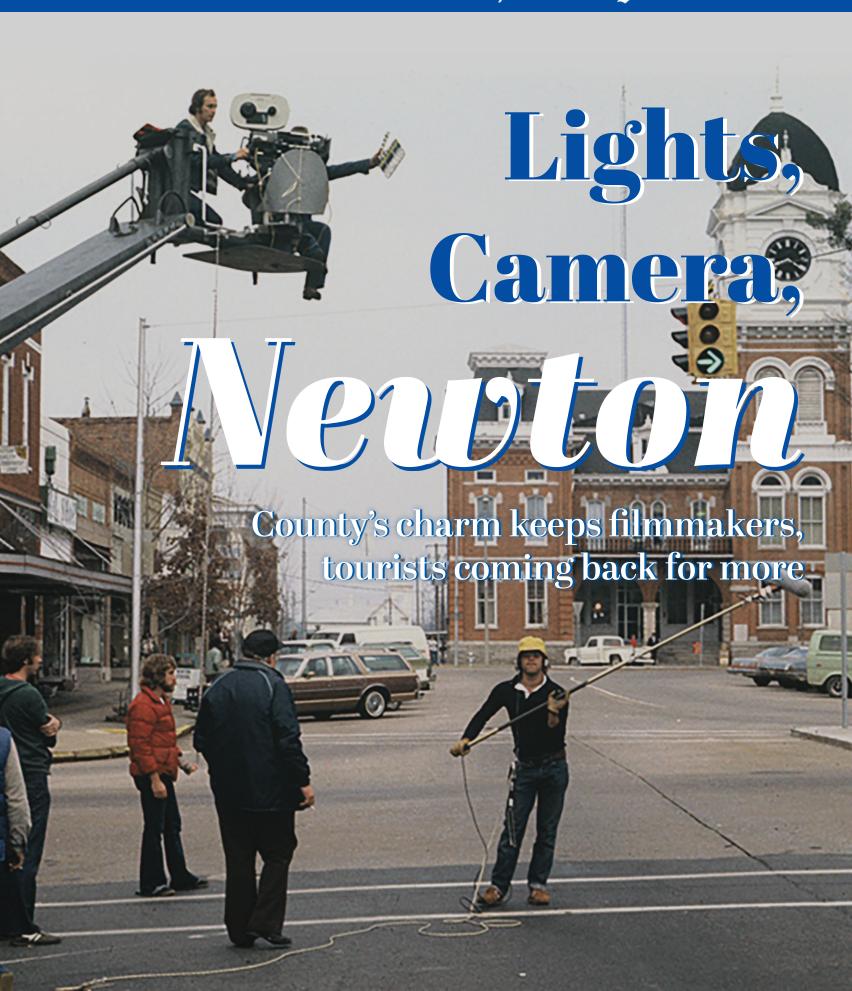
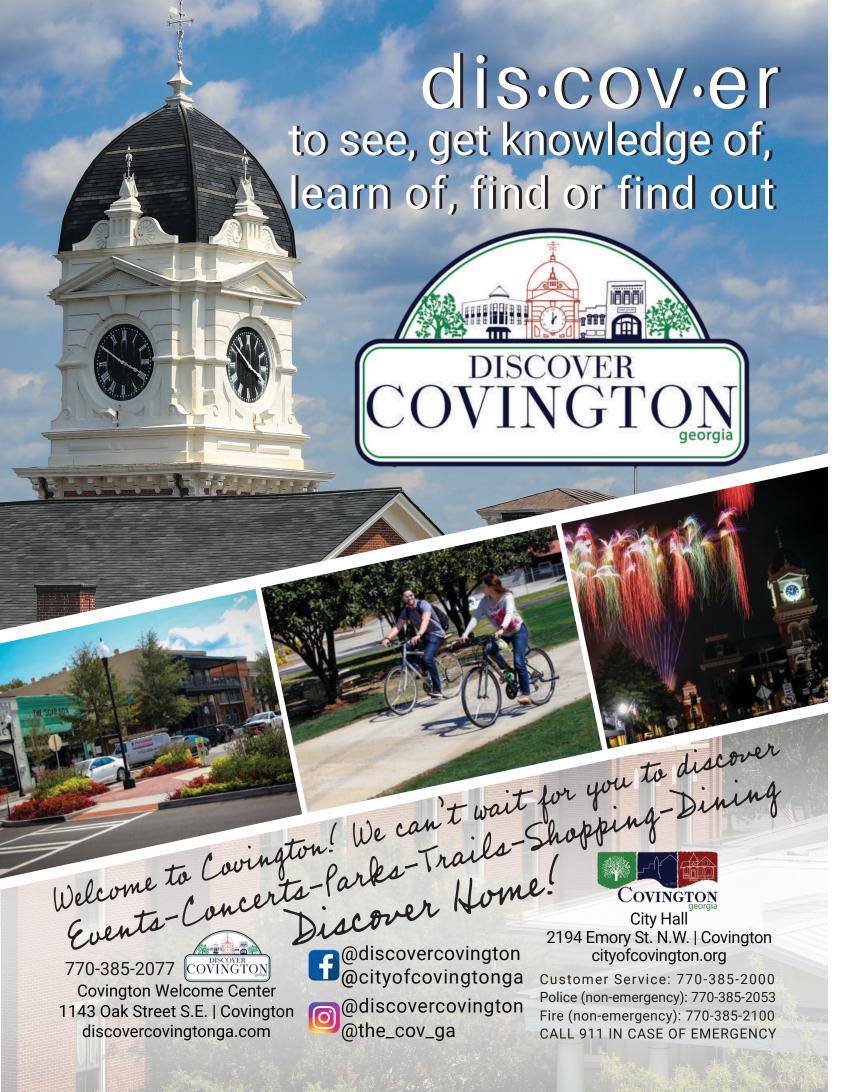
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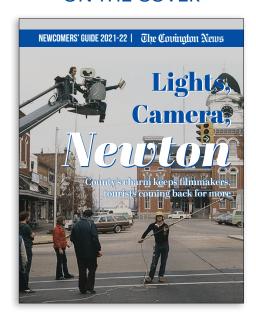
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### ON THE COVER



**Crew members shoot an episode of "The** Dukes of Hazzard" in Covington in 1979.

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### LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

### Enjoy glance at area's film history

lilming has played a big role in the history and growth of Newton County. In fact, had film-

makers overlooked the area, the community I'm proud to call home could look much different today.

In this year's edition of Newcomers' Guide, in addition to introducing our gov-

ernment officials and detailing what services are available to residents, we are excited to present readers with a glimpse into the rich film history of Newton County.

As always, whether you're new to town or a lifelong resident, we hope you learn something when you pick up this Newcomers edition.

Welcome to Newton County!

**Taylor Beck** Editor and Publisher The Covington News

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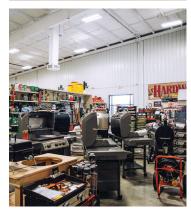
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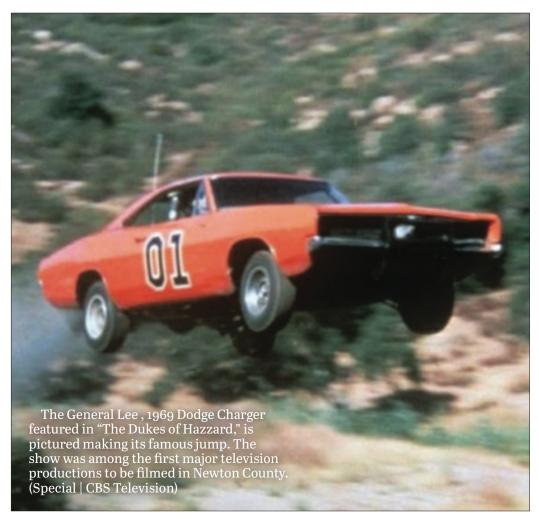












### 130-plus films, TV shows produced in Newton County since 1953

**By TOM SPIGOLON** 

tspigolon@covnews.com

'ewton County has become both a mecca for the TV and film industry and for tourists attracted to the locations for the productions filmed here.

Covington and Newton County are known as the "Hollywood of the South" — a nickname the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce trademarked in 2012.

In recent years, studios also began moving into the county as the area became a popular filming location.

Covington served as a stand-in for Mystic Falls, Virginia, where the TV show "The Vampire Diaries" was set.

It ran from 2009 to 2017 on The CW network and spawned spin-offs for the popular show, including "The Originals" and "Legacies."



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"Diaries" also continues to have a cult following and fans from throughout the country flock to the Covington Square for walking tours of show locations.

The show's popularity reportedly led to Newton County becoming one of the leaders in film tourism in Georgia following a 300% increase in visitor numbers since 2009, according to Covington tourism coordinator DJ Waller.

"Any given day, you will see fans of the show meandering around the Square, walking up and down Floyd and Convers Streets, shopping in our stores and eating in our restaurants," Waller said in 2020.

Currently, parts of Covington serve as the location for the fictional Serenity, South Carolina, for Netflix's "Sweet Magnolias" which began production on a second season earlier this year after a layoff due to COVID-19.

Waller said "Sweet Magnolias" also had the potential for drawing a similar influx of fans to see its filming locations.

#### A HISTORY OF FILMING

Newton County has served as a location for television and movie productions for decades.

The film "A Man Called Peter" got the ball rolling in 1953 and more than 130 films and TV shows have been produced in Newton County.

Classic TV series like "The Dukes of Hazzard," and "In the Heat of the Night" and more than 60 film productions have filmed in Newton County.

Films which used Newton County as locations include "My Cousin Vinny," Disney's "Flash," "The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All." HBO's "Miss Evers' Boys," "Remember the Titans," "The Cannonball Run," "Black Dog,"
"Footloose," "Flight," "Selma" and more.

The first season of the famed 1980s series "The Dukes of Hazzard" was filmed in Covington.

"In the Heat of the Night," a TV series based on the 1967 film, was filmed in Covington during seven of its eight seasons from 1988 to 1995.

According to information from the classic TV network GetTV, which airs episodes of the original show, the first season was filmed in Louisiana.

"For season two, production moved to Covington, Georgia. There were no soundstages in Covington, so producers retrofitted two warehouses for standing sets like the police station," according to GetTV.

