

# Sky Valley Times



January, 2026

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# Sky Valley's Vision

## Our Vision

- Responsive, Quality Service
- Protection of our Resources
- Integrity and Innovation in City Government
- Sky Valley, a world-class city



# Sky Valley's Mission

## Our Mission

- To enrich the quality of life for our citizens
- To protect and enhance our scenic beauty
- To ensure a safe and secure community
- To enhance our resources
- To develop and follow a vibrant plan for our city's future

# Mayoral Comments

From the Desk of Mayor Benita Cotton-Orr

Being sworn in as the elected mayor of Sky Valley on January 6, 2026, just as our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, represents the American Dream in the most personal way for me. I am a proud American and an immigrant from apartheid South Africa, and I had neither a voice nor a vote in the land of my birth.

Homes, property and rights were seized from my family without consent or representation. It's why I feel a deep affinity with the many property owners here who ask that their voices be heard, even as part-time residents. According to the City, just 111 homestead exemptions were filed in 2025 ... in a community (by Census numbers) of more than 1,000 residences. The perspectives of Sky Valley's part-timers who contribute their property taxes and fees also matter.

As I take over from former Mayor Hollie Steil, I ask that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers during this season. Her service to Sky Valley over three terms has meant a great deal, and she remains very much a part of our community. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside a City Council that reflects both experience and new energy. Incumbents Tony Allred and Jim Curtis are joined by newly sworn-in members CareySue Beasley, Beth Pence (Council President) and Jesse Price. I look forward to each of their perspectives as we work together for Sky Valley.

As the mayoral advisory committees are finalized, I'm hopeful you see reflected the amazing expertise I encountered while campaigning door-to-door across the community. Thank you to those who have agreed to serve; I appreciate the thoughtful responses of everyone who considered my request to participate. Thanks also to the City Council for approving my committees, and to the council members who will chair them. These committees are expected to provide guidance and subject-matter expertise as the City and Council tackle the issues I believe deserve priority during my two-year term. Each committee will meet at least four times a year (with Zoom options) and will operate in full compliance with



# Mayoral Comments

the Open Meetings Act.

At the January 20 meeting, two advisory committees were finalized and approved:

- Finance and Administration Committee, chaired by Beth Pence, with Jim Curtis as the second councilmember and Steve Mason, Michelle Hershel and Jim Phelps serving as citizen members.
- City of Sky Valley Advisory Committee, chaired by Beth Pence, with Tony Allred as the second councilmember and Rudy Masi, Kelsey Price and W. Nelson Lewis Jr. serving as citizen members.

The staffing of three additional advisory committees is under way: Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; Public Works and Facilities; and Community Connections. If you would like to participate, reach out to me. These appointments and the resolutions defining each committee's scope will be presented to the City Council for consideration at the February meeting.

Much of the November 2025 election focused on the proposed septic-to-sewer system and future development in Sky Valley. These remain my priorities. As I stated during my campaign, we need proof that a sewer system is necessary in the valley, and we do not need high-density development that overwhelms our infrastructure. To that end, the City will undertake an independent needs assessment in the near future. Funding approval is permission, not obligation. An economic feasibility study asks whether we can afford a project; a needs assessment asks whether we need it. Ultimately, the City Council must decide whether a project is truly warranted.

I pledged to serve Sky Valley as a fiscal conservative, and at my swearing-in I outlined some additional goals that will shape the work ahead. The foundation of my term continues to be Preserving Sky Valley's Heart and Future. I will strive to conduct my term with transparency, communication, integrity, and consistency, and to earn the trust placed in me in earning the majority vote. Please know that I welcome your questions, ideas, and concerns, and I encourage you to reach out at any time.

