



Around the Well

December 2019

Vol 10 No 12

City Updates

Census 2020: Social Circle Counts!

What does being counted get us? There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The results, collected once a decade, help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year, which can mean new schools, roads, houses, and businesses. The Census takes place in April, 2020. It's important for all of our residents to be counted. 2020census.gov/ Contact Barbara Schlageter, 770-464-6905, bschlageter@socialcirclega.com.

City Hall Christmas Food Drive

Join the City Hall Christmas Food Drive to help families in need. Bring non-perishable food donations to City Hall until December 20.

Upcoming Events

City Hall Closed

Wednesday, December 11, 12:30p - 4:30

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

Wednesday, January 1

Coffee with the City Manager

Wednesday, January 8, 8-9 am

City Hall Conference Room

Chocolate Walk Downtown

Friday, February 7

Taste of Social Circle

Friday, April 17

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

City ISO Rating Makes Large Improvement ➤ The Social Circle Fire Department completed their Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey analyzing the structural fire suppression delivery system provided by the City. The rating improved from 4 to 2 since the last review, six years ago. The ISO PPC rating influences prices and coverages set by insurance companies on personal and commercial property insurance.

The classification review by the ISO representative focuses on three main areas:

- 1) Emergency communications (emergency dispatch center) (10%)
- 2) Water supply systems (the amount of water necessary for fire suppression) (40%)
- 3) The fire department itself (equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations, and community risk reduction) (50%)

ISO PPC scores range from 1 to 10 with 1 being the best rating. Approximately 20 Fire Departments in Georgia have achieved a 1 rating. A 2 rating places the City of Social Circle among the top 3% of Fire Departments evaluated nationwide. Locally, the Cities of Loganville and Covington have a 2 ISO rating, and the City of Monroe has an ISO rating of 3.

The recent 2.5% water utility rate increases on City water service supported the completion of over \$2M in improvements to the water system over the last two years, which contributed significantly to this City-wide rating improvement. Additional improvements which contributed to the improved ISO rating include: Fire Safety programs which have been implemented recently, such as Fire Safety inspections; the construction of Fire Station 17 on Willow Springs Church Road, which reduced response time to the industrial sector of high risk buildings; new sprinkler systems in some of the large industrial buildings; the continuation of an in-city Fire Training facility, now located behind Station 17; the increase in fire staffing to four persons per shift. For information on how this rating may reduce your homeowners insurance cost, please contact your insurance agent. For further information about Fire Safety within the City, contact Chief Zaydel at 770-464-0621.

Community Development Block Grant Project ➤ The City, through our GICH participation, is working to obtain federal grant funds for qualifying homeowners to improve their houses and to improve infrastructure in qualifying neighborhoods. In order to apply for these grants, City staff and GICH Committee members will be inspecting sewer lines, seeking information from residents and homeowners, and completing information surveys. Neighborhood information to be obtained is general. Specific information is confidential and may be used for grant purposes only. City representatives will have identification cards, and information about these grant programs. We appreciate your helping us obtain the information needed to obtain the resources to help our residents and improve our neighborhoods. If you have any questions please call Robbie Groves at 770-464-6908 or Barbara Schlageter at 770-464-6905.

Special Election to Fill District 3 Vacancy ➤ A special election will be held to fill the vacant District 3 seat on the City Council. (socialcirclega.gov/documents/map-of-social-circle-districts/) Anyone wishing to run for the office will need to qualify with the City Clerk beginning at 8:30 am on Monday, December 16, 2019 through 4:30 pm Friday, December 20. Candidates must complete a Notice of Candidacy and pay a qualifying fee of \$144. Early voting will be held at City Hall during regular business hours starting Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 20. The election will be held at the Community Room on Tuesday, March 24 from 7 am - 7 pm.

Social Circle Needs You! ➤ In January each year, the Mayor and Council appoint community members to a number of volunteer Boards and Commissions to provide recommendations and input. There are currently openings on several boards. The City Council tries to ensure that each advisory board or commission has representation from every district in the City. If you are interested, but not appointed, please try again. To contribute to your community with your talents, interest, or expertise, please see SocialCircleGA.gov/boards-application/ to submit an application and learn more about what each board does.

Holiday Safety Checks ➤ With the winter season upon us, it's time to do some heating system safety checks. Clean your heaters to ensure dust and debris do not catch on fire when heat is running. Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Also, please contact City Hall to have a member of the gas department check the gas pressure before turning on gas furnaces.

Fire Department's Secret Santa 🎅 Make Christmas brighter this year for Social Circle Kids! Please support the Social Circle Fire Department's Secret Santa by donating money (checks payable to Social Circle Secret Santa) or new toys. Drop off new toys any time all year long at SC Fire Department. You can take monetary donations to the Fire Department or to Pinnacle Bank. You can also support the Secret Santa program all throughout the year by rounding up your utility payment. The money from the round-up program will be divided equally between the Secret Santa program and the Back to School Bash.

Best Wishes to Public Works Director, Barry Parsons 🎅 Barry Parsons has accepted a City Manager position in Kansas, at his wife's hometown. Barry has made a huge impact during his 3 years with the City. Please join us at the Welcome Center on December 11th from 3 to 6 to say goodbye to Barry and wish him well.