#### **TOURISM A BENEFIT**

Among the more popular stops for film tourists is Twelve Oaks Bed and Breakfast, a mansion built in 1836. It has served as the location for almost 100 TV shows and films, including "Vampire

Diaries."

The Mystic Grill restaurant on the Covington Square also is a popular stop for tourists as is Vampire Stalkers, which offers a guided tour of filming locations and a gift shop for "Diaries" fans.

Covington's Welcome Center reopened April 19 in its own space after sharing space with the Chamber of Commerce.

The new center contains nearly three times the space of its former location and allowed it to add a Film and History museum, which was made possible through collaboration with the Newton County Historical Society.

The museum includes memorabilia from the popular TV shows and movies filmed in the Covington area, such as "The Vampire Diaries" and its spin-off, "The Originals." It also includes items from such classic, Covington-filmed shows as "The Dukes of Hazzard" and "In the Heat of the Night."

Welcome Center Coordinator Ron Carter told The Covington News in April the addition of the museum was needed because of the amount of tourists drawn to the area because of its film history.

"We have people coming in on a weekly basis for 'Dukes of Hazzard' and 'In the Heat of the Night,' but most definitely the biggest influx of people is going to be your 'Vampire Diaries' and 'The







Originals," Carter said.

"We say that film tourism is kind of the highlight of what we can do here. We also offer recreational tourism, cultural tourism and historical tourism, but film is our kind of bread and butter, so to speak."

Carter said the city generally averaged about 40,000 to 45,000 visitors a year before the pandemic. He estimated 75% are film tourists and, of those, 80% are specifically visiting for "Vampire Diaries."

#### STUDIOS OPEN, OPERATING

Cinelease Studios-Three Ring began operating in late 2020 on 160 acres on Georgia Hwy. 142 two miles north of I-20 in Covington.

It has more than 110,000 square feet of sound stage space, 60,000 square feet of stage support space, 30,000 square feet of office space, and an additional 110 acres for location filming, according to information from the company.

Triple Horse Studios operates on Technology Drive in Covington. It includes sound stages, scenic operations, camera, lighting and grip equipment departments as well as a post-production division with screening rooms, editorial, sound, foley, visual effects, color grade and finishing, according to information on its website.



# Experience area's rich film history with guided tours

By TAYLOR BECK theck@covnews.com

Perhaps there's nothing more iconic than the "General Lee Jump" made famous by characters Bo and Luke of the hit TV sitcom "The Dukes of Hazzard." The first ever jump was filmed in Covington, just off the Square on Pace Street where the railroad crossing used to be. It's now where the Cricket Frog Trail crosses the highway.

In order to pull off the jump, a stuntman driving the 1969 Dodge Charger used a "makeshift, dirt ramp" to launch the vehicle over a police car. The 16-foot high, 82-foot long leap reportedly totaled the car, but made history in the process. From 1979-1985, that particular jump filmed in Covington aired every week during the show's opening credits.

Though nothing close to the televised scene, tourists and residents alike can experience the iconic jump, as well as seeing other filming locations firsthand across the city and county through local tourism businesses.

In addition to "The Dukes of Hazzard," Newton County is home to four other television series including the

classic "In the Heat of the Night." For the younger generation, Covington and Newton County are most known for the hit show "The Vampire Dairies," one of its spinoffs called "Legacies" and a separate series featured on Netflix titled "Sweet Magnolias." The latter two shows are still being filmed in Covington today.

Aside from these series, nearly 100 other projects have been filmed in the county.

Whether a fan of one or all, memorable tours educating the public about the area's rich film history and ongoing projects can be booked with Main Street Trolleys or Vampire Stalkers – Mystic Falls Tours.

#### MAIN STREET TROLLEYS

In 2017, Newton County resident Brad Hill had a vision.

He wanted to combine the nostalgia of a trolley with the area's alluring charm and film history to provide both locals and tourists a unique, unforgettable experience in Covington.

About a year later he purchased an old trolley, and that's when Main Street Trolleys was born.

"A lot of things have changed since then," Hill said with a smile.



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He said the trolley was first introduced on July 4, 2018, when it was only used to transport people from parking areas to the Square for the festival and fireworks show.

"We made nothing on that," he said. "That was really just for advertising."

Hill said Main Street Trolleys actually struggled to maintain a profit for the first two years in business due to lack of customers and trolley breakdowns.

But the turning point for his business came when Hill turned his own life around, he said.

"Things changed when I renewed my faith in my Lord and Savior, and I started to give him the glory and not me," Hill said.

In the last year, Main Street Trolleys has had more than 3,000 patrons, which was a significant increase from years past, but he also said, "I can't even tell you how many free tours or customers that didn't pay we had — I don't keep track of that number."

He called the recent success a testament to the importance of working hard despite all odds and a testament to "keeping your faith in God."

Main Street Trolleys offers three types of tours centered on the area's film history: The Covington Movie Tour, the Epic Tour and the Heat Tour.

The Covington Movie Tour is a two-

hour guided tour that takes patrons all around the city to visit famous filming locations.

"Stand where Carroll O'Connor stood while being the Chief of Police in Sparta," MainStreetTrolleys.com describes. "See where the Duke boys jumped the General Lee in the opening of Dukes of Hazzard. See the houses used in 'The Vampire Diaries,' reenact the famous 'Delena Rainkiss,' hear the backstories from filming. Learn what makes Covington so historic. Hear the history and visit some of the oldest homes in the town. You might even get a little spooked from a few ghost stories along the way."

The Epic Tour is a three-hour experience described as a "must" for "The Vampire Diaries" fans that tours filming locations not only in Covington, but also on the outskirts of town that "you can't see on any other tour in Covington."

The Heat Tour is dedicated to "In the Heat of the Night" fans, but this tour is only held on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Knowledgable tour guides share behind the scenes stories and personal experiences with the cast while filming at 25 different locations.

For the winter holiday season only, Main Street Trolleys also offers a Christmas adventure called "The South Pole Express," which Hill calls his favorite of the tours. More information about Main Street Trolleys can be found at MainStreetTrolleys.com.

### VAMPIRE STALKERS — MYSTIC FALLS TOURS

Whenever crews were in town to film "The Vampire Diaries" between 2009-2017, Jessica Lowery probably wasn't too far away. Any spare time Lowery and her daughter, Brannan, had, they would spend it on or near filming locations, which eventually led to personal relationships with cast members and unforgettable stories.

Those experiences led the former special needs teacher to start a blog called "Vampire Stalkers" — a title she is proud to hold.

Not long after the blog was launched, toward the end of 2009, Lowery found herself leading what she described as "glorified field trips" around Covington to show people where parts of the TV show had been filmed. And thus, her now 10-year-old business, Vampire Stalkers – Mystic Falls Tours, was born.

After a few years of leading guided tours, Lowery took her company to another level by opening a storefront on the Covington Square in 2013, which houses her TV and Movie Museum featuring pieces of memorabilia from not only "The Vampire Diaries" but also



# CONGRESSMAN HANK JOHNSON

representing Covington & west Newton County

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My office offers assistance to constituents by answering questions, finding solutions, or by cutting through red tape. A few of the areas in which my office may be able to help you, include: Veterans Affairs, Social Security and Medicare Benefits Military Service Issues & Service Academy Nominations Federal Grants & Small Business Assistance

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other TV shows and movies filmed in Newton County.

Shortly after the store was opened, Lowery's tourism business began garnering local and national recognition.

Between 2013 and 2014, Vampire Stalkers earned numerous awards including Newton County's Business of the Year. It was also rated the "Sixth Best Vampire Destination in the World" by the Travel Channel, and the business annually earned the Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor, which based on fan feedback.

In 2015, Walmart and Netflix sponsored a "Superfans" documentary, which involved coming to take the Vampire Stalkers tour and film Lowery with fans.

Since spinoffs of "The Vampire Diaries" were introduced a few years ago, Lowery expanded her tour options to include the Mystic Falls Tour centered around "The Vampire Diaries" and "Legacies," and the Originals Tour based on "The Originals" in Conyers.

Outside of the vampire world, Lowery said she also offers a "Hollywood of the South" tour, which includes visiting locations where a variety of film projects were conducted.

Lowery's "The Vampire Diaries" tours are unique because they are the only local tours "cast approved," meaning cast members have taken the tour and enjoyed themselves, she said. Lowery also said the ability to share her personal experiences with cast members as a vampire stalker is something that can't be found anywhere else.

"Every one of us know the cast," Lowery said. "We can share so many behind the scenes stories — like, for the scene filmed at this location. I remember this actor or that actor had such a difficult time remembering their lines. You know, stuff like that ... those are things we remember and share on our tours.'

More information about Vampire Stalkers - Mystic Falls Tours can be found at MysticFallsTours.com.



### Residents, tourists encouraged to visit county's historic sites

**STAFF REPORTS** 

news@covnews.com

If new to the area, or unfamiliar with Newton County's history, there's much more to see than filming locations. The Covington News staff suggests visiting the following locations, some of which may double as filming locations:

First United Methodist Church of Covington – Built in 1854, the church's pews were removed and the building was used as an infirmary during the Civil War. Located near the Covington Square, 1113 Conyers Street SW, Covington.

**Old Church** – The Oxford church was the first chapel of Emory University. Located near Oxford College of Emory University, 1011 Wesley Street, Oxford.

**Gaither's Plantation** – The plantation house was built in 1855 sits on 256 acres. Located at 270 Davis Ford Road, Gaither's Plantation is available for weddings, receptions, meetings and festivals.

The Brick Store – Newton County's first brick structure was used as a general store, stagecoach stop and housed Newton County's first court session. Located 10 miles east of Covington on Hwy. 278.