# Code Enforcement

From the Desk of Jim Pyburn

## Building Inspector Sky Valley Times 4th Quarter 2025

**Solid Waste Ordinance:** Refuse means solid waste accumulations consisting of garbage and household trash. The normal scheduled collection day shall be once per week on Monday. **In the event that an official city holiday disrupts trash collection, trash service shall commence the next business day, typically on Tuesday.** Any property owner desiring special bulk collections of tree trimmings and/or yard trash may request a special collection, which shall be scheduled through City Hall (706-746-2204). **No approved trash receptacle(s) or heavy-duty trash bag(s) shall be placed for collection before 6:00 AM nor later than 8:00 AM ON THE DAY OF COLLECTION to insure collection. If approved receptacle(s) and/or recycling bins placed for collection are not removed from the street area on the day of collection as required in section 30-24(c), the city is authorized to issue a citation.**

Solid Waste Collection	
Garbage collection as defined by the trash ordinance—monthly minimum regardless of usage	\$23.00 per month curbside, recycling, access to the city compactor \$23.00 per month/per unit for multifamily units sharing a dumpster \$30.00 per month for back door service or other alternate location
Illegal use of compactor dumping. <b>No cardboard or bldg. materials</b>	Local ordinance set by city judge
Yard debris removal	\$100.00 per hour with the first 15 minutes per month included in garbage fee
Removal or returning of refuse containers by the city as defined in the trash ordinance	\$30.00 per occurrence
Removal of accumulated, loose, scattered, or unbagged refuse or trash - by the city as defined in the trash ordinance	\$100.00 per hour and shall be billed in 15-minute increments and will be added to the water and trash bill and/or a lien shall be applied to the property for the cost of cleanup. Billing time shall commence once city personnel begins the action of collecting yard debris and billing time shall end once the collection is complete

# Public Works

From the Desks of Jerry Shope and Cody English

## 1. Overview

This report summarizes the routine maintenance activities completed by the City of Sky Valley Public Works Department for the first quarter of 2026. The department continued to perform regular maintenance on streets, parks, facilities, and utilities to ensure the safety and functionality of city infrastructure.

## Winter Weather

- Pretreatment of city roads with brine will be completed as needed
- Snow plowing will take effect once accumulation has reached 2 inches
- Please be weather smart and stay prepared as you can
- Sky Valley's main goal is to keep the right of way clear of snow and ice for emergency personnel.

## 2. Street and Right-of-way Maintenance

Tasks Completed:

- Drainage inlets cleared of debris in preparation for seasonal rain.
- Leaf removal from city streets
- Trash and Recycle collections.(please clean all recycle materials before collections)
- Tree trimming and Flail mowing.
- Yard debris removal and burn

## Routine Equipment Maintenance:

- Regular oil changes
- Tire rotation
- Off-road equipment weekly checklist
- On-road vehicle weekly checklist

## 3. Facilities Maintenance

Tasks Completed:

- Minor electrical repair at Well #8.
- Cleaning Public Works Facility weekly
- Cleaning all Well Houses weekly
- Gutter cleaning on all city buildings

## 4. Water

Tasks Completed:

- Pressure Reducing Valve pit inspections
- Leak detection monitoring
- Chemical reading daily at all well houses
- Minor leak repairs

All scheduled routine sample requirements through EPD (Environmental Protection Division) are up to date and results are compliant.

# Public Works

From the Desks of Jerry Shope and Cody English

## 5. Upcoming Work / Scheduled Projects

- Annual leaf vacuuming to continue throughout the next couple of months
- Continue water leak monitoring.

## 6. New EPD regulated water samples

- PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others.
- Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), for example, are two of the most widely used and studied chemicals in the PFAS group. PFOA and PFOS have been replaced in the United States with other PFAS in recent years.
- One common characteristic of concern of PFAS is that many break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time.
- Please feel free to visit the attached EPD (Environmental Protection Division) website for more information <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas> or email Water System Coordinator Cody English

## Actions taken by Sky Valley Water Department include:

- Follow all EPD's rules and regulations
- Sample Bi-annually to collect results for actions taken (These samples will be collected at every well house)

## 7. Summary

Overall, maintenance operations were completed on schedule with no significant issues. Routine activities continue to support infrastructure reliability, public safety, and community appearance. Public Works would like to thank everyone that attended the annual Fall Fest and the volunteers that helped make it a success. We are also grateful for the continued support from City Officials, staff, and citizens of Sky Valley.

