



City of *Stockbridge* CITY NEWS LINK



Holiday Festival 2014 – Santa Arrives in Stockbridge

More than 1,500 residents had the opportunity to see live reindeer up-close as a team of three pulled Santa and Mrs. Claus right up to the doors of the Merle Manders Conference Center on Tuesday evening, December 2. Families quickly formed a long line to have complimentary photos taken with Santa. This annual holiday tradition kicked off the Christmas season in grand fashion. Also in the spirit of the season, the City placed a variety of displays in the downtown area, decorated City Hall and City events facilities, and lined streets with holiday banners and lights.

The festival included train rides, the world's tallest elf who juggled and lassoed guests, an amazing and captivating puppeteer, Santa & Mrs. Claus complete with sleigh and reindeer, cookie decorating, ornament making, face painting, performances by school choirs, vendors and a number of other children's activities. "This year's Holiday Festival was likely our largest ever," said Davida Robinson, who helped to coordinate the event. "Next year we hope to expand it to engage more choral, dance and drama groups from our city."

To view photographs from the event, visit The City of Stockbridge on Facebook – be sure to "Like" us!

Stockbridge City Council

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Mayor and Council

Tim L. Thompson, Mayor

Alphonso Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem

Robin Buschman, Councilwoman

Anthony Ford, Councilman

LaKeisha Gantt, Esq., Councilwoman

Regina Ward, Councilwoman



Administration

Michael Harris, City Manager

Dale Hall, Admin & Community Svcs Director

Anita Gunnoe, Clerk of Court

Diane Ide, Exec Asst to the City Manager/Editor

Linda Nabers, Treasurer

Randi Rainey, Deputy City Clerk

Kevin Walter, Public Works Director

Frequently Dialed

Utility Billing..... 70-389-7901
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
..... 770-389-5982



STOCKBRIDGE CITY CALENDAR

All meetings are at City Hall unless noted otherwise. Please check with City Hall at 770.389.7900 as meeting dates and times are subject to change. City Council meeting agendas and minutes are available at cityofstockbridge.com.

January 1

City Hall Closed for Holiday

January 6

6:00 PM: City Council Work Session

January 12

6:00 PM: City Council Meeting

January 27

6:00 PM: City Council Work Session

February 9

6:00 PM: City Council Meeting

February 24

6:00 PM: City Council Work Session

March 9

6:00 PM: City Council Meeting

March 25

6:00 PM: Finance Committee Meeting

March 31

6:00 PM: City Council Work Session

Upcoming Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Christmas Week

Thursday, December 25th & Friday,
December 26th, 2014
(Holiday Observed)

- **Monday** - NO COMMERCIAL PICK-UP
- **Tuesday** route will be on Monday
- **Wednesday** route will be on Tuesday
- **Thursday** route will be on Tuesday
- **Friday** route will be on Wednesday
- No yard debris, chipper, metal or special pick-up service will be provided this week

New Year's Week

Thursday, January 1, 2015
(Holiday Observed)

- **Monday** - NO COMMERCIAL PICK-UP
- **Tuesday** route will be on Monday
- **Wednesday** route will be on Tuesday
- **Thursday** route will be on Wednesday
- **Friday** route will run as normal
- No yard debris, chipper, metal or special pick-up service will be provided this week

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BridgeFest 2014 Was Great Fun!

Downtown Stockbridge was the place to be on October 3 & 4. The weather was near-perfect for the Friday night concert, enabling attendees to picnic in lawn chairs or on blankets before enjoying a wonderful performance by The Tams. A line-up of many and varied bands took the stage on Saturday. Those performances, combined with multiple types of activities for the children, along with numerous vendors selling various types of wares made the event fun for all. Special



Thanks Go To Our BridgeFest Sponsors!

thanks go to Barley & Vine; Bravo Group Real Estate Services; J. Richard Collins Orthodontics; Olympia Pizza; Renewal by Andersen; Sunrise Builders; and Wholesale & Liquidation Experts.



The Tams Were a Crowd Pleaser, Kicking Off BridgeFest

Main Street Program Updates

The City of Stockbridge Main Street Program hosted its first Town Hall Meeting on October 16 with many residents participating. They learned about the mission and purpose of the Main Street Program and were also reintroduced to the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Study for Stockbridge.

