MESSAGE FROM THE BOC CHAIRMAN

The Board has been receiving comments lately on how professional our County Departments are. Congratulations on making our citizens your first priority.

~ Mike Berg,
BOC Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Public Safety

The saying goes… April showers bring May flowers. These months also often bring volatile weather in the form of tornadoes and flooding.

When Mother Nature delivers severe weather, the County’s emergency services and Sheriff’s Office personnel are very busy doing what they do best - - responding to calls for aid. These employees work tirelessly to keep our citizens informed of weather conditions, educate on how to be prepared for and as safe as possible in dangerous weather situations and respond to calls for help. A vital aspect of their jobs is communication with citizens and among themselves.

Dawson County’s firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, deputies and E-911 operators communicate and work together to ensure the safety of our citizens and respond in the most efficient way possible. Emergencies do not just happen when it is convenient, but 24 hours a day.

Take time to let our emergency services personnel, deputies, and E-911 operators know how much you appreciate their dedication to saving lives and ensuring safety in our county. We sometimes take for granted that help is only a 911 call away!

Cindy Campbell,
County Manager
Employee Spotlight - Planning & Development

Rachel Burton is the Zoning Administrator for Dawson County Planning and Development. Rachel began working for the county as the Public Information Coordinator for County Administration in January of 2012 before moving to Planning and Development in September of the same year. She is a 2004 graduate of The University of Georgia with a bachelor’s degree in Landscape Architecture. In 2012, Rachel received her Georgia registered landscape architect license.

Prior to joining the County, she worked in the private sector as an Environmental Designer for both PASE Engineering and Geolmage in Dahlonega and Breedlove Land Planning in Conyers. Throughout her career, she has been involved with numerous successful projects for public and private educational facilities, active and passive recreation parks, and many residential developments. Rachel’s hometown is Cordele, GA.

Jason Holbrook has been employed with Dawson County since 2009 and has had several duties during his time here. Jason is a native of Forsyth County.

Jason has served as a residential building inspector, commercial building inspector as well as served as the interim building official from time to time. He recently acquired his ICC certification as a commercial building inspector as well as a residential energy inspector/plans examiner. Jason is also a certified residential building inspector.

All Planning and Development staff deserves to be recognized and is a great group of professionals. We have many unique talents to offer the citizens of this county. We have two certified peace officers, Ken Moss and Robbie Irvin, who combined have 26 years’ experience with the county. We are also very fortunate to have an office staff, Diane Callahan, Margaret Honn, and Rachel Burton, with a tremendous amount of knowledge in planning and development. I am grateful to have such a great group of individuals I work with.

David McKee
Director

Dawson County Park & Recreation - Summer Events

Summer Movie Nights at the Park - presented by Northside Hospital-Forsyth

June 7, 2013 at War Hill Park
Activities start at 7pm; movie starts at dusk
Showing: Escape from Planet Earth
August 16, 2013 at Veterans Memorial Park
Activities start at 6PM; movie starts at dusk
Movie title TBD

The 2013 Summer/Fall activity guides have arrived!
This guide contains information for events and activities scheduled to take place May-December 2013. Stop by Rock Creek Park to get your copy today!
SUMMER CAMPS

Camps are listed in order of start date of camp.

Camps not meeting the required minimum number are subject to cancellation. Pre-registration is highly recommended. Please contact the contact person listed for each camp for more information and registration. REGISTER NOW!

Lady Tigers Fundamental Basketball Camp (girls)
June 3-7 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-12:00PM
Contact: Tina Brown
Phone: (706) 216-5801 Ext. 1899
Email: tbrown@dawson.k12.ga.us

Youth Athletic Training
June 4-July 25 @ Rock Creek 9/10AM & 6/7PM
Contact: Alison Blythe
Phone: (770) 540-3079
Email: amrblythe@windstream.net

All Sports Day Camp
June 10-14 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-3:30PM
Contact: Ty Cames
Phone: (404) 226-7228
Email: tcames@dawson.k12.ga.us

Camp of Ballers Basketball Camp
June 10-14 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-12:00PM
Contact: Jesse Chism
Phone: (678) 410-9736
Email: ad.dcaasports@gmail.com

P.E. Day Camp
June 24-28 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-3:00PM
Contact: Ty Cames
Phone: (404) 226-7228
Email: tcames@dawson.k12.ga.us

