

Chairman
Harry B. Johnston

County Manager
Jerry W. Cooper



Commissioners
Steve West, District 1
Raymond Gunnin, District 2
Benny Carter, District 3
Corey Ragsdale, District 4

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1130 Bluffs Parkway · Canton, Georgia 30114
678-493-6000 · Fax 678-493-6013
www.cherokeega.com

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release:
March 30, 2020

Cherokee County government offices to remain closed to the public due to COVID-19 concerns

Cherokee County, Ga. – Due to continued concerns over COVID-19, Cherokee County administrative government offices shall remain closed to the public through April 9. The Cherokee County Tax Commissioner’s Office will remain closed until further notice. The extension of the facility closures is in accordance with Cherokee County’s Declaration of Local Emergency Order, which prohibits all community gatherings and events consisting of 10 or more people through April 9.

Cherokee County will continue to operate during normal business hours. All offices shall continue to be accessible through phone and email to answer any questions or concerns. Residents can also schedule appointments in advance. To contact an individual department, visit www.cherokeega.com or call 678-493-6000. The county will continue to monitor and provide updates on this rapidly evolving situation and its local impacts.

Tax Commissioner’s Office

While the Cherokee County Tax Commissioner’s Office is closed to the public, its staff will continue to serve the citizens of Cherokee County.

“Our office will continue to process transactions submitted by mail and to assist customers via telephone or email. We encourage all Cherokee County residents to utilize the mail or other available options depending on the type of service needed,” said Cherokee County Tax Commissioner Sonya Little. Online services are available at <https://www.cherokeega.com/Tax-Commissioners-Office>. For assistance or questions, please call 678-493-6400 or email taxcommissioner@cherokeega.com.

Tax Assessor’s Office

The Cherokee Tax Assessor’s Office has prepared processes that should allow any taxpayer still in need of filing by Wednesday’s deadline of April 1. Local government does not have the authority to extend deadlines established in the Official Code of Georgia. Therefore, the Tax Assessor’s Office internal

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operations will maintain 100 percent staffing and will continue to process exemption applications by phone and email. Please call 678-493-6120 or email csims@cherokeega.com for assistance with all Homestead/Senior Exemptions or questions. Please call 678-493-6136 or email cnbitner@cherokeega.com for assistance with all Conservation Use Valuation applications or questions.

Please utilize the Tax Commissioner drop-box (front building) if you need to drop off a Personal Property Tax Return, Real Property Tax Return, or any self-prepared applications for any exemptions. Also, be sure to include a contact phone number/email so our staff can easily follow up with you and include a copy of your Driver's License if possible. If you choose to use the postal service to file any application, be mindful of the postmark. Anything postmarked after the April 1 deadline will be deemed "not timely filed."

Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

The Courts of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit and Cherokee County will operate under the Judicial Emergency Order governing operation of the Courts of this State entered by Chief Justice Harold Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia on March 14, 2020. The Courts will remain open to address essential functions as provided in the Judicial Emergency Order. Court proceedings will remain open to the public.

Cherokee Area Transportation System (CATS)

CATS made the following changes to service that began Thursday, March 19 and are in effect until further notice. For fixed routes, the number of riders on each bus will be limited to 10 people or less to allow for social distancing. Additional buses will be available during this time to help meet the demand and reduce the number of riders on each bus. For demand response services, CATS will be providing transportation for medical appointments only.

"In addition, we ask that if you have a fever, are experiencing flu-like symptoms or believe you have been exposed to Coronavirus COVID-19, please do not utilize the CATS system at this time," said Bryan Reynolds, Community Services Agency director. "We regret the inconvenience this may cause our ridership and will continue to communicate future changes to this temporary suspension of service through press releases to local media outlets, on our website and through our social media sites."

The Cherokee County Senior Center

The Cherokee County Senior Center shall remain closed until April 9. All Senior Center activities and outings during this time have been suspended. Services such as Meals on Wheels and Homemaker Care

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will continue. For additional information about specific Senior Services, the public is encouraged to contact the Senior Center directly at 770-345-2675.

Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency (CRPA)

All scheduled Cherokee Recreation & Parks (CRPA) activities shall remain suspended until April 9. This includes all CRPA scheduled programs, including but not limited to, Recreation Center programs, rentals, and open-gym; Cherokee County Aquatic Center programs, rentals, and walk-ins; CRPA adult and youth athletic leagues; youth athletic association facility and field use; and tournament rentals. For additional information about specific recreation and parks activities, the public is encouraged to contact CRPA directly at 770-924-7768 or visit www.playcherokee.org.

All county officials are urging people to be mindful about hygiene and follow good handwashing practices. Those who feel ill should not leave home, but instead should call their healthcare provider for guidance.

The county will continue to work with our community partners to monitor and update plans as needed. In the meantime, citizens should continue to exercise necessary precautions while going about their lives: wash your hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. To get regular updates on the latest developments, please visit our website at https://www.cherokeega.com/_focus/corona-virus-plan.php and follow us on social media utilizing the custom hashtag #CherokeeCOVID19.

Facebook: @CherokeeCountyGA

Instagram: @cherokeectyga

Twitter: @Cherokee_Ga

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