

43 Munroe Falls Avenue
Munroe Falls, OH 44262
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Winter 2008 - City of Munroe Falls, 43 Munroe Falls Avenue, Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - www.munroefalls.com

A Message from Mayor Larson

In 1870 Congress proclaimed Christmas a Federal Holiday. From my family to yours, my wife, Deb and I extend our warmest and best wishes to you for a Merry Christmas and joyful holiday season. We always look forward to this time of year as a chance to spend time with our loved ones and friends. We hope this Christmas season will be just as special for your family.

In these troubling economic times, it may be very difficult for some to "get into the holiday spirit," and some find this time of year to be one of hardship or loneliness. I encourage all of you to extend your friendship and look out for our neighbors who may be struggling at the moment.

Christmas is a time of giving and the Munroe Falls Police Department has identified families in our

City that could benefit from your donations. Also, the City participates in the national "SHOP WITH A COP" program. Anyone wanting more information, please call our Police Department at 330 688-7494 and find out how you can help. We appreciate City Council which has generously adopted a family this Christmas season too. Even in these uncertain times, take time this Christmas season to think of others who may not be as fortunate as you and feel the joy that giving to them will bring to you.

On behalf of the City of Munroe Falls, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of so many of our residents, whether it is volunteering on a City board, a community group or helping at a special event. Caring for one another is what these volunteers do every-

day in our community. They are why Munroe Falls is such a great place to call home.

Another reason why our City is a great place to live is our employees. Munroe Falls is recognized as always having the best snow plowed roads in the area. And we give our thanks and appreciation to our Service Department for such a great job they do to ensure our safety. But please, take special care on the roads as you prepare for the celebrations and holiday time ahead. Although our Police, Fire and EMS are the best in the world, I pray that you will not need to use their services.

Drive safely and have a very
**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**
—Mayor and Mrs. Frank Larson

Munroe Falls Calendar

December 24, 2008 **Christmas Eve**, City offices closed

December 25, 2008 **Christmas Day**, City offices closed

January 1, 2009 **New Year's Day**, City offices closed

January 5, 2009 Christmas tree pick up begins

January 15, 2009 Guise Park Survey deadline

January 19, 2009 **Martin Luther King Day**,
City offices closed

February 16, 2009 **President's Day**, City offices closed



Christmas Tree Collection

The City of Munroe Falls will collect Christmas trees during the week of January 5, 2009. To ensure that your tree is picked up, please place it on the curb by 7:30 a.m. on Monday. If you wait past Monday, the tree may be left behind, requiring you to dispose of it yourself. Crews will make one pass, and will not return.

Please remove all decorations, tinsel, and the tree stand, since these items will damage the equipment used to grind the trees into the mulch and compost that is available free to all Munroe Falls residents.



Munroe Falls Police Academy

The City of Munroe Falls Police Department is offering Basic Police Academy training, starting January 26, 2009.

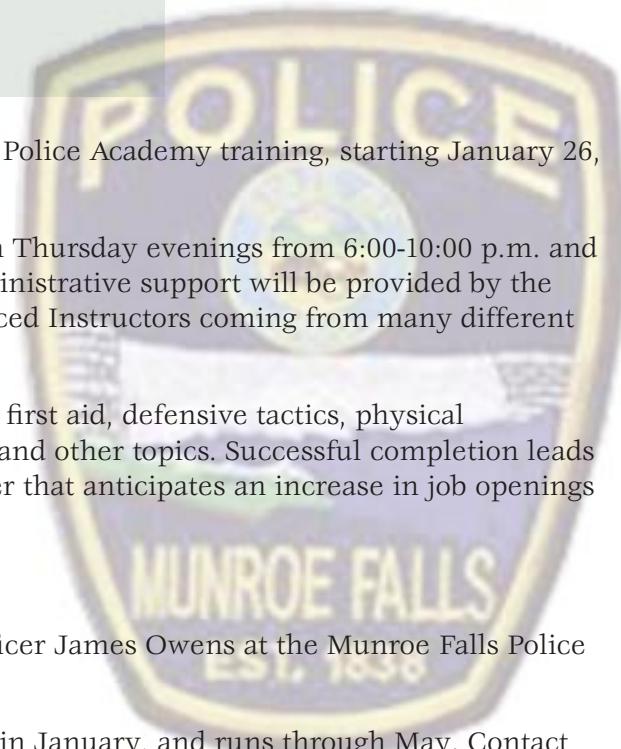
The Academy will be in session at City Hall, Monday through Thursday evenings from 6:00-10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, until the end of July. Administrative support will be provided by the current Kent State University Police Academy, with experienced Instructors coming from many different law enforcement agencies.

