



## Sky Valley Times January, 2023

### **Announcements:**

*In honor of Presidents' Day on Monday,  
February 20<sup>th</sup>, Sky Valley City Hall and Public  
Works will be closed.*

*We wish you a Happy Presidents' Day!*



Garbage/recycle pickup will be on Tuesday, February 21st.



*The City's Ad Valorem Taxes have been mailed out & the due date is February 7, 2023.*

City Hall cannot take payments over the phone. If you would like to pay your property taxes, utilities, or traffic ticket with a credit card, you can do so at [skyvalleypay.com](http://skyvalleypay.com) or [skyvalleyga.com](http://skyvalleyga.com) and then the "skyvalleypay" tab.

### **REMINDERS:**

If you are in need of the Sky Valley Police Department services:

Emergency – **Call 911**

Non-Emergency – Call 706-782-7777



By calling these numbers, the Sky Valley Police Department is dispatched out.

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.

## Administration


From the desk of Jason Streetman, City Manager

Hello Sky Valley residents and visitors. I hope everyone is having a great 2023 so far.

Since we are now in the middle of winter; city staff is constantly watching the weather for the “S” word..... SNOW! If you are a resident of Sky Valley or someone who has visited on several occasions- especially in the winter, then you probably know how important it is to be prepared for winter weather.

For our new residents or visitors, it is important to be weather wise and to be prepared for when conditions may prevent you from leaving or entering Sky Valley. We do snowplow our roads but depending on the level of snow accumulating and/or diminishing weather conditions; we may be limited on what we can do. So, what can you do?



- Watch the weather; particularly the five-day forecast (anything beyond five days and it will probably change). We will post signs in conspicuous locations (the main entrance, Winding Ridge/246, Bald Mountain, and the post office/pavilion) notifying folks to be weather alert.
- Try to have at least 3 days of food, water, and medicines on hand and a good source of alternative heat if you lose power.
- Do NOT park your vehicles in the road as our public works staff cannot snowplow roads that are blocked with vehicles.
- Contact City Hall and be added to our One Call system and our MailChimp email blast as we post important information about weather conditions if warranted. Email  SVGACom@skyvalleyga.com to be added to our mass contact formats.
- We also post important information at our City Facebook page “The City of Sky Valley, GA” and via Twitter @valley\_status

Stay safe everyone, and we will post future updates about many of the projects we hope to begin this year starting next month.

Warm regards,  
Jason



The latest Ad Valorem Tax Report will follow this newsletter.

## Mayoral Comments

From the Desk of Mayor Hollie Steil

The Council and I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope this message finds you all well and looking forward to 2023.

During 2022 your city government accomplished many important projects. Just a few of these 2022 projects include:



- Lowering the City of Sky Valley Millage Rate from 15.069 to 12.999.
- Replacing our failing culvert on our main thoroughfare. NOTE- Over 80% percent of this project was funded with grant monies
- Creating an additional entrance/exit road for emergencies and regular traffic – Evergreen Extension. NOTE - 88% of this project was funded with grant monies
- Contracting with The Georgia Mountain Regional Authority to map our water system to aid our Public Works employees in locating our water lines and locating leaks.
- Hired a professional company to inspect and clean our water tanks.
- Installed 10 Smart Earth Devices to test the feasibility for the city and property owners to have real time data on individual water meters.
- Offered water leak insurance coverage for our water customers.
- Purchased additional heavy equipment for snow removal and Public Works projects.
- Worked with the Federal Government, Rabun County, the State of Georgia, and GDOT accruing grant funding of over \$5,000,000 for Sky Valley.
- Purchased a Roadway Roller Machine to help our Public Works to patch road potholes and pave small areas.
- Approved a contract to renovate the city-owned building on Highway 246 to become our new City Hall, Visitor Center, and Council/Court Meeting Room.
- Purchased a new police car to replace an older police vehicle.
- Hired a Communications Specialist to work with city hall personnel, welcome our visitors, communicate with the community thru social media and our two websites, work with the council, citizen committees, Forward Rabun, etc.
- Brought back our Fall Fest Event and improved our 4th of July Celebration.

