



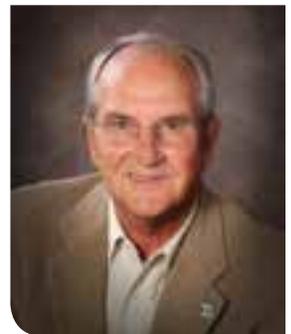
# City of *Stockbridge* CITY NEWS LINK



## Remembering Rudy

Raleigh Gossett "Rudy" Kelley, Sr. served as Mayor of the City of Stockbridge faithfully from 1978 to 2009. During those 31 years, the City grew, changed and took shape under his watch. He, along with his faithful City Manager of 20 years, Ted Strickland, are credited for managing the City's finances and operating the City's services in such a responsible manner that enabled residents to enjoy no City property tax. Ted's wife, Nancy, recalls "The Mayor and City Manager were at one point told by the Georgia Municipal Association that the City of Stockbridge was the best run City in the State of Georgia – recognition Ted and Rudy attributed to the devotion of the City's employees. To these two men their positions were not jobs; they truly loved their City."

In April 1978 Rudy was Mayor Pro Tem on the City Council and was tapped to complete the vacancy left by Mayor George Hart. He was subsequently elected by the citizens as Mayor for 7 successive terms, building numerous lifelong relationships. In addition to Ted, the only other person who served the City longer than Rudy was the City Clerk at that time, Merle Manders. Rudy was quick to let it be known that she and Ted really ran the City, they just let him participate. According to Merle:



"When Raleigh G. Kelley (Rudy) became Mayor of Stockbridge in 1978 the City was in financial despair and had to make bank loans to meet payroll and other expenses. The population was 1,026 and when he left office the population was 25,000. Mayor Kelley put the City on a cash basis; funds were saved to make purchases and for the construction of infrastructure. When he left office there was a surplus of \$14,000,000 which was to be used to construct a bypass road around the City and other projects.

## Stockbridge City Hall

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

[www.cityofstockbridge.com](http://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

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](http://www.cityofstockbridge.com).

**June 23 6:00 pm**  
Council Work Session

**July 8 6:00 pm**  
Community Relations  
Committee

**July 11 7:30 pm**  
Screen on the Green

**July 13 6:00 pm**  
Council Meeting

**July 24 6:00 pm**  
Finance Committee

**July 25 4:00 pm**  
Back to School Kick-Off

**July 25 6:00 pm**  
Sounds of Summer Concert

**July 28 6:00 pm**  
Council Work Session

**August 10 6:00 pm**  
Council Meeting

**August 12 6:00 pm**  
Community Relations  
Committee

**August 28 6:00 pm**  
Council Work Session

**September 9 6:00 pm**  
Community Relations  
Committee

**September 10 6:00 pm**  
Building Committee

**September 14 6:00 pm**  
Council Meeting

**September 23 6:00 pm**  
Finance Committee

**September 26 4:00 pm**  
BridgeFest

**September 27 10:00 am**  
BridgeFest

**September 29 6:00 pm**  
Council Work Session

## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

### City Hall E-Notifications:

Stay informed with E-Notifications at [www.cityofstockbridge.com/notify.aspx](http://www.cityofstockbridge.com/notify.aspx)

### FACEBOOK



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## 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](http://www.cityofstockbridge.com/SeeClickFix)

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## Continued From Cover

Mayor Kelley was a man of vision and made vast improvements to the City. He surrounded himself with competent employees, who respected him. He never raised his voice or mistreated his employees. Employees were self-starters and were encouraged to attend state, federal, and local classes to learn new laws that affected the operation of the City.

Mayor Kelley looked after one of the City's greatest assets, the employees. The morale was high and he knew if he was good to employees they would perform with a higher proficiency. He was an excellent Mayor for 31 years; an honest man, a loved person and he will be missed forever."

