



2009 Fall/Winter Calendar of Events



Compiled By: Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce, 705 North Center Avenue, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452 Phone: (715) 536-9474
Debbe Kinsey, Executive Director; Cheryl Skoug, Office Manager; Jane Koepke, Office Assistant

October - January CONTINUING EVENTS

Indoor Pool Activities Open swims and lap swims Monday thru Friday and family swims on Sunday. Water aerobics for ages 17 & older and swim lessons are available at the Prairie River Middle School pool. Annual, monthly and daily passes are available for adults, students or families. The pool schedule is printed in the Foto News the last week of every month. For more information, contact Sally Pfund, Aquatic Director at 536-4594 ext. 3022.

Open Skating will begin at the MARC on October 30th. Monday thru Friday from 12 - 3 pm, Friday evenings from 7 - 9 pm and Saturday evenings from 6:30 - 9 pm. The cost is \$2 per person and skate rental is also available for \$2. Contact the MARC for more information at 536-7313.

Swimming Lessons are offered at Riverside Athletic Club for infants through adults with all abilities welcome. They provide a great variety of group aquatic classes for everyone such as water exercise classes, Ai-Chi Water Meditation and arthritis classes. Also offered is Pilate's, yoga, body sculpting, step aerobics, strength training and cardiovascular exercise. They also have birthday club pool parties. Call Riverside Athletic Club at 536-2481 for times and prices.

Baby Shower for Life is a non-profit organization started in 1990 by the Lincoln County Chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life and is now under St. Francis Xavier Respect Life Committee. Baby Shower for Life is an on-going project that helps financially hurting families with their new born baby's basic needs, with items such as diapers, wipes, baby powder, oil, lotion, wash, diaper ointment, onesies, sleepers, socks, cap, bottles, bibs, clothes, blankets, toy and nukes. Monetary donations, and as mentioned above, baby items are much appreciated and welcomed by individuals, businesses and organizations. All calls are kept confidential. They look forward to calls from moms and families needing help. To register for help or to donate, call Patti Knab at 536-9231. Donations can also be dropped off at Knab Insurance Agency (1314 East Main Street).

Breakfast Club Enjoy a yummy breakfast monthly at the Merrill Senior Center beginning at 8:30 am followed by a presentation at 9 am. Cost for the event is a \$2 donation. Watch the "What's Happening" newsletter for dates and topics or call Jane or Lorri at 536-4226.

Free Merrill Immunization Clinic will be held at the Lincoln County Health Department, 607 North Sales Street. To schedule an appointment, call 536-0307. No walk-ins please. Every 1st Tuesday from 2 pm to 4 pm.
Every 3rd Wednesday from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Lincoln County Sports Club Monthly Meetings will be held the 4th Thursday of September, October, January, February, March and April. In November, the meeting will be the 2nd Thursday. No meetings in May, June, July August and December. They begin at 7:30 p.m. at the LCSC Clubhouse which is located 6 miles north of Merrill on Schulz Spur Road off County Highway K. Interesting topics/speakers are always on the agenda followed by food, refreshments and door prizes. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Brian Sladek at 536-6979.

Family Resource Center - Play & Learn For children birth to 5 years old and their parents, grandparents or caregivers. Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11 am at the Community Care Center (401 West Main Street, Merrill). Thursdays, 10 - 11:30 am at the Tomahawk Public Library (300 West Lincoln Avenue, Tomahawk).

Ongoing Family Resource Center services:

- Parents as Teachers An early learning program for families with children up to age 3. Monthly in-home visits are provided that include information and activities on child development, literacy and parenting skill-building.
- Parent Aide A 12-week parent support program for families with children up to age 18. During weekly in-home visits, parents are provided information to improve family relationships, increase communication, practice effective discipline and develop family rules that work.
- Warmline A connection to 24-hour parenting information and a link to expert, non-emergency advice on the day-to-day trials of child rearing. Programming is provided free of charge. Call the Family Resource Center at 539-9228 for more details or to register.

Yoga Classes Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 6:45 pm, Friday morning from 9 - 10:15 am and Saturday morning from 8 - 9:15 am. Located at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. You may join class at anytime. For more information or to register, call 539-5090.



OCTOBER

Every Tuesday of the Month - Nia Low-impact aerobics, body-mind-spirit fitness. Nia is a blend of dance, martial arts and healing movement. First class is free! The classes will be held at 6 pm. Cost per session is \$6 or 10 sessions for \$50. All levels of ability are welcome to join the fun. Call 551-1970 for more information or to register. Circle of Joy is located at N2355 Smith Road, Merrill. (Highway 17, ½ mile North of Highway G).

Second Tuesday of the Month - Blood Pressure Check The Merrill Fire Department will take blood pressure from 9:30 - 10 am at the Merrill Senior Center (1004 East First Street). No charge. For more information, call 536-4226.

Second Tuesday of the Month - Living with Grief Monthly drop-in gathering for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. The group will provide a caring community for learning about grief, finding support, sharing memories and identifying feelings. They will meet from 6 - 7:30 pm at Good Samaritan Health Center. There is no fee and no pre-registration is required. For more information, call Sue Kruger at 539-2187.

Every Wednesday of the Month - Health Screens at Good Samaritan Health Center Rehab Services waiting area, 10 - 11 am. Blood pressure checks are free and blood sugar tests are \$1.00. Walk-in service. Call 539-5075 for more details.

Every Wednesday of the Month - Steady & Ready Classes at Good Samaritan Health Center-2nd Floor of Menard Center at 1:30 pm. Exercise and education for individuals who wish to improve their balance. Free. Call 539-2466 for more info.

First Wednesday of the Month - Foot Care Clinic will be held at the Lincoln County Health Department, 607 North Sales Street. There is a \$10 fee for this service. Please call ahead for an appointment at 536-0307.

