

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meetings.

July 9, 2019 9:00 a.m.

(Note: Date change due to holiday)

July 16th, 6:30 p.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.



HCFD Celebrates Fire Recruit Graduation



The Henry County Fire Department celebrated its newest graduating class today with a graduation ceremony that took place at the Creekside Christian Academy in Hampton.

Amid applause, cheers and even some tears, HCFD Recruit Class 19-01 received their diplomas and fire helmets and took their oaths surrounded by family, friends and county leadership.

Fire Chief Luther Phillips praised their accomplishments and urged the graduates to continue working as a team, learn from the veterans around them and think about what their legacy will be.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, recruit Jeveris Jones was awarded the Best Boot Award. The award recognized one individual from the class who demonstrated the ability to excel not only in academics, but in teamwork and motivating others in the class.

The recruits completed more than 640 hours of comprehensive firefighter training and begin their new shift assignments this week.

Patrick Fagan, class leader, addressed his fellow recruits with poignant words, saying that “becoming a firefighter isn’t a job, or a career. It’s a calling.” Fagan also created a stirring video covering the training and experiences of the recruits over the 22 weeks, shown during the graduation ceremony.



June 28, 2019

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Board Approves Employee Safety Grant

Field employees will be better prepared for the outside elements this summer season because the Henry County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to accept a grant from ACCG in the amount of \$7,500. The action came at the June 18 Commission meeting.

Henry County's Risk and Safety Management Department applied for this grant and it will be used to purchase safety gear and items to reduce claims of workers who are exposed to external conditions, such as sweltering temperatures and poor air quality .

As a reminder, when you see Henry County crews and workers on roadways, please proceed with caution to keep everyone safe.

For more information on Henry County Government, visit henrycounty-ga.org.

Henry County Tax Assessor To Now Process Homestead Exemption Requests

Beginning this week, the Henry County Tax Assessors Office will accept all homestead exemption applications. Previously, homestead exemptions were processed by the Tax Commissioner's Office, however, to expedite the process, the Tax Assessors' office will now handle applications directly.

Applications must be received, or U.S. postmarked, by April 1 for processing in the tax year a property owner is requesting the exemption.

In addition to the basic homestead exemption for a reduction in property taxes, there are additional homestead exemptions that homeowners may apply for, including for those age 62 and older, those with a disabled veteran status, and for the surviving spouse of an individual killed while in military service or a surviving spouse of a peace officer or firefighter killed

in the line of duty.

Applications will be received at the following locations between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.:

Henry County Tax Assessors Office

140 Henry Parkway
McDonough, GA 30253
770-288-8180

Henry County Tax Commissioner's Office

164 Burke St.
Stockbridge, GA 30281
770-288-7999

For more information, or for a full list of exemptions and requirements, please visit <https://www.qpublic.net/ga/henry/forms.html>.

Henry County Therapeutic Specialist Tapped to Coach Wounded Warriors Team



Henry County Wheelchair Sports Coordinator for Henry County Parks & Recreation, Harlon Matthews was recruited by the Air Force to coach three Wounded Warriors wheelchair tennis teams who just wrapped up competing at the Warrior Games in Tampa this past weekend.

Matthews headed down to Hulburt Air Force Field in Ft. Walton Beach, FL earlier this month to lend his wheelchair tennis coaching expertise in helping the athletes get ready for the Warrior Games and he is pleased to report that two of the teams he helped coach earned bronze and gold medals. Teams who participated represented the US Air Force, US Army, US Navy, US Marines, Australia, Canada, Netherlands and UK.

Matthews said he was honored to be asked to coach the Air Force wheelchair tennis teams and said it was like coming full circle since middle and high school.

"I was in Air Force JROTC and working on a scholarship, but caught a cold going around school that went to my spinal cord and paralyzed me. Coaching for

these games allowed me to 'serve' in another way," he said.

"This was an amazing honor and thrill to be asked by the Air Force to coach their wheelchair tennis teams and we definitely met expectations," he said of the outcome. However, he said what impressed him more was the fierceness and stamina of the Wounded Warrior athletes.

"The resilience of the warriors is crazy," he said. "They start competing at 8 in the morning and don't finish until 4:30, non-stop competition in several different sports. It was incredible."

Matthews said that not only was it an honor for him to be asked to coach the Wounded Warriors, but an honor in memory of his father, who passed away a few years ago and who was an Army veteran and a staunch supporter of the Wounded Warriors organization.

