

Inside Chattooga

C H A T T O O G A C O U N T Y
G O V E R N M E N T

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- APRIL 9 - FLOWER SHOW AT SUMMERVILLE DEPOT
- APRIL 9 - EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, DOWDY PARK
- MAY 13-15 NW GA BALLOON FESTIVAL, MENLO
- MAY 14-15 FINSTER FEST, PARADISE GARDENS

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CHATTOOGA GARDEN CLUB TO HOST FLOWER SHOW

Chattooga Garden Club will host "Steel Wheels", a Standard Flower Show, at the Summerville Depot April 8-9. Designs for the show will be staged throughout the Depot and will have a railroad theme. This will be the first flower show the club has hosted in nine years.

The flower show is open to the public on Friday, April 8 from 3:00 pm—5:30 pm and Saturday April 9 from 10 am—3 pm. Admission is free.

The show is an educational program for the public and will feature 24 designs and 36 classes of horticulture. There will be three show divisions: Design, Horticulture and Special Exhibits. The entries will

be judged on Friday morning, and prizes awarded.

"This is our first show in nine years and we are thrilled to present the public with exciting designs," says Flower Show Chairman and Chattooga Garden Club Member Fran Myers.

Chattooga Garden Club is presenting "Steel Wheels" in memory of Mrs. Betty Hyden Garner and is presenting a special show award in her name. The Betty Hyden Garner Sweepstakes Award will be awarded to the exhibitor earning the highest combined number of ribbons for Design, Horticulture, and Special Exhibits. Mrs. Garner was a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge and a faithful, lifelong

member of Chattooga Garden Club.

Chattooga Garden Club has been active in Chattooga County for over 40 years. The club has sponsored many beautification projects throughout the county over the years. One of the most recent beautification projects was the new landscaping at the Chattooga County Courthouse which commemorated the building's 100th anniversary.



Landscaping at Courthouse by Chattooga Garden Club

BENCH DEDICATION HELD

A bench honoring the memory of former Chattooga County Sheriff Ralph Kellett was placed on the front porch of the Chattooga County Sheriff's Office this month.

The memorial bench was the idea of the employees of the Chattooga County Sheriff's

Department. The money to purchase the bench was raised in a matter of hours from local attorneys and businesses.

The bench dedication ceremony was held on March 9 and was attended by family and friends of Mr. Kellett.

Mr. Kellett served as sheriff of Chattooga County for 17 years, and was a member of the Summerville-Trion Rotary Club as well as the Georgia Sheriff's Association. He was an active member of South Summerville Baptist Church and an outstanding community leader.

COUNTY WATER PROJECTS TO BEGIN

Chattooga County residents in the Gore, Subligna, Chattoogaville, Holland, Silver Hill and Cloudland areas are given until March 31 to sign up for water service at the reduced rate of \$65.00. This is the last opportunity for residents to do so, and most are taking advantage so far.

The Chattooga County Commissioner's Office has seen an increase in residents applying for a water meter over

the past two weeks. Many residents are going ahead and signing the agreement even if they plan to stay on their current well system.

The Chattooga County Water District is preparing to begin the second phase of their water project. Phase II will encompass the remaining parts of Cloudland, Chattoogaville, Holland, Silver Hill and Subligna .

The Chattooga County Water District hopes to be able to begin installation on the 37 mile project beginning May.

When the project is completed, Chattooga County Water District will be providing water service to over 3500 customers.

We are glad to see Tax Commissioner Kathy Brown doing well after her recent surgery!

"We had a lot of positive comments about the beauty of our county and the people here," says Election Superintendent Jon Payne

REGIONAL ELECTION MEETING HELD

A regional election officials meeting was hosted Thursday, March 24 in Summerville. Jointly sponsored by Chattooga and Walker counties' election officials, thirty-three people attended. The meeting included election officials from Heard, Merriweather, Coweta, Fayette, Douglas, Carroll, Paulding, Polk, Floyd, Gordon, Chat-

tooga and Walker counties.

"We've been meeting for almost 2 years now and meet in a different county each month," says Election Superintendent Jon Payne.

"Participation is voluntary, but we share ideas and find out what works for others. Many times this really helps us out. I was excited to have so many colleagues to attend. "

The speaker was Ann Hicks, Director of Elections for the office of Georgia's Secretary of State. A 34 year veteran of that office, she was appointed by Secretary of State Brian Kemp.

New legislation, questions on procedures and various problems and concerns of the counties were discussed.

COURTHOUSE PARKING

The limited parking at the Chattooga County Courthouse and Courthouse Annex is a problem for residents, especially when court is in session.

To try to alleviate some of this, the Chattooga County Sheriff's Office will be park-

ing their off-duty cruisers and employee vehicles at the Public Works Facility beginning this month, which should free up more spaces around the courthouse.

Previously, employees of the Sheriff's department parked their personal vehicles at the

Sheriff's department and in the Courthouse Annex parking lot. Off duty cruisers sat in parking spaces on the West side of the courthouse. This took up crucial spaces that could have been used by visitors to the Courthouse and Tax Office customers.

