



• official newsletter of the city of stockbridge, georgia

City newslink

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Mayor Pro Tem's Message



Change is often swift and unexpected. Tim Thompson resigned as Mayor in a surprise move on December 14th. The 2015 Council deferred action until the newly elected Council members were sworn into office. The 2016 Council on January 11th unanimously appointed me as Mayor Pro Tem to carry out the Mayor's duties and responsibilities until a Mayor is elected by the citizens later this year.

I gave a "State of the City" address during the February 8th City Council meeting stressing teamwork as the key to a successful Stockbridge future building on the legacy left by former mayor Rudy Kelley who served for 31 years. Working cohesively this Council can meet and exceed the bar set by Mr. Kelley. Unfortunately, the conflicts between the City and its Downtown Development Authority have taken a toll on our finances, and our reputation. However, the good news is that most of the differences are now in the past, and we are poised to move the City forward once again.

The City achieved numerous successes in 2015, which include: hosting the King family as we celebrated the legacy of the King's Stockbridge heritage; renaming South Berry Street to MLK, Sr. Heritage Trail; selection of a private firm to provide sanitation services this year which includes recycling; offering the first Citizens Academy that graduated 20 participants; hosting two Sounds of Summer concerts, two Screen on the Green family events, a school supplies backpack giveaway and a Smart Kids summer lunch program; taking special needs children to the Circus; completing the Rosenwald Circle home restoration project in conjunction with the Fuller Center; and holding our annual Memorial Day March, Veterans Day Parade, BridgeFest and Holiday Festival.

Council members spearheaded a variety of initiatives such as the African-American Heritage Program; First Responders Appreciation Luncheon; Don't Trash Stockbridge Day; Miracle Breakfast for families with special needs children; Coffee With A Cop; Non-Profits Mixer and much more. We also participated in several ribbon cutting ceremonies welcoming the City's newest businesses.

Our Main Street program attained certification and held a variety of special events to educate residents and businesses about our City; to bring awareness of Stockbridge as a tourist destination at both state and local levels. This program is laying the framework for great things to take place in our downtown area.

We could only accomplish the many activities of 2015 with the support of a stable and capable workforce. An excellent example is our Municipal Court Clerk, Mrs. Anita Gunnoe, who was selected from a team of her peers as the Georgia Court Clerk Council's Clerk of the Year.

We have many exciting opportunities and challenges ahead in 2016 which includes implementing the new sanitation services, smart water meters, paving roads, focusing on our downtown, improving our facilities and so much more. Thank you for your continued support in these important efforts as we move Stockbridge forward.

It will take us all working collectively to make living in the City of Stockbridge a successful and wonderful experience. May God continue to bless the Citizens of Stockbridge.

Sincerely,

Anthony S. Ford
Mayor Pro Tem - City of Stockbridge

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www.cityofstockbridge.com

Email: Initial of first name followed by last name @ cityofstockbridge-ga.gov (e.g. mharris@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov)

Mayor and Council

Anthony Ford, Mayor Pro Tem

Elton Alexander, Councilman

John Blount, Councilman

LaKeisha Gantt, Esq., Councilwoman

Neat Robinson, Councilwoman

Administration

Michael Harris, City Manager

Anita Gunnoe, Clerk of Court

Dale Hall, Admin & Community Svcs Director

Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Diane Ide, Exec Asst to the City Manager/Editor

Linda Nabers, Treasurer

DaVida Robinson, Exec. Asst. to Mayor & Council

Kevin Walter, Public Works Director

Frequently Dialed

Utility Billing..... 770-389-7901

Code Enforcement 770-389-7900

Purchasing..... 678-833-3322

Occupational Tax..... 678-833-3302

Main Street..... 678-833-3306

Municipal Court..... 770-389-7906

Public Works..... 770-474-0972

Water & Sewer..... 770-474-1232

Merle Manders Conference Center,

Ted Strickland Community Center, Parks

..... 770-389-5982



STOCKBRIDGE CITY CALENDAR

All meetings are held at City Hall unless noted otherwise. Please check with City Hall at 678.833.3303 as meeting dates and times are subject to change. Council meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.cityofstockbridge.com.