"I hope my dad is looking down on me with pride because the Wounded Warriors organization was near and dear to his heart, and I am proud to have been a small part of this year's games," said Matthews.



June 28, 2019

Henry County BOC Approves SPLOST V Project list Called Joint County/Cities meeting to be held Thursday, June 27, 2019

The Henry County Board of Commissioners approved the SPLOST V project list at the June 18 Commission meeting after a presentation by SPLOST Transportation Director Roque Romero. The list was formulated in part by a committee appointed to gather public input about the types of projects needed in the county. The committee spent the past year holding public meetings in various locations throughout the county and its cities.

The next SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) will be the fifth SPLOST in the county if voters approve it in this coming election. SPLOST V is not an additional sales tax but a continuation of the current penny sales tax.

Romero said that projected collections by SPLOST V are estimated to be \$245,000,000 throughout a six-year collection cycle. Funds will be split between the county and the cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough and Stockbridge, with the county allocated 75 percent and the cities sharing 25 percent of collections.

Romero gave a brief overview of past SPLOST programs and collections, including capital and transportation projects completed with the program.

He said that under the current SPLOST IV, new parks including Village Park, Kelleytown Park and the Tanger Ball Fields were completed, along with park additions and upgrades totaling \$13.2 million. Public safety projects under SPLOST IV included three new fire stations, one fire station replacement, a 911 radio replacement, the purchase of ambulances, fire trucks, and police patrol vehicles, along with Probate Court

improvements, and jail pod and renovations totaling \$22,220,645. The county was also able to build the new Bear Creek Senior & Recreation Center and a kitchen addition to the Locust Grove Senior Center totaling \$4,589,912.

SPLOST IV also included eight major transportation projects totaling more than \$15.2 million, 16 intersection improvement projects at a cost of \$11.8 million and 17 bridge improvements at a cost of approximately \$2.6 million and 56 resurfacing, widening or surface treatment projects costing over \$14.4 million.

The proposed SPLOST V project list calls for several county-wide projects including:

- An Ola police precinct and fire station for \$4.5 million
- The Fairview police precinct and fire station at a cost of \$6 million
- A new fire station in District 2 to replace Station #5 for \$3 million
- A District 2 police station for \$1.5 million
- A police precinct and new fire station #18 in District 4 for \$4.5 million
- A \$10 million jail pod addition
- \$17.6 million for a fleet replacement program to replace aging county and public safety vehicles that can no longer be repaired.

Each district commissioner will also be allocated \$26.5 million for district-specific projects which include major transportation projects; intersection improvement

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SPLOST V - continued from page 4

and signalization projects; dirt road pavings; sidewalks and paths; road widenings and resurfacings; park upgrades; senior center improvements; and a new recreation center.

More than \$54 million is on the list for major transportation projects throughout the county to include:

- \$14.5 million Fairview Rd. widening
- \$7.1 million West Village Parkway construction
- \$11.7 million Rock Quarry Rd. widening
- \$3.1 million South Ola Rd. extension
- \$3.9 million McDonough Parkway

- \$8 million McDonough Parkway construction, SR 42 to SR 155
- \$4 million SR 81 widening phase 1

Romero outlined the next steps for SPLOST V, and said that by August 1, all SPLOST V projects will be submitted to the Elections Office for ballot preparation and voters will have an opportunity to vote on the referendum on the November 5 election.

For a full list of SPLOST V projects, please visit www.henrycounty-ga.org/splost.



June 28, 2019

Henry County Fire Department Offers Summer Water Safety Tips

As summer rolls around, a majority of activities involve being in and around water, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional death for children ages 1-14 years, and the fifth leading cause of death for people of all ages. These sobering statistics drive home the fact that water safety should be a concern no matter where you and your family enjoy the water.

So to help keep everyone safe and happy this summer, the Henry County Fire Department wants to remind everyone of the following important water safety tips.