The Main Street Program was initiated in 2014 to be a community-driven program focusing on conscientious revitalization of historic downtown Stockbridge, through economic restructuring, design, promotion and organization.



Stockbridge Main Street Advisory Board members attended a training session in Atlanta that was hosted by Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Downtown Development.

Pictured from front to back: Kathleen Nelson, Anika Potts, Angie Adkins, Gaye Burton, Councilman Alphonso Thomas, and Tavaras Powell. Not pictured, but in attendance, Ebony Gurdy.



Alex Fitewassilak with Atlanta Regional Commission explains the LCI Study to interested Stockbridge residents at the October 16 Main Street Town Hall Meeting.

Stockbridge Honors Veterans



Flag Displayed Over North Henry by Fire Department



WWII Veteran, Maclovia Cribbs, escorted by COL Greg Grimes

Veterans Day dawned sunny and warm in downtown Stockbridge, adding to the enjoyment of Parade attendees and participants as they marched down North Henry Boulevard. Approximately 800 Stockbridge students lined the street and waved small flags as each veteran passed by them, following the banner for their branch of service.

Parade Co-Grand Marshals leading this year's procession were Mr. Cecil Hand and Alan Vigil. Mr. Hand, an 88-year-old native of Henry County and long-time Stockbridge resident, served during WWII in the Navy's Sea Bees from 1944-1946 aboard the USS Pasadena near Japan. Allan Vigil, a veteran himself, has been a supporter and sponsor of this event each year since its beginning. His dealership provides vehicles to transport veterans unable to march in the parade, in addition to providing a cash contribution.

Following the parade veterans were treated to a luncheon and keynote address by former Navy seal, Chaplain (CPT) Geoffrey Whitaker, GAARNG, at the Merle Manders Conference Center that was catered by Carrabba's. Special thanks go to all the sponsors for this event who make it possible: Stockbridge Main Street; Allan Vigil Ford; Chick-fil-A; Krispy Kreme Doughnuts; Walmart; Innovative Sounds; Merle Manders Conference Center; Vitas Innovative Hospice Care; Food Depot; Stockbridge Navy JROTC; Publix; Carrabba's Italian Grill and The UPS Stores of Henry County.



Cecil Hand, Co-Grand Marshal



Stockbridge School Children Waved Flags

2014 Veterans Day Event Partners



Stockbridge Main Street



merle manders
CONFERENCE CENTER



Food Depot



Employee Updates

Congratulations to the following employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with The City of Stockbridge



Jeff Bledsoe
20 years



Tammy Reilly
5 years

Other Anniversaries - Randy Willis - 20 years, Robert Maness - 5 years
Congratulations to Adam Daniel on Achieving Certification
 Water Operator III, Adam Daniel, recently achieved a major milestone, becoming a Certified Class II Wastewater Operator.

Congratulations/Promotions

- Linda Nabers promoted to Treasurer
- Uneeda Smith-Sellers promoted to Occupational Tax Clerk



Kim (right) is pictured with friend and fellow runner, Lisa Travis who is the Principal at Cotton Indian Elementary in Stockbridge, displaying their medals from the Ultramarathon.

Kudos to Kim Moye

Kim completed the Mad Marsh 50K Ultramarathon held November 22 at Lady Island, SC. The City's Payroll Specialist, Kim is an avid runner, finishing the 31.5 mile race in 7 hours, 22 minutes. "It was by far the toughest thing I've ever done physically or mentally," she said. The run kicked off Kim's participation in a big way in the City of Stockbridge Health & Wellness Fitness Competition in which staff get points for completing daily exercise.

A New Addition

Congratulations to Ben & Paige Hopkins on the arrival of their first child, a son named Sebastian Conner Hopkins, born December 4th. Ben is the City's Conference Center & Events Manager.



Eddie Wood,
Happy Stockbridge Resident

It's a great day at City Hall when a Stockbridge resident feels compelled to stop in and tell the City Manager what a great experience he's had with the City's Public Works Department. That's just what happened on December 4 when Eddie Wood paid a call on City Manager, Michael Harris, telling him that he couldn't have been more pleased with the work done

to repair the sewer line on his property on Davis Road. Thanks go to Mr. Wood for taking the time to share his appreciation – and to Public Works staff for a job well done!

