



# Around the Well

March 2020

Vol 11 No 3

## City Updates

### **FY20/21 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 19 council meeting. There will also be a public hearing opportunity at the June 16 council meeting. Full budget calendar available on our web site: [socialcirclega.gov/documents/fiscal-year-2020-2021-budget-calendar/](http://socialcirclega.gov/documents/fiscal-year-2020-2021-budget-calendar/)

### **Prevent Sewer Clogs**

When you dump oil and grease down the drain, the liquid moves through the pipes and cools and hardens, clinging to the sides of the pipe walls and causing the pipe's circumference to narrow. Eventually, the hardened grease can form a blockage that blocks the pipes in your home or throughout the City causing sewage backups. Please put used fats, oil and grease into containers and put into the garbage.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Coffee with the City Manager**

Wednesday, April 1, 8-9 am  
City Hall Conference Room

#### **Taste of Social Circle**

Friday, April 17

#### **City-Wide Clean-up**

Saturday, April 25, 8 am  
Community Room

*To suggest a news topic, an update topic or to submit news items of community interest, please email [aroundthewell@socialcirclega.com](mailto:aroundthewell@socialcirclega.com)*

**Important Message 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](http://www.Georgia811.com), [socialcirclega.gov](http://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 678-758-4256.

**National Census Day, April 1** ⚡ National Census Day is April 1, but starting March 12, residents should begin receiving postcards with information about how to respond to the Census. **Responding is as easy as 1-2-3:**

- 1 - *Who should be counted?* Everyone -- even new born babies.
- 2 - *It's safe!* It's illegal to share census data with law enforcement or even your landlord.
- 3 - *It's easy!* You can respond online from your phone or computer, by phone or go to the library where someone will be glad to help you.

**SCPD Offers Pedestrian Safety Reminders** ⚡ Both drivers and pedestrians should use caution when approaching crosswalks to ensure the safety of all involved.

**Drivers:** When pedestrians are approaching the crosswalk in any of the lanes in your direction of travel, you must stop to allow the pedestrians to cross. Once they have reached the curb or crossed into the lanes for the opposite direction of travel, you may proceed. It is illegal for drivers to squeeze by, drive around or cut off a pedestrian in a crosswalk, even if there's room. Forget yield. Remember STOP. Crosswalks do not have to be marked. When another vehicle is stopped to allow pedestrians to cross, all other vehicles traveling in the same direction should not overtake or pass the stopped vehicle.

**Pedestrians:** For your safety, cross only at intersections or street corners. When available, cross between the white painted crosswalk lines. Stop before crossing the street, check all traffic signals and look both directions for on-coming traffic. Watch for right turns on red. If a parked vehicle obstructs your view, step out far enough into the street to be able to lean forward and see the street in both directions. Make sure traffic has come to a complete stop. Do not enter the crosswalk or attempt to cross in front of a vehicle that is too close to allow them time to stop. Try to make eye contact with drivers before proceeding so you know that they see you. Continue to look in both directions as you cross the street. If you are with a group of friends, each person needs to look for themselves. At night, wear light-colored clothes and reflective stripes so that you are more easily seen by drivers.

**Social Circle Designated as Tree City USA for 18th Year** 🌳 Our Arbor Day celebration, sponsored by the Social Circle Garden Clubs, was held at Gunter Hall on February 20. Mayor David Keener read the Arbor Day proclamation. 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.

**Ordinance or Zoning Questions? We can help!** 🌳 The City's Code of Ordinances and Zoning map can be found on our web site ([socialcirclega.gov/government/ordinances-and-zoning/](http://socialcirclega.gov/government/ordinances-and-zoning/)) but you are welcome to call or email Barbara Schlageter ([bschlageter@socialcirclega.com](mailto:bschlageter@socialcirclega.com), 770-464-6905) with any questions or concerns you have. Some of the things zoning restricts are outdoor storage, parking boats and campers and displaying signs in the yard.

**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](mailto:amckibben@socialcirclega.com) or 770-464-1866 or complete the form at [socialcirclega.gov/volunteer/](http://socialcirclega.gov/volunteer/).

## Community Calendar

**Library Events** 🌳 The W.H. Stanton Memorial Library staff are not only making plans for spring programs and events, but also preparing for the upcoming 2020 Census. For the first time in our nation's history the census form will be available in an online format and the Library is ready to help EVERYONE COUNT! Starting in mid-March, the Library will provide the community with dedicated census computer stations where citizens may fill out census forms online. All census data are confidential and Library staff will be available to assist with this process. Our Personal Finance Series will also continue with the next session scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at 5:30pm. Guest speaker Amy Parrish will discuss the importance of Investing for Women. Please check online for a full listing of Library programs and events and follow us on Facebook.

