

SKY VALLEY TIMES

MAY, 2023

REMINDERS

If you need the Sky Valley Police Department:

Emergency: Call 911



Non-Emergency: Call 706-782-7777

By calling these numbers, the Sky Valley Police Department is dispatched. The response time will be the same as it was before. For the safety of this department and to follow proper protocol, this procedure must be followed.

SKY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB SPECIAL EVENT

The Sky Valley Garden Club is honored to announce that world-renowned floral designer Jane Godshalk will be at Sky Valley Country Club on July 27th for a presentation sponsored by Sherman Blair and the Garden Club. Jane has received numerous awards and represented the U.S. as a demonstrator at the World Flower Show in Dublin with an audience representing 32 different countries.

She has been certified in European Floral Design from Stoas University in Den Bosch, Netherlands, and received a teaching certificate from Japan for Sogetsu, Japanese design.

WELCOME BACK!

SKY VALLEY PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

SVPOA WELCOME BACK PARTY - will be held on Sunday, June 11 at 6 pm at the Sky Valley Country Club. POA Members are invited to attend. Make reservations by June 2. RSVP to guess_grace@hotmail.com. She will email your confirmation. Cancellations must be received by Thursday, June 8, or you will be asked to pay for your meal. Food cost is \$30 per person for members, \$45 per person for guests. Please pay SVPOA at the door with cash or check. Pay the Country Club for bar beverages and corkage fees.

Pancake Breakfast - Monday, July 3rd 8am - 10am at the Pavilion \$10 12 years & up, \$5 ages 5-11, No charge 4 years or under Cash or Check only.

SVPOA Meeting Wednesday, June 21 at 3pm at the Sky Valley Country Club Program - Abraham Lincoln portrayal by Don Germano

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

Please come and support Food Truck Fridays at Sky Valley City Hall this summer. We are excited to have these vendors scheduled. Let's keep this new tradition going--Come buy lunches 11 am -2 pm

- 6/2 Southern Soul BBQ & Catering
- 6/9 Bone Apple Teeth
- 6/16 Southern Soul BBQ & Catering
- 6/23 Park Lounge 10
- 6/30 Blue Hound BBQ and more



LITERARY CLUB

Cheryl Beckert has made arrangements for the Club's three Literary Luncheons with the authors to present their new novels. On June 20th, Annabel Monaghan will discuss her novel, Same Time Next Summer.

Please make your RSVPs to the club at rsvp@skyvalleycountryclub.com.

JUNE LITERARI BOOKWORMS

The next meeting of the Literati Bookworms will be June 29th at noon at the Sky Valley Country Club. The Reading List, the debut novel by Sara Nisha Adams, will be discussed with Grace Guest leading the panel. To reserve your spot, contact rsvp@skyvalleycountryclub.com.

SKY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB JUNE EVENT

The next meeting of the Sky Valley Garden Club is Wednesday, June 28th, at the Sky Valley Country Club at 10:00 AM. Cost is \$25.00, cash or check, with optional donation for raffle tickets to benefit scholarships and beautification. The speaker is Linda Barden with the Rabun County Historical Society. She will discuss the study of "Environmental Catastrophe in Rabun County"; which is an expose of events at the turn of the 20th century when lands in Rabun County had been clear-cut, creating a major environmental disaster, and the resulting initiatives taken to create the forest lands we have today.

To make a reservation or for information on joining, RSVP to skyvalleygardenclub@outlook.com.

SKY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB JUNE EVENT

The Sky Valley Garden Club is sponsoring a workshop on June 14th sponsored by member Beckie Harrison, at the Sky Valley Country Club Lakeside Room at 1:00 PM, and will open to all. Cost is \$30-35. A patriotic swag runner or candle ring will be made. All ribbons and accessories will be supplied and ready for use. To register, contact

ADMINISTRATION

From the Desk of City Manager, Jason Streetman

Hello residents and visitors of Sky Valley. As I sit at my desk to write this month's edition of the Sky Valley Times- May is almost over and we are entering the halfway mark of the calendar year. As a boy, I can remember the "old timers" say how fast time flies as I get closer to becoming a old timer myself- It is so true!!! May is a wonderful month and before it comes to an end- below are key dates in May.

