



• official newsletter of the city of stockbridge, georgia

City newslink

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Stockbridge Welcomes Three New City Council Members



Elton Alexander



John Blount



Neat Robinson

Residents elected Elton Alexander, John Blount and Hernitha “Neat” Robinson to serve four-year terms as members-at-large of the City Council beginning January 1, 2016.

Mr. Alexander has resided in Henry County Stockbridge for 12 years and is the owner/operator of Community Home Services, a property management and maintenance company. He has served as the City’s representative on Henry County’s Zoning Advisory Board since early 2014 and has a passion for seeing the City grow economically by attracting new business and by developing the downtown area.

Mr. Blount has been a Stockbridge resident more than 10 years and is a licensed and ordained minister, serving as an Associate Minister at Global Impact Christian Ministries in Stockbridge. He has a servant’s heart and volunteers for numerous local programs and causes.

Ms. Robinson, an 11-year resident of Stockbridge, is an in-school suspension paraprofessional at Austin Road Middle School. She is a long-time member and Leadership Servant of Floyd Chapel Baptist Church, where she finds many opportunities to serve the Stockbridge community. Her service also includes several years of involvement with youth in the Stockbridge High School Football and Cheerleading programs where she has created financial and volunteer opportunities for their Booster Clubs.

These new Council members are excited to join Councilman Anthony Ford, Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt and Mayor Tim Thompson in moving the City forward.

Our thanks go to Robin Buschman, Alphonso Thomas and Regina Lewis Ward for their dedicated service to the City of Stockbridge.

Stockbridge Honors Native Son, Martin Luther King, Sr.



The City of Stockbridge honored Martin Luther King, Sr. by unveiling the MLK, Sr. Heritage Trail street sign on October 8, 2015 and by dedicating a commemorative wall plaque acknowledging Stockbridge as the ancestral home of the King family at a ceremony that took place at the Merle Manders Conference Center.

Members of the King family attending the ceremony included Christine King Farris, daughter of Martin Luther King, Sr. and sister of Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Civil Rights Leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., along with Martin Luther King, III- son of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The ceremonial program included presentations by Senator Emanuel Jones, Senator Gail Davenport, Representative Demetrius Douglas, and Representative Andy Welch. Additional attendees included Clayton County Chairman Jeffrey Turner, Henry County Board of Education Superintendent Rodney Bowler, City of McDonough Mayor Billy Copeland, and representatives from both Ebenezer Baptist Church and Floyd Chapel Baptist Church, where King Sr. preached his first sermon.

Senator Emanuel Jones, who is also Chairman of the State of Georgia Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council, presented a plaque to the City of Stockbridge, in recognition of the city's initiative. Representative Demetrius Douglas presented a resolution to the city, acknowledging the MLK, Sr. Historical Preservation Committee.

Alphonso Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem and Chairman of the Martin Luther King, Sr. Historical Preservation Committee, spearheaded the request for approval from the City Council in January of this year. The Committee whose members are: Tyrone Anderson, Kenneth Banks, Vincent Beazer, Rev. E.C. Cochran, Sr., Marilyn Flynn, Oswin Jackson, Mike Moon, Mildred E. Reed, Lee Stuart and Adam Worsham, was formed and tasked with locating the street(s) to be renamed. On Monday, September 14, 2015, the City Council approved the renaming of Berry Street and Railroad Street to MLK, Sr. Heritage Trail.

The commemorative wall plaque was permanently displayed in City Hall as a testimony to the King family's Stockbridge ancestry, and the street signs were installed at ceremony held December 4th. The plaque provides historical facts including that Martin Luther King, Sr. attended the Rosenwald School and preached his first sermon at age 15 at Floyd Chapel Baptist Church (both of these sites are along the route of the newly named MLK, Sr. Heritage Trail).

Stockbridge City Hall

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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.

Jan 11 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

Jan 26 6:00 pm
Council Work Session

Feb 8 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

Feb 23 6:00 pm
Council Work Session

Mar 14 6:00 pm
Council Meeting

Mar 29 6:00 pm
Council Work Session



Beginning in 2016 there will be exciting videos promoting Stockbridge on the home page of the City website. Check them out at cityofstockbridge.com

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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

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Mayor's Message

As I reflect back over 2015, it has been one of the most challenging years of my life. While I'm sure it has made me stronger, I am glad to have it at last in my rearview mirror. I look forward to focusing on the exciting year ahead with great anticipation of the good things waiting to come about for the City of Stockbridge.

