

# McGrath City News

## City Council Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – Sept. meeting held Oct. 3, 2008

- **Representative Sharon Cissna** – Co-Chair of the Legislative Health Caucus - Alaska House of Representatives visited with the council to gain first-hand knowledge of McGrath’s strengths, challenges and issues. Sharon will take the needs of the communities visited on her rural tour, back to the Legislature so that the voice of rural AK is heard.
- **MOTION:** To authorize Clerk-Treasurer Crystal Colley to attend training and the AK Municipal League Conference held Nov. 10-14, 2008 in Ketchikan subsidized by a \$950 scholarship from the AML.  
**VOTE:** 4 of 4 present Yes. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Janitorial services can be either contracted or a person hired as a city employee. Natalie will decide which method is better for the city when applications and proposals are considered.

**VOTE:** 4 of 4 present Yes. Motion carried.



### Welcome Marie!

The city welcomes new employee Marie Graham who has been hired to provide Janitorial Services for the Cap’n Snow Center.

**Photos wanted:** If you have community-interest photos that you would like to see published in the *City News*, email them to the following email: [mcgratcityadmin@gmail.com](mailto:mcgratcityadmin@gmail.com) and they will be considered for future issues.



## Neighbors bid farewell

Mystery Creek Resources leaves Nixon Fork Mine



Mystery Creek Resources have permanently closed down their interests in the Nixon Fork Mine. They made a generous contribution of food from their pantry and freezers to residents of McGrath. A collaborative effort by several agencies was made to develop a list of elders and folks who could really use the food and was completed just in time for delivery of the food. Some elders offered their share of the food to others with more need.

Thank You! To Tanana Air for providing the charter to bring the 1,400# of food from the mine to McGrath. VPSO Ken Parker and Pastor Jim Poelman and families volunteered for the huge job of sorting, repackaging from bulk and delivering the food to about 27 homes. A.C. Co. contributed zip-loc bags which were greatly appreciated.



**AHFC Energy Rebate Program** auditor Keith Clayton and his assistant Jo have been working long hours getting many energy audits completed; 17 as of today. Homeowners have up to 18 months to complete the work. Others wanted to apply for the income-based Weatherization Program, as it does not require cash outlay followed by reimbursement. It appears that McGrath is at least a few years out for eligibility from either TCC or IRHA’s programs. Notices will be posted when the Weatherization program is scheduled for McGrath and to verify that your name is on that list.





## City of McGrath

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All city meetings are held at the Cap'n Snow Center, upstairs in the Assembly Room and are open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

**Planning Commission**  
**Wednesday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Public Safety Comm.**  
**Thursday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00pm**

**Special City Council Meeting**  
**Election certification**  
**Monday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Public Works Comm.**  
**Tuesday Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00pm**

**Volunteer Fire Dept. and**  
**KVRS Joint meeting**  
**Wed. Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Alaska Day – Holiday**  
**Taken Fri Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Administration & Finance**  
**Monday Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

## Highlights of current projects

**FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program** training was held in Anchorage during September and was attended by city administrator Natalie Baumgartner. The training clarified some points and gave the city additional information that will be beneficial as the city continues to share the requirements and benefits of the program with McGrath residents. More information will be sent out on a monthly basis so that everyone has the opportunity to become informed of the individual and community responsibilities. The one main point for us to remember during this "Emergency Phase" of participation (since 2002), is that we are not mapped and **everyone living in the floodplain (i.e. not on the ridge) needs to build with this in mind: the lowest structural material (i.e. floor joist) constructed at or above 340 ft. elevation.** This will prevent flood damage to your structure and lessen risk to life, when we next experience flooding.



**Brrrrrr – Feels like winter is here!**

**Protect your home** by taking preventive measures to button up your water system for freeze-up during cold winter temperatures. If you are going to be gone, for even a few days, during freezing temperatures and do not have someone staying in your home, notify the city and let them know who has a key in case emergency entry is needed.

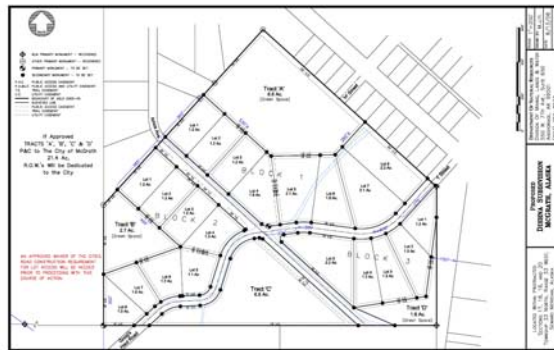
**Keeping Your House Operating**  
**During A Cold Alaskan Winter**  
**Overcoming Utility Freeze-up Problems**

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/freepubs/EM-04955.pdf>

This downloadable publication has excellent advice and was compiled by Francis Mitchell.

## Notes of Interest;

- An appraisal has been completed on the former UAF building.
- National Weather Service water and sewer installations are complete.
- The barge landing/old swimming-hole lot has been cleaned up and is looking nice.
- Nearly all private septic system pumping has been accomplished.
- The second well is being drilled starting this week, located adjacent to the first well next to the Cap'n Snow Center.
- TCC employees, Engineer Trevor White and Remote Maintenance Worker and former McGrath resident Joey Williams are here this week to work with Tom Parker and Duane Norback to clean the main water tank and assist with other water plant work.
- DNR's Dishna Subdivision lots and roads with easements are being surveyed this week. The city will post a Bid Notice soon for the development of an initial road, "I" Street, which will replace the Chinana Ave. to the Boardwalk section of Goog's Haul Road.



Current and past issues of McGrath City News are published online at [www.mcgrathalaska.net](http://www.mcgrathalaska.net) Click on the City Newsletter tab in left column.

The full-color photo-rich Experience McGrath brochure is also available online. Click the icon below or on the website in the right column, as seen below.

