

A C C E N T

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Project TAKEcare creates 500 hygiene kits for those in need

When **Organization Development's** fall 2017 Management Skills Training class began in June, the class was asked to plan and implement a community service-learning project. Collectively, the group desired to create a program that would benefit children, elderly, and homeless residents.

After discussing a number of potential projects, the class ultimately chose to create a program called Project TAKEcare (TAKE is an acronym for The ACC Kindhearted Employees) to collect personal care items and create hygiene kits that would be distributed to community members in need.

"There was so much heart in all of the ideas," says project manager **Chadsity Young** (Housing and



The fall 2017 Management Skills Training class and volunteers from the Police Department assembled over 500 personal care kits on August 9 from donations.

Community Development). "We found a way to incorporate them all into one by providing some of the most basic items that any individual could use."

The Project TAKEcare team set up donation points in facilities

across Athens-Clarke County to collect a wide variety of personal care items. On August 9, the team gathered with other ACC and community volunteers to assemble the kits. In all, the drive netted enough items to create over 500 hygiene kits, far surpassing the group's original goal of 365 kits.

Police officers will play an important role in the distribution of the kits. Because officers in the field often interact with community members in need of basic personal care items, the majority of the kits were given to public safety officers to distribute on an as-needed basis. The remaining kits were given to the Athens Resource Center for Hope (ARCH) to use in its programs.

"Knowing that these personal care kits will be given to those who need them the most is one of the best parts," says **Mary Nelson** (Police). "The kits are another of the many ways to show that officers care about the community and its wellbeing."

Though the Management Skills Training class will come to a close, the Project TAKEcare team is hoping to keep the program going on an annual basis.

ACC named a SolSmart community

Athens-Clarke County was designated a SolSmart community by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for being one of the top 100 communities in the United States supporting the use of solar energy.

ACC was recognized for adopting programs and practices that make it faster, easier, and cheaper to implement solar. **Building Inspections** reviewed codes and adopted a process

that reduced average solar permitting costs by \$500 to \$600.

Solar panels were installed at the **Multimodal Transportation Center, Oconee Street Park &**

Ride, and Corrections' Food Preparation Facility. New solar installations are being installed at the **Streets and Drainage Facility** and the Athens Regional Library.

In support of the designation, the **Sustainability Office** will

continue to look for ways to make solar installations easier and more streamlined.

"Our goal is to advance renewable energy in a way that makes sense for our community," says Sustainability

Officer **Andrew Saunders.**

According to Saunders, 80% of all new residential rooftop solar installations in Georgia last year occurred in Athens.



Solar panel installation at the Streets & Drainage facility.



Viewpoint Manager Blaine Williams

It is the nature of government to create processes whereby human beings can provide input on what should happen in the future. Some of these deal with specific areas or community features, while others are more general in nature.

I'd like to talk briefly this month about two processes going on right now to develop new plans that are sometimes confused with each other: Envision Athens and the Comprehensive Plan. Most assuredly, these plans are not going to sit on a shelf, as both are vital to the community.

Only one of these plans is actually a Unified Government plan. The Comprehensive Plan – or Comp Plan for short – is required by Georgia every 10 years with five-year updates in-between. Think of it as 10 year plan of what the government will do to/with the community.

Planning manages the process of creating this document, which has very specific requirements as to what it must contain, as well as who can be on the Steering Committee. One of the required parts of this plan is the Service Delivery Strategy, which describes what services the Unified Government supplies to the community and how they will be delivered.

The Envision Athens process is designed to produce a broad community and economic development plan that sits above our Comp Plan and guides it. Envision Athens is a voluntary process – there was no requirement to initiate it – to

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Off the clock with Travis Newsome

Travis Newsome (Streets & Drainage) took his love for woodworking and building to the next level when he built himself a log cabin and moved into it August 1.

"I have worked with wood as a hobby for years," he says, "but I always wanted to live in something I have built."

