



Around the Well

March 2017

Vol 8 No 3

City Updates

Imagine Social Circle - Vision 2040

Thank you to all who came to meetings, sent emails, and completed surveys! There were over 250 survey responses, and 270 attendees and participants at the 15 meetings and Social Circle High School advisory classes focused on this effort. We appreciate your input.

The Draft Vision, Needs and Opportunities Work Plan, and Future Land Use Plan will be posted on the web in the upcoming weeks and will be available for review at City Hall. Comments are still welcome, and the draft will be under review during the Month of April. Final approval will be considered by the Mayor and City Council in June.

Thank you for contributing your perspective, opinions, and suggestions to guide the future of Social Circle.

What is the Roundabout completion schedule?

Relocation of ATT cables has been delayed due to their efforts to provide continuous service to customers during the relocation. As of March 1, four to six weeks is anticipated by ATT to complete work. The roundabout contractor will be back onsite during this time to complete work not in conflict.

How is the Roundabout Project funded?

The majority of funding for this project is through a grant from GDOT to Walton County. The City cost of \$89,000 is funding the sidewalk extensions, and a brick pattern apron for the roundabout, and parking changes that were associated with the future Library expansion. Replacement of library parking affected by the roundabout was funded by the County.

To suggest an update topic or to submit news items of community interest, please email aroundthewell@socialcirclega.com

Important Message from the City about Natural Gas Safety ⚡ Natural gas, America's most popular home heating fuel, is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants because it is efficient, clean, reliable and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources. In our community, City of Social Circle provides natural gas to more than 1100 customers through a network of underground distribution lines. Main gas lines, typically 2-inch in diameter, branch into household service lines which are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface.

To protect you and others in the community; federal and state government, along with your utility provider have made your safety a high priority. Any time you dig or move earth in any way, you are required to "Call Before You Dig" 48 hours before beginning any digging. When you call 811, they will contact utility owners who will locate all buried utility lines on your property, so you can safely dig and prevent a potentially hazardous condition. Failure to use the 811 system is a known cause of pipeline accidents. Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake. For more information, see www.Georgia811.com, socialcirclega.gov or call City Hall at 770-464-2380.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas. A chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, dirt or dust blowing from the ground, or the smell of rotten eggs. If you smell gas, or just think you might be smelling gas, leave the area immediately and call your local gas provider at 770-464-2380 or 911 from a neighboring home or business. Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas, causing an explosion. Do your part to familiarize yourself and your family with these natural gas safety tips and continue to enjoy the value, comfort and benefits of America's cleanest, most efficient energy source!

This message is brought to you by City of Social Circle as a public service. To learn more about our natural gas service and the benefits of natural gas, call 770-464-2380.

More About Your Gas Bill ⚡ During the cold winter months we see Natural Gas companies advertising their rates. Did you know that Social Circle gas is the best value for those using 500 therms per month, the usage that most residential customers will fall within? The reason that Social Circle gas is such a good value is that we can deliver gas to our customers direct from a Social Circle tap on the Transco Main. Other local providers must pay a fee to AGL (Atlanta Gas Light) for use of their distribution mains. For example, the average ANNUAL cost for Social Circle customers using 500 therms per month is about \$500 (no AGL fee) as compared to similarly situated Walton EMC customers who pay about \$850 annually, which includes a \$301 AGL transmission fee. The bottom line is that this is an excellent value for Social Circle Gas customers. For information about your gas bill, please contact Robbie Groves or Paul Schlageter at 770-464-2380.

Please Don't Flush "Flushable" Wipes ⚡ "Flushable" wipes are the new headache for wastewater treatment operations. Flushable wipes are made from high strength fibers that do not lose their strength and do not breakdown with time. Flushable wipes lead to clogs in sewer lines and malfunctions in sewer lift stations resulting in sewer spills. All of these problems cause unnecessary taxpayer money to be spent to solve the problem.

Code Enforcement to Start April 1 ⚡ With Spring coming, we appreciate how everyone is sprucing up their yards and homes. Starting April 1, the City Code Enforcer will be taking inventory of the City Code of Ordinance issues in town. Initially, the Code Enforcer will visit with citizens to let them know about ordinances they may not be aware of and to work with them to see what needs to be done to bring the issues up to code. Contact Barbara Schlageter at (770) 464-6905 or BSchlageter@socialcirclega.com for more information.

Social Circle Designated a Tree City USA for the 15th Year in a Row ⚡ We joined more than 3,400 U.S. communities by meeting the four core standards of sound urban forestry management. Our Arbor Day celebration, sponsored by the Social Circle Garden Clubs, was held at

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Gunter Hall on February 16. Mayor pro tempore, David Keener read the Arbor Day proclamation and the Georgia Department of Forestry presented the City with a Tree City USA flag. We appreciate the dedication of the Garden Clubs, the volunteers who serve on the Tree Board, and residents who care for our urban forest, and beautify the City with their horticulture expertise. Visit arborday.org/ TreeCityUSA for more information.