**Oxford Historical Cemetery** - Circa 1839, the cemetery is located off Emory Street and Collingsworth Street.

**Salem Campground** – Circa 1828 the campground has been a religious meeting place for generations. The tabernacle was erected in 1854. Located at 3940 Salem Road, Covington

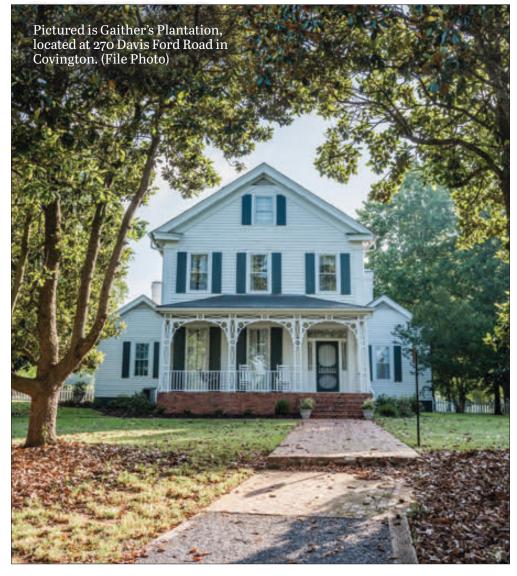
Harris Springs Church Site – The primitive Baptist Church building and land were deeded to the Newton County Historical Society. The church, from 1822, now stands at Gaither Plantation. Located at 44 Harris Springs Church Road, Covington.

Mansfield School – The school's original school bell is at this location built in 1908. Located at 45 East 3rd Avenue, Mansfield.

Flint Hill Academy- The academy from between 1850-1924 exemplifies a typical rural one-room Schoolhouse. Locate across from Macedonia Baptist Church at 113 Macedonia Church Road, Oxford.

**Factory Shoals** – A site of advanced water-powered industrialization from 1820. Located at 450 Newton Factory Bridge Road, Covington.

**Newton County Jail** – Used from 1901-1983 the building was designed to be the most secure and best jail in the state. Located at 1177 Hunter Street, Covington.



Newton County 4-H Program – The first 4-H program, commemorates the Newton County Boys Corn Club, as well as 4-H from 1904. Located at the intersection of Hwy. 36 and Hwy 162 in Covington.

**The Depot** – A Georgia railroad freight and passenger station in use from 1855-1985. Located at 4122 Emory Street, NW. Covington

**Old Starrsville Store** – From 1830 the store was used as mercantile business, center of trade and meeting place. It was demolished in 1922. It was located at the intersection of County Road 213 and Dixie Road in Covington.

**Cedar Shoals, Porterdale** – It was a prosperous industrial site from 1821. Located at 16 Main Street, Porterdale.

**Dinah Pace Orphanage School** – Seven hundred orphaned children grew up in this center from 1884-1935. The school is located inside the Washington Street School Building, 4138 School Street, Covington.

The Female College – It was an exclusive girls school until it became the City of Covington School in 1889. The building was on College Avenue where the city's welcome center is now located.

Hightower Trail – At the northeast corner of Gum Creek and Hightower Trail in Oxford, the trail brought Native Americans from Augusta toward the Etowah River into Alabama.

**Kitty's Cottage** – Miss Kitty, an enslaved woman later free occupied the quarters from the 1840s-1850s. Located on Wesley Street behind Old Church in Oxford.

**Washington Street School** – Newton County's African-American School was founded in 1889. Located at 4138 School Street, Covington.

**Dr. James Thomas Gibson site** – The site represents a typical rural medical practice which ran from 1881-1921. Located at 6469 Hwy. 212.

### A word from the

### Newton County Chamber of Commerce

hether you are a longtime resident, new arrival or one of the 45,000plus visitors to Newton County — WELCOME!

We love it here, and we're confident you will too. Newton County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Once fertile farmland and now the home to a very diverse business and industry base,



Debbie Harper

Newton County is the perfect balance of suburban life with urban amenities and a bit of Hollywood thrown in. Located just 35 miles east of Atlanta, Newton County truly has something for everyone.

Newton County is steeped in history and comes alive with many festivals and events throughout the year. Just to name a couple, The 4th of July Fireworks is one of the top in the state and our cities shine bright with Christmas lights and holiday activities throughout the holidays.

Experiencing rapid growth like most metro counties, Newton County is on the brink of something big. The strength of the community lies in its diversity. It's for movers and shakers, but also for people who know how to slow down and live life.

The focus of the Chamber is to create quality, well-paying jobs to support an ever improving Quality of Life for each of you. Our diverse industry base including, advanced manufacturing, bio-pharma, technology, retail, film & television is ever expanding and attracting people just like you to fill these jobs and call Newton County

HOME. Just a few industries that call Newton County home are General Mills, Bridgestone Golf, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, & Facebook Data Center. We are also known as Hollywood of the South™ from our ongoing rich film history that has turned into one of our valued local industries. Some of these include The Vampire Diaries, In Heat of the Night, Cannonball Run, & most recently the Netflix series, Sweet Magnolias along with about another 120+ film and/ or television series that all started with "A Man Called Peter" in 1953.

Not only is Newton County an excellent community in which to live, it is a great place to do business. As the Chamber of Commerce president, I want to encourage you to become active in your community and in our Chamber of Commerce.

Please check out our published calendars and our website, www. newtonchamber.com for opportunities where you can help make a positive difference in your community. Get connected and volunteer in Chamber activities and also participate in the many other community service organizations.

We want to always encourage you to SHOP LOCAL which in turn not only helps your community but your neighbors. We will continue to pursue excellence in all that we do at the Chamber and for Newton County and our surrounding communities.

Debbie Harper is president of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce. Contact the chamber's office at 770-786-7510, stop by at 2101 Clark Street in Covington, or visit gocovington.com to learn more about the chamber.



# Knowledge of the area is essential when selecting a New Home.

As a longtime resident of the Newton area I am well acquainted with the housing market. Making sure all the details are taken care of and solving any problem that may arise is a job I take very seriously. Being informed will enable you to make the right decisions when purchasing or selling your home. I will work hard to obtain the information you need when making this important decision.

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# Finding your role =

# Tips and tools for new job seekers

By TAYLOR BECK

hether you've just moved to Newton County or lived here all of your life, it can sometimes be tough to find a job — especially if you don't know where to look.

In Newton County, there are a number of avenues available to help job seekers to secure a position with a competitive wage and benefits.

### Georgia Department of Labor -Covington Office

Going through the Georgia Department of Labor is a great way to help your job search be a successful one.

A career office, located at 7249 Industrial Boulevard, N.E. in Covington, which serves Jasper, Newton and Walton counties, is currently temporarily closed to the public. However, job seekers may visit dol.georgia.gov to use a variety of tools to help them kickstart their career.

Employ Georgia is a tool that allows users to create an account, build or upload a résumé, view job postings and save job searches to receive notifications of new job postings.

Job seekers may also utilize other tools on the website to explore career options and properly plan their job hunt.

If the online tools aren't in your wheelhouse, or maybe aren't available to you, try calling the Covington career center at 770-784-2455.

#### Newton County Chamber of Commerce

In partnership with its member businesses and local industries, job seekers may utilize the Newton County Chamber of Commerce as another resource in their hunt for a new position.

Members of the workforce looking for a job or simply looking to move up the career ladder can search through a list of positions found at business. newtonchamber.com/jobs/. Positions for hire are updated regularly, and these positions range anywhere from Newton County and beyond.

Don't want to bother with the online format? Call 770-786-7510 or stop by the



chamber at 2101 Clark Street in Covington, and they'll help you in person.

### **GPTC** Regional Job Fair

Each year, Georgia Piedmont Technical College teams up with Newton and Walton county partners and stakeholders to host one of the largest hiring events in the state of Georgia — the Regional Job Fair.

This year, shortly before this publication, GPTC hosted its 2021 Regional Job Fair on July 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Newton D Conference Center, located at 8100 Bob Williams Parkway in Covington. Nearly 60 industries participated in this year's event.

Organizers also offered a series of free

pre-job fair workshops to job seekers to help prepare them for the event. Goodwill of North Georgia also provided free blazers for job seekers to "upgrade" their look.

To learn about the job fair event, or get ready for the 2022 event, visit gptc.edu/regional-job-fair/.

#### **The Covington News**

Don't forget about the newspaper! There are often job opportunities posted within The Covington News' Classifieds section.

Visit CovNews.com or call 770-787-6397 to subscribe to the newspaper for as little as \$5 per month, or find copies at the nearest newsstand for only \$1.

# **Making It Home**

### Utilities, services for Newton homeowners vary based on location

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

ou have moved into a new residence somewhere within unincorporated Newton County or its five cities.

Now what?

The following is a listing of ways to contact most utilities providers for service in Newton County. Your provider will vary, depending on where you live:

Electric service:

Snapping Shoals EMC:

770-786-3484

www.ssemc.com

https://www.ssemc.com/ApplyforService.aspx

• Central Georgia EMC:

770-775-7857

www.cgemc.com

https://bill.cgemc.com/onlineform/ Application%20for%20Service/Application%20for%20service.aspx

• Walton EMC:

770-267-2505

www.waltonemc.com

https://www.waltonemc.com/index. php/myaccount/service/start-service/

Georgia Power:

888-660-5890

www.georgiapower.com

https://customerservice2.southerncompany.com/CustService/StartService/FindAddress

• City of Covington:

770-385-2000

http://cityofcovington.org/index.

php?section=electric3

http://cityofcovington.org/ckeditorfiles/files/Utility\_NewApplicationFillable.pdf

• City of Oxford:

770-786-7004

www.oxfordgeorgia.org

https://www.oxfordgeorgia.org/As-

sets/Files/UtilityApp.pdf

· City of Mansfield: 770-786-7235

www.mansfieldga.gov

https://www.mansfieldga.gov/Assets/ Files/Services/UtilityDeposits/ApplicationforUtilityServices.pdf

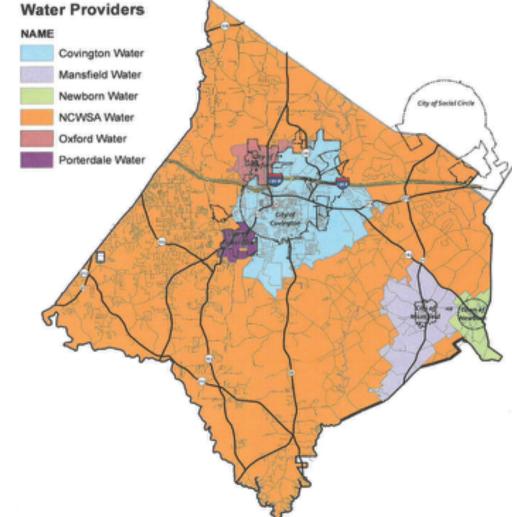
Water and sewer:

• Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority:

770-787-1375

www.ncwsa.us

https://ncwsa.us/customer-service/



City of Covington:

770-385-2000

http://cityofcovington.org/index. php?section=electric3

http://cityofcovington.org/ckeditorfiles/files/Utility\_NewApplicationFillable.pdf

 City of Mansfield 770-786-7235

· City of Newborn

770-787-1660

• City of Oxford:

770-786-7004

• City of Porterdale 770-786-2217

Natural gas service:

- For city residents, contact City Hall for provider.
- For residents outside cities, a list of Public Service Commission certified providers is at https://psc.ga.gov/utili-

ties/natural-gas/list-of-certified-marketers-and-contact-information/.

