

# 25 Unknown Facts About Christmas

* Early illustrations of St. Nicholas make him out to be a stern symbol of discipline rather than the jolly, overweight elf that most children know today.
* All letters addressed to Santa in the United States go to Santa Claus, Indiana.
* Engineers that designed the Voyager Space Mission planned things out so it would avoid planetary encounters during Thanksgiving and Christmas.
* There is a village in Peru where people settle the previous year’s grudges by fist fighting. They then can start off the New Year with a clean slate.
* Telling scary ghost stories is an old Christmas Eve tradition that has died out in the past century.
* Some zoos accept donated Christmas trees as food for their animals.
* It is estimated that the song “White Christmas” by Irving Berlin is the bestselling single in history with over 100 million copies sold.
* During Christmas in Newfoundland people called Mummers dress up in crude disguises and go from house to house dancing and playing music while the hosts try to identify them.
* Paul McCartney earns nearly half a million dollars every year from his Christmas song, which many critics regards as his worst song ever.
* A large part of Sweden’s population watches Donald Duck cartoons every Christmas Eve since 1960.
* Many of the perpetually open Denny’s restaurants were built without locks, which was problematic when they decided to close down for Christmas for the first time in 1988.
* During the Christmas of 2010, the Colombian government covered jungle trees with lights. When the FARC guerrillas (terrorists) walked by, the trees lit up and banners asking them to lay down their arms became visible. 331 guerrillas re-entered society and the campaign won an award for strategic marketing excellence.

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Beaver Buzz

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25 Facts Continued….

* Nearly all of the most popular Christmas songs including ‘Winter Wonderland’, ‘Chestnuts roasting..;.’, and ‘I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas’ were written by Jewish people.
* During the Christmas of 1914 (World War I), a truce was held between Germany and the UK. They decorated their shelters, exchanged gifts across no man’s land and played a game of football between themselves.
* In 1918 and for the past 40 years, the Canadian province of Nova Scotia has sent the city of Boston a giant Christmas tree as a thank you for their support after the 1917 Halifax explosion.
* In 1867, a Boston industrialist heard Charles Dickens read A Christmas Carol and was so moved he closed his factory on Christmas Day and gave every one of his employees a turkey.
* Between the 16th and 19th centuries was known as a “little ice age” where global temperatures were several degrees lower than normal. It is for this reason that many Christmas carols and songs stress a “White Christmas”.
* Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen is the only record to get the UK Christmas Singles Chart Number One twice, once in 1975 and again in 1991.
* The Nazi party tried to turn Christmas into a nonreligious holiday celebrating the coming of Hitler, with Saint Nicholas replaced by Odin the “Solstice Man” and swastikas on top of Christmas trees.
* The US playing card company ‘Bicycle’ had manufactured a playing card in WW2 which would reveal an escape route for POEs when soaked. These cards were Christmas presents for all POWs in Germany.
* An artificial Christmas Tree would have to be reused for more than 20 years to be “greener” than buying a fresh-cut tree annually.
* We frequently abbreviate Christmas as X-mas because of ancient tradition. X is the Greek letter “chi” which is an abbreviation for the word “Christ” in Greek.
* Japanese people traditionally eat at KFC for Christmas dinner, thanks for a successful marketing campaign 40 years ago. KFC is so popular that customers must place their Christmas orders 2 months in advance.
* People of Oslo, Norway donate the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree every year in gratitude to the people of London for their assistance during WWII.
* Christmas purchases account for 1/6 of all retail sales in the U.S. annually.

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# Minutes from the November City Council Meeting

**City of Gaylord – Minutes of October 11th, 2017 Regular Meeting**

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., November 8th, 2017.

 Present Members: Barb Lehmann, Wendell Felsburg, and Wil Neussendorfer

 Absent Members: Jim Muck and Gene Casteel

 Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

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

Mayor Tucker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Citizen’s Report: Tyson Kline discussed with council exactly what they were wishing to have done with the Holmes Addition Project as far as tree removal and drainage dirt work so he could prepare an estimate for his services on this project. Council at this time needed to obtain more information yet before any final plans can be determined. Once final plans are made with council they would contact Mr. Kline so he could prepare an estimate.

