

City Council

December Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – December 19, 2006

Rescheduled due to holidays

- **Jill Missal of Rural Alaska Mitigation Planning**, who is contracted by the city to write the *FEMA Flood & All Hazards Mitigation Plan*, explained the objectives of the plan, requested input from the community and answered questions posed by the council members and community members.
- **Ralph Morgan, National Weather Service** made a PowerPoint presentation on the *Storm Ready* plan recently completed by the NWS and the city. The plan identified the methods of notification and emergency response contacts that are in place in case of emergency, especially weather related.
- **Village Council Management Training – VISTA application** – McGrath was not selected as a site this year, as there were sites applying that have never had a VISTA in the past. McGrath has been selected 3 times before.
- **Resolution 07-09 – SCF New Clinic Local Match contribution** of labor for installation of the water and sewer services.
VOTE: 5 of 5 present. YES. Motion carried



Happy New Year McGrath!



The 2007 New Year promises to be full of new opportunities arising from the many challenges of life. Our McGrath “family” members (residents) were given many occasions during 2006 to experience exceptional sorrow & loss, bravery in action, celebrations of success and memorable milestones. As this New Year dawns, the residents of McGrath will have many more occurrences where our individual and collective responses of “being there” for one another during times of need and celebration will be long remembered.

“The injury of one shall be considered the injury of all; the comfort of each, the comfort of all; the honor of one, the honor of all.”



*McGrath Volunteer Fire
Department Commended~
JOB WELL DONE!*

The McGrath Volunteer Fire Department, known as MVFD, responded to an unprecedented three fires during the month of December 2006, with the Chamai Center fire occurring on Christmas Eve during -40° F temperatures.

They recently received additional training through the state Fire Marshall’s office and have had immediate opportunity to put that training to practical use when fires broke out at the Catholic Church, Esai Esai’s cabin and the Chamai Center.

In each case, many others responded and assisted in tasks outside of the fire perimeter. A huge *Thank You!* from the city staff and residents.

Continued close collaboration between the MVFD and the Kuskokwim Valley Rescue Squad (KVRS) will enhance the level of professional response seen during December’s emergencies. Residents are encouraged to contact either MVFD – Mike Bye, Fire Chief or KVRS – Bill Schaff, Captain if you are interested in joining either of these fine organizations. There is always a place for you on the rosters of these emergency response teams.



City of McGrath

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**Closed for New Year
January 1 and 2, 2007**



**Public Works Comm.
Tuesday January 9th
5:00pm**

**Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 10th
7:00pm**

**Public Safety Comm.
Thursday January 11th
5:00pm**

**Closed for Martin Luther
King Jr. Day January 15th**

**Administration & Finance
Tuesday January 16th
7:00pm**

**Volunteer Fire Dept. and
KVRS Joint meeting
Wed. 17th
7:00p**

**City Council Meeting
Tuesday January 23rd
7:00pm**



Thomas Keesling responds to emergency

On Wednesday, Dec. 20th, Thomas saw the burning cabin where resident Esai Esai was likely inside. Without regard to his own immediate safety, Thomas kicked in the door, went inside and rescued Esai. After rolling him in the snow, Thomas sought assistance from MVFD and KVRS members who were having a meeting at the Cap'n Snow Center. Esai remains in a Seattle area burn center in serious condition.

Other teens also responded to this tragic emergency as part of KVRS. Katie Kovach and Matt Stutsman were competently assisting with Esai's care while he was being transported in the ambulance.

"Thank You" to each of you for responding to this emergency ~ Thomas, Katie and Matt!



McGrath Native Village Council Suffers loss of Chamai Center at - 40° below zero

On Christmas Eve, the MVFD responded in 40 below zero temperatures to MNVC's Chamai Center that became a complete loss when flames engulfed the 21 year-old Center.

In addition to the MVFD and KVRS, countless residents responded to assist the emergency personnel in any way that they could. Hot beverages were delivered, messages were delivered and dry gear was fetched.

The city staff and council hosted a brunch on Wednesday, Dec. 27th for the MNVC staff and council, along with DFYS and Fish & Game personnel who also lost their rented offices in the Chamai Center.

This opportunity allowed MNVC to come together, regroup and discuss the details of their losses, look at temporary and long-term options for future offices and work. Everyone was able to hear the same information at the same time and to consult about many issues that need immediate attention.

MNVC is moving temporarily into the old MTNT Building. DFYS and Fish & Game are each investigating options in other state owned buildings around town.



Photo courtesy of Tommi Parker