"We appreciate Sheriff Everett and Deputy Anderson's help in opening up more parking at the Courthouse," states Commissioner Jason Winters, "Hopefully we will see a difference."

2011 LEADERSHIP CHATTOOGA CLASS HELD



The first session of Leadership Chattooga was held March 15 in Summerville. Six juniors from each local high school were selected to participate in the Leadership program. Those juniors include Chattooga students Ricardo Dominguez, Stephanie Dykes,

Kenya Miller, Ryan Morrison, Matthew Pace and Cristy York. Trion juniors included Jenna Barnes, Kaleigh Humphreys, Josh Moore, Nicole Peppers, David Powell and Laurie Thompson.

The session began at the Summerville Depot where the participants were served refreshments and were welcomed to the class by Commissioner Jason Winters. Nikki Knox, Georgia EMC's Community Economic Development Consultant, spoke to the participants about the importance of leadership.

The class visited the offices of Parker Systems and Cook & Connelly downtown, then joined the Chamber of Commerce for a luncheon at the Depot.

After lunch, the students were taken to Cloudland where they toured the Brow, which some had never seen.

The class concluded their day at Howard Finster's Paradise Gardens where they were guided by the owner, Tommy Littleton, and told about the local artist. The next session will be held in April.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY CODED ALERT PROGRAM IN USE

Many Chattooga County residents are now receiving weather alerts from the CodeRED Alert system implemented by the county last year.

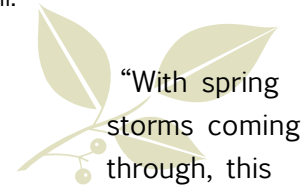
The CodeRED warning system is a unique service that automatically calls citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has

been issued by the National Weather Service. The alert calls are for weather warnings such as tornado activity, severe thunderstorms and flash floods, among others.

The CodeRED Alert System is available to all Chattooga County residents at no cost. Any phone, land or cell, with a Chattooga County billing ad-

dress will be eligible.

Any resident that wishes to sign up for the CodeRed service can visit Chattooga County's Website: www.chattoogacountyga.com or call the Chattooga County Emergency Management Agency at 706.857.0740.



"With spring storms coming through, this service is very important to our residents," says Chattooga County Commissioner Jason Winters.

REDMOND EMS TO PROVIDE COUNTY COVERAGE

In February Commissioner Jason Winters announced that Redmond EMS was selected to provide coverage in Chattooga County. "After carefully evaluating proposals from both Floyd EMS and Redmond EMS, the service agreement was awarded to Redmond. While both plans presented a good opportunity for Chattooga

County, Redmond's proposal best helps to meet our goal of reducing overall response times," Commissioner Winters stated. This coverage will begin April 1.

Redmond EMS will be providing 4 EMS units in Chattooga that will be strategically placed around the county.

Throughout the years Red-

mond and Chattooga County have been closely allied. Redmond has provided mutual aid requests, utilized the same Medical Director and the Chattooga service has utilized the Redmond pharmacy for its pharmaceutical needs.



**C H A T T O O G A C O U N T Y
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Inside Chattooga is a monthly newsletter from the Chattooga County Commissioner's office that highlights happenings from around the county.

To receive *Inside Chattooga* by email, send a message to sleekeziah@yahoo.com with *Inside Chattooga* in the message line or call the Commissioner's Office to leave your email address.

If you have an event, story or idea you would like to see in "Inside Chattooga" or would like to participate in any programs or events featured, please contact Sylvia-Lee Keziah at the Chattooga County Commissioner's Office, 706-857-0700.

S P O T L I G H T O N : S A M H A N C O C K

This month's *Inside Chattooga's* spotlight is on Chattooga County Employee Sam Hancock. Mr. Hancock works at the Chattooga County Jail and has been employed by the county for over 26 years.

Mr. Hancock is a full time employee at the jail and is in charge of stocking and ordering supplies for the jail commissary as well as all other jail supplies including inmate uniforms. He helped open the jail after it was built in 1984 when former Sheriff Gary McConnell was in office. Mr. Hancock has worked under 3 sheriffs, Gary McConnell, Ralph Kellett and current

Sheriff John Everett. Mr. Hancock feels that the key to his success is to be respectful of people, no matter what.

Mr. Hancock worked for Redford 5 & 10 stores for 30 years before he came to work for the county. He was a shareholder in that company. He joined the Sheriff's Department after the 5 & 10 closed.

Mr. Hancock has been a Chattooga County resident since 1957. He moved to Summerville from Chattanooga TN after serving 4 years in the Armed Forces. He has been married for 34 years and has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchil-

dren. One of his daughters works for the Rome Chamber of Commerce in Floyd county.

Mr. Hancock is a very active man and has no plans to retire. He is very happy with his career and states, "I've been blessed all my life. We haven't always had a whole lot, but then we've never needed a whole lot!" He says he can't retire right now, if he did his wife would give him too much work to do around the house!



Mr. Sam
Hancock