



Around the Well

February 2020

Vol 11 No 2

City Updates

National Census Day, 4/1

Between March 12 - 20, households will receive official Census mail with detailed instructions on how to respond online, by phone or by mail. You can respond as soon as you receive your mail, but respond based on where you are living on April 1. On March 31 and April 1, the Census Bureau will count people experiencing homelessness. The Library will have computers set up to allow you to complete the census online. Contact Barbara Schlageter, 770-464-6905, bschlageter@socialcirclega.com.

FY2021 Budget Calendar

The City budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year will be presented during the City Council work session on April 21 and will be made available on the City web site. Public comment on the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be received at the April 21 council meeting. Public comment on the proposed budget document will be received at the May 21 council meeting. There will also be a public hearing opportunity at the June 16 council meeting.

Upcoming Events

Coffee with the City Manager

Wednesday, March 4, 8-9 am
City Hall Conference Room

Taste of Social Circle

Friday, April 17

Independence Celebration

Saturday, June 27

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

Georgia Power Trimming Trees ☞ You may have noticed tree trimming under and near the power lines around town. Georgia Power is currently performing routine tree trimming in Social Circle. Trimming takes place within a 30' easement (15' on either side of the power line) and occurs approximately every three years. Trimming is performed to not only maintain reliable power, but, more importantly, for safety. Trees can become energized if allowed to grow into the power lines. For more information: <https://www.georgiapower.com/community/environment/trees-and-right-of-way/residential-vegetationmanagement.html> (information provided by Sherry Lizotte, Georgia Power Company, Forestry and Right of Way Services)

Surveyors Gathering Data for Sidewalk Construction ☞ Starting February 10, crews will be working along East Hightower Trail from Jones Rd to Vine Circle and along South Cherokee Rd from Spring Dr to Cannon Dr and North Cherokee from Oak Rd to Rose Ln to gather information about the locations of proposed new sidewalks and drainage improvements in the area. They will be taking pictures, using survey equipment and performing tests, such as gathering soils samples to ensure minimal disruption to natural, cultural, and built environment based on the location of sensitive ecological, archaeological, and historic resources. The sidewalk construction will be paid for by a Federal Grant and will expand the existing sidewalks. Residents who will be affected by this work should receive a notice in the mail. If you did not receive a notice and believe your property will be affected, please contact Robbie Groves, 770-464-6908, rgroves@socialcirclega.com.

City Council Strategic Goals ☞ Each year in January, the City Council meets to plan out their year. In January after an election, the City Council sets their strategic goals for the next two years. There are typically five or six goals that the Council selects as their guiding principals. This year the City Council selected seven items.

1. Provide a new 1.5 MGD Wastewater Treatment Plant to serve the City, which can be expanded with future demands.
2. Repair and Rehabilitate Existing Sidewalks and Continue Sidewalk Extensions.
3. Update the City Charter and Code to Simplify and Streamline, Strategically.
4. Adopt an Economic Development Strategy for Social Circle to guide the Development Authority of Social Circle and the Walton Economic Development Authority.
5. Explore strategies to expand Youth engagement and opportunities within the Community.
6. Increase transparency of City Government and expand communication between the City and the community.
7. Develop an approach for storm water which balances community willingness to fund new revenues with desired City service levels.

For more information, see the full adopted Strategic Goals on our web site. (socialcirclega.gov).

City Council Meetings on Facebook ☞ You can now view City Council work session and regular meetings on the City of Social Circle's Facebook page. The meetings will be streamed live and a recording will be available for viewing at any time after the meetings. We want you to be informed about what is going on in your City government. Please contact Jenny Watt, 770-464-6923, jlwatt@socialcirclega.com with suggestions on how to better provide you with information.

Volunteers Needed! ☞ All the wonderful events we hold each year are made possible through the help of our awesome volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amber McKibben at amckibben@socialcirclega.com or 770-464-1866.

Utility News

Keep Our Sewers Running Freely ☞ Dumping oil and grease down the drain can cause blockages to your household lines, clogs to sewer lines, wastewater treatment plant problems and environmental concerns. And, despite the name, "flushable" wipes are not really flushable. The wipes are made from high strength fibers that do not lose their strength and do not breakdown with time, which can lead to clogs not only in your household lines, but also in City sewer lines. Blockages from grease and wipes can lead to sewer overflows and fines from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Please help us to reduce blockages in the City sewer lines by throwing used grease and wipes into the trash.