First and Second Thursday of the Month (Sept. to May) - Multi-Generational Program Volunteers are needed for this program with children from 5-18 years of age. The event is sponsored by the Merrill Senior Center. For more information, call Lorri or Jane at 536-4226.

Every Thursday of the Month - Mommy Café Meets every Thursday from 10:30 am - noon in the 3rd floor waiting room of Good Samaritan Health Center. This is an opportunity for moms with new babies to meet with a nurse and ask questions, get the baby weighed and talk with other new moms. For more information, call Janet at 539-5074.

Every Sunday of the Month - HAVEN Bingo Held at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes beginning at 7 p.m. Don't miss Progressive Bingo for your chance at big winnings! For more information, contact Karen at HAVEN at 536-1300.

October - WRAP - White Ribbon Against Pornography White ribbons are being prepared throughout the County. They are to be placed on mail boxes and tree trunks in front yards to call attention to everyone of the violence, pornography, disrespect and indecency that appears to be so prevalent in our society. It is also a sign that we want to make a difference. This event is sponsored by Citizens for Decency-Lincoln County. For more details, call Marlee at 536-4126.

October 1 - CPR Recertification Classes CPR recertification classes for Heartsavers and Healthcare providers at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Various times and prices. Call Sharon at 539-5089 for more information.

October 1 - Merrill Area Sports Classic Golf event - all golfers must call the Merrill Senior Center to register for the event. It will be held at the Merrill Public Golf Course beginning at 9 am. The Sports Classic is co-sponsored by the Merrill Senior Center and Merrill Area United Way. The cost is \$10 for 9 holes. Call 536-4226 to register.

October 1 - Tenting Tonight: Songs of the Civil War Performance by singer/storyteller Judy Cook. She appears in period dress and accompanies her pieces with projected images and excerpts from the letters of her great-great grandfather, a Wisconsin Civil War soldier. The event will be held at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ (903 East Second Street) beginning at 7 pm. The cost is \$2 per person with tickets available at the Historical Society office (102 East Third Street). For more information, call Marie Rein at 536-7433.

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Money Matters Financial Stewardship Learn tips and techniques for responsible financial decision making. Classes held every Thursday in October from 6:30 - 8 pm at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (1104 East Third Street). For more information, call Kathy at 536-4722.

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 2 X 2's Storytime (ages 24-36 months) will be held on Thursdays at 10 am in the storyhour room of TB Scott Library. This program for children & caregivers includes stories, finger plays and songs. Registration is required; call Linda at 536-7909 for more information.

October 2 - No School

October 2 - "Fireproof" Movie Captain Caleb Holt lives by the old fire fighter's adage: "Never leave your partner behind." Now Caleb must face his toughest job ever...rescuing his wife's heart. Free date night at Trinity School Auditorium (611 West Main Street). Free movie, free popcorn, free desserts, free flavored coffees and beverages. The movie starts at 7 pm. Call 536-5255 or 536-4274 to reserve your seats.

October 3 - 2nd Annual Lincoln Lager Barleyfest at the MARC will feature craft beer and specialty wine tasting, food and music from 2 to 6 pm. Advance tickets \$25 may be purchased at the Merrill Chamber and \$30 at the door. Includes commemorative sampling glass and proceeds benefit the Lincoln County Humane Society and the Merrill Food Pantry. For more information, call the MARC at 536-7313.

October 3 - Thunderdown in the Underdown Bike Race Grab your “wheels” and enter this endurance mountain bike race. There are categories for solo racers and teams to compete on a 7-8 mile course for 3, 6, or 12 hours. This race is part of a statewide series - the Wisconsin Endurance Mountain bike Series (WEMS). For more information, call Ted Tautges at 715-581-0012.

October 3 - Candlelight Walk beginning at 7 pm at Council Grounds State Park. Walk a 2 ½-mile route lit with hundreds of candles. Vehicle admission sticker required. For more information, call 536-8773.

October 4 - Gleason Lions Pancake Breakfast Enjoy a delicious breakfast of regular pancakes, potato pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. It will be held from 7 am - 12 pm in the Lions Building on Bradley Street in Gleason. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. For more information, call Ron at 873-4787.

October 4 - Family Fire Prevention Day - OPEN HOUSE Everyone is invited to Merrill Fire Station #1 (701 East First Street) from 11 am - 2 pm to meet firefighters and paramedics and tour the station and fire trucks. All guests are invited to utilize a fire extinguisher on a live fire, go through a smoke trailer, have their blood pressure screened, spray a real fire hose, try on fire gear, view safety videos, get information on fire safety in homes, meet the “Fire Pup” and enjoy hot dogs, cookies and refreshments. All are welcome! There is no cost for this event. For more info, call Steve Hintze at 536-2233.

October 4 - Journey of Borrowed Grace Phyllis (Pick) Gruetzmacher, Town of Corning native and presently of Bentonville, AR, will be at TB Scott Library from 1 - 3 pm. Beginning at 1 pm Phyllis will talk about her self-published memoir of growing up in Depression-era Lincoln County, Wisconsin, “Journey of Borrowed Grace”. Then at 2 pm, Phyllis will host a workshop on writing “life stories”. All ages are encouraged to attend and bring a pencil and paper to start writing. For more information, call Don at 536-7191.

October 4 - Merrill Marching Competition will be held at the Merrill High School at 1 pm and the cost is approximately \$7. The Marching Band Competition features 14 - 16 bands from Wisconsin Class A through AAAA. It is sponsored by the Marching Jays Band Boosters. For more information, call Kevin Short at 536-4594 or Jennifer at 539-2728.

October 4-10 - National 4-H Week Whether it’s learning to build and shoot off a rocket, raising a prize animal to show at a county fair, honing skills as a photographer, or riding a horse, there’s something to interest every youth in 4-H. For more information, contact Amanda Kostman or Debbie Moellendorf at UW-Extension Office at 539-1072.