Jerry Shope  
Public Works Director  
[pwdirector@skyvalleyga.com](mailto:pwdirector@skyvalleyga.com)

Cody English  
Water System Coordinator  
[water@skyvalleyga.com](mailto:water@skyvalleyga.com)



# Police Department

From the Desk of Chief Ron Baumes

It's hard to believe it's already been a year since I was promoted to Chief. In that time, we've accomplished a lot, and we have even more planned for the future.

One area we've really focused on is training. I'm proud to share that Sgt. Maloney and I have both completed the requirements for our Police Officer Advanced Certification, and the rest of our team is working toward it as well. Continuing to train and improve helps us better serve and protect our community.

Our traffic enforcement efforts are paying off, and the numbers show it. Because of that, we'll continue to stay focused on keeping our roads safe.

We're also looking forward to participating in National Night Out this August. This will be a family friendly event with a cookout, giving us a chance to connect with the community and show what we do and how we do it. While we're still working out the details, my hope is that it will be a fun and memorable event for everyone.

If you're not already following us, we have a Facebook page called "The City of Sky Valley, Georgia Police Department." It's a great way to stay informed about public safety announcements, possible threats in the area, road closures, weather events and other important updates.

As always, you're welcome to reach out to me directly at 706-408-3024, or contact the on-duty officer at 706-408-1026. We're continuing our Knock and Talk initiative, and if you'd like one of us to stop by with some helpful information and a refrigerator magnet with our contact details, just give us a call or send us a message on Facebook. We're always happy to stop by, answer questions, and hear any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your continued support. It's truly an honor to serve this community

City of Sky Valley

Unpaid Property Tax 2014-2024

RECEIPT	TAXES	FEES	PENALTY	INTEREST	COSTS	TOTAL
2014	97.86	0	9.79	81.77	22	211.42
2015	178.83	0	17.88	133.43	324	654.14
2016	180.13	0	4.83	76.14	260.26	521.36
2017	172.38	0	25.86	65.63	1,164.00	1,427.87
2018	185.13	0	9.26	69.96	2,467.89	2,732.24
2019	179.5	0	8.97	50.31	38.01	276.79
2020	179.50	0	0	26.97	36	242.47
2021	379.28	0	18.95	37.43	154	589.66
2022	653.45	0	32.68	97.41	1,667	2450.54
2023	1,072.78	0	0	143.78	503.6	1,720.16
2024	4,918.65	0	0	216.4	1,191.80	6,326.85
TOTAL	\$8,197.49	\$0.00	\$128.22	\$999.23	\$7,828.56	\$17,153.50

Housing & Development Departmental Data Report		For month ending December 31, 2025	
	Dec. 2025	YTD	2024 YTD
New Residential & Commercial permits issued	0	2	3
All other addition, remodel and repair permits	7	137	157
Certificates of Occupancy issued	0	8	6
Total New Construction not yet finalized	3		0
Total Other Construction not yet finalized	16		0
Notices to Comply issued	1	9	6
Stop Work Orders issued	0	4	0
Tree Cutting permits issued	3	105	99
Code & Ordinance Violations cited	1	1	4
<b>Fees Collected</b>			
	Dec. 2025	YTD	2024 YTD
New Residential or Commercial Permits	\$0.00	\$6,172.00	\$12,774.00
Other Addition, Remodel, Repair Permits	\$3,213.00	\$20,547.00	\$14,914.00
Tree Cutting Permits	\$1,360.00	\$9,290.00	\$8,100.00
Land Disturbing Permits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fines Collected for Ordinance Violations	\$6,280.00	\$7,880.00	\$400.00



