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Beaver BUZZ

December 1st, 2016
Volume 1 Issue 10

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Things You Might Not Know About Christmas

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*'Twas the Night before
Christmas' was almost
never published.*

The greatest influence on Santa's modern look of today came from a group of writers that were inspired from an Episcopalian saint. The Knickerboxers of New York (the group of writers) wanted to reintroduce Saint Nicolas to society to provide a "cultural counterweight for the commercial bustle and democratic misrule of early nineteenth century New York." Contributors to the Saint Nicolas Project included: Washington Irving who wrote ('The Legend of Sleepy Hollow', who wrote a Christmas story about giving and generosity for this fictional 'Bracebridge Hall.') This series he describes Santa as a large man in a red suit smoking his favorite pipe. Clement Clarke Moore, a contemporary of Irving's, was inspired by this depiction of Santa for his 'A visit from St. Nicholas' poem, in which he also described Santa the traditional way as we know him today.

Clement Clarke Moore's poem, 'A Visit from St. Nicholas', or better known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' practically invented the modern concept of Santa almost was never published. Moore, a 19th century author, wrote the poem for his family to celebrate Christmas in 1922, allegedly drawing inspiration for Santa from a pudgy Dutch driver who took his family on a sleigh ride. But Moore never intended for this poem to be made public. In fact, a close friend of Moore's actually sent the poem to the Sentinel newspaper, where it was published anonymously. Moore felt his poem was beneath his talents, and when it was published and became a huge hit, he denied authoring it for nearly 15 years.

Santa did not always have a beard. Of course, Moore and company were not responsible for inventing Santa, just enhancing his image. According to the book, 'One Night Stands with American History,' 17th century Dutch settlers brought the jolly fat man to American's shores and their image of Santa was "tall, slender and very dignified" without his trademark beard. Artist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast added the beard and the rotund figure in the pages of 'Harper's Weekly' during the late part of the 19th century.

The legend of Santa's sleigh tracker was also perpetuated from a newspaper, but they claim it was not done intentionally. In 1955, a Sears's ad printed the phone number of a Colorado Springs store so children could tell Santa Claus what they wanted for Christmas. The number was misprinted and instead sent children to the hotline for Colonel Harry Shoup, Director of Operations for the US Continental Air Defense. The calls poured in and instead of blocking the number, the kind Colonel ordered his staff to give children updates of Santa's flight coordinates. The tradition has continued to this very day on the local news and internet with a special "NORAD Santa Tracker."

Every year, post offices are flooded with letters addressed to Santa across the World. Over the years, as the letters have increased, the post service set up a special zip code of HOH OH0 for all letters to go to their Santa Letter-Writing Program.

The reindeer who partake in Santa's annual trip also have gone some revamping over the years. In the original draft of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas,' Donner and Blitzen went by the former names of "Dunder" and "Blixem." The names, much like Santa, were taken from the Dutch oath for the words that mean "thunder and lightning."

Speaking of Rudolph, the most famous reindeer came to life as part of a commercial promotion. His first appearance was in a story written in 1939 by ad copywriter Robert L. May that was published in a Montgomery Ward department store promotional booklet given out to children visiting Santa. Since Rudolph was created for Montgomery Ward, the department store owned the copyright and May received no royalties after it became a huge success. Sadly, May almost went bankrupt paying for his ailing wife's medical bills before he finally convinced Montgomery Ward to give him the rights to the plucky reindeer. Rudolph became an even bigger success when May set the story to music with the help of his songwriter brother-in-law Johnny Marks. A famous rendition recorded by Gene Autry became one of the best-selling Christmas songs of all time, selling more than two million copies.

If one really knew what the name "mistletoe" actually meant, many would be less likely to stand underneath it. The quasiparasitic plant has a "symbiotic relationship" with a bird called the mistle thrush. The bird eats the berries, digests the seeds and then leaves the droppings which eventually grow into a new mistletoe plant. This explains why the Germanic word for "mistletoe" literally means "dung on a twig."

