

PROJECTS UPDATES:

- **Sewer -**
In December, upgrades to two county lift stations were completed to serve the Epps Bridge commercial area
- **Water -**
The Utility Dept replaced a two inch water-main in Oak Point Subdivision
- **Upcoming Projects -**
Installation of a 16" water-main on SR186 in North High Shoals and a 16" water-main on Dials Mill Road

Oconee County Wins Inaugural "Georgia County of Excellence Award"

Chairman Melvin Davis and the Oconee County Board of Commissioners announced that Oconee County has been selected by *Georgia Trend* magazine and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) as one of eight counties in Georgia to win the inaugural "Georgia County of Excellence Award." According to ACCG President Billy Croker, the award recognizes "innovative programs that make county government more effective and efficient, that improve services for county residents, and that enhance quality of life in Georgia communities." All eight winning counties will be announced and profiled in the March 2006 edition of *Georgia Trend* magazine and

will be recognized at the ACCG Annual Meeting in Savannah April 22-26, 2006. Counties were eligible to apply based on ten different program types including Financial Management and Fiscal Policy, Cultural/Recreational Opportunities, Historic Preservation, and

The award recognizes innovative programs that make county government more effective and efficient . . . and that enhance quality of life in Georgia communities."
~ ACCG Pres. Billy Croker

Children & Youth Programs. Current Economic Development Director Matt Forshee applied on behalf of the County under the Community Planning and Economic Development/Revitalization category based on the County's realignment and expansion over the last year of the activities of the Planning Department into three focused aspects of Planning (Development Review), Economic Development and Strategic and Long Range Planning. For more information or to request a copy of the application, including the four page program detail, contact Economic Development Director Matt Forshee at (706) 769-5120 or e-mail mforshee@oconee.ga.us.

Clean & Beautiful: "Volunteer Organization Extraordinaire"



Clean & Beautiful Executive Director John McNally and Chair David Porter receive proclamation from the Oconee County Board.

On December 20, 2005 at their monthly agenda meeting, the Board of Commissioners presented a Proclamation to the Clean & Beautiful Commission in honor of its recent service awards in state and national competitions. Clean & Beautiful was chosen as the Premier Organization by *Keep Georgia Beautiful*. The national organization *Keep America Beautiful* awarded the local affiliate 2nd place in its

national competition. The Commission also qualified for the KAB President's Circle for the third consecutive year. The Board's proclamation named the Clean & Beautiful Commission a "Volunteer Organization Extraordinaire." Visit oconeecounty.com to read the text of the proclamation.

Roads and Bridges Updates:

- **Repaired -**
Tappan Spur Road
- **Repaired and resurfaced -**
Lane Creek Road - 2.1 miles
Elder Road - 2.1 miles
Cemetery Road - 0.9 miles
- **Upcoming -** Replacement of the culvert and bridge on J T Elder Road will begin as weather permits
- **Maintenance activities** are ongoing through the winter months and include scraping and gravel for dirt roads, tree limb pick-up and replacement of missing or damaged signs.

**From the Office
of the Tax Commissioner:**

- As of January 17, 95% of 2005 taxes have been collected.
- The deadline to file for a Homestead Exemption for the 2006 tax bills is March 1, 2006.

Parks & Recreation News

- Athletic programs have experienced a **26.2%** increase in participants in the last year!
- Two UGA interns are working with the department this spring: Andy Smith & Josh Brook
- Director John Gentry, deployed in Iraq since last July, was on leave for 2 weeks at the end of January to spend time with his family

Winter Programs

- Over 700 participants in our Youth and Adult Basketball Programs!
- Girls & Boys Lacrosse season has begun with over 50 participants.
- New program "Girls on the Run" has 19 girls in grades 3 - 5 enrolled!
- The Afterschool Program enrollment is at maximum capacity *again*.

Spring Registration

- Registration for spring programs begins the week of February 6
- Programs include Youth Soccer, Start Smart Soccer, Youth Volleyball, Adult Softball and Tennis.
- **Register early, we fill up fast!**

Special Events - Mark your Calendar

- Saturday, April 22 — Touch a Truck event at Heritage Park
- Sat, June 10 — Movie in the Park event at Herman C. Michael Park

For Your Information . . . New Economic Development Department

Beginning January 1, 2006, B.R. White was promoted to Director of the Planning Department and Matt Forshee became Director of the newly formed Economic Development Department whose goals will include:

- Creating a single county presence for Economic Development to coordinate all related activities within the county
- Developing a marketing plan to promote the county's potential for attracting new businesses
- Developing activities and programs to help small business and entrepreneurs succeed
- Developing an information clearing house for Site Selectors and Real Estate Professionals
- Promoting arts tourism in Oconee County

Stormwater Management

Three proposed stormwater management ordinances will be revised into one comprehensive ordinance that will establish water quality controls. These controls will apply only to the area of the county covered under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Permit — approx. 22.5 square miles. When complete, the revised ordinance will go to the public for review and comment.

Happy Valentines Day!



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on the web
www.oconeecounty.com

Code Enforcement**Activities: Sept to Dec 2005**

- 275 building permits were issued
- 1392 inspections were performed
- 28 commercial plans were reviewed (17 were remodels)
- 48 complaints were resolved

Forty individuals participated in the county's three Soil Erosion Information Sessions. Three county inspectors were certified as Soil Erosion Inspectors.

Strike Out Cancer!

On April 21, 2006, the Relay for Life of Oconee County will kick off at the Oconee County High School Stadium! The Oconee County Employees Relay Team will be raising money to help the American Cancer Society save lives. Please join us in our efforts to "strike out" the disease that touches so many lives! Your donations will help us reach our monetary goal as well as our ultimate goal of eliminating cancer. For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact Donna Norton or Gina Lindsey at (706) 769-5120.