October 5, 12, 19, 26 - Lunch Bunch Story Time & Crafts After Monday Tot Time, enjoy lunch with story time and a craft. The Smith Center will provide everything you need to build your own sandwich plus a side dish with juice and a treat. While you eat, you’ll be read a story and after lunch do a craft to go with the story. It will begin at 11 am in the Smith Center Multi-Purpose Room and the cost is \$10. For more information, call the Smith Center at 536-7313.

October 5 & 19 - MAPS Fiscal Advisory Council Meetings This council is being formed to assist the Merrill Area School District as we develop the 2010-11 Budget. Each meeting will be highly structured, informative and interactive to maximize the quality use of time. The meetings will be held at the MAPS Central Office Board Room from 4 - 6 pm. Please RSVP to Tammy Woller at 536-4581 ext. 1302 or email her at tammy.woller@maps.k12.wi.us.

October 6 - Patriot 730 Senior Expo held at the Smith Center from 9 am - 1 pm. The second annual Patriot 730 Senior Expo will offer information on services, health care, insurance, investments, activities, entertainment & more. Open to all seniors. The first 300 attendees will receive a reusable tote bag from presenting sponsor Marshfield Clinic with items included from sponsors Vigil Trust and Financial Advocacy and Patriot Country WJMT. Those attending the expo will also be able to take advantage of free health screenings, coupons for savings at a number of local businesses and special door prizes. For more info, call Christine Vorpapel at 536-6262.

October 6 - Merrill Youth Hockey Open House Meet your coach and Board officers, register for the season, pick up equipment and get your schedule from 6 - 8 pm. Check out their website at www.merrillhockey.com or call Cheryl Skoug at 536-2608.

October 6 & 13 - Computer Coaching Improve your computer skills--even if you don't have any--in a low-stress, small-group setting. Library staff offers over-the-shoulder help to advance big or baby steps with, using a mouse, a keyboard, the Web or other computer applications. Sponsored by the TB Scott Free Library from 10 - 11:30 am. Space is limited--to make a reservation, call the Adult Reference Desk - 536-7191.

October 7 - My Life's Journey This class was created in 2004 by Jane A. Deau. It’s designed to help you create your “journey” documentation in book or video form. Two class times are available at the TB Scott Library - 1 pm and 6:30 pm. The event is sponsored by the Merrill Senior Center and TB Scott Library. Call Jane Deau at 536-4226 for more information.

October 7-28 - Childbirth Series Held each Wednesday at the GSHC-Menard Center from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The fee is \$40 and this 4 week series is open to all area couples. For more information or to register, call Janet at 539-5074.

October 7, 14, 21, 28 - Preschool Storytime This storytime program is being offered to children ages 3 to 5 years old not yet in kindergarten. Storytime will be held Wednesdays at 10 am at the TB Scott Library in the storyhour room. Call 536-7909 for more information.

October 8 - Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will perform a classical music concert at the Merrill High School Auditorium. This event is sponsored by the Merrill Area Concert Association. Admission requires a season membership to the Merrill Concert Association. The concert begins at 7 pm. For more information regarding the concert or association membership, call Meagan Cihlar at 715-252-6295.

October 8 - Family Night Storytime at 6:30 p.m. with Jenny Thorson in the Youth Services Department at T.B. Scott Library. For more information, call 536-7909.

October 8 - Fall Prevention Program Learn to take medications safely, sitting and standing exercises and discuss assistive devices. Presenters will be from Aurora Pharmacy and Pine Crest Nursing Home. The program will take place at the Lincoln County Service Center from 1:30 - 3 pm and there is no cost. For more details, call Tammi Boers at 539-1373.

October 8 & 15 - Computer Coaching Improve your computer skills--even if you don't have any--in a low-stress, small-group setting. Library staff offers over-the-shoulder help to advance big or baby steps with, using a mouse, a keyboard, the Web or other computer applications. Sponsored by the TB Scott Free Library from 1 - 2:30 pm. Space is limited--make a reservation by calling the Adult Reference Desk at 536-7191.

October 9-11 - Oktoberfest Take a twirl on the large wooden dance floor while listening to top-notch polka bands like The Music Connection, Karl's Country Dutchmen, Mark Jirikovec Orchestra, Gary & the Ridgeland Dutchmen and The Good Time Dutchmen. The event will be held inside the Smith Center at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex. Daily admission on Friday & Sunday is \$10 per person & Saturday is \$12 per person or weekend passes are available for \$25 per person. The bands will be performing from 6 pm - midnight on Friday, noon - 10 pm on Saturday & noon - 6 pm on Sunday. Food, drinks and camping are also available on the grounds. For more information, call the MARC at 536-7313.

October 10 - Cemetery Walk A cemetery tour of burial sites of Merrill Civil War veterans. Presenters, Civil War re-enactors, a choir performing period songs and displays honoring the lives and contributions of two Merrill Civil War re-enactors. Light refreshments will be served. The event will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery beginning at 2 pm. For more information, call Marie Rein at 536-7433.

October 10 - 4-H Project Discovery Day Youth from throughout the county are invited to attend this event to learn about the variety of projects they can participate in through 4-H. This will take place at the Lincoln County Service Center from 9 am - 1:30 pm. A brochure and registration form will be available by contacting the UW-Extension at 539-1072.

October 11 - Crop Walk 2009 This annual walk begins & ends at Christ United Methodist Church (300 North Mill Street). Registration is at 1 pm with the 3K or 5K walks beginning at 1:30 pm. All walkers have pledge sheets. All monies collected will go towards Church World Service to meet needs of hunger/poverty stricken areas. 25% of collected monies are given to the Food Pantry in Merrill, which helps to meet local hunger needs and concerns. For more information, call Sharon at 539-2024.