The cabin measures 855 square feet with a 200 square foot loft overlooking a valley in Wilkes County where

Newsome grew up. There is a walk-in closet with built-in cabinets, a comfortable kitchen, and covered porches stretching the full width of the house on both front and back.

"Going into this, I thought it would be easy, but learning how to handle 400 pound logs was the easier part."



Newsome

The space is just right for Newsome and his wife and even though it's a 40-mile commute for both of them, the peacefulness of the country makes it worth it to them. "It seems like we are on vacation when we are there."

Newsome learned how to work with wood from his father. He says that the cabin represents the culmination of everything his father taught him.

The process of building and the sense of accomplishment that comes with it is rewarding to Newsome. "I'm by far a craftsman, but it makes me happy," he adds modestly.

Off the Clock features the non-work activities of ACC employees.



News & Notes

Art Passport: The **Lyndon House Arts Center** recently produced the Art Passport, a free activities booklet that gives visitors an opportunity to think more deeply about visual art and learn about the artistic life. With the booklet, visitors can experience an interactive, creative, and informative visit to the arts center.

Water festival: The Athens Water Festival is Saturday, September 9, 10:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m. at **Sandy Creek Park**. This annual family-friendly event is hosted by the **Water Conservation Office** with support from **Stormwater** and **Leisure Services**. Participants can enjoy hands-on water activities, games, sea life and other critters, and get splashed by the water trucks. There is a \$2 entry fee into the park (free for employees with ACC ID card). All festival activities are free.

Awarded: Fire & Emergency Services received the Seven Seals Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for supporting employees serving in various branches of the United States military.

Gardening Class: The next free **Cooperative Extension** gardening class is on invasive plants. Participants will learn to identify, manage, eradicate, and prevent invasive plants. It is on Wednesday, September 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Athens Regional Library. To register, email atedrow@uga.edu or call 706-613-3640.

RENT Discount: Athens-Clarke County employees may get a 20% discount on tickets for the upcoming Broadway hit RENT. The show is on Friday, September 15 at 8:00 p.m. at the Classic Center. For a link and code, visit athensclarkecounty.com/employeetix.

Retirements *(Effective Sept. 1)*



(Left)
Sylvester Jones
Public Utilities
16 years

Births

Tierra Barnes (Clerk of Superior & State Courts) - son Austin Tyler, on August 11.

Matthew Robinson (Central Services) - son Ryder Cash on August 7.

Ann Wooster (Police) - son Hudson on August 14.

Promotions *(Effective July 16)*

Police: Ian Bowen, Gregory Dickson, Joseph Geiger, Norman McFaddin III, Christopher Parker, and James M. Schultz - all Police Sergeant

Solicitor: Lauren Ellison - Senior Attorney

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take a cooperative look with all of our residents, industries, and organizations at the future of Athens-Clarke County. There is some interesting information about your community in that effort – go to www.envisionathens.com to check it out.

The result will be an overarching plan with goals and outlines to inform not only our Comp Plan, but the master plans of partners such as the hospitals, the school district, UGA, industry, and many other organizations.

Our Comp Plan has a set deadline for completion at the end of the year to send to other regional and state government entities for review. The timing of Envision Athens was purposefully set to help inform our Comp Plan

Accomplishments

Employee of the Quarter: Solid Waste: Mark Byrd.

Nathan Carson, Chase Crawford, Judi Dague, Cam Davis, Brandon Doss, Eric Eskew, Ryan Grove, Dan Holtslander, Will Jackson, Michael Sailers, Andrew Shuba, and Rod Trimm (all Fire) graduated from the 2017 Fire Academy Recruit Class in August.

Courtney Gale (Police) received the Ina Mae “Tiny” Miller Award from the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives for exceptional acts of service to her community.

Judge H. Patrick Haggard (Superior Court) has been selected as Chief Judge of the Western Circuit. The Western Circuit is comprised of Clarke and Oconee Counties.

Suki Janssen (Solid Waste) was elected as Vice-President of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Georgia Chapter.

Jacob Jones (Fire) received the 2017 Life Saving Valor Award by the Georgia State Firefighters Association. This award is presented to fire personnel who have performed a meritorious act that resulted in a life-saving event.