The City had too many accomplishments during Rudy's tenure to name; however, a few included: the Merle Manders Conference Center was built, the Ted Strickland Community Center was added; multiple city parks and the City's wastewater treatment plant were expanded; North Henry Boulevard was widened from two lanes to five; the current City Hall - which bears his name was built, and many residents and businesses came into the City.

February 9, 2015 was proclaimed "Rudy Kelley Day" in Stockbridge by Mayor Tim Thompson and City Council. A reception followed the Council meeting with several county officials in attendance and Rudy's portrait was hung in the lobby of City Hall.



**Rudy and Mary Jo at City Hall on February 9, 2015**

Mr. Kelley's sudden and unexpected death at age 80 occurred as he was recovering from a heart procedure. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Jo, their three children and grandchildren.

Rudy definitely left his mark on the City of Stockbridge and we remember him with fondness and respect for his many years of dedicated service.

## Mayor's Message

Summer is finally here and it's a great opportunity to spend time with your friends and neighbors. To help with that, the City of Stockbridge has planned great summer events to bring our community together.

We started off the summer in a patriotic way with the Memorial Day March, honoring those who gave their lives for our country. Numerous residents made the one-mile walk to reflect on the sacrifices of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in protecting our freedoms. The City of Stockbridge honors and remembers those who gave their lives for the United States of America.

June saw us kick off the "Sounds of Summer" concert series with over 700 turning out to enjoy Kasper and the 911 Band. The concert series continues July 25th with another great band, Gritz and Jelly Butter. Their soul, R&B and classic rock sounds are sure to make a July evening even hotter. There will again be food trucks, face painting and inflatables to create a fun-filled evening. Plan to bring a blanket or lawn chair and remember that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Our Screen on the Green movie series started June 13 with the showing of "The Penguins of Madagascar." The family fun continues on July 11th when we'll show "Home." The fun will start at 7:30 with the movie starting at dark on the lawn at City Hall. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a Back to School Fair, health fair and business expo on July 25th from 4 - 6 p.m. in the parking lot of the City Municipal Court. Stockbridge students and teachers (with Stockbridge teacher identification) will receive free school supplies to prepare them for a successful 2015-16 school year.

Many children on free or reduced lunches during the school year don't receive food support over the summer and often go

hungry. As a result, the City is working with Action Ministries, Henry County Schools and the Seamless Summer program to fill that void by providing free lunches to children in need. Trinity United Methodist Church and Red Oak United Methodist Churches are also coordinating with these agencies to purchase, assemble and distribute lunches Monday through Friday from June 8 through July 24 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Park (106 Jennings Way, Stockbridge, GA 30281).

Have you ever wondered how your local government works? The City of Stockbridge is holding its first Citizens Academy for 16 registrants. The free 8-week program began June 4 and graduation is July 28th. Initiated by Councilwoman Regina Lewis Ward, the program seeks to create a nucleus of well-informed citizens with greater insight into the city's practices and services and to create better lines of communication between the citizens of Stockbridge and the city government.

Wonderful things are happening in Stockbridge! I hope to see you at the many events taking place in the upcoming weeks. It's already an exciting summer!

Sincerely,



**Tim L. Thompson**  
Mayor of the City of  
Stockbridge

# Employee Updates

## Congratulations to:

Wayne Robinson, Waste Water Operator IV, with the City's Public Works Department, received a plaque for his work with the City's Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program from a representative of the Georgia FOG Alliance at the March 9, 2015 City Council meeting. All municipal programs are eligible for this award recognizing excellence in the areas of administration, engineering, inspections and tracking. The City of Stockbridge's FOG Program was selected to receive the "2014 Outstanding Program Award" in the category of 0 to 250 facilities, with several of our program areas found to excel.



## We'll Miss You Stephanie!



Goodbyes are never easy and especially when you lose a knowledgeable and loyal employee like Stephanie McFarlin. Steph left the Greene County Superior Court in 2008 to come to the Stockbridge Municipal Court as Deputy Court Clerk. She has proven to be a valuable resource to the court and will be greatly missed. We wish Stephanie well in her new endeavors of homeschooling her two sons and completing her degree.