Artificial trees have been associated with Christmas for many years, but the materials used to make the trees have changed over the years. The oldest fake trees date back to 1886 in London and were commonly made from green raffia the same twine used to make hula skirts. Another popular item was goose feathers which were dyed green. The Addis Brush Company used their toilet brush weaving machine to create pine-like branches for the modern look of the Christmas tree today. This version has lasted the longest as they were less flammable, held heavier decorations and in a pinch you could make your toilet bowl sparkling clean.

Credit/Debit Cards now accepted

The City Council has now added to option to make water/sewer payments with a credit or debit card. Please note in order to use this option additional charges may be applied to process these payments. Please contact the City Office 785-697-2697 for more information.

Jack-o-Lantern Contest

Thank you to all the kids who entered our Pumpkin Contest. City Council voted on the entries during the Regular Council meeting on November 12th, 2016, and our winners are: Best Carved Pumpkin - Kayln Ifland, Best Decorated Pumpkin - Taylor Lapaille, and Best Overall Pumpkin - Karson Nichols.

*The Governing Body
would like to wish
everyone a Merry
Christmas and Happy
New Year!*



Minutes from the November City Council Meeting

City of Gaylord - Minutes of November 9th, 2016 Regular Meeting

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., November 9th, 2016.

Present Members: Barb Lehmann, Wil Neussendorfer, Jim Muck, Gene Casteel, and Wendell Felsburg

Absent Members: none

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

Present also: City Clerk Aubrey Neussendorfer, Treasurer Crystal Ifland, and City Man Ed Burt

Mayor Tucker called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Citizen's Report: none

