



McKINLEYVILLE Community Services District

Newsletter

Water - Sewer - Streetlights - Parks - Recreation - Library

September 2013

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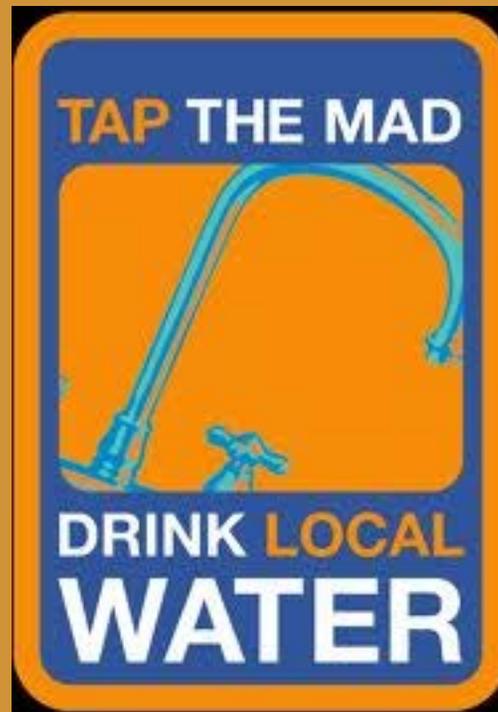
Bill Wennerholm
Director

Gregory Orsini
General Manager

Local Water is the Solution to Pollution

Are you tired of seeing empty water bottles in our parks, road sides, sporting events, parking lots and simply everywhere you look around? We ask that you do your part to keep our community pollution free by simply filling up a reusable water bottle instead of buying bottled water for several reasons listed below...

- Local water is a green solution
- There are economic benefits (Cost is much cheaper than purchasing water bottles)
- Better water quality (Review CCR information from our September Newsletter)
- It's more convenient at your tap in YOUR home
- It's environmentally sound, saves resources and reduces plastic pollution
- You can add ice to most bottles for a "cooler" bottle
- Reusable water bottles are a new trend and can be turned into a fashion statement



The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and the cities and special districts HBMWD supplies encourage the public and local businesses to drink local water, not bottled water. Instead, use a pitcher and refillable containers filled with municipal tap water. When in our local restaurants, ask for tap water instead of bottled water. By consuming water from our own local sources we can avoid the environmental degradation associated with consuming water sold in single-use plastic bottles. It's good for you and it's good for the environment.

The following is from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA): Due to health, environmental, waste reduction, greenhouse gas emissions, energy, and numerous other reasons, the importance of switching from bottled water and other sugary drinks to local tap water as the drink of choice is gaining momentum. Region 1 water agencies are coming together to adopt the "Take it From the Tap" message region-wide to more efficiently reach out to their customers and communities.

Single-use plastic bottles can take up to **1,000 years** to degrade in a landfill.

Some of the **facts** about consuming single use bottled water:

- U.S. consumes nearly **9 billion gallons** of bottled water at a cost of more than **\$11 billion a year**.
- As much as **44%** of commercial bottled water comes from municipal **tap water**.
- The energy required to make these water bottles in the U.S. is equivalent to **32-54 million barrels of oil** annually, enough to fuel 2-3 million cars for a year.
- 38 billion single-use water bottles a year end up in our landfills, one of the fastest growing sources of municipal waste, and it is estimated that **86%** of the single-use water bottles produced are **not recycled** into other products.

A Message From the General Manager

The McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) has been developing an Emergency Operations Plan for the last couple of years. This plan will help to walk MCSD staff through the process in the event of a major disaster.



MCSD staff routinely holds tabletop exercises for emergency preparedness. The exercises are intended to keep MCSD staff prepared to respond with excellence in the event of a major disaster.

If a major disaster does occur, MCSD staff is prepared to coordinate with resources and staff to assess damages to our infrastructure and facilities. In order to do so, MCSD uses the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which was established in 1992 in the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2. The use of SEMS standardizes response to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies. SEMS is intended to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of all emergency responders.

