



SEASON'S
GREETINGS



Happy Christmas to all from The "Cork Shout"

New Disabled Parking Scheme starting

The review of the Disabled Parking Scheme undertaken by the Department of Transport is now complete. The review made recommendations to ensure that more disabled parking bays are available to those most in need of them. Arising from those recommendations new medical eligibility criteria are being put in place with effect from the 1st of January 2011. New forms reflecting the new criteria will be circulated this month. Key points to note are that the medical eligibility criteria now focus more on the level of mobility impairment rather than the type of disability. Only those for whom walking, even short distances, is extremely difficult, detrimental or impossible will be eligible. Many people who may have qualified under the older scheme may not now qualify given the tightening up of the regulations. The role of a doctor in determining eligibility for the scheme has also been revised. The new scheme provides that doctors are requested to provide specific medical information through a process of responding to a series of questions on the application form. The authorised issuing body will make a decision on the basis of the information provided regarding the granting of a permit. A doctor can only provide information and responses to specific questions and will have no input into the decision to grant a permit.

Of the existing 80,000 qualified permit holders, approximately 22,000 people hold Primary Medical Certificates and 9,500 are registered as blind. Those Primary Medical Certificate holders and those registered blind are unaffected by the new medical criteria. They will therefore automatically have their permits renewed. For all others, including those who now hold permits and those applying for one under the new scheme, the primary determinant of eligibility for the Disabled Parking Permit is an individual's mobility level. Applicants refused a permit under the new scheme (and there will be many) can avail of an appeals mechanism whereby the documentation regarding their case is reviewed independently. Details of this appeal process are available from the authorised issuing bodies. The applicant appealing will also have to pay for the cost of the appeal process.

The new parking permit will be a much higher specification plastic card that will allow parking authorities to bar scan the permit and the basic personal details of the holder will be identified in the scan. Because of the higher cost of the new increased security measures on the card itself, the administration fee for the issuing of the parking card will increase to €35 from January 2011.



Profile : Paddy O'Donovan a PwDI stalwart

Paddy O'Donovan is a man who lives his life with an energy that belies his years. An octogenarian, Paddy worked most of his life as a salesman in the retail footwear trade in Cork. He has been actively involved in voluntary work since his retirement. He did Trojan work over the years for Cork Blind Association and represented that organisation on the Cork City Community Forum. More recently he was elected Chairperson of PwDI in Penrose Wharf. When he has "free time" he loves to travel and still makes occasional trips to England. The secret of his youthful energy he says is maintaining a healthy mind in an active body. As we say in Cork ... Paddy is a sound man and we wish him continued good health and happiness.



FRIENDLY CALL CORK

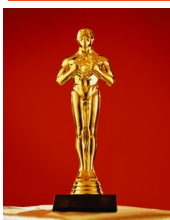


This friendly phone call service offers you a free phone call 5 days a week to check that all is well with you or your loved one. With a friendly call you are never alone'. For an application form or to find out more contact: Niamh Sheridan, Gurrannabraher CDP, Telephone 4301700 or friendlycallcork@yahoo.com. Niamh will meet you and help you fill out a registration form if you wish. Within one week your friendly caller service will begin. Your friendly call will continue for as long as you want it. So you make only one call to them and they will call you every day to make sure all is well with you. Go on then...Make that call!.

The Jack and Jill Foundation launch new children's book



The Jack and Jill Foundation have launched a new children's book as part of its campaign to raise funds. The book titled '*There's No Place Like Home at Christmas*' is a collection of Christmas stories from well-known Irish celebrities and is available in bookstores around the country. This collection of 29 stories from people like Niall Quinn, Terry Prone, Pat Hickey, Maeve Binchy, Eddie Hobbs and Cathy Kelly describes the true meaning of Christmas. The collection of stories is varied and colourful and would be a great Christmas present. It is available at €14.99 in leading bookstores.



Cork Sports Partnership Awards Scheme

Sports clubs, schools, community groups and other members of the local sports scene can nominate individuals and teams who they feel have made a really positive contribution to the community and /or their sport. Please visit the Cork Sports Partnership website, www.corksports.ie, and fill out a nomination form for someone that you think is deserving of an award. Closing date for nominations is Friday December 17th 2010.





