



• official newsletter of the city of stockbridge, georgia

City newslink

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cityofstockbridge.com | Fall 2015



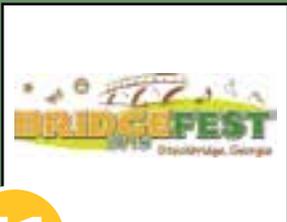
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Coffee with
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Sensational
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Events

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, IS ELECTION DAY Three Stockbridge City Council Seats Will Be Determined

Council seats up for election are those held by Robin Buschman, Alphonso Thomas, and Regina Lewis Ward. Registered voters within the city limits of Stockbridge are eligible to vote for candidates running to fill the three Council positions. The following early voting options will make it easy to avoid long lines on Election Day:

- The week of October 12-16 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm: votes can be cast at Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office at 345 Phillips Drive, McDonough.
- The week of October 19-23 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm at either the Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office at 345 Phillips Drive, McDonough OR at Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge.
- Saturday, October 24 from 7:00 am – 4:00 pm at either the Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office at 345 Phillips Drive, McDonough OR at Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge.
- The week of October 26-30 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm – four locations are available: Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office at 345 Phillips Drive, McDonough; Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge; Fortson Library, 61 McDonough Street, Hampton; or Locust Grove Library, 115 Locust Grove/Griffin Road, Locust Grove.



On Election Day Tuesday, November 3, voters must vote between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm within their own city. For Stockbridge, at Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge.

Voters can send a written request for an absentee ballot via U.S. mail to Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office, 345 Phillips Drive, McDonough, GA 30253; by fax to 770-288-6468 or email lfesmire@co.henry.ga.us.

For more information regarding voting and elections, visit www.co.henry.ga.us/Registrars.

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Stockbridge City Hall

4640 North Henry Blvd.
Stockbridge, Ga. 30281
770-389-7900

www.cityofstockbridge.com

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

Mayor and Council

Tim L. Thompson, Mayor

Alphonso Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem

Robin Buschman, Councilwoman

Anthony Ford, Councilman

LaKeisha Gantt, Esq., Councilwoman

Regina Lewis Ward, 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.

Sep 14 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

Sep 19 8:30 am
Coffee with a Cop, Bridgeview
Diner

Sep 23 6:00 pm
Finance Committee Meeting

Sep 25 7:00 pm
& **26 11:00 am**
Bridgefest

Sep 29 6:00 pm
Council Work Session

Oct 2 10:00 am
Public Safety Committee

Oct 8 6:30 pm MLK, Sr Street
Naming Ceremony/Reception,
Floyd Chapel/MMCC

Oct 12 6:00
Council Meeting

Oct 14 6:00 pm
Community Relations Committee

Oct 27 6:00
Council Work Session

Nov 9 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

Nov 11 9:00 am
Veterans Day Parade

Nov 11 6:00 pm
Community Relations Committee

Nov 18 6:00 pm
Building Committee

Dec 1 5:00 – 9:00 pm
Holiday Festival

Dec 9 6:00 pm
Community Relations Committee

Dec 14 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

City Hall E-Notifications:

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

FACEBOOK



City of Stockbridge Facebook wants you to be a fan!

Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofStockbridgeGovernment>

SeeClickFix

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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Mayor's Message

Support from citizens and businesses can make a world of difference – and I am proud of the enthusiasm and involvement coming from so many. Our summertime events were well attended and served to bring our community closer together in a relaxing, positive environment. City initiatives such as the Citizens Academy and our recent Main Street Meet & Greet demonstrate that our residents and business community seek first to understand and then to roll up their sleeves and participate in creating solutions and providing valuable insights. Numerous Stockbridge people and organizations have been recognized at City Council meetings throughout the year, citing the varied ways they are making a difference in our community.

Sir Richard Branson, highly successful businessman and investor, is credited with the quote “Do not come to me with your problems – give me a solution.” I’ve adopted that as a practice in my life and I appreciate when others do the same. That’s why it’s so wonderful to see residents and business owners coming to meetings and events and taking active roles in shaping what the City is to become.