Internet/telephone/cable TV:

• AT&T, Spectrum, Xfinity, Earthlink, ViaSat and HughesNet are among the providers in Newton County.

Garbage service:

· City residents should call their respective city hall to request how to establish service.

Some private haulers who serve unincorporated Newton County include:

· Burgess Hauling

Phone 770-787-3182

• Clean Earth Sanitation Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 770-787-3182

· Curbside GFL

Phone: 770-385-1000

• Peach State Disposal

Phone: 770-267-1068

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953 Main Street Olde Town Conyers

770-760-1494

M-F 8-5 · Sat 8-3

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Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm | Monday & Saturday by Appt.

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770-922-1935

Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm Saturday: 10am-2pm

# **Explore Local Libraries**



#### **Newton County Library System**

Covington Branch Library

The Covington Branch Library is a full-service public library and serves as the headquarters for the Newton County Library System in Covington.

7116 Floyd St. NE., Covington

THE

WTLDFLOWER



The Wildflower Collective is

a collection of local artists,

specializing in customized

Phone: 770-787-3231 Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Jeanette Adams Zeigler Library

The Jeanette Adams Zeigler Library located in Newborn City Hall offers limited services including borrowing books and movies, story times for children, computers for public use and internet access as well as answering general questions.

4224 Highway 142, Newborn Phone: 770-787-1126 Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Porter Memorial Branch Library

Porter Memorial Branch Library is a full-service branch of the Newton County Library System. The 18,000-square-foot LEED building is named in honor of James Hyde Porter and features adult and children books, audio books, DVDs and music CDs, public computing with internet access, plus a teen room, quiet room, study rooms, meeting room and conference room.

6191 Highway 212, Covington

Phone: 678-729-1388





Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### **NCLS Services**

Assistive Services

NCLS offers an array of assistive services to accommodate every person who enters the facility. The library building was constructed within the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, and assistive equipment is available during normal business hours. All tables within the facility are wheelchair accessible and there are even a few tables that will accommodate special wheelchairs. The library offers one of the largest audiobook collections to help accommodate people with reading difficulties.

#### Computer Services

NCLS offers access to computers with high-speed Internet access. There are computers in each section of the library — adults, teens and children — and are configured for each age group. Most USB drives, CDs and DVDs can be used on the computers. Each computer is equipped with Microsoft Office; Word, Excel and Powerpoint are available to use. A print, copy and fax options are available, in black and white or colored, for a fee:

Copies: 20 cents per page for black and white, \$1 per page for colored

Computer printing: 20 cents per page for black and white, \$1 per page for colored

Fax: \$1 per page, outgoing only

### **GALILEO**

GALILEO is a virtual library that provides over 100 databases of periodicals, journals and newspapers. The library also includes genealogy records, career resources, encyclopedias, business directors, government publications and much more.

#### Genealogy Research

Historical and genealogical information are located within the library's heritage room. Census records and local newspapers dated from 1868 are included in the material available to the public. Also, rosters from the Soundex, Revolutionary War and Confederate veterans are included in the available materials.

Notary Services

No appointment is necessary to visit a Notary Public on duty; however, the library advises to call beforehand to verify a Notary is available. The fee is \$2 per notarization. A picture ID is required for notarization.

Test Proctoring

Test proctoring is available Monday through Friday with appointment. Appointments must be made at least one week in advance. Appointments can be made by phone, 770-787-3231, or email, library@newtonlibrary.org. A request form, which can be downloaded through the library's website, must be filled out before taking the exam. The fee is \$25 per exam, plus any fees.

Voter Registration

Mail-in voter registration forms can be picked up at the Check Out Desk within the library. The form can be used to register to vote or for a change of address.

#### **Uncle Remus Library System**

W.H. Stanton Memorial Library 407 W. Hightower Trail, Social Circle Phone: 770-464-2444

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

URLS Services

Family Fun Passes

With a valid PINES library card, patrons are able to check-out free family fun passes. The passes can be used for State Parks, Carlos Museum, Go Fish Center, Center for Puppetry Arts and much more.

Mango Languages

Free access to over 70 languages through Mango, an online language learning resource.

SebcoBooks

A digital platform that gives children an interactive learning experience through movement, audio and images. SebcoBooks can be viewed through a computer, phone or tablet.

[Editor's Note: Hours of operation and services offered are subject to change.]

# 100 children are in foster care in Newton County

### Help a child by being their CASA Volunteer!



### FREE training classes starting soon!



Visit a child in foster care monthly and make a difference!

AlcovyCASA.org



CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY."



### **Encounter the Arts**

### Arts Association in Newton County

A nonprofit organization, the Newton County Arts Association offers something for everyone. The Arts Association also maintains a list of private music teachers and studios. Located at 1106 Washington St., Covington.

### **Covington Regional Ballet**

Founded in 2001, the Covington Regional Ballet (CRB) presents high quality dance programming that provide local dancers with pre-professional instruction and performance opportunities. Twice a year, the ballet offers spectacular productions—The Nutcracker and a contemporary piece in the fall, with another production in the spring.

### **Newton County Community Band**

Since 1993, the Newton County Community Band has presented community performances, including Christmas and spring concerts, a concert with the eigth graders of Newton County School System; a Fourth of July concert at Covington's Square; and an annual concert for Oxford College's "Oxford Day." The band is made up of volunteers.

### Oxford Singing Children, Little Singers & Youth Singers

Oxford Little Singers is made up of children in first through third grades. Students in this choir learn introductory vocal and musicianship skills performing elementary choral works and musical theatre repertoire. Students in fourth through seventh grade audition for the Oxford Singing Children's Choir, which provides them with basic music skills and performance experience, while building friendships and learning the benefit of teamwork. Students in eighth



through 12th grade can audition for the Oxford Youth Singers.

### True Colours Youth Art Exhibit

Each March, the artistic talents of local art students are celebrated and exhibited in the community. Art teachers from the Newton County School District select up to 10 pieces of artwork created by their students for display.

#### Newton County Youth Strings & Orchestra

One of the Arts Association's newest programs, the Newton County Youth Strings specializes in using the Suzuki method of teaching, Private 30-, 45- or 60-minutes lessons in violin, viola and cello begin at age 4. Group lessons, 30 and 45-minutes long, begin in the spring semester. Studio recitals are held once a semester, usually in November and March. Orchestra rehearsals are held once a week.

#### **Heartscapes Art Gallery**

Heartscapes Studio and Gallery is owned by Nick and Kathy Cuiffi. Kathy continues to share her talents with the community and offers art classes at the studio. The gallery sells oil paints, mediums, canvas, and brushes. Located at 132 Monticello St. SW, Covington, GA 30014.

### **Southern Heartland Arts**

Southern Heartland Arts, Inc. is a nonprofit organization supporting the visual arts in Newton County. Incorporated in 1988, SHA brought together Newton County artists, along with artists from Rockdale, Newton and Henry counties, and is one of the oldest visual art guilds east of Metro Atlanta. Several sponsorships and donations have helped SHA, Inc. to fulfill its mission to bring visual art to Newton County. Located at 1132 Monticello St. SW, Covington, GA 30014.

### Oxford College at Emory University

The Artistic/Lyceum
Events series at Oxford
College brings experts and
performers to campus for
lectures, concerts and theatrical presentations. All events
are free, unless otherwise
noted, and open to the public,
though seating is limited.

### Porterdale's Tuba Christmas concert

It's a holiday celebration featuring tuba players and their festively decorated instruments — tinsel, bows, flashing lights — and it happens every year in Porterdale, and more than 200 cities nationally and internationally. Open to all levels of players, musicians usually register at city hall on the day of the concert. That's followed by an hour-long rehearsal, and then a free public performance at the History Gym Amphitheater on Main Street.

#### The Social Circle Theater

Committed to providing the facilities and human resources for quality, affordable family entertainment, the Social Circle Theater is a non-profit organization founded in 2000. Founders Bob and Mabel Standridge believed the theater could preserve the town's history and unify the community through storytelling and folklore. The theater has entertained and shared the history of Social Circle ever since. The theater is located at 650 Ashley Drive; Theater Annex, 169 Thurman Baccus Rd.

### **Rising Stars**

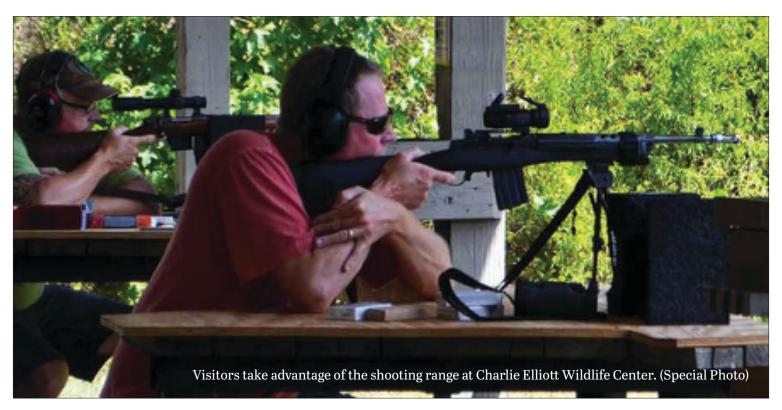
The youngest troupe, ranging in ages from 4 years old to fifth grade, meets weekly throughout the school year and focuses on singing, dancing and acting skills. Typically, the Rising Stars appear in two performances per season, one around Christmas and one in the spring.

#### The Well Diggers

A performance-based troupe for the young adults of Social Circle Theater founded in 2008, the Well Diggers meet weekly throughout the school year to focus on dancing, singing and acting skills. The troupe has won awards at the MTI Junior Theater Festival and Access Broadway.

