



Neighborhood News



January/February 2010



Only 90 Days until April 1, 2010 Countdown to the 2010 Census

The Census...It is easy, it is safe, it is important



Now is the Time to Start Planning for the 2010 Census

The countdown to the 2010 Census has begun, and the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to national, tribal, state, and local officials and community leaders to ensure an accurate count. With Census Day in less than a year — April 1, 2010 — the Census Bureau has already launched a critical national effort that affects the apportionment of congressional seats, and how the federal government annually allocates \$300 billion in federal assistance to state, local, and tribal governments.

News You Can Use...Are you struggling to hold onto your home?

Are you behind on mortgage payments? Are you nearing foreclosure?



**Come to the Mortgage Relief Project
Saturday, January 30, 2010--9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Joliet West High School Auditorium

401 North Larkin Avenue (enter from Glenwood Avenue)
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Hosts: State Senator A. J. Wilhelmi, State Senator Linda Holmes, State Representative Jack McGuire

Co-Hosts: House Republican Leader Tom Cross, State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia,
State Representative and Emily McAsey

Governor Pat Quinn has established the *Mortgage Relief Project* to help you take advantage of new government programs that can help you lower your mortgage payments, avoid foreclosure and keep your home. Learn more at your local *Mortgage Relief Project* outreach event. **Free** housing counseling is available. We will also teach you to recognize the tell-tale signs of mortgage fraud. Be sure to bring your latest mortgage documents (bills, statements, notices, etc.) and your state ID or driver's license. For a list of all the documents that you would need to complete a full application for a loan modification, go to www.idfpr.com. Transportation will be made available to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. To confirm a ride, make an appointment with a counselor or for more *Mortgage Relief Project* information, call toll-free at 1-800-532-8785 or visit www.idfpr.com.

Are You, or Someone You Know, Raising a Child Whose Parent is in Prison?



Mentoring CHILDREN of Promise

Mentoring Children of Promise is a FREE program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties that matches caring adult Big Brother Big Sister mentors with children who have a parent or caregiver that is currently incarcerated in a state or federal prison. These mentoring relationships expose children to new experiences and alternatives, empowering them to become responsible, confident and self-sufficient young adults.

For more information, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties at (815) 723-BBSS (2277) or www.bbbswillgrundy.org Their office is located at 417 W. Taylor Street in Joliet, 60435

Unity CDC *Energy Comes From Unity*

Homebuyers Education Program--Receive Up to \$30,000 for a Home

Are you or someone you know thinking about buying your first home? Do you need down payment assistance of up to \$30,000.00? Unity CDC is pleased to announce that it will offer a FREE Homebuyers Education Workshop on **Saturday, February 20, 2010** from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Center for Working Families, Dave Evans Campus (formerly St. Mary Magdalene School) located at 201 S. Briggs Street in Joliet. **A free lunch will be served.** If interested in participating in this program or to register for classes, please call Unity CDC at: 815-722-9200 or online at www.unitycdc.org Registration must be completed by Friday, February 12, 2010. The class is filling up quickly and enrollment is on a first come, first served basis.

Unity CDC Homework Help Center

The Homework Help Center operates from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday and provides snacks, homework assistance, recreational activities and hot dinner to Joliet youth, ages 6-18. This program is endorsed by Joliet Public School District 86. There are currently four sites participating in the program: Mt. Zion Church at McKinley Avenue and Singleton Place, Mt. Carmel Church at 407 Irving Street, St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 104 E. Zarley Boulevard, and the Center for Working Families, 201 S. Briggs Street. Parents have the convenience of being able to select closest to their school or home. For further information or to enroll or volunteer, please contact Wayne Smith, Recreational Director, Unity Community Development Corporation at 815-722-9200. Further information is also available on their website: www.unitycdc.org

St. Pat's Neighborhood Association News for January/February 2010

In 2010 the St. Pat's Neighborhood will work closely with all of the surrounding Neighborhoods on clean up efforts and recycling and will continue to work with all of the City Service agencies to help make our Neighborhoods a safer and more secure environment in which to live and raise our families. If you are in an area that would like assistance in developing a neighborhood group the SPNA would be very happy to help you. Contact Carol Ann Heinemann (contact info below.)

Our April General Meeting will be held on April 21 @ 7:00pm—All are welcome to attend!

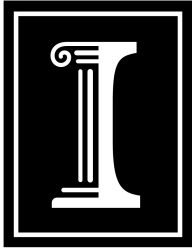
in the St. Pat's Grade School Gym @ 110 Willow Avenue. Please come and support our community efforts.