I am happy to report that the City has successfully ended the legal proceedings involving the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), with City properties in the process of being deeded back over to the City. We are now poised to work collaboratively with the DDA to grow our downtown area and to attract businesses to facilitate economic growth and jobs.

The City has improved roads and provided a number of quality services for residents and businesses alike. We will continue to provide a high level of sanitation services by looking to an outside provider in 2016, which will enable employees to be reassigned to other projects such as grass cutting, city-wide clean-up, facilities management and storm water projects.

In 2015 we provided the first Citizens Academy, enabling nearly in 2015 residents to gain a greater understanding of the day-to-day operations of the City. We continue to listen to and act upon concerns and issues presented through the SeeClickFix application, in person, via emails and phone calls to make our City better.

We honored Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. as a native of Stockbridge with a street named in his honor, along with placing a

bronze plaque at City Hall; we held numerous fun-filled family activities throughout the year, and we enjoyed a very productive Main Street program.

We have much to look forward to as we approach a new year. We welcome three new Council members who will each bring a unique perspective and priorities for the City. We are working to make our parks more inclusive for children with disabilities; we are revising the City's codes to address more realistic ordinances for issues such as parking and noise; to employ smart water meters; to improve the sidewalks along MLK, Sr. Heritage Trail in the downtown area; working on a Master Trail Plan; SPLOST projects; and numerous other initiatives.

Merry Christmas to you and yours. Let's make it a Happy New Year as we work together in 2016 to do great things for Stockbridge!

“
Looking
toward
2016
”

With kindest regards,



Tim L. Thompson

Mayor of the
City of Stockbridge



Walk, Talk, Love Stockbridge

I am initiating a new method of meeting and greeting more residents of our City. Called “WALK, TALK, LOVE STOCKBRIDGE” (WTLS), this initiative will consist of meeting with 1-2 subdivisions per month) as they are scheduled. The Purpose of WTLS is for Citizens, City Officials, and Administration to meet at a designated area and walk the neighborhoods and subdivisions within the city limits allowing for and promoting fellowship, community awareness, and to promote better health.

Beginning after the first of the new year, the schedule will be published on the City's website (cityofstockbridge.com) and

Facebook page (City of Stockbridge Government), so be sure to check for it. We will contact the Homeowners Association (HOA) Boards to develop the schedule. You may also contact DaVida Robinson to schedule a date for your community at 678-833-3348 or drobinson@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov.

I look forward to walking with you!

LaKeisha T. Gantt

Councilwoman

Lgantt@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov



Councilwoman Robin Buschman

I reflect back during this time, the most wonderful of all the Seasons, and I am humbled and honored to have represented the Citizens of Stockbridge for the last 4 years. I am especially proud of the projects we were tasked with and completed. Thank you for the memories. Happy Holidays!



Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt

Dear Citizens:

As we close out this year, I want to thank you for your continued support. None of the activities could have been completed without the help of our wonderful administration and staff. For that, I am thankful. I would like to wish everyone a blessed and safe Happy Holidays and I look forward to a great New Year for Stockbridge! Feel free to reach out to me by phone or e-mail. My information is on the city website. Thank you for allowing me to be of service to our community.



Councilwoman Regina Lewis Ward

From my home to yours, I wish you a safe and prosperous holiday season. May 2016 bring you joy and peace.



Councilman Anthony S. Ford

Citizens,

Please enjoy the holidays with your family, friends, and with a renewed spirit of hope for a better future. The Mayor, Council and I look forward to a very prosperous New Year for the citizens of Stockbridge. Happy Holidays!



Mayor Pro Tem Alphonso Thomas

May you and your family have a safe and blessed Holiday season.



Changes to Sanitation Schedule for Christmas and New Year's Day Holidays

Christmas Week – Thursday-Friday,

December 24th & 25th, 2015 (Holidays Observed)

- Monday (12/21/15) - NO COMMERCIAL PICKUP
- Tuesday (12/22/15) route will run on Monday (12/21/15)
- Wednesday (12/23/15) route will run on Tuesday (12/22/15)
- Thursday (12/24/15 City Holiday Observed) route will run on Tuesday (12/22/15)
- Friday (12/25/15 City Holiday Observed) route will run on Wednesday (12/23/15)
- No yard debris, chipper, metal or special pickup service will be provided the week of December 21, 2015

New Years Day Week - Friday,

January 1, 2016 (Holiday Observed)

- Monday-Thursday (12/28/15-12/31/15) routes will run as normal including Commercial Pickup, yard debris, chipper, metal and special pickup services
- Friday (1/1/16 City Holiday Observed) route will run on Monday (1/4/16) including Commercial Pickups
- No yard debris, chipper, metal or special pickup service will be provided the week of January 4, 2016

Let Your Voice Be Heard On An Important Topic - Parking On City Street

The City is launching a survey to enable residents and business owners to provide valuable input that will help shape regulations pertaining to parking on city streets.

