



CITY OF SENECA

MARCH 2017



City Council honors Blue Ridge Bank for Property Donation

Seneca officials thanked Blue Ridge Bank for its recent donation of the property located at 416 East Main Street. “We thank and appreciate Blue Ridge Bank for partnering with the city to help develop the downtown,” said Mayor Dan Alexander.

During their regular monthly meeting in January, the City Council presented Kyle Thomas, President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Ridge Bank, with a plaque thanking the bank for supporting downtown Seneca.

“Blue Ridge Bank has been proud to serve Oconee County since 1957,” said Thomas. “We took possession of this building in downtown Seneca, which we listed for sale. When we heard the city could utilize the building for the Police Department, our bank discussed the possibility of donating this property to The City of Seneca,” continued Thomas.

The donation will allow the city to install training rooms and additional office space for the Seneca Police Department. In addition, it will enable police to have a continuing presence in the downtown area.

“As Oconee County’s community bank, we want to support the communities and organizations who support us,” said Thomas. “By adding an additional Police Office building in downtown Seneca, the city will be a safer place to work, shop, and dine. After careful consideration, we knew this donation was the right thing to do. It was our pleasure to assist The City of Seneca by making this donation,” concluded Thomas.

“Blue Ridge Bank’s donation will provide much needed space for our Police Department,” said Mayor Alexander. “I appreciate the bank for their part in making Seneca what it is now and what it will be in the future,” concluded Alexander.



(pictured from l to r: Greg Dietterick, Denise Rozman, Ronnie O’Kelley, Mayor Dan Alexander, C. Kyle Thomas, David Hyatt, Anthony “Herman” Smith, Joel Ward, Stuart Pohl, Dana Moore)

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to the Employee of the Month—Steve Fletcher, Water Plant Supervisor

The Water Environmental Association’s Blue Ridge Foothills District 2016 Operator of the Year Recipient



News From the Billing Department

Levelized Billing available

Seneca Light & Water offers a plan which may help with personal and/or business budgets. It's the Levelized Billing Program. To see if you qualify, please contact Seneca's Customer Service Department at 864-885-2723.

Seneca receives Improved Building Department ISO Rating

Residents should have lower insurance rates in the future thanks to the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Classification being highly-rated in the City of Seneca.

"The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) evaluated the City of Seneca Building Department," Ed Halbig, Planning and Development Director said. "The ISO is an independent statistical, rating and advisory organization that serves the property and casualty insurance industries. Their evaluations grade a building departments' effectiveness as to building construction regulation. With periodic evaluations, a city has an opportunity to improve its score, which is shown on a range from 1 to 10 with 1 being exemplary," Halbig added.

This is good news for residents as the ISO fire protection rating upgrade should translate into better insurance rates.

"The City of Seneca Department of Planning and Development's rating for the 2016 evaluation is a "4" for one and two family residential property and a "3" for commercial and industrial property, both considered to be highly rated," Halbig said.

This advisory material is relayed to insurance companies that subscribe to the ISO rating information. The lower the rating range, the lower the insurance costs can be for residents and business owners with participating insurance companies. According to the ISO, a listing of subscribing insurers is proprietary; therefore Seneca residents and business owners should contact their insurance carrier directly to see if they subscribe and if they provide any type of discount based on that rating.

"From the commercial side to the residential side, our fire rating has been upgraded," Mayor Dan Alexander said. "So, that is good, it shows things are getting done, and that will help lower the cost of insurance," the mayor added.

Insurers may use the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Classification. The ISO program will apply credits to new construction in Seneca that has been issued a Certificate of Occupancy in the year 2016 and forward.

"Owners of new construction for year 2016 and forward can speak with their insurance companies about any rating credits to individual property insurance policies in recognition of the City of Seneca's efforts to ensure effective building practices," Halbig concluded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Seneca seeks volunteers for Board position:

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Those interested, please submit a letter of intent with contact information to the Seneca Planning & Development Office PO Box 4773 Seneca, SC 29678 or email – tsmith@seneca.sc.us

Quote of the Month:

"People ask how I stay so positive after losing my legs ... I simply ask how they stay so negative with theirs?"

- Combat-wounded Marine Staff Sergeant (Ret.) Johnny "Joey" Jones



Electrical Safety Tip:

In homes with small children, make sure your home has tamper-resistant (TR) receptacles.



(Pictured l to r: Steve Fletcher, Jim Juras and Bob Faires)

Congratulations to Jim Juras and Donna Bradley for their design concepts for the Mural at Seneca's Water Treatment Facility. Bob Faires and Steve Fletcher of Seneca Light and Water presented the winner's their checks.



(Pictured l to r: Steve Fletcher, Donna Bradley, and Bob Faires)

4K Screening Registration **School District of Oconee County**

Children 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2017 should be screened for eligibility for 4K programs in the School District of Oconee County. Schedule an appointment by going to www.oconee.k12.sc.us or by calling 864-886-4503. Screenings will be held April 27, 28, and 29 and May 1 and 2 at Oconee Academy. (177 Razorback Lane, Walhalla SC)

All children must have the following documentation when they come for screening:

- *Child's Birth Certificate (Long Form)*
- *Child's Social Security Card*
- *Child's Immunization Record*
- *Child's Medicaid Card OR Proof of Income for parents/guardians*
- *Driver's License for parent/guardian*
- *Proof of Residency (Utility bill with parent/guardian name and home address on it)*
- *Legal Documentation as it pertains to the child (court, custody, safety plans, etc.)*



FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST & SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND

The Foothills YMCA Lakeside Art and Music Festival will be held on the shores of beautiful Lake Keowee at The Lighthouse Restaurant and Event Center. The grounds of The Lighthouse provide an excellent venue for art exhibits, music, a silent auction*, and multiple events on Saturday plus a gala dinner and live auction on Friday Night. The very popular Container Garden Competition is back on Friday night.

Friday will open this two-day event with an evening that includes:

- Music by the Clemson Jazz Ensemble
- Social hour with Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, followed by a buffet dinner
- Artist demonstrations and exhibits
- Container Garden Competition
- Silent and live Auctions



On *Saturday*, the YMCA Lakeside Art & Music Festival features:

- Exhibits from local and out of town artists
- Live Music performed by a variety of bands
- Food options for every pallet
- Pirates Cove – a children's area bursting with activities and crafts

An interactive online bidding process will be utilized for the extensive silent auction. You may use your own mobile device (phone or tablet) to participate in the fun or ask one of the auction coordinators to assist you with their device. Proceeds from this event allow the FOOTHILLS YMCA to offer safe, affordable after school care for and summer camp programs for the children of working families in all of the Oconee County Elementary Schools. There are currently 350 children enrolled in our afterschool program and 150 daily in summer camp that receive healthy snacks, homework assistance (during the school year), STEAM programs (in the summer) and physical activity each day. Your support funds the YMCA Financial Assistance Program which reduces childcare fees and guarantees no child is turned away due to inability to pay.



SENECA FEST 2017

MAY 26-27 Gignilliat • Seneca, SC

FRIDAY NIGHT HEADLINE SHOW

Talent Show
Presented by



SATURDAY WRESTLING FEATURING ROCK AND ROLL EXPRESS

**Wrestling
starts
at 12 noon**

CONCERTS START AT 4:00 PM



Sammy Kershaw



Aaron Tippin




McKayla Reece

8th Annual
**CITY OF SENECA
HALF MARATHON**

& 5K



**March 18th 2017
BEGINS @ 8:15 A.M.**

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