An environmentalist group called Helpers of Mother Earth (contact information vkemp@helpersofmotherearth.org 708-767-1797), has been in contact with the SPNA and will work on several different clean up efforts. If you are interested in being added to the e-mail distribution list please send an e-mail to spnajoliet@comcast.net and request to be added and you will be notified of all upcoming clean up efforts and all events of the SPNA.

St. Pat's Grade School is continuing to work on a recycling project. Drop off any and all acceptable recycled items in the back parking lot of the school located at 110 Willow in Joliet. The Paper Retriever **accepts the following items** Newspaper, magazines, catalogs (soft), junk mail, office paper, notebooks (soft, no spiral), soft cover books, hard cover books (only if cover is removed). **Please do not include:** Plastic, glass, metals and trash. We thank you for any items you can recycle; this helps promote a cleaner environment for everyone.

2010 Scheduled Meetings: 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 4/21-Spring - General Meeting-All welcome, 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 8/14-SPNA Neighborhood Picnic, 9/15-tentative, 10/13, 10/20-Fall-General Meeting, 11/10, 12/15.(7:00pm, St. Pat's Rectory, Bishop Vonesh Hall)

Submitted by Carol Ann Heinemann, President, St. Pat's Neighborhood Association spnajoliet@comcast.net (815) 774-0336.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

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Will_co@extension.illinois.edu

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Monday- Friday
8:00 am-Noon
12:30 pm- 4:30 pm

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Dave McMurtry
*Interim Youth
Development Educator*

Nancy Kuhajda
*Program Coordinator
Master Gardener Coordinator*

Laura Barr
*Family Nutrition Program
Coordinator*

Tycee Bell
*Family Nutrition Program
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Mariana Maldonado
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Make SMART Resolutions This New Year

Happy New Year! Do you set New Year's resolutions every year? Setting resolutions is relatively easy: it's keeping them that can be so hard! There are a few tricks that will help you set resolutions-especially financial ones-and make them happen. Just remember this simple trick: SMART. This stands for:



Specific ♦ Measurable ♦ Agreed Upon ♦ Reasonable ♦ Timed

First, research has shown that people who write goals are more likely to achieve them. So, find a pencil and get ready to write your resolutions down.

Consider a resolution to save money and practice writing a smart resolution. Perhaps, you'd like to save money for a new refrigerator because your current one is making very odd noises. The first part of writing a smart resolution is to be **specific** about what you want to do. In this example 'I want to buy a new refrigerator.'

Next, the resolution needs to be **measurable**; estimate how much money it requires to accomplish your goal. 'I want to buy a refrigerator that will cost about \$ 850.00.'

Another important component of a SMART resolution is having **agreement** among all the people involved. So take time to talk to other household members who need to agree upon this resolution. And, in this case, make changes in their spending.

When do you want to accomplish this resolution? Obviously, you would like to buy the refrigerator before your old one breaks. Set a date for your resolution. Assume that you have 4 months to save your money. Your resolution should now read "I want to buy a refrigerator that will cost about \$850.00 by May 1, 2010."

Now that you have a specific, measureable, agreed upon, and **timed** resolution, you are ready to decide if it is a **reasonable** resolution. If you need \$850.00 in four months, then you need to save \$212.50 a month or about \$50.00 per week. You have to ask yourself if that is a reasonable amount for you or is it too much money to save each week. When you have a financial resolution that is both specific and timed, you can decide if it is a reasonable resolution for you.

If saving \$50.00 a week doesn't seem reasonable, then you need to adjust your resolution. Do you need more time or could you pay less for a refrigerator? If it is a reasonable amount, track your progress towards your resolution. Each week or so, check if you are saving enough money to meet your resolution.

A handy, downloadable work sheet to help you write resolutions is available at the Consumer and Family Economics website a:
<http://www.ace.uiuc.edu/cfe/money> under Goal Setting.

This is one simple example of a SMART resolution. You can also use this same technique to write resolutions about saving for retirement, paying down debt, or accomplishing finance-related activities, such as writing a will. What will be your resolutions for 2010?

Organizing Your Family Papers & Financial Records for the New Year

Where are Your Important Papers?

Families have records such as birth certificates and insurance policies they must store. Have you ever worried that you would not find a lost record? Record keeping may not be fun. However, the time spent putting family records in order, and keeping them up-to-date, is very important.



If your records are in order, you can:

- prove a bill has been paid
- save time and stress by not having to search for papers
- show legal proof of events (marriage, birth, divorce, custody, death)
- prove ownership (purchase or sale of items or services).
- correct errors on bank statements and/or credit card bills.
- prove claims to insurance, Social Security, or veterans' benefits.

