

The River Bend

DECEMBER 2014

From the Director

Michael A. Bates

A Gift of Confidence:

The Holiday Season is now upon us. It's that special time of the year that many of us look forward to celebrating with our families and closest friends. It is also a time for making plans to go out and spend money on gifts for you, your family and special friends. There are however special gifts that money cannot buy and, they are without a doubt essential to having a full, happy, prosperous and productive life. These special gifts unfortunately you won't find them on a shelf at a Wal-Mart, on Amazon.com, on E-Bay, nor at Target. Where I hope and pray you will find what I'm about to discuss is within oneself. These special gifts are none other than a positive self-esteem and self-confidence.

Believing in oneself can make the difference between living up to one's potential rather than living beneath one's potential. All of your successful business, entertainment, sports and political leaders all share one thing in common – they all possess an attitude of confidence with faith in themselves. Believing in one's own abilities to get you anything and to take you anywhere is so incredibly important in life. A positive self-esteem gives you self-control, an identity and inner-strength to overcome life's many unforeseen difficult challenges and changes. A positive self-esteem is a gift which gives one the edge in relationships, on your job, in the classroom and among your peers.

During the holiday season let's invest in a personal gift that will last much longer than a material item from a store. Let's learn to believe more in ourselves. And begin to surround ourselves with positive thinkers and doers. A truly happy holiday season begins first with being happy with oneself.

Happy Holidays to All!

New Housing Manager at GHA

The Gallatin Housing is happy to announce the hiring of a new Public Housing Manager. Kelly Hennessy-Pierce previously served as the Administrative Assistant since April, 2014. Kelly will be managing homes on Lackey Circle, Alexander Court, Pace Street, Lake Street, Small Street, Blythe Street, Owen Drive, Chambers Circle. Kelly is a Gallatin native and spent the last 5 years working in social services in Sumner County. If you have any questions about the change in your case worker please feel free to call our Gallatin office at (615)452-1661.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Calendar 2

Local Events 3

**Christmas
Lights** 4

**Christmas
Tree Safety** 5

Kids corner 6

December 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1 Rent Due</i>	<i>2 Bug Day Gallatin 1,2,4,5b</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8 10% Late Fee</i>	<i>9 Bug Day Gallatin 3,5a,14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16 Bug Day, Gallatin 11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22 Last Day to Pay</i>	<i>23 Bug Day Carthage and S. Carthage</i>	<i>24 Office Closed</i>	<i>25 Office Closed Merry Christmas!!</i>	<i>26 Office Closed</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31 Office Closed</i>			

*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year!*

December Events

Tuba Christmas

Tuesday, **December 2** for the City of Gallatin's Annual Tuba Christmas Concert.

This unique event packs the house and provides an evening of free fun for all ages.

The concert begins at 6:30pm at First United Methodist Church, 149 West Main Street.

If you'd like to be in the band, contact the Mayor's Office at 615-451-5961. If you want to be in the audience, simply show up on December 2, claim a seat, and enjoy the tuba holiday music!!!



Christmas Tree Lighting On the Gallatin Square

December 5th, 2014 5:00-6:00

A Unique Tribute to Veterans Wreaths Across America

Please Join the City of Gallatin

December 14 @ 10am

City Cemetery

Wreaths Across America is an annual event on the second Saturday in December. Wreaths may be purchased through mid-November for this event.

If you're not familiar with Wreaths Across America, it is a non-profit project with the goal of laying a wreath on the grave of every veteran buried in local cemeteries. Visit their website: www.wreathscrossamerica.org for more information about how they got started and the various events.

Gallatin joined the Wreaths Across America program last year. There are more than 600 veterans buried in the Gallatin City Cemetery dating back to the Civil War.



Date of Parade: Saturday, December 13th, 2014
Time: Noon **Rain or Shine**

Parade Route: Steam Plant Road to Hartsville Pike, down Main Street, Down Broadway and ends at the Gallatin High School

Thank you for the Christmas Lights Mr. Edison

Thomas Edison, the inventor of the first successful practical light bulb, created the very first strand of electric lights. During the Christmas season of 1880, these strands were strung around the outside of his Menlo Park Laboratory. Railroad passengers traveling by the laboratory got their first look at an electrical light display. But it would take almost forty years for electric Christmas lights to become the tradition that we all know and love.

