

The Hall County Citizen Newsletter

January - February 2022



State of the County video offers glimpse into major projects, other initiatives

Curious about the projects and initiatives happening in your local government? Watch the 2022 State of the County video below to see what was happening in your local government in 2021 and what's to come in 2022.

**HALL COUNTY
GOVERNMENT**



**STATE OF THE COUNTY
2022**

Hall County Government Celebrates 2021 Accomplishments

Hall County Government is proud to have accomplished many things in 2021 through the vision and leadership of the Hall County Board of Commissioners and the coordination of Hall County staff.

From continuing operations amid a pandemic, to building a new fire station, to opening a revitalized park -- there were many things to celebrate in 2021.

[Click here](#) to see some of the highlights.

**Public meetings return to Government Center;
renovations ongoing**

Meetings of the Hall County Board of Commissioners and Hall County Planning Commission will once again return to the Hall County Government Center later this month. The two entities had been meeting at the Gainesville Civic Center while renovations were underway at the Hall County Government Center.



The Board of Commissioners Work Session and Planning Commission Meeting on Monday, Feb. 21 will once again be held in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room on the second floor of the Government Center, located at 2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville.

“Hall County Government would like to extend a sincere thank-you to the citizens of Hall County for their patience as we held these critically important meetings off-site throughout the latter months of 2021 and the first part of 2022,” said Jock Connell, County Administrator. “We look forward to hosting them at the Government Center once again.”

As renovations continue at the Government Center, two departments have temporarily changed locations. Citizens needing to reach Administration or Financial Services may do so via the reception desk on the 2nd floor.

Citizens are reminded that many forms of county business can be conducted [online](#) or by [phone or email](#).

Parks sees record number of registrations for upcoming season



Parks & Leisure saw another record breaking registration for youth baseball and softball for the upcoming Spring 2022 season. A total of 984 players are registered to play baseball and softball this spring. In addition, 122 volunteer coaches also signed on to participate in the program. Parks & Leisure also added a new age division to the youth baseball/softball program with the addition of a 16U age group. The next registration is slated for June for the fall baseball/softball season.

Fire Rescue staff undergoes training

Recently, 71 Hall County firefighters participated in our Fire Apparatus Operator (FAO) Development Program. This program consists of:

- A 16-hour fire ground hydraulics class that educates members on the mathematical calculations and variable factors that effect the delivery of water from available water supply systems, through our fire apparatus and ultimately onto fires to control them.
- A 30-hour practical hands-on application of fire ground hydraulics with HCFR fire apparatus which includes: over the road/defensive driving, obstacle navigation cone course, and multiple fire stream operation.
- An 18-hour practical hands on application of fire ground tasks utilizing an aerial apparatus (ladder truck), which includes rescue from multi-story buildings, and elevated large fire attack streams.



Through this program, 21 pumper and 29 aerial national professional qualification certifications were obtained. Additionally, 32 pumper and 42 aerial individuals passed the NPQ practical.

2022 Mobile Home property tax payments due April 1

Property tax payments for owners of non-homesteaded mobile homes will be due by April 1 this year as required by state law, according to the Hall County Tax Commissioner's Office.



Approximately 4,500 statements were mailed out earlier this month.

In other tax-related news, Hall County mobile home owners this year are no longer required to place a decal on their mobile home to signify payment of their property tax bill. The change comes after the passage in 2021 of Georgia Senate Bill 193, which granted counties the option to remove the decal requirement for mobile homes.

The Hall County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in August 2021 to remove the mobile home tax decal requirement following a recommendation from the Hall County Tax Commissioner's Office.

Upon purchase of a mobile home, application for a title must be made within 30 days to avoid penalties. After the seller completes the assignment on the back of the title, the new owner must bring in the title to the tax commissioner's office. The fees are \$18 per title to change ownership and a current 'tax paid' receipt (if from another county). A \$10 late fee will apply if application is not made within 30 days of purchase.

For more information, click [here](#).

