

McDonough Matters



www.mcdonoughga.org

Issue Thirty-Three

When Information Matters

December, 2009

MIRACLE ON 42ND STREET!!

Crowds gathered all along the parade route on Saturday, December 5th with anticipation growing as the 7:00 p.m. starting time grew near.

The participating groups, 80 to be exact, started gathering at the Henry County High School parking lot by 4:00. Last minute details awaited these eager paraders.

Final touches on floats, horses to be saddled and wagons hooked up, bands unpacking instruments and finding their place, beauty queens, both teens and tiny queens, climbing into their respective convertibles, appropriately labeled with their individual titles, cool cars revving powerful engines and taking their positions in the long line.

The theme for the 2009 parade was *Miracle on 42nd Street*. Judging on the 16 float entries soon began. The judges finally



People started early securing spots from which to watch the City's Christmas parade.

Second Place

Glen Haven Baptist Church



Third Place

Mr. & Miss SPECIAL Henry County



First Place

Lake Dow Animal Hospital



decided on the top three winners: 1st Place-Lake Dow Animal Hospital; 2nd Place-Glen Haven Baptist Church; and 3rd Place-Mr. & Miss SPECIAL Henry County.

It takes an involved community to make a great parade. It was, once again, a spectacular Christmas parade. *Marching bands played songs of the season.*



A 300 pound goat pulled a cart in the parade.



Several riding clubs were represented by riders and horses.



The Jolly Ole Gent himself anchored the rear of the parade waving and wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas.

HO! HO! HO!

Mayor and Executive Assistant Outstanding Community Partner Award By ARC

Recently, on behalf of the City of McDonough, Mayor Billy Copeland and the Mayor's assistant, Leslie Balog, accepted the *Outstanding Community Partner Award* from the Atlanta Regional Commission for the City's 2009 Job Fair.



(L-R) Kerry Armstrong, Atlanta Regional Workforce Board, Co-Chair; and Randy Hayes, Atlanta Regional Workforce Board, Co-Chair; present the award to Mayor's Assistant Leslie Balog; and Mayor Copeland. Mary Margaret Garrett, Chief of the Workforce Development Division for ARC, is standing to the Mayor's left.

Photo by Joey Balog

Approximately 1000 area citizens attended the fair featuring over 30 businesses on site with most having positions to fill.



One person seeking an opportunity to re-enter the work force through attending McDonough's 2009 Job Fair.

Work prospector Charles Bobo approached the City's Veterans Referral and Information table to talk with volunteer Helen Busbin. Mrs. Busbin has such a strong heart for America's veterans that she was compelled to go the extra mile for this veteran.

Mrs. Busbin approached the Assistant HR Director for a new company that had recently opened in Henry County. The Assistant Director listened and acted in December.



Mr. Bobo has now been employed for several weeks. He stopped by the Veterans

Veterans Referral office Volunteer Helen Busbin congratulates Charles Bobo for his success at the City's 2009 Job Fair.

Office on the first floor of McDonough City Hall to say a special 'thank you' to Mrs. Busbin. "I wouldn't have this job if it wasn't for her [pointing to Mrs. Busbin]." After the grateful veteran left the office, Mrs. Busbin smiled and said, "That makes it all worthwhile." Mrs. Busbin has been a Veterans Office volunteer from the beginning.

The City of McDonough extends a special 'thank you' to the volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to cover this office providing information and guidance, and sometimes jobs, to veterans. **Success is so sweet !**

eLements hosts Ribbon Cutting sponsored by The Main Street McDonough Program



(L-R) Main Street Director Linda Schenk; owner's sister Catherine Rice; store manager Susie Greene; owner Leah Rice; Councilman Wayne Smith; owner's brother and mother, Dan and Jan Rice prepare to celebrate the ribbon cutting.



Blumen Trio is located inside Plum Tree Antiques, 58 Griffin Street in McDonough. The Seasons Bistro provided refreshments.

Blumen Trio hosted an Open House on the evening of December 11th to introduce Marie Osmond's Lifestyle Collection that includes handbags, wallets, laptop cases, backpacks, and much more.



Owners Bob Knowles (Left) and Mark Holliday sit beneath the large Marie Osmond banner on the front porch of Plum Tree Antiques.

2009 Entertainment & Christmas Tree Lighting

December 5, 2009



A large crowd gathered on the McDonough Square to enjoy the seasonal entertainment and even a snow machine, both sponsored by Main Street, that began at 5 p.m., followed by the annual lighting of the City's beautiful Christmas tree at 6:30 p.m., and the Christmas parade at 7:00.



