The City of Stockbridge was recognized with an official resolution by the Georgia State Senate on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta. The Stockbridge Mayor and City Council were in attendance for the special recognition which acknowledged the city’s mission to be the most progressive and family orientated community in metropolitan Atlanta.

The resolution states that the members of the Georgia State Senate pay honor to Stockbridge and celebrate the city’s heritage. Stockbridge community members joined the Mayor and City Council for Stockbridge Day at the State Capitol which included group comments led by Senators Emanuel Jones and Brian Strickland prior to the official resolution presentation on the Senate Floor.

“We are so grateful for this recognition,” said Stockbridge Mayor Anthony S. Ford. “We wouldn’t be where we are today without the support of our staff and citizens. They have been so supportive of our mission and we are forever thankful. This recognition is dedicated to the great people of Stockbridge. Thank you for allowing us to serve you. We have so much more in store for you. We will celebrate our centennial in 2020 and we invite everyone out to join us in recognizing the historical birthday.”

The South Metro Development Outlook Conference was established in 2003 as a strategic stage to convene elected officials, industry professionals, business owners and the community to examine the South Metro region’s growth and opportunities. It has emerged as the largest development conference of its kind in the south metropolitan Atlanta region.

The Stockbridge Mayor and City Council received the distinguished Perseverance in Leadership Award at the 17th Annual South Metro Development Outlook Conference on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at the Georgia International Convention Center. Members of the Stockbridge City Council were present to receive the inaugural award. The award was given to Stockbridge for its exemplary leadership and perseverance demonstrated during an involuntary de-annexation attempt in 2018. Attendees at the annual conference included elected officials, business owners and economic development professionals.

“We are so thankful for this special honor,” said Stockbridge Mayor Anthony S. Ford. “We have some amazing citizens who truly care about our city. Our future looks stronger than ever. The elected leadership, staff and citizens all make up one dynamic team committed to the success of Stockbridge. We appreciate the recognition from the team at the South Metro Development Outlook Conference. This award is dedicated to the people who believe in Stockbridge.”
In my initial acceptance statement, I spoke about team effort and team work of the city officials and city staff, but mentioned the real heroes are the citizens that voted to save the city of Stockbridge and not split our community. These are the same citizens that have the heavy lifting happening on doors, holding signs, passing out literature of factual information. They were the “foot soldiers” on a mission. There were busy committees out in the community engaging citizens with factual information (“Citizens To Keep Stockbridge Together” and “Coalition To Keep Stockbridge Together”). There were also businesses behind the “Gate” that just wanted to convey the truth behind the entire de-annexation issue, and indicated that it just was not feasible financially to split the city. Thank you once again for your efforts to save our city.

The Henry County Legislative Delegation led by our two State Senators Emran Jones and Brian Strickland have come together to assist in the healing process for the city of Stockbridge as well as Henry County, the City Council and staff join in these efforts to mend our community to ensure we collectively have a very bright future, because we are truly better together.

We have taken several proactive actions to assist in moving the city forward into the future which includes our own 20 year Comprehensive Plan that citizens assisted in developing. This particular plan will assist us in how we expand the population, grow economically and solve how we want our community to look like in the next two decades. We have also developed a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the city. We are truly moving forward toward a very bright future in route to a sustainable “Live, Work, Play” environment.

In 2018, the City of Stockbridge believes that our citizens are the most valuable asset.

Mayor and City Council, are elected by you and work for you the citizens, so we must at all times have a listening ear to what is on your mind and what you would like to see happen with our community. The Mayor and City Council, with total support of the city-staff, must work as a team, in lock step whereas we are all moving out together, simultaneously, to accomplish the same goals for our community.

Teamwork is the ultimate key to our success to move the city forward to a very bright future. Please keep the faith that we will do the best for our citizens.

May God Bless us all.

