



Paulding Post

Official Publication of Paulding County Board of Commissioners

WINTER 2016

Vendor Fair Introduces Firms to Reservoir Project

The Richland Creek Reservoir project continues to progress with a Vendor Fair in November and a contract for water quality monitoring.

About 85 vendors attended a Vendor Fair November 16 to network with the engineering and construction firms who will put work on the reservoir out for bids. Vendor opportunities will be available with the various infrastructure components that include raw water pipeline, the water treatment plant and pump stations, the reservoir and the distribution system.

Vendors attending ranged from engineering, construction, printing, landscaping, food services, cleaning and health-related services, among others. The Vendor Fair promoted work by local vendors on the 305-acre reservoir that will store more than 3 billion gallons of water piped from the Etowah River.

The Board of Commissioners in November contracted with the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) to install a water quality monitoring station required by the 404 Permit to test for flow, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and nitrates. The station will ensure that Richland Creek doesn't dry out and that its



About 85 vendors met with engineering, construction firms at Vendor Fair.

water temperature isn't affected negatively.

The USGS wanted to expand its Georgia monitoring network; a gauging station in Paulding will provide rainfall information for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, weather.com, etc.

The station will be solar-powered and

have satellite communications, so electrical lines will not be needed.

The USGS will construct the station downstream of the dam on Richland Creek at no cost to the County. The Water System will cover the annual operations and maintenance cost of about \$55,000, including equipment replacement, and \$10,000 annually for quarterly nitrate sampling.

The Water & Sewer Advisory Committee unanimously recommended the USGS proposal. USGS operates hundreds of rainfall monitoring stations in the metropolitan Atlanta area and will continuously collect data it will publish on its website.

Paulding County students are thinking about water resources. J.A. Dobbins Middle School eighth-grader Taylor Austin recently was named the County's award winner of the 2015 Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Middle School Essay Contest. And the 2016 WaterSmart WaterArt calendar features work by Paulding and Cobb Middle School students including Jamie Moon and Aaliyah Kelley from Austin Middle School, who created art depicting the value of water.

Transfer Station, Recycling Center Hours Expanded

Bring One For the Chipper Tree Recycling January 9

The Paulding County Transfer Station now has new hours of operation for disposal of solid waste, which doesn't have to include Christmas trees.

Keep Paulding Beautiful's annual Bring One for the Chipper Christmas tree recycling program is again at the Home Depot store in Hiram from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, January 9. Tree stands and decorations should be removed, and residents can pick up trees to put in lakes or ponds for fish habitat or can pick up mulch from trees processed through a grinder.

The Transfer Station at 65 County Services Lane in Dallas is closed Sundays but is accepting solid waste from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Hours at the adjoining Recycling Center are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays (closed Wednesdays and Sundays).

The County had closed the Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Thursdays during the recession, so the new hours will help homeowners and haulers.



Transfer Station fees are a minimum of \$10, or \$40 per ton. Materials not accepted include batteries, computer equipment, gas tanks, oil, wet paint and tires. The \$11.50 fee for accepting refrigerators and air conditioners can be waived with a statement from a certified professional that all Freon has been removed.

The Recycling Center accepts aluminum and steel cans, cell phones, computers, inkjet and toner, fax cartridges, corrugated cardboard, household glass, magazines, mixed paper, motor oil, newspapers, household plastics (#1, #2 only), telephone books and vehicle batteries. Passenger vehicle tires are accepted with a fee of \$3, plus \$1 if on rims (truck tires \$5).

The Recycling Center diverted 257 tons of recyclables from the solid waste stream in Fiscal Year 2015.

"The economy has improved slightly, but the recycling markets are still sluggish," says Tommy Leonard, who was named Solid Waste/Recycling Manager last May. Several paper industry vendors have closed or filed for bankruptcy, and China is no longer buying as much recycled material.

Leonard continues to serve as Executive Director of Keep Paulding Beautiful.

Dallas Acworth Highway a DOT Priority in 2016

Dallas Acworth Highway is due for significant improvements in 2016, including replacement of the two most obsolete bridges in the County and realignment of the Highway's intersection with Mt. Tabor Church Road and Frey Road.

