

City newslink

cityofstockbridge.com | Spring 2017

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Smart Water Meters

The City of Stockbridge Official Position Statements

Regarding the Formation of the City of Eagle's Landing



There has been very little information compiled that justifies the viability of the proposed city; nor has any consideration been given to the devastating financial and social impact such a proposal would have upon the City of Stockbridge. It is unprecedented to remove substantial portions of areas from one proven, effective City, to place into the geographic area of an as-yet unproven, unknown city with

very little input from the people who would be affected.

In addition, one is left to question the true motive of the proponents of a new city, especially given the likelihood of such a city to impose a substantial property tax (which Stockbridge does NOT have), in addition to the existing county property tax.

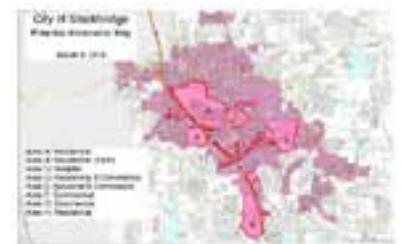
Based on the lack of information provided to the City of Stockbridge regarding formation of a new Henry County City of Eagle's Landing, and the proposed impact of the inclusion of significant portions of City of Stockbridge parcels, the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager of Stockbridge strongly oppose the proposal to establish the City of Eagle's Landing.

Regarding Defining the Boundaries of the City of Stockbridge

The City of Stockbridge is in full support of seeking to better define its boundaries to eliminate confusion concerning city limits, and to that end has a proposal currently in front of the 2017 General Assembly. We remain focused on strengthening the quality of services provided, as well as quality of life events and venues for our residents, along with offering a welcoming environment in which to do business.

As reflected in the map below, several areas proposed for annexation (A, C, D, E) are currently surrounded by City property. This proposed annexation would allow these residents to actively participate in their local municipal government, and to enjoy the benefits of the quality of services provided by the City of Stockbridge.

For more information about these topics, please visit the City website at www.cityofstockbridge.com, call City Hall at 770-389-7900 or attend a City Council meeting.



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770-389-7900

www.cityofstockbridge.com

Email: Initial of first name followed by last name @
cityofstockbridge-ga.gov (e.g. mharris@cityofstock-
bridge-ga.gov)

Mayor and Council

Judy Neal, Mayor

Anthony Ford, Mayor Pro Tem

Elton Alexander, Councilman

John Blount, Councilman

LaKeisha Gantt, Esq., Councilwoman

Neat Robinson, Councilwoman

Administration

Michael Harris, City Manager

Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

Anita Gunnoe, Clerk of Court

Vacant, Community Services Director

Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Diane Ide, Exec Asst to the City Manager/Editor

Linda Nabers, Treasurer

DaVida Robinson, Exec. Asst. to Mayor & Council

Renee Wheeler, HR Manager

Frequently Dialed

Utility Billing..... 770-389-7901

Code Enforcement 770-389-7900

Purchasing..... 678-833-3322

Occupational Tax..... 678-833-3302

Main Street..... 678-833-3306

Municipal Court..... 770-389-7906

Public Works..... 770-474-0972

Water & Sewer..... 770-474-1232

Merle Manders Conference Center,

Ted Strickland Community Center, Parks

..... 770-389-5982



STOCKBRIDGE CITY CALENDAR

All meetings are held at City Hall unless noted otherwise. Please check with City Hall at 678.833.3303 as meeting dates and times are subject to change. Council meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.cityofstockbridge.com.

March 28	6:00 pm	Council Work Session
April 10	6:00 pm	Council Meeting
April 14		City Hall Closed for Good Friday
April 25	6:00 pm	Council Work Session
May 8	6:00 pm	Council Meeting
May 30	6:00 pm	Council Work Session
June 12	6:00 pm	Council Meeting

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

City Hall E-Notifications:

Stay informed with E-Notifications at www.cityofstockbridge.com/notify.aspx

FACEBOOK



City of Stockbridge Facebook wants you to be a fan!

Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofStockbridgeGovernment>

SeeClickFix

SeeClickFix is an online and mobile app to help residents report and track non-emergency problems, such as graffiti, illegal dumping or potholes throughout Stockbridge. Visit www.cityofstockbridge.com/SeeClickFix

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Mayor's Message



*Greetings
from the
Mayor!*

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to the Atlanta Regional Quality Growth Council. While preparing my remarks, I decided that I would share some of the 'high points' with you to let you know that the City's future is bright.

Stockbridge is richly blessed with access to local, regional, national and global markets located on a trade route from Miami to Canada, and strategically located between Atlanta and the Ports of Savannah. We are within 25 minutes of Henry County's 5-Star rated Atlanta South Regional Airport, within 15 minutes of Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and only minutes into downtown Atlanta. We have easy access on and off Interstate 75 at two interchanges, as well as access to Interstate 675. By air, in less than two hours Stockbridge and 80% of the United States can connect. And most recently, congestion in our area has been reduced with the opening of the new express lanes on I-75. Access is key to our future economic development.

With the cooperation of Council, and guidance and leadership provided by our outstanding professional City staff members, our City's future development footprint is being shaped. So that you will be aware, Charlie Moseley, Director of the Henry County Development Authority. Serves as the Industrial Development recruiter for the City. Our City Economic Development Specialist position is designed to focus attention on revitalization valid redevelopment of our downtown to ensure that all of our building assets are full and vibrant. Our Main Street program and the Downtown Development Authority will also play an integral role in the downtown's redevelopment.

With strong financial decisions, coupled with austerity measures to ensure that the city has a robust 'fund' balance, while passing our 2017 (balanced) budget, suddenly we can visualize where we're going! While some big things are being discussed that could have a dynamic impact on Stockbridge and its citizens, we are identifying small projects that we can quickly accomplish using SPLOST funds to present a clean, beautiful and inviting appearance.

Also, we have identified and are keeping up-to-date with all public works projects, such as designing a new Public Works facility, installing "smart" water meters for increased efficiency, making needed improvements to our water and sewer system

infrastructure, and working on a number of beautification efforts throughout the city. Plus in the near future, quality of life plans include 10 weeks of Food Truck Tasty Tuesdays, summer concerts and movie series, a festival and other community outreach projects. Also, we've recently completed our trail study and ai-e focusing on ways to expand our existing trails.

So that we do not miss any future development or business opportunities. we have identified fiber optic as a 'must have' item. Our City Manager is arranging for experts from fiber optic companies to meet with us to showcase their services to our city. With that updated information, we can then formulate a fiber optic plan of action to position Stockbridge for new development and to service both city government and existing businesses.

As I conclude my first quarter in office, I want you to know that I welcome feedback and input from all citizens. Please feel free to bring any city matters of concern directly to me by calling the City Hall at 770.389.7900 to speak with me or to set up a time to meet with me.

Judy B. Neal
Judy B. Neal, Mayor
City of Stockbridge

Stockbridge Supports Tornado Victims

Thank you to all who brought donations to City Hall of much-needed cleaning, household and basic needs items, along with gift cards and checks to provide relief to tornado victims in both Albany and Cordele, GA during February and March.



Katie Queen (left) & Kenny Little (right) coordinated countywide drives & delivered items



Every Tuesday 9 am – 5 pm

Merle Manders Conference Center Open House
- View the facility and receive information on the perfect place to plan your special event!

April 6th 10 am – 3 pm

Youth Job Fair - Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge

April 24th – 29th

Cities Week - Great activities planned – watch the City's website and Facebook page for details!

May 29th 9 am

Memorial Day March - begins at Merle Manders Conference Center and goes to Memorial Park

Tuesdays June 6th – July 25th – 5 pm

Tasty Tuesday Food Trucks - (with the exception of July 4th) – At Clark Park.

June 15th 10 am - 3 pm

Adult Career Fair - Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge

June 17th – 6 pm

First Sounds of Summer Concert – On the City Hall Lawn



Councilman Elton Alexander

2016 was a historic year for our City - opening our library on weekends, a downtown amphitheater approved, Hwy 138 improvements and quality standards approved, Stockbridge Police Department Feasibility Study approved, and the Jodeco mixed-use development annexed! 2017 will be even greater -- thanks for allowing me to serve Stockbridge!