Time to file for Homestead Exemptions, Personal Property Records, and more



Jan. 1 - April 1 is the time period for Hall County property owners to file for Homestead Exemptions, including the Total School Tax Exemption and 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption. This is also the time to return the Business Personal Property, Marine/Personal Watercraft or Aircraft form or sign up for or renew an Agriculture Covenant and/or file a Taxpayer Return of Real Property with the Hall County Board of Assessors Office.

Citizens are encouraged to make applications online or via email where possible. However, if necessary, citizens can schedule an appointment by calling 770-531-6720. Appointments will be available between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. In addition, appointments must be booked by 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of the requested appointment.

The Hall County Board of Tax Assessors Office is located on the first floor of the Hall County Government Center, located at 2875 Browns Bridge Road in Gainesville.

Please note that you can apply for homestead exemptions and apply for a conservation use covenants online and/or via email if necessary. Please visit hallcounty.org/239/Tax-

Assessor for more information on how to make your application. If citizens are unsure of what they should do or which exemption they should apply for, they can contact the Hall County Tax Assessors Office at 770-531-6720 or assessor@hallcounty.org for more information.

Rental Assistance Program continues

Hall County Government is accepting applications for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist Hall County residents who have been financially impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of Hall County residents have lost their jobs and are having problems paying their monthly rent,” said Hall County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Higgins. “Hall County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program will allow us to offer tangible help to tenants at risk of homelessness.”

Households in Hall County who have individuals who qualified for unemployment benefits, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic are highly encouraged to apply. Find out more [here](#).

Spotlight on Pet Adoptions



There are several adoption events lined up in the coming months that Animal Services will take part in. On March 4, Animal Services will be at the Flowery Branch PetSmart to participate in their National Adoption Week Event. There will be five dogs and five cats available for adoption. The annual Mutts on Main Event on the Gainesville Square will be held on March 26. There will also be several dogs available for adoption.

In the month of February, there were 41 animals transported to an animal rescue organization. The animals already had adoptive families lined up upon their transport.

For more information on Animal Services or for pets available for adoption, click [here](#).

Hall County welcomes new Financial Services Director

Hall County Administrator Jock Connell is pleased to announce that Wesley Geddings has been hired as the county’s new Director of Financial Services.

Geddings comes to Hall County Government from Oconee County Government, where he served as Senior Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Director before being named Finance Director in 2012.

“Wesley’s experience and leadership will only enhance the capabilities of the strong finance team currently in place, and he will be a tremendous asset to the entire organization,” said Connell.

Among his duties at Oconee County, Geddings prepared the annual budget, oversaw financial services staff, and managed the County’s procurement process.

“I look forward to working with Hall County’s Financial Services staff to provide the highest possible level of responsible stewardship to the citizens of Hall County,” he said.

Geddings received a Master of Business Administration from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Business Management & Insurance and Risk Management from the University of South Carolina. He also served in the United States Navy, where he received two Navy Commendation Medals for his

achievements and performance.

Geddings will begin his duties with Hall County on March 1.

A graphic for the 'hALL IN' pledge. At the top center is a blue surgical mask icon. Below it, the text 'hALL IN' is written in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath, a paragraph of text reads: 'Are you hALL in? Help #stopthespread of COVID-19 in Gainesville-Hall County by taking the hALL in pledge today and committing your organization to:'. Below this text are four items, each preceded by a small blue surgical mask icon: 'Wearing masks', 'Social distancing', 'Good hygiene', and 'Following directives'. At the bottom of the graphic is the website address 'wearehALLin.com' in a bold, blue font. The background of the graphic is white with faint, light blue icons of various health and safety items like gloves, a hand sanitizer bottle, a tissue box, and a person wearing a mask.

hALL IN

Are you **hALL in**? Help #stopthespread of COVID-19 in Gainesville-Hall County by taking the **hALL in pledge** today and committing your organization to:

 *Wearing masks*  *Social distancing*

 *Good hygiene*  *Following directives*

wearehALLin.com

HALL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

www.hallcounty.org