**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](mailto: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.

**5th Annual Taste of Social Circle, April 17** 🌳 Join us Friday, April 17 from 6-8 pm Downtown for a night of good food, family fun, music and more. For more information or to volunteer, please contact [amckibben@socialcirclega.com](mailto:amckibben@socialcirclega.com) or call 770-464-1866.

**City-wide Clean-up, April 25** 🌳 Please join us for our Spring City-wide Clean-up Saturday, April 25 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), snacks and coffee are provided. Find out more at [www.socialcirclega.gov](http://www.socialcirclega.gov).

## School News

**Kindergarten Registration, March 16** 🌳 If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2020, please bring your child to the Primary School on Monday, March 16 from 8:30-11:30 for a kindergarten screening. If you have any questions, please contact the Primary School at 770-464-1411.

**Night of Reading, March 17** 🌳 Parents, are you struggling to motivate your child to read on a daily basis? Please join Social Circle Primary School on March 17th from 5:30pm-6:30pm for helpful hints and strategies to assist your child with reading at home. We will also have special treats for all attendees.

### City Calendar

Agendas for ALL meetings, regular and called, available on the city website [socialcirclega.gov](http://socialcirclega.gov) and at City Hall.

March 10	8:00 am	Main Street Commission Board (2nd Tue)	Church at the Grove
March 10	6:00 pm	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (2nd Tue)	Library
March 10	6:00 pm	Historic Preservation Commission (2nd Tue)	Community Room
March 17	5:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session (3rd Tue)	Community Room
March 17	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Regular Meeting (3rd Tue)	Community Room
March 18	1:00 pm	Municipal Court (3rd Wednesday)	Community Room
March 24	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session [CALLED]	City Hall Conf Room
March 25	6:00 pm	Planning/Corridor Commission [RESCHEDULED]	Middle School Activity Ctr
March 26	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
April 9	10:00 am	Downtown Development Authority (2nd Thu bi-monthly)	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**  
March 31, 10:30 am

**Tales for Tots**  
March 12 & 26, 10:30 am

**Music & Movement**  
March 5 & 19, 10:30 am

**Quilting Club**  
March 4 & 18, 9:30 am

**Board Game Afternoon**  
March 17, 2 - 5 pm

**Family LEGO & Building Night**  
March 10, 5:30 pm

**Home School Hour**  
Every Tuesday, 11:00 am

**Weekend Story Time**  
Every Saturday, 10:30 am

**Personal Finance Series**  
March 24, 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/](http://socialcirclega.gov/payment-options/)

### Drive-thru:

Mar 20, 8:30 am - noon, 1 - 4 pm

### Night Deposit:

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

### Dates:

Mar 25 - Last day to pay to avoid cut-off

Mar 26 - Cut-off

Mar 30 - Current payment due date

Mar 31 - Late fees applied

### Utilities cut off in error?

Call 770-464-6938

**Mayor** ..... David Keener  
404-713-1279 ..... [dkeener@socialcirclega.com](mailto:dkeener@socialcirclega.com)

**District 1** ..... Traysa Price  
770-728-5893 ..... [tprice@socialcirclega.com](mailto:tprice@socialcirclega.com)

**District 2** ..... Tyson Jackson  
770-885-9483 ..... [tjackson@socialcirclega.com](mailto:tjackson@socialcirclega.com)

**District 3** ..... (vacant)

**District 4** ..... Steve Shelton  
678-410-7971 ..... [jsshelton@socialcirclega.com](mailto:jsshelton@socialcirclega.com)

**City Manager** ..... Adele Schirmer  
770-464-6901 ..... [aschirmer@socialcirclega.com](mailto:aschirmer@socialcirclega.com)

**City Clerk** ..... Susan Roper  
770-464-6902 ..... [sroper@socialcirclega.com](mailto:sroper@socialcirclega.com)

**Police Chief** ..... Jeffrey Fuesting  
770-464-2366 ..... [policechief@socialcirclega.com](mailto:policechief@socialcirclega.com)

**Fire Chief** ..... Ken Zaydel  
770-464-0621 ..... [firechief@socialcirclega.com](mailto:firechief@socialcirclega.com)

**Public Works Director** ..... Jason Langley  
770-464-6912 ..... [jlanglely@socialcirclega.com](mailto:jlanglely@socialcirclega.com)

**Finance Director** ..... Jennifer Fricks  
770-464-6925 ..... [jfricks@socialcirclega.com](mailto:jfricks@socialcirclega.com)

City of Social Circle City Hall  
PO Box 310  
(mailing address for USPS)  
166 N Cherokee Rd  
(physical address for UPS, FedEx)  
Social Circle, GA 30025  
[socialcirclega.gov](http://socialcirclega.gov)