The minutes of the October 12th Regular meeting were read. Corrections of four shut-offs instead of three were needed in Well #7, and a spelling error of Builder's Risk not Builder's Rick for the insurance policy for the new fire station. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read, with the above stated corrections. Wil seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. After discussion, Gene made a motion, seconded by Barb, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$55,878.10.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, Darin Godsey with three accounts, Dyania Palm, and Bev Eller. Mayor Tucker issued notices of disconnect on said accounts on October 20th, 2016. Five accounts were paid by the disconnect date and account #73 was disconnected on October 25th, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The water tower inspection report was discussed. Only changes since 2013 were with the recent leak repair when they get the interior sand blasted and prepped for recoating if the bottom portion of the bowl needs to be replaced the cost could be an additional \$20,000.00 or more depending on all that would need to be done. Also, in the report it was noted the concrete foundations are in need of repair. Gene had contacted the Mr. Frankforter about this, and he reported this was more of a cosmetic repair and not a structural issue. They are required to report everything they find by the state to maintain their abilities to continue to inspect water towers.
- The contract from Maguire Iron for the re-coating of the interior and exterior for \$89,090.00 was reviewed. This matter was tabled until the loan application was approved.
- The Arsenic System is still offline as the wrong parts arrived today. Mr. Miller was contacted and the correct parts this time have been ordered. Discussion followed concerning the frustrations of this project and the lack of communication between Mr. Miller and the City. Gene and Ed updated council concerning the shut-offs, as if we the city will install them, Mr. Boettcher will pay for the four shut-off's.
- Aubrey reported she has not had any recent updates concerning the Loan Application as this time.
- Aubrey reported she was unable to apply for the Handicap Assessable Door for the Community Center with a Smith County Community Grant as Center Glass would never return her phone calls concerning a quote. She reported she had contacted surrounding City Clerks to seek another vendor to be used for this project.
- Aubrey reported the trash truck sold for \$1,515.00 on the recent Netbidz auction.
- Aubrey reminded all members to vote on the pumpkins before they left for the evening.
- Council discussed hosting the event of meeting Santa Claus in December. After discussion council felt hosting this event on a Sunday in the afternoon would be the best time. Invites will be for all area kids and grandkids to attend. Sunday December 11th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be the date if the local Santa Claus would be available. Aubrey will contact all parties to see if this date will work for them. Non-alcoholic beverages, along with a snack table will need to be planned. Goodies bags will need to be prepared to hand out to the children. The two local businesses in town will be contacted to see if they would like to donate anything to be given to the kids at this event.
- Aubrey reported the new printer was ordered and is currently up and running.
- Aubrey reported she has contacted the KS League to inquire about selling real estate. She reported the League recommended council makes every effort to obtain fair market value for property. After discussion council agreed to advertise in the Waconda Trader, Area Insight, Nex-tech and flyers to accept sealed bids for the old Farmer's Bank Building. Bids will be accepted until December 14th, 2016 at 5 p.m. Council will open these bids at the council meeting the same night. Council stressed to add the disclaimer they have the right to refuse any and all bids.
- Wil reported they no longer have rebuilt idle pumps for the 4020 and the old one will need to be sent to Holdrege to be repaired. Wendell made the motion to have the current idle pump sent to Holdrege to have it re-built on the 4020 through Landmark Implement. Wil seconded, motion carried.
- Aubrey reported the Gaylord rock has been repaired at the Roadside Park and looks nice. Gene asked council what to do about the old faded PRIDE signs. After discussion council agreed to remove the old PRIDE signs and the whole wooden structure they were attached to at the Roadside Park. The signs will be kept and stored until members of the old PRIDE group are contacted to see if they need to be kept.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to recess at 8:16 p.m. The meeting was called back to regular session at 8:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gene made the motion for the City to sign up for Online Banking Services through the Smith County Bank. Barb seconded, motion carried.
- Barb made the motion for the City of Gaylord to begin using the Square Reader services for allowing the acceptance of Credit and Debit Cards for utility bill payments. Jim seconded, motion carried.
- Aubrey reported after reviewing the phone bill, the long distance charges for the dialer on the telemetry system calling Ed's number which is a Salina, KS number are costing around \$15.00. Ed had contacted Nex-Tech about switching his cell number to a local number would be a onetime fee of \$10.00 and would like for council to consider paying for this switch as opposed to paying the long distance fees each month. Council unanimously agreed to pay the fee to switch Ed's phone number.
- Due to the payments to the Smith County Memorial Hospital the General Fund will need to be amended to increase the budget authority to allow for bills to be paid till the end of the year. Jim made the motion to Amend the General Fund Budget for 2016 and scheduled the Hearing for this amendment at the December 14th Regular Council Meeting. Wil seconded, motion carried.
- Aubrey reported the Smith County Community Foundation is hosting a breakfast here on November 15th at 6:30 am and all members are invited to attend.
- The City Christmas Party was discussed and it was decided to have a potluck at the Community Center sometime in January after the holidays.

REPORTS:

STREETS: Wendell asked Ed to check culverts for drainage issues in the event of a big rain to make sure everything was running well. Also to continue checking area for additional rock as needed.

SEWER/TRASH: Gene reported the next Copper Sulfate treatment would take place in March 2017. Gene asked council if they had any objections to purchasing a manhole Wrench for less than \$50.00. Council had no objections on this matter. Gene reported two old flush tanks are plugged and are full of water. They are currently located in areas in which they are not causing any issues for residents, but may need to be addressed in the future if problems arise.

Ed reported the block heater in the trash truck needs replacing and two lug nuts are missing.

WATER: Jim reported no new water complaints have been received during the past month.

FIRE: Wil reported no runs occurred in the past month.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: 5 units are rented. Barb reported no issues have been brought to her attention with the Community Center and all appears to be clean.

PARKS: Ed reported the bathrooms have been winterized and the toilet will need repairs in the spring.

CITY MAN: Ed asked if the street flags need to be flown Friday or all weekend in honor of Veteran's Day. Council agreed to fly the flags all weekend. Ed reported he would be hanging the Christmas Lights outside in the next few days while the weather is still nice outside. They would not be turned on until after Thanksgiving.

TREASRUER: no report.

CITY CLERK: no report

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be December 14th, 2016 at 7 p.m.