SEMS incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), which is “a systematic tool used for the command, control, and coordination of emergency response” according to the United States Federal Highway Administration.

When a disaster hits, MCSD staff members are trained to first make sure their families are safe and taken care of. Once this is confirmed, staff is required to report to the Incident Command Center (ICC) at the MCSD Office on Sutter Road. The General Manager initiates the ICS and assigns staff to specific titles within the ICS.

In a recent tabletop exercise conducted by staff, the scenario was a 7.2 off shore earthquake. There was no phone, internet or power. There was a tsunami warning and there was a report of fires at a school and the McKinleyville Shopping Center. Staff’s first task was to set up the ICS. Once positions within the ICS were identified by the General Manager, field staff began to inspect our infrastructure for damages. Upon the completion of initial inspections, MCSD staff discovered two broken water mains and multiple water leaks.



In addition, the Park Maintenance Supervisor was tasked with inspecting the McKinleyville Activity Center for damages as it is the primary emergency shelter for McKinleyville used by the American Red Cross in the event of a disaster. Before allowing the public to inhabit the facility, an engineer must complete an inspection and deem it safe. In this scenario, it was discovered that the McKinleyville Activity Center was safe to be inhabited and an emergency shelter was activated by the American Red Cross.

You can help!

MCSD has more than 85 miles of water mains throughout McKinleyville... That’s nearly 450,000 feet of pipe! This makes it difficult and time consuming for our field crews to inspect all of our water mains for potential damage. Just

EMERGENCY PLAN

like we rely on your help to report streetlight outages, we could really use your help in the event of a major disaster. We ask that if it is safe, please step outside and look at your surroundings. If you notice a water leak or overflowing manhole, please make an effort to let us know. It will save us time and we will be able to better respond to necessary repairs so that we can continue delivering water to our valued customers. Also, please remember that a water leak on the customer side of the water meter is the responsibility of the customer.

MCSD staff will continue its proactive approach to dealing with potential threat of a major disaster. We will also continue conducting routine training and tabletop exercises and evaluating our staff’s ability to respond.

“MCSD is committed to serving our community in the event of a major disaster and I am confident in the abilities of our staff to respond with excellence. These trainings build confidence in the system and allow our team to succeed during crisis.”

- Gregory P. Orsini, General Manager



A Message from the Parks & Recreation Department

We are pleased to have completed our September 2013 Recreation Activity Guide. Recognizing the growing needs in our community, McKinleyville Parks & Recreation is continually developing new and exciting programs and events for residents of all ages.

We take pride in "Creating Community through People, Parks & Programs." Our goal is to help you find recreational opportunities that meet your individual and family needs. We feel that play is an important part of all of our lives. For children, not only is play fun, but it also supports healthy development. Through play, children learn new skills, explore their imagination and creativity, and develop relationships with other people in their lives.



The fall on the north coast often times provides us with some great weather allowing us to get outside and play. McKinleyville has lots of outdoor activities for residents to enjoy, whether it be taking your family out for a walk, going hiking, or visiting a local park.

Pierson Park is a great place to take your family. The park has two playgrounds, a large grass area for all sorts of play, a covered gazebo & BBQ, two bocce ball courts, three horseshoe pits, and a beautiful community garden. Our staff received grant funding and is in the process of constructing a large covered picnic area near the two playgrounds.

Hiller Park is another great place to take your family... and your dogs. The west side of the park has two playgrounds, a group picnic area, and the Hiller Park Loop Trails that include an off-leash area for dogs. We are in the process of installing a botanical garden near the entrance, which we feel will be a great addition to the park.

McKinleyville Parks & Recreation
presents:
**Worldwide
DAY OF PLAY**

**Saturday, October 5, 2013
12:00pm-3:00pm
at
Hiller Sports Complex
Off of Hiller Rd. in McKinleyville**

Turn off your T.V., Computer, and other
electronic gadgets and
GO OUT AND PLAY!

