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Beaver BUZZ

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History of Labor Day

The first Monday of every September is Labor Day which in Gaylord used to be the “big” day of the year when Watermelon Day festivities were held. For many it is a welcome holiday, as it means a “Three Day Weekend” and is typically the last weekend for outdoor activities such as going to the lake or camping. Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to celebrate the hard work and dedication of all workers in America. The first municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886 recognizing Labor Day, but the first state bill was passed in Oregon in February 1887. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday to honor workers. By the end of 1894 Congress had passed an act making the first Monday of each September a legal holiday in all territories and the District of Columbia. The founder of Labor Day is an on-going debate between two men, Matthew Maguire and Peter Maguire. Peter was a general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and co-founder of the American Federation of Labor and was first suggesting a day to honor all laborers. But many feel Matthew, a machinist, who was the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in New Jersey, was the founder as he proposed the holiday in 1882 while he served as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

The very first Labor Day picnic and demonstration was held in New York City in 1882. By 1885 many industrial centers celebrated the annual event for their work force. These early celebrations typically consisted of a street parade to exhibit the “strength and spirit of the working men”. The parade was followed by a festival for the recreation and entertainment of the workers and their families. In 1909, a resolution was passed by the American Federation of Labor declaring the Sunday before Labor Day as “Labor Sunday” and was to emphasize and honor the educational and spiritual aspects of the labor movement.

Industrial Centers knew the sustainability of their business and their bottom lines with efficiencies and production relied heavily on the “American Worker,” and it was appropriate and necessary to pay tribute and honor to these workers on Labor Day.

Gaylord for many years was widely known as where the Watermelon Day Festivities were held, and a annual headline in the local Smith County Pioneer newspaper read: “ All roads lead to Gaylord on Monday to celebrate Labor Day, and the citizens of that little city are getting ready to welcome all travelers.”

The very first Watermelon Day was hosted in Gaylord in 1923, with A.E. Glendhill receiving the credit for starting the event. The Glendhill and Pratt families hosted a picnic in which homegrown watermelons were served. At first this gathering only invited residents of Gaylord but over the years grew to attendance records reaching the thousands. A report from the 1940’s recorded 5,000 people ‘more or less’

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The very first Labor Day was celebrated in 1885 in New York City. Gaylord’s first Watermelon Day was celebrated in 1923.

According to John Dannenberg's, "Origin of Annual Watermelon Day" a group of residents of Gaylord joined together and purchased a tract of land and donated it to the city to be used as a public park. This group included: A.W. Dannenberg, George Parker, R.H. Gedney, W.D. Lloyd and Harvey Pratt. John also wrote of two popular events, listening to the Gaylord Euphonic Band which consisted of 25-30 members and conducted by Lee Meadows and watching the Gaylord Aces baseball games. The Gaylord Aces played annually well into the 1950's.

Later, The Community Park, which was located on the Solomon River south of town, became the location of the yearly event. This land was owned by Schuyler Stevens, and he provided a list of activities for community fun. Stevens developed this park and built four cottages families could rent for vacations. A motorboat named "Dixie" carried passengers, up and down the river above the dam, and offered swimming in the cool waters. A large bath house was located nearby for locals to rent swimming suits. The ice house was close as well, and offered ice to residents during the summer months. A nine-hole golfing greens and a ball diamond provided additional recreational activities. Eventually in the 1930' and 1940's flood waters destroyed The Community Park, and Watermelon Day was relocated into the city park.

Over the years some of the highlighted events which took place on Watermelon Day included: Grease Pig and Greasy Pole Climbs, Siphon Tube Setting, Bingo, Craft Shows, Best Beard Contest, Truck and Tractor Pulls, Three Wheeler and Motorcycle Rodeos, dime toss, dunk tank, darts, and talent shows put on by area residents.

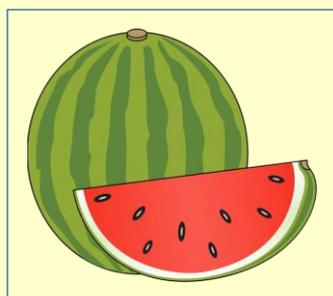
While Watermelon Day activities no longer occur in Gaylord, the memories of events past still live on.

