

Baldwin County Georgia



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HARRISBURG PARK SPLASH PAD NOW IN OPERATION FOR COMMUNITY ENJOYMENT



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Baldwin County Government

1601 N. Columbia St.
Suite 230
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Phone

478-445-4791

Hours

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
M-F except holidays



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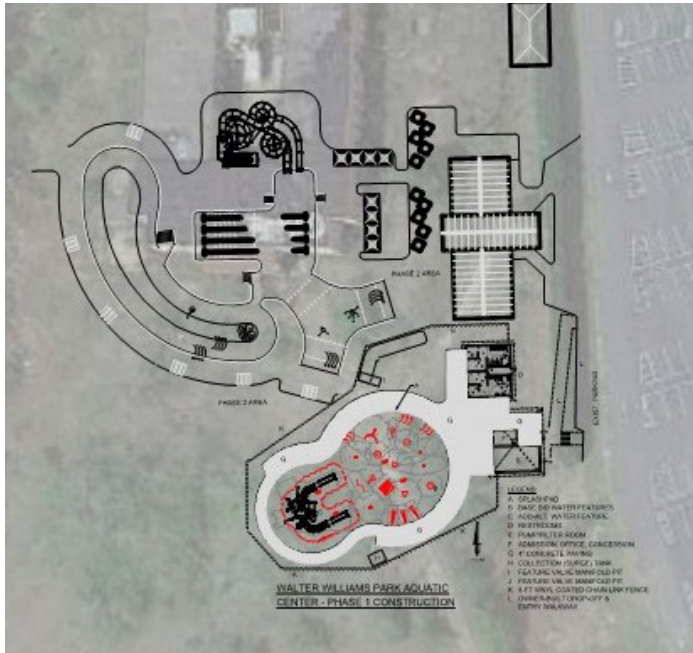
Harrisburg Park Splash Pad Now Open

Finishing touches to the Harrisburg Park Splash Pad have recently been completed! The park is located at 237 Harrisburg Road SW in Milledgeville, and boasts many other amenities to attract families to the area. There's also a playground, walking trail, community garden, orchard, and new basketball courts.

The splash pad is simple to use - just press the button on top of the blue post, and water will flow for 20 minutes. Visitors can play all day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.



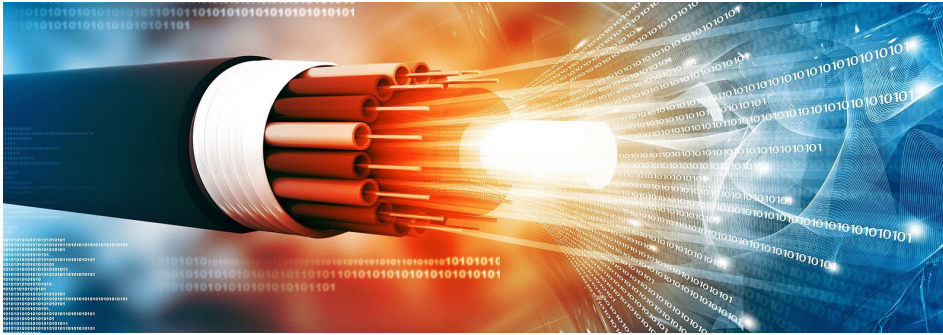
County Plans for New Family Aquatic Center at Walter B. Williams Park



The county is preparing a tourism grant application that will be submitted to the United States Economic Development Administration. The request will be for approximately \$2.5 million. Baldwin County has planned a substantial outdoor family aquatic center on a parcel that is being cleared on the southwest corner of the existing Walter B. Williams Park. The family aquatic center is intended to serve both Baldwin County families and tourists. The aquatic center should attract even more tourists to the community, arriving for ball tournaments, golf outings, lake outings and tours. Baldwin County may be selected for even more ball tournaments because of the amenities it provides with the addition of the aquatic center. The county wants to construct an aquatic center attractive to tourists and residents alike because it is

important that the center sustain itself and not be a burden on taxpayers. Dublin, GA operates a self-sustaining aquatic center and Baldwin County is modeling this new facility after theirs. The aquatic center is designed to be appealing enough to be a tourist attraction in and of itself. The aquatic center will have a splash pad with slides for young children, a water slide for older children and adults, a swimming area for community swim lessons, and a lazy river that will be attractive to all ages. The county is contributing \$1 million in SPLOST funds and has used county staff and equipment to clear, grub, and grade the old state prison site. By performing the work in-house, the county is saving approximately \$1 million in construction costs. A solicitation for engineering, design, and construction administration services has been issued.