- **May 1 is May Day.** It marks the return of spring and folks celebrate by bringing in branches of forsythia, lilacs, or other flowering shrubs from their region. **May Day is also "Lei Day"** in Hawaii. Leis are garlands or wreaths that are often made with native Hawaiian flowers such as plumeria. Nowadays, they are given as a symbol of greeting, farewell, celebration, and as an honor and in the spirit of aloha in Hawaiian culture.
- **May 5 is Cinco de Mayo** ("The Fifth of May"). This day celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo is also a great time to learn about Mexican history, culture, and their delicious dishes.
- **May 14 is Mother's Day**—In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's day. An important date for sure.
- **May 20 is Armed Forces Day**, a day to honor all those who serve in all branches of the United States military and can be seen a leadup to Memorial Day later in the month.
- **May 22 is National Maritime Day.** Created in commemoration of the first transoceanic voyage via steamboat (completed by the U.S.S. Savannah in 1819), this holiday recognizes the efforts of the U.S. merchant marine during both war and peace.
- **May 29 (2023) Memorial Day**—originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day was started as a way to pay tribute to those who died during the Civil War and was celebrated on May 30 of every year. In 1968, Congress confirmed the last Monday in May as Memorial Day, made it a Federal Holiday and it went into full force in 1971.

As we get into June, we are seeing more and more of our seasonal folks returning and an overall bustle of visitors who come to enjoy all that Sky Valley is.

Please remember that the summer months are the time of year that we do a lot of public works projects and with increases in our population numbers can increase the chances of needing public safety. Be safe everyone.

Finally, I want to introduce everyone to our summer intern - Ms. Yuliia Poplavska. Yuliia is originally from Ukraine and is working to enhance the City's online and media presence as well as help to bolster her marketing portfolio. She has been with the City now for about two (2) weeks and has already played a big part in the success of the recent new City Hall grand opening and the planning of the annual Independence Day celebration upcoming. If you get the chance, stop by and say hello and introduce yourself.

Thank you.
Jason

The latest Ad Valorem Tax Report will follow this newsletter.

MAYORAL COMMENTS

From the Desk of Mayor Hollie Steil



Your Council and I continue to work hard to make us an even better mountain municipality!

The Grand Opening of our New City Hall Facility

- The Grand Opening of our new City Hall Facility was a fantastic success. Thank you to all that took the time out of their day to attend. We had a large crowd who toured the new facility and remarked how much they loved our new City Hall/Visitor Center/Council and Court Meeting Room. The new Digital Kiosk was a hit!
- Rick Story from Forward Rabun lead the "ribbon cutting" ceremony. Representatives from the Clayton Tribune were present taking pictures and interviewing many of the people present for the opening. Council Members and I enjoyed welcoming and visiting with all the people attending our Grand Opening.
- The refreshments and "visitor gifts" were well received. Thank you, Trudy Evans and Jeannette Brand, for all your help with the refreshments. Thank you to the Sky Valley Marketing Committee for your help with the visitor gift bags.
- The Grand Opening's Food Truck was very busy and happy people were seen as they consumed their food truck goodies. The day's picnic experience was helped by good food, nice weather, and new picnic tables.
- Thank you, Jason Streetman, Sherron Van Camp, Karen Fleming, Monica Blalock, and Yuliia Poplavska (our new Intern from Ukraine), and Jerry Shope (who shuttled people parked at the old city hall to the event) for all you did to make this a success.
- If you did not get to attend the Grand Opening, PLEASE come by, and see the new facility and visit with our fantastic City Hall staff.

Food Truck Fridays

Our first Food Truck experiment was a DELICIOUS SUCCESS! Please check the Sky Valley Website, watch for the "FOOD TRUCK" signs around the city, check our Sky Valley social media posts, or call City Hall to find out the food Truck Friday schedule. We hope you will enjoy coming to City Hall for lunch on Food Truck Fridays.



New Pickle Ball Wind Screen

- The city has installed a new wind screen on our Pickle Ball Courts. Check it out!

The Road Cleaners

- Thank you goes to Bruce and Cathy Turner and Ed Steil for removing trash on Mud Creek Road!

Special Projects Committee planning our Independence Day Events

- The Special Projects Committee will be meeting soon to continue planning for our Independence Day Events (which will be held on July 3rd) . This is going to be the 20th year Sky Valley has had this celebration.
- Information about these events will be sent out SOON! We cannot wait to see the floats and parade entries.
- We will be asking for volunteers to help with the festivities. We want to make this the BEST Independence Day Celebration ever!