To take the survey, visit:
<https://stockbridge.seamlessdocs.com/f/8Rl3Lf/admin>



Asphalt Resurfacing of City Roads Underway!



Eleven roads in the City have received much needed improvements thanks to a Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Special Purpose Local Option Sales (SPLOST) program.

Roads which received milling, patching, and resurfacing prior to Thanksgiving include: Baileys Court from Spivey Glen Drive to the cul-de-sac; Bald Eagle Way from Talon Place to Talon Place;

Burkes Cemetery Road from North Henry Boulevard to dead end; Davis Road from Davis Lane to North Davis Road; Eagle Springs Drive from Rock Quarry Road to cul-de-sac; Eagles Walk from Rock Quarry Road to Hospital Drive; Gresham Landing from Country Club Drive to private property; Jackson Drive from South Lee Street to dead end; North Park Court from Northpark Place to private drive; Shields Road from North Henry Boulevard to Davis Road; and St. Ives Court from Flippen Road to private drive.

City roads are given a rating of Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor or Very Poor based on cracking, patches, base failures and overall state. While the City has approximately 375 roads to maintain, the 11 that were repaired first were all determined to be in a Very Poor or Poor state.

Eighty-nine roads rated as Fair will be addressed over the coming several years. The remaining 202 roads graded Good and 72 roads graded Very Good will be watched closely and maintained so that their life can be as long as possible. While it is desirable to resurface asphalt roads every 12 – 20 years, many roads in Stockbridge have been maintained in Good (or better) condition for twice that length of time.

Creek Circle Stream Stabilization Project

A tributary of Brush Creek runs behind several homes on Creek Circle, just north of the City's Clark Park, has been prone to overflowing and meandering over the last several years. This area of the City has been classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a chronic flooding area due to the large size of the 100-year floodplain and the proximity of homes on Creek Circle and other nearby streets. Because repair work in streams is heavily regulated by both the State of Georgia and the Federal Government, the City applied for special permits with the state's Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division and also the US Army Corps of Engineers. Once these permits were obtained (a process which took 18 months), Jacobs Engineering produced a design for stream stabilization.

The construction phase of the project began in November 2015 and consists of removing the sediment, restoring the stream channel, and establishing bank protection utilizing large rocks, willow trees and other natural plantings to stabilize the area and prevent further flooding. Additionally, a low water crossing will be constructed for City access to a sanitary sewer right-of-way that the tributary flows across. The contractor



for this highly specialized work is Site Engineering of Atlanta, who was awarded the project after a competitive bidding process which involved prequalification for the special skills necessary. Funding for this project comes from the storm water user fee. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-spring 2016.

Competing with the Rain for BridgeFest 2015



Mother Nature was not smiling on this year's City of Stockbridge BridgeFest activities. Although several dedicated individuals came out to enjoy the Friday night concert performances by UniSoghn and Moses Mo, Saturday's performances, activities, and vendors experienced a total rain-out. Thanks to those who came on Friday and to those who good-naturedly understood the unpredictability of the weather when holding an outdoor event.

The PhotoBooth was a hit!



Thanks to ALL the Vendors:



Congratulations to the following employees:



Clerk of the Year

Anita Gunnoe, Stockbridge Clerk of Court, was recognized by the Georgia Municipal Court Clerk Council (GMCCC) on November 5, 2015 with the 2015 Clerk of the Year award. This designation honors the Municipal Court Clerk whose dedication and quality of service is outstanding at a statewide level. "When a court's employees actually look forward to coming to work, it indicates that their supervisor is an award-winning individual. Award-winning individuals should be recognized for their merits. Anita deserves nothing less, if not more, than to be the GMCCC's Clerk of the Year," says Claire MacAllister, Court Administrative Assistant. "There is nothing this woman doesn't know. She is a storehouse of knowledge, a quality that is imperative in any legal position, but especially in a supervisory position. Whenever her colleagues ask her a question, Anita will give an answer along with an explanation behind that answer." Anita does a stellar job of keeping the flow of violations on track and moving at the court and the City of Stockbridge is pleased that GMCCC recognizes her as a star among her peers throughout Georgia. Keep up the great job, Anita!