Summer Challenge Soccer Camp
June 17-21 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-12:00PM & 9:00AM-4:00PM
Contact: Matt Newman
Phone: (678) 628-4760
Email: Matt@UnitedFA.org

Harlem Legends Shoot for the Stars Camp
July 1-3 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-3:00PM
Contact: Michael Douglas
Phone: (678) 630-8843
Email: harlemlegends24@hsmnlegends.com

Speed & Footwork Camp
July 22-26 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-12:00PM
Contact: Jesse Chism
Phone: (678) 410-9736
Email: ad.dcaasports@gmail.com

Tigers Fundamental Basketball Camp (boys)
June 17-21 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-12:00PM
Contact: Jonathan Tinsley
Phone: (706) 216-5801 Ext. 1899
Email: bdtinsley@dawson.k12.ga.us

Hoops for Youth Basketball Camp
July 29-Aug 1 @ Rock Creek 9:00AM-4:00PM
Contact: Ray Parrold
Phone: (706) 273-4542
Email: ga hoops4youth@yahoo.com

Below is a list of agencies that may offer alternative childcare services not offered by the DCPR Dept:

- Cha’s Family Daycare: (706) 266-2427
- Discovery Point: (706) 429-0003
- Jan’s Family Daycare: (706) 216-6372
- Little Stars Learning Center: (706) 482-2211
- N. Ga Kids Academy: (706) 216-5437
- White Oak Academy: (706) 216-5437
- City of Cumming Rec. Department: (706) 781-2030
- Forsyth County Parks & Rec.: (706) 781-2215
- Lumpkin County Parks & Rec.: (706) 482-2504

Please visit www.dawsoncounty.org for details on all of the camps offered by Dawson County Parks & Recreation.
New Changes for the Dawson County Transfer Station

Welcoming a new supervisor...

On April 22nd, 2013, Dawson County Waste and Recycling Center (Transfer Station) welcomed Dana Cleveland as Transfer Station Supervisor.

Dawson County Public Works Director David Headley shared; “Dana brings to the county a strong and diverse background in solid waste management. His expertise and commitment to customer service will be a great contribution to the needs of Dawson County citizens. Should you have the opportunity to meet Dana, please take a moment to welcome him. He is not easily missed, as he stands 6’-8” tall. I look forward to working with him as Dawson County advances into the future. I am excited to share in his vision for a more efficient and effective solid waste facility.”

Dana Cleveland was born and raised in Hall County. He is a graduate of West Hall High School and is a member of Mayfield Baptist Church. He currently lives in Forsyth County with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children. Dana has worked in the waste industry for 8 years.

Introducing New Fees...
The Transfer Station is introducing a new weight system with the operation of the newly-installed scales. The following fee schedule will go into effect on May 1st, 2013.

- Bagged Trash (up to 50 gallons) = .50/bag
- Commercial Trash = $35.00/ton
- Weighted Trash = $.0175/lb
- Recycling = No Charge

Promotions

Jeremy Thompson
Patrol Sergeant / D.C.S.O.

People on the Move:

New Employees

Donna Blanton
HR Specialist / Human Resources

Jonah Bryant
Transit Driver / Transit

Dana Cleveland
Supervisor / Transfer Station

Mark Edwards
Athletic Assistant / Park & Rec.

Russell Odom
Mower/Equip. Operator / Roads

Justin Picklesimer
Mower/Equip. Operator / Roads

Preston Sweatman
Mower/Equip. Operator / Roads

Celebrating Moms everywhere...

Happy Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 12th
3rd Annual Kenny Stewart 5K

Saturday, May 11th
Rock Creek Sports Complex

All proceeds to benefit Kenny Stewart's family

Registration forms available at Rock Creek OR register online at http://www.active.com/running/dawsonville-ga/3rd-annual-kenny-stewart-5k-2013

Register by May 4th to guarantee a t-shirt.
Those registered after May 4th will receive a t-shirt while supplies last.

Packet pick-up for those registered by May 4th will be Friday, May 10th 5:30-7:30pm & Saturday, May 11th at 7:00am.

Race-day registration is 7:00am.
Race begins at 8:00am.