Is Canning Becoming A Lost Art?

Prices of canned goods sold in the supermarkets today have made canning and preserving, something of the past, but with many people growing their own foods again, interest in canning is once again on the rise. This time of year as gardens begin to produce their rewards, and often one is stuck with buckets of produce.

Equipment needed for canning includes:

- Canner (basically a big pot for the boiling water method or a pressure cooker)
- Canning Rack (a rack which holds the jars in the canner)
- Funnel (for pouring hot liquids into the jars)
- Jar Lifter (tool used to grab the hot jars and lift them in and out pans)
- Jar Wrench (tool used to tighten the lids)
- Jars, Tops, and lids (sizes will depend on the produce being used and how to want to preserve it)
- Clean dishtowels



*Wishing you a safe
and happy Labor Day
Weekend!*

Minutes from the August City Council Meeting

City of Gaylord - Minutes of August 10th, 2016 Regular Meeting

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., August 10th, 2016.

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

Absent Members: Wendell Felsburg, Crystal Ifland

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

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

Mayor Tucker called the Budget Hearing for the 2017 City of Gaylord to order at 7:00 p.m. Gene made the motion to adopt the 2017 Budget as present. Wil seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Citizen's Report: Ron Ellis from Nextech was present to discuss the current project they have going within Gaylord. He expressed his apologies for the lack of communication of the fiber optic project and would like a list of all complaints and he will address them personally. He anticipates the completion of their subcontractors within 60-90 days, and the final phase will be done by Nextech employees and they will be sending out letters to schedule appointments with homeowners.

The minutes of the July 13th Regular meeting were read. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read; with the correction of the Budget Hearing date is August 10th not the 13th. Jim seconded, motion carried.

Fire Chief Horning entered the meeting. Chief Horning reviewed the current fire hydrants within town. After review it was determined new hydrants are need at 8th & Parker and 7th & Skinner. Hydrants can be removed are at: 5th & Grove, 5th & Parker, 7th & Lenau, and 4th & Skinner. Repairs are needed at 2nd & Lenau. Chief Horning left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. Barb made a motion, seconded by Wil, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$000.00.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, Darin Godsey with three accounts, Nex-tech, and Dyania Palm. Mayor Tucker issued notices of disconnect on said accounts on July 20th, 2016. All accounts were paid by July 25th, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The contract to sign over ownership of the arsenic system was discussed. Ed reported the valve still leaks. Council asked Aubrey to send a letter to update all parties of this leak and once this is fixed we will sign the contract.
- Options for installing lock-outs on the electrical outlets on the street lights on Main Street were reviewed. No action was taken by council at this time.
- Aubrey reported she had contacted the legal department with the KS League of Municipalities concerning the \$10.00 late fee on utilities and the maturity length. They informed her there was nothing wrong with our current policy and many towns collect the late fee at the time of disconnection. Even their sample policy online reads this same way. After discussion council decided not to change our current collection policy and to have Aubrey send a letter to account #11 addressing their complaint from July's meeting.
- The contract with the Smith County Police Department was discussed. This matter was tabled until a later date.
- A rock source for the streets was discussed. Members of council need to keep looking for options to obtain rock for the city.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to recess at 8:24 p.m with the meeting called back to order at 8:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Aubrey reported the interest on the CD's was 91.57 this quarter.
- Aubrey reported the loan application for the water tower and telemetry system is on hold and is seeking advice how to proceed with the recent lightning strike to the telemetry system. She will continue the proceed once its determined if we should wait until the insurance is done with the investigation or proceed as planned and apply the insurance payment to the loan.
- The September issue of the Beaver Buzz was reviewed.
- Barb reported once Dennis has down time he is willing to donate his time and equipment to help trim the trees with the right-a-ways within town.

