



Around the Well

January 2020

Vol 11 No 1

City Updates

Oath of Office, Jan 13

You are invited to attend the organizational meeting for the administration of the Oath of Office for Mayor David Keener, Elect, Councilman Tyson Jackson, District 2, Councilman Steve Shelton, District 4 at the Social Circle Community Room 138 E Hightower Trail Social Circle, GA 30025 Monday, January 13, 2020, 6:30 pm.

Census: Children Count!

Children under age 5 are one of the largest groups of undercounted people in the United States. Knowing how many children live in a community is the foundation of many important municipal decisions. Money that funds programs that directly affect children include nutrition assistance, Head Start, special education, foster care, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program and housing assistance to help a child's family. The Census takes place in April. 2020census.gov/ Contact Barbara Schlageter, 770-464-6905, bschlageter@socialcirclega.com.

Upcoming Events

City Hall Closed

Monday, January 20

Coffee with the City Manager

Wednesday, February 5, 8-9 am
City Hall Conference Room

Chocolate Crawl

Friday, February 7
Welcome Center

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

Parks and Pittman Recognized as Employees of the Year ☺ Montrea Parks and Lester Pittman were recognized as the City's Employees of the Year for 2019 by the heads of the departments within the City. Montrea has been described by his coworkers as a very hard worker who is conscientious about quality, completeness, and efficiency. He is very polite and helpful, adaptable, able to solve problems quickly and concerned and knowledgeable about safe work practices. He is always respectful and is skilled with many types of equipment, uses the right tool or equipment for the job. He takes initiative to learn new skills, finishes what he starts, and meets his commitments. Lester has been a key component of the leadership team of the fire department. He has gained the respect of his crew and other employees of the department and City. Lester has trained many of the new employees to help establish them in the fire department, has taken over the maintenance of equipment program and has saved the City countless dollars on completing maintenance labor himself instead of sending it out. He has made relationships with vendors to create a seamless process when ordering equipment, and taken any challenge given to him. Join us in congratulating Montrea and Lester on this honor.

Thank you for Your Generosity! ☺ Social Circle residents went above and beyond in donating to charitable activities organized by the City. The Fire Department's Secret Santa, Mayor's Christmas Motorcade and City Hall Food Drive all benefited from your generosity. We were able to make the holiday season a bit brighter for many people.

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 each board.

Library Update ☺ The W.H. Stanton Memorial Library is thrilled to announce our new family LEGO and building night, which will take place on Tuesday, January 14th @ 5:30pm. Families are invited to drop in and create their own masterpieces with an array of smaller LEGO'S or create on a larger scale with our new giant LEGO's, generously donated by local business, JK Design, LLC. We are also pleased to announce a new personal finance series. Each month the library will be hosting a local bank representative who will focus on topics ranging from saving for retirement to planning for the future through investments. Join us Tuesday, January 28th @ 5:30pm to learn about identity theft and how to protect your accounts from predators. We hope you will join us and help make 2020 the Library's best year yet!

Home Repair Grants for Low-Income Residents ☺ The City is applying for the Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grant funding to rehabilitate owner-occupied homes in our community. CHIP is a federally-funded grant program that seeks to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing in Georgia by granting funds to city and county governments, public housing authorities, and non-profits to rehabilitate owner-occupied homes and build and renovate affordable single-family homes for sale to eligible home buyers. If the City receives this grant, there will be up to \$50,000 available per home to rehab up to six homes. To qualify, you must be the homeowner and occupy the house, and make less than 80% of the area median income. If you believe you qualify for this program, please contact Barbara Schlageter at 770-464-6905 or bschlageter@socialcirclega.com.

City Bus Schedule Updated ☺ Starting Monday, January 13, the bus will go to Monroe at 8:30 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will go to Covington at 9:00 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. There will no longer be service on Saturdays, except for special events. There will be no scheduled pickups between 12:45 pm and 1:15 pm to allow for a lunch break. All trips must be scheduled 24 hours in advance by calling 770-464-2953. There will be no exceptions to this policy. These changes are to improve service within the City and to accommodate more passengers.

Utility Payments Through Bill Pay ☺ If you use bill pay through your bank, please update the account number on your payment to the account number showing on your bill. The account numbers changed when the City financial software system was upgraded last year. This will help ensure that your payment gets credited to the correct account.