Mayor Anthony S. Ford
City of Stockbridge

CITY MANAGER’S MESSAGE

Randy Knighton, City of Stockbridge Manager

The city of Stockbridge continues to move forward in 2019. Currently, the city is undergoing a $4.5 million dollar sewer plant upgrade that will service the city for the foreseeable future. In addition, the city is planning the imminent construction of a new public works facility which is a fulfillment of a SPLSOT IV project. Also, the city has recently completed a renovation of the municipal complex. The renovation allows for the city to maintain a one-stop-shop for building and permitting. This renovation allows us to serve our citizens in the business and development community in much more efficient manner. The economy in Stockbridge is robust with several commercial projects underway as well as a couple of hotels currently under construction. Please stay connected to us, we look forward to serving you as the city progresses thru 2019. It is our goal to improve our service to you each day as we work collaboratively in advancing the City forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Anthony S. Ford
Mayor, City of Stockbridge

Stockbridge City Hall
4640 North Henry Boulevard
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281
770-389-7900
cityofstockbridge.com

Mayor & Council 770-389-7900
Anthony S. Ford, Mayor
Elton Alexander, Councilman
John Blount, Mayor Pro Tem
LaKeisha Gantt, Esq., Councilwoman
Neal Robinson, Councilwoman
Alphonso Thomas, Councilman

Administration 770-389-7900

Randy Knighton, City Manager
Camilla Moore, Assistant City Manager
Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
Dacia Aaron, Public Works Director
Chasity Webster, Exec, Asst. to City Manager
LaQuinda Jackson, Exec, Asst. to Mayor & Council
Renee Wheeler, HR Manager
Daya Bliles, Clerk of the Court
James Touchton, Economic Development Director
John Wiggins, Treasurer

Frequently Dialed Numbers
City Hall .................. 770-389-7900
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 .......... 770-389-7900
Public Works ............. 770-474-0972
Water and Sewer .......... 770-474-1232
Martha Manders Center
Center & Ted Strickland
Community Center .... 770-389-5082
Parks ........................ 770-389-7900
Waste Industries ........ 770-474-0973
Trash Collection .......... 678-833-3305
Problems with Trash Collection .... 678-833-3305

City Hall E-Notifications cityofstockbridge.com/notify.aspx
Visit Our Page CityofStockbridgeGovernment

City Councilman Elton Alexander

In the three years the standards in Stockbridge have been raised to best in class! Fiber optic gigabit internet technology is now available, a $15M brick requirement is in place for new businesses, recycling is available, our roadways are now the best in Henry County, and we even added a street department. We have been developing a brand new amphitheater, downtown offices, check cashing stores, and low-end businesses that are saturating our community because we deserve better. Our new 300 seat Amphitheater will start construction soon and raise the bar for venues in Georgia. We also set a new standard for honoring women at our annual Women of Distinction. New businesses are flocking to our city at a record pace. We need your support to add a Youth Center in 2019 for our children. Thank you for allowing me to serve Stockbridge, our time is now!

Mayor Pro Tem John Blount

It has been a blessing to live and serve in our community. As we move forward to breaking ground on the city’s first amphitheater, while working towards building a cultural Arts Center and building our downtown, staying connected to the needs of all citizens has been my number one priority. I will continue to push for the need of a senior and youth center to facilitate the needs of so many citizens. It has been very rewarding working with our schools and speaking with our students to help ensure that they are reaching the heights of their abilities. Serving as your council member and Mayor Pro Tem, has given me the ability to connect people and communities in a way that has brought about a more engaged community.

Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt Esq.

Hello Citizens of Stockbridge. I am honored to continue to serve you! This year has started off with some great and exciting new ventures for Stockbridge, and we are truly working on fulfilling our brand “Stockbridge where Community Connects”. This year I have started a new initiative entitled “Welcoming Stockbridge Roundtable” goal is to focus on the growth that Stockbridge is 100 percent inclusive of all our nationals and religions. We will focus on thickening and showcasing the diversity around our city. We have also made some great strides in the development of our downtown and focus on enhanced quality of life which promotes a “Live, Work, Play” environment.

Each year I get to work to enhance our city with new faces and new friends. As we move forward to breaking ground on the city’s first amphitheater, while working towards building a cultural Arts Center and building our downtown, staying connected to the needs of all citizens has been my number one priority. I will continue to push for the need of a senior and youth center to facilitate the needs of so many citizens. It has been very rewarding working with our schools and speaking with our students to help ensure they are reaching the heights of their abilities. Serving as your council member, and Mayor Pro Tem, has given me the ability to connect people and communities in a way that has brought about a more engaged community.