Even when a resident uses the City’s SeeClickFix tool to report an issue, they are participating in making our City a

“
We support each other
”

better place. When they pick up a piece of trash along the way or, even better, teach a child not to throw trash down -- they make a difference.

Another great way to make a difference is to exercise the right to vote. While you may never make a speech at a City meeting, or host or sponsor a City event, by casting a vote you select the people who will do all those things and so much more. You are actively participating in determining the direction that those leaders will take us in.

While the staff at City Hall work daily to provide service to our constituents, it is YOUR involvement and participation that consistently reminds us of WHO we are working for. Let’s keep the momentum going – there’s so much to be done!



With kindest regards,

Tim L. Thompson
Mayor of the
City of Stockbridge

Take the opportunity to have “Coffee with A Cop”

Councilman Anthony S. Ford recently initiated “Coffee With A Cop” monthly meetings to enable citizens and families to have one-on-one time to talk with local law enforcement personnel as a means of fostering mutually supportive relationships. To find out about the next opportunity, check the City’s website or Facebook page.



Scott Gray, Captain of the North Henry Precinct in Stockbridge, with Councilman Ford and Mayor Thompson at inaugural “Coffee With A Cop” on August 8 at Denny’s



Councilwoman Robin Buschman

As a member of Council and a board member for the Downtown Development Authority, I am pleased to advise the Citizens that the two entities have come together to complete the financials for the 2013 and 2014 Audits. This is wonderful for the City to be compliant with the State of Georgia. Both the City and the DDA are continuing the road to progress.



Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt

Dear Stockbridge Family,
Thank you for coming out to support our Sounds of Summer events. I look forward to more community events in the near future as we continue to celebrate and embrace a diverse community. Enjoy the fall season!



Councilwoman Regina Lewis Ward

Dear Friends,
This year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Your vote is an opportunity to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and to have a say in issues that affect your community. Every vote counts.

Visit <http://www.rockthevote.com> for more info.



Councilman Anthony S. Ford

Citizens, We had an outstanding Summer with the City - sponsored movies and concerts and we are now preparing for a great BridgeFest. The Fall season will bring us "Coffee with a Cop." A cup of coffee is a common bond. The "Coffee with a Cop" program provides police officers opportunities to relax and talk with residents in the community, which will assist in breaking down barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve. Please check the city website or Facebook page for further details.



Mayor Pro Tem Alphonso Thomas

By investing in the citizens of Stockbridge, a difference in the quality of life for all is created. Healthy, thriving businesses and communities are created by promoting awareness of needs, creating and implementing services and partnerships to help meet those needs, while encouraging responsibility. Collaborating with neighborhoods enhances the participation by citizens in local decision-making, which is important to the City of Stockbridge, to help create a stronger city.

14 Complete First Stockbridge Citizens Academy



Class of 2015: Sharon Booker; Josephine Burns Clark (not pictured); Melvin J. Thomas Fulton; Aneta Thomas Lee; Larry Mitchell; John P. Moran; Wendell Moore; Wanda Polite; Tavaras J. Powell; Mildred Reed; Gail Walton; Leonard Yancey; Donald Yee; and Elizabeth Yee

On July 28, 2015, 13 of the 14 members of the City's first Citizens Academy received certificates of completion during the City Council meeting. The class members spent 3-4 hours on Thursdays for 7 weeks from June 4th through July 23rd learning how the City operates. They also visited the water treatment

facilities, Merle Manders Conference Center, and the Henry County Police Department's North Precinct where they learned the roles that the Henry County Police and Fire Departments and the Emergency 911 Center play in their protection.

Councilwoman Regina Lewis Ward initiated this program for the purpose of educating residents about City operations while bringing about valuable citizen involvement and insights. She viewed it as a valuable resource for both the City and its residents. Feedback has been extremely positive and participants indicate that they gained greater awareness about what it takes to run a city serving 27,000 residents and tasks that are performed that they were not aware of.

Plans are to continue holding these classes each year. Dates have not yet been set for 2016. Once known, dates and instructions about how to apply will be posted on the City website and Facebook page.