Easy Summertimetime Pasta

Ingredients

- 1/2 lb. linguine, uncooked
- 6 small boneless skinless chicken breast halves (1-1/2 lb.)
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 3 zucchini, sliced
- 3 yellow squash, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cups 2% Milk Shredded Italian -Three Cheese Blend
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/4 cup Grated Parmesan Cheese

Directions

1. Cook pasta in large saucepan as directed on package, omitting salt.

2. Sprinkle chicken with pepper. Heat 1 Tbsp. oil in large nonstick skillet on medium heat. Add chicken; cook 5 to 7 min. on each side or until done (165°F). Remove to plate; cover to keep warm. Add remaining oil to same skillet. Add squash & zucchini; stir-fry 3 min. Add garlic; stir-fry 3 min. or until squash & zucchini are crisp-tender.

3. Drain pasta, reserving 1/4 cup cooking water. Toss pasta with reserved water in same pan; place on large serving platter. Top with chicken, squash, zucchini and remaining ingredients.

Understanding Dawson County's Emergency Response Plan

Dawson County’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), sponsored by Dawson County Emergency Services, will have their monthly meeting Tuesday, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at Dawsonville City Hall.

Emergency Services Director Billy Thurmond will present the County’s Emergency Management Plan. The presentation will include four scenarios using CERT. We will start off with a short recap of the April exercise.

All Dawson County citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend. Further information is available by contacting Charlie Vincent at certvincent@windstream.net.
May 2013
Employee Anniversaries

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<th>5 Years</th>
<th>10 Years</th>
<th>15 Years</th>
<th>20 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Cagle</td>
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<td>Benjie Ensley</td>
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<td>Lauren Zadernak</td>
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Dreams and dedication are a powerful combination. ~ William Longgood

DCES April Employees of the Month

Volunteer - Ann Brandt with CERT
Ann recently worked to coordinate a full scale exercise for our CERT Team. She spent many hours planning for and assisting in coordinating what was an excellent exercise for our team. Ann is to be commended for her energy and dedication to make the exercise a huge success. She is an excellent model for CERT's "I believe" campaign.

Career - FF/EMT David Allen
David has been selected for his "can do" attitude. Nominated by Lieutenant Ricky Rexroat, the nomination outlined David's daily dedication and attitude and his willingness to take on additional tasks, complete them with great proficiency, and submit those tasks on time - every time.

Congratulations to both of these individuals!

News from Human Resources…
by Sherry Boatfield, HR Director

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce Donna Blanton, the new HR Specialist with Dawson County. Donna comes to us with 15 years of experience within the areas of human resources, public relations, and employee training. Donna is married to Tim Blanton and they reside on Little Mountain Road, just outside the Dawson County line. Stop by and say hello to Donna if you get a chance or look for her at Open Enrollment. Along with me, Donna is available to help assist the employees of Dawson County with any human resources needs. Her office hours are Monday - Friday; 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. She may also be reached at dblanton@dawsoncounty.org or (706) 344-3500, ext. 42239.
Get To Know…. The Dawson County 911 Communications Officers

by Kristi Hudson

“Dawson County 9-1-1, Where is your emergency?”

It is a phrase that the Dawson County 911 Communications Officers say on a daily basis, and it could be the next question that you rely on to help save a life.

Our 911 Communications Officers, more commonly referred to as “dispatchers”, are trained professionals who are ready to assist the public and our public safety divisions 24/7. They work 12-hour shift rotations, which includes weekends and holidays, creating the vital communication link between the public and public safety personnel.

Dispatchers are the true “first responders” for any type of emergency situation. Their words and actions will affect every call for service, from the beginning to the end, regardless of the type of assistance needed. In addition to the 9-1-1 lines, a large number of emergency calls are also received on the regular administrative phone lines. When either the 9-1-1 line or an administrative line starts ringing, they never know what is going to be occurring on the other side of the conversation.

Dispatchers work in a challenging environment. Each call is different and every call is important. Most often, the dispatcher is contacted in the midst of the situation or immediately following an incident. They listen to people during some of the most trying times of the caller’s life; medical emergencies, domestic disputes, home burglaries, automobile accidents, and even loss of life. They hear the pain, confusion, frustration, and fear; and yet they remain calm and strong while providing safety instructions and gathering pertinent information.