They typically perform in two productions a year in the theater. They also take these shows to schools as field trips, to the local nursing homes and hospitals.

### **Find Your Wild Side**



ewton County is home to a variety of public recreational facilities offering camping, boating and outdoor sports opportunities.

**Jackson Lake** is a 4,750acre impoundment lake owned and operated by Georgia Power Co.

The Alcovy, South and Yellow Rivers meet near Jackson to form this lake, which is heavily developed with residences along its shores but is popular with boaters and skiers during the summer months.

Lake Jackson Lake Resources Office is at 180 Dam Road in Jackson.

For more information, call 404-954-4044 or visit www. georgiapower.com/community/environment/lakes-rivers/central-georgia-lakes.html.

Newton Factory Shoals
Park is operated by Newton
County Parks and Recreation
and is a 450-acre nature park,
situated along the Alcovy
River at 450 Newton Factory
Bridge Road in south Newton

County.

Open daily, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., for picnicking, camping and hiking.

Rafting, canoeing and swimming are available though no lifeguard is on duty so they are done at the user's own risk.

The park has a campground with nine primitive campsites available to rent. The campground contains a bath house with hot showers and clean restrooms.

Campers should contact the area manager prior to setting up camp at 678-699-2809.

For more information, call 770-787-6670.

Clybel Wildlife Management Area, Marben Public Fishing Area and Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center are on 6,400 acres near Mansfield in southeast Newton County.

It offers a variety of facilities, activities and programs, including 28 lodge-style guest rooms, primitive campground, a banquet hall, archery range, shooting range, wildlife management

area, public fishing area, boat ramp. visitor center and museum.

Available activities also include bird watching, horseback riding, hiking and hunting.

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, is located at 54 Elliott Trail.

The facility hosts variety of educational programs for K–12 audiences, scouts, families and adults. All programs are designed to be hands-on and explore the nature world.

Call 770-784-3059 or visit georgiawildlife.com/ clybel-wma or georgiawildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center for more information.

**Lake Varner park and reservoir** offers opportunities for fishing, picknicking or nature watching.

It is operated by Newton County Water Resources, which is a division of the Newton County Board of Commissioners.

The main function of Lake

Varner is to serve as a drinking water supply for the residents of Newton and Walton counties.

Facilities include two covered picnic pavilions with picnic tables, children's playground with swings, several picnic sites with charcoal grills, dual launch boat ramp; paved and primitive nature trails, open field areas for recreation, numerous accessible bank fishing areas, and ADA accessible fishing pier.

No swimming, alcoholic beverages, or use of gas-powered mounted engines on boats are allowed. For more information about regulations, visit www.co.newton. ga.us/243/Lake-Varner-Regulations.

It is free to Newton and Walton County residents; and \$5 per boat and \$5 per vehicle for all others. Hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., April through October; and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., November through March.

For more information, call 770-784-2049 or visit www.co.newton.ga.us/241/ Lake-Varner.

### **Meet Our Elected Officials**

### ALCOVY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES



Chief Judge John M. Ott
Office Address:
Walton County Government Building
303 S. Hammond Drive, Suite 221
Monroe, GA 30655
Phone: 770-267-1339



Judge Jeffrey L. Foster
Office Address:
Walton County Government Building
303 S. Hammond Drive, Suite 221
Monroe, GA 30655
Phone: 770-267-1339



Judge Cheveda D. McCamy Office Address: Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr. Judicial Center 1132 Usher Street, Room 220 Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 770-784-2080



Judge W. Kendall Wynne, Jr.
Office Address:
Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. Judicial Center
1132 Usher Street, Room 208
Covington, GA 30014
Phone: 770-788-3781



Judge Layla H. Zon
Office Address:
Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. Judicial Center
1132 Usher Street, Room 208
Covington, GA 30014
Phone: 770-784-2180

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**



Randy McGinley, District Attorney
Newton County District Attorney's Office:
1132 Usher Street, Room 313
Covington, GA 30014
Phone: 770-784-2070
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### NEWTON COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS



Melanie Bell, Probate Judge Office Address: Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. Judicial Center 1132 Usher Street, Rm 148, Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 770-784-2045



Ezell Brown, Sheriff Office Address: Newton County Sheriff's Office 15151 Alcovy Road NE Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 678-625-1401



Linda D. Hays, Clerk of Courts Office Address: Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. Judicial Center 1132 Usher Street Room 338 Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 770-784-2035



Marcus Jordan, Tax Commissioner Office Address: 1113 Usher St NW # 101, Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 770-784-2020

### **NEWTON COUNTY CORONER**



**Tommy Davis**, Interim Coroner Office Address: Newton County Coroner's Office 1124 Clark Street Covington, GA 30014 Phone: 678-625-1218

### **NEWTON COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES**



U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Lithonia 4th Congressional District District office: 5240 Snapfinger Park Drive, Ste. 140 Decatur, GA 30035 Phone: 770-987-2291 Website: https://hankjohnson.house.gov



U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, R-Greensboro 10th Congressional District District office: 100 Court St. Monroe, GA 30655 Phone: 770-207-1776 Website: https://hice.house.gov

### **NEWTON COUNTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES**



Rep. Regina Lewis-Ward Georgia's 109th District



Rep. Clint Crowe Georgia's 110th District



Rep. Dave Belton Georgia's 112th District



Rep. Sharon Henderson Georgia's 113th District



Sen. Brian Strickland Georgia's 17th District



Sen. Tonya Anderson Georgia's 43rd District

Learn more about Newton County's General Assembly delegates at www.legis.ga.gov.

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### NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marcello Banes Chairman



Stan Edwards Commissioner District 1



**T. Demond Mason**Commissioner
District 2



Alana Sanders Commissioner District 3



J.C. Henderson Commissioner District 4



Ronnie Cowan Commissioner District 5

The Newton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for establishing county policies and for setting the county budget. The board adopts the county budget and authorizes expenditures. The board also approves or denies zoning throughout the county.

Six members constitute the Board of Commissioners. The county is divided

into five commission districts. The district commissioners are elected by district and the chairman is elected countywide. They all serve staggered four-year terms.

All work sessions at board meetings are called and posted as needed. Agendas of all meetings are made available through the county clerk's office.

The Board of Commissioners meets every first and third Tuesday of each month at the Historic Courthouse on the Covington Square, located at 1124 Clark Street.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015 Phone: 770-784-2000



# Newton County





Our Vision: Newton County is a Thriving Community United Through Strong Relationships and Partnerships.



Steve Horton Mayor



Susie Keck Council Post 1 East Ward



Fleeta Baggett Council Post 2 East Ward



Don Floyd Council Post 3 East Ward



Kenneth Morgan Council Post 1 West Ward



Hawnethia Williams Council Post 2 West Ward



Anthony Henderson Council Post 3 West Ward

The Covington City Council meets every first and third Monday night at 6:30 p.m. inside the council's meeting room at city hall, located at 2194 Emory Street NW.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015 Phone: 770-385-2000

Email: questions@cityofcovington.org





### CITY OF MANSFIELD



G.W. Davis Jr. Mayor



Marty Smallwood Council Post 1



Helen Robertson Council Post 2



Blair Northen Council Post 3



Austin Mitchell Council Post 4



Bryan Hale Council Post 5



Mansfield City Council meetings are held the second Monday of each month, with work sessions the first Monday, inside the Mansifeld Community Center.

City hall is located at 3146 State Hwy 11.
Mailing Address:
City of Mansfield
PO Box 35
3146 Hwy 11 S.
Mansfield, GA 30055-0035
Phone: 770-786-7235



Mayor: GW Davis Jr Council Members:

Helen Robertson • Blair Northen Austin Mitchell • Bryan Hale • Marty Smallwood

### It's Fun to Be Outdoors in Mansfield!

- **♦** Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
  - **♦** The Burge Plantation
    - **♦** Cricket Frog Trail
- **♦ Nonie Needham Nature Trail** 
  - **♦** Beaver Park
- **♦** Short Drive to Jackson Lake



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Gregg Ellwanger Mayor



**Robert Bratton** Council Post 1



Tom Krieger Council Post 2



Wayne Sams Council Post 3



Martha Ellwanger Council Post 4

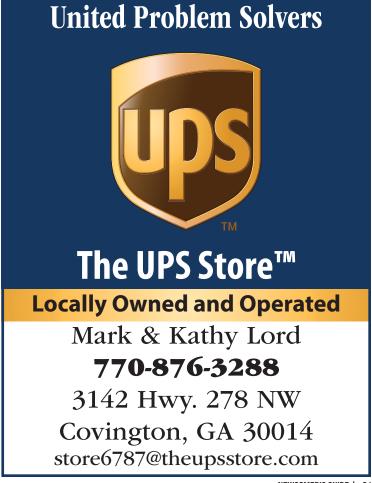


Newborn Town Council meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m., at town hall, located at 4224 State Hwy. 142. Work sessions are scheduled as needed.

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 247 Newborn, GA 30056 Phone: 770-787-1660







### CITY OF OXFORD



**David Eady** Mayor



Lynn **Bohanan** Council Post 1



George Holt Council Post 2





Laura **McCanless** Council Post 3



**Avis** Williams Council Post 4

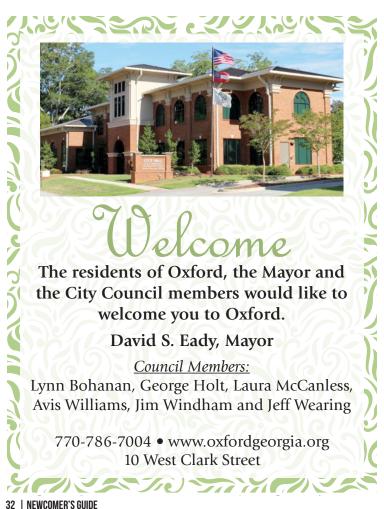


Jim Windham Council Post 5



Jeff Wearing Council Post 6

The Oxford City Council meets every first Monday of the month and holds a work session every third Monday at city hall at 110 W. Clark Street. Phone: 770-786-7004 Email: comments@oxfordgeorgia.org







Arline Chapman Mayor



**Piper** Council Post 1

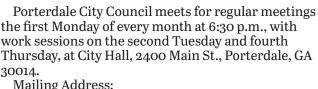


Linda **Finger** Council Post 2



the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with work sessions on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday, at City Hall, 2400 Main St., Porterdale, GA 30014.

