



City of McHenry

Newsletter for McHenry Residents

March 2011



Comments...from Mayor Low

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This past winter, our community has once again experienced significant snow falls and frigid temperatures. City crews work hard to clear our streets of snow and ice so that we can travel safely. I want to thank all city employees for their assistance this winter season.

The McHenry Area CHARACTER COUNTS!® Coalition is pleased to announce McDonald's as its first corporate member. On the second Thursday of every other month, McHenry McDonald's restaurants will donate 20% of their sales to CHARACTER COUNTS!®. A coupon must be presented at the time of purchase for the donation to be earned. Coupons are distributed by McHenry schools and are available on the City of McHenry web site, www.ci.mchenry.il, under the CHARACTER COUNTS!® tab. The next fundraising day is March 10th. McDonald's also donated \$500 in honor of the completion of their new store on West Elm Street. I want to express my sincere appreciation to McDonald's for their dedication and service to the community.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the community, McHenry citizen Tom Sullivan was presented with an honorary street sign dedicating the corner of Third Street and West Elm Street as Honorary Tom Sullivan Way, the site where Tom owned and operated Sullivan Foods for more than 28 years.

On May 10, 1836, McHenry, Illinois was founded and in recognition of our 175th birthday, the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce formed a "Birthday Committee" to plan events and celebrations throughout the year. One of these events is the "Paint a Fox" program. Business owners and members of the community can purchase and decorate a plywood fox that will be displayed this summer on light poles throughout the downtown districts. For more information, please contact the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce at 815-385-4300.



The annual St. Baldrick's Day two-day event will be held on March 17th and 18th. Students, school staff, and community members will ceremoniously shave their heads in return for donations for childhood cancer research. East and West Campus High Schools and District 15 elementary schools will hold the first "McHenry Community Shave" on Thursday, March 17th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the West Campus gymnasium. For more information about the event, please visit the District 156 web site at www.dist156.org.

Although the weather is still chilly, planning for annual spring and summer events such as the City Band Concert Series and Farmers Market, Kiwanis Soap Box Derby, Cruise Nights, Jaycees Days, and Fiesta Days is underway. All this will begin on March 13th with the annual Rotary Volunteer Parade. Not only are these events a tradition in our town, but they provide us with an opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbors.

McHenry is a great place to live, work, and play because of the commitment demonstrated by our residents, business owners, and workforce. We are a community of partnerships, cooperation, and collaboration with a great spirit of volunteerism. I am proud to serve as your Mayor and proud to call McHenry my hometown.

Susan E. Low

**Remember -
CHARACTER COUNTS!®
everywhere - all the time!**

MAYOR

Susan E. Low

CITY CLERK

Janice C. Jones

TREASURER

Steven C. Murgatroyd

ALDERMEN

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

A schedule of the City Council meetings is posted on the City website located at www.ci.mchenry.il.us. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Municipal Center Council Chambers.

CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Municipal Center (815)363-2100

Mayor's Office (815)363-2108

Susan E. Low

Clerk's Office (815)363-2107

Janice C. Jones

City Administrator's Office (815)363-2108

Administrator Christopher Black

Construction & Neighborhood Services Department (815)363-2170

Director Ryan Schwalenberg

Finance Department (815)363-2100

Parks & Recreation Department (815)363-2160

Director Peter Merkel

Public Works Department (815)363-2190

Director Jon Schmitt

Police Department

Chief John Jones

Emergency 9-1-1

Non-Emergency (815)363-2200

Fire District

Chief Tony Huemann

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

Information e-mail: 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

Jeff Lisafield, PW Sewer

Paul Prather, Police

Guy Smale, Const/Neighbhd Serv

20 yrs

John Harrison, Bldg & Grounds

James Molnar, IT

25 yrs

Patrick Gorniak, Downtown Maint

Kathleen Kunzer, Deputy Clerk

*Please note the
McHenry Municipal Center
will be closed:
Memorial Day
Monday, May 30, 2011*

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McHenry Police Department Citizen Survey

As part of the requirements to ensure CALEA Recertification, the McHenry Police Department is required to conduct a citizen survey in order to determine public opinion as to Department services. The Police Department is asking residents and business owners for assistance in evaluating the Department's performance and in setting future goals. Your observations and comments are important to us. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. If you wish to comment on any of the questions, please do so in the section provided. If you would like to be contacted about a specific concern, please include your name and a daytime telephone number. If you would prefer to respond electronically, go to the City's website at www.ci.mchenry.il.us where the form is available on the Police Department Home Page. Thank you in advance for your participation.

