

MERRY CHRISTMAS

“Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas ...perhaps... means a little bit more!”(The Grinch, Dr.Seuss) “Believe in the Magic of Christmas.” (Source Unknown) These two quotes are very common and are heard and/or seen abundantly during this time of year, but have you ever stopped to really think about them. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is a great movie and must see with Christmas right around the corner, but it also allows for kids to try and understand that Christmas isn’t just about presents. The magic of Christmas is a trait that adults tend to not to embrace due to all the present buying or running from gathering to gathering.

The point is, over the years we go from just wanting presents to worrying about purchasing the presents. We forget about the middle phase where we realize how much joy Christmas brings. While getting a present is nice, seeing someone else open the one you got them is even better. This year try not to worry about making it to the next event or that you forgot to make extra treats, instead embrace that magic by slowing down and enjoying what is happening around you.

The city council, mayor, and employees would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please stay safe this holiday season and we look forward to making the community even better with you in 2017.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

The community will be spreading their holiday spirit on Saturday, December 3rd. There will be events for all ages throughout the day.

EagleRock! will start the day off with their Cookie Walk, all treats are homemade; boxes are pre-sold, but anyone wanting a box can call 636-2118 and leave a message or, better yet, contact an EagleRock! member.

At 9:30 there will be crafts, cookies, drinks and a reading of a Christmas story at Wilson Memorial Library. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving around 10:30; all ages are welcome.

There is a Holiday Market at Holy Trinity Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with lunch available. Many vendors will be on site to help you with your holiday shopping needs.

Gene & Lisa Brenneman, Craig & Robin Hansen, Brian & Shannon Greiner, and Brett Romoser & Darren Hoffman will be the four houses on the anticipated tour of homes. They will open their doors at 2:30 and close at 7:00 p.m. that day. Each house will be decorated with Christmas and holiday décor that will make you feel that Christmas cheer.

The Speech Soup Supper and Festival of Trees will be the last event of the day. The doors to Lagos Acres Country Club will open from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Homemade soup, salads, and pies will be served by the members of the speech department. During the Soup Supper the PTO gift baskets will be on display for silent auction. The baskets

can also be viewed/bid on starting November 21st at Libertyville Savings Bank. The baskets will be awarded to the highest bidder at the end of the evening. Each basket has a theme and is put together by a grade; therefore, all proceeds will be donated back to the school to benefit the teachers and students. This is a free will donation event and the public is encouraged to attend.

This may sound like a lot to do in one day, but each event is worth it and by the end of the day you will wish Christmas was celebrated all year round. What is not to love about starting the day with cookies, crafts, and meeting the most popular couple of the season; then move on to shopping and viewing remarkable homes; and finally end the night with great food and people. If you are lucky, then you will be bringing home one the distinct gift baskets. Each organization is appreciative of everyone that takes their time and money to support them and hopes they give you an experience that will make you want to come back next year.

HYPNOTIST/MAGICIAN

On December 30th at 7 p.m. you will want to be at the Keota High School Gym to watch Jennifer Hobbs, Dan Stout & Casey Sieren (only participants to date confirmed) be hypnotist. Not only is this a hypnotist show, but the entertainer also does magic; so it is friendly for all ages. Tickets will be on sale at local business or at the door the night of the event. All proceeds from this event will be put towards replacing the lockers in the high school. If are willing to by hypnotist for a good cause, please contact

City of Keota Newsletter

WINTER 2016

Shelly Hammen.

KEEPING IT RIGHT

Everyone is aware of the common nuisances, but a friendly reminder never hurts either. No matter how hard an owner tries to keep their pet under control, it is bound to get away at some point or another. By having a tag on them that states their name and either a contact number or address is very helpful for a safe return. If it does soil on another person's property when it is running at large, please be courteous enough to clean-up after it. Running at large and defacing another person's property are both against city code.

With fall coming to an end and winter slowly creeping in, there is bound to be some sort of property maintenance that needs to be done. If you haven't already utilized the city compost site, please do so to get rid of your leaves and other vegetation. On your way out though, please be mindful that the items stay in your vehicle or trailer. Just letting them fall out and litter the road is discourteous to those that travel on that road and defeats the purpose of the compost site. It is illegal to burn anything but untreated wood in city limits.

Trying to figure out which is the worse of the two evils, cleaning up leaves or removing snow/ice, can be a tossup at times. Either way they both need to be done but not removing the snow/ice off your sidewalks and driveways can cause more harm to other residents. It is the property owner's responsibility to remove all precipitation from their sidewalks and driveways within

twenty-four hours of the precipitation's final fall. Putting down ice melt or some sort of substance to help break up the slick surface is also a necessity that is often forgotten but needs to be done.

This is a small community where we all need to work together to make it better. By being conscious of these nuisances and ensuring that you don't do them, is a great step to make the community better. This is very much appreciated by the city and your neighbors.

POOL EMPLOYEES

The pool is always a topic of discussion no matter the time of year. Once the financial area is taken care of, then the next task is finding enough help. If you are at all interested in being a lifeguard, please start getting the information for the classes. The city will pay for your certification if you pass. The only other requirement is that you be at least 16 years of age.

We had concession stand workers for the first time last year and their ability to help cover hours was greatly appreciated. We will also be looking to hire a few people that are at least 15 years of age, for this position, too. We are not currently taking applications for either position, yet, but please keep this in mind when thinking about a summer job.

All City Departments Closed

December 23rd - Holiday

December 26th - Holiday

December 30th - Holiday

February 20th - Holiday

Please remember that we are a small community; therefore, city hall is a one person

office. If it is closed, then please either leave a message on the answering machine or a written note. Payments can be left in the drop box; if you are uncomfortable leaving cash, then there is the option of getting a money order for your payment.

Monthly Library Events

First Tuesday of each month:

10:00 a.m. "Old Files"

2:00 p.m. "Downton Abbey" TV Show

Second Tuesday of each month:

3:45-4:30 p.m. LEGO Club for K-6th grade

Fourth Tuesday of each month:

2:00 p.m. Cooking Club

Early Out Movie Days - check the library website or signs posted for monthly dates!

Upcoming Events

Council Meetings:

December 5 & 19 at 7 p.m.

January 3 & 16 at 7 p.m.

February 6 & 21 at 7 p.m.

March 6 & 20 at 7 p.m.

April 3 & 17 at 7 p.m.

- December 3rd - EagleRock! Cookie Walk, Santa & Mrs. Claus, PTO Gift Baskets Silent Auction, Christmas Fair, Tour of Homes, Festival of Trees and Speech Soup Supper
- December 30th at 7 - Hypnotist/Magician

Keota Unlimited meets the second Monday of each month in the Libertyville Savings Bank conference room at 7 p.m.

Please look in *The Keota Eagle* for other meetings and upcoming events, along with news from the meetings. There is always the city website: <http://www.keotaiowa.org>.