

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meetings

Feb. 19th, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 5th, 2019 9:00 a.m.

Meetings held at:

Administration Building
Community Room
140 Henry Parkway
McDonough, GA 30253
Regular Commission meetings air daily on Henry TV
Charter Channel 180 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, at 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.



Supporters and Officials Come Together To Honor Civil Rights Activist



Several County and City officials, along with supporters and members of the Lemon family, were in attendance to honor Civil Rights activist James W. Lemon at a road dedication ceremony in Locust Grove.

The Henry County Board of Commissioners and the City of Locust Grove hosted a ceremony on February 8 dedicating a portion of Peeksville Rd. in honor of Civil Rights activist and NAACP trailblazer James W. Lemon with the unveiling of road markers. The markers are located at Peeksville Rd. near Hwy. 42 and on Peeksville Rd. near South Ola Rd.

Several members of Lemon's family were in attendance for the unveiling and dedication, along with city and county officials and members of the public.

Several officials spoke at the ceremony, including Locust Grove City Manager Tim Young, Mayor Robert Price, two members of the Lemon family, County Commission Chair June Wood and District IV Commissioner Vivian Thomas.

Henry County Commission Chair June Wood addressed the crowd that was



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BOC Approves Home Depot Donation for HCPR

Local county and visiting children will soon be able to play on new playground equipment thanks to the Henry County Board of Commissioners approving a Home Depot donation. The action came at the February 5 Commission meeting.

The donated equipment includes two dome climbers, a swing set, a fit tech leg extension, three fit tech lat pull downs and three fit tech bench and back extensions valued at \$21,578. The equipment will be placed at various parks throughout the county.

The Board also approved a donation of ten three-wheeled trikes from the Chick-fil-a Corporation to use in Parks and Recreation's Get Fit Therapeutic Program for special needs adults and children. The trikes are valued at \$5,000.

For more information on Henry County Parks and Recreation, visit hcprd.org.

Commissioners Approve Expanding Allowable Use of Impact Fees

The Henry County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution at the February 5 Commission meeting to add line items for use of impact fees and to divide total fees collected evenly between the five county districts.

Deputy County Manager Brad Johnson presented the resolution and explained that the current use of impact fees were for the most part, used to pay down debt service. The resolution calls for line items to be added so that the expenditures are not limited to primarily paying down indebtedness but be expanded to include all allowable system improvements necessitated by the new development and growth.

Johnson said that impact fees have been used primarily for debt service reduction and once the debt has been paid, the funds end up sitting unused in the account.

Johnson said he will be bringing a capital improvement list before the Board at a future meeting

and said it would be beneficial to the county to be able to use a portion of impact fees to fund specific capital improvements that are allowable by law.

District II Commissioner Dee Clemmons added to the motion the provision to divide the collected impact fees evenly among the five districts saying that it would enable each district the opportunity to utilize funds, particularly for districts that are not currently generating fees.

According the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, development impact fees are one-time fees charged to new development that are used to defray some of the costs of providing extra public facilities, such as additional schools, roads, sewer lines and recreational facilities. In addition to offering local government a valuable source of revenue, impact fees help ensure that new development pays for the public facilities it requires, rather than these costs being borne by all taxpayers in the community.

J.W. Lemon - continued from page 1

gathered for the dedication expressing what an honor it was to speak about Mr. Lemon and learn what he had accomplished in the community.

“What I heard about him was his focus on education, how he would bridge the differences between people, and made a personal sacrifice to help the greater good,” said Wood. “Thank you to his family for sharing Mr. Lemon with us. This is a wonderful opportunity where the County and the City of Locust Grove, the NAACP and the community came together for an awesome cause. So again we are thankful for this beautiful day that we have to honor Mr. James W. Lemon.”

District IV Commissioner Vivian Thomas also addressed the crowd saying she wore two hats that day, as Commissioner and as President of the Henry County NAACP. Thomas also spoke of Lemon’s important contributions.