- How many times have you had contact with the McHenry Police Department in the past year?
 0 times 1-3 times 4-6 times 7 or more
- If you have had contact, what was it for?
 Crime Victim Witness Motor Vehicle Crash Traffic (violation, warning)
 House Watch Telephone Call Community Presentation
 Community Service Program Other

Please circle the number that best describes your rating of the following:	Excellent			Good			Fair			Poor	No Opinion
3. The competence of the officer (s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. The demeanor of the officer (s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. The fairness of the officer (s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. The courtesy of the officer (s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
7. Traffic enforcement in the City of McHenry	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
8. Police visibility in the community	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
9. Police visibility in your neighborhood	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
10. The overall services provided by the City of McHenry Police Department	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Please rate the following by checking the appropriate box:	Low	Moderate	High	No Opinion
11. Your concern about becoming a victim of a lesser crime (i.e. vandalism, damage to property, theft) in the City of McHenry.				
12. Your concern about becoming a victim of a serious crime (i.e. burglary, robbery, sexual assault) in the City of McHenry.				

- How safe do you feel walking in your neighborhood at night?
 Very Safe Somewhat Safe Not Safe No Opinion
- How long have you lived in the City of McHenry _____ year (s)
- In what type of building do you reside or occupy?
 Apartment Townhouse Single Family Home Rent Own
 Condominium Business Other _____
- Please indicate whether the person completing this survey is: Male Female
- Age Group: Under 10 10-18 18-25 25-35 35-45
 45-55 55-65 65 and over
- Have you been the victim of a crime in the past 5 years? Yes If Yes, in the **City of** McHenry? Yes No

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19. Did you report the crime to the Police Department? Yes No

If no,
Why? _____

20. If you saw a suspicious person in the City of McHenry, what number would you call?

- 911 815-363-2200 (Administrative number)
 "O" for operator Other _____

21.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate what YOU feel should be the priorities of the City of McHenry Police Department	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	No Opinion
A. Providing 24 hour patrol services to the community						
B. Discouraging crime in general						
C. Notifying citizens of potential criminal activity						
D. Responding to crimes in progress or that have just occurred						
E. Responding to and investigating property crimes (i.e. vandalism, theft, etc.)						
F. Discouraging gang activity						
G. Investigating burglaries						
H. Discouraging the sale of alcohol to minors						
I. Discouraging the sale of tobacco to minors						
J. Traffic crash reduction through visible traffic enforcement						
K. Enforcement of parking regulations						
L. Enforcing handicap parking regulations						
M. Discouraging automobile crashes in general						
N. Enforcing drunk driving laws						
O. Enforcing water usage ordinances						
P. Enforcing appearance ordinances (i.e. illegal signage, tall grass/weeds, etc)						
Q. Enforcing dog and cat ordinances						
R. Mediating neighborhood/family disputes						
S. Investigating local drug sales and dealers						
T. Arresting individuals who use drugs						
U. Providing drug/violence prevention education to elementary and junior high students						
V. Police presence in the schools						



22. Please indicate where you get information about what is taking place in the City of McHenry. (Choose all that apply)

- Northwest Herald Other News Chicago Tribune Chicago Sun Times City Newsletter
 School District Newsletter Telephone City Web Site Comcast local Cable
 FM STAR 105.5 WXRT Radio, Woodstock WMCW 1600 AM Other _____

23. So that we can provide better police service to the entire community, please help us identify your neighborhood. Please list the nearest intersection to your home or business. _____

COMMENTS: _____

**Please return by U.S. Mail or drop-off in the City Drop Box
 located at 333 S. Green Street, McHenry IL 60050**

City Vehicle Stickers on Sale May 1st - Due by June 30th

This year's City Vehicle Sticker once again features the **CHARACTER COUNTS!®** program. The color of this year's sticker is yellow, representing the **CHARACTER COUNTS!®** pillar - *Respect*

City stickers are available at the Municipal Center. Pre-printed application forms for the 2011 stickers will be mailed at the end of April. Applications include vehicle information supplied from last year as well as data obtained from the Secretary of State. Please make any appropriate changes directly on the application form. If you do not receive a pre-printed application, please stop by the Municipal Center or call (815)363-2100 and an application will be mailed to you. Alternatively, application forms are available online at the City's website www.ci.mchenry.il.us. A late fee of \$3/month will be assessed to those purchasing stickers after the June 30th deadline.