October 13 - Rural Women's Event Women of all ages are invited to be refreshed and re-energized. Take advantage of a variety of health screenings, enjoy a light supper and be entertained by keynote speaker, Mary Bub, Executive Director of WI Rural Women's Initiative, Inc. The event is co-hosted by Aspirus Wausau Hospital and Children's Service Society of Wisconsin. It will be held at The Arena (1212 Center Avenue) from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. For more information, call the Family Resource Center at 539-9228.

October 15 - Merrill Area Sports Classic Bowling event - all bowlers must call the Merrill Senior Center to register for the event. It will be held at Lincoln Lanes beginning at 9 am. The Sports Classic is sponsored by the Merrill Senior Center. The cost is \$7.50 for 3 games. Call 536-4226 to register.

October 15 - Kiddie Cookie & Craft Club This class will be held at the Smith Center for children ages 1-5. Cost is \$2 per child. Come and have some fun with us creating spooky crafts and decorating delicious cookies! All you need is a creative imagination and a smile on your face! For more info, call Park & Recreation at 536-7313.

October 17 - 4-H Fun Bowling Day 4-H members are encouraged to participate and bring a friend in this fun afternoon of bowling at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes from 1 - 3 pm. The cost is \$7 for unlimited games and shoe rental. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required by Monday, October 5th. For more information, call the UW-Extension at 539-1072.

October 17 - Rock for a Reason Over 13 bands will be performing at the Smith Center to benefit the United Way. The event begins at 3 pm until 12 midnight and the cost is \$10 at the door. This is a non-alcoholic, non-smoking event sponsored by the Merrill Octagon Club, Hugo's Pizza, AmericInn, Optimist Club and the Smith Center.

October 18 - Potato & Regular Pancake Benefit held at the Eagle's Club (1205 North Lake Street) from 9 am - 1 pm. Adults are \$6, children ages 6-12 are \$3 and 5 and under are free. This is a benefit to assist local residents with medical expenses and is sponsored by Merrill Eagles Aerie & Auxiliary 584. Contact Scott at 536-2231 for more details.

October 19 - HCE Fall Council Meeting will begin at 9:30 am with a program called "Finding and Giving Comfort in a Cranky World" by Brenda Janke. All members are asked to bring 1 quart of chili plus an appetizer for the chili dump at 11:45 am. The meeting will take place at the Lincoln County Service Center. For more info, call Lorene at 536-8050.

October 20 - Why Do They Act That Way? Having a hard time understanding what makes your teens think, feel and act the way they do? Learn how their brain works and gain some insight into why they do what they do. Presented by Jennifer Smith, UW-Cooperative Extension. The program will take place at the Merrill Family Resource Center (401 West Main Street) from 6 - 7:30 pm. For more information call 539-9228.

October 22 - Prostate Exams Free exams and blood work for men over 40. Exams are provided by Urology Specialists of Wisconsin from 2 - 5 pm at the Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Call 539-5089 to register (registration required).

October 23 - Family Night Out Encourages families to come together for a wonderful evening to have a great meal catered by Bob's Catering. There's always seconds and children under 5 are free. Entertainment provided by Central Wisconsin Children's Theater, local comedian John Mile and juggler John Kilgust. The special speaker for the evening is Mr. Steven L. Johnson, Licensed professional counselor eager to speak to families about the effects of pornography on the family. The event will be held at Ott's Garage (805 East Main Street) beginning at 6 pm. The cost will be approximately \$8.75 per person and is sponsored by Citizens for Decency, Lincoln County. For more details, call Marlee at 536-4126.

October 24 - Make a Difference Day Volunteers “make a difference” in this annual event when they volunteer their time to complete projects for folks in need. Registration will be at 8:45 am at the Prairie River Middle School. Projects will take place from 9 am - noon and at noon there will be lunch for the volunteers. Call 536-9593 for more information.

October 24 - 4-H Recognition Banquet This banquet will recognize everyone who made the Lincoln County 4-H Program a success in 2008-09. 4-H members will also share their Older Your trip experience through displays. The banquet will be held at Schult’s Country Inn beginning at 6 pm. For more details, call the UW-Extension at 539-1072.

October 24 - Haunted Trail Walk Take a mysterious night hike through the trails at the MARC. Experience the eerie forest paths at night. The walk will start at 5:30 pm at the playground by the ball diamond and half way through the trail you will hop aboard a hay wagon and ride back to the campfire for some vampire s’mores and bubbly witch’s brew. Recommended for ages 7 and up and there will be no touching or grabbing. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call the Smith Center at 536-7313.

October 25-November 1 - National Pornography Awareness Week (White Ribbons Against Porn) Campaign Awareness to the communities will be made in the newspapers - white ribbons will be given out in some churches. For more information, call Marlee Schreiber at 536-4126.

October 26 - Little Wonders Join other parents-to-be and parents with babies age birth to 1 for this fun and informative program on Monday evenings. Share the wonder of parenthood in a community of support, knowledge and friendship. The program runs from 6 - 7:30 pm at the Merrill Family Resource Center (401 West Main Street) until November 30th. Call 539-9228 for more information.

October 27 - Trinity Lutheran Musical Grades 4 - 8 will perform a 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm musical performance. Sub sandwich meal will be served from 4:30 - 6 pm at the church (107 North State Street). Free transportation will be provided if needed. For more information, call the school 536-7501.

October 27 - The Life of Mary Todd Lincoln Lew Mallow, Civil War scholar, shares his research on Mary Todd Lincoln in a program highlighted by visuals and period music. The event is sponsored by the Merrill Historical Society and Merrill Free Masons-Virginia Falls Lodge. It will be held at the Heritage Center (100 East Third Street) at 7 pm. There is no cost. For more information, call Marie Rein at 536-7433.

October 27 - Volunteer Links Day This event will link residents and other interested individuals with volunteer opportunities at agencies throughout the county. Local agencies will have information available about their volunteer needs in the Community Room at the TB Scott Free Library from 2 - 4 pm. For more info, contact Art Lersch at 539-1072.