## Health & Wellness Walking/Step Challenge

City Hall staff started a six-week Health & Wellness Walking/Step Challenge that will end June 25. Two teams are challenging each other for daily points to see which will be the winner of the trophy. The Health and Wellness program provides monthly information on various health topics and now employees are on their second health challenge of the year. The City encourages a healthy workforce. Go teams!



*City Staff walk on lunch, find ways to introduce more steps during work*



**2015 City of Stockbridge Maps  
NOW AVAILABLE!**

Pick yours up at City Hall today!

# City of Stockbridge Stephen D. Peurifoy Wastewater Treatment Plant Wins Gold Award

From the Georgia Association of Water Professionals

For the fourth consecutive year, City of Stockbridge is proud to announce that the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) recently bestowed its prestigious Gold Award on the Stephen D. Peurifoy Wastewater Treatment Plant for its complete and consistent permit compliance during 2014.

In 1998, GAWP announced a new program to recognize outstanding

operation of Wastewater Treatment Facilities operated by Corporate and Utility Members. Corporate and utility members with facilities that had no National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or pretreatment permit violations during the preceding calendar year are eligible to receive recognition in the form of GAWP's Gold Award.

Thousands of water quality tests are conducted each year at the Stephen D. Peurifoy Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the result of any one could cause them to be in non-compliance for this prestigious award. The staff at the Stephen D. Peurifoy Wastewater Treatment Plant rose to the challenge and was 100 percent in compliance for the fourth year in a row. Congratulations team!



Brad Holtsinger receives GAWP Award at 6-8-15 Council Meeting



COS Treatment Plant Professionals  
L to R: Wayne Robinson, Chris Bardett, Adam Daniel



## STOCKBRIDGE SENSATIONAL SUMMER

~ CITY HALL LAWN ~

~ FREE ~

 <p><b>6:00-9:30pm</b></p> <p><b>* SAT. JUNE 6TH</b></p> <p><b>* SAT. JULY 25TH</b></p>	 <p><b>Activities At 7:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Movie At DARK</b></p> <p><b>* SAT. JUNE 13TH</b></p> <p><b>* SAT. JULY 11TH</b></p>	 <p><b>4:00-6:00pm</b></p> <p><b>BACK TO SCHOOL KICK-OFF</b></p> <p><b>* SAT. JULY 25TH</b></p>
<p><b>*BRING A CHAIR FOR SEATING*</b>    <b>*FOOD VENDORS*</b>    <b>*CHILDREN'S AREA*</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.cityofstockbridge.com">www.cityofstockbridge.com</a></p>		

# Memorial Day

Stockbridge's Memorial Day March 2015 was memorable. A perfect day for remembering those who sacrificed in service to our country. Mayor Pro Tem Alphonso Thomas spearheaded the event along with support from Councilman Anthony Ford. Thanks to Alan Vigil Ford Lincoln, Innovative Sounds, Stockbridge High School Naval Jr ROTC and others, it was a wonderful commemorative march. To see more photos, visit the City of Stockbridge Facebook page.



# Council Comments



## **Councilwoman Robin Buschman**

As the current Chairperson for the Public Works Committee, along with the Public Works Department, and City Staff, I am excited to announce that research and plans are being finalized to have the City “GO GREEN” with a recycle program. This will undoubtedly change the LIVES of the Citizens and bring us ecologically to the forefront to be environmentally friendly!



## **Councilman Anthony S. Ford**

Citizens, the Summer Season is here; so please partake and enjoy the City-sponsored, family-oriented events such as the Memorial Day March, Sounds of Summer and Movies in the Park. The Mayor and City Council collectively have a joint “Vision” to make Stockbridge truly an economically sound and small business friendly community that will make citizens proud to live in Stockbridge. We are a “Team” that will continue to strive to move the City of Stockbridge forward with “Positive Change for the Future.”

We all have a vested interest in our City.