In the Dawson County 911 Center, there are 10 communications officers with 2-3 dispatchers on duty at all times. However, what you may not know, is that during their normal 12-hour shift, they serve as call-takers and radio dispatchers at the same time. During most 24-hour periods, the 911 Center receives approximately 100 – 250 phone calls. Already this year, they have logged over 40,000 calls for service (meaning that a Police, Fire, and/or EMS unit was dispatched to a scene.) They manage all verbal communications simultaneously while also typing in all information received into CAD (computer aided dispatch) software.

All of our dispatchers go through an intense 3-6 month training period, which includes certification as a Basic Communications Officer; certification in CPR/First Aid; certification with GCIC (Georgia Crime Information Center; which allows individuals to access necessary state records, including the status of driver’s licenses, tags, insurance, and warrant information); and EMD certification (Emergency Medical Dispatch; which allows individuals to provide pre-arrival medical instructions over the phone.)

Multi-tasking is a dispatcher’s middle name. In addition to their communication responsibilities, they also maintain the warrant files for the Sheriff’s Office. This includes entering, updating, and removing warrant files from the on-line, state database. They also assist in overseeing all GCIC training and training records for the entire county.

Director Debra Wimpy heads up the 911 Center. Debra has worked in public safety for over 25 years, the last 18 years of which she has dedicated to Dawson County. She oversees the daily operations and compliancy of the communications center.

I spoke with Director Wimpy recently, and she had this to share: “Dawson County is very fortunate that they have four (4) shifts of well-trained dispatchers, who are all team players. We have a jam-up dispatch, which is very family oriented.”
Important Tips to remember before contacting the 911 Communications Center

- **Always know your location/address.** In order to get help to you, they have to know where you are. Although Dawson County is Phase II compliant, due to limitations of the service providers, cell phones do not provide the specific address/location you are phoning from. The information received are the coordinates of the closest cell phone provider’s tower; and if you are traveling instead of remaining immobile, this information can change very quickly.

- **Always provide your name and phone number,** in case the line disconnects and a call-back is required.

- **Dispatchers ask a lot of questions in a short amount of time;** ensuring they are gaining the most precise information by which to provide the most accurate response to your needs.

- **Emergency Calls take precedence. Please be patient if you are placed on hold.** The Center’s phones are set to receive up to 16 lines at a time, 8 of which are 9-1-1 lines – with only 2-3 people to answer them. If you have important information concerning an incident in progress, please remain on the line and someone will get back with you to take your information. Please do not continue to hang-up and call back as this wastes precious time and resources.

- **Dispatchers have to be assertive at times to obtain the information needed;** especially in high-stress situations.

- **All phone calls and radio traffic are recorded;** this protects the caller as well as the dispatcher.

- **Dispatchers cannot track responding units;** once the information is provided by radio to the responding units (Police, Fire, EMS), the dispatchers have no way of providing an ETA (estimated time of arrival.) Many factors play into a response time: distance from starting point to destination, traffic conditions, weather, etc. These are all factors that are undeterminable from the Communications Center.

- **Please do not call the Communications Center for general information,** such as public phone numbers, addresses, or to be transferred to another county department (i.e. the jail.) These types of calls can often interfere with emergency calls. Please call 411 for general information.

- **Please do not call Dispatch to notify them of a power-outage, unless it relates to some type of emergency.** It is good practice to store all of your utility numbers in your cell phone in case of loss of power, so that you may notify the utility company directly.
Eight New Emergency Medical Responders at D.C. Station 8

Eight members of Dawson County Station 8 recently completed an Emergency Medical Responder course in Jasper, GA. The 64 hour course, instructed by long time Paramedic and EMS Instructor Jim Weaver, instructed participants in the arena of basic life support and emergency care in the pre-hospital setting.

With the completion of this class, Station 8 now has a total of 9 certified Emergency Medical Responders. This is just another example of the dedication of this group of volunteers to expand their abilities and provide a critical service to the Wildcat Community.

The Wildcat Community encompasses seven communities which rests in a heavily forested region of the north Georgia mountains; spanning into both Dawson County and Pickens County. It was established in 2005 to educate property owners in that area about emergency incident response and to raise funds which would support emergency management capabilities. Since that time, the Wildcat Community has continued to enhance their resources and provide tremendous support to all agencies associated with emergency management.

