need it in an emergency. If you think you know where the freeze-up occurred and want to try thawing it yourself, ***do not under any circumstances use a torch with an open flame.*** The whole house could catch fire. Also, overheating a single spot can burst the pipe. Heating a soldered joint could allow it to leak or come completely apart. The best tool to use is a hair dryer with a low heat setting. Wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe, not on one spot. If you don't have a hair dryer, you can wrap the frozen section with rags or towels and pour hot water over them. It is messy, but it works. Be careful because the pipe may already be broken - it's just not leaking because the water is frozen. But when you thaw it out, water could come gushing out. Be prepared to turn off the water at the shutoff valve. It is always best to take precautions before winter sets in.

### Safe Water Well Initiative 2009

The City of McHenry is partnering with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to inform residents of the importance of having private wells tested. In recent years, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been found in groundwater in many areas of the state. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for private wells and the IEPA began a private well owner awareness campaign for education about the issue of VOCs in groundwater and well safety. For more information go to <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or <http://www.idph.state.il.us>. You may also call McHenry County Dept. of Health at 815-334-4510 or McHenry Analytical Lab at 815-344-4044 for testing assistance.



### Testing Private Well Water -

#### What you need to know

Properly constructed and maintained water wells can provide many years of trouble-free service, but wells can eventually deteriorate or become damaged allowing surface contaminants to enter the water. In addition, some groundwater can contain one or more chemical substances at levels above health-based standards. In some cases, contamination of the water can be detected by sight, taste or smell. However many of the most serious problems can only be detected through laboratory testing of the water. Public water systems are tested regularly for a variety of contaminants. ***If you have a private well, regular testing is your responsibility.*** Well construction inspection and improvements, such as fixing a crack in a casing, are important steps in keeping your well water safe. Here are some other recommendations that you can follow:

- \* Test your well water at least once a year for bacteria.
- \* Test your well water every year for nitrate; and always test your water for nitrate before giving it to an infant.
- \* Test your well water for other contaminants such as pesticides, radium and arsenic.
- \* Flush standing water from pipes to reduce lead levels.
- \* Properly seal abandoned wells.



# Construction and Neighborhood Services Department

## Fireplace Safety



After Jack Frost has been nipping at your nose it always feels good to warm up to a cosy fire. Typically fireplaces and wood burning stoves are ignored until we want to use them so here are a few suggestions you can follow to help protect yourself and your home:

- ◆ Be sure to properly clean **cold** ashes and debris from the fire box.
- ◆ Inspect the fire box, flue, damper, and chimney prior to each use.
- ◆ If any debris buildup, cracks, burn holes, or other damage is noted have it cleaned and repaired by a qualified person prior to use.
- ◆ While looking for damage be sure to check for creosote buildup. This is a combustible brown or black by-product of wood that accumulates in chimney flues. If a buildup is noticed, have a qualified person remove it.
- ◆ Burn only well-seasoned fire wood. Green, wet wood will cause creosote to buildup rapidly in the flue. Treated or painted wood can create fumes that may be dangerous to your health.
- ◆ In order to conserve heat consider having glass doors and outside combustion air added to your fireplace.
- ◆ Never leave a fire unattended.
- ◆ Never use a vacuum cleaner to remove ashes.

## Getting ready for winter

It is important to prepare our homes for the cold winter months. Here are some ideas you may want to consider:

- ◆ Check seals around windows and doors to reduce heating costs;
- ◆ Make sure your home can breathe properly in order to prevent mold which is caused by high humidity levels;
- ◆ Repair any water leaks in your plumbing;
- ◆ Check and repair water leaks in and around windows, doors and roof;
- ◆ Watch for condensation and wet spots;
- ◆ Allow proper air circulation at outside walls;
- ◆ Make sure that your home is properly insulated and has an adequate vapor barrier;
- ◆ Keep all heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning drip pans clean, free-flowing and unobstructed;
- ◆ Use the exhaust fan in your bathroom when taking a shower or bath and allow it to run a sufficient time afterwards to ensure removal of all excess moisture;
- ◆ Do not vent your clothes dryer inside your home or garage.
- ◆ Finally, maintain indoor humidity levels relative to the outdoor temperatures as indicated in the following table:



