



Around the Well

February 2021

Vol 12 No 2

Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Flyer ☞

Included in this month's newsletter you will find a flyer sent to you by the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing to help better inform you with a Zoom Homebuyer Informational Session. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

TextMyGov - a Citizen Service - Coming Soon ☞ We are excited to inform you of a citizen service coming soon. TextMyGov is an automated system that citizens can use to find out information about your City's many services or to help report concerns to the City. For example you may text the number with a report about a pothole. It will automatically ask questions about the location, and your contact information. You may also respond with descriptions or pictures to allow for better service. This will then alert a City employee to respond to your concerns with the information you provided. This can be used for a variety of resources, including but not limited to the due date of your utilities. Notice of launch will be included in the March Newsletter.

A Certified City of Ethics ☞ On January 25, 2021, Social Circle was recertified by the Georgia Municipal Association as a Georgia Certified City of Ethics.

To earn a "Certified City of Ethics" designation, a city must take two actions:

1) Adopt a resolution establishing the five ethics principles designed to guide the elected officials as individuals and as a governing body. These principles are:

- Serve others, not ourselves
- Use resources with efficiency and economy
- Treat all people fairly
- Use the power of our position for the well being of our constituents
- Create an environment of honesty, openness and integrity

2) Adopt an ethics ordinance that contains definitions, permissible and impermissible activities by elected officials, due process procedures for elected officials charged with a violation of the ordinance and punishment provisions for those elected officials found in violation of the ordinance.

The City of Ethics program began in 1999 and was developed by a panel of business and government leaders to promote excellence in local governance. In recent years, GMA began requiring cities with the designation to recertify for the program, ensuring that ordinances maintain the standards of the program and city officials are regularly reminded of their ethical obligations as individuals and as a governing body.

The City of Social Circle is honored to continue to be recognized as a GMA Certified City of Ethics.

City Council Meetings on Facebook ☞ You can now view City Council work sessions 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's government. Please contact Amber McKibben at amckibben@socialcirclega.gov with suggestions on how to better provide you with information.

City Updates

Housing Study Survey

The City would like to thank the members of the community for submitting their surveys regarding the Housing Study Survey, included with the January Newsletter. The Planning Commission will be considering commentary and will discuss a housing strategy update at the Planning Commission work session on March 8, 2021. If you have not yet submitted your survey, you still have time to do so. Please contact bschlageter@socialcirclega.gov.

FY2022 Budget Calendar

The City budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will be presented during the City Council meeting on April 20th 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 20th council meeting. Public comment on the proposed budget document will be received at the May 18th council meeting. There will also be a public hearing opportunity at the June 15th council meeting.

Upcoming Events

Coffee with the City Manager

Wednesday, March 3, 8-9 am

You may call into the City Manager during this hour at 770-464-6901

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

Walton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan ~ The City of Social Circle is participating in the development of a comprehensive transportation plan for Walton County. This planning effort is being funded through federal transportation funds, and is guided by a steering committee made up of representatives from across Walton County. A website has been established through which the public can provide input and review observations, recommendations, and potential projects. The website is www.WaltonCTP.com.

Employee of the Year Award! ~ Please help us to celebrate our Employee of the Year for 2020! Rob Leigh has been with the City of Social Circle for four and a half years. With him he has brought skills, great personality, and character strengths. Rob works as a utilities tech in the Public Works department. Rob was nominated for his willingness to work across all functions of public works as well as his positive work ethic. He is one of the few employees with expertise and certifications across the many services offered by the City, including water and gas. Knowledge in running multiple types of machinery add to his many values. Rob is a valued member of the Social Circle team and we hope to have him working with us for many years to come. Congratulations Rob, and thank you for all you do!

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.

Citizen Surveys & Information

Gas Surveys ~ The City of Social Circle Gas Department is conducting a survey about customer safety and your awareness of natural gas. Please take time to fill out this survey and return it to the City. This survey was sent out in the January Newsletter. Thank you to anyone who has already submitted their survey. For any further questions or concerns please contact City Hall. We strive to do our best to keep our citizens informed.

COVID Awareness ~ The City encourages citizens to perform safe practices during these trying times. COVID has affected many of us in various ways, and it is important that we work together as a society to keep each other safe. We encourage the use of masks in public and maintaining the safe six foot distance while continuing to follow CDC guidelines. If you are looking into receiving the COVID vaccine, you can reach out to local pharmacies and health departments to check for access and availability.

On-Bill Financing ~ Cover the cost of installing a new natural gas appliance and the appliance itself with on-bill financing. You can finance up to \$6,500 with 0% interest for up to sixty (60) months and only \$3.00 monthly administrative fee. In order to qualify, you must have twelve on-time payments on your utility services with the City. Call City Hall for more information 770-464-2380.

City Calendar

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

February 9	8:00 am	Main Street Commission Board (2nd Tue)	Church at the Grove
February 9	10:00 am	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (2nd Tue)	Library
February 9	6:00 pm	Historic Preservation Commission (2nd Tue)	Community Room
February 11	10:00 am	Downtown Development Authority (2nd Thu bi-monthly)	City Hall Conf Rm
February 16	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Regular Meeting (3rd Tue)	Community Room
February 17	1:00 pm	Municipal Court (3rd Wednesday)	Community Room
February 23	6:00 pm	Planning/Corridor Commission (4th Tues)	Community Room
February 25	6:00 pm	Tree Board (4th Thu)	Community Room
March 4	6:30 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session (1st Thurs)	Community Room

City Hall will be closed: Friday, April 2, 2021 for Good Friday.

Library Calendar of Events

The Library is offering Valentine Craft Kits that can be picked up curbside with an appointment. Please reach out to the Library at 770-464-2444 to make an appointment.

Follow the W. H. Stanton Memorial Library Facebook page for fun, interactive videos and events, including story time. These events are planned with conscious thought of the current pandemic and allow for you and your children to enjoy from the comfort of home!

Parents, there are even recipes posted! And they look amazing! Visit the link below.

[W. H. Stanton Memorial Library - Home | Facebook](#)

Utility and Tax Payment Options

In-person at City Hall Drive - Thru:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone:
1-877-840-5562

Online:
socialcirclega.gov/payment-options/

Night Deposit:
24/7. Do not deposit cash.

Dates:
Feb 22 - Last day to pay to avoid cut-off
Feb 23 - Cut-off
Feb 25 - Current payment due date
Feb 26 - Late fees applied

Utilities cut off in error?

Call 770-464-6938

Utility Deposit Refunds

Can be applied to account or a check processed after 12 on-time payments. Request your refund by calling City Hall 770-464-2380 and press 1

Mayor	David Keener
404-713-1279.....	dkeener@socialcirclega.gov
District 1	Traysa Price
770-728-5893.....	tprice@socialcirclega.gov
District 2	Tyson Jackson
770-885-9483	tjackson@socialcirclega.gov
District 3	(vacant)
District 4	Steve Shelton
678-410-7971	jsshelton@socialcirclega.gov
City Manager	Adele Schirmer
770-464-6901	aschirmer@socialcirclega.gov
City Clerk	Susan Roper
770-464-6902.....	sroper@socialcirclega.gov
Police Chief	William Brinkley
770-464-2366.....	policechief@socialcirclega.gov
Fire Chief	Ken Zaydel
770-464-0621	firechief@socialcirclega.gov
Public Works Director	Robbie Groves
770-464-6908.....	rgroves@socialcirclega.gov
Finance Director	Jennifer Fricks
770-464-6925.....	jfricks@socialcirclega.gov

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