

LEESBURG CURRENT

A publication by the City of Leesburg for residents of Leesburg, Fruitland Park and unincorporated areas served by municipal utilities.



Office of the City Manager October – December 2016

Seasonal Fun Awaits in the Lakefront City

As we transition into the (somewhat) cooler months for fall and early winter, great family activities are on the holiday horizon.



Seasonal event sensations this year begin with a Sneak Peek of the **21st Annual Leesburg Holiday House** on November 3rd at the ViaPort Mall. Then, the **Main Street Christmas Stroll** is on November 25th — the day after Thanksgiving — followed by the **49th Annual Leesburg Christmas Parade** on December 3rd.

Light Up Leesburg is Sunday, December 4th at Venetian Gardens. This is the Lakefront City's largest Christmas lights display featuring more than 500,000 mini lights and displays in addition to the "**Christmas on the Water**" boat parade, live entertainment, and food vendors. Admission is FREE.

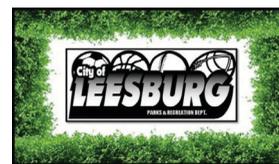
For more information about these events, visit leesburgpartnership.com or call (352) 365-0053.

A Christmas Carol: A One Man Show

World renowned actor, Duffy Hudson performs this timeless and beloved classic without the use of props or costumes, and inhabits all 36 characters. By the way, did you know that the holiday saying "Merry Christmas" was first popularized by Dickens' Christmas Carol? Come join in a heartwarming afternoon of live theater at the Leesburg Library on Saturday, December 3rd at 2 p.m.



Kids can grab a holiday bite at the December 12th **Breakfast with Santa** event held at the Leesburg Community Building. Contact the Leesburg Recreation and Parks Department at (352)728-9885 for details.



There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy recreational fun in the Lakefront City. Here are just a few of the many seasonal sports and recreation activities that are

underway or on the way:

- Bitty Basketball signups for 5 and 6 year olds— September 1st thru November 5th
- Soccer season continues—October thru December
- Free Holiday Baseball and Softball Clinics —December 27th thru 29th
- Jr. & Hot Shots Basketball signups— Season is from October thru December
- Adult Basketball signups — November thru January
- Baseball signups —late December

There is much more! For more information call 352-728-9885, visit leesburgflorida.gov/recreation, or like us on Facebook.

Commission Recognizes Miss Leesburg Court

Savannah Zuk was recognized recently by the Leesburg City Commission for her service as the 29th Miss Leesburg. Over the past year Savannah participated in various community events.

The Commission also recognized Teen Miss Leesburg Eva Henderson, Junior Miss Leesburg Brooke Crenshaw, Little Miss Leesburg Alexis DeLand, and Tiny Miss Leesburg Callie Braun.

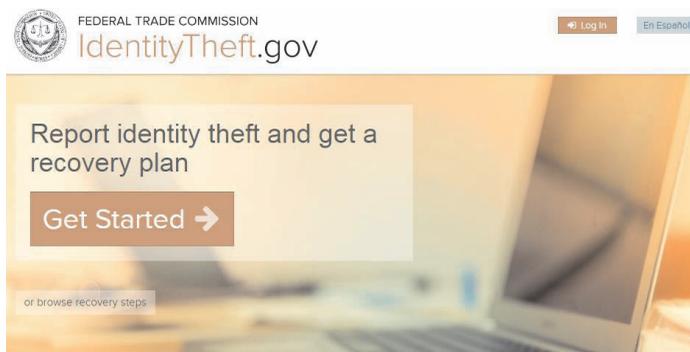


Front row (left to right): Alexis DeLand, Callie Braun, Brooke Crenshaw; Back row (left to right): Savannah Zuk, Mayor Jay Hurley, Eva Henderson

The Miss Leesburg Scholarship Pageant is held each year in September. A \$5,000 cash scholarship is awarded to Miss Leesburg. First and second runners up receive \$2,000 and \$1,000 scholarships. The other four winners in the younger age divisions each win \$500.00.

The annual pageant is a fundraiser for the scholarship fund and is open for girls ages 4-19 who live in or attend school in Leesburg, Fruitland Park, Lady Lake or The Villages. For more information, call 352-326-4217.

Keep Your Identity Safe This Holiday Season:



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
IdentityTheft.gov Log In En Español

Report identity theft and get a recovery plan

Get Started →

or browse recovery steps

INTERNET FRAUD - Internet crime has become a worldwide concern with criminal techniques that exploit convenience, and anonymity. In a single year, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center fielded more than 3,000,000 complaints with more than \$800,000,000 in losses related to internet fraud. Online fraud comes in many forms. Examples include virus attacks, phishing scams that attempt to retrieve your personal information, and email schemes that lure victims into wiring money. When online, it is important to be responsible.

There are steps that you can take to decrease your chances of becoming a victim. Install and update security software. Use a firewall. Do not ignore your browser's security warnings. Do not click on pop-ups or banners ads. Instead of clicking on a link in an email, type the URL of a trusted site directly into your browser. Do not open attachments in e-mails unless you are familiar with the sender and/or material. If buying online, do research on the seller first. NEVER, EVER share your personal information.

You can read more about internet fraud and how to protect yourself at: identitytheft.gov and ncpc.org/topics/internet-safe.

Tune - In



In addition to local broadcasting, Lakefront TV brings award-winning public television programming from around Central Florida and the U.S. to provide an entertaining, informative blend of shows for all ages. Tune in to Comcast 22, Prism 21, Bright House 497, Florida Cable 4 or ROKU Media. For live streaming, visit lakefronttv.com.

Splish N' Splash Next Spring!!!



Venetian Gardens Master Plan, Phase I – The momentum to enhance Rogers Park has led to the selection of a concept for the new splash pad. Among the 19 water features for the 3,600 square foot water attraction are a mega soaker, assorted spray tunnels, a bloomin' spinner, fun-brella, several open flow puddles, a confetti sprayer and much more. With a maximum water flow rate of 319 gallons per minute and a sustained flow rate of 280 gallons per minute, plenty of family fun surely awaits. Completion is anticipated for early spring and will mark the second major milestone for the multi-phased Venetian Gardens Master Plan.

Milestone number one was the new **Kids Korner** destination playground which opened during the Fourth of July holiday weekend amidst a crowd of celebrants and has regularly been flooded with kids and parents ever since. For more information on the Venetian Gardens enhancements, please contact the City of Leesburg Public Works Department at 352-435-9442 or via e-mail at Public.Works@LeesburgFlorida.gov.

Utilities Customer Service Recap:

The City's Customer Service Department is constantly looking for ways to identify and implement benefits and savings for its utilities customers. Following are just a few of the successes realized in 2016:

- Electric rates were reduced during the sizzling summer months, resulting in savings for customers during the time of year that historically sees the highest energy usage.
- \$5 upfront credits are being extended to customers signing up for cost-saving e-billing.
- Convenience fees for online and automated telephone payments are a thing of the past.
- Customers can now make an appointment with Customer Service to avoid wait times.
- The addition of more customer service staff has resulted in faster in-person service and shorter phone wait times.
- The City website has been enhanced with more customer information and payment processing information.
- Phone System (IVR) enhancements allow customers to easily retrieve account information using their phone number as a cross reference.