



COUNTY BY COUNTY

GWINNETT DULUTH

Bomar to leave council

By Tyler Wilkins
tyler.wilkins@ajc.com

A new face will join the Duluth City Council in 2022, as longtime Councilmember Marsha Anderson Bomar announced Friday that she will not seek reelection.

Bomar endorsed Jamin Harkness for the seat in a video posted to Facebook. She said she will end her time on council to give someone else a chance to make decisions for the Gwinnett city.

"I have been so honored and so blessed to serve this city for almost 16 years and be part of the team that imagined a new Duluth," Bomar said. "But sometimes, it's important to have other voices and other people at the table."

In the video, Bomar pulled off her former campaign T-shirt to reveal a "Vote for Jamin '21' T-shirt underneath. She said she wanted to find a smart person with a "great heart for the city" and who had "skills, knowledge and talent" to benefit Duluth's residents.

"I am so excited to try to represent the citizens of Duluth," said Harkness, who serves as executive vice president and partner at The Management Group. "(Bomar and I) agree on a lot of things ... she has promised to be a resource for me and to be there for me as we start this new journey."

Harkness and his husband, Rodrigo, moved to Duluth in 2005 before their son was born in 2008. The candidate serves as president of the Duluth Cluster School Foundation and is a member of the school council at Coleman Middle School.

"There are a lot of parts of the city that we need to celebrate, just as we have celebrated our downtown, and (Harkness) has so many great ideas for how we can continue to make this an all-around great place to live," Bomar said. "I'll say it once again: Jamin is my guy."

ATLANTA DOWNTOWN

Game bar planned for downtown

By Yvonne Zusel
yzusel@ajc.com

Pins Mechanical Company, a game bar that will also feature several dining and bar spaces, is set to open in downtown Atlanta as part of the South Dwnntn development.

Columbus, Ohio-based Rise Brands is behind the concept, which has eight locations in other cities including Nashville and Charlotte. Pins will open at 222 Mitchell Street, making it the first tenant of the space being developed by real estate company Newport as part of its South Dwnntn project.

Expected to open in early to mid-2023, the 25,000 square-foot open-air Pins will feature many elements of its sister brand, 16-Bit Bar+Arcade, as well as an outdoor courtyard, rooftop patios, three full bars and duckpin bowling. The concept also offers bocce ball, patio pong, ping pong, pinball and several other games.

Beverage offerings include a variety of cocktails, beers, punches and wines as well as boozy slushies and mocktails. The business will not serve food.

The seven-story building at 222 Mitchell combines a 1909 brick building and two mid-century modern buildings to form the biggest component of the South Dwnntn project.

MORE DETAILS



Northside

North Fulton, Forsyth, Cherokee and others on Twitter: @fultonnews

MILTON

City extends farm winery moratorium

The Milton City Council voted June 21 to extend a moratorium on alcohol, building permit and land disturbance permit applications from farm wineries for another 120 days.

The moratorium was put in place in May after increased interest by residents to establish farm wineries. The extension will provide the city time to properly draft amendments to its land-use code regarding farm wineries.

At the June 21 council meeting, no one spoke for or against the matter during the public hearing, nor did the Council discuss it before voting in favor of the extension.

The 120-day moratorium should mean the council will not revisit the issue until the October City Council meeting. KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

ALPHARETTA

North Point Parkway project approved

The Alpharetta City Council recently awarded a \$2 million contract to Columbia Engineering and Services Inc. for the North Point Parkway LID Streetscape Enhancements and Complete Streets Upgrade Project Design.

A major goal of the project is to develop a connected walkable corridor.

The project will initially focus on developing a typical section along North Point Parkway from Mansell Road to Haynes Bridge Road that will accommodate future traffic and focus on serving transit, pedestrians and bicycle users.

According to city documents, "initial assessments indicate this can be accomplished with a five-lane street section (two travel lanes in each direction and a center turn lane where appropriate) for motorized vehicles, providing several options within the existing rights-of-way for the proposed multi-use paths and green stormwater infrastructure."

This project is being funded with city and federal funding and requires significant Georgia Department of Transportation oversight. KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

CHEROKEE COUNTY

County recognized for excellence in budgeting

Cherokee County has once again been recognized by the Georgia Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its excellence in budgeting, according to a press release.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD?

Available now! Want more neighborhood news — delivered to your inbox each week? We've introduced four free community newsletters — Alpharetta, Dunwoody, Sandy Springs and Roswell. You can sign up today at myaccount.ajc.com/ajc/preference

Cherokee County earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award given by GFOA, which reflects the commitment of Cherokee County's governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting, the release said.

To qualify for the award, Cherokee County had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines.

Stacey Williams, Administrative Services Agency director, lauded the work of the finance team, especially Planning and Analysis Manager Ariana Freimuth, who is responsible for compiling the extensive document submitted to GFOA.

The award also includes a Certificate of Recognition for Freimuth. JUANITA LOVE FOR THE AJC

Upcoming

■ **In person: 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza by city of Roswell.** 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Roswell Area Park, 10495 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Ros-

wellGov.com/Calendar, RoswellGov.com/July4th, including an event map for parking updates: facebook.com/RoswellRecAndParks

■ **In person: July 4th Spectacular by the city of Woodstock.** July 5. Celebrations will include a road race, a parade, a festival and fireworks. Main Street will close at 7 a.m. for the Freedom Run that starts at 7:15 a.m. There will be a 5K, 1 Mile and Tot Trot. More info is available at WoodstockFreedomRun.com. bit.ly/3quPVgf

■ **In person: "Matilda JR."** Performance Camp by Georgia Ensemble Theatre. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 12-24. \$695 + available discounts. The GET Studio, Roswell. Students must have completed the GET Ultimate Acting Bootcamp, Triple Threat or a previous GET school year class. Classes will be held for children and teens in rising 3rd-12th grades. Public performances will be given at 7 p.m. July 23 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 24. Request a registration link at education@get.org.



