

# Hydrant flushing shows need for repairs, replacements

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The City of Hiawassee set aside three days last month to flush its 201 fire hydrants spread throughout the city and county, and the results were surprising.

Of the 201 hydrants tested in the system, it was discovered that 36 require some sort of repair, and 12 others were not operational and will need to be replaced.

Taken all together, nearly a quarter of the fire hydrants on City of Hiawassee water lines were not functioning 100 percent the way they should, which Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales said was unacceptable.

The last time the hydrants were flushed was about two years ago, and moving forward, Ordiales plans to help the city develop a routine to avoid inoperable or run-down hydrants in the future.

"Fire hydrant flushing is critical to keeping water clean and moving within our pipes," said Ordiales. "We are developing a standard operating procedure to do the hydrant flushing yearly, which is great for our Water Treatment Plant, it's great for the fire department.

"It keeps everything operable. We can find out how many hydrants need to be repaired or replaced, and we can move forward with those fixes to make sure that our citizens are safe when it comes to fire safety."

The city used more than 200,000 gallons of water to flush the hydrants, and debris kicked out during the April 18 to April 20 hydrant flushing included rocks and small pebbles, which typically get into pipes during maintenance on breaks that occur in the system over time.

This is why regular hydrant flushing is so important.

"Out of 201, 48 have issues – for me, that's exceptionally high," said Ordiales. "We want to make sure that, if a firetruck comes and hooks up to one of those hydrants, that it's working, and that it's working correctly so they can do their job of putting out fires."

As highlighted by Ordiales, one of the reasons it's so important to regularly flush hydrants is because rocks in the lines can cause a firetruck's water pump to suck up debris from a hydrant.

Ordiales has direct experience with this exact problem. When she was heading up the Towns County



The City of Hiawassee flushed its 201 hydrants last month between April 18 and April 20.



Regular flushing is important in order to clear debris that may collect in the water lines leading to the city's hydrants.

Fire Corps several years ago, she had to raise funds to replace the pump in one of the county's firetrucks.

She kept this experience in mind when she became a Hiawassee City Council member at the start of 2016, which is when she wanted the city to go ahead and conduct a hydrant flushing.

"It's one of the very first things I wanted to do when I noticed that there were fire hydrants covered up with plastic bags, inoperable," said Ordiales. "I've been asking for this to be done for a year."

Ordiales became acting mayor of the City of Hiawassee following Barbara Mathis' early retirement on April 20, though she began making decisions for the city as mayor pro tem in the month leading up to Mayor Mathis' retirement, hence the

April hydrant flushing.

The city had previously taken out a loan through the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for its water meter replacement program, which ended up paving the way for replacement hydrants as well.

"We had some additional meters ordered that we were able to get credit for," said Ordiales, credit which will allow the city to purchase 13 new hydrants, to be installed as soon as they arrive. "I'm hoping that within six weeks, we can have all of this repaired."

Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Randy Warne coordinated the hydrant flushing, in conjunction with Carl Grizzle of the Water Department, as well as Reggie Roberts and Jesse Cook.

# Appalachian Shrine Club presents the 75th Annual Yaarab Shrine Circus beginning May 20th

Hey... we are going to the circus! There is a bunch of grown men acting like kids this month.

We had a great April meeting of the Appalachian Shrine Club. Plans were made and schedules were decided on to work at our 75th Annual Yaarab Shrine Circus.

The Yaarab Shrine Circus is the longest continuously produced Shrine Circus in the world. Our Potentate, Danny Huggins, has been planning and working for seven years to have the best circus ever to celebrate his term and the 75th anniversary! Danny has been working with the Tarzan Zerbinini Circus performers to have the best acts and shows available.

The Yaarab Temple has a long history with the Tarzan Zerbinini Circus. Tarzan has a great history himself. When he was 11 years old, in 1953, along with his father and uncles, they took their circus across the Sahara Desert. It was the first and only time a circus attempted that. It took 21 days to travel 1180 miles. They had to pack all the supplies and water and feed because there was no place to resupply. They didn't have a single casualty.

Tarzan came to the US in 1961. He was a lion tamer with a bit of a different act than had been seen in the states. He didn't wear a military uniform and carry a gun and whip and chair. The fact is he didn't carry anything and he wore a loin cloth... just like that other Tarzan did. He controlled the lions and tigers with his voice and body movements.

In 1967, in a performance in Cleveland, OH, Tarzan was attacked by an 800 pound lion. Suffering from wounds requiring over 500 stitches and a broken arm, Tarzan returned to the ring the very next day.

Every night he was required to return to the hospital for antibiotic treatment.

You talk about a circus! This is the one to see.



(L-R): Larry Wood, Ray Parson, Carl Jackson

The circus starts Saturday, May 20th and runs thru the 29th, Memorial Day. The 20th is Master Mason Day. Any Master Mason and his family of 4 is admitted free. At 4 PM the Georgia Grand Master will be the Honorary Ring Master.

Tuesday 23rd is Carload Tuesday. A carload of up to 7 people gets admission to the circus plus free parking and armbands that give you unlimited rides on our gigantic Midway for 50 dollars. Thursday the 25th is First Responders day. Admission is free for any EMT-Fireman-Police Officer with a family of four.

You will see the world's largest Indian Elephant. His name is - guess what - Tarzan. This is his last year to perform his act. He will be retiring to a farm in Florida just for retired animals of the Zerbinini circus. You will be amazed by tigers, camels, sea lions, alligators, and magicians and much-much more. Of course, the Yaarab Shrine Clowns will be all over the place and be performing in the ring.

