

Conyers Connections



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From the Mayor's desk...

Spring is nearly upon us and we're eagerly preparing for a host of events and activities to welcome this season of warmer temperatures, new beginnings and rebirth.

Residents of all ages and generations love the city's St. Patrick's Day celebration. Join me on Thursday, March 17 for the festivities in historic Olde Town Conyers starting at 4:30 p.m. You're bound to have a story to recount after experiencing this unique parade, .01 mile run or enjoying the atmosphere.

Don't forget the 35th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival is a week later this year due to Easter, so be sure to schedule April 2-3 on your family calendar to attend the festival for shopping, food and fun.

Catch up in this newsletter on some exciting plans for a possible new City Hall complex in Conyers over the next few years. There's lots going on that we hope you'll keep track of online at www.conyersga.com.

Sincerely,

Randy Mills
Mayor



Jerry Gulledge Named Employee of the Year



Conyers Public Works and Transportation Superintendent Jerry Gulledge was named the recipient of the 2015 Dee Buggay Award of Excellence (Employee of the Year). Pictured left to right are Ann Gulledge, Jerry Gulledge, the award's namesake, Dee Buggay and Mayor Randy Mills.

World's Fastest Growing Parade, Shortest Endurance Run and 35th Cherry Blossom Festival Herald Spring's Arrival

Be Irish for a day in the **World's Fastest Growing St. Patrick's Day Parade** on **Thursday, March 17**, starting at 4:30 p.m. in Olde Town Conyers. Each year, citizens of

all ages join in the short, two-block walking parade to the Olde Town Pavilion. At the pavilion, enjoy refreshments, entertainment and the crowning of

the king and queen of the day's festivities. The Rotary Club of Rockdale will hold their 7th Annual World's Shortest Endurance Run from the Depot to The Pointe following the parade. Visit www.rockdalerotary.org for more information and to register. A number of Olde Town restaurants will offer Irish specials and live entertainment the weekend leading up to the parade, after the parade and fun run, so plan to explore your Irish heritage in Conyers this St. Patrick's Day!



Celebrate 35 years of pink at the **35th Annual Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival** presented by Superior Plumbing at the Georgia International Horse Park, **April 2-3** from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free with a \$5.00 parking fee per vehicle. The festival will be held rain or shine.

This annual, award-winning festival features hundreds of artists and crafter booths, cultural performances, children's activities, an international food court and more. Be one of the lucky festival-goers to find a pink kimono by participating in the festival scavenger hunt and win a fun prize!

The Ultimate Air Dog Show returns as part of the festival and new this year is the Kachunga and the Alligator Show.

Visit the festival website, www.conyerscherryblossomfest.com, for more details.



Sign up for an e-mail version of this newsletter at www.conyersga.com.



Conyers Police K-9 Eddie Recipient of Kevlar Vest

Conyers Police K-9 Eddie was recently named top dog in an online contest held by the non-profit organization Keeping K-9s in Kevlar. K-9 Eddie, a three-year-old Belgian Malinois who joined the Conyers Police Department one year ago, was nominated along with 11 other K-9s for the protective vest. Thanks to additional funding, Keeping K-9s in Kevlar will be able to outfit all 12 nominated K-9s with custom-filled SWAT vests valued at \$2,500 each.

Keeping K-9s in Kevlar is a non-profit organization co-founded by a K-9 officer in 2015 through the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office in Bellingham, Washington.

Among his many merits, K-9 Eddie was nominated for the life-saving rescue last fall of a missing 83-year-old elderly woman at Rockdale Healthcare. K-9 Eddie and his handler, Officer Myra Scruggs, are ecstatic about the new Kevlar vest that he'll soon be sporting.

Thank you to those who voted for K-9 Eddie! For news and updates on the Conyers Police Department, visit their pages on Facebook and Twitter (@ConyersPolice).



New City Hall Proposed

Conyers officials have agreed to move forward with plans to construct a new City Hall complex on property located close to the existing site on Scott Street.

Preliminary designs indicate the future complex will face Oakland Avenue north of Interstate 20 and south of Hewlett Street. City Manager Tony Lucas predicts growth and success for Olde Town with City Hall proposed in this new location.

"The redevelopment we're envisioning for the property between Olde Town in the area of Green Street and up to the proposed location for City Hall on Oakland Avenue is something that will ultimately guarantee the future of Olde Town Conyers," said Lucas.

City officials have worked previously with Heery International, a full service architectural, engineering and construction management firm, to create a City Hall master plan. Based on their analysis of previous studies, land uses and current market studies, the Oakland Avenue corridor incorporates the need for increased connectivity in which the city will work with a developer to redevelop and acquire properties needed to create a larger, more contiguous area suitable for quality development.

The City Hall building would cover approximately 28,000 square feet and preserve greenspace for a park-like setting. A mixed-use development would include total renovation of existing single-family homes and construction of new units to incorporate senior living in the area.

Stay tuned for future updates on this exciting proposal as methods of funding are being researched.

Recycle Your Cartons

Thank you for participating in the city of Conyers and Pratt Industries' recycling program. An average of 60% of city residents recycle paper, plastics, glass and cardboard each week. Pratt Industries processed and recycled 670.68 tons of recyclables in 2015. That's a significant amount of tonnage kept out of area landfills!

You can now add cartons to your list of recyclables. Cartons (milk, juice, soup, broth and wine) are accepted in your blue recycling container. Thank you for your participation in the city's recycling program.



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