March 29 6:00 pm
Council Work Session

April 26 6:00 pm
Council Work Session

May 31 6:00 pm
Council Work Session

April 5 6:00 pm
Town Hall on Sanitation

May 9 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

June 13 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

April 11 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

May 30
Memorial Day March

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

City Hall E-Notifications:

Stay informed with E-Notifications at www.cityofstockbridge.com/notify.aspx

FACEBOOK



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SeeClickFix is an online and mobile app to help residents report and track non-emergency problems, such as graffiti, illegal dumping or potholes throughout Stockbridge. Visit www.cityofstockbridge.com/SeeClickFix

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Status of Mayoral Election



A bill is before the General Assembly to provide for a special election to fill the vacant seat of the Mayor. Depending on when the bill is approved and signed by the Governor, a special election will be held on either May 24, 2016 or November 8, 2016. The City has been assured that the General Assembly is “fast tracking” this legislation in hopes it will be adopted in time to allow the election to occur on the earlier date.

Recent Board Appointments

Main Street Advisory Board:

Linda Jones

Downtown Development Authority:

Rodney Hornes

Aneta T. Lee

Zoning Advisory Board:

Quaneisha Robinson-Green

Ethics Board:

Sheryl Freeman; Derwin Binion; Marilyn Flynn;

Angela Jenkins; Wanda Polite

City Charter Changes

For several years, the City Council has considered the need for changes to the City Charter to fix a number of inconsistencies between the way the City has operated for decades and the language of the Charter. The proposed changes can only be made by the Georgia legislature. A January 7th Town Hall meeting was moderated by City Attorney Mike Williams and another Town Hall was held on February 11th by Senator Emanuel Jones for the purpose of seeking citizen input regarding the proposed Charter changes which included the following:

- Formally establishes the position of City Manager within the Charter.
- Provides for a special election in cases where a vacancy exists for Mayor and more than 6 months remain in the term of office.

- A number of ethics-related provisions including a provision addressing the revolving door between elected officials and staff, a provision limiting staff involvement in politics and a provision reducing the potential for conflicts of interest among City officials.

Senator Emanuel Jones and State Representative Demetrius Douglas have introduced legislation to accomplish these changes. Their first focus is to ensure that City residents have an opportunity vote in a special election to fill the Mayor’s seat. The legislation will require a successful candidate to obtain the majority of votes to win. The remaining provisions have been introduced as separate pieces of legislation. It is anticipated that all of the provisions will be approved by the General Assembly in the coming month.

Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority Update

The City and the DDA reached a settlement agreement in November 2015. Property deeds have been transferred from the DDA back to the City. Some funds are still being recouped.

The City Council authorized a forensic audit for the purpose of:

- assessing the former DDA’s financial state;
- providing a clear basis for current DDA operations; and
- as a way of establishing clear financial procedures and policies going forward.



Councilman Elton Alexander

The new Council hit the ground running featuring several initiatives I spearheaded including allowing citizens to choose our next Mayor, the Skyzone Job Fair, and the Stockbridge Career Expo, which brought hundreds of new jobs to our citizens as promised! As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, keeping citizens safe will be our top priority. Finally, Jodeco Atlanta South is a world-class mixed-use shopping destination coming to Stockbridge that will transform the Atlanta South region while including a 2,000 seat amphitheater! Our Time is Now Stockbridge!



Councilman John Blount

What a great new beginning for Stockbridge! As your councilman and newly appointed chairman of the Public Relations Committee, I am working diligently to ensure the place you call home is an awesome place to live. I and my fellow councilmembers have great plans and initiatives that will be taking place soon in our local community. Join us as we begin to knock down old barriers to make Stockbridge's future brighter and sustainable.



Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt

Stockbridge is already onward and upward to a promising future. I'm excited about the City's new event, Food Truck Tuesdays, as well as my next Non-Profit Social mixer. I will also be coming to your neighborhoods with Walk, Talk, Love Stockbridge to meet and greet residents, while promoting health and wellness. Stockbridge's new path is positive and refreshing. With the continued active support of our citizens, the sky is the limit for Stockbridge.