Planning and Zoning Commission

- The P&Z Commission continues to work on our new Short Term Rental Ordinance. Our City Attorney is editing the latest ordinance draft which will be presented to Sky Valley soon.

These are exciting times and great things are happening in Sky Valley!

Hollie

CODE ENFORCER/BUILDING INSPECTOR

From the Desk of Jim Pyburn, Building Inspector

The office of Building Inspections & Code Enforcement has re-located. Our new location is in back of the former City Hall at 3444 Highway 246. We are now in the former police station office.

As a reminder, building permit applications can be obtained at the new City Hall, 3608 Highway 246 or online at: <https://skyvalleyga.com/building-permits/>.

With so many new and seasonal residents not familiar with our building permit ordinance or as a refresher for full time residents, please see below **When Permits Are Required:**

- BUILDINGS, MECHANICAL, PLUMBING, GAS, ELECTRICAL & ROOFING
- CONCRETE WHEN USED TO SUPPORT ANY STRUCTURE
- RETAINING WALLS OVER 48" MEASURED FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOTER TO THE TOP OF THE WALL
- SWIMMING POOLS, HOT TUBS, & JACUZZIS
- FENCING OVER 6 FEET HIGH
- DEMOLITION
- RIGHT-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENT FOR ANY REASON
- CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE
- LAND DISTURBNCE EXCEPT FOR MINOR LAND-DISTURBING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HOME GARDENS, LANDSCAPING, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE
- WORK, FENCES AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WHICH RESULT IN MINOR SOIL EROSION
- TREE CUTTING, TOPPING OR TRIMMING OVER 12 FEET HIGH OF A TREE OVER 8 INCHES IN DIAMETER AT 18 INCHES ABOVE THE GROUND
- SIGNS & BANNERS

These are not all items where permits are required. For a complete list click on the link at the mentioned earlier or contact City Hall: 706-746-2204.

Again, if you are not on the city's communication distribution list but would like to be included please reach out to Sherron Van Camp at svgacomeskyvalleyga.com or call City Hall at 706-746-2204.

The latest Housing & Development Data Report will follow this newsletter.

PUBLIC WORKS

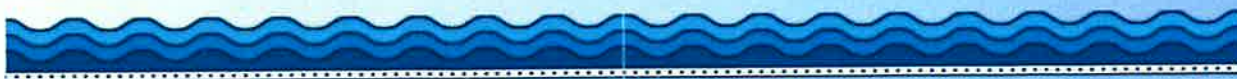
From the Desk of Jerry Shope, Public Works Superintendent

The Public works department is super busy working on right of way maintenance this month. Grass cutting, canopy trimming, and redefining ditches.

We encourage the citizens to put out their trash at 8:00am on Mondays to insure your trash will be picked up. Please remember to clean all recycling and break down cardboard boxes.

Through the next month we will be paving\ patching potholes throughout the city. The crew is looking forward to seeing guests and residents of Sky Valley throughout the next couple of months, please be aware of road signs and caution lights as safety is a big deal.

On the water side we have been working on getting new construction houses tapped into our water system with new water meters and homeowner valves. As always we appreciate the patience of this community.



Hi. I am an intern from Georgia Tech, and I want to share my experience living in a very special place - Sky Valley, the highest and the coolest city of Georgia!

1st lesson. You have to be ready for anything

My first sight of Sky Valley was on a golden afternoon at the middle of April. I got out of the car and was captivated instantly. This place looked like a filming location for "Outlander" with ancient and mysterious standing stones, magnificent stately homes and breathtaking landscapes. I was shown the Mud Creek Waterfall, a city hall, time share's office, a golf club and 2 beautiful churches. The Sky Valley Way was calm and silent, and it suddenly started raining heavily. We did not have umbrellas, so this was completely unexpected. And now I don't leave my house without an umbrella and a jacket.

2. You find the value in getting lost

I moved here 2 weeks ago. On the first evening here I went out for a walk and got lost. But there was so much to see, so I wasn't upset. I took the chance to do the best photos for my Facebook page. And this is my advice: go off plan, get lost and wander around.

3. You are never alone

Another day I was taking pictures of the city, and I noticed smoke from a truck. Fortunately for the driver, the police chief was already here to help! He called a tow truck and was there to be sure the driver got the necessary services.

