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A Publication of the Henry County Board of Commissioners

October 2, 2009

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Next Regular Meetings:

- Workshop: Oct. 5th at 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 6th at 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 19th at 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings held at:

Administration Building
 Community Room
 140 Henry Parkway
 McDonough, GA 30253

Commission meetings will air
 on Henry TV Channel 14, at
 9 a.m., 2 p.m., & 7 p.m.

Monday Meetings:

Wed, Fri, & Sun

Tuesday Meetings:

Thurs, Sat, & Mon

Eagles Landing Parkway Expansion Gets Underway



Henry County broke ground September 30 on the single largest venture in the SPLOST III program: the Eagles Landing Parkway Expansion. Participating in the ceremony by holding the shovels and turning dirt are, from left to right, Terry McMickle, Henry County Public Works Director, Dana Lemon, DOT Board Representative for District 13, Elizabeth 'B.J.' Mathis, Henry County Commission Chairman, Johnny Basler, District 5 Commissioner, Reid Bowman, District 4 Commissioner, and Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Construction Director. Joining with them in celebrating the project's start are, from left to right, Chris Marsengill with McGee Partners, Georgia State Representative Steve Davis, Todd Long, Director of Planning for GDOT, Tommy Crochet with McGee Partners, Inc., Jan Hilliard, Design Group Manager for GDOT's Office of Urban Design, Randy Stamey, District 3 Commissioner, Kathy Gilbert, Stockbridge City Councilwoman, Cheri Hobson Matthews, Henry County Transportation Planning Director, Michael Harris, Planning & Development Services Division Director, Mayor Rudy Kelley with the City of Stockbridge, Ted Strickland, Stockbridge City Manager, Scott Phillips, Vice President of GP's Enterprises, Inc., Jonathan Flanigan, GP's Enterprises Project Manager, and George Flanigan, President of GP's Enterprises.

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Henry County Fire Department Encourages Safe Burning Practices

It's "OK2-BURN" as of October 1, 2009

The Henry County Fire Department, as well as the metro Atlanta area, will lift the burning ban as of Thursday, October 1, 2009. The ban is set to be in effect again beginning on May 1, 2010. The State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division mandates this ban.

On September 17, 2002, the Board of Commissioners of Henry County amended Section 3-4-113 of Article I of Subchapter 2 of Chapter 3-4 of the Code of Henry County, Georgia. With the amendment of this ordinance, citizens will no longer need a residential burning permit from Henry County Fire Department; however it is a requirement to obtain a daily or annual permit through the Georgia Forestry Commission. A couple of options for obtaining a residential burning permit are: to call 1-877-OK-2-BURN (1-877-652-2876) or visit an on-line permitting system at www.gatrees.org. For acreage burns, please call the Butts/Henry Office for a permit at 770-954-2003 or 770-504-2238. Commercial permits still require a permit and a fee of \$100. Residential and commercial burning will be permitted October 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010 and prohibited all other times. In extremely dry conditions and other weather conditions such as high winds or low clouds, the county could ban all burning at their discretion and/or in cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission. During the time of the ban, no residential or commercial burning will be permitted. Violators will be subject to a fine of up \$1,000 per day, per violation, or 60 days in jail, or both (Henry County Code, Section 3-4-113, page 1710.3). The Henry County Fire

Department strongly urges citizens to comply with this ordinance and appreciates in advance all cooperation concerning this matter.

Although residential burning is permitted, there is a nuisance ordinance that could become a factor in any given area. Persons conducting burning will be expected to follow all rules of burning:

- Residential Burning is for natural debris such as tree limbs from storm damage, leaves, and grass cuttings.
- Clearing of lots for building of structures requires a commercial permit.
- No burning of stumps or whole trees
- No more than one pile 6 x 6 and 5' high at a time
- No burning construction/building material, household garbage, tires, paints, roofing materials, plastics, or other materials that produce toxic gases or obnoxious odors.
- No burning before 10 a.m. or after dark.
- No burning on Sunday.

The number one cause of wildfires in Georgia is burning debris. "Many of these wildfires could be prevented if everyone would follow the rules for outdoor burning and never leave their fire unattended," stated Captain Sabrina Puckett. Debris burning is caused by humans and humans can prevent wildfires by using safe practices when burning outdoor debris.

