BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS E-NEWSLETTER





### BALDWIN COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE PARTNERS WITH ATRIUM HEALTH NAVICENT EMS



GET ALL THE DETAILS ON PAGE 2 >>

### 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



## New Partnership Begins Between Baldwin County Fire & Rescue and Atrium Health Navicent EMS



On January 19th, new ambulance provider Atrium Health Navicent EMS moved one ambulance and crew members to the Baldwin County Fire & Rescue headquarters. This partnership will lead to improved customer service by reducing response times for the southside of the county. Atrium Health Navicent EMS paid for all materials and supplies for this move, and Baldwin County Fire & Rescue staff helped with a minor remodel to prepare Atrium Health Navicent's staff living quarters.

Fire & Rescue Chief Victor Young stated, "I am thrilled that we were able to make this happen. This was a long time goal that I desired. This will help better response time for our community. We are also planning on opening other stations for Atrium in different districts. I would like to thank the fire personnel as well as the EMS personnel for working together. This is definitely a team effort."

Bud Owens, Executive Leader for Georgia/Alabama Atrium Health EMS Markets, stated, "I am delighted that our partnership with Baldwin County Fire Department enables us to work this closely together to better serve the citizens. I express our appreciation to Chief Young and his team for inviting us into their facility. As we identify additional response stations, our goal is to respond quickly to life threatening emergencies where time is essential. We want to assure the community has exceptional emergency medical services and fast access to our local medical center."

#### FEBRUARY 2024

Baldwin County Board of Commissioners Chair John Westmoreland noted, "I am excited that this partnership between the county and Atrium is improving the level of service for our residents. I tip my hat to the staff who made this happen. The excellent teamwork is commendable." We look forward to seeing the impact of this new partnership on the community at large.

# Baldwin County Fire & Rescue Announces New Promotions



Baldwin County Fire & Rescue has celebrated some exciting new promotions recently! Pictured above, from left to right: Deputy Chief Sheri Kneip, Captain Kevin Meeks, and Lieutenant Shep Davis.

Captain Sheri Kneip was promoted to Deputy Chief. She started in 2005 and has worked her way through the ranks from a firefighter to where she is today. Many of our community members know her from all the work she has done in our inspection and fire prevention efforts. We look forward to having her work in her new role as Deputy Chief.

Lieutenant Kevin Meeks was promoted to Captain. Captain Meeks started work with Baldwin County Fire & Rescue in 2008 and works in the fire prevention division. He is a fire extinguisher technician and conducts fire inspections and fire prevention training. We are proud of all the work he continues to do for us and looking forward to his growth.

Firefighter Shep Davis started with Baldwin County Fire & Rescue in 2020 and excelled through his firefighter one course. He worked full time for us and started learning about the fire inspection and prevention program and determined that was something he wanted to do. He underwent all the required training and started shadowing for the job. He was selected for the job and promoted to Lieutenant in the Fire Prevention Division. We know he will do great things. Congratulations to all of these individuals on their promotions!

#### FEBRUARY 2024

### **Baldwin County UGA Extension Offers Free Tax Service**



### UGA EXTENSION OFFERS

# **Free Income Tax Preparation!**

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), UGA Extension and Piedmont University can prepare federal and state returns, **FREE of charge**. We want to help you maximize your refund and receive every available benefit!

#### We can help you:



Call 478-445-4394 to book your appointment.

Scan the QR code for more info:

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# **Airport Terminal Apron Expansion Update**



Baldwin County's partner Holt Consulting is finalizing the engineering plans and bid documents for the airport's terminal apron expansion project. This \$3 million project will improve safety and provide more tie down space for visiting aircraft. Baldwin County thanks the State of Georgia who is providing \$2.2 million of the funding. Construction should start in the fall of 2024.

# **Meriwether Convenience Center Undergoes Repairs**

The Meriwether Convenience Center is undergoing base repairs. One additional area will be developed to make it easier for the elderly and disabled to dispose of tree limbs.



# Baldwin County Courthouse Renovations Close to Completion



Baldwin County is close to finishing all the renovations at the courthouse. On January 15, 2024, the chiller was removed from the roof. Baldwin County selected a Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) system to replace the old, failing system. VRF is a ductless, large-scale system that performs at a high capacity, using refrigerant for both air conditioning and heating.

VRF systems obtain their high efficiency through the use of inverter compressors. Inverter systems allow the compressor to ramp up or down based on the needs within each space. A non-inverter system ramps up the compressor at full capacity all the time. Since inverter systems operate at lower speeds and capacity, the efficiency gains can be substantial.

The decision to install a VRF system at the courthouse was an easy one for Baldwin County. The county had the benefit of seeing the low energy costs of this type of system at the Baldwin County Government Building and looks forward to similar results at the courthouse.

#### FEBRUARY 2024