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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 18, 2020

Cherokee County to close government offices to public due to COVID-19 concerns

Cherokee County, Ga. – Due to mounting concerns over COVID-19, Cherokee County will close government offices to the public March 18 through March 31. The Cherokee County Tax Commissioner’s Office will close to the public beginning March 18 and will remain closed until further notice. In accordance with CDC guidelines, all county-sponsored public gatherings will be postponed or canceled until further notice.

Cherokee County will continue to operate during normal business hours. All offices will 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 between now and April 1 to apply for exemptions by the deadline. Local government does not have the authority to extend deadlines established in the Official Code of Georgia. Therefore, the Tax Assessor's Office internal 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 will make the following changes to service starting Thursday, March 19 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."

Facebook: @CherokeeCountyGA

Instagram: @cherokeectyga

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