

# Dawsonville Profile

City News for the Residents of Dawsonville

Volume 15, Issue 3

March 2020

# Message from your Council Member.....

Hello, my name is John Walden and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your newest council member. I am very excited about this journey to represent the City of Dawsonville as your Council Member for Post 3. Over the years, I have served the City in different capacities as a member of the DDA and the Planning Commission.

I have lived in the Dawsonville area since 1985 and have been married to my wife, Lisa, for almost 20 years. We are blessed with three beautiful daughters, Hannah, Abigail and Gracie. I enjoy spending time with family, and currently coaching one of my daughter's 8U softball team.

As the city grows, I am excited to see all the growth and new projects going on in the city, such as the Farmers Market and Main Street Park and I am looking forward to the Food Truck Friday events starting in June. Come join me and my family to enjoy food and fellowship with the wonderful community that I live in, now represent and serve.

I would love to hear from you with ideas, comments or concerns. Please feel free to call me and we can discuss anything on your mind.



John Walden

IN A EFFORT TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION OF THE CORONAVIRUS, CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO UTILIZE OUR ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION, PAY BY PHONE BILL SERVICE, THE UTILITY PAYMENT DRIVE UP DROP BOX (located on the side of City Hall ) OR SIGN UP FOR ACH DIRECT WITHDRAWAL WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

ONLINE PAYMENTS: www.dawsonville-ga.gov

PAY BY PHONE: 1-844-611-4023

YOU WILL NEED YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND YOUR PIN NUMBER TO PAY ONLINE OR BY PHONE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THESE, PLEASE CALL CITY HALL AT 706-265-3256 AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION TO YOU.

2020 Government Meetings held at City Hall upstairs in the G.L."Pete" Gilleland Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend.

- 5:00pm Mayor & City Council Regular Mtgs: JAN 6 FEB 3 MAR 2 MAY 4 JUN 1 AUG 3 OCT 5 NOV 2 DEC 7
- 5:00pm Mayor & Council Work Sessions: FEB 17 MAR 16 APR 20 MAY 18 JUN 15 JUL 20 AUG 17 SEP 21 OCT 19 NOV 16 DEC 21
- 5:30pm Dawsonville Planning Commission: JAN 13 FEB 10 MAR 9 APR 13 MAY 11 JUN 8 JUL 13 AUG 10 SEP 14 OCT 12 NOV 9 DEC 14
- 5:30PM Historic Preservation Commission: FEB 24 APR 27 JUN 22 AUG 24 OCT 26 DEC 28
- 5:30pm Dawsonville Downtown Development Authority: JAN 27 MAY 26 JUL 27 SEP 28 NOV 23 \* Watch live on Facebook \*



Councilmember Caleb Phillips District 1

Cell (706) 968-3142



Councilmember Stephen Tolson District 2

Cell (706) 748-8005



Councilmember John Walden District 3

Cell (706) 531-6182



Councilmember Mark French District 4

Cell (706) 429-8859

#### **City Hall hours:**



#### Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: www.dawsonville-ga.gov Like us on Facebook



## A message from your City Manager......

The big news at the present time of course is response to COVID-19. We have taken a number of steps to protect our customers and personnel while limiting the spread of the virus. We have encouraged everyone, and response has been very good, to utilize ACH, online payments, pay by phone, or our convenient drop box at City Hall for payment of water/sewer/garbage bills. Applications to start or cancel utility service can be done online. Most business for the Permit Office as well as Planning and Zoning can be handled online as well. Water and sewer service will continue normal operations to ensure are systems are working a peak efficiency during this crisis. We are allowing a 60-day grace period for water and sewer bills. We are asking that citizen not attend city meetings but instead watch them via our live streaming efforts on Facebook or the recorded version on our website. Staff will continue to operate within City Hall handling phone calls, emails, processing payments, preparing work orders, and handling all other city business and in the near future, access to City Hall for applications, payments, plan reviews, business licenses, etc. may be by appointment only to protect you and our personnel. When this is implemented, you can reach us via our website, email or by phone. If you have no computer access you can call staff from the parking lot and we can allow entrance if needed. If you are without phone capabilities, you can ring the doorbell and staff will come to the door to address your need. We have also installed a box that contains routine forms, applications and other paperwork for those who don't have computer and or printer access. These forms can be filled out, payment made if necessary, and dropped in our payment drop box. The DDA Meeting scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> has been cancelled. If changes are made to other meetings, we will make that information available through our website and on social media. We are cancelling city events, including our popular Food Truck Friday, until at least June. Relay for Life has cancelled their April event and are looking to host it in the fall.

Some good news, work is finished at the Farmers Market and it is ready for business as soon as the pandemic passes. We will open limited access to Main Street Park the weekend of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please utilize caution as there is construction underway on the new bathroom. Please keep out of that area for your safety. Walking trails and green space are open for your enjoyment from 7:00 AM to sunset. Unfortunately, the playground will remain closed per physician recommendations to prevent possible contamination between children. We are closing the playground at Wallace Park adjacent to the cemetery for the same reason. Construction of the sidewalk planned along Perimeter Road from Shoal Creek to the Rain Hill subdivision should start soon as well as upgrades to our wastewater treatment plant, upgrades to our drinking water system, and paving of Angela Lane.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Bob Bolz

## **LEVI FOULKS—Treatment Plant Operator**



Our March Employee Spotlight falls on Levi Foulks, a member in our outstanding Utilities Department. As a Treatment Plant Operator, he and his teammates are charged with monitoring and maintaining operation of the city's water distribution system, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, ensuring both are in strict incompliance with all public health, environmental protection and other state and federal guidelines and requirements. They monitor effluent sewage flow to make certain the treatment plant is operating at peak efficiency. They must ensure the daily quality of our drinking water. Levi and his fellow workers make chemical, operating, maintenance and laboratory changes when appropriate. Levi and the staff of the Utility Department work 24/7/365

including responses to emergencies, such as pump failures, power outages, equipment breakdown, turbid water conditions, and malfunction of rate controllers, chlorinators and other chemical feeding equipment.

A native of Dawsonville and a graduate of DCHS, his wife Ashley, and new baby Alayna, live on the west side of the county. In his off time, Levi enjoys racing dirt bikes on his home track, racing remote controlled cars, and spending time with his family. He has worked for the city for almost three years. A previous Employee of the Month, Levi is a hard worker, dependable and committed to service. Thank you, Levi for a job well done.

Public Works Director: Trampas Hansard trampas.hansard@dawsonville-ga.gov Phone: (706) 531-6454

> Utilities Director: Gary Barr gary.barr@dawsonville-ga.gov Phone: (706) 429-6211

Planning Director: Robbie Irvin robbie.irvin@dawsonville-ga.gov (706) 265-3256

City Clerk: Beverly Banister beverly.banister@dawsonville-ga.gov (706) 265-3256

#### City Staff at your Service

City Manager: Robert D. (Bob) Bolz bob.bolz@dawsonville-ga.gov (706) 429-4524

For After-Hours Water/Sewer System Emergencies Please Call: (706) 344-2162 or (706) 429-6211

Finance Administrator: hayden.wiggins@dawsonville-ga.gov

Accounts Payable & Event Coordinator: Sara Beacham sara.beacham@dawsonville-ga.gov Utility Billing Technician: Tracy Smith tracy.smith@dawsonville-ga.gov
Pay your bill online @
www.dawsonville-ga.gov or by phone at 1-844-611-4023

Human Resources Manager/Grants: Donna Blanton donna.blanton@dawsonville-ga.gov

Customer Service/IT Specialist/ Admin Asst. Stacy Harris stacy.harris@dawsonville-ga.gov