Library Update 🎅 The W.H. Stanton Memorial Library is excited to host our first ever Giving Back Through Fines Forgiveness event. This program will run from December 9th through December 23rd and will support both the local Student Success Alliance and Companion Animal Rescue. Patrons will be able to bring in new/unopened items from a designated list and receive \$1.00 off their total fine, not to exceed \$10.00 per library card. To be eligible for fines forgiveness, you must be a W.H. Stanton Memorial Library patron. Even if you don't owe any fines, we will be more than happy to collect any donations you wish to contribute. Make sure to also mark your calendars for our yearly Santa's Workshop on Saturday, December 14th from 10am-12pm. This event is sponsored by Future Georgia Educators and will feature crafts and a special visitor from the North Pole.

Community Calendar

Friendship Park Groundbreaking, Dec 17 🎅 Join us Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 pm at Friendship Park for the groundbreaking ceremony. Construction is estimated to be completed by April. Thank you to the Mayor and City Council for the vision of Downtown revitalization which led to the purchase of the Friendship Park property. Thank you to the Main Street Commission for programming community events downtown which built activity and interest in a downtown park. Thank you to the Downtown Development Authority of Social Circle for their leadership and vision initiating this park, and funding commitment. Thank you to USDA for two Rural Development Block Grants totaling \$150,000 supporting the park. Thank you to IMMEC for building our stage. Thank you to Facebook for a \$50,000 donation and Georgia Power for a \$10,000 donation. We appreciate the community support which is making this happen. For more information, or to contribute money, time or materials to Friendship Park please contact Adele Schirmer, City Manager at 770-464-6901

Teen Leadership Academy, Feb 12 🎅 The Social Circle Police Department will host their first Teen Leadership Academy starting Wednesday, February 12. The classes will be held at the Social Circle High School Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm for eight weeks. Registration is open to students in grades 8 -12. Participants will get hands-on experience with the daily activities of the police officers and get to role-play as police officers, prosecutors and judges. To sign up, complete the registration form and return to SCPD School Resource Officer, Michael Jett. For more information, contact Officer Jett or Chief Fuesting at 770-464-2366.

School News

Cookies with Santa 🎅 Cookies with Santa, hosted by our PTO, will be held December 12 at 5:30 pm at the Primary school. Students will visit with Santa, make a craft, write a letter to Santa, and have cookies and milk.

Fill a Stocking Drive 🎅 The Middle and High School are hosting a Fill a Stocking Drive through Dec. 13. Please drop off hygiene items or any items under \$5 at the school. We want to provide stockings to students in need and meet a need that normal assistance does not cover.

City Calendar

Agendas for ALL meetings, regular and called, available on the city website socialcirclega.gov and at City Hall.

December 10	8:00 am	Main Street Commission Board (2nd Tue)	Church at the Grove
December 10	10:00 am	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (2nd Tue)	Library
December 10	6:00 pm	Historic Preservation Commission (2nd Tue)	Community Room
December 12	10:00 am	Downtown Development Authority (2nd Thu bi-monthly)	City Hall Conf Rm
December 16	6:00 pm	Planning/Corridor Commission (4th Tues) [Rescheduled]	Community Room
December 17	5:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session (3rd Tue)	Community Room
December 17	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Regular Meeting (3rd Tue)	Community Room
December 18	1:00 pm	Municipal Court (3rd Wednesday)	Community Room
December 26	6:00 pm	Tree Board (4th Thu) [CANCELED]	Community Room
January 9	8:30 am	Social Circle Development Authority (2nd Thurs in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)	City Hall Conf Rm

City Hall will be closed: Wednesday, Dec 11, 12:30 pm, Tuesday, Dec 24, Wednesday, Dec 25, 2019, Wednesday, Jan 1, 2020, Monday, Jan 20, Friday, Apr 10, Monday, May 25, Friday, July 3, Monday, Sept 7.

Library Calendar of Events

Early Bird Book Club
December 31, 10:30 am

Tales for Tots
December 5 & 19, 10:30 am

Music & Movement
December 12, 10:30 am

Quilting Club
December 4 & 18, 9:30 am

Family Game Night
December 17, 5:30 pm

Santa's Workshop
December 14, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Pajama Movie Night "Polar Express"
December 19, 5:00 pm

Utility and Tax Payment Options

In-person at City Hall:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone:

1-877-840-5562

Online:

socialcirclega.gov/payment-options/

Drive-thru:

Dec 13, 8:30 am - noon, 1 - 4 pm

Night Deposit:

24/7. **Do not deposit cash.**

Dates:

Dec 18 - Last day to pay to avoid cut-off

Dec 19 - Cut-off

Dec 30 - Current payment due date

Dec 31 - Late fees applied

Utilities cut off in error?

Call 770-464-6938

Mayor Hal Dally
770-317-1638 hdally@socialcirclega.com

District 1 Traysa Price
770-728-5893 tprice@socialcirclega.com

District 2 Tyson Jackson
770-885-9483 tjackson@socialcirclega.com

District 3 (vacant)

District 4 Steve Shelton
678-410-7971 jsshelton@socialcirclega.com

City Manager Adele Schirmer
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City Clerk Susan Roper
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Police Chief Jeffrey Fuesting
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Fire Chief Ken Zaydel
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Public Works Director Barry Parsons
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Finance Director Jennifer Fricks
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