General water safety:

- Have a phone handy. No matter where you are swimming, the ability to call 911 in an emergency could be a lifesaver.
- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It can mean the difference between life and death. In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, your CPR skills could save someone's life. CPR performed by bystanders has been shown to save lives and improve outcomes in drowning victims. The more quickly CPR is started, the better the chance of improved outcomes.
- Enroll children in swimming lessons at an early age. Risk of drowning is decreased by as much as 88 percent when children age 1-4 years old take swimming lessons. Adults can also benefit from refresher courses. Many cities have swimming lessons available through local parks and recreation programs as well as gyms with pools. You can also check with the Red Cross on registering for a swim class in your area.
- Supervise when in or around water. Designate a responsible adult to watch young children while in the bath and all children swimming or playing in or around water. Supervisors of preschool children should provide "touch supervision" meaning they are close enough to reach the child at all times. Because drowning occurs quickly and quietly, adults should not be involved in any other distracting activities (such as reading, playing cards, talking on the phone, or mowing the lawn) while supervising children, even if lifeguards are present.
- Seizure Disorder Safety. If you or a family member has a seizure disorder, provide one-on-one supervision around water, including swimming pools. Consider taking showers rather than using a bath tub for bathing. Wear life jackets when boating.
- Use only U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets. Young and inexperienced swimmers may want to use a life jacket. Do not use any sort of air-filled or foam toys. They are not designed to keep swimmers safe.
- Swim with a buddy. It's a best practice for swimmers of all ages, including adults.
- Avoid alcohol. It impairs your judgment, balance, coordination and your body's ability to stay warm. Avoid it when swimming and supervising children.
- Enter the water feet-first. Serious injuries — including paralysis — can occur from diving head first into unknown water and hitting the bottom. Enter headfirst only when the area is clearly marked for diving and has no obstructions.

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Safety Tips - continued from page 6

Swimming pools

- Secure with appropriate barriers. It is best to install a four-foot or taller fence around backyard pools and use self-closing and self-latching gates that open away from the pool. Check your county or city code requirements for specific regulations on fence height.
- Consider safety alarms. If your house opens directly into the pool area, you may want to install a door alarm or self-closing door. Using a surface wave or underwater alarm will also give you added protection from accidental falls into the pool.
- If a child is missing, always check the pool first. If a child has fallen into the pool, every second counts in preventing an accidental drowning.
- Empty portable pools when not use. Children can drown in as little as one inch of water. Make sure all portable inflatable and baby pools are drained and put away immediately after use.
- Remove toys from the pool when it is not in use. They can attract young children into the pool. It's best to keep them stored out of sight.
- Keep a safety kit handy. A first aid kit that includes a pair of scissors to cut hair, clothing, or a pool cover should be kept within reach in case of an emergency. Lifesaving equipment such life rings and reaching poles are also recommended.
- Stay away from pool drains. Limbs, hair or clothing can become entangled if a drain is faulty. If you suspect a drain may not be functioning properly, ask your pool service expert to inspect them.
- Follow posted safety rules. These usually include no running, pushing or dunking.

Oceans, lakes, and rivers

- Swim near lifeguards. The United States Lifesaving Association estimates that the chance of drowning at a beach protected by trained lifeguards is less than one in 18 million per year.
- Stay within designated swimming areas. They are usually marked by ropes or buoys and are more likely to be free of weeds, rocky underwater terrain, and other dangers.
- Beware of rip currents. They are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore that can occur at any beach with breaking waves.
- Don't swim in polluted water. Pay attention to warning flags or alerts about contaminated water. If you are unsure whether water is clean enough to swim in, it is best to avoid.
- Know your limits. Swimming in open water is much different than in a pool. Cold water, currents, and other dangerous conditions can challenge even the strongest swimmers. If you are unsure about your limits, you may want to start out slowly and not venture too far from shore.

The Henry County Fire Department wishes everyone a happy and safe summer vacation season.

For more information on water safety go to www.safekids.org/watersafety.



June 28, 2019

Henry County Libraries Lift Off to Space with Summer Reading Program



Henry County Library System

Get ready for a summer that will be out of this world! The Henry County Library System (HCLS) is pleased to present the 2019 Summer Reading Program: *A Universe of Stories*. July 16, 2019, marks the 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 Moon Landing. Take one small step or one giant leap to any of the five Henry County Library branches to participate in this space-themed Summer Reading Program. The children, young adult, and adult departments have organized a variety of free, educational, and entertaining activities throughout the summer.