\*Michael Patterson is serving the remainder of



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 667 Porterdale, GA 30070 Phone: 770-786-2217

former councilman Tim Savage's term, which expires Council Post 4 Council Post 5 Dec. 31. Savage resigned from the position in January. Kay Piper won a special election in March to serve the remainder of former councilwoman Niki Westcott's term, which expires in December 2023. Westcott also tendered her resignation in January.



Michael **Patterson** Council Post 3



Mike Harper



Lowell **Chambers** 



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Retail & Office District

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EastmoreGA.com



### CITY OF SOCIAL CIRCLE



**David Keener** Mayor



Traysa Price Council Post 1



Tyson
Jackson
Council Post 2



Nathan Boyd Council Post 3



Steve Shelton Council Post 4



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Health & Reguty Vanities, Essentials (Toothpaste Tissue

Health & Beauty, Vanities, Essentials (Toothpaste, Tissue, Mouthwash, Deodorant), Snacks, Beverages & Much More.

The Social Circle City Council meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. inside the City Community Room located at 138 East Hightower Trail.

City hall (pictured above) is located at 166 N Cherokee Road.

Mailing Address: P O Box 310 166 N Cherokee Road Social Circle, GA 30025 Phone: 770-464-2380

Email: manager@socialcirclega.gov



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### **NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**



Samantha Fuhrey Superintendent



Trey Bailey District 1



Eddie Johnson District 2



Shakila Henderson-Baker District 3



Anderson Bailey District 4



Abigail Coggin District 5

The Newton County Board of Education generally meets twice each month, once in a work session and once in a regularly scheduled meeting. Exceptions occur during the months of April, June, and July, when the Board meets only once. The Board of Education adopts a meeting schedule each January and those dates are published by the Newton County School System Public Relations Department.

Board work sessions and meetings are

held at 7 p.m. and are open to the public. The Board meets in executive session at 6:00 p.m. prior to each work session and monthly meeting. Executive sessions are not open to the public as they include discussions on potential litigation, personnel issues, and future real estate acquisitions. Other called Board meetings are scheduled as necessary to approve bids, hear appeals, and discuss budget issues and other matters that require immediate Board action. Board mem-

bers also attend training workshops and district and state meetings throughout the school year.

Meetings are held at the Newton County School System Administrative Services building, located at 2109 Newton Drive NE, Covington, Georgia 30014, and begin promptly at 7 p.m.

Contact: 770-787-1330





# Public Safety =

### POLICE DEPARTMENTS



**Covington Police Department** 

Stacey Cotton, Chief 1143 Oak St. SE, Covington 770-786-7605



**Porterdale Police Department** 

Jason Cripps, Chief 2602 Main St., Porterdale 770-786-2226



**Oxford Police Department** 

Dave Harvey, Chief 110 W. Clark St., Oxford 770-788-1390



### **Social Circle Police Department**

Will Brinkley, Chief 138 E Hightower Trail, Social Circle; 770-464-2366

### FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES



#### **Newton County** Fire Service

Mike Conner, Chief 4136 Highway 278 NE, #A, Covington 678-784-2116



### **Covington Fire** Department

Jeremy Holmes, Chief 2101 Pace St., Covington 770-385-2100



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Sheriff's Office** Ezell Brown, Sheriff 15151 Alcovy Road NE, Covington General Information: 678-625-1400 Jail Information: 678-625-1420

**Newton County** 



**Social Circle** Fire Department Ken Zaydel, Chief

165 East Hightower Trail, Social Circle 770-464-0621

### 911 CALL CENTER



### **Covington – Newton County** 911 Center

8146 Carlton Trail, Covington Emergency: 9-1-1 Non-Emergency: 678-342-8790

### **Health Care**

### NEWTON COUNTY HEALTH CENTER

The Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County Health Departments operate the Newton County Health Center at 8203 Hazelbrand Road in Covington.

The center can be reached at 770-786-9086 or by fax at 770-786-0715. Hours of operation are Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For services offered and more information, visit gnrhealth.com.

### WILLING HELPERS MEDICAL CLINIC

The clinic at 4186 Mill St. NW in Covington is an appointment-only, charitable medical clinic.

Those served must have a chronic illness, live in Newton County, and make an appointment to be seen.

They also must be age 18 or older, have no health insurance of any kind, and have household income within 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, according to the clinic's website.

A household is defined as the patient, the patient's legally married spouse and

any children in the patient's custody under 18.

The clinic does not perform dental care, does not prescribe narcotic medicines or pain management drugs, and does offer orthopedic or OB/GYN care.

Hours of operation are Tuesday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 am.-6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For appointments and more information, call 678-625-8317 or visit willinghelpersclinic.com.

### PIEDMONT NEWTON HOSPITAL

Piedmont Newton Hospital has served Newton County for more than 60 years and joined the Piedmont Healthcare system in October 2015.

Located at 5126 Hospital Drive NE in Covington, Piedmont Newton is a 103-bed, acute-care, community hospital which offers 24-hour emergency services, women's services, a six-bed special care nursery and general medical/surgical services.

It is a not-for-profit organization, which means hospital earnings go

directly back into maintaining and improving services and facilities and to educational outreach, according to information from Piedmont.

In May 2019, Piedmont Newton completed a \$10 million expansion and renovation of its Emergency Department. The project doubled the department's capacity from 16 beds to 32 beds, created an additional nurses' station, and a room for higher acuity trauma cases.

More than 690 employees, 310 physicians, 80 allied health professionals and 95 volunteers staff the hospital.

Between July 2018 and June 2019, a total of 721 babies were delivered, 3,800 surgeries performed and 5,257 patients were admitted for inpatient care, Piedmont Healthcare reported.

Piedmont Newton is part of an 11-hospital system based in Atlanta. It is part of Piedmont's eastern hub along with Piedmont Athens Regional, Piedmont Rockdale, and Piedmont Walton hospitals.

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National Sheriff's Association Triple Crown Agency



Ezell Brown, Sheriff

### **Education Options**

### **Newton County Schools**

**East Newton Elementary School** 2286 Dixie Road Phone: (770) 784-2973 Fax: (770) 784-2976

Fairview Elementary School 3325 Fairview Road Phone: (770) 786-2636 Fax: (770) 784-2938

Flint Hill Elementary School 1300 Airport Road Phone: (770) 784-2969 Fax: (770) 784-2994

**Heard-Mixon Elementary** School 14110 Highway 36 Phone: (770) 784-2980 Fax: (770) 784-2984

Live Oak Elementary School 500 Kirkland Road Phone: (678) 625-6654 Fax: (678) 625-6021



Livingston **Elementary School** 3657 Highway 81 South Phone: (770) 784-2930 Fax: (678) 625-6230

Mansfield Elementary School 45 East Third Avenue Phone: (770) 784-2948 Fax: (770) 784-2995

> Middle Ridge Elementary School 11649 South Covington

Bypass Road Phone: (770)-385-6463 Fax: (770) -385-6466

Oak Hill Elementary School 6243 Highway 212 Phone: (770) 385-6906 Fax: (770) 385-6069

Porterdale Elementary School 45 Ram Drive Phone: (770) 784-2928 Fax: (770) 784-2993

**Rocky Plains Elementary School** 5300 Highway 162 South Phone: (770) 784-4987 Fax: (770) 784-4988

South Salem **Elementary School** 5355 Salem Road Phone: (678) 342-5907 Fax: (678) 342 -5908

West Newton **Elementary School** 13387 Brown Bridge Road Phone: (770) 385-6472 Fax: (770) 385-6475

Clements Middle School 66 Jack Neely Road Phone: (770) 784-2992 Fax: (770) 784-2992

Cousins Middle School 8187 Carlton Trail N.W. Phone: (770) 786-7311 Fax: (770) 784-2991



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**Newton County School System** 2109 Newton Drive NE • Covington 770-787-1330 www.newtoncountyschools.org













Indian Creek Middle School 11051 South Covington By-Pass Road Phone: (770) 385-6453

Fax: (770) 385-6456

Liberty Middle School 5225 Salem Road Phone: (678) 625-6617 Fax: (678) 625-6200

Veterans Memorial Middle School 13357 Brown Bridge Road Phone: (770) 385-6893 Fax: (770) 385-6899

Alcovy High School 14567 Highway 36 Phone: (770) 784-4995 Fax: (770) 784-4996

Eastside High School 10245 Eagle Drive Phone: (770) 784-2920 Fax: (770) 784-2918

along their adopted mile 4

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times per year.

Signs are erected to

Newton High School 1 Ram Way Phone: (770) 787-2250 Fax: (770) 784-2957

**Newton County Theme** School at Ficquett 2207 Williams Street Phone: (770) 784-2959 Fax: (770) 784 -2963

Mainstay Academy 1110 N. Emory Street Phone: (770) 385-6878 Fax: (678) 625-6287

Newton College & Career Academy 144 Ram Drive Phone: 678-625 -6769 Fax: (678) -625-6041

RISE Academy 10714 Bypass Road, Suite 3 Phone: (678) 625-6826 Fax: (678) 625-6370 ra.newtoncountyschools.org **Colleges** 

Oxford College of Emory University 110 Few Circle Phone: (770) 784-8888 oxford.emory.edu/

Georgia State University -**Newton Campus** 239 Cedar Lane Phone: (770) 278-1200 perimeter.gsu.edu/about-perimeter-college/our-campuses/newton/

Georgia Piedmont Technical College Newton Campus 16200 Alcovy Road Phone: (404) 297-9522 gptc.edu/future-students/ locations/

### **Private Schools**

Alpha Omega Preparatory Academy 3824 Salem Road Phone: (770) 788-7100 alphaomegaprep.com/

Covington Academy 396 Elks Club Road Phone: (678) 625-9025 covingtonacademy.com

Grace Christian Academy 1705 Access Rd Phone: (770) 385-7390

Montessori School of Covington 4108 Summers St. Phone: (770) 788-7779 montessori-covington.org

Peachtree Academy 14101 Highway 278 E Phone: (770) 860-8900 peachtreeacademy.com

Providence Classical Christian School 252 Byrd Road, Oxford Phone: (770) 788-6618 providence classical christian. org



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### **Get Involved**

### Civic, Political, Charitable Groups in Newton County

Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge 1806

7:30 p.m. first and third Tuesdays, 135 Crowell Road, Covington

Covington First United Methodist Church Food Pantry

Location: 1113 Conyers St SW, Covington, GA 30014

Phone: 770-786-7305

Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 2-4 p.m.