“Things I heard about Mr. Lemon really make me feel proud to stand here today and you should feel proud too. I understand he started this branch in 1943 and when he started this branch, his life was in jeopardy. It didn’t just happen, it wasn’t pretty. He had to fight for this and he had to fight to the point he could not stay in his house at night.”

She also told the large crowd gathered, including several generations of the Lemon family, that he worked for the betterment of all people.

“Because of the work he did, I can stand here before you today. Because of the work Mr. Lemon did, look at these generations. And you have a heritage name that you need to embrace, that you need to take on to promote things even further in this County. You should be proud of that fact that you are a Lemon. You should tell everybody, ‘because of my father, my grandfather, my cousin, my uncle,’ you now have a political position.

So I stand before you as a Commissioner as well. Not because I did something great, but because of people like Mr. Lemon, who fought to make sure I could run for an office and who fought to make sure that my children could go to school in Henry County. I see this as a momentous occasion and say thank you to Mr. Lemon. Thank you to this family for your sacrifice and know your history. Stand proud with that history and help us continue to make sure that all people are represented equally in Henry County.”

The honor for Lemon comes as he was an integral part of improving the lives of African-Americans in and around Henry County through his activism and actions, particularly from establishing the Henry County Chapter of the NAACP in the 1940s, and dedicating his life to the education and betterment of those who were systematically underserved. He was often called a peacemaker, with the ability to bring people of all races and backgrounds together.

Waymond Lemon also spoke to the many gathered for the sign unveiling.

“This turnout has me really overwhelmed. I’m sure dad is smiling down on everybody,” said the youngest Lemon son. “The best city in the world is Locust Grove; the best county is Henry County; the best state, you know, is Georgia, and the best country in the world is the United States.”

Near the conclusion of the ceremony, Thomas thanked City leaders and announced that the NAACP would be partnering with the City of Locust Gove to install a memorial monument to Lemon and his legacy at one of the local parks in the near future.

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Large Turn Out for District II Town Hall



District II Commissioner Dee Clemmons answers questions from the audience during her recent town hall meeting.



District II Commissioner Dee Clemmons held her first Town Hall Meeting of the year last week at Nash Farm Park in Hampton with approximately 200 people in attendance.

Clemmons was joined by Henry County Manager Cheri Hobson-Matthews, Deputy County Manager Brad Johnson and other county leaders. Several commissioners were in attendance including Chair June Wood, District V Commissioner Bruce Holmes and District IV Commissioner Vivian Thomas, along with Senator Emanuel Jones and several members of Hampton city council.

Clemmons distributed information packets to the crowd with District II updates from the past six months, including various ways to contact her or find

additional county information. Several topics were covered during the town hall meeting, including public safety, traffic and transportation, planning and zoning, recreation and economic development.

She touched on opportunities for citizens to engage with her, discussed challenges with funding for state road projects and outlined a number of her ongoing initiatives, specifically the Megasite master planning for 6,000 acres near the Atlanta Speedway Airport.

For more information on Henry County Government, visit www.henrycounty-ga.org. To contact Commissioner Clemmons, call 770-288-6001 or email dcclemmons@co.henry.ga.us.

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Long-time Employee Honored for Years of Service



The Board of Commissioners presented Henry County Assistant Fire Chief Joe Kelley with a plaque for serving more than 35 years with Henry County. Pictured in the first row (l. to r.) District IV Commissioner Vivian Thomas, District II Commissioner Dee Clemmons, Joan Kelley, Joe Kelley and Chair June Wood. Pictured in the second row (l. to r.) District III Commissioner Gary Barham, District I Commissioner Johnny Wilson and District V Commissioner Bruce Holmes.

Recently retired Henry County Fire Department Assistant Chief Joe Kelley was honored at today's BOC meeting with a Service Award for his more than 35 years

of service to Henry County and its citizens. Kelley was accompanied by his wife Joan, pictured here, along with the Henry County Board of Commissioners.

SEE CLICK FIX
BRIDGE THE GAP
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henrycounty-ga.com/SeeClickFix



Youth Track and Field Registration is Open Now Through Feb. 24

There's no better way to "warm up" your kids in winter than by registering them for Henry County Parks and Recreation's youth track and field program.

