



## HABERSHAM COUNTY

Planning and Development  
130 Jacob's Way, Suite 104, Clarkesville, GA 30523  
706-839-0210 Fax: 706-754-1761  
[www.habershamga.com](http://www.habershamga.com)

**To:** Board of Commissioners

**CC:** Tim Sims, County Manager; Brany Carnes, County Clerk

**From:** Mike Beecham, Director of Planning and Development MB

**Date:** July 11, 2025

**RE: Employee Spotlight – Mari Silva**

I want to recommend Mari Silva for the July Employee Spotlight before the Board of Commissioners.

Mari has been employed with Habersham County for about a year now and has done an excellent job for us. With her position as Permit & License Specialist, she is the primary point of contact for customers when coming to the department for permits, licenses, and the various other functions we complete. I'll touch upon the daily aspects of her position in a moment, but I want to recognize her for something outside the scope of her job.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Mari was heading to Chick-Fil-A for breakfast prior to coming into the office. When crossing the four-lane bridge over HWY 365, Mari noticed someone on the bridge who appeared to be trying to get over the edge. She called her immediate supervisor, Troy Dills, for advice on what to do. Troy called Deputy Eric Luders to advise him of the situation. Deputy Luders called Dispatch and started the action as described on the attached incident report. As you can see at 7:32:35, the responding officer stated the person was trying to get over the edge to jump. I am proud Mari was the first to call in with concerns. I imagine, given the location, there were numerous vehicles on the bridge but it was Mari that called in with concerns. This person was eventually talked down and taken off the bridge and to the hospital. This is an excellent example of an employee showing empathy for someone and doing the right thing.

In addition to the incident above, Mari has excelled in her daily job and tasks. I am constantly getting compliments on her professional demeanor and presentation to the public. Mari has been invaluable to the department and has helped lead the way in our transitioning with the online permitting and licensing system. In addition, to these department functions, Mari has been very valuable in helping our Hispanic customers given her ability to speak Spanish. This language barrier has caused problems for the department in the past which Mari has solved for us. Lastly,

other departments have asked Mari to review and modify documents and public announcements created in Spanish. She has been instrumental in helping the County serve a previously underserved population.

For these actions, I recommend Mari Silva for the July Employee Spotlight.

Please contact with any further questions or comments.