Councilwoman Neat Robinson

I am ecstatic to start the new year with a new vision and goals for a better Stockbridge. In the upcoming months, I present to you Unity in the Community- an Exhibition Basketball Game between high school seniors in Stockbridge and the Henry County Police and Sheriff's Departments. Not only will this bridge the gap between teens and law enforcement, but this will also set the tone for citizens to unite as one with the City Council and administration to achieve common goals for Stockbridge.

Council Retreat Solidifies 2016 Goals Council Members Experience Duluth

The City's leaders held a Council Retreat February 18-20 in Duluth, enabling the three new Council members to assimilate and for the group to focus on the direction for Stockbridge in 2016. Duluth was selected as the site for the retreat due to its

similar size, structure and proximity. Prior to rolling up their sleeves and working on goals, Duluth's mayor, city manager and some of their Council members provided valuable insights via a Q&A opportunity as well as a tour of their downtown area.



With Duluth officials



Council members worked on common goals for Stockbridge

Attend Town Hall on Sanitation Services April 5th at 6:00 pm

Note Sanitation Change

The City of Stockbridge is pleased to announce that beginning Monday, May 1, 2016, Waste Industries, a private company, will become the exclusive sanitation provider for our citizens. Waste Industries will provide the same great services that our citizens have become accustomed to, including weekly curbside collection of residential waste at the same sanitation rate as today – and they will additionally provide a bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) recycling pickup for all residents that wish to participate -- at no additional charge! Additionally, also at no charge, a new 95-gallon waste

container will be provided to each residence during the last week of April 2016.

For those residents who sign up to recycle, a free second 65-gallon recycling container will also be provided. Additionally, for residents who call in advance and make a reservation, Waste Industries will pick up bulk items (up to 3 items total) such as chairs or old TVs etc. once per week. This service has been available from the City for a fee of \$25.00 each pickup.

City of Stockbridge	Waste Industries	
Quality weekly curbside sanitation pickup	Quality weekly curbside sanitation pickup – at the same price	
Provide your own garbage receptacle	One FREE 95-gallon receptacle	
No recycling program	Recycling program	
No recycling receptacle	One FREE 65-gallon receptacle (if joining the recycling program)	
If scheduled, weekly bulk pickups - \$25	If scheduled, weekly bulk pickups – FREE (up to three items per week)	

The City and its residents will benefit by eliminating costs to maintain the various types of sanitation equipment and the fuel needed to provide these services. Staff members will be absorbed into other areas of the Public Works Department such as grass cutting and beautification.

The City of Stockbridge is holding a **Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:00 pm** to go over these sanitation services and improvements and to answer resident's questions. Please join us at Stockbridge City Hall on April 5th to find out all the benefits that await our residents.

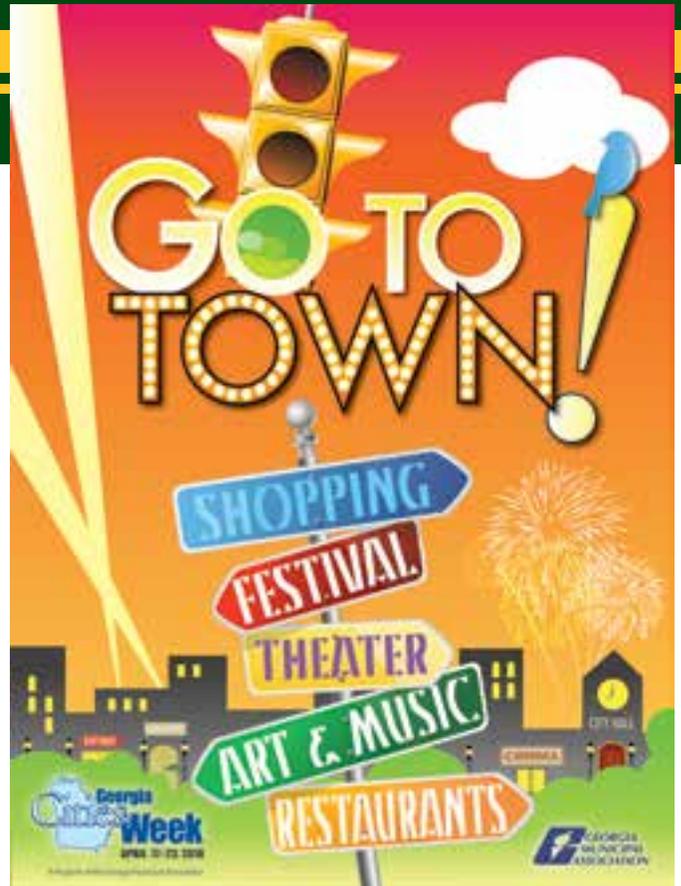
Sanitation Schedule for Good Friday Week Friday, March 25, 2016 (Holiday Observed)