Folks at the McDonough Welcome Center have decked the halls for the holidays. Linda, Cathy, Ginny, and Victor want you to know it's been a privilege to serve the businesses, citizens, and visitors that have graced the Center during 2009.

A special 'thank you' to the boards and committees that worked with the Main Street and Tourism programs in '09. Thank you also to everyone that attended the events held on the Square. To all—

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



City employees Taffini Guffie (Left) and Julie Alexander, Motorcade coordinator, made the trip to Central State Hospital in Milledgeville with Julie's Tahoe packed to the roof with gifts for those housed at this location. The Mayors' Christmas Motorcade is a program of the Georgia Municipal Association that involves GMA member cities providing requested gift items for seven such hospitals around the State. Our sincere thanks to everyone that made a contribution.

SAFTY ALERT

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations. In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump. In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to the face when fumes ignited when answering a call while refueling the car! And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in the individual's pocket, rang while fueling the car.

- Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes.
- Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition.
- Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boats, etc.
- Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust (i.e., solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.).

To sum it up, here are the Four Rules for Safe Refueling:

- 1) Turn off engine.
- 2) Don't smoke.
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off.
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling due to the potential to create static electricity that could cause a spark.

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of 'static electricity' at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires. His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas.
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered, and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- 8) Seventeen fires occurred before, during, or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

From the Henry County Government



Santa and Mrs. Claus visit the Square to collect area youngsters' wish lists.

**Santa
Saturday
Dec. 5th / 12th
Main Street
McDonough
sponsors
Santa and
Mrs. Claus on
the Square
each year
for area
children.**



Lines grow long, but patience is the order of the day as Santa tries to talk to each child.



Santa listens intently to the children.



**2009
City of
McDonough
Employees'
Christmas
Luncheon
at
Avalon
Fire
Station
12:30-
1:30pm**

December 18th



**Lunch
provided
by
The
Varsity**



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(Front) Councilman Monta Brown, Tina Tebo, Brenda Iter, Lt. Michael Hogeland, and Lt. Cal Callahan. (Second) Mayor Copeland, Keith Dickerson, Bobby Duncan, Mark Dobson, Buddy Jenkins, Kenneth Noble, and Greg Moore. (Third) Randy Lewis, Greg Rowland, G. W. Wright, and City Administrator Billy Beckett.

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AWARDS

*Wishes
for a
Glorious
Christmas filled
with the
Love of
Family and
Friends,
Joy,
Contentment,
&
Good Health
in Abundance!*



*Wishes From
Mayor
Billy Copeland,
McDonough
City Council,
& City Staff!*

**The Rotary Club's 2nd Annual
JINGLE JOG**

December 5, 2009



Runners / Walkers





You Count—Be Counted!

**AROUND
TOWN**



Beautiful young faces could be seen from beginning-to-end of the Christmas parade, both taking part in the parade and watching the magic as it passed by, on December 5th.

This beautiful float, depicting 42nd Street in New York City, was entered by Praying for Paws and received a great reaction from the crowd.



McDonough City Councilman Monta Brown rides in the Christmas parade and waves to the large crowd gathered along the entire parade route.

This beautiful baby, bundled against the cold night and pacifier securely in place, takes in the colors and sounds of the parade from the sideline.



Veterans or Veterans' families wanting additional information may call McDonough City Hall at 770-957-3915, ext. 2265.
OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesdays, 10am-12pm
Thursdays, 1-3pm

As 2009 quickly comes to an end, our focus turns to the new year. It is the hope of the Mayor, City Council and staff, that our citizens find new beginnings and experience an economy rebounding, the job market revitalizing and growing in strength, a new freedom fueled by prosperity, and a year of commitment to increased exercise and better physical conditioning. Finally, may your wishes and aspirations become realities in the new year. Here's to a great 2010.
Happy New Year, MCDONOUGH!



Upcoming Events & City Meetings

Events • / Main Street McDonough Programs In RED

ALL DATES AND TIMES NOTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

DECEMBER, 2009

- CHRISTMAS VARSITY LUNCHEON **12-18** **12:30 P.M.**
- CITY COUNCIL MEETING **12-21** **7:00 P.M.**
- P/Z PUBLIC MEETING **12-22** **6:30 P.M.**
- CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY **12-24/25** (CITY HALL) **CLOSED**
- NEW YEAR'S DAY 2010 **1-01** (CITY HALL) **CLOSED**

Events — Call the McDonough Welcome Center at 770-898-9311.
Meetings — Call McDonough City Hall at 770-957-3915.



Visit often for McDonough news, events, photos, e-newsletter and more!



Peace on Earth...
Good Will To...Men!