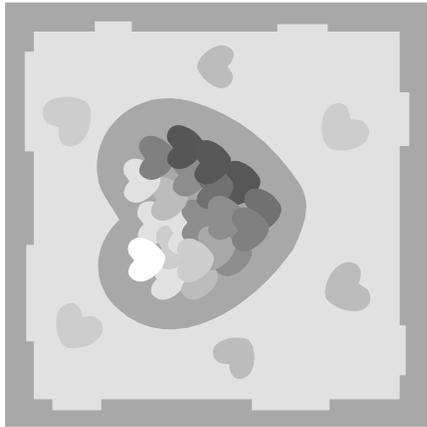


CITY OF MAROA
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MAROA, IL 61756

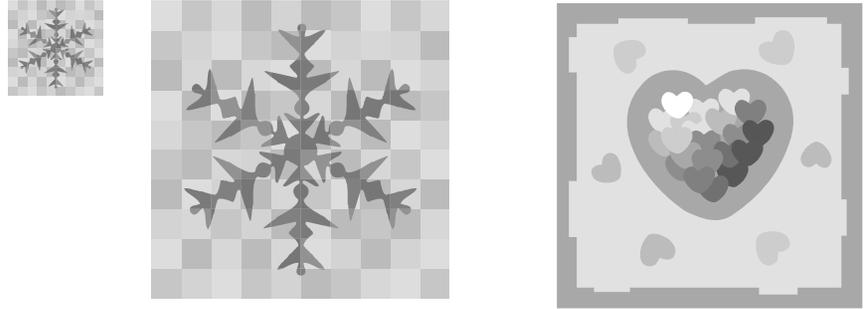
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HAPPY
NEW YEAR

*THE
MAROA NEWS*



IMPORTANT INFO INSIDE

**BACK INSTITUTE OPENS IN FORSYTH
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGNUPS
CASEY'S OPENS IN MAROA
FIREMEN PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**

SHARE

**TASTE OF CHOCOLATE
WINKS COUPON**

January/February 2010 Volume 14 Issue 1

WELCOME TO MAROA

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City Hall Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Phone: 794-2206
Maroacityhall@barbeckbb.com

Animal Control

Maroa Police Department
794-5526

Superintendent of Public Works

Office Phone: 794-3842
Waterworks and Sewer Plant, Phone: 794-5110
Superintendent of Streets and Alleys-794-3842

City Council

Mayor: Ted Agee, 429 E. Main, 794-3796

City Clerk: Angela Sarver, 505 E. Main, 794-5234

City Treasurer: Michele Modro-Peters, 213 N. Olive, 791-4000

Aldermen: Ward I-Donna Mauzey, 529 E. Washington-794-3921
Vincent Sims, 216 N. Olive, 519-0165

Ward II-Bill Holley, 219 N. Maple, Box 372, 794-5567
Ryan Wilkey, 617 W. Jackson, 972-6810

Ward III-Tammy Larson, 415 E. Kennedy, 794-5113
Frederick "Erick" Peart, 415 E. Garfield, 794-5271

City Attorney-Michael L. Antoline, P.C., 2714 N. Mattis, Suite A, Champaign, 61822
Phone-217-352-4343; cell-217-898-3703; fax-217-352-4344

City Engineers-Bainridge, Gee, Milanski & Assoc. (Steve Bainbridge)
1670 S. Taylorville Rd., Decatur, 62521

Auditors-McGuire, Yuhas, Huffman & Buckley, PC (Kevin Buckley)
334 West Eldorado, Decatur, IL 62522-2912, 428-2127

Zoning administrator- David Leimbach, 794-5526

Building Inspector-Dave Leimbach-794-5526
Cemetery Info (Jim Leach)—794-3345
City Clerk Office—794-2206
JULIE (before you dig) 1-800-892-0123
Maroa City Hall-120B S. Locust-794-2206
Maroa Fire Department-300 E. Washington-794-3375 (emg 911)
Maroa Forsyth Community Bank—794-2227
Maroa Police Dept-120 S. Locust-794-5526
Maroa Post Office—794-5011
Maroa Public Library—794-5111
Polling Place-120B S. Locust
Township Hall-100 N. Walnut-794-3720
United Waste Services—425-4011
Waterworks Dept—300 N. Wood-794-3842

SCHOOL PHONES

Grade School 877-2023 Middle School 794-5115
High School—794-3463 Unit Office—794-3488



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MAROA-FORSYTH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULES.