October 28 - Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce 9th Annual Banquet & Fun Night will be held at Les & Jim’s Lincoln Lanes. Registration & Social Hour begin at 5:30 pm and dinner will be at 6:30 pm. Join us for the membership appreciation program, raffles and entertainment. Reservations due by October 16th. Contact the Merrill Chamber of Commerce at 536-9474 for more details.

October 28 - Savvy Caregiver Program This is a unique approach to family caregiver education. It has been developed by clinicians and educators who understand that caregiving is based on strategy; throughout the program caregivers are urged to learn, develop and modify strategies that will be used to accomplish the goal for their situation. The program will be held at the Merrill Senior Center (1004 East First Street) from 10 am - 2:30 pm. There is no fee - lunch and refreshments will be served. It is funded through a grant from the Merrill United Way. Pre-registration is required by calling 715-362-7779.

October 29 - Stretching the Family Dollar It’s getting harder for families to make ends meet. At this free workshop you can learn ways to make your family’s money go farther and last longer. Presented by Brenda Janke, Family Living Educator. It will run from 6 - 7:30 pm at the Tomahawk Library (300 West Wisconsin Avenue). For more info, call 539-9228.

October 29-30 - No School

October 30 - Halloween Party This party is for all ages and will be held at the Smith Center on the ice from 9 - 11 am. Sponsored by Merrill Parks & Recreation. Don’t miss the fun!! Dress in your favorite costumes, there will be prizes and a DJ rink side. Call 536-7313 for more information.

October 30-31 - Friends of the TB Scott Library Book Sale Thousands of donated and withdrawn books for sale. On the 29th, there will be a special preview sale for the Friends of the Library from 6:30 - 8 pm. Call the library to become a friend and take part in the “special” sale. On the 30th, the sale will run from 9:45 am - 5 pm and on the 31st the sale will be from 9:45 am - 3 pm with a ½ price sale from 12 - 3 pm that day. For more information, call the library at 536-7191.

October 31 - Trunk to Trunk Treating This event will be from in the Trinity parking lot (107 North State Street). Children and families of the community are invited for an afternoon of sweet treats and fun. The parking lot will be lined with cars and trucks filled with candy with the costumed owners of the vehicles dispensing the goodies. Cost: Free. For more information, contact Sandy at 536-7655.

October 31 - Halloween Trick or Treat hours for the city of Merrill will be from 2-5 pm.

October 31 - Merrill Optimist Club Trick or Treat Parades The little ones will be able to visit Jenny Towers, Park Place, Bell Tower Residence and Pine Crest to get some yummy treats! The locations will be open from 3 - 5 pm.

October 31 - Psychic Faire Featuring 6 to 9 seers whose disciplines may include aura photography, astrology, graphology, dowsing, tarot cards, rune cards, palmistry, intuition, crystal scrying, aura reading, spirit portraits, numerology, tea reading and energy work. The event will take place at Rivers Edge from 10 am - 5 pm. Appointments suggested, walk-ins welcome. Fees and durations vary. For more details, call Lauree at 536-2270.

October 30 - Tiny Tots Halloween Party will be held at the Smith Center from 9 - 11 am. Cost: Free. Bring your little ones in their cutest or scariest costumes. There will be games to play and treats to collect. For more info, call Park & Recreation at 536-7313.

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

November - December - Tree of Hope The East & West Side Fire Stations will be accepting new toys or monetary donations to be given to Merrill area children in mid December. The Merrill Fire Department, Wal-Mart and HAVEN are combining efforts with area churches, agencies and businesses to sponsor this event. For more details, call Mike Drury at the Merrill Fire Station at 536-2233.

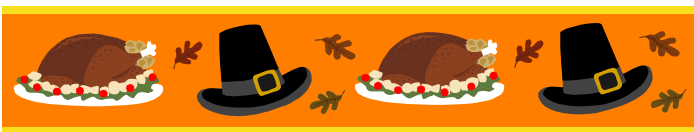
November - December - Mitten Tree will be at Miller Home Furnishings again this year. Donations of mittens, scarves, hats and socks for children can be dropped off there during regular business hours. The donations will be delivered for Christmas. Miller Home Furnishings, Merrill Fire Department and HAVEN are combining efforts with area churches, agencies and businesses to sponsor this event. For more information, call Wally at 536-5922.

November - December - Care Tree is at Courtside Furniture. You can purchase a gift and take it to the Care Tree at Courtside Furniture. Please specify if it is for a girl or boy, man or woman and their age. You can also purchase a gift certificate from any local grocery store and donate it to a family at the Care Tree. Courtside Furniture, WJMT/WMZK, Merrill Fire Department and HAVEN are combining efforts with area churches, agencies and businesses to sponsor this event. For more info, call Courtside Furniture at 536-8954.

November 14 - December - Love Lite Tree Purchase a "lite" in memory of a loved one or in honor of persons or groups. A tag will be displayed on the Love Lite Tree in the Good Samaritan Health Center lobby. For more information, call Ramona Hornischer at 539-3720.

Mid-November - December - Smiley Tree at Wal-Mart Select a tag off the tree out at Wal-Mart for a boy or girl & buy a gift and fulfill some child's dream. The gifts will be distributed mid December at the Merrill Fire Station. Wal-Mart, Merrill Fire Department and HAVEN are combining efforts with area churches, agencies and businesses to sponsor this event. For more information, call 536-2414.

Thru December - Sharing Christmas Spirit 2009 Delivery of food and gifts to older adults and disabled residents in Lincoln County who are spending the holidays alone. Delivery date is set for December 23. Deliveries are made by volunteer drivers. Call the Merrill Senior Center at 536-4226 to register, donate items or for more information.



NOVEMBER

November 1 - Gleason Lions Pancake Breakfast Enjoy a delicious breakfast of regular pancakes, potato pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. It will be held from 7 am - 12 pm in the Lions Building on Bradley Street in Gleason. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. For more information, call Ron at 873-4787.