Outside Temperature (°F)	Recommended Relative Humidity
+20° and above	35%-40%
+10°	30%
0°	25%
-10°	20%
-20°	15%

**CHARACTER COUNTS!** *The pillar for January is Caring - If you can do or say something to help someone have a better day, why not do it?*

## Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

Here are some ways to make your holiday season safe:



### Outdoors:

- ◆ Inspect all ladders prior to use and replace them if damaged or worn in any way.
- ◆ Inspect light sets, lighting, figurines, and any other electrical items to be sure the wiring, plugs, lamps, and lamp holders are not damaged or worn.
- ◆ Use energy efficient lighting (such as L.E.D.) in order to conserve electricity.
- ◆ Plug all decorations into approved ground fault circuit interrupt receptacles, equipped with in-service weather proof covers.
- ◆ Follow manufacturer’s recommendations.
- ◆ Do not place anything that generates heat adjacent to flammable materials such as wood, pine boughs, vinyl siding, etc.
- ◆ Make sure to turn off decorations when you are not at home.
- ◆ Use of extension cords should be kept to a minimum. Use only the correct length and size of cord. Replace them if they become damaged or worn.
- ◆ Remove holiday lighting after 90-days. Leaving it for more than this time frame can result in damage to the wiring.

**CHARACTER COUNTS!** *The pillar for February is Citizenship - In following local laws and ordinances we are doing our part to make our community a great place to call home!*



### Indoors:

- ◆ Recycle your used wrapping paper. This will help reduce your garbage disposal costs as well as reduce the amount of material deposited in landfills.
- ◆ Never burn wrapping paper in a fireplace, doing so can cause a flash fire in your home.
- ◆ Do not install electric lighting on metal trees.
- ◆ When purchasing a real tree the needles should not pull off easily and the cut end of the trunk should be sticky.
- ◆ After setting up your tree, make sure to check the water level several times a day and add water as needed. If the tree stops taking water it should be taken down immediately and properly disposed of.
- ◆ Never place lit candles on or near your tree, decorations, or curtains.
- ◆ Be sure that power cords to decorations and appliances do not create a hazard by hanging over the edge of counter tops or tables.

## Ways to make this Holiday Season more enjoyable



During these difficult economic times consider going back to the old-fashioned traditional ways by building positive relationships with your neighbors. Doing so can be beneficial in the event of an emergency as well as creating a more pleasant neighborhood.

Consider the following:

- ◆ Offer support if you hear someone is ill, has had an accident, or is laid off - Bring them a hot meal or fresh dessert;
- ◆ Shovel your neighbor's walk or driveway;
- ◆ Assist in placing or removing holiday decorations;
- ◆ Remove snow from around fire hydrants;
- ◆ Be considerate by reducing radio volume and/or noise generated from parties, especially at night;
- ◆ Turn off the power to holiday decorations at bedtime - this will lower light pollution and reduce your electric bill;
- ◆ Avoid running snow blowers early in the morning while neighbors are still asleep;
- ◆ Try not to blow or shovel snow onto your neighbor's property or into the street.

### Cold Weather Tips

Sometimes during inclement weather you may lose electrical power or heat in your home. Here are some points to remember :

- ◆ Do not use a propane or charcoal grill to heat your home;
- ◆ Use space heaters sparingly and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
- ◆ Do not use extension cords on space heaters; and
- ◆ Do not attempt to heat your home with your stove or oven.

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## *McHenry Chamber News*

Mark your calendars for "Carnival of Commerce" featuring games, entertainment and attractions on Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at McHenry High School West Campus. For more info, [www.mchenrychamber.com](http://www.mchenrychamber.com).