Scholarship winners

High school graduates (clockwise from top left) Alani Andrews, (Charles R. Drew Charter), Belane Abdurahman, (Chamblee Charter), Elizabeth Comer, (Stephenson) and Jalon Cook (Drew) won \$10K Toler Velissaris Scholarships for Academic Excellence.

MORE DETAILS



Gwinnett

Peachtree Corners, Duluth and others on Twitter: @gwinnettnewsnow

SNELLVILLE

City OKs \$13.61 million budget; no tax rate hike

Snellville joins many local cities in finding their revenue projections have remained better than expected despite the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result and combined with permitting from housing construction and new commercial development in The Grove at Towne Center, the Snellville City Council adopted a \$13.61 million general fund budget for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

The budget reflects no anticipated increase in property tax revenue, which will allow the city to keep the millage rate of 4.588 mills for the seventh straight year.

The budget allows the city to maintain a competitive salary structure and addresses infrastructure needs in several

areas: \$750,000 is budgeted for street resurfacing, \$950,800 for stormwater repairs/replacement, \$800,000 for sanitation/recycling services.

Capital equipment spending includes state-mandated election equipment of \$53,000, a \$70,000 new dump truck for public works and \$385,000 for Phase 2 of the city greenway, which will extend from City Hall to Briscoe Park.

"We feel good about our budget plan and we believe our citizens will see continued excellent city services along with new projects and improvements to look forward to," Mayor Barbara Bender said.

"We also wanted to show that we value our employees and to make sure they are fairly paid with good benefits." KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

GRAYSON

City not expected to increase millage rate

Grayson will hold public hearings on its proposed 2021 millage rate at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall, 475 Grayson Parkway. A third public hearing will be at 6 p.m. July 7, followed by a vote to set the rate.

The city is planning to keep the millage rate the same as in 2020 at 1.985 mills.

Thanks to increased property values and new construction, the city anticipates collecting about 17.64% in additional property taxes.

For property owners with a \$300,000 home, property taxes will likely increase by about \$7.54 this year. For commercial property owners, with land or structures valued at \$275,000, the

MORE DETAILS



Cobb

Powder Springs, Marietta and more can get the latest on Twitter: @cobbnewsnow

POWDER SPRINGS

Tragic accident cancels July 1-4 carnival plans

The city of Powder Springs announces the cancellation of its first Powder Springs Carnival that was scheduled for July 1-4.

The reason is due to a serious car accident involving Lawrence Carr, owner of Carr Carnival, that recently claimed the life of his wife, while his son remains in the hospital with life-threatening injuries, according to Powder Springs Communications Consultant Jon Gargis on June 26.

"Carr initially thought that he would carry on with the carnival but informed organizers Friday that he would not be able to move forward with the event," Gargis said in his statement.

Ricketts Rhodes Events, which was managing event preparations, contacted multiple operators in an effort to book a replacement company to put on the carnival; but none had availability or the capacity to mobilize in a short amount of time, he added.

The annual SpringsFest on the 4th event will be held as scheduled from noon to 10 p.m. on July 4.

Additional details are at SpringsFest4th.com.

"The city of Powder Springs and Ricketts Rhodes Events express their condolences to the Carr family, their affected friends and acquaintances," Gargis said. CAROLYN CUNNINGHAM FOR THE AJC

Upcoming

■ **In person: Amazon jobs presented by Cobb WorkSource Georgia.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 7. More than 100 jobs are available as Amazon warehouse workers, with health, dental, paid vacation and 401K/retirement. Register: 770-528-4300, information@CobbWorks.org or bit.ly/Amazon-RecruitmentEvent

■ **Marietta Campmeeting.** July 9-18. 2300 Roswell Road, Marietta. Revival meeting open to all. Opening Picnic 6-7 p.m. July 9 (bring a covered dish), an Old-Fashioned Watermelon Cutting 9:30-10:30 p.m. July 10, a Memorial Service 3-4 p.m. July 11, an Ice Cream Social 9:30-10:30 p.m. July 13 and Communion Sunday on July 18. facebook.com/MariettaCampmeeting, MariettaCampmeeting.org

■ **Children's Church:** 9 a.m. to noon July 12-16, School House. MariettaCampmeeting.org/childrens-events

■ **Worship Services:** 7:30-8:45 p.m. July 9-17 and 11 a.m. to noon or 12:15 p.m. July 10-18. MariettaCampmeeting.org/2021-schedule

increase will be about \$6.91. KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

Upcoming

■ **In person: Prelude to the Fourth Fireworks Spectacular Honoring Independence Day.** 5-10 p.m. Friday. Free. Lawrenceville Lawn, 147 Luckie St., Lawrenceville. Hear performances by the 116th Army Band, Riley Biederer and Electric Avenue — The '80s MTV Experience. Famed tenor Timothy Miller will perform "God Bless America." DowntownLawrencevilleGa.com/eventson/prelude-to-the-fourth

■ **In person: Independence Day Celebration in Auburn.** 5-10:15 p.m. Saturday. Free. 1369 4th Ave., Auburn. Attractions will be food, games, live music, activities, kids zone and fireworks at dark. CityOfAuburn-ga.org