- Monday-Thursday (3/21/16-3/24/16) routes will run as normal including Commercial Pickup, yard debris, chipper, metal and special pickup services
- Friday (3/25/16 City Holiday Observed) route will run on Monday (3/28/16) including Commercial Pickups
- No yard debris, chipper, metal or special pickup service will be provided the week of March 28, 2016, but Chipper Service will run.



Upcoming Events

MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR



Cities Week April 17-23

(Check the City's website for activities)



Memorial Day March May 30

(To participate, email cmcghee@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov by May 20, 2016)



Family Movie Night June 11



Feature Concert June 4

For dates, times locations and sponsorship information for each of these events, visit the City's website, cityofstockbridge.com. Event photos can be found on the City's Facebook page - City of Stockbridge Government

Congratulations to the following employees:



Kim Barnett

who celebrates 10 years of service with the City



Vanessa Holiday

who achieved City Clerk certification



Claire MacAllister

who achieved Court Clerk certification



Adam Daniel

promoted to Wastewater Collections Chief Operator



Wayne Robinson

promoted to Wastewater Systems Chief Operator



Cie Cie McGhee

promoted to Conference Center & Events Manager

We Welcomed the Following New Stockbridge Businesses



- A PLUS ACCOUNTING SERVICES
- AMPED NOW, INC
- ANOINTED PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO
- ATLANTA DRIVEAWAY SERVICE, INC
- CGC SNACKFOODS
- CJ'S HOTDOGS
- CRACKS & CREVICES, INC
- DELVALLE'S
- DOMINICAN BEAUTY SALON
- EAGLES LANDING MEDICAL CENTER
- ESSENTIAL OPTIONS, INC.
- EXCLUSIVE BARBER PRODUCTS
- FALCON WHOLESALE, INC
- FLEMING EXECUTIVE GROUP, INC
- FULCHER, JANICE
- GOOD TIMES EVENT PLANNING
- HAUTE LASH COMPANY
- I AM MILITARY, INC

- JA CERAMIC TILE & MARBLE
- KEEP IT MOVING LLC
- LIL RUBY POWERSPORTS
- MAJESTIC SALON SUITES
- MCDONALDS #30676
- NEIGHBORHOOD FINANCIAL CENTER
- ONE STOP TAX
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Ribbon Cutting



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Silver Bay Seafood Restaurant
February 9
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Stockbridge
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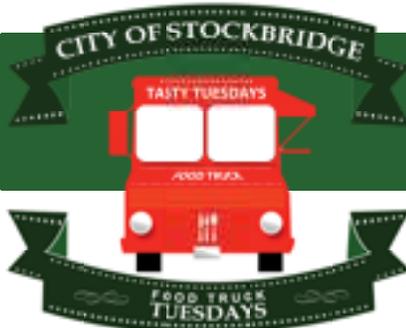


Please Note...