November 1 - 28th Annual Potato/Buttermilk Pancake Dinner will be held from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Hwy K South. All you can eat potato and buttermilk pancake dinner. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids 6 -12 yrs., 5 & under free. For more information, call Ralph Buch at 536-5443.

November 2 - MAPS Fiscal Advisory Council Meetings This council is being formed to assist the Merrill Area School District as we develop the 2010-11 Budget. Each meeting will be highly structured, informative and interactive to maximize the quality use of time. The meetings will be held at the MAPS Central Office Board Room from 4 - 6 pm. Please RSVP to Tammy Woller at 536-4581 ext. 1302 or email her at tammy.woller@maps.k12.wi.us.

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Little Wonders Join other parents-to-be and parents with babies age birth to 1 for this fun and informative program on Monday evenings. Share the wonder of parenthood in a community of support, knowledge and friendship. The program runs from 6 - 7:30 pm at the Merrill Family Resource Center (401 West Main Street) until November 30th. Call 539-9228 for more information.

November 4 - Savvy Caregiver Program This program is a unique approach to family caregiver education. It has been developed by clinicians and educators who understand that caregiving is based on strategy; throughout the program caregivers are urged to learn, develop and modify strategies that will be used to accomplish the goal for their situation. The program will be held at the Merrill Senior Center (1004 East First Street) from 10 am - 2:30 pm. There is no fee - lunch and refreshments will be served. It is funded through a grant from the Merrill United Way. Pre-registration is required by calling 715-362-7779.

November 4, 11, 18 - Preschool Storytime This storytime program is being offered to children ages 3 to 5 years old not yet in kindergarten. Storytime will be held Wednesdays at 10 am at the TB Scott Library in the storyhour room. Call 536-7909 for more information.

November 5 - CPR Recertification Classes CPR recertification classes for Heartsavers and Healthcare providers at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Various times and prices. Call Sharon at 539-5089 for more information.

November 6 - No School

November 7 - Boomers Hunters Raffle will begin at 2 pm. The event is sponsored by Merrill Eagles Aerie 584. Lunch, door prizes and other raffles will be available. Tickets are \$25 each. For more information, call Scott at 536-7471.

November 7 - Lutefisk Dinner & Bake Sale Join Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (300 Logan Street) Buffet style Scandinavian meal and bake sale. Dinner will be from noon to 4 p.m. Call Kathi Peterson at 536-5813 for more information.

November 7 - Church Mutual 14th Annual Craft Fair The 14th Annual Church Mutual Craft Fair will be held at Church Mutual Insurance Company (3000 Schuster Lane) from 8 am - 2 pm. There will be a large variety of handmade crafts and baked goods. Cost: Free. For more information, contact Michelle Schwartzman or Lori Baumann at 536-5577.

November 7 - Turkey Trot Registration for this 3-4 mile run/walk begins at the Shelter house inside Council Grounds State Park at 9 am with the run/walk beginning at 10 am. You have to guess your time on how long it will take you to finish the course – winner will be the closest on to the time guessed. Prizes for winners according to age group. No cell phones or watches will be allowed during the event. The cost is \$15 per person or \$40 per family. The cost includes a t-shirt and concessions will also be available. (For those that do not have a State Park Admission sticker, the Merrill Go Round will pick participants up at the Smith Center at 8:30 am for a free ride to the shelter house and you will receive a free ride back to your vehicle at the end of the event. For more information, call the Smith Center 536-7313.

November 7 - Shop Till You Drop Poker Run Stop in at any of the participating stores for great deals and a chance to win prizes. Watch for the ads in the local papers for participating stores and details. For more information, contact Tony at Courtside Furniture at 536-8954.

November 7 - Riverside Athletic Club 7th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair Sale hours are 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. If you are interested in being a vendor the cost is \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members. Call Patti at 536-2481 with any questions or to reserve a space.

November 9 - Infant Massage will be held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center at 6:30 pm. This course will teach parents infant massage techniques. The fee is \$10, registration required. For more info or to register, call Carol at 539-5075.

November 10 - Computer Coaching Improve your computer skills--even if you don't have any--in a low-stress, small-group setting. Library staff offers over-the-shoulder help to advance big or baby steps with, using a mouse, a keyboard, the Web or other computer applications. Sponsored by the TB Scott Free Library from 10 - 11:30 am. Space is limited--to make a reservation, call the Adult Reference Desk - 536-7191.

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 11 - Veterans Day Assembly held at the Prairie River Middle School Auditorium at 8:30 am.

November 12 - Computer Coaching Improve your computer skills--even if you don't have any--in a low-stress, small-group setting. Library staff offers over-the-shoulder help to advance big or baby steps with, using a mouse, a keyboard, the Web or other computer applications. Sponsored by the TB Scott Free Library from 1 - 2:30 pm. Space is limited--make a reservation by calling the Adult Reference Desk at 536-7191.

November 12 - Family Night Storytime at 6:30 p.m. with Joni Hahn in the Youth Services Department at T.B. Scott Library. For more information, call 536-7909.

November 12 - Initial Training for Healthcare Provider CPR Held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. The cost is \$50. For more information or to register, call Sharon at 539-5089.

November 12 & 17 - Prairie River Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held from 4 - 7 pm in the PRMS Fieldhouse.

November 14 - Holly Time Bazaar This is the 31st year for the Good Samaritan Volunteers event! It will feature crafts, baked goods, cookies and candy by the pound, used jewelry, used Christmas decorations, grab bags for all ages, silent auction and a raffle. It will be held at Good Samaritan Health Center from 9 am - 3 pm. There is no cost for admission. This is the Good Sam Volunteers major fundraiser for the year, with all proceeds going toward their project for the Hospital and its patients. For more details, call Ramona at 539-3720.