Councilman John Blount

I want to thank all of the citizens who continue to support our efforts in moving the city of Stockbridge forward. As we look at new and innovative ways to increase economic and quality growth, youth programs, and senior citizen programs, I know the best is yet to come. As I trust God, I believe in you, the citizens. Let's move forward together. God Bless you all.



Mayor Pro Tem Anthony S. Ford

One of our many council priorities is to enhance our downtown area by attracting new businesses, visitors, and citizens to the area for community activities or events that will bring citizens together. We will soon increase our city staff with a few individuals that will assist the Council with economic and community development. Please keep the faith as the city government moves towards a "Live, Work, Play" future for Stockbridge.



Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt

I am excited about the positive future ahead of us this year in Stockbridge. It is almost that time of the year again for the 3rd Annual Non-Profit Social Mixer, to be held on April 19th at our Merle Manders Conference Center. This provides a great opportunity for the non-profit organizations in our community to network and build a stronger outreach. There are certainly more projects on the way, which are all to better serve our citizens.



Councilwoman Neat Robinson

The new year has already started with a bang and we hit the ground running to continue being of great service for you! This season, I look forward to continue bringing Unity in the Community by having new beautification projects, and the 2nd Annual Exhibition Basketball Game-Bridging the Gap between teens and law enforcement. This is only the beginning of a great start to a great year!

From the City Manager

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated City staff and with Council approval, we accomplished multiple special projects and initiatives that extend beyond our normal scope of services. Here are just a few of our major 2016 accomplishments:

Privatization of Sanitation Services
Inclusive Playground Equipment at Memorial Park
Sidewalks for South Berry Street
Initiated design of new public works facility
Annexations (Carriage Lake/Jodeco Road)
Exercise Equipment added to Reeves Creek Trail



In addition to these projects, staff supported quality of life efforts for our citizens by offering over six months of Tasty Tuesday Food Truck events, along with BridgeFest-HispaniFest; Sounds of Summer concerts; Main Street Movie series; Back-to-School Rally; job fairs, and numerous other community events and Council initiatives.

Our Public Works Department worked diligently to beautify the City, keeping it clean, cutting the grass and adding additional litter pick-ups. Work also began on two new pump stations; and a smart water meter replacement initiative resulted in identifying a vendor partner and a project to replace existing meters and related payment/bill processes. The City's Water Department once again received recognition at the state level for their quality of work and the Storm Water Department expanded to accommodate the completion of numerous projects.

The City is once again up-to-date on our financial audits thanks to a wonderful Finance Department staff and leadership. The City Clerk's office took the lead in offering

online fillable forms and payment options. Several legal matters were resolved resulting in the return of City properties. The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Plan was completed and the City is reviewing the feasibility of instituting its own police services. The Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority and the City established a facade grant improvement program to aid in the redevelopment of our downtown area.

2016 was an extremely busy year with all the projects going on, in addition to the election of a mayor and the onboarding of three newly elected Council members. The Council and I met recently to establish our 2017 goals and this year will be equally as ambitious; stay tuned for updates. Some of the upcoming projects include: designing a new Public Works Facility; a new box culvert on Mays Road; a fiber initiative to connect all city facilities; a new citywide Branding initiative; a long-range and citywide Comprehensive Plan, and more.

Michael Harris



Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Good Friday - All collection services are normal for all customers.

Memorial Day - Services will be delayed by one day until 6/5 when normal collection resumes.

Business Spotlight

Stockbridge Veterinary Hospital Dr. Gordon Waggoner DVM, Practice Owner



In 1972 Dr. James Waggoner opened the Stockbridge Animal Hospital on Highway 42. It remains one of the City's oldest businesses and operates in the same

location today on Highway 42/North Henry Boulevard. His son, Gordon, found pleasure in joining his dad at the hospital and at a young age he would help with the kennels and with surgeries and trimmings, sharing his dad's passion for animals. After 40 years of success, Dr. James Waggoner retired in 2012.

Gordon attended the University of Georgia, obtaining a Bachelors of Science degree in 2003, followed by a degree in veterinary medicines from St. George's University in the West Indies in 2008, preparing him to take over the reins as Practice Owner of the Stockbridge Veterinary Hospital in 2013

After 45 years in business, Stockbridge Veterinary Hospital

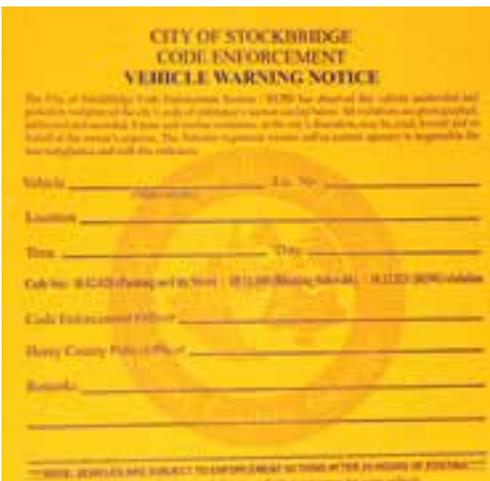
continues to be a real Stockbridge institution. In addition to Dr. Gordon Waggoner, the hospital boasts three additional Doctors of Veterinary Medicine on staff, and serves approximately 7,500 pet owners. The practice offers a variety of services to several types of animals including: surgery; dentistry; sick care; wellness care; x-rays; pharmacy; spaying and neutering; boarding, etc. Many Stockbridge residents place their trust with family pets to this center of excellence!

For more information about this business, visit www.stockbridgevet.com or call 770-474-4272.



Editor's Note: The City of Stockbridge takes pleasure in featuring a long-time Stockbridge business as a way to say "Thank you for doing business in Stockbridge - and to encourage our citizens to do business locally!" Stay tuned for future featured businesses.

Prevent Parking Tickets/Towing



On February 1, 2017 the City of Stockbridge Code Enforcement (and HCPD after hours/weekends/holidays) began affixing 4" x 4" adhesive Warning Notices to windows or windshields of vehicles parked along city streets, to include streets in communities. Subsequent violations may result in ticketing with fines, and, in the future, booting and/or towing at the owners expense. Reasonability will be afforded temporarily parked delivery, service and repair vehicles (i.e., landscapers, utility repair, home systems repairs, etc.) If you have questions about parking, call City Hall at 770-389-7900 and ask for Code Enforcement.

Don't Let One of These Ruin Your Day!

Employee Corner



Congratulations to:

Two Public Works Technicians who are both celebrating 10 year anniversaries with the City:

Code Enforcement Officer, T.D. Johnson, who was recently commended for going above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of his role.



David Shelton



Marvin Brown



L to R: Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk, ; Councilman John Blount; Officer T.D. Johnson; City Manager Michael Harris



City of Stockbridge wins “Mission Ambassador of the Year” award from Goodwill of North Georgia at their February 9th ceremony.

Historic Floyd Chapel Baptist Church Marker Ceremony



On Sunday, February 12, several state, county and city officials participated in the unveiling ceremony hosted by Stockbridge Main

Street Program of a state historic marker at Floyd Chapel Baptist Church. The church is the site of the first sermon preached by young Martin Luther King, Sr., later known as “Daddy King.” Mayor Judy Neal announced “this is truly a wonderful legacy that Stockbridge takes pride in sharing with those who visit our City.” Floyd Chapel has served the Stockbridge community since 1878. “I cannot think of a better way to celebrate Black History Month than by recognizing a national icon like Daddy King and his connections to such a valued institution in the Stockbridge Community,” said Main Street Manager, Kira Harris-Braggs

Ribbon Cuttings



Cova Beauty– January 5th
5248 North Henry Blvd, Stockbridge
678-829-3352 - Covabeauty.com



GDOT Managed Lanes– January 26th
Gov Deal, GDOT Henry County, Stockbridge Officials
I-75 Henry County-Stockbridge



Pamela Bennett Fitness– January 31st
4340 North Henry Blvd, Suite 270, Stockbridge
678-782-7707 - www.myfreestylefitness.com



CDBG Tye Street Home – February 15th
Lillie Mae Woods, Homeowner



Juwai Real Estate Academy
245 Country Club Drive, Suite 300C
678-744-6393 ~ www.bfreespeaks.com



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We Welcomed the Following New Stockbridge Businesses



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| AMBRY'S KID CLOTHES | INSPIRATIONAL HOMES, LLC | RHODA PULLUM@B3 SALON |
| CALIBER LAWNS & LANDSCAPING, LLC | JIDE | RIVERAS MONEY TRANSFER, LLC |
| CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA | JOHNNY'S NEW YORK PIZZA | RYAN BARBEE CREATIVE |
| CLEAR AUTO BROKER, INC. | JVS LEGACY PRO CLEANING SERVICES | S&R TOWING |
| CLIP AUTO INSURANCE | KATIA'S KLOSET | SHUJA AND SONS, INC. |
| DAVID JONES CPA, PC | KROWNMEFAB, LLC | SOLID GROUNDS, INC. |
| D'S VENTURE, LLC | MDR2016, LLC | STONE PIRATE, LLC |
| ECHOES OF HARMONY COUNSELING | MEDCROSS IMAGING, LLC | THE TONYA GLOVER AGENCY |
| ENNY CLEANING SERVICE | MERCER TRANSPORTATION | TOP SOURCE FOODS, LLC |
| FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES | MGM PARKING ENFORCEMENT | VISIONS OF YOU BY NITA ARIE' |
| FARMERS INSURANCE – SANDERS AGENCY | NEW AGAPE FELLOWSHIP | WELLNESS AROUND THE WORLD CHIROPRACTIC |
| HEYWOOD CONSULTING, LLC | PAMELA BENNETT FITNESS, LLC | WEKARE PLACEMENT SERVICES |
| | PARADISE ESTATE SALES | WOB FILMS |
| | PREDESTIN PROPERTIES | |



2017 Paving Projects

Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Oak Hill Terrace | Center Street to Dead End |
| Turning Point | Center Street to Cul-de-Sac |
| Willow Court | Lambert Drive to Dead End |
| Wilson Street | Wilson Avenue to Jennings Way |
| Carrie Mae Lane/
Silent Avenue | Second Street to Wilson Street |
| Payton Court | Cul-de-Sac to Cul-de-Sac |
| Whitaker Drive | Brentwood Parkway to Cul-de-Sac |
| Bruin Court | Whitaker Drive to Cul-de-Sac |
| Gresham Drive | Brentwood Parkway to Cul-de-Sac |
| Avian Forest Drive | Flippen Road to Goldfinch Way |
| Goldfinch Way | Avian Forest Drive to Cul-de-Sac |
| Sandpiper Cove | Goldfinch Way to Cul-de-Sac |
| Brambling Way | Cul-de-Sac to Cul-de-Sac |
| Summer Hill Circle | Banks Road to Summer Hill Circle |
| Inverness Avenue | US Hwy 23/GA State Route 42 to Cul-de-Sac |

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Consequences of Clogged Storm Drains

Storm Drains



The storm drains that you see on almost every street corner allow rain water to drain from city streets. They are especially important during storms when the high volume of water falling on streets would otherwise cause flooding.

Also known as catch basins, storm drains are the entryway from our streets to our rivers, lakes, and streams and represent the first step in stormwater collection. On rainy days, rainwater and anything else on the streets enter storm drains.

Clogged Storm Drains

When storm drains get clogged with recently fallen leaves and debris, water can no longer be drained from the street. Water collects along streets and can flood intersections and homes. Localized street flooding can be a hazard to the traveling public. Contrary to popular belief, pet wastes, oil and other materials dumped into catch basins do not always go to the wastewater

treatment plant, but instead may flow directly into streams and rivers. For example: dumping oil into a storm drain can have almost unthinkable consequences. If it reaches a river, lake, or stream, five quarts of oil can create a slick as large as two football fields and persist on mud or plants for six months or more.



It is important to monitor and clean catch basins to prevent street flooding, property damage, and hazards to the traveling public.

How You Can Help?

Stand on the curb and use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the catch basin. Do not attempt to remove the storm lids, only the debris collecting at the mouth of the drain. Place leaves and your yard debris in a recyclable paper bag and leave it on your curb for easy removal and recycling.

The best time to inspect the storm drain in front of your house or business is before a rain storm. Monitor and clean the catch basin in the fall when the trees are shedding their leaves. When the forecast calls for heavy rainfall or snow and ice, remove debris from the catch basin before a storm. After a storm, maintain the openings to catch basins by clearing away any snow or ice. Create a 10 to 12-inch path along the curb for melting snow and ice to drain to the catch basin.

Stormwater Complaint Hotline – 678-833-3305

Stay Safe... Use the Safe Exchange Zone!



The City of Stockbridge recently joined with other cities around the state in implementing a safe exchange site for our residents to buy or sell items via the internet. This is a proactive measure taken to afford protection and to reduce crimes associated with such encounters.

Two parking spaces, clearly marked for the purpose of meeting in a very public and secure place, are located in front of the North Henry Police Precinct.

The Police Precinct is located in the Harold L. Cochran Public Safety Center, at 4545 North Henry Blvd in Stockbridge. In addition to ease of access to the police, if necessary, the site is monitored via security cameras.

Safety Suggestions

by CPT Phillip Bratton, Sr., Commander, North Henry Police Precinct

It is a felony crime to enter the automobile of another person with the specific purpose of committing a theft or felony therein, and, upon conviction thereof shall be punishable by imprisonment for not less than one, nor more than five years, or in the discretion of the trial judge, as for a misdemeanor.

The following are some best practices you can follow to lessen the chances of becoming a victim of automobile entry:

- Never leave items in plain view within the passenger compartments.
- Park in lighted areas and areas where surveillance cameras are in operation.
- Lock Car Doors and Roll Windows Up.
- Activate your Car Alarm System.
- Never leave purchases in vehicle after shopping.

My final advice to you is to be aware of your surroundings. The thief is always watching your behavior. They are looking to see if you are applying the best practice rules. Be safe, be aware, and do not become a victim.

Announcement - Smart Meters On The Way

City of Stockbridge Water Meters Are Being Upgraded to Smart Meters

It is with great pleasure that I announce to all City of Stockbridge water customers that we are replacing your water meter with new smart meters in the very near future.

The City of Stockbridge has partnered with Ferguson Enterprises/ Mueller Systems to upgrade our water system metering infrastructure to the new Mi.Net network. The Mi.Net will automate the City's water meter reading-to-billing process by linking its meters, distribution sites, and control devices in a single data network. This technology is designed to: automate the collection of meter readings; provide customers with a better understanding of their water bills; and help with identifying leaks that result in property damage and the loss of water.

The City is installing this new infrastructure because the old meters are reaching their end of life; many of them have been in use for over 20 years. After installations are completed throughout the City, customers will have access to the Mi.Data web portal which allows customers to easily monitor their own water consumption, compare current usage to previous periods, set alerts and set budget and conservation goals. Customers will have more control over their bills, their frequency of information and the City will be able to improve customer service and operate your utilities at a greater level of efficiency.

To implement this service, Mueller Systems will be in your community over the next few months installing water meters at homes and businesses. We will notify you at least 24 hours in advance of your meter change. Residential water meters will take only a few minutes to change out which will require your water to be turned off during the process. For the system to work properly, each meter's wireless communication system must be completely installed before moving to the next, thereby influencing the schedule. Severe weather may also impact the installation schedule. We appreciate your cooperation in completing a timely installation.

What to Expect:

- Typically, installation will take place Monday thru Friday during normal business hours.
- Meter installers will be clearly identifiable as a City of Stockbridge contractor.
- Appointments are not necessary for installation and you do not need to be at home during installation as long as we have safe and clear access to your water meter.
- In most cases the replacement will take less than 30 minutes.
- You will experience a brief interruption in water services while your new water meter is being installed.
- Due to the accuracy of the new water meter, it is possible to experience higher water usage than before.

For more information about this project, please visit our web page at www.cityofstockbridge.com. You may also contact me at jbledsoe@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov or 770-474-1232.

Thank You,
Jeff Bledsoe - Water Superintendent

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WEBSITE: MERLEMANDERSCONFERENCECENTER.COM
FB: STOCKBRIDGEEVENTS

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MONDAY - THURSDAY SPECIALS