



# CITY OF CONYERS

*Celebration of Community*

*An occasional newsletter update on things we celebrate in our community  
A publication by the Department of Public Relations at the City of Conyers*

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## From the Mayor's desk...

2018 has the city of Conyers off to a running start! As your newly elected mayor, I am honored to serve this community and have enjoyed meeting many of you. I'm eager to hear your concerns and ideas on ways we can better unite and celebrate the successes in Conyers.

This newsletter is full of information that directly impacts you. Take a look at the upcoming road closure for continued improvements to an important corridor we're revitalizing, Hardin and O'Kelly streets. Connect with Conyers Police through the Nextdoor social networking service to be "in the know" of the latest in community outreach and ways you can help make Conyers safer. Meet your friends and neighbors at an outdoor movie in Olde Town Conyers this summer. And, perhaps most importantly, remember to vote on the \$13 million bond referendum when early voting begins on April 30 or on election day, Tuesday, May 22.

There's energy in the air and we're just getting started to continue improve quality of life for our residents, businesses and visitors. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Vince Evans  
Mayor



## Local Legends Remembered

At the conclusion of the city's 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Mayor Evans remembered two local legends, the late Charles Walker and Bill Spivey, former mayor and councilman, who passed away this past year and were the originators of the parade. A stepping stone has been installed near the intersection of Main and Center streets in Olde Town Conyers where the parade steps off to remember these special gentlemen.



## Bond Proposed for Retrofit of Conyers Police Department, New City Hall and Municipal Courtroom

A \$13 million bond will be on the ballot for city voters when they go to the polls on May 22. The funds will be dedicated to upgrading the Conyers Police Department and to accommodate a dedicated municipal courtroom. The bond will also include the construction of a new city hall on O'Kelly Street that will centralize and consolidate all other services and departments.

The current city hall was established in 1965 and served citizens for 23 years before expansion was required in 1988. In the 30 years since the last expansion, the city's population has doubled, as has the number of employees, causing departments to become overcrowded with no room for growth and limited storage. The bond will allow for the expansion of public safety while meeting federal mandates for enhanced security services pertaining to a dedicated courtroom.

Renderings are available for viewing on the city website and on display at Conyers City Hall, 1184 Scott Street, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. A breakdown of costs and features for the \$13 million investment is as follows:

- City Hall - \$9 million
- Parking structure at new City Hall - \$1 million
- Police Department Retrofit and Municipal Courtroom at Scott Street - \$3 million. The new courtroom would meet all federal and security guidelines.

The approval of the bond would result in an addition of approximately \$71 to an average annual \$100,000 property bill.

For more information, contact the city manager's office at 770-929-4226 or Conyers City Hall at 770-483-4411.



*Rendering by Croft and Associates of the proposed new City Hall on O'Kelly Street. A new municipal courtroom would be constructed on the site of the current City Hall at Scott Street, next door to a retrofitted Conyers Police Department.*

**Sign up for an e-mail version of this newsletter at [www.conyersga.com](http://www.conyersga.com).**



## Connect with Conyers Police Through Nextdoor

In addition to services like Nixle and Crimemapping, Conyers citizens can now interact with the Conyers Police through the social networking service Nextdoor.

Sign up for free at <https://nextdoor.com>. Encourage your neighbors to sign up, communicate, and keep current with safety information in your neighborhood!



## Gardening & Watering Tips from Conyers Stormwater

Spring has arrived! It's that time of year when things start blooming and everyone is thinking about planting beautiful flowers in their yard and planning a garden for fresh vegetables all summer. Living in the south like we do, it is always best to think ahead to the hot, dry summer months when planning a garden. Native plants are always a good choice for drought resistant plants. Below are a couple of links that are great resources when planning your spring and summer gardens:

<http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/native-plants-for-georgia/>

<http://www.ecoterrallandscape.com/html/Plantlists.htm#A>

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail?number=C943>

Keep in mind that Georgia has year-round outdoor watering requirements. Outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining residential landscapes is allowed only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. If the Georgia Environmental Protection Division declares a drought response, watering restrictions may apply. Visit [epd.georgia.gov](http://epd.georgia.gov) for more information.

## Hardin/O'Kelly Street Project: Roundabout Construction

Construction equipment, orange barrels, fencing, detour signs and road closures have greeted motorists in the vicinity of Hardin and O'Kelly streets over the past several months. The Hardin/O'Kelly Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) project is endorsed by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) as an identified activity center ideal for making a community more walkable and livable. The complete streets project enhances and modifies existing roadways to better accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, etc., by widening the roadway, constructing a roundabout, and adding bicycle lanes and sidewalks.

The LCI project length is 0.77 miles, beginning at the intersection of Hardin Street and Dogwood Drive and ending at the intersection of O'Kelly Street and Green Street. Construction began in early January. The estimated completion date for the entire project is summer 2019.

**The intersection of Oakland Avenue and O'Kelly Street will be closed beginning Monday, May 7 to construct a roundabout. The road closure and detour is tentatively scheduled for 90 days, weather permitting, through July 9.**

"The construction of the roundabout at Oakland Avenue and O'Kelly Street is integral to the overall design and functionality of the road project," said Brian Frix, P.E. Deputy Director of the city's Public Works and Transportation department. "When it's finished, citizens will more fully realize the magnitude of the enhancements and how it will simultaneously better accommodate motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in the area."

The Hardin/O'Kelly LCI project is funded through federal transportation dollars and local SPLOST funding. The cost of the project is \$3.9 million. For more information, call 770-785-6690.

## Olde Town Summer Film Series: June-August

Bring the family and relax on the lawn at Randal S. Mills City Center Park (Olde Town Pavilion) for an evening full of fun during the Olde Town Summer Film Series! Children's activities begin at 7 p.m. and the movie begins at dusk. The event is free!



Pack up the family, your dinner, snacks, lawn chairs and blankets and stake out your spot for prime movie viewing on the lawn. Concessions will be available for a charge. We appreciate our partner, Ice Days Conyers, in providing the screen and setup for the Olde Town Summer Film Series.

In 2018, we'll be showing three movies as part of the Olde Town Summer Film Series! Mark your calendar and plan to join us in Olde Town for movie viewing under the stars!

**June 16: *Peter Rabbit***  
**July 21: *Jumanji***  
**August 18: *A Wrinkle in Time***

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