Dallas Acworth Highway is the County's third most-traveled road, but little work has been done on it since construction in 1941. The bridges over Picketts Mill Creek and Possum Creek "are way past time for replacement," says Paulding Department of Transportation (PDOT) Director Scott Greene, citing the traffic they carry, the amount of truck traffic, their age and how narrow they are.

The two bridges also don't have weight restrictions, which is unusual for 75-year-old bridges, Greene adds.

Work on Dallas Acworth Highway will constitute the Department of Transportation's largest construction project in 2016. The new bridges will be four lanes to prepare for future road widening in a decade or so, and the projects will be staged so new lanes are built to the left and right of the existing roadway, keeping traffic flowing and avoiding the need for detours.

The existing bridges were designed for use over 50 years, while the new bridges are designed for at least 75 years. The elevation of the new road will be higher than the existing bridges, providing better visibility for drivers traveling at higher travel speeds.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) transportation funds will be used to pay for the engineering and construction for these projects.

The Board of Commissioners on December 8 approved a design contract with TranSystems Corp. to improve traffic safety where Mt. Tabor Church Road in-

tersects Dallas Acworth Highway from one side and Frey Road intersects a little farther away from the other side at bad angles, Greene said.

"Essentially, we have two 'T' intersections a short distance apart," Greene adds. "There is no room for a turn lane, and the minimal separation between the side roads affects safety. The current intersections with Mt. Tabor Church Road and Frey Road also are near a hilltop, making them more unsafe due to lack of visibility for motorists."

Greene also said that a flashing beacon installed in 2010 may have helped reduce the number of accidents temporarily, but the number of crashes is rising again. Design work will determine how to reroute traffic

while the Highway is being lowered about 5 feet to improve visibility, and Mt. Tabor Church Road and Frey Road will intersect across from each other after construction is finished.

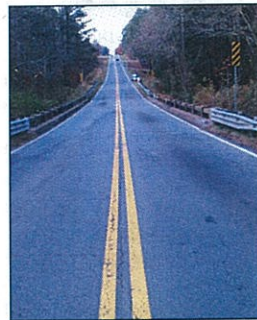
Lowering the roadway will require utility relocation, and Greene said efforts will be made to maintain traffic and utility services through construction. Dallas Acworth Highway currently carries about 16,000 vehicles daily.

The Board of Commissioners also has awarded a contract to design a right-turn lane on East Memorial Drive in Dallas so westbound vehicles can turn northbound onto Confederate Avenue without having to wait in a line of through-traffic. Greene said as many as half of the westbound vehicles turn right onto Confederate Avenue and that the project will improve traffic flow in downtown Dallas.

The County's SPLOST allocated for transportation is funding the project.



The Bill Carruth Parkway Bridge widening finishes next summer.



Improvements on Dallas Acworth Highway, left, and its bridge at Picketts Mill Creek, above, are slated for 2016.



2015 bridge work included this one on Lee Road, completed in October.



New Trail Links Veterans Park, Silver Comet at Drummond Park

Paulding Commissioners, Parks & Recreation Director Michael Justus, Paulding Chamber of Commerce President Carolyn Wright, Dallas Mayor Boyd Austin and other officials cut the ribbon to open the trail connecting the Silver Comet Trail at Tara Drummond Park with Veterans Park at Watson Government Complex. The trail built with SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) funding runs alongside Highway 278 and crosses over at Seaboard Drive. The Paulding County Department of Transportation managed the project.

Calendar

Jan. 9 - Bring One for the Chipper tree recycling, Hiram Home Depot, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jan. 9 - Dallas baseball registration begins, 9 a.m., 77-443-8110, ext. 1605.
Jan. 11 - County Libraries closed for training.
Jan. 21 - Paulding Chamber of Commerce Awards Celebration, The Centre @ Arbor Connection, Douglasville, with author and motivational speaker Eddie Williams.
Feb. 1 - 4-H Camp registration begins.
Feb. 4 - Economic Forecast by Joey Smith of University of West Georgia, Dallas First Baptist, 10 a.m.
March 5 - Spring Fling and Kite Day in the Park, White Oak Park, 12:30 registration, free.
March 7 - State of the County Address, Paulding Community Center, noon.
March 12 - Paulding County School District Fine Arts Day, Dallas Theatre.
March 12 - 4-H Horse and Pony Club Spring Fling, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tractor Supply in Dallas, food, games, pony rides, information.
March 15 - Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce for farmers market vendors, Paulding County Extension Office.
March 28 - Drama Camp registration opens at Dallas Theatre.