Before electric Christmas lights, families would use candles to light up their Christmas trees. This practice was often dangerous and led to many home fires. Edward H. Johnson put the very first string of electric Christmas tree lights together in 1882. Johnson, Edison's friend and partner in the Edison's Illumination Company, hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs and wound them around his Christmas tree. Not only was the tree illuminated with electricity, it also revolved.

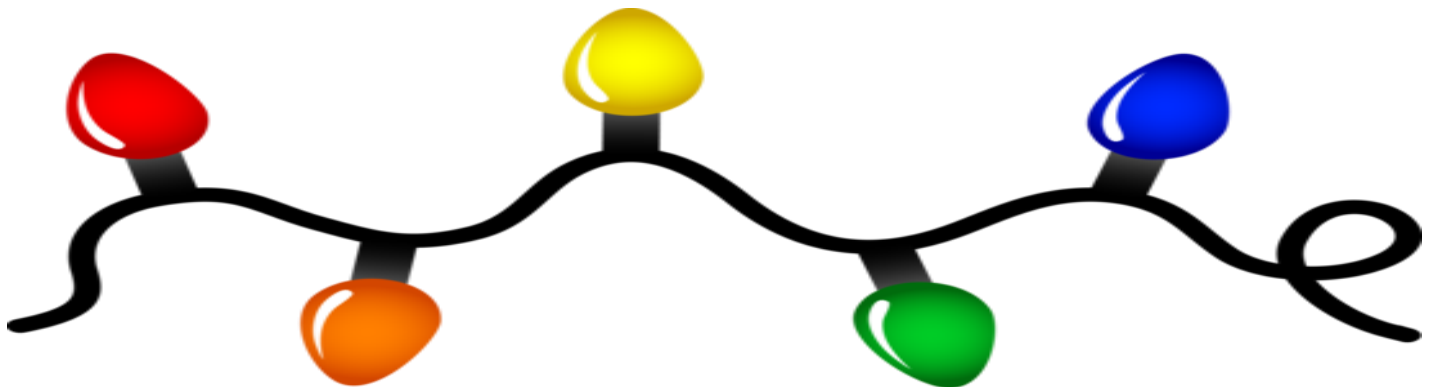
However, the world was not quite ready for electrical illumination. There was a great mistrust of electricity and it would take many more years for society to decorate its Christmas trees and homes with electric lights. Some credit President Grover Cleveland with spurring the acceptance of indoor electric Christmas lights. In 1895, President Cleveland requested that the White House family Christmas tree be illuminated by hundreds of multi-colored electric light bulbs.

On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the country's celebration of Christmas by lighting the National Christmas Tree with 3,000 electric lights on the Ellipse located south of the White House.

Until 1903, when General Electric began to offer pre-assembled kits of Christmas lights, strung lights were reserved for the wealthy and electrically savvy. The wiring of electric lights was very expensive and required the hiring of the services of a wireman, our modern-day electrician. According to some, to light an average Christmas tree with electric lights before 1903 would have cost \$2000.00 in today's dollars.

While Thomas Edison and Edward H. Johnson may have been the first to create electric strands of light in 1880/1882, it was Albert Sadacca who saw a future in selling electric Christmas lights. The Sadacca family owned a novelty lighting company and in 1917 Albert, a teenager at the time, suggested that its store offer brightly colored strands of Christmas lights to the public. By the 1920's Albert and his brothers organized the National Outfit Manufacturers Association (NOMA), a trade association. NOMA soon became NOMA Electric Co., with its members cornering the Christmas light market until the 1960's.

Today we expect to see the holiday season become aglow with electric strands of light. Think of the variety and range of Christmas lights available in today's market. We can be grateful to Thomas Edison, Edward H. Johnson and Albert Sadacca for illuminating our holiday season.



Christmas Tree Safety



- ◆ When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- ◆ When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- ◆ When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- ◆ Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- ◆ Use only noncombustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- ◆ Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use nonflammable holders and place candles out of children's reach.
- ◆ Take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food, which may tempt a child to eat them.
- ◆ Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial-snow sprays.