Stickers may be purchased over the counter, by mail or through the drop box located at the southwest corner of the Municipal Center parking lot. If you use the drop box or postal service, stickers will be sent to you by return mail.

You may purchase your stickers over the counter utilizing a credit or debit card. The City accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover cards. Of course, cash and checks are fine, too!

Vehicle Sticker Fees Remain Unchanged

2011 Vehicle Sticker Rates are:

Passenger Vehicles, private use	\$12.00
Pickup Trucks, wt 8,000 lb or less	\$12.00
Motorcycles & Motorized Pedacycles	\$ 9.00
School Buses	\$15.00
Trucks, wt 8,001 lb or more	\$30.00
Public Passenger Vehicles - Taxi/limo	\$34.50
Public Passenger, capacity over 7 persons	\$40.50
Replacement Sticker	\$ 2.25

NOTE:

Any motor vehicle which is registered to a location in the City, or based within the City (even leased vehicles), must have a current year City of McHenry vehicle sticker.

Vehicle sticker revenues are used for the purpose of improving, paving, repairing, or maintaining City streets. Sticker revenue may also be utilized for collection of fees and distribution of stickers.

Landmark Commission News

The McHenry Landmark Commission is planning for the annual "Day at Petersen Farm" to be held Sunday, June 26. As the City of McHenry celebrates its 175th Anniversary in 2011, our legacy of an agricultural past grows in importance to the community. Tours of the farmhouse ground floor will be available. Mark your calendar for this gala day of historical exhibits, crafts, hayrides, music, food and other attractions.

As part of "Preservation Month" in May, placemats showing historic buildings will again be distributed to area restaurants. There will be a coloring contest for children, with decorated placemats displayed at the McHenry Municipal Building.

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!

***CHARACTER COUNTS! ®
in McHenry! Our pillar for
March is Trustworthiness - Be
as good as your word! Follow
through on your promises.***

Public Works Department Information

2011 Spring Cleanup Program

The annual city-wide cleanup program enables residents to reduce fire hazards in their homes and to “spruce up” the community. Participation is limited to single-family residences, townhomes, condominiums and apartments that do not exceed four units per building. The cleanup collection is scheduled for **May 16 through May 19** and will coincide with the regular pickup schedule for refuse and recycling.

Please observe the following guidelines – Place items at the curb for pickup no later than 6 a.m. on your normal garbage day. Items must be less than 5 ft in length and weigh no more than 50 lbs. Place small items/objects in a container.

Unfortunately, the following items are excluded from the cleanup program:

- Rocks, concrete and construction materials, including roofing materials and lumber.
- Large appliances such as freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, dryers, etc., even if they are broken up, crushed, cut up or flattened.
- Metal pipes, posts, swing sets, antennas, etc.
- Tires or automobile parts, such as engines and transmissions.
- Paint cans.
- Lawnmowers or small engines which contain gasoline or oil.



2011 Yard Waste Programs

Curbside Collection begins April 4, 2011 and ends December 8, 2011. Residents may use either 2-ply, 50# weight kraft paper bags or garbage-type cans which do not exceed 33 gallons in size with a maximum weight of 50# per container. Plastic bags are not allowed. Containers must have a pre-paid yard waste sticker affixed to each bag or can. Stickers may be purchased at the Municipal Center or any location that sells refuse bags. Branches may be bundled to a maximum length of 4 feet, a maximum of 2 feet in diameter and a maximum of 50 pounds per bundle and must also have a pre-paid yard waste sticker attached to each bundle.

- Acceptable Materials – grass clippings, leaves, branches 3" in diameter or less, brush, garden plants, flowers, weeds, bark pieces, pine cones.
- Materials Not Allowed – tree trunks and stumps, branches larger than 3" in diameter, fence posts, railroad ties, firewood, rocks, sod or dirt.

Drop-Off Facility will be open on Saturdays from 7 a.m. until noon beginning April 9, 2011 and concluding December 10, 2011. The facility is located at Knox Park and can be accessed from Route 31. There is no charge for this service to residents. However, the vehicle used to transport the material must display a current city vehicle sticker. Allowable materials are the same as outlined in the curbside collection program.