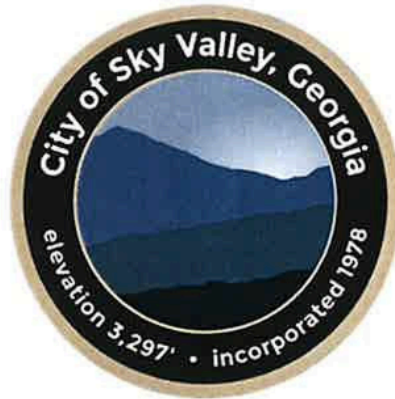
## Police Department

### Monthly Count Sheet, December 2025

#### YTD

Fire	0	5
Med Call	3	36
Accident	0	18
Family Viol.	1	5
Fight/Assault	0	0
Death/Suicide	1	1
Missing Person	0	0
Burglary/Break in	0	0
Theft	0	2
Susp. Activity	0	14
Susp. Person	0	29
Susp. Vehicle	4	24
Alarm	3	29
Investigation	6	24
DUI/PUI	0	0
Drug Related	0	1
Juvenile	0	1
Traffic Control	2	29
Traffic Stop	91	802
Warning	48	344
Citation	43	458
Mutual Aid	3	59
Animal	4	47
Lost and Found	1	6
Complaint	0	0
City Ord.	2	14
Public Assist	22	303
Resident Check	2,908	32,848
Business Check	2,197	26,664
Welfare Check	3	66
Visitor Escort	16	93
Arrest	1	3
911 Calls	29	386
Mileage	6,206	71,120





**2026**

## **Regular Council Meetings and Meeting Times**

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| • Tuesday, January 20   | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, February 17  | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, March 17     | 6:00 P.M.  |
| • Tuesday, April 21     | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, May 19       | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, June 16      | 6:00 P.M.  |
| • Tuesday, July 21      | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, August 18    | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, September 15 | 6:00 P.M.  |
| • Tuesday, October 20   | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, November 17  | 10:00 A.M. |
| • Tuesday, December 15  | 6:00 P.M.  |

**Approved Meeting Dates**

# Newly Elected Mayor for Sky Valley 2026-2027

**Mayor:**

## **Benita Cotton-Orr**

Benita Cotton-Orr was elected Mayor of Sky Valley on November 4, 2025, and will take office on January 6, 2026. Benita, who immigrated to Georgia in 1986



from South Africa, lived in Cobb County until she and her husband, Scott Orr, became full-time residents of Sky Valley in 2022. Scott retired in 2024 after 42 years at Georgia Power Company, the last 22 as the utility's federal government affairs manager. Their five children and 12 grandchildren love visiting "Georgia's Highest and Coolest City."

Benita's career spans journalism - 13 years at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, including on the Editorial Board - and public policy - 19 years as vice president of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. In 2022, she founded High Grounds Consulting LLC.

A graduate of the 2007 Class of Leadership Georgia, Benita has been actively involved in numerous civic and policy organizations. Currently, she serves on the Political Science Advisory Board at Kennesaw State University; the board of First Generation Americans Foundation and the U.S. Civil Rights Commission's Advisory Task Force for Georgia. She is a faculty member of the Leadership Institute, a Policy Advisor for the Heartland Institute, and chairman of the Rabun County Republican Party.

# Newly Council Members for Sky Valley 2026-2027

## Council Members:

### CareySue Beasley

I'm CareySue Beasley, married to my wonderful husband Paul. I retired in 2017 from a 19-year career as a Registered Nurse who specialized in Catastrophic Neuro Rehab and was a Brain Injury Specialist. In my early nursing years, I was a School Nurse and did pediatrics and then transitioned to elderly patients and was a Geriatric Care Manager. After retirement from nursing, Paul & I started a Vacation Rental Management Company, a cleaning business, an airport shuttle, and a Donut Shop. We sold our businesses in August/September 2023 and fully retired. We traveled extensively and lived in the Virgin Islands before falling in love and moving permanently to Sky Valley.



