

Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 23

Last week had a cup of French Roast coffee from the coffee shop. Good enough that I didn't need cream. Also had a cup of Highland Grog (a regular) from Hometown Donuts. Good coffee indeed.

Hard to believe but it's almost Thanksgiving! This time of year people start to anticipate Santa Clause coming to town. It's been some time since my daughters had that excitement and expectation. The only memory I have of Santa coming to town is when the high school band led the parade, but that's ancient history! Needless to say, I'm not current on what the expectation is. One thing I did know was the Santa house and nearby area, located at the Rotary Park downtown, needed some work. Not only did the house need work but the park in general needed attention!

Earlier this year, Linda Taylor and Laura Robinson did some much-needed cleaning around the area with a high-pressure washer. This helped brighten the woodwork, sidewalks, and monuments. Recently, the city's electrical department replaced the light allowing the US Flag to be lit at night and making sure the three streetlights worked. A crew of McDonalds employees volunteered an afternoon painting the railing around the Santa house. The decking on both the front and back was replaced with new treated deck boards. A city employee also painted the trim and siding of the house making it much more attractive in appearance. Department of Corrections personnel decorated the park with lights and various Christmas decorations appropriate for the season. All this in expectation of Santa's arrival!

Ok, this is one event I was sure someone else was responsible for coordinating and making sure Santa's arrival was as expected. Only early last week did I learn that it was the mayor's responsibility to make this happen! Who knew? Not me! Two weeks is a short time to make this a successful event! The previous administration relied on a couple of reliable Elves to coordinate this event. Thankfully, I contacted one of the Elves from previous years and asked if that Elf could assist a new Elf (one with the same last name) in coordinating this special event! The previous Elf was gracious enough to provide names, procedures and overviews to the new Elf who set the date, contacted the appropriate people (including Santa) and ran (literally) with flyers to be put up at local businesses. Thanks to this new Elf, Santa's arrival will happen after all!!

The arrival date is set for 1 December at 6:30pm. The Santa parade is to start at the Library building and end on North Main Street. What is yet to be determined is what part the mayor plays in all of this! Some have said he leads the parade (in a golf cart no less), some that he arrives in the same vehicle as Santa. All I can say is come out that evening and see for yourself where I will be!

Santa coming to town is definitely part of the season but shouldn't overshadow the true meaning of Thanksgiving. This is a time for getting together with families and creating long lasting memories for all. The relative calm of family time on Thanksgiving is often overshadowed in the days after by sales promotions and the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping. I encourage all to reflect on the blessings in your life, enjoy the family time and spend time with those close to you. Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!