Judge Eric W. Norris (Superior Court) was selected to preside over the Mental Health Court.

Billy Paugh (Central Services) has earned the Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist Certification from the International Society of Arboriculture. Paugh is the first Unified Government Community Forester to earn this certification.

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Get Well

Wallace Hopp (Central Services) - mother & sister

Sympathy



service.

William Warren Chandler, Sr. (Retiree) passed away August 24. He retired from the Fire Department after 15 years of



from 1991-1997.

Tal DuVall passed away on August 30. He served District 10 as one of the first Unified Government Commissioners

Benjamin Jackson Holton (Retiree) passed away on August 19. He retired from the Police Department after 23 years of service.

Mike Fowler (Central Services) - father; **Marilyn Hall** (Public Utilities) - mother; **Michael Ritters** (Police) - mother.

so that we, in many ways, will be the first organization out of the gate to create a vision, plans, goals, and policies based on the Envision Athens process.

The is the first time that Athens-Clarke County has undertaken the kind of community-wide visioning process that Envision Athens entails to dovetail into our Comp Plan development.

I'm excited to see how we will use both in different ways to move Athens-Clarke County forward into the future. Please take the time in the future to read these plans upon their completion – they can give you some valuable insight as to how the important work that you do plugs into a bigger vision


Blaine Williams is the Manager of the Unified Government



Wellness Hero

Playing sports throughout his lifetime, **Dallas Bordon** (Solid Waste) has always considered himself healthy. It wasn't until earlier this year that he realized, through the **ACC Wellness** blood draw, that he was not as healthy as he had assumed. His blood sugar count registered as extremely elevated, which may eventually lead to a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes.

Upon diagnosis, Bordon sought help to rework his lifestyle in a healthy way. He began health coaching with Wellness

Coordinator **Kendra Houghton** and joined Wellness programs such as Healthy Hours, took part in safety meeting health sessions, and started logging activities in the ACC Well.

He learned to distinguish between proteins and carbohydrates, discovered healthy alternatives to many sweets and snacks, and began to eat smaller portions.

As a result, and with great support from his girlfriend, Bordon



Bordon

has lost 30 pounds and continues to exercise and eat healthy on a regular basis.

"If you decide to change your eating habits, stick with it," he says. "It's hard at first, but once you start seeing results you will want to keep up with it."

Bordon learned he didn't have to completely cut out foods such as ice cream and cake, but to limit their portions. He urges employees seeking help to become healthier through the help of the Wellness team and Wellness programs.

The Wellness Hero is an employee who inspires others through their use of Wellness Program



Rivers Alive clean-up set for Sep. 30

The annual Rivers Alive stream clean-up event is Saturday, September 30 from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Volunteer check-in is at Sandy Creek Nature Center at 205 Old Commerce Rd. at 8:00 a.m.

Rivers Alive in Athens is part of an ongoing statewide campaign to clean and preserve over 70,000 miles of Georgia's rivers and streams.

In 2016, 307 Rivers Alive volunteers helped collect 2.6 tons (5,150 lbs.) of trash, 0.5 tons (1,070 lbs.) of recycling, and 228 tires during the event.

To register, visit athensclarkecounty.com/riversalive.



◀ "Accomplishments" from p. 3

Mike Ryan (Building Inspections) successfully completed the residential electrical inspector certification examination.

Charlotte Sosebee (Board of Elections) was nominated as First Vice President of the Voter Registrars Association of Georgia.

Amanda Tedrow (Cooperative Extension) received the first place award in the Extension Outreach Poster Session for the Journeyman Farmer Outreach program by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Extension Agent Professional Association.

The 2017 Golf League Championship Tournament winners are **Dean Paul** (Tax Assessor) and **Blaine Williams** (Manager). The regular season winners were (A Division) **Chris Caldwell** (Finance) & **James Morris** (Central Services) and (B Division) **David Norris** & **Tim Stewart** (both Police).

ACCENT

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