



The City News Express

2010

Connecting Austell Government With Its Citizens

Winter



In the foreground are:
Mayor Jerkins,
Scotty Thomas,
Virginia Reagan
and Bo Traylor
representing the Council.

Behind them are our
employees from each
of the City's departments:
Police, General
Administration,
Finance, Public Works,
Community affairs,
Parks and the Fire Department.

Each of these employees work
for you to maintain our quality
of life here in the City of
Austell,
and each vehicle represents
the City's pledge to provide
the necessary services to

From the Mayor and Council

Dear Residents,

As we begin a new decade, the Council and I wish each of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Last year was difficult for our nation as well as for our city. The slow economy has impacted our community for the past couple of years, but the flood of September 2010 was devastating. There are approximately 2400 homes in the City of Austell, and 700 of them were damaged by the flood waters.

Although 700 homes were damaged, we are thankful that no one died in the flood waters, and that there were no serious injuries related to the weather. Our employees worked tirelessly rescuing residents who were in jeopardy and they rescued people from rooftops and treetops as they navigated the high water in a borrowed air boat. Countless residents were taken to safety by our brave and resourceful employees.

Continued on page 2

Council Members

Ward 1 - Kirsten Anderson
Ward 2 - Scott Thomas

Ward 3 - Martin Standard
Ward 4 - Virginia Reagan

At Large Post 1 - Trudie A. Causey
At Large Post 2 - Randy Green

Mayor
Joe Jerkins

From the Mayor and Council Continued

Many streets were impassable and we worked in waist deep water helping stranded motorists and directing traffic. Our goal was to get cars and trucks moving as quickly and as safely as possible through the city. Some of our employees worked in the water for hours, in fact many of them worked around the clock for three days. Their dedication and tireless work made the difference in the lives of so many people who were affected by the storm. On behalf of the Council and the citizens of Austell, a well deserved "Thank You" to each one who was part of the efforts to restore the City of Austell.

Not only have our employees worked on behalf of our residents, but folks from literally all over the country have come to lend a hand. Initially, FEMA, GEMA and SBA as well as some other government agencies came here, but as news of our high waters and distress has spread, groups and individuals from all over the country have come to lend a hand. Some came in to clean up and others continue to come and assist in the rebuilding process.



Randy Bowens, Director of Public Works (on the left) and Public Works Supervisor Mike Hayes rescue Austell residents from the rising flood waters.



The Austell Public Works Facility was hit by flood waters, too.

As we have for the past eleven years, your Mayor and Council continue to support a strong infrastructure in Austell. We maintain our services as well as undertake projects to beautify our community *without* increasing your city taxes. Last year we built Mayors Park at the corner of Love Street and Veterans Memorial Highway and made significant improvements to Pine Street Park. No tax dollars were spent on these projects, instead the money came from the Norfolk Southern railroad grant.

Also, three new Patrol Cars for the Police Department were purchased using railroad grant money, and two Crime Scene cars for the Police Department were purchased through a special grant program. Our Fire Department applied for and received a grant from GMA (Georgia Municipal Association) to purchase fire fighting bunker gear for all of the firefighters. This new equipment helps us serve you better.

This year we welcome two new members to the Austell City Council. Trudie A. Causey is the At-Large Post 1 member and Martin Standard represents Ward 3. Both Trudie and Martin are active citizens who have been very involved in the city for many years and we wish them well as they begin a new phase of service as elected officials.

Your Public Servant,

Joe Jerkins



Above, flood waters rush over the street and curbs at the intersection of Dr. Luke Glenn Garrett Memorial Parkway and C.H. James Parkway.