November 14 - 18th Annual Bell Tower Residence Annual Craft Fair Over 20 outside crafters selling homemade items including Holiday decorations, candles, jewelry, wood items candy, mittens, scarves, quilts, baked goods & much more. The event will be from 9 am to 3 pm in Assisi Hall (1500 O'Day Street). Cost: Free. For more information, call 536-5575. Citizens for Decency-Lincoln County will have crafts and bakery on sale & made by members and supporters of Citizens for Decency, Lincoln County. If you are interested in helping their fundraising table by baking or making some craft items, call Marlee at 536-4126.

November 14 - Barbary Coast Dixieland Band will be performing at the Merrill High School Auditorium. This event is sponsored by the Merrill Area Concert Association. Admission requires a season membership to the Merrill Concert Association. The concert begins at 7 pm. They will also be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Sunday morning for the church service. For more info regarding the concert or association membership, call Meagan Cihlar at 715-252-6295.

November 14 & 15 - Eagles State Mid-Year Conference For more information, call Scott at 536-7471.

November 17 - Ozark Jubilee The Merrill Senior Center is taking a Lamers Bus to the Homestead Inn for supper and on to the Grand Theater for an Ozark Jubilee event. The cost is \$53 which includes transportation, show ticket and your meal. Call the Senior Center to reserve your spot at 536-4226.

November 17 - Breastfeeding Class For those planning or considering breastfeeding. The cost for the class is \$10 and is held at 6:30 pm at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Call Janet at 539-5074 to register.

November 19 - "Not Just Ancestry: Genealogy Resources on the Internet" Don Litzer will present this program at the monthly meeting of the North Pines Genealogy Group in the library's Board Room. The program begins at 6 pm and there is no charge. All are welcome. For more information, call Don at the library, 536-7191.

November 19 - Prairie River Middle School Choir Concert will be held in the PRMS Auditorium beginning at 7:30 pm.

November 20 - Disco Deer Open Skate This party is for all ages and will be held at the Smith Center on the ice from 7 - 9 am. Sponsored by Merrill Parks & Recreation. Don't miss the fun!! There will be prizes and a DJ rink side. Call 536-7313 for more information.

November 21-29 - Deer Hunting (Rifle) Season Begins Good Luck Hunters!

November 25-27 - No School

November 24 - CPR for Family & Friends The training includes learning CPR for adults, child & infant and how to deal with choking. There is no testing and the training will not provide certification. Class will be held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center from 6-9 pm. Cost is \$10/person. Space is limited. To register, call Carol at 539-5075.

November 26 - Happy Thanksgiving

November 26 - Thanksgiving Day Dinner Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Meals at St. John Lutheran Church (1104 East Third Street) or home delivered meals. All reservations must be made at the Merrill Senior Center by calling 536-4226.



DECEMBER

December 2, 9, 16, 23 - Preschool Storytime This storytime program is being offered to children ages 3 to 5 years old not yet in kindergarten. Storytime will be held Wednesdays at 10 am at the TB Scott Library in the storyhour room. Call 536-7909 for more information.

December 3 - CPR Recertification Classes CPR recertification classes for Heartsavers and Healthcare providers at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Various times and prices. Call Sharon at 539-5089 for more information.

December 3 - "Get Away" to Eau Claire The Merrill Senior Center is getting away for the day! The group will leave the Wal-Mart parking lot at 8 am and head to the Oakwood Mall returning around 5 pm. The cost is \$23/ person and seating is limited to 45, call 536-4226 to reserve your seat.

December 5 - Santa's Secret Shop & Book Fair Students of all ages can shop for holiday gifts with the assistance of adult "elves". Parents wait outside while children find gifts from 25¢ - \$12. Coffee and donuts are served for everyone and a Scholastic Book Fair will also be available. Visit the Kate Goodrich Cafeteria and Gym from 9 am - 12 pm. For more information, call Maxine Tlusty at 536-5233 ext 7123.

December 5 - Holiday Parade Be sure to attend Merrill's Christmas Parade...it's one of the best around! The Parade will begin at 5 pm and is made up of many twinkling holiday floats with great holiday decorations. Santa will be at the parade for all children both young and old. At the end of the parade, over 50,000 tree lights will be turned on at the Courthouse. What a beautiful sight to be seen over a mile away. Call 536-9474 for details.

December 5 - Customer Appreciation Day Several downtown merchants welcome customers before the parade with treats and great Holiday sales.

December 5 - Saturday Childbirth Class will be held from 9 am - 5 pm at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. The fee is \$40 and registration is required. To register, call Janet at 539-5074.

December 5 - Park Lane Manor Luminaria Enjoy a wagon ride around the neighborhood seeing the holiday decorations and listening to Christmas music. Stop in Assisi Hall for hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn. The event will be from 6 - 8 pm. and will take place at Park Lane Manor neighborhood and Bell Tower Residence. Wagon rides will begin behind Bell Tower Residence. Free will donations will be taken. For more information, contact Linda at 536-5575.

December 5 & 6 - O'Tannenbaum Tour This holiday event will be held at the Arena Restaurant from 10 am - 8 pm on Saturday and 10 am - 3 pm on Sunday. Enjoy a decorated Christmas tree tour with raffles, silent auction on trees and gift baskets. Drawings held at 3:15 pm on Sunday. Cost: Adults-\$3; Children 6 to 12-\$1. Money will be donated to 4-H projects. For more information, call Sue Kunkel at 536-3209.

December 7 - Jefferson Elementary Christmas Concert The concert will be held at Prairie River Middle School. The concert for Grades K-2 begins at 6 pm and Grades 3-5 concert will begin at 7 pm.

December 8 - Maple Grove Elementary Christmas Concert The concert will be held at Prairie River Middle School. The concert for grades K-5 begins at 7 pm. For more information, call Linda Hass at 536-7684.