Covington Garden Club 10 a.m. on first Wednesdays, meet at various homes of members

Covington Kiwanis Club 12:30 p.m. Thursday for lunch, Covington First United Methodist Church

Covington Lions Club

7:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, 3120 Conyers St., Covington Covington Women's Club

9:30 a.m. second Tuesdays, Historic Women's Club building on College Street

Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Family Camping

Bert Adams Scout Camp Location: 218 Scout Road Covington, Georgia 30016

Email: BertAdams@AtlantaBSA.org Phone: 770-956-5687

Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6 Dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, except second Tuesday only in December, 1104 Clark St. SW, Covington

Mount Zion First Baptist Church COVID-19 Relief Center

Location: 100 W Richardson St., Oxford, GA 30054

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon-2 p.m.

Phone: 678-658-6170

Newton County Democrat Party Email: newtongadems@gmail.com Visit: newtongeorgiadems.org Newton County Republican Party Mail: Newton County Republican

Party, Inc.

30 Glynn Isle Dr. Covington, GA 30016

E-mail: info@newtongop.org Visit: newtongop.org Oxford Lions Club

Noon on firs Thursdays, 7 p.m. on third Thursdays, Allen Memorial

United Methodist Church, Oxford Pilot Club of Covington

7 p.m. on most first Thursdays, sometimes third Thursdays, First Presbyterian Church of Covington

Rotary Club of Covington Noon Tuesday for lunch, Covington

First United Methodist Church Satsuki Garden Club

10:30 a.m. second Tuesdays, Newton County Public Library

Salvation Army of Covington Location: 5193 Washington St SW,

Covington, GA 30014 Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Call: 770-786-2107

Visit: salvationarmyusa.org/usn/ Southern Heartland Women's Club 4 p.m. on first Sundays, Southern Heartland Art Gallery on the Covington Square

### Veteran services, organizations

Covington Veterans Affairs Clinic Location: 10155 Eagle Drive Covington, GA 30014

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Phone: 404-321-6111 ext. 202222

American Legion Post 32 Mail: PO Box 310 Covington, GA 30015-0310

Email: rogertingler@yahoo.com Visit legion.org

Meets second Thursdays at 7 p.m., 3132 Legion Drive, Covington.

DAV Newton-Rockdale Chapter 55 Mail: PO Box 932 Porterdale, GA 30070

Phone: 770-385-1498 Visit: dav.org

### Register to vote

To register to vote in the state of Georgia, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be at least 17-1/2 years of age to register and 18 years of age to vote;
- Be a legal resident of Georgia and the county in which you wish to vote.
- Not be serving a sentence for conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude.
- Have not been found mentally incompetent by a judge.

If you have a valid driver's license or

identification card issued by the Georgia Department of Driver Services, you may use the State of Georgia's Online Voter Registration System by visiting sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/register\_to\_vote.

"Motor Voter" registration is available when you renew or apply for a Georgia driver's license through the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

Voter registration applications are available at the county elections office, public libraries, city halls, public assistance offices and recruitment offices.

The completed application may be mailed to Newton County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 1274, Covington, GA 30015.

If unsure of your voter registration status, visit the state's My Voter page at mvp.sos.ga.gov for verification. You may also determine the correct polling place to cast your ballot.

### Change of Residence

Voters are required to notify the board of registrars of their county of residence whenever they move, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

If you move within the same county in which you are registered to vote and don't notify the registrar at least 30 days prior to an election, you may vote in your old polling place for that election. You must file a notice of your new address. This can be done by writing to your county board of registrars' office or by submitting a new voter registration application.

If you move outside the county in which you are registered to vote within 30 days of an election, you may vote in your old precinct for that election.

If you move outside the county in which you are registered to vote in excess of 30 days prior to an election, you have lost your eligibility to vote in the county of your old residence. You must register to vote in your new county of residence. You will be assigned a new voting precinct and polling location.

Be aware of registration deadlines. If you do not register to vote by the given deadline, you cannot vote in that particular election.

Absentee Voting

To vote by absentee ballot, you must first fill out, sign, and submit an absentee ballot application. You can do this online, by mail, by fax, or in person.

Submit your absentee ballot application by the specified deadline. Absentee ballots may be requested any time between 180 days prior to the election and the end of the business day on the Friday before Election Day. View a list of upcoming elections and registration deadlines on the Secretary of State's election calendar.

#### Online:

- 1. If you request a ballot online, you will need to have your driver's license or state-issued identification ready to reference and a valid email address.
- 2. Visit the Secretary of State's online portal for absentee ballot requests.
- 3. Follow the portal prompts to request your ballot online. You will need submit your first and last name, date of birth, driver's license or state-issued identification number, county of residence, address, phone number, and email address. For primary elections, you will need to request a Democrat, Republican, or Non-Partisan ballot.
- 4. Once you have submitted your information, you should receive a downloadable confirmation and an email confirmation.

#### By mail:

- 1. Download the absentee ballot application at https://georgia.gov/document/document/absentee-ballot-application/download.
  - 2. Fill out and sign the application.
- 3. Mail the application to your County Board of Registrar's Office.

#### In Person:

- 1. Download the absentee ballot application at https://georgia.gov/document/document/absentee-ballot-application/download.
  - 2. Fill out and sign the application.
- 3. Present the application in person to your County Board of Registrar's Office.

For more information, call 770-784-2055 or visit co.newton.ga.us/167/Board-of-Elections-Registration. Information may also be found at sos.ga.gov.

# Salem United Methodist Church



### **Pastor David Cott**

9:30—The Bridge
Service—Contemporary
Worship Service in the
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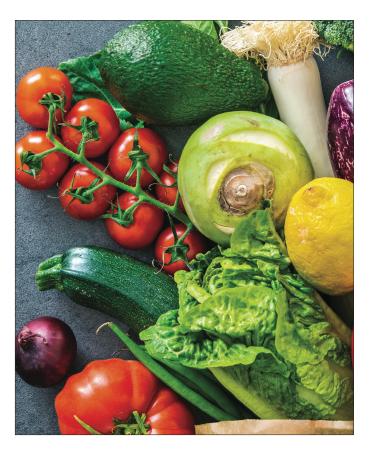
11:00—Traditional
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Covington, GA 30016 Phone: 770-786-6027 Fax: 770-786-6050 office@salemumc.org www.salemumc.org

3962 Salem Road



### **Home Grown**



### **Shop Locally at Newton County's Farmers Markets**

• The weekly Farmers Market hosted by Newton County Parks and Recreation is set for Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. at Denny Dobbs Park. Vendors offering produce, prepared food, crafts and services are part of the weekly event, which runs through October.

Each vendor should plan on providing their own equipment. This includes tents, tables, tablecloths, chairs, advertisement and displays, product descriptions and price sheets, take home bags, food sampling supplies, change, etc.

Denny Dobbs Park is at 6252 Highway 212 North in Covington. For more information about the Farmers Market or how to become a vendor, call 770-786-4373 ext. 1035; email jmeert@co.newton.ga.us; or visit http://www.newtonrecreation.com/501/Farmers-Market.

• City of Oxford Farmers Market on the City Green on Emory Street (Georgia Hwy. 81) Thursdays and Fridays, noon to dark; and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The market is open to farmers, growers, artists, makers and craftsmen from Newton, Rockdale, Walton, Morgan, Jasper, Butts and Henry counties.

Vendors are responsible for their own displays. Space for each vendor display Is limited to a 10-foot by 10-foot area. Call 770-786-7004 if more space needed.

They must grow their own produce or make their own items. Vendors must state in writing the items they intend to sell.

For more information, email oxfordfarmersmarket@oxfordgeorgia.org; visit https://www.facebook.com/oxfordgafarmersmarket or at www.oxfordgeorgia.org.



### **Meet Charika Davis**

Candidate for Covington City Council
West Ward

July 31, 2021, from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Trailblazer Park, 4140 Clark Street, SW Covington, GA 30014, at the Charika Davis for City Council Campaign Kickoff

Charika was born and raised in Covington, she is a graduate of Newton High School, and Georgia College and State University. After graduating from Georgia College, Charika returned to her native home and continues to reside here. Her love for the City of Covington runs deep. With great appreciation for the history of the city, Charika has given her time over the years to the Covington community through various organizations and currently serves on the City of Covington Planning Commission Board. Come out and meet Charika and hear her plans to continue to move Covington forward, she is "Here to Serve You."

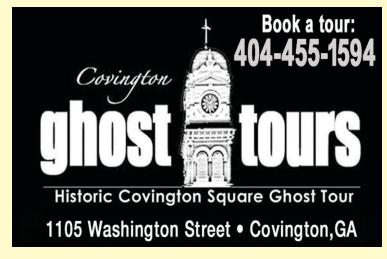


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Wed-Sat: 10am-5:30pm

**Sun: Closed** 



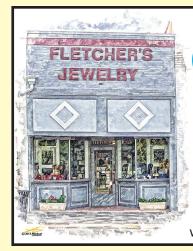
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### Newton Through the Years =

### County has seen periods of slow and rapid growth through history

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

Revolutionary War hero Sgt. John Newton, and was formed on Dec. 24, 1821, from parts of Henry, Jasper and Walton counties.

According to the online publication the New Georgia Encyclopedia, in 1821 the center of the area's activity was a settlement called Winton at the Brick Store, a general store and stagecoach stop. The Brick Store still stands but U.S. Highway 278 now covers the stagecoach route.

"State law required that the seat of the new county be as close as possible to the geographical center so a site between the Ulcoufatchee (later Alcovy) and Yellow rivers was designated the county seat, and the surrounding lots were auctioned.

"The new town was named Newtonsboro, but eight months later, in December 1822, the name was changed to





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Covington in honor of Gen. Leonard Covington, a hero in the War of 1812."

The county's other incorporated towns date from throughout the 19th century, with Newborn settled around 1819 while still part of Jasper County; Porterdale settled in the 1820s to establish a foundry; and Mansfield flourished from about 1896, the publication stated.

Oxford was incorporated in 1839 to support Emory College, which was chartered in 1836 in the Newton County town.