High Speed Internet Service Expanding Throughout County



Baldwin County is monitoring the installation of fiber optic cable throughout the county. As many of you know, Tri-County EMC and Washington EMC are installing fiber optic cable in their respective service areas. All Baldwin County customers will be offered high-speed internet service. Baldwin County already has high speed internet service in the urbanized areas of the county. The EMC's fiber optic installations will bring high speed internet service to thousands more Baldwin County residents.

Governor Brian Kemp allocated \$30 million in state funds this year to expand broadband connectivity in rural Georgia. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund has set aside \$326.5 million for Georgia over the next 10 years. The county is reviewing broadband provider plans for the remaining unserved areas in Baldwin County.

Baldwin County Wins Three NACo National Achievement Awards



Baldwin County's Adult Treatment Court Collaborative, the Baldwin County Regional Airport, and the Baldwin County Transit Program have been recognized with Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo recognized these three programs for their innovation, effectiveness and efficiency. To learn more, please visit the County website's news and announcements page [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Available at Department of Public Health without an Appointment

The Baldwin County Department of Public Health is now offering COVID-19 vaccinations without an appointment on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Department of Public Health is located at 100 Ireland Drive in Milledgeville.



CodeRED®

Maximize your safety with CodeRED!

CodeRED® is the FREE community notification system available to local residents that will send you alerts concerning time-sensitive and/or emergency information that may impact your area via phone calls, text messages, emails, and social media. Milledgeville Baldwin County Emergency Management encourages you to take action and register your cell phone for this service and verify your home location to receive targeted notifications that directly impact your home or business.

The CodeRED system will be used to send critical and time-sensitive communications such as:

- Missing Persons/Children
- Emergency Preparedness
- Natural Disasters
- Evacuation Notices
- Boil Water Advisories
- Inclement Weather Warnings
- Wildfire Alerts
- Public Health Crisis
- Criminal Activity
- Road Closures/Traffic Alerts
- Shelter in Place/Lockdowns

Don't wait! Start receiving notifications that could save your life.

[Click here to get started.](#)

Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Fast Facts about Proposed Property Tax Increase

The proposed property tax increase in Baldwin County is due to the cost of providing county services outpacing new growth in the County digest, and state law requiring a balanced budget.

Current Millage Rate: 9.83

Rollback Rate: 9.642

Proposed New Millage Rate: 10.50

Baldwin County is in the lowest 30th percentile for county property taxes in Georgia

Taxpayers would see an increase on the 2021 Tax Bill, which is due in November 2021.

There has not been a millage rate increase since 2014, when it was raised to 9.84. Current millage rate is lower than it was in 2014.

Tax Increase Calculation: Homestead (Owner-Occupied)
(\$100,000 Fair Market Value)

Rollback Millage Rate: 9.642

County Taxes: \$289.20

Proposed Millage Rate: 10.5

County Taxes: \$315.00 (Increase of \$25.80)

Tax Increase Calculation: Non-Homestead
(\$100,000 Fair Market Value)

Rollback Millage Rate: 9.642

County Taxes: \$385.60

Proposed Millage Rate: 10.5

County Taxes: \$420.00 (Increase of \$34.40)

What are the Increased Costs?

Fuel

As a result of federal policy, fuel costs are higher.

In 2021 the county will spend an additional \$30,000 on fuel, and anticipates increased fuel prices in 2022.

Elections

The passage of SB 202 – “Election Integrity Act of 2021” and required maintenance and reporting on new voting equipment has caused increased demands on election officials, leading to the addition of two new positions for elections. With salary, benefits and training, this is an approximate increase of \$100,000.

Law Enforcement

From 2021 to 2031, the county is spending \$100,000 each year for new tasers, bodycams and technological equipment to reduce the risks of lawsuits in this litigious environment.

EMS Services

Baldwin County has contracted for EMS services for many years with \$0 subsidy. Surrounding counties and most counties our size (by population) pay between \$300,000 and \$2,000,000 for ambulance services. Grady EMS (the current contracted provider) will charge a \$195,000 subsidy beginning on January 1, 2022.

Stormwater Fees

Starting in 2020, the City of Milledgeville started charging the county stormwater fees.

That is an additional cost of \$50,000 per year.

Fire & Rescue

The state illegally cancelled the Fire and Rescue Contract. The county is suing the state for breach of contract. In the meantime, the county is incurring new and additional expenses totaling \$637,00 in 2021.