BOYS VARIETY BASKETBALL

Jan 8	Tolono Unity	H	7:30
Jan 9	Blue Ridge	H	7:30
Jan 12	Meridian	H	7:30
Jan 15	Shelbyville	H	7:30
Jan 19	Clinton	A	7:30
Jan 22	St. Teresa	A	7:30
Jan 23	Mt. Pulaski	H	7:30
Jan 26	Warrensburg-Latham	A	7:30
Jan 29/30	Okaw Tourney	TBA	
Feb 2/3 & 5/6	Okaw Tourney		
Feb 9	Argenta-Oreana	A	7:30
Feb 12	Cent, A&M	H	7:30
	Pack the place		
Feb 13	Riverton Shootout	A	
Feb 16	Monticello	H	7:30
	Senior Night		
Feb 19	Sullivan	A	7:30
Feb 22-26	Regionals	TBA	

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Jan 4-7/9	Macon Co Tourney	A	TBA
Jan 11	Warrensburg-Latham	H	7:30
Jan 14	Cent, A&M	A	7:30
Jan 16	Decatur Lutheran	H	7:30
Jan 18	Argenta-Oreana	H	7:30
	Pack the place		
Feb 1	Monticello	A	7:30
Feb 4	Sullivan	H	7:30
	Senior Night		
Feb 8	Regionals	TBA	

Maroa's mission statement "Maroa is a proud and thriving community that welcomes people from all walks of life. Our community offers unique opportunities for education, employment, shopping and recreation for families and friends. Our success is driven by a shared vision of the future that capitalizes on our friendly small town atmosphere and central location. The prosperity of our city makes Maroa one of the most sought out places to live, work and visit." (created by the mapping committee)

We want to print your news but we must have it by February 17 for the next newsletter which will include March/April news.

Drop off at the City Hall with your payment, (put in slot if City Hall not open) or e-mail to finethings@2techs.com

Thank you ads: \$1.00. **Classified ads:** \$1.00 up to 25 words, extra charged for additional words. **Advertising:** Ads are \$12.00, \$20.00, \$40.00 and \$80.00. **ARTICLES** are free. Pictures with any article \$5.00 charge. **Drop by City Hall.**

Out of Town Subscribers: Mail or bring the address and \$7.00 for the year to Maroa City Hall, PO Box # 136, Maroa, IL 61756 to be mailed. Make checks to City of Maroa.

FROM THE EDITORS:

We are wishing our community a very Happy New Year and safe one for you and your family. 2010 is the new beginning of a whole year to accomplish a lot of things. Lose some weight, start a walking program to become more fit, get a new job, do better in school, take college classes., whatever it is, do your best.

Watch for buses and drive safely this winter in the snow and ice to keep our children safe.

Happy New Year!!

JOY AND AMY





FIREMEN PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST:

The Maroa Fire Department will be holding their annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Saturday, January 16 from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Prices are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

The fire department would like for the public to know about their new website. The link is www.maroafire.com.

TASTE OF CHOCOLATE

Please pencil in 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6 on your calendar. This will be the date for our 6th annual "Taste of Chocolate". It will be held in the City Hall Gym. Along with delightful live entertainment, a yummy homemade chocolate buffet, and a huge silent auction there will be lots of new surprises.



The whole community is invited to enter our "Chocolatier of the Year" contest. For entry forms or tickets (\$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door) call Sue at 794-5196. Watch the town for our posters. Hope to see you there. Sponsored by the Ladies of Maroa Christian Church CWF.