*Commercial permits can be obtained at the Henry County Fire Department, 110 South Zack Hinton Parkway in McDonough. For further information, contact the Henry County Fire Department at (770) 288-6600.



GREENING HENRY COUNTY

With nearly **73,000 households** throwing away an average of **16.8 pounds of waste per day** in a community with no landfill of its own, it is critical that we begin doing more to reduce our waste and protect our environment. **Henry County's New Curbside Recycling Program is a giant step in the right direction.** Beginning June 1, all waste haulers must offer curbside recycling for homeowners in unincorporated Henry County. For details on a specific hauler, green tips, or other helpful information, please visit www.co.henry.ga.us/Green



EAGLE'S LANDING From Page 1

The Henry County Board of Commissioners, together with other State and local officials and numerous County staff members, broke ground today on the single largest venture in the SPLOST III Program: the Eagles Landing Parkway Expansion Project. However, due to the hard work and dedication of numerous County staff members and the ardent support of Henry County's Department of Transportation Board Representatives, SPLOST will not bear the brunt of the project's cost. Instead, highway stimulus dollars awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will fund the construction of the entire project.

"This is the culmination of the hard work and dedication of our staff, who spent hours going above and beyond to do everything necessary to get us this stimulus package," said Reid Bowman, District 4 Commissioner. "Thanks to their efforts, we now have more funding to pay for other SPLOST transportation projects on the list."

ARRA funds will pay the construction costs of \$18,443,111.45, with an additional allowance of \$3,811,759.00 to cover any increases in fuel, tack coat and asphalt costs. This new funding source will free more than \$22 million in SPLOST III funds originally allocated to this project to be shifted to other projects on the SPLOST Transportation List, enabling the County to get more accomplished in a time when SPLOST revenues are down by as much as 25 percent.

Those who "shifted into overdrive" to complete the massive amount of paperwork required to qualify for this stimulus funding include SPLOST Transportation Construction Director, Roque Romero and staff, Transportation Planning Director Cheri Hobson-Matthews, Public Works Division Director Terry McMickle and DOT staff, Planning & Development Services Division Director Michael Harris and Planning Staff, and County Attorney, LaTonya Wiley and her office. Georgia Department of Transportation Board Representatives Sam Wellborn (District 3) and Dana Lemon (District 13) also worked diligently promoting this project at the Board level in order to help secure funding for this critical project.

The plan calls for widening a 2.6 mile segment of

Eagles Landing Parkway between Eagles Pointe Parkway and Talon Place. Once complete, the new 4-lane roadway, combined with East Lake Extension Phase II, will provide a crucial east-west corridor connecting the easternmost area of the County to I-75, greatly improving commute times. It was also designed with future expansion in mind, as it will incorporate a wide median that can be converted to two additional lanes in the future, without incurring additional right-of-way costs. The project was designed by McGee Partners, Inc. and is being constructed by GP's Enterprises, Inc. It is expected to be complete by Spring 2012.

Some of the very same factors that make this project so expensive also make the process more lengthy. Construction must traverse wetlands as well as railroad tracks, which will be a long and arduous process, and congestion is likely to get worse before the community ultimately gets the long-awaited relief. Henry County officials are asking citizens to be patient and build extra time into their commute in the meantime.

Earlier this year, it was announced that Henry County had bested 832 other worthy projects valued at more than \$2.1 billion to receive the award for the Eagles Landing Expansion. In addition, Henry County has received the following ARRA stimulus funding:

- \$1,200,000 in ARRA funding for resurfacing projects
- \$828,043 for the Keys Ferry @ SR 81 intersection improvement
- The Transit Department also received ARRA funding, totaling \$547,674.
- GDOT also did the repaving of SR 155 utilizing ARRA funding, it totaled \$3,488,925

For more information about SPLOST III Transportation projects, please visit www.co.henry.ga.us/SPLOST. For more information about GDOT stimulus projects, please visit www.dot.state.ga.us/gastimulus.