City Operations Highlights

The City hosted numerous communitywide events throughout the summer, improving the quality of life for Stockbridge residents. Each event is a major project that represents careful planning and execution to ensure success. There are numerous projects and daily activities that are required to meet the needs of residents and business owners:

RFPs: We have multiple Requests for Proposals in various stages - the City's janitorial services; IT support services; Creek Circle streambank preservation/restoration; Water Leak Repairs; Reservation System; Landscaping; Branding; Water Meters; LMIG paving work; Sanitation Services; a new Public Works Facility Design; and City Trail Master Plan.

Resident/business owner concerns: Parking; signage; lighting; sound; grass cutting.

Auction: The City recently completed an auction of surplus equipment which generated over \$40,000.

Administrative Initiatives: The City continues to work towards making our operations more efficient for our citizens and customers by adding "fillable" forms on our website and by exploring additional payment options for citizens.

SPLOST Projects Currently Ongoing:

- Design of a new pump station
- Replacement of City water meters
- New park equipment
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades
- Replace aging infrastructure - water mains and service lines

City Projects

In the Planning Stage:

- City staff continue to work on the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) plans by:
 - Hiring a consultant to complete the technical update

to satisfy current zoning code; leading the way to drafting specific design guidelines for our LCI areas.

- Preparing for a feasibility study to identify specific elements within this area, and to address the connectivity to our downtown area. Items being explored include: design consistency and compatibility; walkability; connectivity; and parking.
- Staff recently unveiled several design concepts for our downtown area. The concept designs are posted on the City's website under "Main Street" and we continue to get excellent feedback from residents and business owners.
- Staff are working on the development of a new master plan which will establish a roadmap for the creation of a citywide trail/sidewalk network.
- Staff are working with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to determine the feasibility of new sites for water well development (SPLOST).

In the Design Phase:

- Willow Springs pump station (SPLOST)
- New Public Works Facility (SPLOST)
- Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades (SPLOST)

In the Construction Phase:

- Road resurfacing: Based on recently completed road assessments, the City will soon contract out several miles of new asphalt resurfacing of streets.
- Circle Creek Restoration: This project addresses the flooding problems associated with the Creek Circle area. Design has been completed and the City is in the process of selecting a contractor.



Michael C. Harris
City Manager

Don't Ruin It for Others... Be Responsible

Over the summer the City received several complaints about dogs on the Reeves Creek Trail. City parks are for the benefit and pleasure of our residents. It is the responsibility of dog owners to pick up dog waste and to keep dogs close and on a leash so as to minimize the impact to others. The Reeves Creek Trail was intended for walkers, bikers, and skateboarders and their safety must come first. Just a reminder...the City added a wonderful dog park at Clark Park where residents bring dogs to play.



It Was a Sensational Summer!

Saturday, June 6th, the City of Stockbridge's "Sensational Summer" kicked off with the 3rd annual Sounds of Summer concert, featuring (back by popular demand) Kasper & The 911 Band. The lawn next to city hall held over 700 music lovers enjoying Kasper's great sounds and terrific dance moves.

Then on Saturday, July 25th, families with students in need of school supplies lined up for Stockbridge's Back to School Kick-Off, hosted by Mayor Pro Tem Alphonso Thomas in partnership with Global Impact Christian Ministries. Over 1,500 city and county residents received backpacks, stuffed with school supplies made possible through generous donations. The season's second Sounds of Summer concert followed the Kick-Off with Stevie G. & The Rockerz opening the event and preparing the crowd for the mellow feature performance of Gritz & Jelly Butter. The lawn filled with over 1,000 participants ready to rock!

On June 13th and July 11th, the Stockbridge Main Street Program invited families to come downtown and view popular, family-friendly movies in an open-air setting with exciting activities that kept the children entertained till the movies started. First-run DreamWorks films, Penguins of Madagascar and Home were shown to crowds of more than 300 people each movie night.

Summer may be at an end, but this one was definitely "sensational" in Stockbridge!