Restoration Work

Restoration work to parkways damaged by snowplows and water main breaks will begin in the spring. Materials such as black dirt, sod, and blacktop need to be available before work can begin. Restoration of damaged sidewalks and curbs will start as soon as the weather permits. This is ongoing work for the Public Works Water and Street Divisions and it will commence as soon as possible.



CHARACTER COUNTS! ® Everywhere, all the time!

Brush Pickup Program – Spring/Summer 2011

The City of McHenry’s Spring/Summer Brush Pickup Program will begin April 11, 2011. The chipper will go door-to-door. The program is for residential properties only. Please have brush at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the first day scheduled for your area. Please note it takes several days to complete a section. **No callbacks will be made.**



Section	Beginning Date
South of Route 120, west of the railroad tracks - including Whispering Oaks, Cooney Heights, Glacier Ridge, Woodcreek, Burning Tree, Deerwood, Pheasant Valley, Boone Creek, Park Ridge Estates, Legend Lakes, and Lakeland Shores	April 11
South of Route 120, west of the railroad tracks - including Winding Creek, Trails of Winding Creek, Fox Ridge, Malibu Estates, Abbey Ridge, Patriot Estates, and Crystal Lake Road	April 25
South of Route 120, east of the railroad tracks - including McHenry Shores, Pebblecreek, Foxview Highlands, Biscayne Highlands, Oaks at Irish Prairie, Morgan Hill	May 9
South of Route 120, east of the railroad tracks - including Edgebrook Heights, Green Valley, Country Club Estates, Country Club Subdivision, Brittany Heights, Main Street, Waukegan Road, and east of the river	May 23
North of Route 120, east of the railroad tracks - including Mill Creek, Olde Mill Ponds, Riverside Hollow	June 6
North of Route 120, east of the railroad tracks - including the Oaks of McHenry, Millstream, Riverside Drive, Timber Trails, Veterans Park Area, Liberty Trails, Lincoln Hills Hunterville, and east of the river	June 13
Northwest corner of the City - including Brittany Park, Martin Woods, Wooded Ridge	June 20
North of Route 120 between the west side of Meadow Lane to Sunset Avenue - including west Lakeland Park	June 27
North of Route 120 between the railroad tracks and the east side of Meadow Lane - including east Lakeland Park, Lakewood Road and Lakeland Shores	July 11

Please Note:

This program is for **tree material only**. Yard waste belongs in the Yard Waste Collection Program provided by the City’s waste hauler. When placing branches at the curb, make sure they do not extend into the street and that all branches are **as long as possible and no more than five inches in diameter**. The cut ends of the brush should be facing the roadway. Branches will be left behind if they cannot be put through the chipper safely. This program is intended for larger tree branches resulting from trimming or storm damage and is **not for tree removal**. No stumps or roots will be taken.

The Solution to Stormwater Pollution: A Homeowner's Guide to Healthy Habits for Clean Water



As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly into streams, rivers, or wetlands. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. **Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.** By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Your Vehicle and Garage - Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body. Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material. Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden - Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream. Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible. Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water runoff into the storm drain. Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repairs and Improvements - Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials. Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar. Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills. Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible. Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

Pet Care - When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

CHARACTER COUNTS!® The pillar for April is Respect - Treat your family, friends and neighbors as you wish to be treated.

2011 Spring Hydrant Flushing Program

The City's spring hydrant flushing operation will begin on April 4, 2011 for a two-week period ending April 15, 2011. Should a delay arise, the flushing operation will be completed the week of April 18, 2011. Hydrant flushing is necessary to clean and maintain the water distribution system. During the flushing period water can become discolored. If this occurs, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. If this does not correct the problem, wait an hour and try again. Do not run your hot water until the cold water tap has cleared. This discoloration is not hazardous to human consumption. However, clothing can become stained during laundering. Should you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at 815-363-2186.