The minutes of the October 11th Regular Meeting was read. A correction of diesel not fuel in the oil of the tanker truck, and repairs to the dump truck were made. Wil made the motion to approve the minutes as read, with stated corrections. Barb seconded, motion carried.

The minutes of the October 17th Special Meeting was read. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Wil seconded, motion carried.

 Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. After discussion, Barb made a motion, seconded by Wil, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out $9,861.69.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, AMI, Darin Godsey with three accounts, Megan Jackson, and Greg Jones. One account, #69A was disconnected and collection procedures will begin.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Aubrey reported she had contacted Brian from B.E.B Associates from Norton, Kansas to perform the survey work on the Holmes Addition. He anticipated being here towards the end of October and was here starting work this week. Ed reported Gene had met with him and was going to show them where the four corner points of the original town of Gaylord were located in town. For future reference any current survey marking point any town can be used as a starting point.
* Aubrey reported the last update was for the Bulk Fill Water System to arrive mid-November as a vendor who supplied some plastic components was manufactured in Puerto Rico and they needed to seek a new vendor.
* The last update concerning the crews to be here to work on the Water Tower is November 10th.
* Aubrey reported KANPAY is up and running and we have already processed payments using this new online payment system. Things are running much smoother with this system as each party is collecting 100% of thier fees.
* Council discussed the success of the Community Halloween Party. 54 people signed the guest book and overall council agreed it was well attended and would likely continue this event each year.
* Aubrey reminded council of the County Wide Emergency Management Training on November 20th in the courthouse in Smith Center starting at 1 pm.
* Aubrey reported she has now completed all the requirements to enroll in the state Set-Off Program and will begin entering our collections for unpaid water/sewer accounts.
* Aubrey reported the security system for the Community Center has been ordered.
* Mr. Fishburn from MAP has sent final drafts of all operations and maintenance manuals for Ed to review, and once these have been approved he will complete his work for us at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Aubrey reported with rules described in the Affordable Care Act we can no longer pay an insurance stipend to full-time employees. The city has two options to continue offering this benefit; pay the insurance company directly on behalf of the employee or increase their hourly rate to accommodate for this stipend. Wil made the motion to increase full-time employee’s rates to include the current stipend paid for insurance.
* Ed reported he was able to repair a submersible pump the fire department has on hand and will not need to purchase one for the city at this time. This pump will need new hoses, as would a new one.
* Aubrey had prepared a job description for Utility Director for council to review and make changes to approve at the December meeting.
* Aubrey reminded council if they want to make changes to our current Open/Concealed Carry Policy in city buildings this needed to be completed before the end of the year. After much discussion council did not take any action at this time.
* Council discussed the idea of hosting Santa Claus during the month of December and decided not to schedule this event this year, rather on December 11th have refreshments available all day as an act of customer appreciation.
* Council discussed our city Christmas Party and decided to have a potluck and have Kurt Ifland cook the meat like he did last year. Wil would discuss with Kurt and determine a Saturday which works for Kurt. This will be the date we will plan for.
* After discussion of when to send cards or flowers for council/employees for family members who have passed, council agreed to have Aubrey set different options for all members of council to vote on during the next council meeting.
* Council asked Aubrey to find out what other comparable towns charge for new accounts for renters and non-renters for water and sewer connections.
* Barb made the motion to replace all three stools in the Community Center. Wil seconded, motion carried.
* Council reviewed the contract for the purchase of a used 2004 Ford F450 Type 3 McCoy Miller Ambulance which is currently in use by the Smith County Emergency Department. Smith County is purchasing a newer unit towards the end of this year and at this time, this unit will be available. Council did not see anything wrong with the contract and agreed to sign the contract.

REPORTS:

STREETS: Ed reported the Smith County Road Department will be doing the culvert installation through First Street east of the new Fire Station once they have completed work in Cedar.