MAROA RESIDENTS:

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN MAROA AND WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP WITH?? CONTACT DAWNETTE AT THE LIBRARY WITH IDEAS OF ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE DONE DURING THE YEAR OF 2010. WOULD YOU LIKE A TOUR OF HOMES, A GARDEN WALK, OTHER FESTIVALS, BEAUTIFY MAIN STREET, ADDITIONS TO THE PARK, A LIGHTING CONTEST AT CHRISTMAS TIME, ADDITION TO THE FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL, MORE BINGO NIGHTS, MOVIES, TRY CHRISTMAS ON MAIN STREET AGAIN? LET HER KNOW SO THAT SOME THINGS CAN BE PLANNED FOR 2010!!!



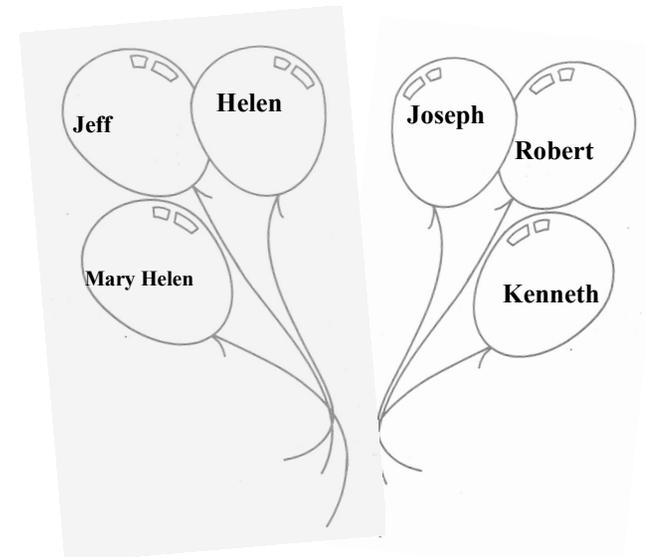
JOSEPH EARL BUTLER, 78, Clinton, died December 17, 2009. Burial was in Oak Park Cemetery, Clinton, with Military Rites. Memorials are to Clinton Assembly of God Church or Clinton Christian Academy. He was a Marine Corps veteran, retired from Revere Corning, Clinton, married Patricia Moody who survives. Surviving from Maroa are sister, Margaret (Phillip) Dial.

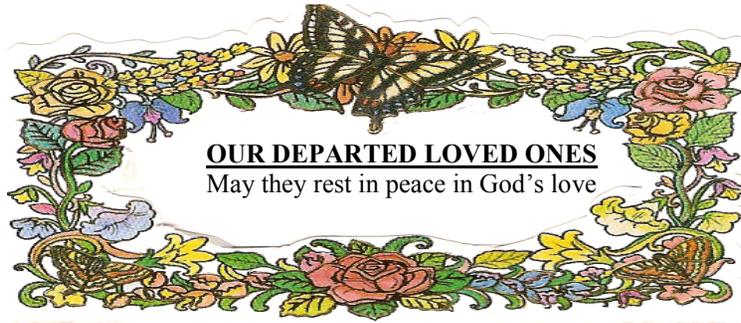


ROBERT DALE NIX, 88, of Decatur, died December 22, 2009. Burial was in Maroa Cemetery. Memorials are to American Heart Association. He married Audrey Jump who preceded him in death. He married Dorothy Luckenbill who survives. He was a truck driver, served in the US Navy during WWII. Surviving from Maroa are brother, Larry (Janet) Nix.



KENNETH A. RILEY, 88, Lovington, died December 24, 2009. Burial was in Keller Cemetery, Lovington with Military Rites by the Lovington American Legion Post #429. Memorials are to Lovington Ambulance or the Lovington United Methodist Church. He was the son of Jesse and Bessie Wallace Riley and married Audrey Cavender. They had three children, eight grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. He served in the Army Air Corps in England and was a farmer near Lovington for 52 years.