**We are honored and proud to serve our city and are dedicated to continuing to work diligently to make our city even better in 2023!**



Hollie Steil  
Bill Oliver  
Bruce Turner  
Jim Curtis  
Tim Darrah  
Tony Allred

## Code Enforcer/ Building Inspector

From the Desk of Jim Pyburn, Building Inspector

### **Do I need a permit?**

- 1. Will you have a licensed General Contractor or Builder?**  
Yes = General Contractor Affidavit; No = Homeowner Affidavit
- 2. Will this project involve the cutting of any trees?**  
Yes = Tree Cutting Permit Application and Homeowner Affidavit
- 3. Will this project involve the disturbance of any land beyond the use of hand tools?**  
Yes = Soil & Erosion Control Permit Application or Land Disturbance Permit if more than 1 acre
- 4. Will this project require electrical, mechanical (HVAC), or plumbing?**  
Yes = Trade Permits as necessary
- 5. Will this project involve any roofing?**  
Yes = Roofing Permit
- 6. Will this project include a retaining wall or other poured concrete?**  
Yes = Retaining Wall Permit or Poured Concrete Permit
- 7. What type of project is this?**  
New or Addition  
Interior Remodel  
Accessory Structure  
Repairs



**There is a penalty for starting work without a permit. The permit fee will be doubled for first offense, \$50 minimum.** Please check with City Hall, 706-746-2204, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., if you need to find out if your project needs a permit. A simple phone call could answer this question and help avoid a fine for not having the proper permit.

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

## Public Works

From the desk of Jerry Shope, Public Works Superintendent:

January has been a very productive month for the public works department. We have been collecting leaves and tree canopy clearing constantly. Getting into the new year, we look forward to completing major projects such as replacing the culverts below the Chapel on Sky Valley Way, replacing old water lines throughout the city, and paving roads. The crew is moving forward on cleaning the head of culverts and redefining ditches also.

Please be advised of possible bad weather in the upcoming weeks. The city is prepared for snow and ice as we have brine and chat ready to be spread. The water department would like to advise to turn your water off if you are leaving town and if you have exposed pipes around your houses. Thanks to the city staff, council, and homeowners of Sky Valley.

## Police Department

From the desk of Chief Vaughn Estes:

The City has been preparing/dealing with some severe weather and **road conditions** as of late. Thank you to the Public Works Department for all your efforts.

If you are concerned about the current road conditions, please make sure you follow **@skyvalleypolice** on Twitter. We have been posting road conditions and other breaking news there 24hrs a day as needed for 3 years. Many pictures are added for descriptive purposes.

Remember before you head out on the roads to check the temperature and know that ice forms on the roads and will return each evening as we drop below freezing. Most TV and radio stations are not accurate for our area. **Weather Underground** has two stations in our town and are more accurate. Also, the **City Webcam** can provide accurate information.

**Sky Valley Town Watch** is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Town Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates & feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries, robberies, suspicious activity, drug activity & improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

A **Town Watch Orientation** will be scheduled soon. In the past there were eighteen attendees, which was always a pleasant surprise. This participation shows we have caring neighbors that want to keep crime out of Sky Valley. All are welcome. Once a meeting date is set, we will make it available and post signs.

Please remember that **ONLY** household garbage is to go in the **compactor**. If the compactor is full, please take your bags to Rabun Gap (behind the post office). **Do NOT** leave bags on the ground for animals to scatter and other Citizens and Staff to deal with.

**Twitter: @SkyValleyPolice**

[www.skyvalleyga.com](http://www.skyvalleyga.com)

**Non-Emergency (706) 782-7777**

**Emergency 9-1-1**



The latest Police Department Report will follow this newsletter.

**As always, please feel free to give us a call at  
City Hall if you have any concerns, questions, or  
to have your water turned on or off, 706-746-2204.**