The youth track and field program is for children ages 7-14. It costs \$85 per child to register, which includes a uniform, warm-up sweatpants and hoodie, award and meet fees.

Registration takes place Monday through

Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. from February 1 to February 24. You can register at the Heritage Park office, the J.P. Moseley Recreation Center, Locust Grove Recreation Center, Fairview Recreation Center, Bear Creek Recreation Center or online at www.hcprd.org.

For more information on the youth track and field program, contact Henry County Parks and Recreation at 770-288-7300 or visit www.hcprd.org.

EMA Looking for Volunteers to Join Community Advocates for Autism Awareness Support Group

The Henry County Emergency Management Agency is pleased to announce Advocates for Autism Awareness Support Group. Advocates for Autism Awareness will consist of a group of families providing hope and support to one another; striving to build partnerships between families and professionals and promoting community awareness through education, information and advocacy.

They seek to impact individuals with autism spectrum disorders in the future by serving families and professionals in Henry County, Georgia.

Our Goals:

- Develop a social and support network
- Provide opportunities for family education
- Promote autism awareness and advocate emergency preparedness strategies for citizens with autism

Strategies we will use to reach these goals include:

- Share high and lows at meetings
- Network with other support groups in the area
- Collaborate with local families and professionals
- Promote awareness in schools (PTA) and with other families
- Share Ideas and information
- Have fun

The demands and challenges of raising a child with autism can be overwhelming. The importance of parent to parent support cannot be overstated. Talking with another parent is a great place to find practical everyday help for issues that may be difficult.

For more information or to participate in this support group, please contact Jeremy Head, Henry County Emergency Management Coordinator, at Jhead@co.henry.ga.us or call 770-288-7875.



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Henry County DA Speaks at Community Collaborative Meeting

Connecting Henry hosted its first Community Collaborative Meeting of the New Year on January 29 at Heritage Park in McDonough.

Henry County's District Attorney and guest speaker of the event, Darius Pattillo, explained his role as the DA, discussed topics including felonies and misdemeanors, expungement, juvenile cases and mental health, and answered several questions from attendees in the crowd.

The meeting's next speaker, Paul Patel, a Henry County resident, entrepreneur and founder of the World Peace Center non-profit organization shared his efforts to help provide peace in the world and in Henry County. He mentioned that his organization is

building a peace center on Lester Mill Road in Locust Grove and is slated to be complete by 2020. Some of the services the peace center will offer include counseling for all age groups, yoga and meditation, adult daycare, healthcare assistance and provide clothing and blankets to those in need.

Community partners were able to network after the presentations concluded.

The next Collaborative Meeting will be held on March 26. The time and location will be determined at a later date.

For more information about Connecting Henry, log on to connectinghenry.org.



2019 Annual Tree Give-A-Way

February 15, 2019

8:30 a.m. until trees are gone.

This years species:
Flowering Dogwoods and Crepe Myrtle

Seedlings will be available at the following locations:

Henry County Farm Bureau - 117 Racetrack Rd., McDonough, GA

Heritage Park - 97 Lake Dow Road, McDonough, GA

Locust Grove Municipal Building - 3644 Hwy 42 S., Locust Grove, GA

City of Hampton Depot - 20 East Main Street S., Hampton, GA

Stockbridge First UMC - 4863 N Henry Blvd, Sbridge, GA

sponsored by **The Henry County Conservation District**

In Partnership with the Henry County Board of Commissioners, Henry County Master Gardeners, Henry County Extension Office, The McDonough NRCS Field Office and the cities of McDonough, Locust Grove, Hampton and Stockbridge.

For more information contact Sharon Burns - 706-410-6370 or email: sharon.burns@gacd.us





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HCDA Welcomes New Officers and Board Member

-Consisting of five members, representing the five geographic commissioner districts within the county and its members, the Henry County Development Authority Board of Directors works to promote economic development in Henry County through the attraction of new investment and jobs and the retention and expansion of existing industries.