- Soccer
- Zumba
- Tot lot
- Lawn Games
- Bounce houses
- Relay Races
- Disc Golf
- Wiffle Ball
- Kick Ball
- Dodgeball



Contact McKinleyville Parks & Recreation for more information
707-839-9003
email: parksandrec@mckinleyvillecsd.com

Because we like to play, our staff developed a new event last year, which will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2013 (see flyer to the left).



Worldwide Day of Play is intended to encourage families to get off the couch, put away their electronic gadgets, and get outside and play. There will be a wide variety of games and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

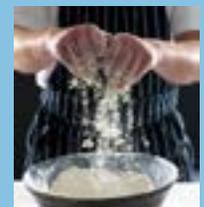
For more information about local parks and recreation opportunities, please contact the friendly folks at McKinleyville Parks & Recreation at 839-9003 or email: parksandrec@mckinleyvillecsd.com.

Jason Sehon
Parks & Recreation Director

"We are never more fully alive, more completely ourselves, or more deeply engrossed in anything, than when we are at play."
— Charles Schaefer

Leisure Class Instructors Needed!

Are you an Interesting Person with a Special Skill and a Desire to Teach?



WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for instructors to teach a variety of classes such as:



Guitar and Music, Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Dance/Ballet, Gardening, & other Special Interest Classes.

Call our office at 839-9003 to inquire about teaching for your community TODAY!

A Message From the Operations Dept.

Be careful what you put in your drain!

Most people don't give much thought to what goes down their drains and into the public sewer. They wash that greasy frying pan, making sure to flush it well with hot water, and it's gone. Or is it?



Fats, oils and grease are a huge problem in nearly every sanitary sewer collection system, and ours is no different.



Cooking oil, food scraps, lards, sauces, dressings and dairy products that get dumped down the sink drain all contribute to the challenge of keeping our sewer mains flowing. The fats, oils and grease begin coating the pipes in your home as it travels to the sewer main, and builds up on the inner walls of the pipes much like candle wax builds up on the wicks in a candle makers shop.

It continues building up as it leaves your house and enters the public sewer main, mingling with other oils and coating those pipes as well. Over a surprisingly short amount of time, that build up will restrict the pipe to the point that the sewer can no longer flow. The sewer keeps coming, and it has to flow somewhere. Now there's a mess in the street, in the storm drain leading to the nearby creek, in your yard... in your home.



There are over 6,300 active sewer connections served by MCSD. If each household puts just one tablespoon of oil down the drain a day, that amounts to over 24 gallons of grease building up in our system every day. Most people would call the authorities if they saw someone dumping 5 big buckets of grease down a manhole every day, and yet don't think about the impact they have on our system by draining that frying pan down the sink drain.

So what can you do to keep your pipes flowing? Let the greasy products cool and dispose of them in the garbage. Wipe greasy plates, cutlery, pots and pans with a paper towel before washing them. Recycle used cooking oil... Humboldt Sanitation accepts it free of charge.

Although grease is the main subject discussed here, it's not the only issue. Don't dispose of garbage such as disposable cleaning wipes and feminine hygiene products into the sewer... they cause blockages in the mains and pumps. Medicines, paints, solvents, motor oils and other toxic materials are not treated by our system and end up being released into our environment unchecked.

GREASE IS YOUR DRAIN'S WORST ENEMY!



Round up for Recreation

The "Round Up for Recreation" program gives MCSD customers the opportunity to round up their water and sewer payment to the nearest dollar for the purpose of donating the extra amount to the McKinleyville Parks & Recreation Department.



The way it works is simple. If a customer voluntarily checks the "Round Up for Recreation" box on their water and sewer bill and provides a payment that is more than the amount due, the additional amount will be donated to the Parks & Recreation Department. For example, if the amount due for a customer's water and sewer bill is \$31.25 and they submit a payment of \$32.00, and check the "Round Up for Recreation" box on the payment stub, then \$0.75 will be donated to the Teen & Community Center.

All proceeds from the "Round Up for Recreation" program will be used to buy fun and exciting equipment for the new Teen and Community Center.