December 10 - Kate Goodrich Christmas Choir Concert The concert will be held at Merrill High School. The concert for Kindergarten begins at 7 pm with the 1st & 2nd grade holiday mini-musical to follow. For more information, call Barb Ziemke at 536-5233 ext 7188.

December 10 - Family Night Storytime & Craft Night at 6:30 pm in the Youth Services Department at TB Scott Library. For more information, call 536-7909.

December 10 - Initial Training for Heartsaver CPR Held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. The cost is \$50. For more information, call Sharon at 539-5089.

December 12 - Breakfast with Santa and Sleigh Rides Breakfast with Santa and sleigh rides will be at the Smith Center. Rick Dorn providing sleigh rides again this year. Breakfast will be served from 8 - 11 am. The cost is free, but you must pre-register. For more information, call Park & Recreation at 536-7313.

December 12 - Outdoor Living Nativity Remember the true meaning of Christmas by visiting the live Nativity located in Trinity Lutheran Church Parking Lot. Members of Trinity will be in costume portraying Mary, Joseph, the angels and shepherds with live animals to lend authenticity to the scene. The event will begin at 4 pm with a soup meal served inside the Church also beginning at 4 pm. For more information, call 536-4274.

December 12 - Living River Christmas Concert Gospel quartet Living River celebrates the incarnation of Jesus Christ in song. The concert will be held at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (1104 East Third Street) beginning at 5:30 pm. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, call Kathy at 536-4722.

December 13 - *Santa Lucia Christmas Concert* 4th annual holiday concert honoring Heritage Center's Swedish roots. A variety of musical performers followed by traditional Swedish refreshments. This free concert will be held at the Heritage Center (100 East Third Street) beginning at 4 pm. For more information, call Marie Rein at 536-7433.

December 14 - *Prairie River Middle School Beginner Band Concert* The 6th Grade Band will perform in the PRMS Auditorium at 7 pm.

December 15 - *Kate Goodrich Christmas Choir Concert* The concert will be held at Merrill High School. The concert for 3rd grade begins at 7 pm with the 4th & 5th grade musical presentation to follow. For more information, call Barb Ziemke at 536-5233 ext 7188.

December 24 - *Christmas Pageant* Join us for a local favorite, the children's Christmas pageant. The performance will be held at 3 pm at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (1104 East Third Street). For more details, call Kathy at 536-4722.

December 24 - *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* Come celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Savior of the World, with a traditional candlelight service. Services will be held at 7 pm and 10 pm at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (1104 East Third Street). For more details, call Kathy at 536-4722.

December 24-January 3 - *Christmas Break* for all Merrill Students.

December 25 - *Christmas Day* Merry Christmas from the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce staff!

December 31 - *New Year's Eve* Happy New Year to all from the Merrill Chamber!



JANUARY

January 1 - *New Year's Day* Happy New Year from the Merrill Chamber staff.

January 6, 13, 20, 27 - *Preschool Storytime* This storytime program is being offered to children ages 3 to 5 years old not yet in kindergarten. Storytime will be held Wednesdays at 10 am at the TB Scott Library in the storyhour room. Call 536-7909 for more information.

January 6-27 - *Childbirth Series* Held each Wednesday at the Good Samaritan-Menard Center from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The fee is \$40 and this 4 week series is open to all area couples. For more information or to register, call Janet at 539-5074.

January 7 - *CPR Recertification Classes* CPR recertification classes for Heartsavers and Healthcare providers at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Various times and prices. Call Sharon at 539-5089 for more information.

January 9 - *Merrill Ice Drag Races Test Day* will be held at Council Grounds State Park. State Park admission sticker required. A 1/8-mile strip of ice will be cleared off at the boat landing for car and truck racing. No admission for spectators. Pit Passes are available for \$10. Registration is from 8 - 11 am with races starting at 12 noon. Dates are subject to change due to weather. For more information, call Tim Gritzmacher at 715-693-2043.

January 9 & 10 - *Pine River Sled Dog Races* will be held at Pine River School beginning at 10 am on Saturday and at 9 am on Sunday. This International Sled Dog Racing Association sanctioned event draws mushers from all over the Midwest and Canada. The Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club sponsors this event. Free admission. Call Doris at 715-479-8047 or Ron Behm at 715-873-4787 for more information.

January 11 - *Infant Massage* will be held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center at 6:30 pm. This course will teach parents infant massage techniques. The fee is \$10, registration required. For more info or to register, call Carol at 539-5075.

January 14 - *Initial Training for Healthcare Provider CPR* Held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. The cost is \$50. For more information or to register, call Sharon at 539-5089.

January 16 & 17 - *Merrill Ice Reflections Skating Show "Night at the Cinema"* will be held at the Smith Center ice rink at the MARC. Show times are Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday at 1 pm. Admission is \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door. The Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club is sponsoring the event. The annual figure skating show put on by Merrill's figure skating club show casing the talents of our area figure skaters from ages 4 through adult. For more information, call Willow at 536-1508 or Sharon at 536-7679 or 536-2441.

January 16, 23, 30 - *Merrill Ice Drag Races* will be held at Council Grounds State Park. State Park admission sticker required. No admission for spectators. Pit Passes are available for \$10. Registration is from 8 - 11 am with races starting at 12:00 noon. Dates are subject to change due to weather. Championships will be held on February 6th and Grudge Matches on February 13th. For more details, call Tim Gritzmacher at 715-693-2043.

January 19 - *Breastfeeding Class* For those planning or considering breastfeeding. The cost for the class is \$10 and is held at 6:30 pm at Good Samaritan-Menard Center. Call Janet at 539-5074 to register.

January 22 - *No School*

January 26 - *CPR for Family & Friends* The training includes learning CPR for adults, child & infant and how to deal with choking. There is no testing and the training will not provide certification. Class will be held at Good Samaritan-Menard Center from 6-9 pm. Cost is \$10/person. Space is limited. To register, call Carol at 539-5075.