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Dog Licensing season underway

(Submitted by Muskegon County Health Department)

Muskegon County dog licenses for the 2010 calendar year are currently available for purchase. State law requires the owner of a dog to purchase a new license for the dog each year. In addition, the law also requires the owner to keep the dog currently vaccinated against rabies.

The 2010 dog licenses are available for purchase at Vector Control, 1300 E. Keating in Muskegon, and at county, city and township treasurers' offices. Prices remain the same as last year.

Fees for a 2010 Muskegon County dog license are as follows:

- \$50 for non-neutered dogs
- \$25 for non-neutered dogs owned by senior citizens (62 years and older)
- \$10 for neutered dogs
- \$10 for puppies between 4 and 7 months of age.

Dog owners who fail to purchase a license on or before March 1, 2010 must purchase a late license and could face court action.

Many Muskegon County dog owners have received a postcard reminding them of the need to purchase a new license. Owners should either purchase by mail or bring these postcards to a dog licensing location. Along with the postcard, owners should also bring or mail a copy of any new rabies vaccination or neuter certificates.

Dog owners who did not receive a postcard or who own an unlicensed dog must still purchase a dog license. The license application and instructions are available online at www.muskegonhealth.net.

Residents whose dogs are deceased, sold, given away, stolen, or missing are asked to report such changes to Vector Control by calling (231) 724-6007.

Tech savvy Santa connects with kids at the Lakes Mall

(Submitted by the Lakes Mall)

Santa Claus is looking forward to the time-honored tradition of visiting with children at the Lakes Mall and receiving letters at the North Pole, but he is also giving his communications a high-tech update. Santa can now send children mobile phone text messages that he "cant w8 2 visit them xmas eve" and tell them about his preparations for the big night via web videos.



The Lakes Mall's holiday web site home page, at TheLakesMall.com is the official source for connecting with Santa this holiday season. Through the site, parents can learn his visiting hours at the mall, print a dear Santa letter and coloring sheets, and download a series of video messages from Santa about how he and his elves are preparing for Christmas Eve. They can also sign their children up to receive mobile telephone text messages from Santa.

For a nominal fee, family or friends can log onto the site, input a few facts about the child, and schedule times for the children to receive the message. Three text messages to a child before Christmas Day cost only \$5.49, and a customizable message for Christmas morning can be scheduled for an additional 99 cents.

Santa will also be at the Lakes Mall to visit with the children one-on-one Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Christmas Eve. Photos are available for purchase with discounts for people who bring a non-perishable food item for the Santa Feeds America canned food drive.



Fourth annual Aaron's walk held
 by Christopher, Christine and Aaron Biros

Thank you for your generous support of the fourth annual "Aaron's Walk" that was held October 18, 2009. This year, we had over 250 participants and over \$8,000 was raised to help in funding research for Aaron's disease and all the children affected by A-T.

All proceeds benefit the A-T Children's Project, which funds life-improving therapies and ultimately a cure for ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T). Scientists and physicians have made some remarkable progress during the last year, and now are shifting their focus from basic research projects to studies aimed at specific treatments. These types of studies require high levels of funding. Now more than ever, we need all the help we can get. That is why your donation is so important to us.

This event is successful because of your participation. It is very heartwarming to have our community, friends, and family support our race against time to find a cure for Aaron's devastating disorder. More information on A-T can be found at www.atcp.org.