Construction & Neighborhood Services Department News

Building Codes

Building Codes are a collection of laws, regulations, ordinances, and other statutory requirements that are adopted in order to establish predictable and safe structures. Building Codes consist of minimum standards of adequacy for structures and healthy conditions of buildings in our community. According to the International Code Council, "minimum requirements" means that the construction meets the criteria of being both "practical and adequate for protecting life, safety, and welfare of the public." Codes are adopted by a state or local governments, then enacted upon to regulate building construction within a particular jurisdiction (city, county, or entire state). They apply to all new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alteration, or if the occupancy of the existing building changes to a new level as defined by the code. In order to stay current with the changing times and new products in the market place, the City of McHenry is currently in the process of adopting more up-to-date codes. The process is expected to be complete in early May, just in time for the peak building season.



Drainage Problems

In the spring, melting snow and April showers can create localized drainage issues in and around your home and in your neighborhood. Here are a few simple suggestions you can follow to reduce the likelihood of experiencing problems:

- Make sure that down spouts and sump pumps discharge water at least five feet away from the house and not onto the street or a neighbor's property.
- If possible, make sure the ground slopes away from your foundation by at least six inches in the first ten feet.
- If your house has a sump pump make sure it is in good operational condition.
- Clean any debris from stormwater inlets or drainage ways on your property.
- Do not obstruct drainage ways with landscaping, gardens, or yard waste.
- Report any higher than normal water elevations, observed for extended periods of time, in streams or channels.



Homeowners Associations

Homeowners associations or HOAs are usually not-for-profit organizations created by a developer in order to establish rules regarding what can and cannot occur in and around their home in a particular subdivision. They are also created in order to collect fees and determine how the money is spent on such things as shared or common property. Typically, HOAs are found where condominium and townhouses are available for purchase, but subdivisions of single-family homes may also have them. When a person buys a home in an area where one exists he or she: automatically becomes a member, is expected to follow the adopted covenants and restrictions, and is responsible for any applicable membership dues. By not following the covenants and restrictions established by the homeowners association the property owner can open themselves up to fines, fees, and legal action as determined by the HOA. Remember, these associations are separate entities and typically cities, townships, counties and states do not enforce HOA covenants and restrictions. Be sure to find out if an association exists where you live and do whatever is necessary to follow their covenants and restrictions.

Spring Irrigation Start-up

With spring quickly approaching, lawn maintenance will be occupying more of our time. For those of us with lawn irrigation systems, it will be a time of start up and repair. Illinois EPA Regulations, as well as the State Plumbing Code and City of McHenry Municipal Ordinance, require that a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow prevention device be installed on all irrigation systems. These devices are to be tested and certified as properly operating at time of start-up. This is an annual requirement that is to be performed by a State of Illinois Licensed Plumber with a Cross Connection Control Device Inspectors (CCCD-I) Certification. Many plumbing and irrigation contractors have personnel on staff who can perform this required test. Once this test is performed and the device is certified as operating properly, a copy of the test results are to be sent to the Construction and Neighborhood Services Department. If you have any questions, please contact: Plumbing Inspector Guy Smale at 815-363-2170.



Submittal Requirements for Minor Permits

As spring approaches, it is a perfect time to plan for projects you want to do around your home. There is a lot to consider when deciding on what type of project you want to do, but before you sign any contracts or invest any money, contact the city to find out if a permit is needed. Most minor permit applications and informational handouts can be found on line at www.ci.mchenry.il. Click on Construction and Neighborhood Services, choose Forms, Permits and Surveys from the drop down menu, then click on the information that is right for your project. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure a permit is obtained prior to the start of any project, even if the work is done by a contractor. Most minor permit submittals require a completed permit application, two copies of a plat of survey with the location of the project shown on it, two sets of plans showing what you want to do, and; if necessary, written approval from your homeowners association. It can typically take 7-10 working days to review minor permits prior to their approval so be sure to plan ahead. The best time to reach staff with questions is Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) by calling 815-363-2170 or stop by the Municipal Center.



