

MONTHLY MANAGER'S REPORT

Monday, August 16, 2021



E911/EMA

Emergency Management assisted Cornelia Fire, Police, Water Department and Public Works with a recent drowning event. The body recovery was a multi-agency effort in conjunction with DNR, GSP, Gilmer County, Stephens County, Habersham Emergency Services, SO, Coroner and 911, and Demorest Fire. The efforts of these departments and agencies will aid in providing the grieving family closure.

Emergency Management participated in a Georgia Power Dam drill. The drill was held virtually due to the pandemic.

911 Personnel have began to see an increase in COVID cases due to the call volume received. Personnel continue to work short staffed to keep up with the volume of calls while training new personnel. The building is closed to employees only unless there is official business to handle. We will remain this way until the numbers go down again and the threat is no longer an issue.

Emergency Services Department



Fire Apparatus Calls/Responses

282 total apparatus responses
7 Structure Fire Responses
23 Motor Vehicle Collisions
3 Motor Vehicle Collisions with entrapment
2 Wilderness Rescue responses

EMS Unit Calls/Responses

636 Med Unit Calls
5 Fire related responses
8 Trauma Activations
180 Patients transported to HCMC
160 scene transports to out of county hospitals
60 transfers of patients from HCMC

Habersham County Emergency Services personnel will be outsourcing the issuance of burn permits. Currently, citizens have been calling 706-839-0579 and speaking with personnel to obtain their permit number.. Starting Monday, August 30th, 2021, citizens will be able to obtain a burn permit by calling or texting 1-844-2876 (BURN) or online at georgiaburnpermits.com. This will provide citizens with easy 24/7 accessibility while also freeing up the Emergency Services personnel for other duties.

Burn permits issued through this new method are for the burning of hand-piled vegetation/yard debris. No household garbage or man-made refuse is allowed. Agriculture, silviculture, and land-clearing burns for residential or commercial development are still required to call Georgia Forestry 1-877-652-2876, or obtain a permit online at <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/online-permits/index.cfm>.

Citizens in the city of Cornelia or Mt. Airy will continue to call the Cornelia Fire Department at 706-778-8585 and citizens in Clarkesville will continue to call the Clarkesville Fire Department at 706-754-2024 to obtain permits.

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Public Works

Road Department

- There were 172 Work Orders closed out for month of July.
- East Mize Bridge was failing due to heavy rainfall. The bridge has been repaired and wingwalls added to reduce scouring.
- The Culvert replacement project on Yeoman Lake Rd. began August 3rd. The existing pipe is far undersized causing normal headwater conditions and premature failure.
- LMIG 2021 Resurfacing project beginning. (Resurfacing 14.10 miles)
- Phase 2 of replacing street name signs is underway.

Landfill

- Dirt hauling is ongoing to cover cell 3,4,5 & 7. Dirt hauling is very difficult and slow with pans due to rocks.
- 3,278 Tons of waste received in July (~ 121 tons/day)
- 192K gallons of leachate hauled off in July. The decrease is due to the plant having been down for approximately 2 weeks.
- Finished mulching 5,000 CY of mulch. This mulch is made freely available to the public.
- Semiannual EPD inspection occurred and the landfill scored 95 out of 100.

Airport

- The aviation easement acquisition project is ongoing.
- Contract work to receive \$13k from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) is complete.
- Staff have finished closing out TOFA contract and grant.
- Airport had a record month in July for fuel sales:
- Low Lead: 4,154 Gallons
- Jet A: 8,231 Gallons



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Parks and Recreation

HCPRD has completed Summer Camp/activities and is already moving full steam ahead with fall football and cheerleading. There will be 112 Cheerleaders and 154 Football players ages ranging 5-12 participating in the North Georgia Youth Football Association this year. The league begins practice August 9th and first games will take place September 11th. Home games take place at Raider Stadium while away games take place at other high schools in the league.

Registration for Habersham Counties youth baseball and soccer associations has concluded and they will prepare for the season ahead. Youth Soccer (Rapids Futbol Club) and baseball/softball (Habersham County Youth Baseball and Softball) have been amazing associations to work with at HCPRD.

Fall Basketball for the youngsters ages 4-6 will be signing up for fall basketball until September 5th.