Christmas Craft Fair

L'Arche Christmas Craft Fair will take place on Sunday the 12th of December '10 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the L'Arche Workshop (behind the church and primary school in Togher). There will be lots of beautiful hand crafted Christmas cards, candles and hand made gifts for all of the family. Lovely snacks and treats will be available and music will be provided on the day. All are welcome and admission is free.



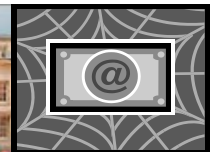
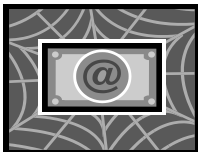
Brainwave Information Morning

Brainwave, the Irish Epilepsy Association, is hosting an Information Morning in Ballincollig on Wednesday, 8th December. It is taking place in the Ballincollig Public Library from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Community Resource Officer, Niamh Jones will be available to provide information and answer your question on epilepsy related issues. Contact Niamh in the Cork Office for further details on 4274774.

"S" Factor for Guide Dog litter



Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind have teamed up with Specsaver's opticians to find names beginning with the letter 'S' for a six-week-old guide dog litter. The 'Name a Pup' competition is part of Specsavers' pledge to raise €40,000 to breed, train and support a single Irish Guide Dog partnership throughout the dog's working life. Ireland's 36 Specsavers stores aim to raise the amount by the 31 December 2010, through a variety of fundraising activities. To enter the 'Name a Pup' competition, visit your nearest Specsavers store and suggest a name beginning with the letter 'S' for one of the five adorable Specsavers puppies. All entries must be submitted by Friday 31 December.



City Hall Web Site Upgrade "Big it up" for Cork City Council who are continuing their collaboration with people with disabilities in Cork to make all services fully inclusive of people with disabilities. This policy has yielded rewards to date as Cork City Council has already won the Vodafone Innovative Government Award. They were given the best project award in recognition of their accessible website and their ongoing commitment to making all services accessible to people with disabilities. This commitment has seen their website now been further updated under the expert eyes of the I/T team in Cork City Council. The I/T team would be delighted to hear feedback from anyone trying out the newly updated website. Log on and give it a whirl. Comments and suggestions are welcome to Dr. Eileen O'Leary or Al Devine who are part of the I/T team in City Hall. Call them at 4966222. To check the website go to www.corkcity.ie





Gurran Lighting the Tree

Gurranabraher CDP is holding an event to celebrate the lighting of the Christmas tree in Gurranabraher. It will be an occasion to remember those who have past on and also an opportunity to bring light and hope for the year ahead. The event will be held on **Wednesday 8th December at 6 pm** and people are welcome to join the community for carol singing and the lighting of the tree outside the Parochial Hall In Gurranabraher. Afterwards mulled wine and mince pies will be served in nearby Leisureworld. People are invited to purchase a ribbon for a small donation and place it on the tree in remembrance of their departed loved ones. Ribbons are available from Gurranabraher Churchfield Youth & Community Resource Centre (The Hut) or Leisureworld where you can make a small donation. For more information contact Ann Long at 4301700.



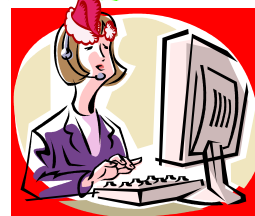
Editorial comment: We have come to the final month of what has been a dreadful year for the vast majority of people. Words and phrases previously unheard of in ordinary everyday conversation such as Nama, IMF, Bailouts and haircuts (without the hair) have dominated our newspapers, tv and daily conversations. Unprecedented events in recent weeks have helped in no small way to undermine the social fabric of our communities, family life, our livelihoods and indeed the general well being of hundreds of thousands of Irish people. Ireland is in a bad place just now but we must begin the new year with hope in our hearts and a resolve to help in what ever way we can to make things better. To start this process the "Cork Shout" is calling on everyone to banish the Christmas Grinch and the palpable doom and gloom and celebrate the joy of Christmas with our families as far as possible. It may seem bleak now in these desolate days of December but just as Spring brings new life we must also have a sense of hope for ourselves, our families, community and country for the new year. Better days will come and "the apples will grow again". Nollaigh Shona agus ath bhlian do gach éinne.



Editor Donie O'Leary

Tel: 4302310

doleary@partnershipcork.ie



Secretary: Deirdre McCarthy

Tel: 4551986

email pwdicork@eircom.net

"Happy Christmas"