Spring Cleaning Your Yard

Spring is the time of year when we go outside and find our yards in disarray. During the winter months a lot of debris and plant waste can end up in our yards. The longer it remains, the longer it is going to take to get your yard looking good. Follow these simple tips to help get your yard ready for summer:

1. Clean up any leaves, twigs and branches from the year before. Eventually they decay and can create a home for mold and insects, as well as cause a fire hazard.
2. Mow the lawn. This may seem obvious, but it is a quick and simple way to make your yard looks fresh, green, and healthy.
3. Paint the exterior of your home if it is looking a bit shabby. It will not only look better, it will help reduce the likelihood of additional repairs and costs being needed in the future.
4. Cleanup and properly dispose of any accumulated trash and debris, such as papers, bottles or cans

Permit Fees

Effective January 1, 2011 minor building permit fees increased for projects such as: sheds, decks, pools, etc. For a complete list contact the Construction and Neighborhood Services Department. You may also go on-line (www.ci.mchenry.il.us) click on the document resources tab, and then permit fee schedule. Fees have been implemented for temporary occupancy permits (\$50) and plan reviews for residential additions, alterations and new construction (\$80). The fee increases were based on an evaluation of staff time required for review and inspection as well as a comparison with those in neighboring communities. This is the first increase in these fees in more than ten years.

New Regulations Adopted for Parking Commercial and Recreational Vehicles in Residential Areas

Last year the City Council approved changes to the city’s zoning ordinance regarding the parking of commercial and recreational vehicles in residential areas. Following are brief summaries of the changes. The City Council granted a one-year amortization period to educate residents on the changes. The regulations below do not become law until **September 2011**. If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding any of these changes please contact the Construction and Neighborhood Services Department at (815) 363-2170.

Parking Commercial Vehicles in Residential Districts

One commercial vehicle that does not exceed 9 feet in height and 25 feet in length may be parked and/or stored on a paved surface overnight in a residential zoning district. Commercial vehicles exceeding 9 feet in height and 25 feet in length may not be parked and/or stored n a residential zoning district. The following, regardless of dimensions, **cannot** be parked and/or stored overnight in a residential zoning district: stake bed trucks, box trucks, dump trucks, boom trucks, earth-moving equipment, tow trucks, step vans, semi-tractor cabs with or without a trailer, and any vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds.

Parking Recreational Vehicles and Trailers in Residential Districts

Only one recreational vehicle or trailer can be parked and/or stored on a driveway. Additional recreational vehicles and trailers can be stored and/or parked on an approved solid parking surface on the lot. Trailers and recreational vehicles must be properly licensed. The definition of a recreational vehicle is as follows: Any vehicle or boat designed or used primarily for recreational purposes and not used as a commercial vehicle, including but not limited to the following: boats/watercraft-motorized or non-motorized, camper trailer, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorized trailer, off-road vehicle, racing car or cycle, recreational vehicle trailer, truck camper, or snowmobile.

**Marengo
Disposal Holiday
Schedule
will be observed
and collections
will be
one day late due
to the Memorial
Day Holiday on
May 30th.**

<i>Garbage Disposal Rate:</i>	<u>Per Bag</u>	<u>Per Toter</u>	<u>Yardwaste Sticker</u>
6/1/11-5/30/12	\$2.32	\$25.00	\$2.03



**April 5, 2011
Consolidated
Election**



Up for Election are the following elected positions in the City of McHenry:

- Alderman Ward 2
- Alderman Ward 4
- Alderman Ward 6
- Alderman Ward 7

CHARACTER COUNTS! ® *The pillar for May is Responsibility - Remember to follow through on your commitments.*

Community Events



2011 Miss McHenry Scholarship Pageant Applications Available

Applications for the 62nd Annual Miss McHenry Scholarship Pageant are available to be picked up at the McHenry Municipal Center or downloaded from the city website located at www.ci.mchenry.il.us. Applications will be accepted until March 25th. The pageant is scheduled for June 25, 2011 at McHenry High School West Campus Auditorium at 6:30 pm. The pageant is open to all girls between the ages of 16 and 20. Contestants must reside in McHenry, be located in McHenry School District 156, and have never been married. Only the first fifteen applications will be accepted. Miss McHenry is a non-talent, non-swimsuit competition which will feature aerobic wear competition. All applicants will be personally contacted by the Pageant Director, Marisa Merkel.

Contestants are required to obtain a business sponsor/sponsors (2 maximum) totaling \$200. Businesses wishing to sponsor a Miss McHenry contestant and/or contribute to the pageant can contact the Pageant Director, Marisa Merkel at (815)347-5947 or missmchenrypageant@yahoo.com. For further information on application procedures or for an application, contact the City of McHenry at 815-363-2100.