On Duty Cell Phone

As some of you may know, MCSD has an on duty Utility Worker who people can contact outside of our regular business hours. This on duty cell phone number is designed to be used for **EMERGENCIES** only. For all non-emergency responses, MCSD charges a minimum of \$105.00. Examples of emergencies are:

- Water leaks/water bubbling out of the ground
- Vandalism to one of our facilities
- Streetlight pole knocked over
- Fire hydrant knocked over
- Missing manhole lid



For emergencies involving our parks and facilities, the first number to call is the park maintenance cell phone: 599-9355. This is not an on duty cell phone, so there won't always be someone to answer outside our business hours. If you are unable to reach someone at this number, and it is an emergency, please call the duty cell phone. The duty cell phone number can be accessed by calling MCSD's main phone line: 839-3251.

Water...
our most valuable resource



Property Acquisition

Washington Ave. Property:



MCSD is in the final phase of acquiring 3.10 acres of property at/near the intersection of School Road and Washington Ave. Once the property is acquired, staff will begin to provide access to the community. One of the first projects staff will undertake will be to remove all the invasive and non-native plants and shrubs.

Once the invasives have been removed and access provided, the property will be available for use by the general public as open space. There is no immediate plan for park development of this property. Staff will continue researching grant funding opportunities and other funding avenues for potential development in the future.

North Bank Road Property:



Mad River - Looking southeast towards the river frontage portion of the property.

MCSD purchased 33 acres of property at/near the junction of North Bank Road and Azalea Road. Staff is currently working with Humboldt County to acquire access to the property after which the property will be open and available to the public.

There are numerous trails throughout the property, many of which lead to the Mad River.

Kids Corner

Ten ways to get your kids active:

Whether it's playing with friends or family, taking part in sports and other physical activities, or joining in regular family activities; being active is good for everyone!

1. Get active early: Active kids are more likely to become active adults, so teach them to enjoy it now!

LED Streetlights Project

The main motivation for changing out our streetlights involve revenue shortfalls associated with ever increasing operation costs and the necessity to institute a light pole inspection and replacement program, the cost of which was not calculated in the original engineer's report and is not being collected in current monthly fees.

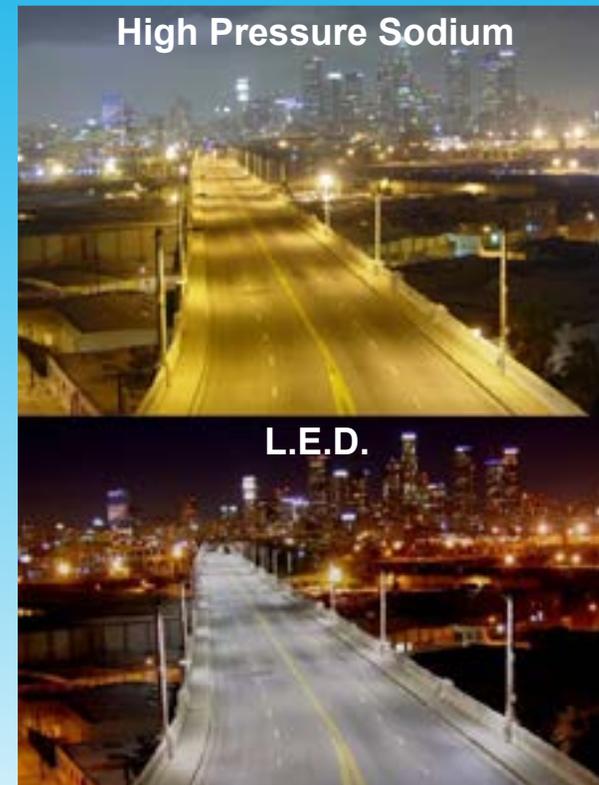
"Rule 51.03. EFFICIENCY. All new streetlight facilities will be equipped with the most energy efficient fixtures available from the electric public utility at that time."

Technologies have evolved substantially in the past several years and staff has determined through available technical and trade information that LED lighting has matured

to a point that makes it financially beneficial and environmentally responsible to not only require that new developments install LED streetlights but that MCSD should also replace existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures with LEDs.