New to the Area? The McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce reaches out to new residents in the community through its "Welcome to Your New Home" Program. New residents receive a gift bag on their door loaded with wonderful gifts from Chamber businesses. Sponsoring businesses receive a complete list of people welcomed. Contact the Chamber Office at 815-385-4300 if you are a new resident or if you are interested in participating in this program.

For more information on any McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce events, please call 815-385-4300 or visit [www.mchenrychamber.com](http://www.mchenrychamber.com). The website contains information about: Chamber events, membership directory, referral groups, newsletters, information on insurance, small business, job openings, links to other businesses, networking and much more.

# Community News

## Façade Improvement Grant Awarded

The owner of the building located at 3622 Elm Street (building pictured at right) received a Façade Improvement Grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the City of McHenry. The grant funds awarded will be utilized to complete tuckpointing, painting and replacing damaged brick on the front façade and replacing brick and tuckpoint as needed on the east façade. The ultimate uses of the building are planned to be retail and office. Commercial properties 50 years and older are eligible for funding from this program.



## 2010 Census Workers Needed

The United States Census Bureau will be recruiting for temporary part-time workers to help conduct the 2010 U.S. Census. Census positions are ideal for retirees, college students, people between jobs or anyone wishing to earn extra money. Persons applying for positions must be 18 years of age or older. Census enumerators can earn \$15+/hour. Application and testing is open on a first-come first-seated basis. More information on testing dates, places and times can be found at the McHenry Municipal Center, on the City of McHenry homepage [www.ci.mchenry.il.us](http://www.ci.mchenry.il.us), by calling 1-866-861-2010 or at [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov).



## Green Pearl Bistro

Recently renovated, the Green Pearl Bistro (pictured at left) located at the southeast corner of Green Street and Pearl Street is open for business. The restaurant is situated in the same building as the historic McHenry brewery and features European cuisine primarily from Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Russia.

## Uncommon Grounds

Have you seen the little building next to Verlo Mattress on Elm Street in McHenry (photo at right) and wondered what that could possibly be? Well, it's Uncommon Grounds, a new drive-thru coffee house. Uncommon Grounds is located at 3706 Elm Street, which is the intersection of Elm Street and Millstream Drive. Go ahead and give it a try!



## McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

The City of McHenry, along with McHenry County and other municipalities and agencies in McHenry County, is participating in the preparation of a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for McHenry County. The planning committee's goal is to have a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in place and ready for adoption by early summer 2010. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the planning process. If you are interested please contact Douglas Martin at the City of McHenry for further details on meeting dates and times.

## Landmark Commission News

The Landmark Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call City Hall at 815.363.2170 for meeting location. The meetings are open to the public. Please join us!

Landmark Commission members are planning a WWII “Home Front” theme for the third annual “Day at Petersen Farm” in June 2010. There will be 1940’s music, movies and exhibits. “Rosie the Riveter” will be there. A food drive will be the modern-day substitute for scrap and paper drives and admission is free (no ration stamps needed). The Commission is planning children’s games, hay rides, farm animals, food and crafts demonstrations, and many other activities, to make this an enjoyable day for the entire family. Volunteers and new ideas for the event are welcome. The date will be announced later; residents are encouraged to watch for further news and plan to attend.

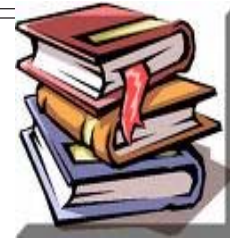
Public meetings were held in September and October during which Landmark Commission members provided information for interested residents on the proposed new historic district and historic preservation in McHenry.

Please visit the outdoor display windows on Riverside Drive, Green Street, Main Street and also in the City Hall lobby, for historic information on Abraham Lincoln during this year of his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The City’s Facade Improvement Grant Program is available to commercial property owners in McHenry. Applications for possible financial assistance with building improvements can be obtained from the Construction and Neighborhood Services Department at 815-363-2170.