Interested in a hands-on scientific experience? You won't want to miss *Out of the Box: iRobot*, a robotics demonstration that showcases how robots are used in space exploration. Attendees will watch and operate a robotic arm and learn how electronics, hydraulics, and solar energy are used to power the machine. *iRobot* will take place on:

- June 26 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cochran Library (all ages)
- June 26 at 3:00 p.m. McDonough Library (teens 13+)
- July 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Fortson Library (teens)
- July 18 at 3:30 pm at the Fairview Library (kids)
- July 19 at 4:00 pm at the Locust Grove Library (teens)

If you prefer science fiction over real-life robots, enjoy several Star Wars themed evenings. Prove that you are a Jedi with the library hosted Star Wars trivia

night on July 9 and 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Rico's Mexican Restaurant in Stockbridge. On June 27 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., all galactic rebels are invited to attend the Fortson Library's Reading Rebels night. Participants will have the chance to bowl for Stormtroopers, search for the rebel plans in a scavenger hunt and get creative with Star Wars themed crafts. Meanwhile, you can get your summer reading in by perusing and checking out one of our many Star Wars books, comics, and audiobooks at your local branch or online.

Children from birth to 5th grade can register for the *Universe of Stories* Summer Reading Program online or at your local branch. Each child will receive a reading log with the goal of completing 20 books or 10 hours reading for June and July. Completed logs will receive a certificate and prize.

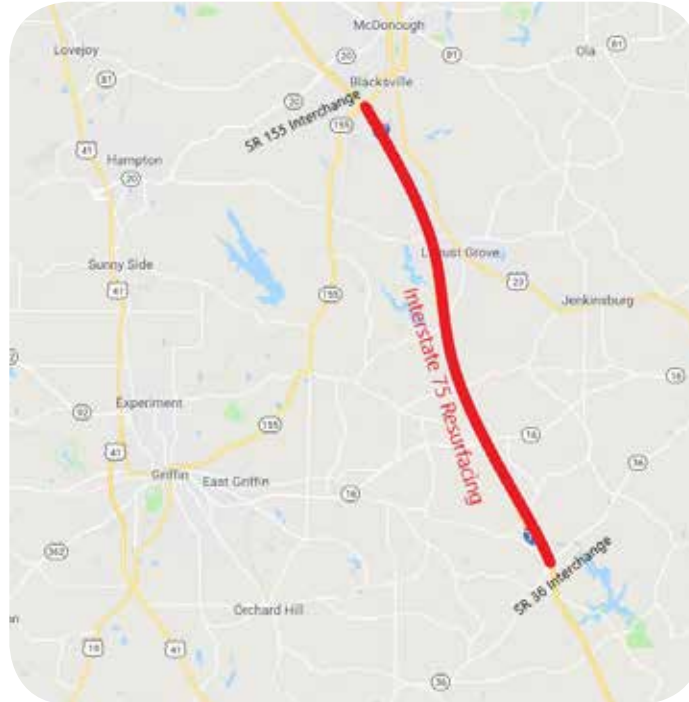
Tweens and teens from 6th to 12th grade can also participate in the Summer Reading Program. They are to explore the final frontier by checking out items at their local Henry County library branch. Whenever young adults check out items, they will receive a scratch-off ticket. Some tickets are instant winners, while others will only be entries to win the iPad grand prize (1 per branch). The more you read, the more opportunities to win.

Adults can have some intergalactic fun as well this summer. Check out our website at www.henrylibraries.org or our Facebook page, @HenryLibraries for some enjoyable adult activities like Zumba, crafts, and computer training classes.

The Henry County Library System hopes you are ready to rocket into space with us this summer! All library events are free and open to the public, though check with your local branch to check if registration is required. If you have any questions, please contact our Facebook page, @HenyLibraries or call 678-432-5353. Please join us as we promote literacy and reach for the stars.

GDOT Conducts I-75 Resurfacing Project in Henry

Henry, Butts, Spalding Counties: Major Resurfacing Project for Interstate 75 Scheduled to Start Monday, June 24th



What: This summer, the Georgia Department of Transportation will mill and resurface both northbound and southbound lanes of fifteen miles of Interstate 75 from Henry County to Spalding County.

The project will extend from the Georgia 155 interchange (exit 216) in Henry County to the Georgia 36/Jackson-Barnesville interchange (exit 201) in Spalding County. Construction crews with E. R. Snell Contractor, Inc. will start working on the southbound lanes in Henry County on Monday, Jun. 24, 2019, and will move southward as they progress. A lane closure will be installed around the work crews and signage will be placed in advance of the work zone. Crews with C. W. Matthews Contracting Company are scheduled to begin work on the northbound lanes of the project in mid-July. The entire project is expected to be completed in winter of 2019.