On Friday, February 12th, Mayor Pro Tem Anthony S. Ford served as a host to over 50 families of children with special needs who attend elementary schools in Stockbridge. Thanks to the generosity of Gas South and Feld Entertainment, who provided four tickets to each of the 50 plus families, Mayor Pro Tem Ford participated with other Mayors of the Metro Atlanta area in providing a “Magical Journey Experience” for these deserving students and residents.



Stockbridge Council members Neat Robinson and Elton Alexander were recognized at the South Metro Development Outlook Conference for Economic Development with Jodeco Atlanta South and City Proclamation Recognizing February 18th as South Metro Development Outlook Day in Stockbridge.



Food Truck Tasty Tuesdays in Stockbridge!

Starting Tuesday, April 12 from 5:30 – 9:00 pm and on a recurring weekly basis thereafter, residents and businesses will be able to experience savory selections and desserts from various metro Atlanta restaurants and eateries – in downtown Stockbridge!

The Food Truck phenomenon has proven successful in many metro cities by bringing people into downtown areas, proving the theory that “if you feed them, they will come.” It also affords participants the opportunity to experience tasty

food prepared by restaurants they may not have visited or are not yet familiar with.

While the Food Truck offerings will vary, the fun and excitement will not! The program is taking shape and plans call for music and other entertainment in conjunction with the Food Truck Tuesdays.

Take a break from cooking, while providing the family with a fun-filled evening – join us on the lawn at City Hall for the event, then it will move to Clark Park. Lawn chairs or blankets are encouraged.

The planning committee is seeking local musicians and entertainers to participate. If interested, email: cmghee@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov.

After the Storm: Stormwater Pollution Solutions

GDOT's efforts to keep our streams, rivers and lakes healthy and clean

Unlike wastewater, the water that flows through our storm-drains is untreated before it enters our waterways. If polluted stormwater contaminates our water sources, the health of the aquatic ecosystem may be directly compromised. This can mean keeping the public from entering and using our rivers, lakes and streams. Stormwater pollution also makes monitoring and treating our drinking water more difficult and costly.

When it rains, it pollutes!

Many people are unaware that the quality of our streams, rivers and lakes is threatened each time it rains. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants like oil and grease, lawn fertilizers, chemicals, pet waste, litter and other contaminants into our waterways. These pollutants are harmful to both people and aquatic life. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 80% of water pollution is caused by stormwater runoff.

An Untreated Mess!

A common misconception is that water running from the street into a storm drain goes straight to a wastewater treatment plant, but it doesn't! Stormwater is seldom treated. Therefore pollutants that flow into a storm sewer system can go directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. These materials are discharged into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

What can I do to help?

- First, never dump anything on the street, down a storm drain, or into a drainage ditch. Report stormwater pollution on state routes to: www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/programs/environment/Pages/StormWater.aspx
- Next, clean up after your pet - whether in your yard, on walks, in public parks, or in rest areas while traveling. Clean up and bag pet waste, and throw it in the trash. GDOT provides pet waste stations at all highway rest stops.
- Also, remember to check your vehicles for leaks and repair them. Recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids; clean up gasoline and oil leaks and spills immediately.
- Learn more! Education is the key to change. Signs and markers near storm drains warn residents that pollutants entering the drains will be carried untreated into a local body of water.

Visit The City's Stormwater page at <https://stockbridge.municipalcms.com/pview.aspx?id=4182&catid=72> for additional information.

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<http://www.dot.ga.gov/BuildSmart/Programs/Documents/Stormwater/factsheet.pdf>

For illicit discharges and other stormwater-related complaints, use the City's SeeClickFix application to report, or call the Stormwater Hotline at 678-833-3305.





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*Plan to Participate in These
Important Upcoming Town Hall Meetings*



**Discussion on Beautification and
Community Improvements Districts (CIDs)**

Thursday, March 24th at 6:30 pm

Council Chambers

Sanitation Services Changes and Recycling Program

Tuesday, April 5th at 6:00 pm

Council Chambers

Your questions, input and feedback are welcome.

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40 Tall Electric	\$1000
40 Short Electric	\$1020
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POWER VENT 6 YEAR

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50 Gas	\$2050

RHEEM PRO 12 YEAR

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