In 2006, Wildcat volunteers became Firewise-recognized and in 2008, received the Firewise leadership award. In 2009, Wildcat raised $55,000 to assist Dawson County and Pickens County construct a fire station in their mountain area. The building sits on property provided by Pickens County and Dawson County provides the administration, equipment, and training of the volunteers. Dawson County Fire Station 8 opened June 29th, 2010. The Community further assisted local governments in 2011 in the training of First Responders and Support Firefighters and by helping purchase an engine better equipped to navigate the area’s steep, winding terrain.

The Wildcat Community’s continued involvement remains a vital source of education, prevention, and preservation for their community; and we are proud to congratulate them on yet another inspiring achievement!

Members that completed the Emergency Medical Response class included:
(L-R) David Robinson, Jean Moen, Bettie McCollum, Anita Jolly, and Clayton Preble.
Not pictured are: Laura Anderson, Chris Preble, and Mike Jolly.

News from the Dawson County Finance Department:
by Dena Bosten, CFO

The FY2014-2016 budget season will officially begin on June 10th, with Chairman Berg’s budget kick-off meeting. However, we are already in the planning phases of the annual process. This upcoming budget season, employees will be working closely with the newest member of the Finance Department, Natalie Johnson.

Natalie joined the Finance Department as the Accounting and Budget Manager in February this year. Prior to her position with Dawson County, Natalie served as the Controller for a community bank. She has also held various accounting positions during her thirteen year career in community banking. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from North Georgia College and State University in August 2001 and completed the Georgia Bankers Association Graduate School of Banking in 2002. Natalie, her husband, Kevin, and their son, Parker, reside in Dawson County. We are excited to have Natalie as a member of our team. I hope each of you will join me in welcoming her.
KEEP DAWSON COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Tire Amnesty Day

Saturday, May 11, 2013
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Dawson County Waste & Recycling Center (Transfer Station)
946 Burt Creek Road, Dawsonville, GA 30534

- Maximum of **10 standard Car/Pickup** tires ONLY - per load.
- No commercial vehicle tires accepted: heavy duty/bob cat tires; semi-truck; tractor trailer, or agricultural tires.
- Dawson County residents only - no tire companies please.
- No tires will be accepted with mud, dirt, debris, or rims attached.

For more information, please contact:
Keep Dawson County Beautiful
Karen Armstrong, Chairman
Cell: 678-943-0516

www.keepdawsoncountybeautiful.org
Chestatee Regional Library System Presents...

GREAT DAWSON COUNTY SCAVENGER HUNT
Saturday, May 11, 2013
SPONSORSHIP FORM

The Great Dawson County Scavenger Hunt was created as a fundraiser to support the Dawson County Library while exploring the county, participating in community outreach, and giving awareness to local businesses. This is a perfect event for businesses to support the library, gain exposure for their business and have a great time!

Why Sponsor?

- Unique promotional opportunity for your business or organization.
- Partner with an exceptional nonprofit organization.
- Network with other likeminded fun-loving folks.
- Community pride!

☐ EVENT SPONSOR $200
Have your logo and company name displayed on all publicity. Your business will be part of the scavenger hunt as a designated location to go to. You will also be allowed to help create the clue you want put on the list. Points will be given according to the difficulty of this clue.

☐ TEAM SPONSOR $100 per team
A unique opportunity for businesses, organizations and their staff to build morale in the office. Put together a team(s) of 4 people who enjoy the exhilaration of solving clues, taking wrong turns and having the chance to win a final treasure of up to $1,000.* Team sponsors will be listed on all publicity for the event.

☐ PRIZE SPONSOR $25
Would you like to be listed as a sponsor and help the library by sponsoring prizes? Your business name will be listed on all publicity material.

We would like to sponsor the above (may choose more than one).

Contact Name ___________________________________ Business Name ___________________________________
Address ___________________________________________ City/State/Zip ___________________________
Phone Number ____________________________ E-mail ____________________________

Payment Options:
Total Amount Due for Sponsorship(s) :
☐ Check made payable to Dawson County Library
☐ Credit Card: ○ Visa ○ MasterCard ○ American Express

Name on Card ___________________________________________ Expiration Date _________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________
Team Name: __________________________________________

Team Member Names:
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

* Prize will be based on 10% of the gross profits up to $1,000.

Please return by Monday, May 6, 2013 to:
Dawson County Library, Attn: Stacey Leonhardt
342 Allen Street, Dawsonville GA 30534
Fax: 706-344-3691, Email: sleonhardt@chestateelibrary.org