MARY HELEN (Koshinski) WILLIAMS, 75, of Williston, South Carolina died November 8, 2009. Burial was in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Ripley, Tennessee. She married Eugene Williams who preceded her in death. She was a graduate of Decatur High School and retired from Western Union in Chicago. Surviving from Maroa are sister Norma (Ivan) Porter.

JEFF E. GARNER, 56, Decatur, died December 2, 2009. Memorials are to Life Foursquare Church, . He married Alonda Canaday who survives. His mother Peggy Garner also survives.

HELEN MALLINSON, 94, Danville, IL., died December 14, 2009. Entombment was at Spring Hill Cemetery, Danville. She was a graduate of Maroa High School, 1932. Helen was born February 4, 1915 to Bessie Mae (Smith) and Charles James Spooner of Maroa. Helen married Luke W. Mallinson on December 16, 1933. Other survivors include son, Roy and (Sandra) Mallinson of Whitney, TX., daughter, Barbara and (Jim) Shroyer of Vincover, WA., brother, John and (Ruth) Spooner of Flora, IN, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

To the Members of the Maroa Fire Dept.:



I would like to thank each and everyone of you, as well as all of your family members for all the hard work and effort that has been applied to this department over the past year. It is only through dedication and hard work that a volunteer department can survive.

As we set out in a new year and on a new path, some may be concerned with the bumps and curves in the road ahead. Rest assured, as long as we never lose sight of what we are doing or why we are doing it and we hold on to that special bond of firefighter brotherhood, this department WILL move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to also give Kudos to Jorge Infante for completing the Emergency Medical Technician course and receiving his state license. Jorge has been with the department now for 2 years and with this type of training he continues to show dedication to the department and his community. Way to go Jorge.

Train Often, Work Hard & Survive! Jeffrey A. Acup, Chief.

SENIOR CITIZENS MEALS



Senior Citizens meals are served to those over 60 Monday to Friday at 10:45 a.m. at the M&M Café. The meals cost \$2.00 per person. Call 794-5114 to sign up the day before you want to eat. If you need meals delivered to you while you are ill, let them know and it will be brought to you. Menus are available.

The Seniors enjoyed a special Christmas party recently with lots of goodies to eat and played bingo. Even Santa showed up to pass out gifts. Thanks to Cheryl and staff.

The M&M Café is on vacation until January 4th.

JANUARY SCHEDULE

- Jan 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- Jan 4 M&M Café opens after vacation
- Jan 5 Friends of the Library, 4:00 p.m., library
Maroa Lodge #454, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan 7 VFW Post #3287, M&M Café, 6:00 p.m.
American Legion, M&M Café, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 11 Maroa Public Library Board, 7:00 p.m.
Maroa Park Committee, 7:00 p.m.
MF School Board, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 12 Food Pantry at Christian Church, 9:00-10:00
Maroa Lions Club, M&M Café, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 19 HCE, library, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 21 Zoning Board, City Call, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 25 Maroa City Council, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 26 Food Pantry at Christian Church, 9:00-10:00
Maroa Lions Club, M&M Café, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 29 SHARE pickup at firehouse, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- Feb 2 Maroa Lodge #454, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 4 VFW Post #3287, M&M Café, 6:00 p.m.
American Legion, M&M Café, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 8 Maroa Public Library Board, 7:00 p.m.
Maroa Park Committee, 7:00 p.m.
MF School Board, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 9 Food Pantry at Christian Church, 9:00-10:00
Maroa Lions Club, M&M Café, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
- Feb 16 HCE, library, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 22 Maroa City Council, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 23 Food Pantry at Christian Church, 9:00-10:00
Maroa Lions Club, M&M Café, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 26 SHARE pickup at firehouse, 1:30-3:30 p.m.