With no further business before the council, a motion was made by Wil and seconded by Jim to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

(City Clerk)

Approved:

(Mayor) (Date)

Disclaimer: These minutes are unofficial and not official until the Gaylord City Council approves them and are signed by the Mayor.

Christmas and Christmas tree Facts

- The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- The first printed reference to Christmas trees was in Germany in 1531.
- Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.
- The first commercial tree lot was started in New York in 1851 by Mark Carr.
- It was not until 1900, large department stores started to erect illuminated trees.
- Recycled real Christmas trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and have been placed in ponds for fish shelters.
- Real Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.
- 59 percent of real Christmas trees harvested are recycled in community programs.
- An acre of Christmas Trees provides the daily oxygen requirements for 18 people.
- 48% of household have an artificial tree, while only 21% have a real tree, and 32% have no tree.
- 85% of the artificial trees in the United States are produced in China.
- Real Christmas Trees are involved in less than one-tenth of a percent of residential fires.
- Thirty-four to thirty-six million Christmas trees are produced each year and 95% of these are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms.
- More than one million acres of land have been planted in Christmas trees.
- 2,000 trees can be planted per acre. On an average 1,000 to 1,500 of these trees will survive.
- A Christmas tree takes an average of 7-10 years to mature.
- 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry.
- 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms located in California, Oregon, Washington, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.
- Oregon is the leading producer of Christmas trees.
- The bestselling trees are Scotch Pine, Douglas fir, Noble fir, Faser fir, Virginia pine, Balsam fir and white pine.
- About 73 million new Christmas trees will be planted this year.
- 2-3 seedlings are planted for every harvested Christmas tree.
- Helicopters are used at times to lift harvested Christmas trees from farms.
- Using small candles to light a tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
- Edward Johnson came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882.
- Christmas tree lights were first mass produced in 1890.
- The value of all Christmas Trees in 2001 was \$360 million.
- Christmas trees are baled to protect the branches from damage during shipping.

Thank You – Solomon Valley Beavers 4-H Club

The members of the City Council would like to say “Thank You” to all the members of the Solomon Valley Beavers 4-H Clubs who helped with the improvements made the City Park. On a recent workday, members painted picnic tables, benches, and playground equipment located in the city park, and also planted flowers around the Gaylord Archway in the northwest corner of the park. It is nice to see the youth in this area spend their time on projects to help improve their communities! Keep up the good work!

The North Pole – More than Santa’s Home

There are actually two North poles. The first is the Geographic North Pole, which is, literally, the top most point of the planet. The second is the North Magnetic Pole. This point moves around daily as it depends on what is happening within the earth’s magnetic field.

No land is beneath either one of the two north poles. All one would find is sheets of ice over bodies of extremely frigid waters.

The North Pole is not owned by any country or nation, but Denmark is making the biggest case for it. The United States, Norway, Russia, and Canada would all like to claim a portion of the Arctic Circle. This is due to the fact the Geological surveys indicate that 22 percent of the world’s untapped oil and natural gas are waiting underneath all of that ice.

Many North-Pole themed amusement parks exist in the world but Santa Clause Village is the only one that is located within the Arctic Circle. It is found a few miles north Rovaniemi, a city located in Finland. The Arctic Circle’s borderline cuts right through the park and there is even a white line painted across it to let guests know when they are inside the circle. Also when one is here, guests can mail postcards stamped with a special Santa Claus postmark.

Average temperatures in January fluctuate between -45 and -15 degrees F. Temperatures during the summer months will usually hover around freezing. The highest temp ever recorded was a balmy 41 degrees F.

The narwhal lives in the waters around the Arctic Circle. Each of these whales has a tusk between six and ten feet long, earning the nickname “Unicorn of the Sea.” Back in the 16th century, their “horns” were highly coveted and were said to contain magical powers. Supposedly, Queen Elizabeth I paid 10,000 pounds for one.

A North Pole marathon occurs on certain years. The participants are transported to an international North Pole Camp via helicopters; runners will dash along the floating Arctic shelf braving temps of -22 degrees F accounting for wind chill. The last one took place in April of 2014 and the entry fee was \$14,800.00 and this included a t-shirt and a medal if you finished.