Celebration of the Arts

The McHenry Elementary Education Foundation is hosting the 9th annual Celebration of the Arts Program on Thursday, March 8th, at McHenry Middle School from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This event showcases District 15 student artwork. Choral and band students from McHenry Middle School and Parkland School will also be performing throughout the evening. The foundation will be raffling off many wonderful prizes. The foundation will also host a "Taste of McHenry" during the program featuring many local restaurants. All proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will benefit District 15 fine arts programs and the McHenry Elementary Education Foundation. For further information, please contact Cindee Nootbaar at 815-385-7210.



Rotary Club's "A Salute to Local Volunteers" St. Patrick's Day Parade

The McHenry Rotary Club's "A Salute to Local Volunteers" St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for Sunday March 13th at 1 p.m. This is the third year for this popular event. It provides an opportunity to recognize and say "thank you" to many of our neighbors that give their time to our community in order to make it a better place for us all. The parade will be staged at the East Campus parking lot and follow a route west on Waukegan Road, north on Green Street, crossing Route 120, proceeding east on Pearl Street and north on Park Street. It will culminate in Veterans Memorial Park. Activities at the park include food vendors and a Baggo tournament. All events will conclude by 4 p.m. For more information or to participate in this year's parade, please contact Phil Sweeney at (847)409-7445.

Rotary-Sunrise Club Non-Food Drive for FISH of McHenry Food Pantry

The McHenry Rotary-Sunrise Club is sponsoring a non-food drive to benefit FISH of McHenry Food Pantry. FISH assists those in need within our community. While canned and packaged goods and staples are typically available through local organizations, many times there are no paper products, cleaning supplies, toiletries, personal hygiene items or baby wipes and diapers available. Rotary-Sunrise invites the community to participate in this drive. Drop-off sites are located at American Community Bank & Trust, McHenry Municipal Building and McHenry Township Hall. In addition, on Sunday, March 13th, during the Salute to Volunteers parade and festivities, drop-off receptacles will be located in Veterans Memorial Park from noon until 5 p.m. For more information please contact Jeff Batt at 847-477-5096.

More Events...

Make **CHARACTER COUNT!**[®] in your home!



Arbor Day 2011

Don't miss out on the opportunity to plant a tree in recognition or memory of someone special this spring. It's a great way to honor them. The Arbor Day Tree Donation Program has been established for area residents. Trees can be planted for a variety of special occasions and as memorials. For further information on this program or to donate a tree, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 815-363-2160. The deadline for tree donations this year will be April 15, 2011. Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 29, 2011 with a ceremony at 3 p.m. in the Municipal Center Council Chambers.



Memorial Day

This year's Memorial Day Program is scheduled for Monday May 30th at Veterans Memorial Park from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The combined veterans' ceremony is both memorable and gratifying as it includes speeches from representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Vietnow and the Polish Legion. The ceremony concludes with a brief parade to lay a wreath at a local cemetery and in the river that is commemorated with the playing of "Taps" and a rifle salute.



City Band Concerts

Once again this summer let the City fill your Thursday nights with the sounds of the McHenry City Band. The concerts are held at Veterans Memorial Park from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Be sure to bring your appetite along with your chair or blanket, as local food and ice cream vendors will be on hand to provide dinner and dessert. The City looks to once again kick off the season with concerts by our local schools at the end of May. Please look for further information on the city website at www.ci.mchenry.il.us. Regular city band concerts are scheduled to begin on June 2nd and continue through August.



Farmers Markets

Last year the city once again hosted its farmers markets in conjunction with the band concerts. The success of the farmers market has many eagerly anticipating its return this season. The markets will be held at Veterans Memorial Park off of Park Street on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The markets will run June through August. Come see many of the great things our local farming community has to offer and support them by taking some of those things home with you.



Kiwanis Club 10th Annual Soap Box Derby

Registration applications for this year's annual Soap Box Derby may be picked up at McHenry Savings Bank, located on Route 31 north of Bull Valley Road, or by going online at www.mchenrykiwanis.org. The race will be held on Saturday, June 11th.

Parks and Recreation Happenings

Check out the Winter/Spring Brochure online at www.ci.mchenry.il.us

Chicago Flower & Garden Show – Join us for the popular Flower and Garden show at Navy Pier! Here's the chance to prepare for your beautiful spring and summer gardens with an array of specialty lawn and garden items. Purchase or "window shop" specialty seeds, bulbs, plants, pots, lawn ornaments and more! Join one of the many workshops or demonstrations for more gardening ideas! Lunch is on your own – bring a lunch or enjoy any one of the great restaurants at Navy Pier! Fee includes ticket and transportation. Trip is open to all ages and will be held on Thursday, March 10 departing from the Municipal Center at 8:00 am and returning at 5:00 pm. Fee: \$35/person – motorcoach.