The midway is fantastic. There are rides that will keep the children of all ages talking for months. We have a large enclosed Flea Market that you can find all sorts of treasures.

Something for everybody!

The Appalachian Shrine Club's very own temple liaison, Oriental Guide Dennis Davidson, will be in the big top working as the pre-show Ringmaster. He is a very important part of our club and loads of help to us. If you get a chance stop by and say hello to him. Be sure and let him know you are from Union/Towns County.

The 75th Annual Yaarab Shrine Circus is the largest and Oldest Shrine Circus in the World. It is a great celebration of family fun. It will make memories for you and your family that will never be forgotten. It has the security of several different Law enforcement agencies from the metro area as well as the Yaarab Provost Guard. Our goal is for you to have a super safe fun day that you will always remember.

So... come one and come all to the 75th Yaarab Circus and Fair May 20th through May 29th at the Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road Marietta, GA. Tickets can be purchased at the gate. We can't wait to see you there!

If you know of a child we can help call 800-237-5055 or tell any Shriner or call Larry at 706-973-0289. NT(May17,21)CA

## A Big Kentucky Derby thank you from S.A.F.E.



Kentucky Derby Party for S.A.F.E. participants

S.A.F.E. would like to extend a great big thank you to all who participated in the 2nd annual Kentucky Derby Party. Despite the torrential down-pour outside it was all bright skies in the Union County Community Center! From the silent auction, our "prettiest hat contest," the delicious food provided by Amazing Grace Catering and awesome music by "Rewind", it was a wonderful evening with the 2 minutes of the Kentucky Derby race as the finale! We thank all those who participated and gave of their time and energy, those who donated items and those who came out and set up and cleaned up. So much goes into planning and preparing and "making it happen". We could not have done this without you all. We want to say thank you again for your support during this event and all you do all year long! S.A.F.E. appreciates all you do.

Sponsors: Unity Church of the Mountains; Persaud Jewelers; InnerSpeak with Jean Adrienne; Dr. Andrew Z. Lineal Chiropractic Arts; Blairsville Picker's Barn Consignment Mall; Nancy Sanford; General Supply; Pappy's County Store; L&M Furniture & Treasures.

Thank you also to: Debbie Vaughn with Lady Raven Designs; Robin Bird Smith; Jennifer Pfund; Nottely Marina; Seasons Flurries; Georgia Horse Racing Coalition; TATA On Main; Ingles Grocery; Amazing Grace Catering; Union County Community Center; Carol Demme the Lawn Jockey Lady; Travis Adams; Vera Gage; Mayfair Sa-

## New Narcotics Anonymous group

A new open Narcotics Anonymous group called "Hardcore" has started meeting every Tuesday night from 6-7 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Blairsville. For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 1-888-947-7262.

## Flag...from Page 1A

the courthouse can be given to Towns County GOP Secretary Scott Ledford.

Ledford is an attorney who travels quite a bit for his job, which is how he came to notice several years ago that, in his travels within the four-county Enotah Judicial Circuit, Towns County government buildings conspicuously lacked the state flag.

At the time, Ledford approached the Towns County Commissioner's Office about hanging a Georgia flag outside the Towns County Courthouse, but the conventional wisdom, which stands to this day, was that it was proper to fly only two flags on a flagpole.

This presented a particular problem for the courthouse flagpole, since it was already flying the American flag and POW/MIA flag, both of which are very important to the county and the country.

Coupled with the fact that there was already a state flag on display inside the courthouse, and that two flags were all that could go up a flagpole, the idea went dormant for some time.

Then, after Cliff Bradshaw was elected sole commissioner last November, Ledford figured he'd give the idea another go, and he approached Commissioner Bradshaw about hanging the



A view of the flag hanging on the outside of the Towns County Courthouse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Georgia flag.

Bradshaw agreed with the previous assessment that it would be inappropriate to hang a third flag on the flagpole, but he did say that he still wanted to fly the flag.

So, a compromise was born – Bradshaw would hang the flag on a wall-mounted flagpole affixed to the exterior of the building.

Now, the recently installed state flag looks right at home hanging outside the main entrance to the Towns County Courthouse, almost like it has always been there. And in the evenings, the outdoor lighting of the courthouse casts the flag in a particularly stately light.

"It's something that belongs here," said Mark Wolchko, chairman of the Towns County Republican Party, with Ledford adding that "this is past due – it should have happened a long time ago."

Continued Ledford: "It's a good day when the Republican Party can save the county some money, buy them a flag, and do something good for the county all the way around."

Betsy Young, vice chair of the Towns GOP, and Betty Phillips attended the flag presentation at Commissioner Bradshaw's Office.

Phillips said that it was a shame the state flag had never flown at the courthouse, even when Towns County's own Zell Miller was governor of Georgia.

Commissioner Bradshaw, for his part, was glad to be able to finally get the state flag up and flying.

"My first reaction was excitement to put up the Georgia flag," said Bradshaw, on when he was approached by Ledford initially. "We are in Georgia and we love our state, and we want to represent it like we should."

## All Towns County voters urged to attend Republican meeting

The Republican Party of Towns County invites all Towns County voters to a very important meeting Thursday, May 25. We will be featuring Mr. Scott Ledford and Mr. Rob Murray, two Republican members of the Towns County Election Board, who will explain the voting precinct changes and the new voting

procedures. Every Towns County voter is urged to attend the Thursday, May 25 meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. at Brother's Restaurant (706) 379-1272.

Don't miss this important meeting about the new voting precincts and voting procedures. T(May17,G1)SH