Board of Commissioners

Jan. 12 at 2 p.m., Jan. 26 at 7 p.m., Feb. 9 at 2 p.m., Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., March 8 at 2 p.m., March 22 at 7 p.m. (Meetings at Watson Government Complex. Work Sessions at 10 a.m. those dates).

Dallas Theatre

Chad Gibson in "Got Elvis?" Jan. 15-16; **Joe M. Turner's "Magic, Music & More!"** Feb. 5; **"High School Musical JR."** by Main Street Players, Feb. 26-18, March 4-6; **"Tellin' Tales Comedy Tour,"** March 11.

Paulding Senior Center

Wind Creek Casino Day Trip, Feb. 11, \$52; **Valentine Luncheon**, 11 a.m. Feb. 12, \$5; **New Orleans Tour**, Feb. 29-March 4. (Call 770-443-8873 for details and registration).

Paulding Chamber of Commerce

Economic Forecast by Joey Smith of the University of West Georgia, noon Feb. 4, Community/Senior Center.

Paulding Extension Service

Ag Forecast meeting, Carrollton, Jan 21; **High Tunnel Field Day**, Spreading Oaks Farm, Feb. 19 (reg. by Feb. 12); **Master Gardner** programs: **Landscape Design**, Feb. 23; **Vegetable Gardening**, 5:30 p.m. Feb. 23, Crossroads Library; **Flower Gardening**, 5:30 p.m. March 9, Crossroads Library; **Ask a Master Gardener**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 19, local garden centers; March 19, **Organic Gardening Class**, 2 p.m. March 19, New Georgia Library; **Native Trees for the Landscape**, 2 p.m. March 19, Crossroads Library.

Stokes on Assessor Board

Members of the Georgia Association of Assessing Officials have elected Paulding County Chief Appraiser James Stokes to their five-member Executive Board.

Stokes will represent the 36 counties in the North District on the Board, which is responsible for policies and scheduling ongoing classes and conferences for appraisers.

"I was proud to be nominated," said Stokes, who had not sought election. Stokes has been an appraiser for 23 years, including 19 in Paulding County.

GAAO is the primary association for tax assessors in Georgia. The Association organized in 1948 and has more than 1,600 members.



STOKES

2016 Voting Begins in March

2016 will be a busy year for voters and the Paulding County Elections Office.

your VOTE is your VOICE

February 1 is the deadline to register to cast ballots on March 1 for Presidential Primary candidates and either of two men running to fill the Post 1 Commission seat vacated by Dave Carmichael. Ron Davis and Jeremiah Fields both qualified between November 30 and December 2 for the Special Election to represent Post 1 through 2016.

Qualifying for local and state May 24 Primary races is March 7-11. Current Board of Commissioners Chairman David Austin is not seeking re-election. Former Commissioners Dave Carmichael, Post 1, and Roger Leggett, Post 2, have already filed paperwork to run for the full-time Chairman's position. Additional potential candidates have until March 11 to qualify. The next four-year term for Commission Post 1 will also be on 2016 ballots.

Other local races on 2016 Primary and General Election ballots include: Sheriff, Probate Judge, Clerk of Court, Magistrate Judge, Tax Commissioner, Coroner, Surveyor, Board of Education Districts 1, 3, 4 and At-Large, two

Georgia Senate seats, and four Georgia House of Representatives seats.

Renewal of the County SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) that funds capital (non-operations) improvements for the Paulding Department of Transportation, Parks & Recreation and Public Safety will be on the ballot in May or November.

Voters can avoid lines at the polls during the Presidential election year by requesting absentee ballots. Absentee ballots can be downloaded online at Paulding.gov under the Elections Department, or they can be requested by calling 678-224-4051. Absentee ballots may be requested 180 days before the election and returned by mail or facsimile. Voters applying for a "mail-in only" absentee ballot do not have to provide a reason for the request.