### Beth Pence



My husband Chris and I have lived in the South for 40 years. We met and dated in college, 46 years ago. We've been married for 41 years. We have four children together; two in Augusta Georgia, an Active Marine stationed in Hawaii, and our youngest living and working in Australia. We came to Sky Valley over four years ago and absolutely love it. I enjoy golfing, music and playing the guitar again. I have my Master's Degree in Organizational Development and 30 years of Human Resources experience.

# Newly Elected Mayor & Council Members for Sky Valley 2026-2027

## Council Members:

### Jesse Price

Jesse Price was elected to Sky Valley City Council on November 4, 2025, and will take office on January 6, 2026.

Jesse and his wife Kelsey purchased their home in Sky Valley in 2021 and made the permanent move in 2022. Their son Tyler graduated from Rabun Gap Nacoochee School and is now a sophomore at the University of Georgia, while their daughter Bailey is a senior at Rabun Gap this year. Both children have grown up embracing everything that makes Sky Valley special.



A proud University of Oregon graduate with a bachelor's degree in Multimedia Design and Production, Jesse spent the first part of his career in commercial interior and architectural design, creating branding and spaces for national brands including McDonald's, Burger King, Home Depot, and Martha Stewart. He later transitioned into User Experience and User Interface design, building apps and video games for software companies and startups across the country.

For several years Jesse also owned and operated The Growler Guys franchise, where the family enjoyed building community around craft beer, cider, kombucha, and good conversation.

After two decades in design, technology, and small-business ownership, Jesse is grateful to call Sky Valley home. He and his family love the mountain lifestyle, the dark skies, and the friendly, small-town feel that make this corner of Rabun County unlike anywhere else.



WEATHER PERMITTING, PLEASE JOIN US FOR

# MORNING WITH MAYOR BENITA COTTON-ORR



Stop by City Hall to meet the Mayor, enjoy a cup of coffee and a pastry, and take a few minutes to chat, share ideas, or ask questions.

This is a relaxed, informal opportunity to connect and get to know one another.



**Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
from 9:00–11:00 AM.**

LET'S MEET,  
SHARE, & GROW  
TOGETHER!

# Living in Sky Valley

Nestled high in the North Georgia mountains, Sky Valley offers a lifestyle defined by natural beauty, peaceful surroundings, and a strong sense of community. As Georgia's highest city, residents enjoy cooler temperatures, breathtaking mountain views, and a refreshing change of pace in every season.

Life in Sky Valley blends outdoor adventure with small-town charm. From hiking, golfing, and wildlife watching to quiet mornings filled with crisp mountain air, the city provides countless ways to enjoy the outdoors. Winter brings a cozy, scenic atmosphere, while spring and summer showcase lush landscapes and vibrant wildlife.

Beyond the views, Sky Valley is known for its welcoming residents and community spirit. Neighbors look out for one another, local events bring people together, and there is a shared appreciation for preserving the city's natural beauty. Whether you are raising a family, enjoying retirement, or seeking a mountain getaway, Sky Valley offers a place where you can slow down, connect, and truly feel at home.

In Sky Valley, you don't just live in the mountains—you become part of a community that values nature, connection, and quality of life.



# sky valley 101

## WELCOME HOME



Welcome to Sky Valley, Georgia, the highest and coolest city in the state. Whether you are a full time or part time resident, we know that you are going to love your city. Sky Valley is part of Rabun County and is one of the best places to live in Georgia.

Living in Sky Valley offers residents a mix of suburban and rural feels and has so much undeniable beauty. While many retirees live in Sky Valley, the public schools in our area are highly rated.

No matter what your interests are, we have something to offer with nearby shopping, wineries/distilleries, hiking trails, gem mining, waterfalls, zip-lining and more. The Sky Valley Country Club offers many amenities including an 18-hole public golf course, tennis, croquet, swimming, and more. Some of these offerings do require membership. Pickleball is also available on city courts.