Recent Flooding a Reminder of the Importance of Floodplain Mapping



Photo courtesy Kelly Michals

Recent tragic flooding is a stark reminder to people that natural disasters do occur, sometimes without warning, and the best defense is to be prepared. Reports from news outlets are flooding the airways with stories of homeowners losing everything. Many residents in the metro Atlanta area lost all of their possessions, including cars, electronics, appliances and personal items. In some cases, the actual house was a total loss, or at the very least, incurred tens of thousands of dollars worth of damage. Many did not have flood insurance.

Most of Henry County was spared the brunt of the recent historical rains, but because natural disasters can occur at any time, it's important for residents to have the most updated information to try and assess their risk

for storm or flood damage. Development and other factors can contribute to changes in floodplains and therefore, render current maps outdated and obsolete.

As part of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) Model Floodplain Management/Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, the Henry County Stormwater Department is nearing completion of a comprehensive mapping process. As mandated by the ordinance, the Henry County Stormwater Department must identify and map Henry County's existing and future conditions floodplains for all tributaries with drainage areas greater than 100 acres. The massive project began over a year ago, and involves delineating the flood

profile of more than 600 miles of streams. Once completed, the maps will allow developers, builders and residents to make sure all structures are built outside of the floodplain, saving them both time and money. In addition, homeowners will be able to learn if parts of their property are in a flood plain. The findings and resulting data will be free to the public.

Though it will update and complete the County's floodplain maps, the project is not connected with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and therefore will not result in any changes to insurance requirements. However, it will give residents the necessary tools they need to make informed decisions about insurance coverage.

The Stormwater Department, along with the URS Corporation, has hosted several meetings throughout the past year, to update the public on the Floodplain Mapping project's progress. The URS Corporation is a world-renowned engineering firm hired to conduct the study and develop the maps.

The project is expected to be completed by January. For more information about Henry County's floodplains or the Stormwater Management Department, please visit www.henrycountystormwater.com or call 770.288.RAIN.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

River's Alive - Georgia's Annual Waterway Cleanup Event This Saturday

Henry County Stormwater Management will proceed as planned with River's Alive.

Saturday, October 3rd at South River @ River Road & Old Snapping Shoals Road in McDonough from 9:00am - 2:00pm

For more information about the event, please visit www.co.henry.ga.us/Stormwater/RiversAlive.shtml

Public Meeting Scheduled on the Feasibility of a County-wide Fiber Optic Network

Henry County will host a meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2009 to discuss the feasibility of installing a county-wide fiber-optic cable network. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Henry County Administration Building on at 7 p.m. It is an initial step in a feasibility study on the fiber-optic opportunity for which the County has contracted with Rural Broadband, a Savannah-based consulting firm, to complete.

A fiber optic network is expected to dramatically improve service for government entities by providing 10x current network speeds and 100 MB Internet speeds for the school system, courthouses, county and city government buildings, the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority, and other government agencies, while simultaneously saving taxpayers money by decreasing these entities' expenditures on telecommunications services. In addition, such a network would assist Henry County in accomplishing its economic development goals by helping to attracting technology intensive business to this community and ultimately, higher-paying jobs for citizens.

"We are inviting the public to come and share their needs, concerns and hopes for this project so that we can adequately address these issues as we examine the feasibility of this project moving forward," explained Clark Rainer, Henry County Technology Services Director. As part of the study, all opportunities and concerns regarding these

telecommunications enhancements will be considered, including how it could affect all private and public entities, residential consumers of Internet, incumbent telecommunications providers, and mobile communications providers.

Leading the meeting will be Allen Davis, Manager of Rural Broadband, the consulting firm undertaking the feasibility study. Davis will provide an overview of the Henry County fiber optic opportunity and study plan, while facilitating public involvement and input into the initiative.

The study, which is expected to take up to 45 days to complete, will also provide details as to how much it would cost to lay the cables, and how much money such a network could save the government entities in the long term. The study cost \$25,000, and was funded in part by the Henry County Development Authority (\$6,000), the four municipalities (\$1,000 each), the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (\$1,000) and the Henry County Chamber of Commerce (\$1,000). Henry County paid the remaining \$13,000 for the study.

The Henry County Administration Building is located at 140 Henry Parkway in McDonough. The meeting will immediately follow the joint meeting of the Henry County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education, which begins at 5:30 in the same room.