Welcome Regina Ward, our new Councilwoman

Mrs. Regina Ward took the oath of office at the November 10 City Council meeting. She brings a breadth of business and civic leadership experiences to the role. Mrs. Ward was appointed by Council to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Richard Steinberg. She will serve out his remaining term of office.



Judge Matthew McCord administers the oath of office to Councilwoman Regina Ward

We Welcome the following new City Staff Members:

Dale Hall, Administration & Community Services Director

Ben Hopkins, Conference Center & Events Manager

T.D. Johnson, Code Enforcement Officer

Regina Ward, Councilwoman

Renee Wheeler, Human Resources Manager

Reeves Creek Hike/Bike Trail – A New Stockbridge Amenity!

October 17 was a beautiful fall day for a ribbon cutting at Stockbridge’s newly completed Reeves Creek Trail, which extends from the trailhead at 415 Flippen Road to Memorial Park in Stockbridge (almost 1 ½ miles). Phase 1 of the trail began in 2010 and was completed in 2012; Phase 2 began in June 2014 and completes the project. The 10-foot-wide trail accommodates walkers, runners, bicycles and skateboards. For the safety of all, motorized vehicles and pets are not permitted. There are rest stops with benches, trash receptacles and educational displays along the way.



The City accomplished this project utilizing 80% funding from a Transportation Enhancement Grant through the Georgia Department of Transportation. Special guests included not only residents who are already enjoying the trail, but also representatives from the construction firms who brought the project to completion under the guidance of Kevin Walters, the City’s Public Works Director.



Stockbridge residents Carol Welter and her walking partner, Lisa Fareed-Muhammad, were two of the first users of the trail. “It feels like it’s OUR trail! We walk the trail daily from Tye Street to Reeves Creek and back, enjoying the beautiful natural surroundings – we call it our “walk on the wild side!” says Ms. Welter.

“Stay tuned for more information regarding the formation of a “Friends of the Trail” program,” reported Mayor Tim Thompson. “We want to ensure this beautiful trail remains well maintained, clean and safe.”

Stockbridge Supports Scouting

Councilman Alphonso Thomas served as mentor to Hasan Syed Qadri on a recent project to achieve Eagle Scout status. Councilman Thomas encouraged City Hall staff and others to provide many of the 3,000+ empty water bottles needed to construct a greenhouse at Smith-Barnes Elementary School. In addition to earning his Eagle Scout award, Hason’s goal was to promote recycling at schools and to encourage children to eat healthy by providing a way to grow vegetables and other nutritional foods at schools.



Hasan Syed Qadri with Councilman Thomas as the greenhouse project begins



How the walls were built



Completed Greenhouse



Stockbridge City Manager, Michael Harris, provided valuable insights as to the workings of the City, plus county, state, and federal governments for members of Troop 267 when the scouts and their leaders visited City Hall on December 3. Mr. Harris talked about what it means to be a citizen of the United States and related information about the U. S. Constitution, enabling these scouts to receive their Citizenship badge.

Stockbridge Pledged Support for Breast Cancer Awareness

The City of Stockbridge was “hot pink” on the trail to help wipe out breast cancer. This year the City decided to not only turn the fountain in front of City Hall pink, but also to turn up the HEAT – by donating \$1,000 to efforts to promote the research and cure of this life-threatening disease in support of the annual October Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.

In lieu of dyeing the water in its fountain pink, the City chose to employ a more economical approach by using pink lighting to illuminate the fountain. This cost-saving measure enabled funds to instead be redirected to the Piedmont Foundation, specifically earmarked for breast cancer prevention and treatment at Piedmont Henry Hospital in Stockbridge. “It just seems to be a more prudent means of promoting a better quality of life for our citizens” said Mayor Tim Thompson.

“Stay tuned for more information regarding the formation of a “Friends of the Trail” program,” reported Mayor Tim Thompson. “We want to ensure this beautiful trail remains well maintained, clean and safe.”