The rigorous 600 hour program includes training in firearms, first aid, defensive tactics, physical conditioning, Ohio Law, Patrol and Investigative procedures, and other topics. Successful completion leads to certification as a Police Officer in the State of Ohio, a career that anticipates an increase in job openings in the next several years as more senior officers retire.

Cost of the program is \$3,500.

To register or learn more, contact Chief Scott Bellinger or Officer James Owens at the Munroe Falls Police Department at 330-688-7494.

A full-time day academy offered through KSU is also starting in January, and runs through May. Contact Michelle Harmon at 330-672-0325 for information.



Winterizing Your Home - by the Munroe Falls Water Department

These tips can save your home from expensive winter damage. Read the entire article online in the **Latest News** section at www.munroefalls.com.

- **Drain water from swimming pool lines, water sprinkler supply lines and outdoor hoses.** Don't cap the outside valve: leaving it open will allow any water to expand outward. Leave water in the pool itself to help keep walls from being cracked by expanding ground water. When in doubt, refer to the pool manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Insulate pipes that run outside or along an exterior wall, using pipe sleeves, foam, tape or even newspaper.** Caulk around pipes where they enter the house. Make sure the pipes in unheated areas are well insulated, including in attics, basements and garages. Keep garage doors closed as much as possible if there are supply lines in the garage.
- **Leaving cabinet doors open allows warm air to circulate to the plumbing.** In extremely cold weather, allow water to run from faucets at a constant, low stream to keep it circulating in the pipes and prevent freezing. The slight increase in your water bill is probably cheaper than the cost of repairing serious damage caused by a burst pipe.



Guise Park Survey

Please take a minute to complete the Guise Park survey inserted in this edition of *City Wide News*.

The City and the Park Board have been working hard throughout the year to provide many activities for residents, including events held at Guise Park. The survey will provide the board with information about your use of the park and improvements you would like to see.

Your responses will help us better serve the community.

Please complete the survey and return it with your water payment to the City Hall drop box, or mail it to City Hall, 43 Munroe Falls Avenue, no later than January, 15, 2009.

Guise Park Improvement Project

The City is proposing improvements to Guise Park that include renovating and lighting the tennis courts, paving the parking lot, and adding a swing set at the playground.

On behalf of the Park Board, the City will submit a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Real Estate and Land Management, seeking improvement funds for these renovations and improvements, through the NatureWorks Program. The NatureWorks program is funded through a state bond issue to promote outdoor recreation activities.

Please direct questions about this grant application to Anne DiCola, Community and Economic Development Coordinator at 330-688-7491.

Calling Small Business

Do you operate a home-based business? Are you interested in exploring ways to grow? Could there be new markets or channels for your products that you haven't thought about? Would a forum for discussing these issues be beneficial to you? If so, we'd like to know more about your business and how we might help.

Look for regular updates on the status of the City's community and economic development efforts at our new and improved website (www.munroefalls.com). Add your company to the site's new **Local Business** section, where any Munroe Falls business can display its name and contact information for free.

For details, please contact Anne DiCola via the website mail box, or call City Hall at 330-688-7491.

Estimated Water Meter Readings

Estimated water meter readings are rarely correct indications of actual usage, and could result in an unusually large bill if the usage is estimated for a long period of time, or if an unnoticed leak exists.

Estimated bills are marked "estimated." Avoid estimates by making sure the Water Department reads your meter. If you cannot be home for a meter reading, the meter reader will leave a card in your door. Write the actual meter reading on the card, and mail it to the Water Department, drop it in the box at City Hall, or call in your meter reading, no later than the 20th of the month.

Get an Outside Meter

Does the meter reader always seem to knock at your door at the worst possible time of the day? Are you at work when he comes to read the meter? Tired of sending in those meter reading cards?

The Water Department has the solution! You can have an outside remote meter installed! This allows the meter reader to take an actual reading without having to come inside your house.

For more information, call the Water Department at 330-688-7491.

www.munroefalls.com