



The City News Express

Fall

Connecting Austell Government With Its Citizens

2014



Joe Jerkins, Mayor



A Message From the Mayor

When you paid your 2014 City taxes, you paid a little less than you did in 2013 because the Mayor and Council voted to lower Austell's millage rate from 4.00 mils to 3.060 mils earlier this year.

Since we have our own Fire Department, the County gives our citizens a discount on County taxes. This year the amount credited to city residents is 3.060 mils and since we reduced the City's millage to that same amount, 3.060 mils, the net effect for our citizens is zero taxes.

It has long been a goal to deliver quality services at a zero tax level to our residents. We are able to provide these services due to a conservative approach to spending and City management.

On November 4th we will have an opportunity to elect individuals who will lead our county, state and nation. We may not all agree on the same people to hold office, but it is important to cast your vote. Your vote is important!

We will also have an opportunity to vote for issues affecting us locally on the November ballot. One of these issues is the Special Local Option Sales Tax.

SPLOST is an optional one percent county sales that is used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by the county government and participating qualified municipal governments. SPLOST funds cannot be used for operating expenses. SPLOST is collected on items subject to state sales and use tax within the county, including the sale of motor fuels and the sale of food and beverages. In November, you will have an opportunity to vote for or against the 1% SPLOST that will begin in 2016 and extend for six years. Approximately 30% of SPLOST comes from outside the county, unlike property tax.

As you make your decision, please consider what SPOST dollars have done for Austell... repaving streets, creating sidewalks, upgrading parks, purchase of new fire truck, equipment for the maintenance barn and new Police cars.

The City Museum at the Threadmill Complex continues to be popular with all our visitors to the Threadmill. Residents and former residents stop by to reminisce about the old days at Coats and Clark or to just enjoy reliving Austell's history preserved in photos, books and documents. If you have not visited, plan to stop by for a trip down memory lane. The Museum is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 5:00pm.

New Flexible Bus Route Will Help Commuters in Austell: Public Hearing on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 12, 2014



Cobb Community Transit is looking for creative ways to alleviate transit concerns for South Cobb residents. Cobb DOT officials have proposed a Flex Bus Service that will serve areas between Austell and Cumberland Mall. The Marietta Transfer Center is located at Cumberland.

Designed to help serve the unmet mobility needs of communities when regular route service is not feasible, Flex Bus Service will offer passengers the option of calling in for a ride or picking up the flex vehicle at one of its regularly scheduled stops.

Proposed service times are Monday through Friday from 5am to 9pm. At the present time, there are no plans for weekend service; however special requests for services during the week can be made by calling Customer Service 770-427-4444.

If you have questions regarding the service, please come to the Public Hearing at Austell City Hall on Wednesday, November 12th at 6pm.

CCT Flex Bus Service Is Coming Your Way!

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014 • 6:00 PM
City of Austell • City Hall
2716 Broad Street, SW

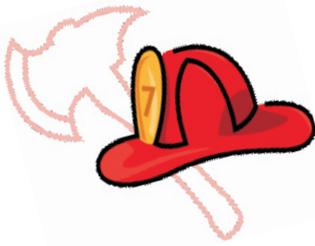
Council Members

Ward 1 - Kirsten Anderson
Ward 2 - Scott Thomas

Ward 3 - Randy Green
Ward 4 - Virginia Reagan



At Large Post 1 - Ollie Clemons
Large Post 2 - Suzanne Thomason



FIRE DEPARTMENT

“The quick actions of the fire personnel on that day resulted in lives saved and property conservation, restricting the fire to room and contents. Without these quick actions, the ending result may have been more disastrous with lives lost.” - Austell Fire Chief Tim Williams

Austell's "C" Shift was dispatched to a house fire on September 13th. Our firefighters are trained to expect the unexpected, so they were ready for whatever waited for them at 5811 Westside Road. When they arrived, smoke was billowing from the house, and the situation was serious.

The Firefighters established command and began the process of getting the fire under control. As the Fire Attack crew worked to suppress the fire, the Fire Rescue crew gained access to the house and began evacuating the five occupants of the house which included a disabled veteran and his care giver.

Mr. Raymond Williams, a double amputee, is an original member of the Tuskegee Army Air Corps. The 92 year old veteran was a fighter pilot who served with this distinguished unit from 1943 to 1946. A hero in his own right, Mr. Williams recognized the heroic efforts of our Firefighters who saved his life. He said that he was asleep in the basement of the home when fire broke out in the upstairs kitchen. He said he was awakened by his care giver's brother who was desperately trying to get him up and out of the home. Then, suddenly the Firefighters appeared and quickly carried him to safety.

"They did excellent work, said Mr. Williams. "They got me out of there even before I got any smoke." He added that he thanked them over and over, for doing a wonderful job of his life and keeping him in good condition.

Chief Tim Williams said he is very proud of his firefighters who were on the scene that night. The members of Austell Fire's "C" Shift are: Officer in Charge, Matt Cabrera; Fire Rescue crew, Ken Strong and Gary Dobbs; Fire Attack crew Jody Cochran and Wesley Howes; Engineer, Christian Chabot. When the Chief commended them personally, each said, "Chief, I was just doing my job." And, the occupants of 5811 Westside Road certainly agreed this group of Firefighters did an excellent job on the night of September 13, 2014.

BOOT DRIVE

The City of Austell Fire and Emergency Services participated in the annual Boot Drive to raise funds for MDA. This year, the drive was very successful. Our local community donated a total of \$4,497.68 to this worthy organization. The Muscular Dystrophy Association has worked for years combating this dreadful disease. Thank you Firefighters for doing a great job!

ABOUT OUR PERSONNEL

Congratulations to **Greg Etheridge** Firefighter/Paramedic for completing twenty years of service with the City of Austell. He received a service plaque and city pin at the September City Council Meeting. Welcome to new employee Paramedic **Jonathan Burdett** who is currently being trained as a Firefighter at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth.

OUTDOOR BURNING

As a reminder, the statewide outdoor burning ban has been lifted until May, 2015. Please abide by our City Ordinance which allows controlled burning of leaves and small yard debris Monday - Saturday between 8am and 5pm. No burning is allowed on Sunday.



American Red Cross
Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter

A Bonus Tip: Download the American Red Cross First Aid App. The App is free and you can see all Red Cross apps at <http://www.redcross.org/mobileapps>

The American Red Cross has some safety tips for taking a trip during the Holiday Season. Before getting on the road, listen to an NOAA Weather Radio or local news channels.

Avoid driving in dangerous conditions - sleet, freezing rain, snow or dense fog. Keep a disaster kit in your car.

It's important to make sure your car is in good working condition. Start with a full gas tank and check the fluid levels and air pressure in your tires.

Buckle up, slow down and don't drink or text and drive. Make frequent stops on long trips.

If you are traveling by planes or trains, remember everything you touch has been handled by someone else. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Carry hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes. they can be used to wipe down surfaces such as armrests. Bring your own pillows and blankets.

Enjoy your trip!



PUBLIC WORKS

Below is the *Holiday Trash and Recycle Collection* schedule for December, 2014 and January, 2015. If you have any questions, please call 770-944-4325.

Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
11/26 YES	Thanksgiving Day NO	11/28 YES	11/29 YES
12/24 YES	Christmas Day NO	12/26 YES	12/27 YES
12/31 YES	New Year's Day NO	1/2/2015 YES	1/3/2015 YES