SEWER/TRASH: Ed reported Gerald Caspers had sewer issues during the past month and it was determined the blockage was within the residents lines. Ed reported there are still ongoing issues with residents correctly bagging or securing trash and roaming animals tearing into bags on Tuesday mornings.

WATER: Ed reported he repaired a 2” line by Jim Muck’s house, just north of the corner of 4th Street and Lenau Street. This repair was right next to a prior repair and a 50’ section of line would need to be replaced in the future to prevent more issues in this same area. Ed felt with as saturated as the ground was this leak has been present for quite some time.

Ed reported the entire line from the main to the meter was replaced at Nichols Feedlot connection. This replacement fixed the issue of low water volume at this account. It appears within this line the sediments in the water had built up over time to restrict the water flower to almost nothing.

FIRE: Wil reported the department had been on three runs during the past month. The tanker is still having issues with diesel in the oil and is currently is not allowed out of town on calls. Also the military truck 565 is having brake issues and is being worked on. Aubrey reported Adam Ifland has been sworn in as Fire Chief in Training.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: Barb reported 7 units are rented at the Housing Authority.

PARKS: no report

CITY MAN: Ed reported Gene had only received one estimate to fix the roof at the City Building at the City Park. Ed asked council if signs could be ordered for the door at the city building at the park. Council had no objections. Ed reported Midwest Energy has a locator the city can borrow as it will be able to detect a wider range than our current locator. Ed reported he continues to have a VFD failure along with a Communications Failure and is working with Sargent Drilling to determine the cause of this issue. Ed reported he will need to purchase a heater to use at the lift station. Ed reported the next warm day he will put the Christmas Lights and plans to plug them in after Thanksgiving. Ed reported work needs to be done to the bucket on the backhoe and council had no objections. Ed reported Gene had prepared a listing of misc. parts we need to keep on hand at all times to be able to fix minor water and sewer problems that might arise. Council had no objections to this request.

TREASRUER: no report

CITY CLERK: no report

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be December 13th, 2017 at 7 p.m.

With no further business before the council, a motion was made by Wil and seconded by Barb 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.**

# Burn Ban has been issued!

As of Monday October 23rd, 2017 the Smith County Commissioners placed Smith County under a Burning Ban. In accordance with Ordinance 360 of the City of Gaylord, Kansas this burn ban also includes inside the city limits of Gaylord, Kansas. This burn ban is in effect until further notice.

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# The History of Christmas Lights

People first started putting lights on Christmas trees back in the middle of the 17th century. They attached small candles to the ends of tree branches with wax or pins. Before electricity was widely available, people didn’t usually put up their trees until December 24th because of the risk of fire. Once electric Christmas tree lights were invented, people started to put up trees earlier, and leave them up longer.

The American custom of using electric lights began in 1882 when Edward Johnson an associate of Thomas Edison, hand-wired red, white, and blue bulbs and wound them around a rotating evergreen tree. Then, in 1895, President Cleveland set up a lighted Christmas tree in the White House and the general public began to notice. So began the tradition.

General Electric (Edison’s company) began bringing good things to light as the 1800s came to a close, offering hand-blown bulbs that needed to be wired together like beads on a strong. Homeowners had to hire a “wireman” to install the mess together, much as you’ll have to call someone to get your new computer online tomorrow.

In 1900, some large stores started to put up large illuminated trees to attract customers. Members of high society began hosting Christmas Tree Parties. These were grand events since a typical lighted tree of the early 1900s cost upwards of $300 (more than $2000 in today’s dollars), including the generator and wireman’s services.

In 1903, The American Eveready Co. came out with the first humane Christmas light set, including screw-in bulbs and a plug for the wall socket. In 1908, Ralph Morris came up with the idea of pulling the lights from an old telephone switchboard and wiring them on a tree, running them from a battery.

The person responsible for popularizing Christmas tree lighting is Albert Sadacca. A tragic fire in New York City in 1917, caused by the continuing practice of lighting the highly flammable tree with candles, gave 15 year old Albert an idea. Now it just so happened that Albert’s family, who had come from Spain, had a novelty business selling wicker cages with imitation birds in them that lit up.