The Streetlight Zones are administered by MCSD through authority granted by the Landscape and Lighting Act of 1972. Formation and modification of Streetlight Zones are governed by Proposition 218 and require a majority vote to form new or modify existing assessments.

Staff proposes phasing the replacement of the existing HPS fixtures with LED. Phase 1 included



Central Avenue from Bartow and Turner north to Railroad, this phase has been completed. Phase 2 will include a portion of or the total remaining fixtures in existing Streetlight Zones.

Kids Corner (continued)

2. Variety, variety: Encourage kids to try a range of sports and activities to develop a range of skills, and find one or two they really like.

3. Have fun: Sounds simple but the basic rule is that sport and activity should be enjoyable.

4. Take the lead: Kids take their cues from parents – so make activity a regular part of your family routine.

5. Give the right gifts: Help kids get active by giving sporting goods rather than toys as gifts.

6. Try something new: Develop a new family activity such as indoor rock-climbing, bike riding, hiking or exploring local parks.

7. Handy action toy: Keep a basketball or tennis ball handy to grab on your way outdoors for an easy 20 minutes of fun.

8. Find a balance: Help kids find their own balance of friends, physical activity, indoor play and homework with unstructured play such as daydreaming, creating, thinking and reading.

9. Give the chauffeur the day off: That's you! Introduce kids to the way we all once got around – walking with them or riding bikes.

10. Everyday action: Aim for 30-60 minutes of moderate activity every day, plus 20-30 minutes of more vigorous activities up to three times a week.

Statewide Crackdown on Texting and Handheld Cell Use

The following was released by the California Office of Traffic Safety:



Sacramento, CA – In an effort to eliminate dangerous behind-the-wheel cell phone use and texting, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), California Highway Patrol (CHP), and more than 200 law enforcement agencies across the state today announced high visibility enforcement operations during April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The overall goal of the increased enforcement is to convince drivers of the dangers of distracted driving and reduce the number of people impacted by this risky behavior. The "It's Not Worth It!" theme emphasizes that a phone call or text isn't worth a hefty fine or a collision.

"In a few short years, distracted driving has grown to be a nationwide traffic safety concern, and we all need to put forth the effort necessary to put an end to it," said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. "Law enforcement agencies will be stepping up their efforts to help remind drivers to stay alert when behind the wheel and to not endanger their lives or the lives of others with distractions from mobile devices."

In recent years, hundreds have been killed and thousands seriously injured in California as a result of collisions that involved at least one driver who was distracted. Nationally, an estimated

3,331 people died in 2011. Any activity that diverts the driver's attention away from the primary task of driving is distracting, but the recent dramatic rise in cell phone talking and texting has greatly increased the number of collisions.

"No text message or phone call is worth the risk of serious injury—or much worse," said Brian Kelly, Acting Secretary of the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency. "Always keep your eyes on the road and hands off your phone while driving."

Behind the wheel, cell phone use can significantly reduce the brain functions needed for safe driving, sometimes up to 37 percent. The cell phone conversation can cause such a reduction in proper brain function that good drivers are transforming seemingly into inattentive "zombies" behind the wheel.

To avoid falling victim to "zombie-like" distracted driving behaviors OTS is providing drivers with the following tips that can be implemented by any motorist:

- Turn off your phone and/or put it out of reach while driving
- Include in your outgoing message that you can't answer while you are driving
- Don't call or text anyone at a time when you think they may be driving
- Adjust controls and set your song playlist before you set out on the road
- Stay alert and keep your mind on the task of driving- often after a long day at work or a not-so-restful night's sleep, people's minds can wander when behind the wheel. If you find yourself daydreaming - clear your head and focus on the road

In 2012, the California Department of Motor Vehicles reported nearly 450,000 handheld cell phone and texting convictions, with more than 57,000 tickets issued in April alone. The CHP and statewide law enforcement agencies are committed to ensuring our streets are safe by ticketing anyone found driving while distracted. The fine for a first time texting or hand-held cell phone violation is \$159, with subsequent tickets costing \$279.