M&M CAFÉ

HOMESTYLE COOKING
HOMEMADE PIES

M-F 5:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday 6:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Closed Sunday

Senior Citizens meals served M-F at 10:45 a.m.
Please call for reservations-794-5114.

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<p>Harvest Community Church 312 W. Jackson 794-2263 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Evening Service 5:30 p.m. Wednesday-AWANA Clubs-ages 3 to 8th grades) 6:15-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Maroa United Methodist Church Corner of Washington & Walnut Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am Nursery Available Pastor Mark Schleeter</p>
<p>Maroa Christian Church 430 E. Main-794-3492 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am The Well (teens)-6 :00 p.m. Nursery Available Andy Glass, pastor Casey McCormick, youth pastor Christopher Weisenborn, music minister maroacc@2techs.com</p>	<p>ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE</p> 

**STOP BY
 THE NEW
 MAROA CASEY'S
 TO SEE WHAT ALL THEY HAVE
 TO OFFER**

MAROA COMMUNITY SHARE:

People helping People. Open to Everyone, Cash, check and Link Cards accepted. Classic unit is 3 frozen meats, 6 produce items plus 1 bonus for \$15.00; Deluxe unit is 5 frozen meats, 9 produce items plus 1 bonus for \$22.00. Fruits and vegetables has 9 items for \$11.00. Create your own unit from the five separate meats: Chicken Thighs, Jumbo Deli Franks, Beef Steak Strips, Pork Chops and Crab Meat.

Special in January: Item A-Super bowl package: 7 items for \$18.00 2-1#pkg of Lil smokies; 2-1 # pkg meatballs, 1-1# pkg cooked ham cubes, 1-1# pkg cooked turkey cubes and 1-9oz pkg of beef summer sausage;

Item B: 2 pies for \$8.00; 1-54 oz Taffy Apple Hi Pie and 1-37 oz Berry Hi Pie w/Lemon crust.

Item C: Supper time meals are back—7 meals for \$19.00: Lasagna, Chicken breast Alfredo, Beef Strips/mashed potatoes, Beef Ravioli, Chicken Parmesan, Manicotti, Turkey ala King.

January 29 pickup at firehouse from 1:30-3:30 p.m. January orders due by 15th. Add \$1.00 to total order.

Order forms available at Maroa Library. Leave order forms with the library or mail to Karen Halicki, 753 Brush College Rd, Maroa, IL 61756. Call for questions, 794-5508 or 855-1703. Want to help, come to the firehouse at 1:00 p.m. and help unload on pickup days.



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**MAROA-FORSYTH SCHOOL
DISTRICT FOUNDATION**

What a year 2009 has been! In many instances it has been like a roller coaster with a lot of ups and downs.

Our school district has many things to be proud of:

- +dedicated and qualified Faculty and Staff
- +dedicated School Board
- +dedicated Students
- +Dedicated and supportive Parents
- +One of the highest academic rated school districts in Illinois
- +New High School
- +New Grade School
- +Statewide recognized athletic program

The Foundation was originally formed and focused on raising funds to remodel the "old" high school chemistry room/lab. Upon completion of this endeavor, the Foundation then expanded its focus and considers all grant applications received from our faculty. To date the Foundation has enhanced educational opportunities by investing over \$95,000.00.

With your generosity, the Foundation has been able to satisfy our mission of enriching the lives of Maroa-Forsyth Students through enhanced educational opportunities. I am writing and requesting your financial support of the Maroa-Forsyth School District Foundation to keep the momentum going!

With continued need from our faculty to improve the education experience for the students the Foundation is once again requesting your financial support.

Your tax-deductible donation should be mailed and made payable to as follows:

Maroa-Forsyth School District Foundation
PO Box 121, Maroa, IL 61756

As always, thank you for your past support, current consideration to this request and for making our communities and school district the best in the State.

Timothy R. Patton, President



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HAPPY

VALENTINE'S

DAY

Maroa Christian Church

"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

430 E. Main Street, PO Box 440, Maroa—794-3492



Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. for all ages

The WELL (teens): Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Study & Sonshine Kids Crew: 5:30 p.m.