Albert suggested to his parents that they begin making electric lights for Christmas trees. They have lots of bulbs on hand, and it would be much safer than using candles. The Sadaccas’s thought Albert had a good idea, but only one hundred strands of lights sold their first year. After Albert thought of painting the bulbs red, green and other colors instead of using plain glass, business picked up sharply. Albert became the head of a multi-million dollar company.

The company started by Albert Sadacca and his two brothers, Henri and Leon was NOMA Electric Company the largest Christmas lighting company in the world for all of the years of its operation prior to 1965.

# Online Payments – Now Available

City of Gaylord, Kansas, Now Accepts Electronic Payments

*The city now offers the convenience of processing credit card and check payments electronically!*

Please use the link found on our website [www.gaylordkansas.com](http://www.gaylordkansas.com) under the Utilities Section. It will be a red box found on the top right hand side of the page.

# Bulk Fill Water System - Update

Council was informed of delays in a supplier who provided plastic components used within the bulk fill water system due to the recent hurricane season. Manufacturers which produced these items where located in Puerto Rico, and since the hurricanes they have needed to find a new supplier for these items to be produced. At this time, they do not feel the delay will be more then 30-45 days and we should expect our system to arrive towards the end of December. Thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time.

# City Council Appoints New Fire Chief

In October of this year, Fire Chief Stan Horning informed City Council he would like to retire as Fire Chief at the end of November this year. Stan stated he has been on the Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years, serving half of this time as Fire Chief. During his time as chief, Stan was instrumental in many projects which vastly improved the capabilities of our fire department. Stan utilized many grants offered locally and programs through different organizations to achieve success with expanding, upgrading, and obtaining new items for the department. Many of these projects allowed the department to expand their capabilities to perform their jobs by obtaining items to keep members safe while fighting fires, equipment to use to allow them to fight fires more effectively, and by expanding and upgrading their fleet of trucks and vehicles to achieve the best level of fire protection for their coverage area. The most recent project, and the largest to date, is the building of a new fire station which is 90% complete.

Members of City Council would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Stan Horning for his many years of service and dedication to our fire department. Thank you for giving back to your community with your service and all of your hard work and dedication to better the fire department.

During the November City Council meeting, Council approved Mayor Tucker’s appointment of Adam Ifland as the new Fire Chief. Adam will begin his duties as Fire Chief beginning in December of this year.

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# Tuesday Morning Trash Collection

Council would like to remind all residents to have all trash to the curb by no later than 8:30 am on Tuesday mornings or your trash will not be picked up. Also to please have your trash securely bagged or placed into boxes for pick-up. If you trash is not out by the time Ed routinely goes by your residence for pick-up or your trash is not securely bagged or boxed your trash will not be picked up. Also, if animals have ripped into your trash and scattered your trash, we will no longer be spending time picking this trash up.

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# Water Tower Update

Council anticipates this being the last update for the water tower as we now have a date of November 10th crews will arrive and begin working on our water tower. We do know this date may vary slightly as their work is affected greatly by the weather conditions, as we all know how the weather can change quickly here in Kansas.

# Public Notary Services – Now Available

Our City Clerk, Aubrey has now received all the necessary documents to allow her to officially notarize documents. City Council will not charge for this service, and are glad to offer this additional service to our residents.

# 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 many 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.

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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

Fall has arrived! Curl up with a good book, a warm blanket, and a warm cup of your favorite drink. Stop in and see the latest additions. We also have a great traveling book selection. Gaylord Library Hours are 9am to 11am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

# Facebook

Like us on Facebook, under the page City of Gaylord, Kansas.

# Newsletter

Copies of this newsletter can be found by the following methods:

* By postal mail
* On the web [www.gaylordkansas.com](http://www.gaylordkansas.com) under the Newsletter Tab
* City Office

If you would prefer a copy of this newsletter e-mailed to you instead of postal mail, please contact Abby at the City Office 697-2697 or via e-mail at cityofgaylord@gmail.com.

WATER BILL IS ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Return Service Requested

# City Council

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