## McHenry Public Library News

### Library Announces Winter Programs



Don’t hibernate — come to your local library for winter fun!

- √ Our annual Winter Reading Programs for kids and adults begin January 11, 2010 and continue to February 19, 2010. Pick up a book log and win prizes!

Other programs include:

- √ a new **Lego Club**;
- √ a **MONOPOLY** Tournament;
- √ “**Folk Songs and Stories of the Great Lakes,**” a family program for ages 10 and older on December 13 at 1 p.m.
- √ The annual kids’ Christmas program is Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. with a visit from Santa. And, to help the F.I.S.H. Food Pantry during the holidays, pay half-price fines from Nov. 30-Dec. 13. Monies collected will go to F.I.S.H.

Details on all these events are on our website ([www.mchenrylibrary.org](http://www.mchenrylibrary.org)) and inside the library, located on Route 31 south of 120.

**Census 2010 is coming -  
Be sure to be counted!**

**Make CHARACTER  
COUNT! in your home!**

# Parks and Recreation Happenings

Check out the Winter/Spring Brochure online at [www.ci.mchenry.il.us](http://www.ci.mchenry.il.us)

**Breakfast or Lunch with Santa** - Santa's sleigh is scheduled to pass through McHenry, and he's stopping to see the kids! Each child can sit on Santa's lap to receive a special gift. In between Santa's visit, children will sing songs, play games, make a simple ornament, and eat a light breakfast or lunch. Breakfast or lunch for adults and children will include donuts, muffins, fruit, cheese/crackers, granola bars, juice, milk and coffee. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Pre-registration is required! Program is open to children ages 1 – 5 with adult** and will be held Tuesday, December 22 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (breakfast) or 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (lunch) in Municipal Center Council Chambers. Fee: \$10/child – children under 1 free.



**Group and Private Guitar Lessons** – Our guitar instructor Dan Zahn has played guitar professionally for over 30 years, and for many years he instructed for the world famous Old Town School of Folk Music. He is an excellent teacher and he enjoys sharing his years of experience with others! Students must provide their own guitar – acoustic preferred. Lessons are open to anyone **7 and older** and will be held Tue, Dec 15 – Jan 26 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (group) and 5:30 p.m. and later (private). Private lessons will also be held Wed, Dec 16 – Jan 27 from 4:30 p.m. and later. Private lessons are ½ hour and must be scheduled in person. Lessons are held at the Municipal Center. Group fee: \$62/CR – \$72/NCR. Private fee: \$119/CR – \$129/NCR.



**Children's Musical Theater** – Children will have great fun learning music, dancing, having special parts, and performing for an audience! Children will meet weekly to practice and perfect their parts! A free performance to the public will be held on **Thursday, March 25** at 7:00 p.m. in the gym at Duker School. Performance piece TBD – more information will follow. Program is open to students in **Grades 2 – 6** and will be held Thursdays, January 7 – March 25 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Edgebrook School Music Room. Fee: \$69/CR – \$79/NCR.



**After School Programs** – Science, Spanish and Art classes will be held at various elementary schools after school for children in Grades 1 – 5. Upon dismissal, students will gather for an hour of fun and educational activities! For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department. Registrations for these activities will not be collected, forwarded or processed by the schools.



**Community Garage Sale** – Treasure hunters and bargain hunters alike will enjoy one stop shopping at the McHenry Parks and Recreation Community Garage Sale. **Shoppers will be admitted free of charge.** Registrants who wish to sell garage sale items may rent a 10' x 10' space for the event. You must provide your own tables. There will only be a limited amount of spaces available so register early to reserve your spot. Live animals, alcohol and firearms will not be allowed at the sale. Vehicles, combustibles and helium balloons are not allowed in the building. Participants must take their unsold items at the end of the sale; garbage will not be available for unsold items. Sale is **Saturday, March 27 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** (set up is 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.) at McHenry Middle School. Fee: \$25/10' x 10' space. **Deadline to reserve a space is Friday, March 19.**