Community Calendar

Library Events 🌀 You'll love the new offerings that the W.H. Stanton Memorial Library has planned! Beginning Tuesday, February 4 at 11 am, we will be hosting a weekly Home School Hour where families will be able to meet at the Library to discuss curricula, gather new ideas, plan school group activities, and most importantly network with local home school families in the community. We will host a Valentine and greeting card workshops for adults on Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30 pm. We are also excited to announce that beginning Saturday, February 8 at 10:30 am, we will be hosting a story time every weekend. Join us every Saturday morning for stories, crafts, and fun with Miss Heidi. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

FOR the Circle Weekend, March 21-22 🌀 Join us as we kick off FOR the Circle with a weekend full of different community projects around the city. We will be partnering with local schools, the city of Social Circle, and local residents to preform service projects around the community. If you have a project you would like to suggest, please email us at info@churchatthegrove.com.

Special Election, March 24 🌀 A special election will be held to fill the vacant City Council District 3 seat. Two candidates have qualified: Jonathan Edward Butcher and Charles M. Akin. Early voting will be held at City Hall during regular business hours from 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.

Citizen Survey

The City is considering lowering the speed limits at several locations in town to improve safety and we would like your opinion! Please complete the following survey and return to City Hall any time before February 29. You can also take the survey online and see maps of the existing and proposed speed limits. (<https://socialcirclega.gov/speed-limit-reduction-survey/>)

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 35 mph on N Cherokee Rd from the Social Circle Parkway to Annie P Henderson Dr? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on N Cherokee Rd from Annie P Henderson Drive to the traffic light? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on S Cherokee Rd from the traffic light to Ash St? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 35 mph on S Cherokee Rd from Ash St to the Social Circle Parkway? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 35 mph on Alcova Drive from Azalea Farms to a point 700 ft east of St Andrews Court? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 25 mph from 700 ft east of St Andrews Court to W Hightower Tr? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 45 mph on W Hightower Tr from the City limits to .2 miles north of Windsong Dr? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 35 mph on W Hightower Tr from .2 miles north of Windsong Dr to Windsong Dr? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you support lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on W Hightower Tr from Windsong Dr to the traffic light? |

City Calendar

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

February 11	8:00 am	Main Street Commission Board (2nd Tue) [Cancelled]	Church at the Grove
February 11	10:00 am	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (2nd Tue)	Library
February 11	6:00 pm	Historic Preservation Commission (2nd Tue)	Community Room
February 13	10:00 am	Downtown Development Authority (2nd Thu bi-monthly)	City Hall Conf Rm
February 18	5:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session (3rd Tue)	Community Room
February 18	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Regular Meeting (3rd Tue)	Community Room
February 19	1:00 pm	Municipal Court (3rd Wednesday)	Community Room
February 25	6:00 pm	Planning/Corridor Commission (4th Tues)	Community Room
February 27	6:00 pm	Tree Board (4th Thu)	Community Room
April 9	8:30 am	Social Circle Development Authority (2nd Thurs in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)	City Hall Conf Rm

City Hall will be closed: Friday, Apr 10, Monday, May 25, Friday, July 3, Monday, Sept 7, Thursday, Nov 26, Friday, Nov 27, Thursday, Dec 24, Friday, Dec 25, Friday, Jan 1, 2021.

Library Calendar of Events

Early Bird Book Club
February 26, 10:30 am

Tales for Tots
February 13 & 27, 10:30 am

Music & Movement
February 6 & 20, 10:30 am

Quilting Club
February 5 & 19, 9:30 am

Board Game Afternoon
February 18, 2 - 5 pm

Family LEGO & Building Night
February 11, 5:30 pm

Home School Hour
February 4, 11 & 18, 11:00 am

Weekend Story Time
February 8, 15, 22 & 29, 10:30 am

Valentine or Greeting Card Workshop
February 4, 5:30 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:

Feb 21, 8:30 am - noon, 1 - 4 pm

Night Deposit:

24/7. Do not deposit cash.

Dates:

Feb 24 - Last day to pay to avoid cut-off

Feb 25 - Cut-off

Feb 27 - Current payment due date

Feb 28 - Late fees applied

Utilities cut off in error?

Call 770-464-6938

MayorDavid Keener
404-713-1279.....dkeener@socialcirclega.com

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

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

District 3 (vacant)

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

City Manager.....Adele Schirmer
770-464-6901aschirmer@socialcirclega.com

City ClerkSusan Roper
770-464-6902.....sroper@socialcirclega.com

Police ChiefJeffrey Fuesting
770-464-2366.....policechief@socialcirclega.com

Fire Chief Ken Zaydel
770-464-0621.....firechief@socialcirclega.com

Public Works Director (vacant)

Finance Director.....Jennifer Fricks
770-464-6925.....jfricks@socialcirclega.com

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