We are so glad that you have chosen to make Sky Valley your new home base. Please call City Hall if you have questions about the city at 706-746-2204.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are regular monthly council meetings. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to get involved. You do not have to be a full time resident to be a vital part of the community. There are also volunteer opportunities on City Committees, special events and in the Property Owners' Association.

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Visit Sky Valley's website at [www.skyvalleyga.com](http://www.skyvalleyga.com) for detailed information, minutes, ordinances, and details about area events and attractions.

Please "like" our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/skyvalleyga](http://www.facebook.com/skyvalleyga). We share many seasonal pictures, special events and announcements through this page.

### COMMUNICATION

City Hall uses an email distribution list to disseminate information to residents and interested citizens. Meeting information, notices and other updates are emailed. This is the best way to stay up to date. We also post meeting notices on bulletin boards at City Hall and the Sky Valley mailbox area.

We also use a crisis communication system which telephones a recorded message to all numbers who have opted in for the service. We use this for weather warnings, road closures, water outages and other important notices. You may request to be added to the list or subscribe through our web site home page.



## **WATER**

Water is billed monthly during the first week of the month for water used during the previous month. Payment is always due by the 25th. Automated draft is available and must be signed up for through the billing office at City Hall. The minimum bill is currently \$39.50/month for regular residential service. Any usage over 2000 gallons is billed in increments depending on the total usage.

City Ordinance requires that all residences vacated during the winter months be winterized to protect the plumbing from freezing. Homeowner valves are located adjacent to the City water meter. Water should be turned off at that valve during any extended times that you will be away from your home. You are responsible for any water that passes through that valve. The city will turn off or on your valve upon request for a nominal fee.

## **SOLID WASTE**

Household garbage is collected one time per week on Mondays. During times of inclement weather or holidays, trash is collected on the next business day. Garbage collection is billed with the water bill and is \$23.00 per month for regular residential service. This is a minimum charge is not an optional service. Garbage should not be put out until the morning of pick-up and should be out by 8 AM. You may also use the compactor on Knob Drive.

**WE ARE SO  
GLAD TO  
CALL YOU A  
NEIGHBOR!**

## **YARD WASTE**

Chipping service is also offered on or about the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. If you do have brush to be chipped, make sure you call City Hall to be put on a chipping list, so that your cuttings are not missed. Cuttings must be less than 8" in diameter and must be stacked in one direction easily accessible from the road.

Other yard debris collection is offered year-round. Leaves, twigs, and shrubbery cuttings must be bagged and put out separately from regular household garbage.

## **SIGNS**

Except as specifically provided by city ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to post, display, substantially change, or erect a sign in the city without first having obtained a sign permit. Any existing sign that does not have a permit on file issued by the City of Sky Valley is deemed to be an illegal sign. Any proposed alterations or relocation of a sign will require a new permit.



## PERMITS REQUIRED

Tree cutting - any tree with a trunk that is 8" or more in diameter at 18" above the ground requires a permit for cutting, trimming & topping. If you had to obtain a permit to cut, it would not qualify for city chipping service.

Contractors are responsible for the removal of all tree cuttings. Owners and contractors are both required to sign the permit application. You may trim a tree up to 12 feet from the ground without a permit. Dead and hazardous trees must be permitted but there is no fee.

## ONLINE PAYMENTS

Online payments can be made for utility bills, tax bills, and traffic court. You can access the payment portal at [www.skyvalleypay.com/](http://www.skyvalleypay.com/) There is a link to this website located on our city home page. Taxes and Utility payments are subject to a 4% convenience fee and traffic court payments incur a 7% convenience fee.

## BURNING

Any person desiring to do any outdoor burning within the corporate limits of the City of Sky Valley must call and alert City Hall. 706-746-2204

Outdoor burning does not include burning charcoal, wood, gas, or other products associated with the outdoor grilling of food.