Andy Glass, Pastor

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REMEMBER THE

FIREMEN'S PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

ON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

6:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!!!!!!!!



MAROA PUBLIC LIBRARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PROJECT LINUS DAYS are Tuesdays:

January 5	(9:00-3:00)
January 12	(9:00-9:00)
January 19	(9:00-3:00)
January 26	(9:00-9:00)
February 2	(9:00-3:00)
February 9	(9:00-9:00)
February 16	(9:00-3:00)
February 23	(9:00-9:00)

Bring sack lunch, your sewing machine, supplies, your knitting or whatever you would like to work on. Come enjoy the fun, fellowship and time to make quilts for kids who become ill and must enter hospitals. The blankets help comfort them and make their stay just a little bit easier. (If you would like to learn more about Project Linus, stop by the library on any Tuesday and if you do not know how to make quilts, we can also teach you). You do not have to stay all the hours listed, just come whatever time you have available during the day or evening.

Check in at the library to see what events they have planned for January and February. Also stop in to see what new books are available.

Dawnette, Denise and Penney wish all a Happy New Year.



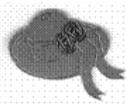
CASEY'S OPENS

Casey's of Maroa opened Thursday, December 17 with a grand opening held on Saturday, December 19. We welcome them to our city. Stop in to check out their donuts made fresh every day, coffee, sub sandwiches, grocery items, gas & etc.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



The 4th annual Maroa/Forsyth Community Choir presented a wonderful musical "Tonight, Heaven Touches Earth" for everyone to enjoy recently. This was a special gift to the community and everyone should have been in attendance to hear the special soloists and songs presented. Plan on coming next year!!



RED HAT SOCIETY: The Red Hat Trio & "The Sour Notes" enjoyed their Christmas luncheon at the home of Barb Holley in December. There were 17 in attendance.

Instead of a gift exchange, we started the first of our service projects and we collected kitchen towels for the annual Christmas Baskets. This was a fun project to know we helped provide some cheer to others.

The TRIO will meet early January to plan our next events and post-cards will be mailed with information. We want it to be a fun year.

Joy, Marilyn, Karen



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Diane Dobbs

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BABY

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ANGELS IN DISGUISE

Right in the midst of our small town, are Angels in Disguise. Every Christmas Season, we have three angels that display the true meaning of Christmas.

Each year Barb H., Barb W., and Karen H. has displayed what God so desire for us, as his children, to do. Help one another in their time of need. Many hours have been spent by these angels in making this possible.

A big thank you goes out to three of them for all the hard work they do in preparing the food baskets for families that need that little extra help in making their holidays special. God Bless Them and each and everyone that helps them make it possible.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGNUPS

It is time for baseball and softball signups on Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Maroa Public Library. Or you can mail the form to MYL—the forms are in the middle of this newsletter.

Anyone interested in joining the Maroa Youth League Board please come see us on Saturday, January 16 at the library or call Michelle at 217-972-1622.



Activity report of the
Maroa Police
Department for

November 21 to December 18, 2009:

TRAFFIC:

Speeding	08
No valid drivers lic.	05
No seat belt	12
DUI drugs	01
Operating uninsured motor vehicle	06
Failure to secure child in approved Child restraint	06
Driving while drivers lic. Is suspended	04
Failure to dim headlights	01
Disobeyed stop sign	01
Permitting unauthorized person To drive	01
Failure to yield at intersection	01
Improper lighting-one headlight	01
Written warnings	04
Verbal warnings	01
Total	52

CRIMINAL:

Possession of Cannabis 2.5-10 grams	01
Possession of Cannabis < than 2.5 Grams	02
Possession of drug paraphernalia	02
Phone harassment	04
Warrant arrest	07
Identity theft	01
Disorderly juvenile	03
No trespass warning issued	01
Resisting or obstructing a police Officer	03
Total	24