## **Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt**

Dear Citizens:

We have had some great community events this year, please join us for our series of upcoming Stockbridge Sensational Summer Events. We will start our summer events off with the Sounds of Summer on June 6th, featuring Kasper and the 911 Band right here on the City Hall lawn.

I would also like to thank all of you of whom came out for the non-profit mixer. It was a great success, and I plan on having a Non-profit Mixer and Expo this fall. If you are a non-profit and are interested in having a booth for this free to the public event, please contact me at [Lgantt@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov](mailto:Lgantt@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov). Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.



## **Mayor Pro Tem Alphonso Thomas**

Please join our monthly roundtable discussions of the Community Relations Committee meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Together, we can create an on-going forum to review and recommend to the City Council significant community relations objectives, coordination of city events, and the creation of mechanisms to seek input from citizens. This is a great opportunity to come out and provide citizen input and to be a part of the conversation regarding Bikeway Design Principles, planning and best practices for safer streets and walking groups; Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU); roundabouts; community discussions; youth development and veteran affairs. Looking forward to seeing you there!



## **Councilwoman Regina Lewis Ward**



*From Left: HCCC 2014 Board Chair Charlie Scott, Raymond Johnson, Gerald Taylor and HCCC President David Gill at 2015 Chamber Banquet where Taylor and Johnson received award as 2014 Business of the Year*

## Filming in Stockbridge

Stay tuned for the October release of the movie, "90 Minutes in Heaven." Plan to see scenes in the film about Don Piper that were shot at multiple Stockbridge locations. The City is receiving an increased number of inquiries about filming movies and TV shows.



*City Manager, Michael Harris with Author and subject of the film, Don Piper, and Diane Ide holding an autographed copy of Mr. Piper's book, "90 Minutes in Heaven"*

## Food Depot Named Chamber's 2014 Business of the Year

Gerald Taylor and Raymond Johnson, President & Vice President and co-founders of All American Quality Foods, Inc. (doing business as Food Depot), started their first grocery store in Stockbridge in an old grocery store building near the bridge and railroad tracks in 1975.

Business at the Stockbridge Food Depot was good and steady, allowing them to expand and to develop their winning business model. Since that first opening they have become the largest independent grocery store chain in Georgia with more than 35 stores from Dublin to Acworth employing more than 2,600 residents and contributing to several local economies. There are now three Food Depot stores in Henry County that employ more than 200 of our residents and generating more than \$38 million in annual sales in Henry County.

Not only do they keep food costs down for their customers, they have a philosophy and business model that reflects their commitment to being great stewards of the communities they do business in, and to taking care of their employees. Employees have ownership in the business, with many Stockbridge and Henry County residents being partial owners of this successful Stockbridge-based enterprise.

Congratulations to Gerald Taylor and Raymond Johnson and to the staff of Food Depot on this worthy recognition. The City of Stockbridge is proud of these entrepreneurs and to have the flagship Food Depot store at our Bridge!

## New Businesses

- Quality Choice Construction
- R & K Auto Broker Inc.
- Robyne Lodato DbA Jr Stuff
- Royalty Painting
- Sage Downs DbA Viveros Clean
- Sears Interiors & Exteriors LLC
- Sedation Nurses & Com Staffing
- Shaw Recovery
- Stainless Details LLC
- Symphony At Eagles Landing LLC
- Talon Neighborhoods Inc.
- Tangled And Teased Salon
- Tcc Ventures LLC DbA Black's
- The Good Stuff Store
- The Lodato Group DbA Five Star
- Triplet Rc Realty LLC
- Woodgrain Real Estate LLC



**Upscale Fashions – March 20**  
 5029 North Henry Blvd, Stockbridge  
 770-506-0101  
[www.upscalefashionsinc.biz](http://www.upscalefashionsinc.biz)



**Allstate – Carolyn Taylor – March 20**  
 4020 East Lake Parkway, McDonough  
 678-212-5505  
<https://agents.allstate.com/carolyn-taylor-mcdonough-ga.html>