Councilwoman Neal Robinson

Citizens of Stockbridge, as the year is off to a wonderful start, I encourage each of you to get involved with our community. We are moving ahead to make Stockbridge the best live, work, play community in the southern region of metro Atlanta. As your elected official, I am committed to serving the people. I am available to you and for you as we work together to better our community. In the upcoming months, I will be hosting several events for the citizens. I hold the Annual Unity in the Community Basketball game in April and Women in Business Brunch happening soon. The City of Stockbridge Youth Council hosted a successful GMA Youth Symposium in March. It was the first ever in our region. I am excited about the future of the City of Stockbridge and moving forward.

Councilman Alphonso Thomas

In 2018, the City of Stockbridge withstood its greatest challenge, defeating an unprecedented attempt to divide the City. As the City Council closes out the first quarter of 2019, the City faces another challenge of winning the future. We now look ahead to realize the City’s vision of a vibrant city and a renaissance of a healthy and robust downtown which is vital for the economy of Stockbridge. Downtown is the heart of the City—the pulse of the economy and a barometer of our quality of life. “The Renaissance Strategic Visioning & Planning (RSVP) program,” which is a diagram that guides downtown (future) improvements and investments. The RSVP provides an extensive look at how the downtown should evolve. Making downtown an attractive place to live, work and visit. The City of Stockbridge is positioned to create an investment in the arts with the proposed Carrie Mae Hambrick Cultural Arts and Enrichment Center, using the arts as a lever to increase visitors, attract residents, business owners, create jobs and increase local tax revenues. The investment in the arts will be used as part of a local economic development strategy to bring heat. We expect to break ground on a 3,200 seat amphitheater making downtown an ideal destination point. 
WE WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING NEW BUSINESSES TO STOCKBRIDGE

AASA USA, LLC
Amanda Lowe
Bobby Johnson
Charles Agustinvil
Christina King
Cindy Hardy
DeShawn T. Glenn
Donnell Barnes
Harmon Strange
Island Girl, LLC
Jainet Lovelace
Jonathan Proctor
Joshua Pope
Jinkumar K. Patel
& Heer Limbachiya
Kelli Bryant
Marques Stroud
Nadine McLean
Nakeshia Williams
Narendra Sing
Orlando Smith
Roudy LaLanne
Photography
Screen World
Trinity Printing Solutions
Z Line Transports

SINKHOLES

One of the most common places for sinkholes to appear is around stormwater drains. Stormwater drains can be called catch basins, drop inlets, curb inlets and various other things depending on where you live. However, they all serve the same purpose—to collect surface stormwater runoff and divert it to pipes underground. We perform sinkhole repair on all types of stormwater structures.

The most common cause of sinkholes around stormwater drains is leaks in the structure. Usually the leaks develop over time as a result of deterioration of the materials used to seal the joints between pipes coming in and out of the structure and the structure itself.

Some other causes of leaks in the drain structures that cause sinkholes is settlement of the adjacent soils. If the ground the drain was built on sinks, it can cause the drain structure to shift. This shifting can cause joints to break and cracks to form in the structure, most commonly around pipes. Water can seep through the soil and flow into the opening in the joint and suck the dirt into the structure washing it away over time. The amount of time it takes a leak in a structure to turn into a sinkhole depends on a few things. The volume of water that flows through or into a drain can be very important. Some structures can have very large potential leaks. However, if very little water ever passes through them, the openings in the structure don’t cause sinkholes.

If you come across a sinkhole, use a probe to investigate the hole. How deep is it? How wide is it? Is there a solid floor? Be very careful when examining or working in sinkholes. Collapse of the sinkhole walls can lead to injury or death. Never enter a sinkhole that is deeper than chest height. The deeper the hole and the steeper the walls are, the greater the danger of collapse.