Presentation of Check to Jeff Cooper, Piedmont Henry COO

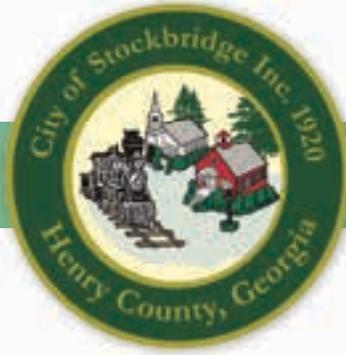
Stockbridge Council Member Anthony Ford (right, shooting) represented the city well in basketball during the Harlem Legends vs The Henry County All Stars game on November 8 at Woodland High School.



Stockbridge Shows Support for Henry Arts Alliance by submitting “Fancy Nancy” entry in the “Parade of



The City of Stockbridge hosted McDonough, Hampton and Locust Grove elected officials at the 4th Quarter Municipal Dinner held at the Pinehurst Event Facility on November 13.



Mayor's Message

I have been privileged to work for the City of Stockbridge in 2014 and to meet many wonderful residents and business owners during the year. Despite a rocky start to the year arising from situations not in this administration's control, we successfully completed many projects and put plans in place to accomplish even more great things in the next year. Following are a few of this year's achievements:

- The Reeves Creek Trail for bikers and hikers opened as a new amenity for Stockbridge residents.
- A maintenance routine was implemented that ensures regular grass cutting and the upkeep of our right of ways.
- The Main Street Program was launched and will soon receive accreditation. The program kicked off with a Town Hall meeting attended by several residents who provided an outpouring of community input and involvement. Many further demonstrated their support by volunteering for the following Main Street committees that will be activated in early 2015: the Design Committee; Promotions Committee; Organization Committee and Economic Restructuring Committee.
- A new management team was put in place under the direction of Michael Harris, who became City Manager in April.
- The City has taken steps toward revisiting its Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) plans and working toward a successful partnership with residents for the betterment of our downtown district.
- The City enjoyed a collegial and cooperative arrangement with both the Henry County Police and Fire Departments, receiving the highest quality of services and support for citizens without adding overhead and additional costs to the City.
- City staff demonstrated response to residents' and business owners' concerns about varied issues, a few of which included: installing traffic lights, "speed humps" and street lights where indicated; adding a second Code Enforcement Officer; addressing community resistance to Family Dollar; and resolving noise and safety issues in and near parks, etc.
- Numerous business licenses were issued to first-time business owners in Stockbridge. Ribbon cuttings were hosted for a number of businesses such as Krispy Kreme, Goodwill, and Bridgeview Country Cooking, ensuring these businesses were promoted on the City's website and Facebook page. We look forward to adding more new businesses in 2015.
- Events such as the Veterans Day Parade & Luncheon and Memorial Day March were brought back to honor active, inactive, retired and fallen military personnel.

- The City partnered with private organizations to accomplish the rebranding of the Eagle's Landing community, to include consistent signage throughout, as well as beautifying the site at the corner of Eagle's Landing Parkway and Rock Quarry Road, with a beautiful monument that serves as a gateway to the area.

- The City contributed to a number of community non-profits that support and enhance the lives of Stockbridge residents such as The Fuller Center, breast cancer awareness, scouting, the arts, support for families with special needs children, Helping in His Name Food Pantry, Hands of Hope Clinic and Communities in Schools.

- Several City-sponsored community activities and events such as concerts, festivals, parades, marches, "Don't Trash Stockbridge" clean-up day, etc. took place throughout the year that not only bring together large numbers of residents, but many that attract tourists as well.

- Began updating City land use codes in an effort to create a more comprehensive set of design & development guidelines, which more accurately reflect the development goals of this Council.

- Enjoyed several performances brought to downtown Stockbridge by The Academy Theatre at the City's arts center.

Though this list is not comprehensive, it does illustrate the nature and a fair amount of the work accomplished this year. Thankfully, the controversial issues that were carried over from the prior year that face our City are winding down. We're excited about what's been achieved and what we'll see accomplished in 2015 as we explore the potential to offer a recycling program, to begin SPLOST-funded initiatives and see new businesses locate in our city such as the Fairfield Hotel being constructed near I-75 at Highway 138.

We have proven to be good stewards of the City's finances as the result of careful review and planning. I proposed a 2015 budget that, while accommodating the current level of services and projects, represents the lowest budget in the past three years.

It's been a good year indeed -- I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a great and prosperous New Year!



Sincerely,

Tim L. Thompson

Mayor of the City of Stockbridge