**Massage Envy – April 10**  
 1546 Hudson Bridge Road, Stockbridge  
 678-902-0300  
[www.massagenvy.com/clinics/GA/Stockbridge.aspx](http://www.massagenvy.com/clinics/GA/Stockbridge.aspx)



**State Farm – Andy Gawron – May 20**  
 628 Eagle's Landing Parkway, Stockbridge  
 779-474-6878  
[www.andygawron.com](http://www.andygawron.com)



**Denny's of Stockbridge – May 23**  
 5368 North Henry Blvd, Stockbridge  
 770-742-3332  
[www.rwdtfoods.com](http://www.rwdtfoods.com)



**Ritz Beauty Academy – May 26**  
 747 Davis Road, Stockbridge  
 678-289-6111  
[www.ritzbeautyacademy.com](http://www.ritzbeautyacademy.com)



# SAVE THE DATE

**September 25th & 26th**



- \* **Friday September 25th, 7pm-9:30pm:**  
Festival Kick-Off Concert
- \* **Saturday September 26th, 11am-6pm:**  
Festival Fun Day w/ unique craft vendors, food trucks, children's area, entertainment, and more!

**November 11th**

**VETERANS DAY**  
☆☆☆ **PARADE** ☆☆☆

- \* **Stockbridge honors and celebrates our armed forces!**



**December 1st**



- \* **Stockbridge's Annual Holiday Festival**  
Santa & Mrs. Claus, live reindeer, the tallest elf in the world, holiday train, entertainment, refreshments, Santa's workshop (children's area), & more!

For more information on City events, please visit [www.cityofstockbridge.com](http://www.cityofstockbridge.com) or call (770) 389-7900.



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Henry County, Georgia



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# Cities Week Destination Downtown: A Main Street Initiative

The week of April 19-25 was full of exciting activities designed to bring people to the Downtown area. On Tuesday, April 21st, participants learned about a few of the iconic women of Stockbridge during the second installment of “Stockbridge Stories.”

Then on Thursday, April 23, City Hall had the pleasure of greeting two classes of four-year-olds who toured City Hall, met and learned about Levi Stockbridge and Patrick Henry,

and learned how Public Works uses a remote-controlled “robot” to view sewer lines.

Friday, April 24, saw representatives from the Registrar’s office at City Hall to facilitate voter registration.

The week ended with weekend performances of “Puttin’ On the Ritz,” a wonderful musical performance by ladies of a certain age by the Academy Theatre at the Stockbridge Community Arts Center.





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**"Lowest Prices on Water Heaters"**

Posted prices in chart include Rheem heater, all parts, labor and hauling away the old unit. Add \$50.00 if expansion tank is needed. Add \$35.00 if you do not have a flexible gas line.

Rheem Fury 6Yr		Rheem Pro 8y		Rheem Fury 10yr		Rheem Pro 12Yr	
40 Gas Tall	\$720.00	40 Gas	\$825.00	40 Gas	\$945.00	40 Gas	\$1025.00
50 Gas	\$720.00	50 Gas	\$825.00	50 Gas	\$950.00	50 Gas	\$1025.00
40 Tall Electric	\$650.00			40 Short Electric	\$920.00		
40 Short Electric	\$720.00			40 Tall Electric	\$850.00		
50 Tall Electric	\$650.00			50 Tall Electric	\$850.00		

Rheem Power Vent. 6 yr.		Rheem Power Vent. 12 yr.	
40 gas	\$1750.00	40 Gas	\$1950.00
50 gas	\$1850.00	50 Gas	\$2050.00

**GreenleePlumbingAtlanta.com**

Prices in chart are for installation in garage, drive up basement, or ground floor. Add 35.00 to water heater price if your heater is located in basement, downstairs or upstairs. Add 75.00 for crawlspaces and attics. Add \$200.00 to price if you need a new (PRV) Pressure reducing valve installed.




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770-306-0647, K4 – 5th grade.

**Fairburn Campus**  
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K4 – 12th grade.

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