USDA Section 504 Home Repair Program 🌿 The USDA Rural Development (USDA-RD) 504 Home Repair provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly, very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. This program has grant funds available up to \$7,500 or loans up to \$20,000. To qualify, you must be the homeowner and occupy the house, be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere, and have a family income below 50 percent of the area median income. For grants, you must be age 62 or older and not be able to repay a repair loan. For additional information, please contact the Monroe area USDA-RD office at 770-267-1413.

Need Help with Your Energy Bill? 🌿 The Georgia Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is a Federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills. This assistance can reduce the risk of health and safety problems such as illness, fire, or disconnection. The Georgia LIHEAP program may be able to offer you one or more of the following types of assistance: energy bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs. To be eligible, you must be a U.S. citizen or legally admitted immigrant, the total gross annual household income is below 60% of the state's median income, and have full responsibility for paying cost of energy bill for the primary home heating source. Residents 65 + or homebound can apply November 1 through April 30. All other eligible residents may apply for assistance beginning December 2 through April 30. Applications for all LIHEAP services are made through the local Partnership for Community Action, Inc. pcaction.org | (404) 929-2500

Community Calendar

Chocolate Crawl, Feb 7 🌿 The 1st Annual Chocolate Crawl will be on February 7 from 5-7 pm. The Chocolate Crawl will begin at the Welcome Center located at 129 E. Hightower Trail where you will collect a map of participating businesses and a goodie bag for chocolates. Please follow our Downtown Social Circle, GA Facebook page for more information. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Amber McKibben at the Welcome Center 770-464-1866 or amckibben@socialcirclega.com.

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.

Special Election, March 24 🌿 A special election will be held to fill the vacant City Council District 3 seat. 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.

School News

Upcoming School Holidays 🌿 MLK Holiday: January 20; Presidents' Day Holiday: February 17; Professional Learning Day & Student Holiday: February 18.

Social Circle City Schools Wants Your Feedback! 🌿 Please plan to attend the community input session and help to inform the long term strategic planning process. The meeting will be held on January 16, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Activity Center at the Middle - High School.

City Calendar

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

January 9	8:30 am	Social Circle Development Authority (2nd Thurs in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)	City Hall Conf Rm
January 10	6:00 pm	Mayor and Council Retreat	Social Circle High School
January 11	9:00 am	Mayor and Council Retreat	Social Circle High School
January 13	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Organizational Meeting	Community Room
January 14	8:00 am	Main Street Commission Board (2nd Tue)	Church at the Grove
January 14	6:00 pm	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (2nd Tue)	Library
January 14	6:00 pm	Historic Preservation Commission (2nd Tue)	Community Room
January 15	1:00 pm	Municipal Court (3rd Wednesday)	Community Room
January 21	5:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session (3rd Tue)	Community Room
January 21	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Regular Meeting (3rd Tue)	Community Room
January 23	6:00 pm	Tree Board (4th Thu)	Community Room
January 28	6:00 pm	Planning/Corridor Commission (4th Tues)	Community Room
February 13	10:00 am	Downtown Development Authority (2nd Thu bi-monthly)	City Hall Conf Rm

City Hall will be closed: Monday, Jan 20, 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

January 28, 10:30 am

Tales for Tots

December 16 & 30, 10:30 am

Music & Movement

December 9 & 23, 10:30 am

Quilting Club

December 8 & 22, 9:30 am

Board Game Afternoon

January 21, 2 - 5 pm

Family LEGO & Building Night

January 14, 5:30 pm

Personal Finance Series

January 28, 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:

Jan 24, 8:30 am - noon, 1 - 4 pm

Night Deposit:

24/7. Do not deposit cash.

Dates:

Jan 27 - Last day to pay to avoid cut-off

Jan 28 - Cut-off

Jan 30 - Current payment due date

Jan 31 - Late fees applied

Utilities cut off in error?

Call 770-464-6938

Mayor Hal Dally

770-317-1638 hdally@socialcirclega.com

Mayor Elect David Keener

404-713-1279 dkeener@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

770-464-6901 aschirmer@socialcirclega.com

City Clerk Susan Roper

770-464-6902 sroper@socialcirclega.com

Police Chief Jeffrey 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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