Even though the North Pole is cold, the South Pole is the coldest place on earth. The South Pole sits on top of a thick sheet of ice, which is also on the piece of land known as Antarctica, which is 9,000 feet above sea level. The North Pole, however, sits on a thin Arctic sheet of ice and is nearly a foot above sea level, meaning it can absorb heat from the water in the Arctic Ocean.

The North Pole has no time zone, as the sun only rises and sets once per year. Also, as there is no permanent human presence, no time zone has ever been assigned, and so no visitors use their preferred time zone. This is how Santa Claus can deliver all the world’s presents on Christmas Eve - as he is not restricted by time.

Each year, little birds flee the North Pole for the Antarctic - which is approximately 20,014 kilometers. However, instead of flying straight towards the continent, they take some alternative route and cut their journey down to 12,430 kilometers.

Community Clean-Up Days

Thank you, to all who returned the clean-up surveys from the October issue of our newsletter. Council was pleased with the amount of interest our residents have shown to pursue the Community Clean-Up Grants offered through the Smith County Community Foundation and Dane G. Hansen Foundation. With many of our residents who have graciously volunteered their time and the equipment for removal of larger items are involved with farming and with fall harvest in full swing this project will take place in the Spring of 2017. Sometime in late March or early April is when Council is tentatively looking at scheduling this project to take place. Also, this timeframe should give our residents plenty of time to sort and go through as many items as possible to fully take advantage of this project. Please keep reading the newsletters as we will keep you informed as details are added to this project.



Santa Claus is coming to Gaylord

Mark your calendars as Santa Claus will be in Gaylord on Sunday, December 11th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center in Gaylord. So have your kids or grandkids get their lists ready and plan to bring them to stop by to see Santa. Holiday beverages and goodies will be served.

Please remember to have all trash in secure boxes or bags placed out for pick-up on Tuesday mornings. Any loose trash in containers will not be picked up and left in the container.

Tuesday Morning – Trash Day

Please remember to keep your pets either on a leash or in a pen on Monday evenings and especially Tuesday mornings as when your pets are allowed to roam the streets, they are finding their way into trash and tearing the bags of a scattering trash all over. Please note if trash is scattered all over the street it is not the City's responsibility to pick up all the debris, as we only pick-up trash which is secured in boxes or in bags.

Community Calendar

We would like to add a calendar to this newsletter each month containing local birthdays and anniversaries for area residents and their families. We would also like to include, upcoming local events. In memorandum of loved ones may also be included. Please submit your information to Abby at the City Office at any time, but no later than the third Friday of each month, so this information can be placed in the following month's newsletter. You may submit your information by calling the City Office at 697-2697, mail to: City of Gaylord, PO Box 548, Gaylord, KS 67638, drop in the box located in the City Office, or e-mail to cityofgaylord@gmail.com.

City Council

The Gaylord City Council meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the Gaylord Community Center. The public is *always* invited and can attend the entire meeting, except during Executive Session. If you wish to discuss a particular concern, please let our City Clerk, Abby Neussendorfer; know by the first Friday of the month, so she can add your name to the monthly meeting agenda. We WELCOME the public, and wish we had more citizens attend our meetings. The City Council does their best to address the issues of our citizens, and tries to provide our citizens with a healthy, safe environment with the funds available. Please join in and help our decisions. Please do your part to maintain the quality of our community.

Contact Information

Please make sure to keep your contact information current with the City Office, as when events occur such as Boil Advisories you can be informed as soon as possible. By which ever means you prefer to be contacted: phone, text message, e-mail or via Facebook, please keep this information current with the City Office.

Gaylord Library

Get ready for when the snow flies, and come in to check out the latest books added to our selection at the Library, as there is nothing better than curling up with a good book on these cold winter days. We also have a great traveling book selection. Gaylord Library Hours are 9am to 11am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

City of Gaylord

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WATER BILL IS ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER!