

Conyers Connections



A publication of the Department of Public Relations of the City of Conyers

Vol. 14, Issue 1

From the Mayor's desk...

What a year 2012 will be! Just in the opening month of the year we said goodbye to Marty Jones, councilman for 23 years, and welcomed Dr. John Fountain to attempt to fill Marty's shoes. We honored five notable Conyers Spirit Award recipients at the State of the City Address in January: Ben Bishop, Lonnie Fears, Jr., Darrell Huckaby, Aldren Sadler, Sr., and Cynthia Welch. The Dee Buggay Award of Excellence (Employee of the Year) was presented to GIS Manager Donna Freeman. A tone of fiscal responsibility and planned development has been set along with an emphasis on shopping and buying local to stimulate and support our local economy and businesses. Won't you help us do our part to keep business here in Conyers and Rockdale County?

Take a look at this newsletter and catch up on what's going on locally. You'll find information about upcoming community events and features about the Conyers Police Department's recertification and get to know new Councilman John Fountain.

I encourage you to get involved in Conyers in 2012. The City Council meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month in Council Chambers at 1194 Scott Street. We are eager to meet with you if you have a concern or question. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead! And remember, shop local!

Sincerely,

Randy Mills
Mayor



Mayor Mills swears in new Councilman John Fountain as his wife Carol looks on at the 2012 State of the City.

Celebrate spring with 31st annual festival, St. Patrick's Parade

Spring is making an early appearance this year and we're busy planning for the annual events that herald the arrival of the spring season.

The **World's Fastest Growing St. Patrick's Day Parade** will take place on **Friday, March 16**, starting at 4:30 p.m. in Olde Town Conyers. This Main Street Program event gains in popularity each year as citizens of all ages have the unique opportunity to join the parade in the short, two-block route to the Olde Town Pavilion. At the pavilion, enjoy refreshments, entertainment and crowning of the king and queen of the day's festivities. The Rotary Club of Conyers will hold their 1/10 Mile Fun Run from the Depot to The Pointe in Olde Town following the parade. Registration for the run is only \$20 to secure a commemorative T-shirt. A number of Olde Town restaurants will offer Irish specials and live entertainment following the parade and fun run, so plan to make an afternoon of being Irish in Olde Town Conyers!

The sight of beautiful cherry blossoms blooming throughout the community in the coming weeks will bring the **31st Annual Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival at the Georgia International Horse Park, March 24-25** 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.

The 2012 Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival was recently selected by the Embassy of Japan and the Consulate General of Japan as an event marking the "Centennial Celebration of the Gift of Cherry Trees." The year 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the gift of 3,000 cherry trees Tokyo, Japan made to the United States in 1912 as a symbol of friendship. The tradition continues with this local favorite festival.

Join the "pink out" by wearing the festival colors, pink and green, or decorate your stroller or wagon. Secret judges will be roaming the festival searching for best-dressed and best-decorated to win great prizes.

A number of other Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival-related events are also taking place during the month of March including a "Walk with Angels" eight-mile walk to raise funds for the Kimberley Chance Atkins Foundation on March 3, a Cherry Blossom Croquet Tournament and Conyers Kiwanis Club Cherry Blossom Golf Tournament on March 23. Visit the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival website, www.conyerscherryblossomfest.com, for details.

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



Conyers Police Earn State Certification

The Conyers Police Department (CPD) has achieved state certification from the Georgia Association of Chief of Police (GACP). The Georgia Law Enforcement Certification program, established by the GACP, involves an agency meeting 118 required standards that are required in order to be certified.

The Conyers Police Department lost its state certification in 2009 for not meeting all of the required standards and waited to reapply in 2011.

“Achieving state certification was an across-the-board, unified effort that required the participation of each division of the Conyers Police Department,” said Chief of Police Gene Wilson. “The dedication and attention to detail given to every aspect of the recertification process is a testament to how relevant and important it is that the Conyers Police Department be state certified by GACP.”

The CPD is applying for national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The city would undergo a strict evaluation process and interview component before learning if it achieves national accreditation in late fall.

March Vote on Sunday Sales in Conyers and Rockdale County

The Presidential Primary scheduled in Georgia on Tuesday, March 6 will also feature a vote for Sunday retail alcohol sales on ballots of Rockdale County registered voters.

Voters who reside in the city limits of Conyers will be able to cast their vote twice for Sunday retail alcohol sales: one vote on whether to allow Sunday sales in the city limits and one vote on whether to allow Sunday sales in Rockdale County.

Please be aware of these items on the ballot on March 6. For more information about the primary or a copy of the proposed ballot, contact the Rockdale County Board of Elections and Voter Registration at 770-278-7333.



City of Conyers
1184 Scott Street
Conyers, Georgia 30012
www.conyersga.com

Wear green and join us in Olde Town for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Friday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m.!

Meet City Councilman John Fountain

Councilman John Fountain is the newest elected official to join the Conyers City Council in 10 years. Councilman Fountain serves District 4 and his goals for the city include: maintaining a safe community for all, downtown revitalization and continued conservative use and management of finances.



Councilman John Fountain

A native of Conyers, Councilman Fountain has practiced dermatology since 1983, is married to his wife Carol and has two children and two grandchildren. Councilman Fountain revealed some interesting facts that we'd like to share with you to get to know him better. Enjoy!

Little known facts about Councilman Fountain: “I hold a professional soccer coaching license from U.S. Soccer. Also, travel and geography were priorities at our home when I was growing up. Consequently, I've visited all seven continents and I've been to each of the 50 states at least twice. I've been sea kayaking in Antarctica.”

If you could have lunch with a famous Conyers citizen (living or deceased), who would it be and why? “I'd like to meet the Reverend Henry Quigg. He was a Presbyterian minister who came to this country from Ireland in the late 1800s. He served my church (Conyers Presbyterian Church) and several others in the area. He had traveled the world and was apparently a great speaker.”

What's your favorite book? “I read virtually only non-fiction. *The Path Between the Seas* by David McCullough and *The Bonfire* by Marc Wortman are two fairly recent favorites.”

What's your favorite music? “I like anything from Chicago from the 60s to Adele in today's music world. My real favorite, though, is to see my son (David Fountain) perform live. I'm no longer the roadie, but I've been able to see him at places like the Knitting Factory in New York and the House of Blues in New Orleans.”