



ACCGov Quarterly

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's Newsletter
Fall 2021 | accgov.com/quarterly



* Current as of 8/25/21



COVID-19 Update: Wearing a Mask & Vaccinations

If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places.

If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. As of August, this included all of Georgia and much of the United States.

In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings. In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for outdoor activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

Vaccinations remain remarkably

effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, which occur in much higher numbers among unvaccinated people.

To help encourage vaccinations, ACCGov provided American Rescue Plan funds to the Northeast Health District for \$100 gift card incentives for newly-vaccinated persons who live, work, or attend school in Athens-Clarke County. These will be provided while supplies last at the Health Department and their pop-up clinics.

The ACCGov COVID website below provides links to pop-up clinic details, the CDC's COVID Data Tracker, and current updated local information.

accgov.com/coronavirus

Fall 2021 Elections & Voter Information Events

Election day for fall 2021 is Tuesday, November 2. Early/advance voting will begin Monday, October 11 at the Elections Office at 8:00 AM. Absentee ballots can be requested up to 11 days before the election.

For all Athens-Clarke County residents, ballots include a referendum on the sixth Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST). If approved, it would begin after the current program expires in December.

E-SPLOST funds can be used only for capital projects for education



purposes and to make payments on bonds. They cannot be used to pay for salaries or other operating expenses.

Winterville residents will also vote in Winterville's municipal elections.

In September, the Elections Office will hold three voter education forums. These events are open to the public and will take place at the ACC Library and the Snipes Water Resources Building. More details are available online or by calling the Elections Office.

accgov.com/elections | 706-613-3150



TSPLOST 2023

Georgia state law allows communities to use Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) funds for transportation purposes – including roads, bridges, public transit, rails, airports, buses, and similar items – if approved by voters in a referendum.

The public and ACCGov departments submitted over 90 projects totalling nearly \$700 million for consideration as part of a possible \$139.5 million TSPLOST 2023 program that will be voted on in May 2022.

These projects will be presented to an advisory committee of 22 residents and available for viewing and public comment beginning in September. The Mayor and Commission will eventually approve a final project list based on public comment and the committee recommendations.

TSPLOST 2018 is a 1% sales tax approved by voters in November 2017. Collections began on April 1, 2018 and are scheduled to end in late 2022 or early 2023.

If voters approve a TSPLOST 2023 program on May 24, 2022, the local sales tax rate of 8% would not increase as a result of the TSPLOST 2023 program.

accgov.com/tsplost | 706-613-3025



Teen Tech Labs

The technology centers at East Athens Community Center, Lay Park, and Rocksprings Park have all undergone a much-needed facelift.

Each of these “Teen Tech Labs” received a fresh design, new furniture, and upgraded equipment such as coding robots, a drone, VR headsets, and 3D printers. The upgraded centers will provide teens with new opportunities to grow their skills in areas such as coding, video production, and podcasting.

The Leisure Services Department is also offering additional teen activities and programs this fall, such as football watch parties, professional workshops, networking events, and the new “Go Beyond” and “Beyond the Barre” programs.

accgov.com/leisure | 706-613-3800



Bus Transfer Facilities

ACCGov is seeking public input through Sunday, October 3 on the locations and amenities of three new Transit transfer facilities.

Their purpose is to reduce times between bus routes for both transit operators and transit riders so that there is less lost time between routes. Currently, the only bus transfer facility is located downtown.

Information on possible locations, an interactive map, and a comment form are available online.

accgov.com/transit | 762-400-6557



New Public Art

New public art has been installed in the community as part of three SPLOST-funded projects that require 1% of the total project budget to be dedicated to a public art component.

“Hero’s Path” at Fire Station #2 on 265 Cleveland Road recognizes firefighters who have sacrificed their lives over the years to save others. It was designed and created by artist Aaron Hussey.

“Rainbow Forest,” by artist Andrew Kovacs, consists of a grid of colored columns. Installed on the North Oconee River Greenway, it is visible from MLK Parkway and the trail.

“Phyllotaxis,” by artist Joni Younkings-Herzog, is a metal sculpture installed in the roundabout at South Milledge Avenue and Whitehall Road.

accgov.com/publicart | 706-613-3623



Send a Nature Photo

The Stormwater Management Office is currently designing the 2022 edition of the annual stormwater calendar.

The calendar includes information about stormwater in the community and also features photos of water or nature scenes around Athens.

To submit a photo for consideration in the 2022 calendar, email the image to stormwater@accgov.com with the name of the photographer along with a description of when, where, and why the photo was taken.

accgov.com/stormwater | 706-613-3440

Eviction Resources

In August, ACCGov approved extending funding to three local non-profits – Family Promise, Project Safe, and the Ark – that work with residents under a certain income level to help them receive Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Georgia Rental Assistance program and other assistance funds.

The DCA also produces a guide, *The Landlord Tenant Handbook: A Landlord-Tenant Guide to the State’s Rental Laws*, that is available online through accgov.com/landlord or the state’s website at www.dca.ga.gov.

The handbook is a valuable resource and is designed to provide an overview about Georgia residential landlord-tenant law and answer common questions about the law.

As part of a larger solution related to the eviction concerns, ACCGov issued a request for proposals in late August to select an agency partner to coordinate with the Magistrate Court, landlords, and tenants to prevent evictions and to provide rental assistance to households in need.

accgov.com/eviction

Number to Know

10.2%

Growth in population in Athens-Clarke County from 2010-2020 as per Census data released in August 2021. Athens-Clarke County’s population in 2010 was 116,714 and in 2020 was 128,671, counting UGA students. Athens-Clarke County is the 19th largest county by population in Georgia.

ACCGov Quarterly Newsletter
Produced by the Athens-Clarke County
Public Information Office
accgov.com/quarterly

Send comments, questions, letters to:
Public Information Office
P.O. Box 1868 - Athens, GA 30603
706-613-3795 | info@accgov.com

Follow accgov on



Other accounts linked at accgov.com/social