



The City News Express

Spring

Connecting Austell Government With Its Citizens

2016

A Message From the Mayor

Dear Citizens,

Everyone is excited about the new Façade Improvement Grant Program approved by the Mayor and Council! Adopted in March, this program is designed as an incentive for downtown business owners to reinvest in their property by restoring and renovating their buildings.

Using a combination of City funds and CDBG grant money commercial property owners and tenants can be reimbursed fifty percent (50%) for spending up to \$20,000 to improve the looks of their building. The program includes projects to improve exterior wall finishes, decorative details structural reinforcement and signage as well as awnings and lighting.

This program is administered by the City of Austell Community Affairs Department. Evaluation will be done by the Grant Review Committee and approved by the City Council. A new look is coming to Downtown Austell!



Joe Jerkins, Mayor

More changes are coming to Austell. Backstreet Station is also undergoing a transformation. The community Affairs Department and Public Works are working together to improve that area and create a special place in our city. New landscaping and planters, additional parking and directional signage, sidewalk improvements will provide a visitor-friendly atmosphere at Backstreet Station! These projects are currently under way, and plans also include a new restaurant which will be coming soon.

For more than a century Austell First Baptist and Austell Presbyterian churches have faithfully served the City of Austell and its citizens. 2016 marks their 125th Anniversary, and these congregations celebrated their anniversaries together on June 5th in a joint service and picnic lunch afterward at Collar Park. On behalf of the Council we congratulate these two churches that are two of the oldest in Cobb County.

We are fortunate to have an excellent Finance Department working for the city. Again this year, our department qualified for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, which is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Award was presented to Finance Director, Denise Soesbee on behalf of the Finance Department.

Austell recently received some good news from the Insurance Service Organization which rates cities with Fire Departments. This rating is the basis for fire insurance rates. The lower the ISO rating, the lower the insurance rates for homes and businesses. When I first came into office, Austell's ISO was 6. Over the years our Fire Department personnel have worked hard to comply with ISO requirements and standards. Our rating has indeed improved over the past 26 years, and I am glad to say that this year our rate dropped from 4 to 3. We are proud of our Fire Department for all of their hard work and special training to make sure Austell received this excellent rating. Be sure to check with your insurance company to see if their records have been updated to reflect our new rating which may save you money on your insurance premium.

We certainly hope that Austell never floods again, but the Council has purchased a new rescue boat as a precautionary measure. The twenty foot boat is jet powered and designed to work well in flooded areas. We have begun a department-wide training program in boat operations and water rescues. Also, the City has partnered with Georgia Power to eliminate the solar panels and now the Sweetwater Creek stream camera is now fully powered by electricity. The level of Sweetwater Creek can be monitored anytime day or night by visiting our website at www.austellga.gov and click on Sweetwater Creek Live Webcam.

We are in the process of preparing our 2016-2017 budget, and are pleased to let you know that we will be able to maintain our level of service to the community without raising the City tax millage.

Your Public Servant,

Joe Jerkins

Council Members

Ward 1 - Kirsten Anderson
Ward 2 - Scott Thomas

Ward 3 - Randy Green
Ward 4 - Sandra Leverette

At Large Post 1 - Ollie Clemons
At Large Post 2 - Valerie Anderson

Fire Department News



Austell Heros Are Honored by Georgia EMS Council

Last December Austell Fire received a call and B Shift responded. A man was pinned between a vehicle and a garbage truck. He was bleeding profusely and feared to be near death. Captain Chris Bianchi, Lt. Alex Layton and Fire Fighters Greg Etheridge, Brent Worsham, Jonathan Burdett and Wesley Howes were the responders.

Their quick response, training and experience saved the man's life, and their heroic efforts have been recognized by the Georgia EMS Council. Thank you for your dedication and a job well done!

The Fire Department has been getting a lot of use out of our burn building/training center. We have been performing mutual aid training with Cobb county, the City of Marietta and City of Smyrna fire departments. This facility has also provided an opportunity for very good training within our own department.

Reminder...



The annual burn ban is in effect for the Summer months. There is no outside burning until October 1st. The only exception is for cooking purposes.

City Clerk Retires

Carolyn Duncan began working for the City of Austell on January 3, 2000, and she received Certification for City Clerk through a course of study with the Georgia Municipal Association. Her duties also included Clerk of Court, Director of General Administration and Assistant to the Mayor.



Carolyn said her 16 ½ years with the City have been a wonderful experience.

Community Affairs Department



Darrell Weaver, MPA

Darrell Weaver joined the City in February this year as Zoning Administrator.. His background is in business expansion and development and he plans to use these skills to his position here in Austell.

Working with business leaders and private individuals, he is striving to rejuvenate the downtown business area of Austell.



Run/Walk with the Mayor 5K

The 2nd Annual Run/Walk with the Mayor 5K was a great way to start Saturday morning, May 21st. More than 100 competitors came out to enjoy the exercise and the fun!

The 5K course began at Collar Park and wound around the city through residential neighborhoods and Frog Rock Park. C.A.M.P. was also there collecting donations that had been made to their program.

The Female Winners were: 1st - Shawanna White; 2nd - Ashley Mitchell and 3rd - Cynthia Williams. The Male Winners were: 1st - Orinthal Striggles; 2nd Garrett Moss and 3rd - Taylor Morris.

The 5 K is sponsored by the City to promote good health, exercise and community involvement.

See you next year!

Public Works



Do you know how to properly dispose of items you don't want? Visit our website at www.austellga.gov/collection and use our new guide, "What Bin Does It Go In"

Austell Public Works has made it even easier for residents to stay connected for information about waste management collection and programs.

Visit our website at www.austellga.gov/collection and search for your home address in our new collection day calendar tool. This free service allows residents to sign up to receive waste collection reminders by e-mail, phone call, text and Twitter. Once registered, residents will receive weekly reminders and notification of schedule changes due to service delays such as inclement weather, holidays and upcoming events or seasonable campaigns including Earth Day, bi-annual clean up and Christmas tree recycling.

Collection schedules can be downloaded directly to your iCal, Google calendar or Microsoft Outlook calendar. Residents can also print a customized collection schedule.

To download our mobile app, visit the iOS Apple app store or Google Play app store and search for Austell Collects.

Are you interested in planting a garden?

The I.T. and Lodemia Terrell Community Garden, located on Windy Lane, is a great place to visit and to garden! Currently, there are a few spaces left, so if you are interested, please call Morgan Houze in Public Works at 770-944-4325 or on line at www.austellga.gov/garden.