Certifications/Recognitions:

Randi Rainey, Linda Nabers, and Vanessa Holiday received a citizen commendation for "Making a Difference" in their handling of numerous Open Records Requests.

Congratulations to the following City Employees Who Celebrated Milestone Anniversaries in 2015:

Timothy Garcia – 5 years
Dawn Gindrup – 5 years
Christopher Swanson – 5 years



We Welcomed the Following New Businesses in 3rd Quarter 2015

Arlington Computer Products
Bella Chic
First Call Cleaning Services
POH Southwinds LLC
Tonya's Inc.
Mufflers and More

Ribbon Cutting



Grace Baptist Church - October 14
2178 Highway 138, Stockbridge
770-474-8611
worship.gracebaptistatl.org



Bridgeway Hospice - October 20
354 Corporate Center Ct., Stockbridge
678-583-2269
bridgewayhospice.org



Holly Salon - October 23
4822 N. Henry Blvd., Stockbridge
770-742-3469

Stockbridge paid tribute to Veterans



Dick Grimes, Grand Marshal



Mike Moon



Herbert Hicks



MSgt Mavis Brown, Keynote Speaker



Children Honor the Flag



Veterans Standing

More than 300 people participated in the 4th annual Stockbridge Veterans Day Parade on November 11th, ranging from the veterans residing in local assisted living facilities; to active duty servicemen and women; in addition to the youth of various JROTC groups from Henry County. A first-time addition was the inclusion of a patriotic banner contest, with Mrs. Gladden and Mrs. Williams' 5th Grade Class at Smith-Barnes Elementary School winning the opportunity to carry their winning banner in the parade.

It was heartwarming to see the large number of schoolchildren lining the parade route saluting or placing hands over hearts as the colors passed. Herbert Hicks, a 100-year-old WWII veteran, was the eldest veteran present, and Army LTC (Ret) Richard A. (Dick) Grimes, a dedicated Stockbridge servant and decorated VietNam veteran, served as this year's honorary Grand Marshal. Marine MSgt (Ret) Mavis Brown shared her thoughts on patriotism and service.

Following the parade, participants enjoyed the Stockbridge Veterans Day Recognition Luncheon at the Merle Manders Conference Center. The City thanks the sponsors for this year's event: Alan Vigil Ford Lincoln; B & M Civil War Research Group; Carrabba's Italian Grill; Chick-fil-A Eagle's Landing; Fletcher & Sons Automotive Repair and Services; Henry County NAACP; Innovative Sounds; Krispy Kreme Doughnuts; Merle Manders Conference Center; MinuteMan Press; North Henry Academy; Publix; Southwinds Point Apartments; Stockbridge Florist; Stockbridge Main Street; the Warrior Family Program; and United Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.Y.M. A special recognition also goes to Henry County's Fire and Police Departments for their participation and support.



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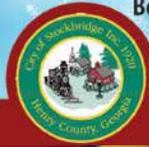
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Holiday Festival 2015

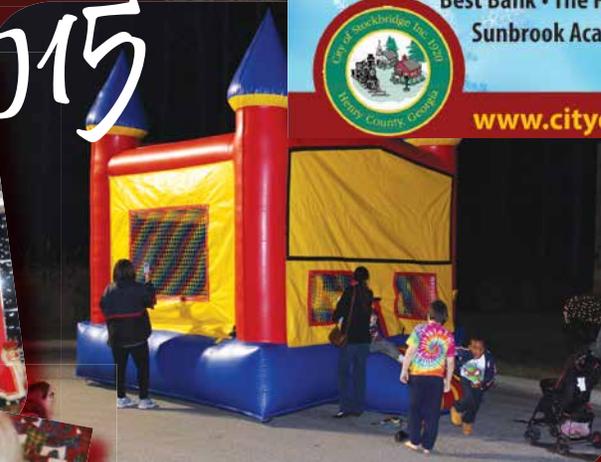
STOCKBRIDGE

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HOLIDAY FESTIVAL A HUGE HIT!

Hundreds of eager children and family members awaited the arrival of Santa and his reindeer team as they pulled into the Merle Manders Conference Center on December 1st. In addition to photos and talks with Santa, there was plenty to see and do as they rode the train, had faces painted, made jewelry and other crafts, enjoyed inflatable games and houses, watched performances by singers, dancers and participated in a spectacular puppet show. Thanks to the sponsors and vendors for helping to make this an enjoyable evening for the children of Stockbridge!





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