

Third year SPLOST hydrant installation project underway

By Tonia Davis Staff Writer TDavis@calhountimes.com | Posted: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 5:15 pm

The third year of Gordon County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funded hydrant installations is well underway. Georgia Hydrant Services, of Loganville, Ga., has returned to Gordon County for the third year of hydrant installations. This year, the heaviest concentration of installations will be in the Nicklesville and Oostanaula communities.

According to Deputy Chief Byron Sutton, approximately forty-three hydrants will be installed in each of these communities. Residents of Gordon County voted unanimously to use the 2012- 2018 SPLOST for this and other fire department projects. The Red Bud Road fire station that is currently under construction and the purchase of new apparatus are also ways in which allotted SPLOST dollars are being used.

Working closely with Fire Inspector Joey Jordon of the Gordon County Fire Rescue Fire Safety and Prevention Division, Georgia Hydrant Services has installed 86 hydrants each of the last two years of this project; 86 hydrants are expected this year as well. Approximately 270 homes in the Nicklesville community and 322 homes in the Oostanaula community will be affected during this phase.

Installation of a new hydrant near your home or business may mean a significant reduction in home or business owner insurance premiums, according to the Deputy Chief.

"Owners should contact their insurance company concerning any reduction in premiums," Sutton said. "That matter is strictly between the owner and their policy holder."

Fire hydrants exist mainly to ensure that fire departments have positive water sources for fire suppression. Homes without hydrants nearby require the use of tanker trucks to shuttle water to the scene in the case of a fire. The installation of these new hydrants help increase the amount of homes to which fire hoses can reach, allowing responders to concentrate on fighting the fire rather than making multiple runs to refill the tanker trucks.



SPLOST Hydrant

Gordon County Fire Inspector Joey Jordon with Drew Terrell, Nathan Hewatt, Jody Myers, Rob Coleman and Josh Earles of Georgia Hydrant Services, Inc, the company installing hydrants throughout the county.

The first year of this five-year project concentrated on the Dews Pond Road area and spread over into the Sonoraville area. Sutton explained that this area has seen the largest growth in homes and structures over the last 10 to 20 years. The concentration for 2014 was in the Resaca and Sugar Valley areas. This year, the concentration is on the Nicklesville and Oostanaula communities; installation is scheduled to be completed by late September.

“We plan to touch every community in rural Gordon County,” said Sutton.

Hydrants will be installed on state routes 136 East, 225, and 156 West, requiring workers to be in or very near the roadway. The fire department would like to remind everyone to be aware of the warning signs and slow down in the areas of construction.