OTHER SERVICE CALLS:

Assist Maroa Fire	02
Assist Macon Co Sheriff	04
Assist Decatur Ambulance	02
Assist Decatur PD	01
Assist motorist	06
Preserve the peace	02
Domestic problem	02
Suspicious persons	03
Follow up investigations	27
Vacation checks	08
Animal complaint	03
Visitation problem	02
911 hang ups	02
Driving complaint	01
Found property	01
Suspicious vehicle	01
Returned property	01
Other Public Service Calls -City	08
Total	76

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS:

Property damage	01
Hit and Run	01
Total	02

Respectfully submitted by

L. Brad Wilkey, Chief of Police



Maroa United Methodist Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:10 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesday's at 1:30 p.m.

Youth & Children's Ministry Sunday at 5:00 p.m. on January 17, February 7 and February 21.

Maroa Christian Church



Maroa Christian Church SonShine Kids starts its Winter/Spring session January 6 at 6:00 p.m. Light meal at 6:00 p.m. and teaching and activity following. Journey of a Lifetime, a study about the Bible is offered at 6:00 p.m. for adults, Jr. High and High School age. If you attended last year or you want to start new this year, be there January 6 at 6:00 p.m. Call 794-3492 for more details.

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HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Harold Crosno of Maroa will be celebrating his 100th birthday on January 13, 2010. He lives with his daughter, Patricia Brooke. He has a daughter, Betty, living in Jupiter, FL.



Bill Holley of Maroa will be 80 on February 1. We'll celebrate his birthday with an Open House on January 31 from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. at 219 N. Maple, Maroa. No gifts please.



Richard and Patricia Thomas of Maroa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 27 with family and friends. They are parents of Jenny Day, Jeff Thomas and Janet Summers. They have six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Paul and Pat Espy of Cerro Gordo celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 13. They were married December 13, 1959. He is an Army veteran and retired from Caterpillar. She is a retired waitress. They are parents of Carla Bridgewater of Villa Grove and Bryan Espy of Maroa. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

THE BACK INSTITUTE OPEN IN FORSYTH

Blake A. Doss, DC of Maroa, announces the opening of his chiropractic practice at The Back Institute in Forsyth. He specializes in natural, non-invasive treatment of lower back and neck pain, headaches, and stress-related complaints. In addition to traditional chiropractic techniques, Dr. Doss also uses Acupuncture to assist patients with smoking cessation, pain management, anxiety, and a variety of other conditions. He is also excited to offer overall wellness care for the entire family.

The Back Institute is located at 389 W. Weaver Road, Forsyth. For more information or to set up an appointment, please call 217-875-7151.

HEALTH TIP FROM BLAKE A. DOSS, DC:

Ah, something about a New Year that swells hope and ignites ambitions! Perhaps it's the champagne. Or maybe it's that sway of sentiment at midnight. Whatever the case, New Year's synonymous with not only champagne, but resolution-making. Surveys show that health related pledges consistently top the list. Of course, we all bring our best intentions to start the New Year, but why do so many of us steer off course when the real work starts?

Researchers at The University of Washington studied the sticking power of resolutions and what seemed to make the difference for those who were still on track three months later. Here are some insights from the success stories:

- It's crucial to start out truly dedicated to change yourself. Flash in the pan resolutions don't stick.
- It's essential to have coping strategies in mind and support in place for the bumps along the road. There are always bumps.
- It's important to track your progress. We need reminders that we are on the right path.

Think about where you are now. Where would you like to be in a month? Wait!—a month? Why is it called a New Year's Resolution? A year can be way too overwhelming. Why not break down your New Year's resolution into smaller, more attainable checkpoints (monthly) along the way.

My advice: commit to the change in your life that you are ready and willing to work for right now. You can do it, but it will take discipline. It is up to you. You are in control. Like Henry Ford once said "whether you think you can or you can't, you're right."

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