Animal Control

On Saturday, July 24th Habersham County Animal Care & Control (HCACC) and Planned Pethood of Georgia hosted a community outreach event that provided free veterinary care for 211 pets in Habersham County. This event was held at the Habersham County Fairgrounds and was in a “drive thru” style modeled after the COVID Vaccine site.

Funding for this event was provided by the Jim Parker Charitable Fund, which allowed HCACC to provide FREE microchips, vaccines, flea medication, and spay/neuter vouchers to residents in need. HCACC will be assisting residents in transporting pets to their spay/neuter appointments if they do not have transportation.

There was a huge turnout for this event, leading to entrants being stopped 2 hours prior because the line of participants was backed up into the road. HCACC was grateful to be able to provide this service to the citizens of Habersham County and hope to be able to do so again in the future.



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Senior Services Center

On Thursday, July 8, Carolyn Culpepper, with the Northeast Georgia Medical Center Hospice, and senior center staff member, Janna Manning, organized a trip to the Currahee Military Museum in Toccoa for veterans and their spouses. A group 11 participated in the tour, which was self guided to allow individuals plenty of time to see all the displays and read the history posted throughout. After the tour, the group was treated to lunch before returning to the center.



Monday, July 19, Volunteer Willard Ferguson held a training session on Android phone set-up and usage. His extensive knowledge was very helpful to the group who participated in this free class. Everyone said they learned something helpful about their phones and that Willard was a very patience instructor. The Senior Services Center hopes to offer additional training in the near future.



Legacy Link (area agency for aging) provides a farmer's market each year for area senior centers. Member os the senior center and meals on wheels clients are qualified and pre-registered according to various criteria. This year approximately 60 clients participated in this event. Fred produce was brought in by Mountain Earth Farms, a local farmer. Clients received \$24 worth of vouchers to select the produce they wanted. Staff from legacy Link, the Habersham County Senior Center and Mountain Earth Farms were on hand to assist the clients with their selections. This is one of the clients favorite events each year because most of them don't have gardens of their own and like they say "there's nothing like fresh produce in the summertime!"



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Elections & Voter Registration

The Habersham County Elections & Voter Registration's office has been conducting list maintenance, which entails going through the entire list of registered voters and making sure a voter registration application is on file for each vote. They are also doing list maintenance on the municipal streets lists and municipal electors lists since they have General Elections this November. Each municipality has been mailed their lists and the Elections and Voter Registration Office has received them back and have made any needed corrections. The office has also been mailing out letters and change of address forms to any municipal voter that the cities have said do not live inside their city limits. Along with all of this, they are also working on their retention schedule and getting the records room and supply room reorganized and back in order before the November 2, 2021 elections. Elections Assistant, Izac Martin, has also been conducting maintenance battery charging on the touchscreen voting equipment and PollPads.

Qualifying week will be August 16 – August 20, 2021. The election calls and qualifying period notices have been sent to the Secretary of State and advertised on the county website and in the county legal organ. The Elections & Voter Registration Office will be holding elections for all municipalities (except Tallulah Falls), a special election for the open Commission District 5 seat, and four (4) special referendum elections for package sale of distilled spirits for the Town of Alto, City of Baldwin, City of Clarksville and City of Cornelia.

Elections Supervisor Laurel Ellison and her assistant Izac Martin traveled to Atlanta for training on the election system and voting equipment. This training was provided by employees of Dominion Voting Systems and the SOS Center for Elections Systems. The classes were very informative and provided knowledge that will be beneficial for conducting the November 2, 2021 General/Special Elections and future elections to come.

Employee Recognition

Facilities Management Director Mike Bramlett was selected by his peers for special recognition in the monthly newsletters "Employee Spotlight" section. According to Bruce Coleman, some of Mr. Bramlett's best attributes are that he is "Responsive, attentive to detail and always willing to help." Mike Grizzel says "We have worked with Mike Bramlett on several projects and he has always went above and beyond to make the projects run as smooth as possible. He has a tremendous knowledge of County facilities and his knowledge helps prevent problems before they become problems. He has a very good attitude about his work, it is not just a job for him it is a mission." We thank Mike Bramlett for his hard work and dedication.