All work with this project will be done in overnight shifts starting at 9:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 a.m., so that the heavier daytime traffic is affected as little as

possible. Any changes to the scheduling regarding the Independence Day week will be announced in advance of the holiday.

When: All work will be done in overnight shifts from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

- Southbound lanes - work starts Monday, Jun. 24, 2019
- Northbound lanes - work scheduled to start in mid-July

Where: Interstate 75 from the Georgia 155 interchange (exit 216) in Henry County to the Georgia 36/Jackson-Barnesville interchange (exit 201) in Spalding County, Georgia. For up-to-date information regarding work zones through the state of Georgia, download the free Georgia 511 app, available free on both iDevices and Android smart devices. Call Georgia 511 for immediate help from a service professional.

Contact: Penny Brooks (706) 646-7532
District Three Communications Officer



June 28, 2019

Henry County Fire Department Encourages Safe and Fun Fourth of July Celebrations

The number of consumers using fireworks this Fourth of July is expected to reach an all-time high. Consumer fireworks cause thousands of burns and eye injuries each year and new laws governing the use of fireworks raise new concerns on behalf of the consumer.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety, along with the Henry County Fire Department, encourages consumers to use caution and review safety tips before purchasing and using fireworks.

According to the National Council on Firework's Safety, "Fireworks are the most iconic and festive way to celebrate our country's independence and there can be dangers if fireworks are used improperly." The risk of suffering an injury from the improper use of fireworks is twice as high for children ages 10 to 14. Consumer fireworks include sparklers and firecrackers.

Sparklers burn at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit; hot enough to cause third-degree burns. With recent high temperatures and dry conditions, the risk of fire increases as well as the potential for injury.

"The goal of the Henry County Fire Department is to educate the public on the safe use of fireworks by encouraging citizens to make safety their first priority," stated Captain Michael Hunnicutt. Citizens are encouraged to report any unsafe act to the fire department or police department. The following safety tips should be followed to ensure your holiday celebrations are incident free. For more information on the National Council on Firework's Safety visit <http://www.fireworkssafety.org>, or contact the Henry County Fire Department by email to discuss your community needs at fdcommunityrelations@co.henry.ga.us.



Fireworks Safety Tips:

- The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.
- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Only light fireworks on smooth, flat surfaces away from houses, dry vegetation, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks.
- In case of malfunction or fire, have a hose, bucket of water, or fire extinguisher nearby.
- Purchase fireworks from a reputable dealer and check all instructions on packaging before use.
- Check local and state laws for fireworks use in your city.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses and do not stand directly over fireworks when lighting.
- Do not hold fireworks in your hand
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trashcan away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.

HENRY COUNTY 2019 SUMMER CAMP PARKS & REC

REGISTRATION
BEGINS
APRIL 1ST
AT ANY REC CENTER
MONDAY-FRIDAY
9AM - 4PM

\$110.00
per camper
\$10.00 Discount
for each additional
child in household

MAY 28 - JULY 31

Closed
July 1-5

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 6pm

Ages 5-12 as of June 1, 2019 • Breakfast & Lunch Provided

Weekly Activities

- May 28 - May 31 Starlite Skating/ Laser Tag Play Ground
- June 3 - June 6 Wild Animal Safari/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- June 10 - June 14 Sun Trust Park Braves Game/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- June 17 - June 21 Sky Zone Trampoline Park/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- June 24 - June 28 Tiny Towne/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- July 8 - July 12 Medieval Times/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- July 15 - July 19 Georgia Aquarium/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- July 22 - July 26 Pin Strikes/ Aquatic Center Swimming
- July 29 - July 31 Aquatic Center Swimming

5 Locations

- Bear Creek Rec: 54 McDonough St. Hampton, GA 30228
- Fairview Rec: 35 Austin Rd. Stockbridge, GA 30281
- Heritage Park: 99 Lake Dow Rd. McDonough, GA 30252
- J.P. Moseley Rec: 1041 Miller's Mill Rd. Stockbridge, GA 30281
- Locust Grove Rec: 10 Cleveland St. Locust Grove, GA 30248

For more information Call 770-288-7300 or visit hcprd.org