In 1919, the college opened a second campus in DeKalb County near Atlanta and eventually moved its main campus there to become Emory University.

Emory now operates the original campus as a two-year institution called Oxford College.

Some Newton County unincorporated communities today include Almon, Brick Store, Cornish Mountain, Dial Town, Gum Creek, Magnet, Rocky Plains, Salem and Starrsville and Stewart.

In 1864 Union Gen. William Sherman and his troops passed through Covington and Oxford on the way to Savannah.

Newton County has had a railroad since 1836, when planters, mill owners, and professional men organized a line from Madison, east of Covington, to the Chattahoochee River near Atlanta.

According to the Newton County government website, 13 places are listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Brick Store on Highway 278 Old Social Circle Road in Covington
- Burge Club near Georgia 142, Cook Road, Morehouse Road and Sewell Road in Newborn
- Covington Historic District Downtown Covington
- Covington Mills and Mill Village Historic District at Wheat, Collins and Lott streets in Covington
- Floyd Street Historic District on Floyd Street from Elm Street to west of Sockwell Street in Covington
- Newborn Historic District in Newborn
- Newton County Historic Courthouse on the Covington Square
- North Covington Historic
   District on North Emory and Odum
   Streets in Covington

- Orna Villa at 1008 Emory St. in Oxford
- Oxford Historic District around Wesley Street in Oxford
- Porterdale Historic District in Porterdale north of Elm Street
- Salem Camp Ground at 3940 Salem Road in Covington
- Starrsville Historic District at the junction of County Road 213, Old Starrsville and Dixie roads

### POPULATION GROWTH

Newton County's population growth was slow but steady for much of its history but boomed in the late 20th and early 21st centuries before slowing again in the 2010s.

The county's population actually decreased between 1920 and 1930.

It then grew steadily from 17,290 residents in 1930 to 21,000 in 1960, according to U.S. Census Bureau records.

Newton then followed the course of most suburban Atlanta counties and began growing more rapidly beginning in the 1960s. By 1990, it had doubled in size to 41,808.

And also like other metro Atlanta counties, it grew even more quickly between 1990 and 2010 before slowing in the next decade.

Newton County saw its population more than double and add 59,000 new residents between 1990 and 2010.

By 2000, the county's population had reached 62,001. But it continued at the same rapid pace and hit 99,958 residents in 2010 — a 61% increase in 10 years.

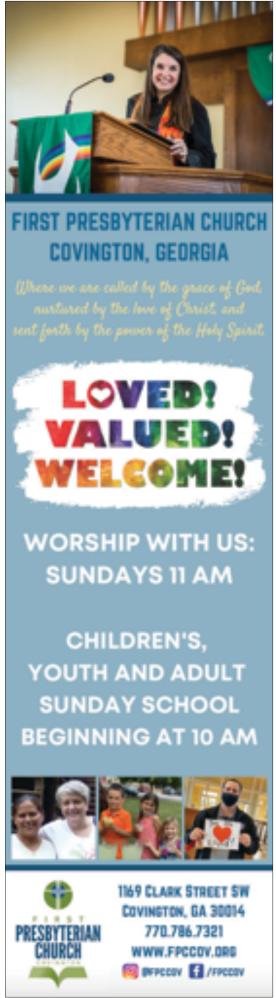
The Great Recession brought an end to the rapid growth, though. Population increased by only 13% to 113,295 by 2020, according to census estimates.

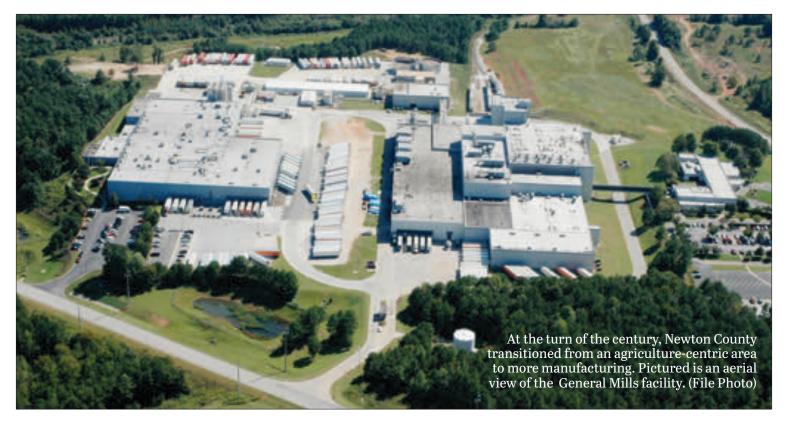
The Census Bureau has not yet released results of the 2020 Census.

The county's population also has grown increasingly diverse in recent decades, with the Black population growing from 22% of the total population in 2000 to 48% in 2019; and the Hispanic population growing from 2% in 2000 to 6% in 2019.

### **EDUCATION**

After the consolidation of Newton County and city of Covington schools in 1947, Newton County High School was built in 1950 on Speedway Drive





which is known as Newton Drive today, according to the Chamber.

Integration of Newton County public schools began in the 1950s but it was not until the 1960s that Newton County Schools were fully integrated.

The county school district built Eastside in 1994 and it

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#### TRANSPORTATION

In 1952 U.S. Highway 278 was built just south of the Georgia Railroad, according to information from the Chamber.

It stated that "though the route did not disrupt a great deal of significantly developed property, it did provide a much needed, and long lasting, change for Covington" that led to the development of new shopping centers and a faster route through the county.

The highway defined a border between the town on its south side and north side, including Covington Mill, according to the Chamber.

In 1977, state transportation officials declared Interstate 20 completed through Newton County and the entire state.

### INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

By the early 20th century, the county transitioned from total reliance on agriculture to becoming a cloth manufacturing hub.

In 1899 the Bibb Manufacturing Co. built a twine mill on the Yellow River and named it Porterdale Mill after a founder of the community, Oliver Porter, according to information from the city of Porterdale.

"In the 1970s the mill closed and what followed was a deterioration due to the sale of homes, many to landlords who allowed the homes to fall into decay," the city website stated.

"In 2006 the Porterdale Mill, in ruins, was purchased and turned into lofts overlooking the Yellow River."

About a decade after the Porterdale Mill opened, Covington Mill opened and began operating north of the Covington Square, according to information from the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, the mill closed but other manufacturers both local and national began operating in Newton County.

By the 21st century, thousands were employed at such companies as Takeda Pharmeceuticals, Becton Dickinson and Co., Pactiv Corp., General Mills, Nisshimbo Automotive and more.

## Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority

Our mission is to provide our customers with clean safe drinking water while reclaiming wastewater in an environmentally sound manner while focusing on cost efficiency and value oriented service.

Proudly Serving Our Customers for 51 Years.



# WaterFirst

**Community Since 2012** 

For more information give us a call or visit our website 770.787.1375 - NCWSA.US



The Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority ~ 51 years of quality service and crystal clean water! Since 1970, The Newton County Water and Sewage Authority has quietly and efficiently served the water and sewage needs of the residents, businesses, and industries throughout Newton County. In the early 1970s it took going door to door, signing up customers to secure funding and loans, but the Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority always had a determination to accomplish its mission to provide a reliable supply of water and conserve this valuable resource that supports living and development. In 2021 we recognize our organization that began with barely fifty customers and has grown to over 60 dedicated water professionals serving over twenty-five thousand water and eight thousand sewage customers. Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority strives to provide excellent customer service throughout the customer experience. The Authority is also committed to supporting our community through sponsorship and involvement in community events, from conservation

efforts to just good ole-fashion fun, building a sense of civic pride throughout our County.



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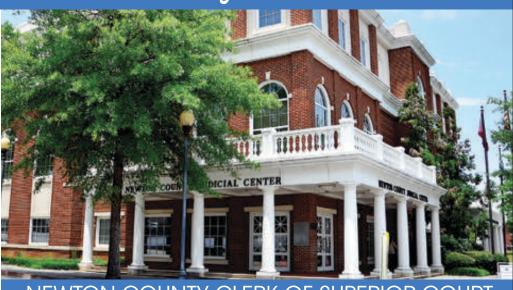
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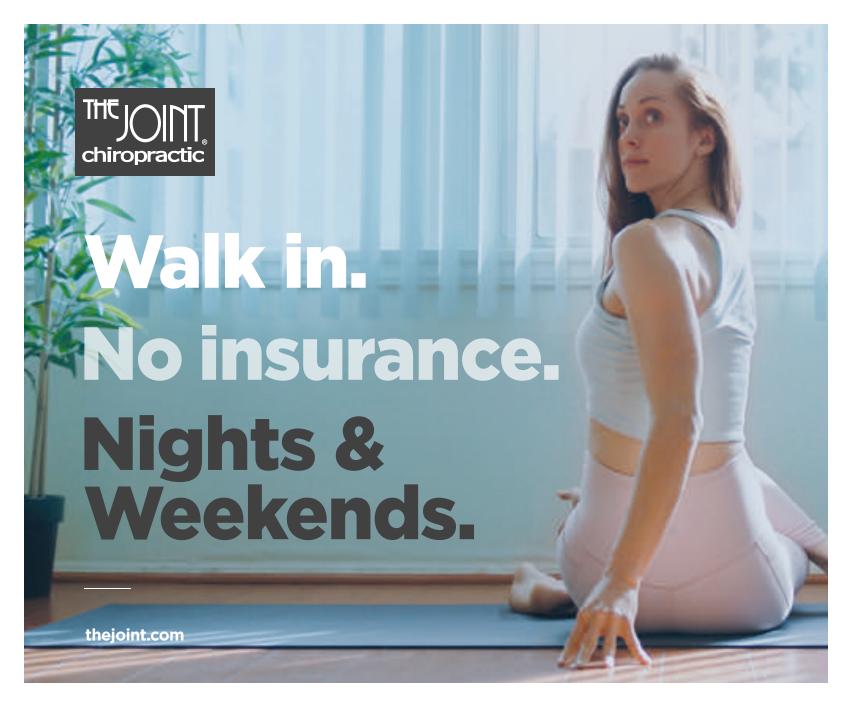
# "It is important to understand the past in order to interpret the present, and plan for the future." — Linda D. Hays



Mrs. Linda D. Hays
The Clerk of Courts
It is my honor to serve the citizens of Newton County



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