If you are at all concerned about a sinkhole in your yard contact the Stormwater Complaint Hotline at 678-833-3305. You can also visit our website and report any complaints on SeeClickFix in the link on the website www.cityofstockbridge.com/stormwater.
**Activities Corner**

**Employees Corner**

**WELCOME NEW CITY STAFF!**

Monique Holloman
Administrative Assistant

Gary Smith
Facilities Maintenance Supervisor

Chantel Burnett
Code Enforcement

Linda Logan
Senior Planner

Christine Chavis
Building Permits Coordinator

Donnie Mullis
Water Superintendent

**Employees Spotlight**

Shana Thornton, the Public Information Officer, won the inaugural Henry County Dancing with the Stars Competition held on February 9th in Locust Grove, Georgia. The event was hosted by Prevent Human Child Abuse, which works to provide education, awareness and prevention of child abuse. Shana and her dance partner took home the Mirrorball Champion Trophy.

**Work Anniversaries**

Jeff Greenway – 30 years

Uneeda Smith-Sellers – 5 years

**Congratulations!**

Kim Barnett, Uneeda Smith-Sellers, Rashonda Favors and Kim Moge - These employees participated in the 4th annual Cupcake RUN/Walk Celebrating Girls, Friends and Families on March 24, 2019. The Cupcake RUN is a celebratory event which aims to address barrier to obesity with a family and community approach to fitness that creates opportunities to exercise safely and consistently. Congratulations to Uneeda, Kim, Kim and Rashonda for taking health and wellness a notch higher!

**Public Works Projects**

Infrastructure investment is critical to a city’s continued economic success. Cities must expand and modernize its infrastructure across various sectors to help ensure they continue to provide businesses, both large and small, an environment where they can successfully grow and operate. Research has shown that well designed investments in infrastructure can increase long-term economic growth, productivity and land values, while also providing significant positive spillovers to areas such as economic development, energy efficiency, public health and manufacturing. Improving infrastructure will not only create economic opportunity for residents, but also improve their fundamental quality of life.

**Public Works**

On March 4, 2019, the Department of Public Works switched over to the Dude Solutions work order system. The work order system will move the City and Public Works team to a digital database instead of paper and/or email records. This will ensure accurate records regarding material and labor costs for all activities and provide the necessary data for critical decisions regarding capital needs and infrastructure replacement.

**Benefits:**
- **Convenience** - Access your work order data online anytime, anywhere, from any computer
- **Productivity** - Reduce data entry and phone calls for work requests
- **Reporting** - Generate simple yet detailed reports on work order status, costs and more
- **Customer Satisfaction** - Automated communication keeps customers in the loop

**Completed Public Works Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater Treatment Plant</td>
<td>Wastewater</td>
<td>$4,710,691.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I and II Improvements</td>
<td>Wastewater</td>
<td>$4,710,691.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works Administrative Building</td>
<td>Government Buildings</td>
<td>$3,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 LMIG</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$1,079,520.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hall, MMCC and Municipal Court</td>
<td>Government Buildings</td>
<td>$997,681.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>HoAG Improvements</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$725,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis Road Sidewalk Phase I</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$327,717.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Line Water Main Replacement</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith-Barnes Basin Sewer Rehab Phase I</td>
<td>Wastewater</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Park Poured in Place</td>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>$57,679.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubberized Surface</td>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>$57,679.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**: $11,178,288.00
The Stockbridge Youth Council recently hosted the 2019 Georgia Municipal Association’s Youth Council Symposium on March 22-24, 2019 at the Merle Manders Conference Center in Stockbridge. Teens from various cities throughout Georgia attended the state symposium, a first ever partnership between the Stockbridge Youth Council and the Georgia Municipal Association. The youth attendees participated in educational group activities, presentations and discussions focusing on leadership and local government.

“Our youth are vital to the future and the conference demonstrated our commitment to pour into each of them,” said Councilwoman Neat Robinson, City Council Liaison for the Stockbridge Youth Council. “We encouraged them to share ideas and thoughts about their vision for local government. I am excited to know that our youth have a strong interest in both leadership and government.” “The experience was amazing,” said 16-year-old Destiny Flanigan, Vice Chairperson of the Stockbridge Youth Council. “We gained additional insight on local government. I plan to use my experience in the near future.”