## TAXES


Ad valorem tax, also known as property tax, is the main source of revenue for the city. Ad valorem taxation is based on the fair market value of the property, which is established January 1st of each year by the Rabun County Tax Assessor. The tax is levied on the assessed value of the property which, by law, is established at 40% of the fair market value. The amount of tax is determined by the tax rate (mill rate) levied by the city (one mill is equal to \$1.00 for each \$1,000 of assessed value or .001)

If you own and occupy your Sky Valley home on January 1 as your primary domicile and legal residence for all purposes, which includes your the registration of your vehicles and filing of your state income taxes, you can qualify for a City homestead exemption. The city exemption will only be applied to your Sky Valley taxes. Rabun County offers a separate homestead exemption which must be applied for through the County and will be applied to your County taxes. Exemptions are not automatically granted and must be applied for in both locations. You cannot claim homestead in Sky Valley and in another location.



# Recent Happenings in Sky Valley





## Cold Weather Briefing

January 26, 2026  
4:27 AM

Decision Support Briefing #1 for the Western Carolinas and Northeast Georgia

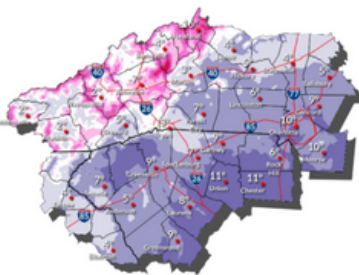
**Important Updates**

- Ice and sleet have ended across the area, but roads will remain treacherous this morning, as temperatures fall below freezing.
- Extreme Cold Warning has been issued for Avery County and elevations above 3,500 ft in Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Haywood, northern Jackson, and Swain counties from 6pm today to noon Tuesday.
- Cold Weather Advisory has been issued for all elevations below 3500 ft, including the Piedmont for the same time period as the warning.

**Key Messages**

- **Dangerous Wind Chills of 5 below to 20 below are expected in the mountains tonight through Tuesday morning.**
- Frigid temperatures will continue through the week could extend **the threat for hazardous travel and impacts from power outages for several days.**

**Minimum Wind Chills Tonight**



National Weather Service  
Greenville-Spartanburg, SC





# Upcoming Events in NE Georgia

## February 2026 Events

The **WinterFest Arts Tour** is a two-day event on February 14, 2026, held across multiple venues, including the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center and Unicoi Lodge, featuring local artists, crafts, music, and food vendors.

The **Chickamauga Civil War Show** 2026, a militaria show and sale, will take place at the Dalton Convention Center on February 7, 2026.

The **Holly Theatre in Dahlonega** presents a live theatrical performance of *The Miracle Worker* on February 14, 2026, and performances by Ernie & Emma the same evening. An evening of gospel music with Greater Vision is scheduled at Eastwood Baptist Church on March 8, 2026.

Festivals: The **Okefenokee Smoke BBQ Festival**, a free event with a car show and live music, begins on February 20, 2026.

The 5th annual **Black History Parade** will be held in Downtown Cartersville on February 28, 2026.

## March 2026 Events

The **Etowah Wildlife Expo** 2026, a free outdoor recreation event with a petting zoo and fishing competition, will be on March 7, 2026.

The family-friendly **Marietta the Gathering festival** celebrating pop culture will also be held on March 7, 2026.

The **International Cherry Blossom Festival** in Macon kicks off on March 20, 2026, and includes various activities like the Third Street Park festivities.

The **GataJam Country Music Festival** takes place in Statesboro on March 6, 2026.

The **Toccoa Ritz Bluegrass Festival** is a three-day festival starting on March 29, 2026, with an all-gospel day on Sunday.

The **Georgia Ballet** will perform *The Wizard of Oz* on March 8, 2026.

Sports & Outdoor: The annual **Polar Bear Plunge** to raise money for charity is on March 7, 2026, in Hartwell.

The **All Star Monster Truck Tour** has events scheduled in Winder on March 7, 2026.