"Enforcement is just one part of this campaign," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "The larger goal is educating motorists about the dangers of distracted driving and encouraging them to change their behavior behind the wheel. This effort is not about how many citations law enforcement officers can issue, but how many lives are ultimately saved because motorists made the right choice to focus their attention on the road, free of distraction."



McKinleyville Playgroup

This playgroup is a gathering of parents and their pre-school aged children, who get together for play and interaction. A playgroup can significantly help children develop social skills, gain independence, and build self-confidence. It can also give you a chance to meet and learn from other parents - all adding up to newfound friendships and a healthy, nurturing environment. Thanks to a grant from First 5 Humboldt, we are able to supply many games and toys for your children to enjoy.



WHO: Parents with children age 5 & under
WHEN: Mondays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Thursdays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Fridays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
WHERE: McKinleyville Activity Center (1705 Gwin Road)

Sign up for Email Notifications

MCSD staff is constantly looking into ways to keep our community informed of upcoming meetings and events. One great way to stay tuned is to access our website and click on the Notification Sign-up located at the left of our home page.

This will allow you to sign up for up to three (3) different types of email notifications:

1. Weekly Updates
2. Document Notifications
3. Alert Notifications



Weekly Updates and Document Notifications are sent via email and Alert Notifications are sent via text (text charge may apply).

It's free, it's fast and it's easy! So sign up today and stay informed with what's going on with YOUR Community Services District. Our website address is www.mckinleyvillecsd.com.



Like us on Facebook!

We have a facebook account that we feel will be helpful to distribute information about MCSD. We will be posting information about community events, recreation programs, program cancellations, field closures, water issues, etc. So add us as a friend and you will be notified about important news and events regarding McKinleyville!



PAY YOUR MCSD BILL ONLINE!



To pay your bills online,
Please visit our website:
www.mckinleyvillecsd.com

- o VISA CARD
- o MASTER CARD
- o E-CHECK
- o E-BILL
- o AUTO PAY



Call us for more info: (707) 839-3251

Bocce Ball Court Improvements

The bocce ball courts at Pierson Park have been converted to a decomposed granite (D.G.) surface. The courts were made possible by a generous matching grant from the Mad River Rotary Club. The project was built by MCSD staff and completed on April 16, 2010. A grand opening for the courts was held on April 29, 2010.

In the last couple years, many communities with bocce ball courts have converted their oyster shell surface to D.G., which is a granite rock that has weathered to the point that it readily fractures into smaller pieces or chunks of weak rock. Over the course of the last year or so, many avid players have approached our staff about considering converting our courts to D.G.



After further research and discussions with members of the local bocce ball community, our staff decided to give them what they wanted. After all, MCSD places high priority on meeting the needs of our community.

A group of local bocce ball players helped staff make these improvements to the courts. In fact it was the hard work of those local volunteers that really helped make it possible. Now that both court surfaces have now been replaced with decomposed granite, local players are very excited. I would like to commend our dedicated staff and members of our community for volunteering their time to get these courts up and ready.

Our staff is in the process of putting together a bocce ball club, which will host leagues and tournaments. For more information on how you can become involved, please call Jason Sehon at 839-9003.



McKinleyville CSD
PO Box 2037
McKinleyville, CA 95519

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

✓ **September**
4 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
19 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ **October**
2 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
17 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ **November**
6 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
21 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ **December**
4 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
19 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ **January**
1 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
16 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ **February**
5 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
20 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm



Online Information is available at www.mckinleyvillecsd.com

Have you checked out the District's website lately? If not, make sure you do...and give us some feedback.

We are constantly striving to improve the information available to you, our customer!

Visit our Website ... www.mckinleyvillecsd.com or e-mail our office at mcsd@mckinleyvillecsd.com

A large graphic with a background of vibrant autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. On the left, there is a logo that says 'Parks Make Life Better!' in green, purple, and blue text. In the center, there is a smaller version of the McKinleyville Community Services District logo. On the right, there is a vertical banner with a background image of a river and trees. The banner contains the following text from top to bottom: 'McKinleyville Community Services District', 'September 2013', 'Newsletter & Recreation Activity guide'.