The local residents of Sky Valley are really unforgettable and very kind people. So, be the first to smile. Be the first to help. Make an effort to join in their traditions and celebrations. You can make good friends here.

4. You have to try new things

Never did I think that a cake could be stored without a refrigerator. In my home country, there are strict rules of storage cakes for events. And also we have a joke, "How long can a cake survive without a refrigerator?" "You'd better ask: how long would survive the person who ate this?"

But here we had ordered a huge cake for our Grand Opening and we were told to store the cake at room temperature not to mess up its design. Next day I got brave and ate a piece. It was very tasty!

5. Peace is the best medicine

Giving yourself some silence each day actually gives your brain a chance to rest and recuperate. And Sky Valley is the best place to slow down, breathe out and recharge your batteries, have a moment to yourself. What can be better than doing yoga on the hill with a stunning view?



POLICE DEPARTMENT

From the Desk of Vaughn Estes, Chief of Police

We are glad to see folks returning to our wonderful city.

The police department is very excited to be moving into our new facility. Once we get everything set up and operating, we will host an open house for all to come see. The new facility gets us out of the old tool room and into an actual building. This will greatly move us forward in achieving our state certification. The past few years we have made significant progress in achieving this certification.

Lieutenant Ron Baumes has just completed the State Certification Managers Course hosted by the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association. This certification will now allow Chief Estes to have some assistance in the certification process. We are very happy to have Lt. Baumes assisting in this process to advance our department.

Please make sure you use extra caution while driving with the increase in vehicles on our narrow roads. The speed limits are posted, please be observant of them. Keep in mind that from the timeshare office to past the post office is a 15 MPH zone.

Please do NOT put cardboard in the compactor. This is our most common issue causing the compactor to stop working. Violators could be subject to a citation.

While driving, be extra aware of walkers looking at the leaves and vehicles stopping in the middle of the road to take in the scenery.



Please DO NOT park in front of the traffic mirrors/stop signs or fire hydrants located throughout the city. These are necessary for safety in our city. Citations will be issued for violations.

The Police Department continues to see positive results from the Bird Feeder ordinance. Our Bears are still present in the surrounding forest, but several reports of activity in or near homes have been received. The primary attractions seem to be bird feeders and unsecured garbage.

We look forward to seeing everyone return safely.

Twitter: @SkyValleyPolice

www.skyvalleyga.com

Non-Emergency: (706) 782-7777

Emergency: 911



The latest Police Department Report will follow this newsletter.

Housing & Development Departmental Data Report	For month ending April 30, 2023		
	April 2023	YTD	2022 YTD
New Residential & Commercial permits issued	0	2	2
All other addition, remodel and repair permits	20	51	38
Certificates of Occupancy issued	0	6	0
Total New Construction not yet finalized	6		0
Total Other Construction not yet finalized	17		0
Notices to Comply issued	0	0	0
Stop Work Orders issued	0	0	0
Tree Cutting permits issued	10	19	31
Code & Ordinance Violations cited	0	0	0
Fees Collected			
	April 2023	YTD	2022 YTD
New Residential or Commercial Permits	\$0.00	\$6,493.50	\$5,037.00
Other Addition, Remodel, Repair Permits	\$800.00	\$1,790.00	\$3,992.00
Tree Cutting Permits	\$615.00	\$1,185.00	\$1,545.00
Land Disturbing Permits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fines Collected for Ordinance Violations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00



Police Department

Monthly Count Sheet For April 2023

YTD

Fire	0	0
Med Call	1	3
Accident	2	8
Family Viol.	2	2
Fight/Assault	0	0
Death/Suicide	0	0
Missing Person	0	0
Burglary/Break in	0	0
Theft	0	1
Susp. Activity	0	1
Susp. Person	2	7
Susp. Vehicle	1	1
Alarm	0	0
Investigation	1	3
DUI/PUI	0	0
Drug Related	0	2
Juvenile	1	1
Traffic Control	5	13
Traffic Stop	57	223
Warning	30	104
Citation	27	119
Mutual Aid	3	9
Animal	1	4
Lost and Found	0	0
Complaint	0	0
City Ord.	1	1
Public Assist	8	21
Resident Check	1191	4,401
Business Check	1059	3,938
Welfare Check	5	8
Visitor Escort	5	13
Arrest	2	6
911 Calls	20	60
Mileage	4170	16,038