Congratulations to the following employees:



Mary Radford Retires

The first face you saw when visiting City Hall was often that of Mary Radford, who staffed the desk in the lobby, greeting visitors and serving as the first line of information and assistance. Mary served as a clerk in the Utility Billing Department for 15 years and was the Receptionist at City Hall since 2013. After 17 years of dedicated service with the City of Stockbridge, Mary retired effective August 28th to enjoy more time with her family. We wish Mary all the best!



Rashonda Favors Receives MBA

After working for many years in the field of accounting, Rashonda decided to return to school to pursue her Master's degree in accounting. She began attending Clayton State University during the spring semester of 2014. After a year and half of hard work and dedication, Rashonda completed her degree requirements in July and will receive her MBA in Accounting during the graduation ceremony this December.

Mayor, Council Members Receive Certifications

Mayor Tim Thompson received the Georgia Municipal Training Institute's Certificate of Recognition award and Councilman Anthony Ford received the organization's Certificate of Achievement award while attending the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) 82nd Annual Convention in Savannah on June 29. Recently Council members LaKeisha Gantt, Anthony Ford and Regina Lewis Ward each received certificates of completion from the Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute.

Wellness Challenge Winners



Employees of The City of Stockbridge had the opportunity to participate in an eight-week walking/wellness challenge to encourage increased activity and fitness in a fun way. Participants divided into two teams, led by Charlie Marsh and Kim Moye, and the challenge was on! Point values were assigned to the type and amount of activity and extra points were given for taking a "Selfie" while exercising. Kim Moye's "Walking Warriors" team

prevailed, taking first place. The following individuals were recognized at a healthy luncheon for their dedicated efforts: First place: Kim Moye; Second place: Randi Rainey; and Third place: Uneeda Smith-Sellers. (pictured with Mayor Thompson).

Welcome to the following employees:

Angela Bryant, Receptionist

Sharee Lane, Administrative Assistant

Claire MacAllister, Administrative Assistant

CieCie McGhee, Conference Center Coordinator

DaVida Robinson, Executive Assistant to Mayor & Council

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40 Short Electric	\$800	40 Tall Electric	\$1000	Add \$75.00 for crawlspaces and attic.	
50 Tall Electric	\$650	50 Tall Electric	\$800	Add \$200 if you need a new (PWR) Pressure Reducing Valve installed.	
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50 Gas	\$2050	50 Gas	\$1175		
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**Merle Manders
Conference Center**

City of Stockbridge
Henry County, Georgia



Upcoming Events



Friday, September 25
7-9:30 pm

Saturday, September 26

11:00 am – 6:00 pm

(for more details, see the ad on the back page)



November 11 ~ 9:00 am



Tuesday, December 1, 2015

5:00pm-9:00pm

Merle Manders Conference Center
& Clark Park

FREE Community Event!

Santa & Mrs. Claus, Live Reindeer,
Entertainment, Holiday Train Rides,
Face Painting, Refreshments, & More!

cityofstockbridge.com

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We Welcomed the Following New Businesses in 2nd Quarter 2015

- Ahmed Medical Center
- Benrose Healthcare Services, LLC
- Crystal Clean Machines, LLC
- Darrell T. Farr, PC
- Furnished Sites
- Highway 138 Package Store
- Jimmy Johns
- Kon Nguyen, LLC
- North Henry Auto Repair
- Rama Hair Braiding
- Shannon Private Home Care, Inc.
- Whitestone Investments, Inc.
- Medella Mental & Behavioral Health, Inc.



Eagle's Landing Longevity Center – August 11
1325 Rock Quarry Road, Stockbridge
770-389-0734
eagleslandinglongevity.com



**FREE
EVENT**

BRIDGEFEST

Stockbridge, Georgia

KICK-OFF PREMIERE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25th | 7PM - 9:30PM

Musical Guest
UniSoghn



FESTIVAL DAY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26th | 11AM - 6PM



Liz Brasher



Ross Childress & Dr. W
(of Collective Soul)



Mending Wall



The Georgia Ride



Angie Lynn Carter Band



Henley Varner Band

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- FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

September 25th & 26th, 2015

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