Early voting for the March Presidential Preference Primaries and the Post 1 Special Election is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. February 8-19 at the Elections Office in the Watson Government Complex with special Saturday voting at the same location February 20.

Advance voting is the week

Continued on Page 4



David Austin, Chairman, ext. 4011
Post 1 (vacant)
Todd Pownall, Post II, ext. 4007
Vernon Collett, Post III, ext. 4008
Tony Crowe, Post IV, ext. 4009

www.paulding.gov
770-443-7550



Driver Services Building on Schedule for Spring Opening

Paulding County motorists will have local access to driver services as early as next April or May.

Construction of a Paulding branch of Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) is on schedule for completion by that target date. The shell of the 7,300-square-foot building under construction on 2.5 acres near the Paulding County Courthouse is almost complete, says County Engineer Bruce Coyle.

The County completed grading, storm piping, utilities,



construction of a parking lot and other site work costing about \$750,000.

The State DDS will install furniture and computers and

train a staff of about 15 when the building is finished.

Coyle reports that the County has begun the local permitting process for the Richland

Creek Reservoir and accompanying facilities, new Water System headquarters on Macland Road, a new 911 Center and Union Park. Local permitting includes plan review by various County departments and State review of Sediment and Erosion Control plans.

Projects out for bid include ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) remodeling that will renovate restrooms and build sidewalk ramps at the Dallas Library and former Regions Bank building.

Sheriff's Deputies Have New Training Center

A law enforcement training center in Paulding that will help service surrounding law enforcement agencies will have its grand opening in January.

The Paulding County Sheriff's Office completed the first phase of its Officer Training Center in October 2014. That phase consisted of site work for the entire property, including curb and gutter, pad preparation for the office and classroom building, a 20-lane pistol firing range and several temporary classrooms in mobile homes.

The second phase begun in early 2015 constructed an up-to-date classroom/office facility that was completed in December. The 9,063-square-foot building has three classrooms with interchangeable configurations to accommodate different sizes and types of classes.

The Training Center also includes 100-yard and 200-yard sniper ranges, an obstacle course, and a shotgun range with plans for a live-fire shoot house and K-9 agility course in the coming years.

Four full-time Instructors and one part-time Instructor have offices in the Training Center, which also has a conference room and locker-room facilities for male and female employees.



The Sheriff's Office's share of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) provided just over \$1 million needed to construct the Training Center.

"This is by far the nicest building we have ever had at the Sheriff's Office," says Public Information Officer Ashley Henson.

"The Paulding County Sheriff's Office is the 17th largest Sheriff's Office in the State of Georgia, with nearly 300 employees," adds Sheriff Gary Gullede. "We have needed our own up-to-date training facility like this for many years.

"This new training facility will help keep the Detention Officers and Deputies trained with the latest legal updates, tactics and techniques and will also serve as a place where my employees can be proud to come and learn.

"This facility would not be possible if it were not for the hard work and dedication of many County employees both past and present and certainly not without the support of the community and their SPLOST dollars."

2016 Commission Meeting Schedule

Jan. 12	2 p.m.
Jan. 26	7 p.m.
Feb. 9	2 p.m.
Feb. 23	7 p.m.
March 8	2 p.m.
March 22	7 p.m.
April 12	2 p.m.
April 26	7 p.m.
May 10	2 p.m.
May 24	7 p.m.
June 14	2 p.m.
June 28	7 p.m.
July 12	2 p.m.
July 26	7 p.m.
Aug. 9	2 p.m.
Sept. 13	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	2 p.m.
Oct. 11	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	2 p.m.
Nov. 8	7 p.m.
Dec. 13	2 p.m.

Work Sessions are at 10 a.m. the day of each meeting.



The new Paulding Sheriff's Officer Training Center accommodates various sizes and types of classes.

Election

Continued from Page 3

before each election. During that week, voters can cast ballots at the Elections Office or three other locations: Mt. Tabor Park (1550 East Paulding Drive), Poplar Springs Baptist Church (2056 Hiram Douglasville Highway) and Burnt Hickory Park (8650 Cartersville Highway). Advance voting hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all four locations.

The 2016 Primary Election is May 24 and the General Election is November 8. Voters can choose either a Republican or Democratic ballot in the Primary, but they must use the same party ballot if there is a runoff.