

Haitian Relief Efforts – a community involved

Following the devastating earthquake that left over 200,000 dead and countless Haitians homeless, Lake And Sumter Emergency Recovery (LASER) provided a unique opportunity for Lake and Sumter County residents to directly provide relief for Haiti. Over 1,300 volunteers from Lake County and surrounding areas answered the call, from civic organizations to government officials, spending 15,600 hours packaging more than 200,000 meals for distribution to Haiti (20 pallets). The meals, which cost about 23 cents apiece, included healthy, vitamin-rich foods, such as rice and soy.

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners created LASER shortly after the devastating effects of the 2004 hurricanes. Eustis residents especially remember LASER's quick clean-up operations and assistance following a tornado in 2007. As a registered 501c3, not-for-profit organization, LASER's mission is to strengthen recovery efforts from any disaster in Lake and Sumter counties. LASER conducts these operations through a coordinated communitywide approach, which provides for the immediate and long-term unmet needs of local citizens. In addition, as a not-for-profit organization, LASER has the ability to accept private and public donations to fulfill unmet needs of residents.

Relief efforts are not over yet. LASER continues to accept donations for "Operation Haiti Relief." Donations can be made by sending a check to: Lake And Sumter Emergency Recovery, Inc. (LASER) 27 E. Pinehurst Blvd. Suite B, Eustis, FL 32726. United Southern Bank is also accepting donations for LASER's relief effort. Those interested in donating to the effort can visit any of United Southern Bank's 11 locations.



Eustis City Commissioner Albert G. Eckian carrying supplies during food packaging operations.

City Announces Community Grant Program

The Eustis City Commission has adopted a Community Arts, Culture, Education and Recreation Support Grant Program that will award grants to non-profit entities within the City for fiscal year 2009/10. The Commission allocated a total of \$30,000 for the program and set aside another \$30,000 that may be allocated later in the fiscal year. The maximum major grant award is \$6,000 and the maximum mini-grant is \$1,500.

For more information on the program, come to an application workshop on Monday, February 15, 2010, at 5:30 PM in the Commission Room at City Hall, 10 North Grove St., Eustis, Florida. Instructions and application forms will be distributed at this workshop. Interested agencies must submit a complete application by 5:00 PM on April 9, 2010, in order to qualify for a grant award. Copies of the adopted grant program can be obtained from the City website at www.eustis.org or by contacting Dianne Kramer, Director of Development Services at 352.483.5460. Electronic copies of the application forms will be available after the workshop.

Media contact information:

Richard Hoon
Assistant to the City Manager / Community Relations
Phone: (352) 483-5430 • Email: hoonr@ci.eustis.fl.us

**EUSTIS 2010
GEORGEFEST**

**February 26-28, 2010. Visit
www.georgefestineustis.com
for an events calendar and more
information**

Children's Library February Crafts

Celebrate Valentine's Day with crafts at the Eustis Memorial Library on Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 4:00-5:00PM. You may choose the crafts you want to do from a variety of Valentine's Day and Fairy Tales crafts that will be available. This program is free to everyone. Adults are required to accompany children under 7 years old.

The Library is located at 120 N. Center Street in Eustis. For more information please call Ms. Emily at (352) 357-0896 / 5686.



Chief Fred Cobb, Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police

Cobb appointed to Lake Technical Center Board of Directors

Chief Fred A. M. Cobb, Director of Public Safety for the City of Eustis, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Lake Technical Center, an accredited charter school, located in Eustis.

"I consider it an honor and privilege to have been asked to serve as a member of the Center's Charter Board of Directors," said Cobb. "For over 40 years, the Center has provided quality education for thousands of students who have gone on to be successful in their chosen careers."

The Center currently offers 30 career-technical certificate programs designed to meet the needs of local businesses and the community. The Center's mission is to "meet the educational needs of the community by offering a variety of high quality vocational and technical training opportunities."

Toddler time and Preschool Story Time at the Library

Bring your preschooler to the Eustis Memorial Library for a fun and educational story time experience! Toddler time (9 months–2½ years old) will be on Tuesdays, 9:30–10:00AM. The learning focus for toddlers will be a color a week with related hands-on activities, a coloring sheet and a take-home reminder of the color. Every Tuesday, from 10:30–11:15AM, preschoolers (2½–4 years old) will take off with Alphabet Story Time. One "letter" a week will be taught, using stories, books, finger-plays and crafts.

Adults are required to accompany children under 7 years old. The Library is located at 120 N. Center Street in Eustis. For more information please call Ms. Emily at 357-0896 or 357-5686.

Water Tank Inspection at Sorrento Springs Community

The City will be conducting an inspection and cleaning of a 15,000 gallon water tank at the Sorrento Springs Water Plant on Tuesday February 9, 2010. This water plant provides water service to the Sorrento Springs water customers only. As a result of the water tank being depressurized and taken out of service, customers may experience periods of fluctuating water pressure and /or temporary discoloration of water during these maintenance activities. Affected customers will be notified door to door of a "Precautionary Boil Water Notice" starting on Tuesday February 9th through Thursday February 11th. After the inspection of the tank is completed, the tank will be disinfected, followed by bacteriological sampling. Once bacteriological survey is completed in two days, a "Rescission of Boil Water Notice" will be hand delivered to the Sorrento Springs water customers. The tank will be placed back into service after the laboratory approval has indicated the water has passed the bacteriological analysis.

This work is necessary in order to maintain water quality and ensure the integrity of the water tank. The Water Department regrets any inconvenience this may cause to our customers in this area. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the Water Department at (352) 357-5618.

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Richard Hoon

Assistant to the City Manager / Community Relations

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