Public Safety News

Volunteer Firefighters Sought 🌀 The Social Circle Fire Department is looking for volunteer firefighters. The department offers free training, pay per call, and enrollment in Ga. Firefighters Pension Fund. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter there will be an organizational meeting on March 13, 2017 at 7 pm at the fire station located at 165 East Hightower Tr. Volunteer Firefighter Applications can be found on our website at socialcirclega.gov/services/fire/. Contact Chief Ken Zaydel at 770-464-0621 for more information.

Coffee with a Cop 🌀 This month join us on Wednesday March 8, 7:00 am - 9:00 am at the Butcher Block Deli at 1299 N Cherokee Rd. The Coffee with a Cop program gives citizens a chance to meet the officers of the Social Circle Police Department to discuss concerns, ask questions and get to know your police officers. There will be no formal agenda, so drop in when you can!

School News

Master Drummer Performs at Social Circle Elementary School 🌀 Master Drummer, Sulaiman (Kutay) Turay, a native of Sierra Leone, performed at Social Circle Elementary on Friday, Feb. 9, 2017. Peggy Murrah, retired educator from Social Circle City Schools was in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone after high school, was instrumental in getting him to pay a visit. Sulaiman Turay, affectionately known as 'Kutay', has been driven by a strong passion to teach the world the importance and value of preserving culture. As a community servant, Turay conducts workshops and drum classes as well as serving as an advisor, consultant and cultural historian.

JROTC Finishes 7th in the Nation 🌀 February 9-11 the Social Circle High School Redskin Precision Rifles competed in the 2017 JROTC Service Regional Championship against the best Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy rifle teams in the nation. The Redskins held 4th place throughout the competition and departed Anniston, Alabama awaiting final results from the west coast. In the end the Redskins finished 7th in the nation among all Army JROTC Precision rifle teams. "We would like to thank the Social Circle City School system, our Booster Club members, and parents for their continued support. I am proud to coach and mentor the best students and athletes our great state has to offer." says Bruce Chick, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Senior Army Instructor, JROTC.

Community Calendar

Going for the Green 🌀 Join us Friday March 17 from 8:00 am - 6:30 pm at the Welcome Center for your chance to find a lucky four-leaf clover. The lucky four-leaf clovers will have discounts and gift certificates to local merchants. Bring something green to donate and get an extra four-leaf clover. Donations can be personal care items, toys or non-perishable food items to benefit the Mayor's Christmas Motorcade, the Fire Department's Secret Santa and the Methodist Church's food pantry.

The Lions & the Lion-hearted Golf Tournament 🌀 The Social Circle Lion's Club and the Social Circle Police Department are hosting a golf tournament to raise money for community projects on Friday, March 31 at The Creek at Hard Labor Golf Course. Please contact Jamie Peterson, jamie4sc@gmail.com or 678-230-1976 for more information.

Everyone is Invited to Help Clean up Our City 🌀 Please join us for our 19th Spring Citywide Cleanup Saturday, April 8 at 8 a.m. in the Community Room in the Public Safety Building. Trash bags, gloves, vests and litter grabbers (on loan from Keep Walton Beautiful), biscuits and coffee are provided. Find out more at www.socialcirclega.gov.

Coffee with the City Manager 🌀 Come to the City Hall Conference room on the first Wednesday each month, 8 am - 9 am, no appointment necessary. Feel free to stop in if you have an idea or concern about City business or just want to chat.

City Calendar

Agendas for ALL meetings, regular and called, available on the city website www.socialcirclega.gov and at City Hall		
Mar 9 10:00 am	Downtown Development Authority (2nd Thu each month)	City Hall Conf Rm
Mar 13 7:00 pm	Historic Preservation Commission (2nd Mon each month)	Community Room
Mar 14 8:00 am	Main Street Board (2nd Tuesday each month)	Welcome Center
Mar 15 1:00 pm	Municipal Court (3rd Wed each month)	Community Room
Mar 21 5:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session (3rd Tue each month)	Community Room
Mar 21 6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Regular Meeting (3rd Tue each month)	Community Room
Mar 23 6:00 pm	Tree Board (4th Thursday each month)	Community Room
Mar 27 6:00 pm	Planning/Corridor Commission (4th Mon each month)	Community Room
Apr 11 8:30 am	Social Circle Development Authority (2nd Tue in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)	City Hall Conf Rm

Library Calendar of Events

Tales for Tots

with Jessica Hutcheson
Tuesdays, March 7, 21 & April 4, 18
at 10 a.m.

Story Time

with Renee Hanna
Wednesday, March 8th & April 12
at 9:30 a.m.

Early Bird Book Club

Tuesday, March 28
at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about our free legal form databases search "Legal Forms" at <https://www.uncleremus.org/stanton> and catch other news at <https://www.facebook.com/WHStantonMemorialLibrary>

Library Hours

MWF 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tu & Th 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

For more info call
(770) 464-2444

The drive-thru window at City Hall will be open March 20, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Deposit Refunds for the month of March: Lisa Denny, Melanie S Gordon, Sharon Belliveau, Elliott Rose, and Leonard Hampton.

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