The Henry County Development Authority welcomed its newest board member as Reggie Sylvain (representing District 4) was sworn in by Judge Kelley Powell, Henry County Probate Court, at the Authority's February board meeting. Sylvain is a seasoned sales management and administrative professional with experience in the food service, medical and commercial real estate industries. He currently serves as President and CEO of RAGS Enterprises, LLC which is a real estate holding company specializing in commercial real estate. He also serves as the Practice Administrator for Eagles Landing Longevity Center and is a managing partner of Sylvain Evans Funeral Home.

The Authority also recognized past Chairman David Gill for his dedicated service and leadership. Mr. Gill currently serves as President and CEO of the Henry County Chamber of Commerce and has served on the HCDA Board of Directors for a total of 14 years. Sylvain, who was recently appointed to

the Development Authority Board by Commissioner Vivian Thomas, will be replacing Gill as the District 4 representative on the HCDA Board.

Elected to serve as HCDA's Chairman for 2019 at the January Board meeting, Pierre Clements, representing District 5, stated that he is "looking forward to providing strong leadership that is essential to foster high levels of collaboration, team engagement, business diversification and economic development growth in a transformational way." Rounding out the HCDA Board of Directors are Charles Mobley - Vice Chairman (representing District 3), David Linton - Secretary (representing District 2) and Casey Crumbley - Treasurer (representing District 1). The HCDA staff welcomes its new and returning Board of Director members and look forward to working with them to bring new business opportunities and investment to Henry County.

About the Henry County Development Authority

The Henry County Development Authority is the lead economic development agency for Henry County, Georgia. The Authority works to help retain local companies and to foster new relationships and opportunities with companies looking to relocate or grow their operations into Henry County. For more information, visit www.ChooseHenry.com.



Commissioners Look to Partner with City for Convention Center

The Henry County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Memorandum of Terms for a Development Agreement regarding the property located on the southwestern quadrant of Jodeco Road and Interstate 75. In a 4-2 vote with Chair June Wood and District I Commissioner Johnny Wilson in opposition, the action came at the January 22 Commission meeting.

The proposed property, currently located within the city limits of Stockbridge, is projected to include a county-owned public arena or conference center site. The agreement the Board approved states that with the support of Stockbridge's City Council, the County can then move forward with developing the land.

Commissioner Dee Clemmons represents District II where the property sits and said that soon after getting elected, she met with a member of the city council, their staff and County Manager Cheri Hobson-Matthews to discuss the project, however the project has been at a standstill.

"It is all in the hands of Stockbridge," said Clemmons. "The County is wanting and willing to work with the city in order to provide the community with economic growth and it will work in both the County and City's favor if we all work together."

District III Commissioner Gary Barham asked for clarification on where the possible funding would come from. Clemmons confirmed it would come from District II's SPLOST V funds, if approved by voters.

District IV Commissioner Vivian Thomas said that after the meeting, she made a conscientious effort to contact both Stockbridge Mayor Anthony Ford and Stockbridge City Manager Randy Knighton. Thomas also said that she wants to work together with the city

to move this project forward.

"I commend Commissioner Clemmons in her efforts and for putting up five million dollars to start this process," said Thomas. "It would be my preference that this Board work with Stockbridge to see how this can happen."

District V Commissioner Bruce Homes said he met with Stockbridge Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt regarding the County's desire to work with the city and list them as a partner in the development agreement.

"The stipulation in this scenario is that in order for the county to make an investment in constructing and maintaining the county roads around the property, the private property owner will have to request that the property be de-annexed by the city of Stockbridge back to the county," said Holmes. "However, if Stockbridge is willing to fund the \$5,000,000 for road construction and approve by resolution in an upcoming meeting, we can evaluate other options, and by options, I mean everything is on the table regarding our potential partnership. I want the county and the city to partner on this great opportunity."

At the meeting, both Wood and Wilson expressed that a conversation needed to be had with the City before any decision was made.

"It may be where we can put the City of Stockbridge and the County together to make this project happen and maybe divide some costs," said Wilson. "I haven't had any conversations with anybody at Stockbridge City Council."

Thomas said that a meeting has been scheduled next month for Henry County officials and Stockbridge City Council to discuss the Jodeco Road development project.

