

November 21, 2008

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2008 Turkey Shoot Free Throw Contest



The Merriam Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting the 2008 Turkey Shoot Free Throw Contest at the Irene B. French Community Center on Saturday, November 22nd, from NOON - 2:00PM (please note this time was incorrectly published in last week's e-Merriam Updates).

This annual free throw contest pairs youth age 4-15 with their parents for a series of fifteen free throw shots. The pair with the highest number of baskets in each age division "brings home the turkey".

On site registration will be available, the cost is \$3 per team. For more information, call (913) 322-5550 or visit www.merriam.org/park.

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City Offices Closed for Holiday

City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27th, and Friday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday. City offices will re-open on Monday, December 1st for normal business hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM).

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Talking Turkey about Thanksgiving Safety

Let's be honest about it: The holiday season isn't just about family get-togethers and renewing old acquaintances.

This is the time of year for cooking and eating wonderful things, such as the turkey feast with all the trimmings that is the focal point of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Merriam Fire Department is reminding residents to be extra careful as nearly 50 percent of all house fires across the nation start in the kitchen.



"Care should always be taken while working in the kitchen," said Merriam Fire Marshal Bob Pape, "Preparing the Thanksgiving meal often is a group project, with many people in the kitchen to help with the chores. And where there's a crowd and noisy chatter, there's a greater chance for an accident to occur."

In an effort to ensure all citizens have a happy and safe turkey day, the Merriam Fire Department offers the following kitchen safety tips:

- Make sure your cooking appliances are in good working order.
- Start your holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Make sure any old grease or food spills are cleaned up to lessen the chance of a flare-up.
- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from stove burners.
- Turn pot handles in toward the rear of the stove, out of your child's reach. If the handles are allowed to stick out over the stove, they could be grabbed by a child, spilling their hot contents and causing burns.

- NEVER leave cooking food unattended.
- If the contents in a pot or pan catch fire, do not touch or try to move the pot or pan as you may spread the fire or burn yourself. Extinguish the flames with a metal lid or larger pot.
- Never use water on a grease fire. Extinguish the flames with a metal lid or larger pot.
- Use potholders to prevent burns. If you are burned, do not use ice, butter or other substance on the burn. Ice can damage the skin, and butter or other substances can trap the heat in. Instead, let the burn cool off under a steady stream of cool tap water and seek medical assistance if necessary.
- Keep holiday decorations away from heat sources such as stoves, candles or heaters.
- In the event of a fire or medical emergency, always call 911.

For additional holiday safety and year-round fire prevention tips, call the Merriam Fire Department at (913) 322-5530.

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Tickets Available for Merriam's Old-Fashioned Downtown Holiday Celebration

The City of Merriam invites you to make plans for an evening of holiday cheer and festivities on Saturday, December 6th in Downtown Merriam.

The evening begins at 5:30PM at the Merriam Marketplace, 5740 Merriam Drive, with a free candy cane hunt for children ages 1-7. Children are encouraged to bring a flashlight.

At 6:15PM, gather at the Merriam Marketplace to watch the lighting of the Mayors' Christmas Tree. Bring the entire family for this festive holiday event. Enjoy live holiday music performed by Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Chamber Choir. Mayor Carl Wilkes will light the tree, followed by a visit from Santa. Cold weather won't cancel these events, just add to the atmosphere. Hot chocolate and a warming fire will be available.



Immediately following the tree lighting, Merriam residents are invited to a Christmas Buffet Dinner at the Irene B. French Community Center, hosted by members of the Downtown Merriam Partnership and area businesses. Seating for the dinner will begin at 6:30PM; serving will begin at 7:00PM. Musical entertainment will be provided by local musicians, and there will be a visit by Santa.



Seating is limited for this event and is specified for Merriam residents only. A limited number of complimentary reserved seat dinner tickets will be available for distribution at the Irene B. French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Drive, beginning Monday, November 17th. There is a limit of four tickets per Merriam household, please bring proof of Merriam residency to obtain your tickets.

For more information, call (913) 322-5550.

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Give The Gift of Fun This Christmas

Are you searching for the perfect holiday gift for a loved one? How about the gift of fun and good health? Merriam Parks and Recreation Department offers gift certificates for classes, programs and memberships. Gift certificates can be purchased for any amount and applied by the recipient to a favorite fitness or art class, health club membership, or aquatic center season pass. Visit our website at <http://www.merriam.org/park> to view our programs. Call Merriam Parks and Recreation at 913-322-5550 for more information or drop by Irene B. French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Drive, to purchase your gift certificate today!

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Merriam Police Department to Offer Women's Self Defense Class

The Merriam Police Department is offering a women's self defense seminar "**Avoiding & Surviving a Violent Encounter**". The seminar will consist of 45 minutes to 1 hour of discussion on the above topic and approximately 30 additional minutes of light hands on instruction/demonstration (Optional).



Instructors will focus on basic principles that can be applied during a violent encounter. Attendees should dress in comfortable clothing with little jewelry if they plan on participating in the physical portion of the seminar.

The seminar is open to anyone who works or lives in Merriam.

Date: Monday, December 8th, 2008
Time: 7:15 - 8:45 PM
Age: Due to the content of this seminar, the minimum age for attendance is 12 years old.
Cost: FREE
Location: Irene B. French Community Center Gymnasium (5701 Merriam Drive)

You MUST RSVP no later than December 1st, 2008, at rondab@merriam.org or 913-322-5560 during the hours of 8:30AM to 4:30PM Monday thru Friday. Please specify the seminar date when you RSVP.

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