Community Garage Sale – Treasure hunters and bargain hunters alike will enjoy one stop shopping! For sellers, this is your opportunity to clean out the closets and/or garage and make some money! Registrants who wish to sell garage sale items may rent a 10' x 10' space for \$25. You must provide your own tables. Tangible products only, no services. Participants must take their unsold items at the end of the sale; garbage will not be available for unsold items. Sale will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at McHenry Middle School. Shoppers will be admitted free of charge. **Deadline to reserve a selling space is Friday, March 18.**

Home Alone/First Aid for Little People – **Home Alone** is designed to teach children simple rules and procedures for responsible self-care. The instructor will discuss various topics, including use of house key, important phone numbers, answering the phone, fun things to do when alone and so much more! **First Aid for Little People** is a safety and first aid program designed to teach children they are capable of helping themselves and others in an emergency. Each student will make a first aid kit and needs to bring a clean coffee can. Program is open to children in Grades 2 – 5 and will be held on Friday, March 25 from 9:00 am – 11:45 am at the Municipal Center. Fee: \$22/CR – \$28/NCR.



Adult Social & Ballroom Dance – Impress your friends, gain confidence and most of all have fun! Learn to dance for weddings, special occasions or just because it's a great couple activity. Couples will learn and practice different types of dance in each session including Cha Cha, Waltz, American Tango and Swing! Program is open to adults and will be held Mondays, April 4 – May 9 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Beginner I) or 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Beginner II) at Edgebrook School. Fee: \$85/couple/CR – \$95/couple/NCR.



Weight Loss Challenge – Join McHenry's very own "Biggest Loser Challenge" just like on TV, except no exercise! This program advises proper nutrition, meal replacement options, encouragement to exercise, group support, and metabolism and body composition test. Learn about proper nutrition, how to improve eating habits and find out exactly how many calories a day your body burns. Prizes in the form of gift certificates to be used at most stores in McHenry will be given out. Previous participants had an average weight loss of over 17 pounds and over 9 inches per person! Program is open to anyone 18 and older and will be held Tuesdays, April 5 – June 14 from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the Municipal Center. Fee: \$45/CR – \$55/NCR.



Fitness Programs – Sign up for Cardio Kickboxing, Interval Course, Power Sculpt, Cardio & Sculpt, Pilates, Abs, Buns & Thighs, Aqua Aerobics, Yoga or Forever Young! Classes are offered mornings and evenings. Sign up for an 11-week program, or purchase a drop-in pass to join just one class for only \$6. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department or visit the website.



Bridge Fundamentals – This course is designed for bridge players who want to improve their game! Learn the duplicate style of play where you compare your results to those of other players who played exactly the same cards. Learn the six conventions you need to have in your arsenal and explore how to approach the hand from both the declarer's and defender's point of view. Program is open to adults and will be held on Fridays, April 29 – June 3 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Lakeland Park Community Center. Fee: \$20/CR – \$25/NCR.



Save Time

Prevent Late Fees

Save Postage

Participate in the City's Direct Debit Program

The City's Direct Debit Program offers you the convenience of paying your water/sewer bill by automatically debiting your checking/savings account when your bill is due. If you select this option, you will receive a bill (marked **DO NOT PAY - AUTOMATIC DEBIT**) and your designated checking/savings account will automatically be debited for payment on the due date. Transactions will be carefully monitored to ensure accuracy. Automatic debit allows prompt payment and reduces the potential for late fees. If you are interested, please complete the form below and return it to us in person, by mail or place in the Municipal Center Drop Box. **NOTE:** This option is available for both residential and commercial customers.

*Please enroll me in the City of McHenry Direct Debit Program
for automatic payment of my water/sewer bill.*

My City of McHenry Water/Sewer Bill Account Number is: _____.

Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Please pay from my: Checking Account _____ Savings Account _____

Account Number: _____ Routing Number: _____

Name of Financial Institution: _____ Branch _____

(Be sure to attach a voided check)



Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

NOTE: Requests to participate in the Direct Debit Program will not be honored without a signature and voided check.

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