Family Records are Always Changing

Family records may soon be out of date. Life has many events, stages and changes. Each change brings the need to add, remove, or update family records. If the records are in order, changes are easy to make. One way to stay organized and up-to-date is to set aside an annual review day. On this day, both spouses, or you and a trusted friend, can review the records. Many people find New Year's Day, a birthday, or an anniversary is a good time for this annual review.

Some Tips

Each person and family has special needs; so, you will want to develop your own record keeping system. Whatever system you choose, make sure that it:

- is easy for you to keep, use, and update.
- would be easy for family members, or a trusted friend or relative, to use if needed.
- lists names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons who know facts about you and would be helpful in time of emergency.
- lists real estate and personal property held in your name, or held jointly with others.
- lists a central spot where some records and papers are kept. This can be a file or notebook, known to all family members. It should also tell where other records are kept.

Where to Keep Important Papers

Most of your financial records can be kept at home. These are records you need often and those you may need at a future date. However, to protect them against possible fire or water damage, store them in an insulated steel box or in a fire-resistant file cabinet. The box or file drawer should lock to ensure privacy. Be sure that more than one person knows where the key is kept. Other good places to store papers are in a cardboard box with a lid or in a desk file drawer. If you do not have space for a filing cabinet, you can buy folders with several compartments.

Some papers are not used often and are hard to replace. They should be kept in a safe deposit box. These records include: military discharge papers, original copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, adoption, divorce and child custody papers, and the deed to your house. Others, such as your will and life insurance policies, should be kept at home. Make a New Year's resolution to "get organized" in 2010. Then keep your resolution!

Prepared by Barbara Dahl, Extension Educator, Consumer and Family Economics



St. John's and St. Peter's Neighborhood Association

St. John's and St. Peter's Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. All meetings are being held at St. John's Church, located at 404 N. Hickory in Joliet. Call St. Peter's at (815) 722-3567 or Lorna at (815) 409-1187 for more information

Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park

Children's Drama Classes

Saturday Mornings

January 23 - February 27, 2010



Open to all 1st - 12th graders. All levels of interest welcome! Learn theatre terminology, creative dramatics, movement, voice and much more! Siblings receive 50% discount courtesy of the Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park, Inc. 815-724-3760

Auditions for Wizard of Oz to be held February 15 & 16



"Wizard of Oz" auditions for Munchkins, Ozians (Emerald City folk) & Winkies (Guards) February 15 & 16 at 7:00 pm. Seeking high school age and older. Please bring prepared 16 bars of sheet music and be prepared for cold readings. Head shot and resume accepted. Show dates June 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26, with raindate July 2. For more information contact Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park: 815-724-3761 bipark@jolietcity.org www.bicentennialpark.org



Joliet Drama Guild Presents Their 77th Season

The ForeignerFebruary 12-14 & 19-21, 2010

The Curious Savage.....April 16-18 & 23-25, 2010

Drood..... August 13-15, 20-22, 27-29, 2010

The Joliet Drama Guild has a new offshoot, called Studio J. They will be perform

"The Pillowman"

January 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 8:00 p.m. Special first-run price \$8

This Tony and Olivier award-winning new dark comedy follows Katurian, a writer, and his brutal interrogation at the hands of the secret police of an authoritarian regime. Katurian's writings and their strange ties to a series of recent local crimes intertwine with his own Kafkaesque tale of justice, retribution, and the power of stories and fantasy. **Recommended for mature audiences only.** Reservations through the JDG: 815-722-1001. More info at www.jolietdramaguild.org

The Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park is located at 201 West Jefferson at Bluff Street in Joliet.

To contact the Bicentennial Park: Phone: (815) 724-3760; FAX: (815) 724-3773

E-mail: bipark@jolietcity.org; Online: www.bicentennialpark.org

Quit Smoking Today!



Quitting smoking is one of the best things people can do to improve their overall health. If you are ready to quit, the Will County Health Department can help!

The Will County Health Department proudly offers the **Freedom from Smoking** (FFS) program. The cost of the program is \$20.00 per person, which covers program materials. Based on the latest research on addiction and behavioral change, the program teaches participants ways to deal with withdrawal symptoms, control weight, manage stress, and fight smoking urges. **Quit smoking program participants have the option to receive up to 6-weeks of the nicotine patch or the nicotine lozenge for free.**

Program participants meet once a week for seven weeks at the following locations:

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet Classes begin Tuesday, January 26

Crete Public Library, Crete Classes begin Monday, February 22

For more information or to register for a program, visit our website at www.willcountyhealth.org or call the Will County Health Department at (815) 727-8769

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