REPORTS:

STREETS: The road going to the City Burn Site was discussed. The Smith County Road department has contacted the city about helping the city out with repairs and selling culverts at a reduced rate. It was mentioned to contact the City of Smith Center as well to see if they would help with funds to repair this road as they use the road as well to check their well. Discussion also of getting the right-of ways cleared on this road in order to build the road up and install the culverts was discussed.

SEWER/TRASH: Mayor Tucker reported V & K Trash has a 1987 L8000 Ford Trash Truck they would sell to the City for the price of the scrap metal price. After discussion council agreed to offer \$2500.00 for the truck, Ed discussed all the work which would need to be done to convert the old fire truck to be used at the trash truck. Gene reported more copper sulfate is needed.

WATER: Jim reported the arsenic system leak needs to be looked at as it's still dripping. Ed reported a leak had been fixed by Greg Jones's place on 9th street. While they had the hole dug fixing this leak they closed two lines and replaced a portion of another line as it was in need of repair.

FIRE: Wil reported the department is currently using the E-paging system and it appears to be working well with only a couple of minute delay from the pages sent through the pagers. The department had been on no runs during the past month.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: 8 units are rented. Barb mentioned areas around the outside of the community center which need attention and in the future need to be maintained.

PARKS: David reported he had helped Ed replace the U-joints and muffler on the City pick-up. Ed reported some of the plywood which acts as a view blocker on the women's side of the restrooms in the City Park had deteriorated and fallen off the building. Council decided not to replace these boards at this time.

CITY MAN: Weeds along Main Street were discussed and the numerous spraying attempts still have not treated the weeds and they will need to be removed. Next year they will start spraying earlier for these weeds.

TREASRUER: no report

CITY CLERK: no report

Council asked Aubrey to check into if there is a time frame to consider property abandon.

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be September 14th, 2016 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.

Canning continued

Cooking methods and packing instructions will all depend on what you are making, but following are basic guidelines one should follow, no matter what you are preserving.

1. **Sterilization.** One must sterilize lids and jars by boiling them. One can also use the hottest setting on your dishwasher for 15 minutes. Be sure all the jars have not chips, scratches, cracks, or compromised in any way before using. Once a lid has been used and sealed they cannot be used again and this item needs to be purchased new each time a jar is used.
2. **Get Your Food Hot.** It's very crucial to pack your food into the jars hot. The jars will be hot as they are used just after they have been in boiling water. The food you are placing into the jars must be bubbling hot as well. If one is making refrigerator pickles for example the food will be cool but the pickling liquid poured into the jars must still be bubbling hot.
3. **Acidity Levels.** A key to successful canning is to follow the recipe or directions closely to keep your foods safe for consumption. The component which will keep your food from spoiling is the amount of acid in the recipe. Some foods are naturally acidic and others need longer cooking times and ingredients added to bring the foods to the appropriate acidic level.
4. **Boiling Times.** Boiling jars for the correct amount of time is key to making sure all bacteria are killed. The jars should be tightly sealed and one must leave the appropriate amount of space or head room at the top of the jars to allow for expansion. Also the water level in the canner must remain about two inches above your jars to ensure a proper seal.
5. **Slow, Even Cooling.** Once your jars have boiled for the needed amount of time, they need to be removed and allowed to cool. They need space between the jars to allow for circulation and need to be away from any drafts so they do not shatter.
6. **Wait for the "Pop".** As the jars cool the jars will begin to sing their song of pops. This is the best sound a canner can hear! If the tops do not pop down, this means the jar did not seal and they need to be consumed right away or within a few days and keep the jar in the refrigerator.
7. **Storage.** Once jars have completely cooled they need to be kept in a dark, cool place and can be used for months or years to come. Over time the color of the foods may change but it does not necessarily mean it has gone bad. Some signs of when not to use include: mold, bubbles, cloudiness, bad smells, or oddly colored foods. If you ever doubt if a jar is still good or not, it's best to just toss it out.



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.

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 memoriam 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

Come check out the latest books added to our selection at the Library. We also have a great traveling book selection. Beat the heat on these summer days with a cool glass of tea and a “good” book. 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!