



THE WIREGRASS FARMER

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Howell back to work with City

by Ben Baker Editor

Charlie Howell has returned to the City of Ashburn to resume his consulting work.

Mr. Howell recently asked to be removed from the City's payroll as he battled cancer. After spending some time getting treatments in Houston, he returned to Georgia and his work with the city.

At the Oct. 4 meeting, Mr. Howell was greeted with applause after a brief speech.

"How good it feels to be back home in Ashburn, GA. Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers," he said. "If you don't believe in the power of prayer, you have never been prayed for. A lot of people were praying for Charlie Howell, people I don't even know."



Howell

Mr. Howell appeared before the Council with an extremely short covering of hair on his head. His cancer treatments caused temporary baldness.

"I've been accused of being a Ben Baker look-alike. My wife tells me she likes bald headed men," he said.

Mr. Howell particularly

"If you don't believe in the power of prayer, you have never been prayed for. A lot of people were praying for Charlie Howell, people I don't even know."

Charlie Howell

thanked Mayor Jim Hedges.

"Jim Hedges called me every day I was in Houston," he said.

As for the treatments: "It was quite an ordeal. It sure is good to be back home with all you folks."

In other business, City Manager Ben Taylor gave his monthly report to the Council.

The emergency generator for the City of Ashburn's Hill Street well is in place. A test run was recently completed. The massive generator will supply power to the well to keep water flowing in Ashburn in the event of an extended power outage.

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SARAH FARMER with a huge vine in her backyard in Sycamore. The massive cucumber-looking seed pods growing on the vine are loofahs. When immature, they can be eaten much like zucchini. When mature, the pods have a tough fibrous inside. Mature pods can be dried and the seeds scooped out to make loofahs. Mrs. Farmer got the seeds from Fess Rhodes.



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Around Town Ashburn Council

The Nov. 1 Ashburn City Council meeting will be held at Fire Station #2 at the Eureka Campus at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Halloween Hours

For the trick or treaters this Halloween it will be on Oct. 30 from 5 pm - 8:30 pm The Ashburn Fire Station #1 and #2 will be open as safe houses for children.

Firefighting 101

Module 1 Firefighter class at Turner County Fire/Rescue. We will have an organizational meeting Nov. 1 at 6 pm at Turner County Emergency Services' training room. Those interested should be 18 years old, valid Driver's License, and a desire to become part of team to promote and help Turner County.

Boiled Peanuts

The Turner County Young Farmers once again have their fresh boiled peanuts ready for sale. Each case has 24 qt. size cans and sells for \$40 per case. Also, for each 10 cases purchased you will be given a free one. Pick up will be available at the Canning Plant in Sycamore from 11 am-12:30 pm on Wednesdays only. Remember these peanut crates make great Christmas gifts. Supplies are limited and the Young Farmers wish to thank the Community for their continued support.

Haunted Maze

Turner County Marching Band and Dollar General present The Maze of Terror and Haunted Forest starting at 7 pm from Oct. 13-31. Admission is \$4. Directions to get there: Exit 82, go towards Rebecca (Hwy 112) about 6.5 miles to Freeman Rd, then about 1.5 miles on Freeman Rd to 1484 Freeman Rd. For more info call 567-8075.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer receptionists needed at Turner County Department of Family and Children Services. Contact Mark Wright at 229-222-1188.

Haunted House

Port-A-Tech will be having it's Haunted House on Oct. 30. Treats for children. Free, all ages invited.

Open House

Open House at Calhoun Produce, 5075 Haw Pond Rd., Ashburn, Thurs. Nov. 1 from 10 am - 7 pm. Come by and sample our products and see what items we have for Christmas.

Obituaries

Charles Wiley, 77, Sycamore
Eugene Snow, 62, Melbourne, FL
Willie Erma Brooks Lanneau, Orlando, FL
Leola F. Morris, 87, Sycamore

Complete obituary information is on Page 5

Ashburn steps up drug patrols with K9 unit

by Ben Baker, editor

Think giant Jack Russell with a coat of fur more like that of a German shepherd.

Now you've got the idea of what the Ashburn Police Department's newest officer is like.

Piper is a Belgium Malinois and was actually born in Belgium. She as shipped to the United States for use as a narcotics detecting dog, a K9 in law enforcement parlance. She's a sergeant in the Ashburn Police Department. She's what K9 trainer Marsha Peavy in Dooly County likes to see in a dog she trains. In fact, Piper is one of the best dogs this law enforcement veteran said she's trained in her years of working with dogs.

In training last week at the now-closed Vienna Elementary School, Piper lunged at the leash almost choking herself at times. She leapt up to greet all the other officers and once jumped as high as her handler, APD officer Tim King stands tall. In searching one room, she actually jumped up on a combi-



APD Sgt. PIPER jumped into the shelving to find hidden drugs during training last week at the now-empty Vienna Elementary School in Vienna. Handler APD officer Tim King points to the hidden stash.

nation desk and bookshelf, something Mrs. Peavy said she's rarely seen in a K9. She was looking for dope, hidden in the book shelves. All the other dogs simply sat in front of the shelves.

Piper jumped up, turned around on the cramped desk space and looked up at the shelves where the dope was hidden.

When the dog and the handler are finished with their training, they will become a part of the regular APD force.

"They are going to be used for interdiction on the interstate and in the City," said Chief Bryant McCard. "They will be used to fight drugs."

A retired GSP trooper, Chief McCard has worked with and seen the value of drug dogs. The Turner County Sheriff's Department also has a drug dog, which has been instrumental in seizing drugs and assets from drug dealers.

"I've been wanting one a long time. It's going to be out here," he said.

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A man with a mission

by Ben Baker, editor

Kirk DeKalb is a man with a mission: Eradicate beavers from Turner County.

He's got the permission, blessing and funding from the County Commission. Now, he needs permission from private landowners to come on their property to catch and kill the largest rodent in North America.

Mr. DeKalb needs to get on private property because that is where the beavers are. They come out to roads, where they create severe damage, from the private property.

County Manager Charles Kinney said he hopes people will cooperate with Mr. DeKalb.

"We are asking the public to support this endeavor. Every



Kirk DeKalb

effort should be made to coordinate all activities with Mr. DeKalb during his efforts," Mr. Kinney said. "We will coordinate with each landowner. He will take every precaution to make sure nothing is damaged. We want him to have the support of landowners when he contacts them."

"It is a very good, beneficial program. In the long run it will save the county a lot of money," said Road Superintendent J.B. Newell. "Unless we do something now, it's just going to increase."

Mr. DeKalb has approached some people and received some permissions, but other people have turned down his requests. Mr. DeKalb said people may

believe he's interested in deer hunting or could possibly trap a dog.

He's not interested in deer. As for the dogs...

"I target the beavers. The chances of me catching someone's dog, you'd have a better chance of winning the multi-state lottery," he said. "All I want to do is catch beavers that are causing problems. I am an animal damage control trapper."

His traps are kept in the water. Some of the traps are actually placed in running water. He piles limbs on top of the trap, which makes the beaver go under the debris. It triggers the underwater trap as it swims through.

"The County Administrator and Road Superintendent have the best interests of the County. They have stepped up. They have allocated what I think is

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If you have questions about the program, call the Road Department at 567-4057. If you want to have Mr. DeKalb trap beavers on your property call him at 229-873-2530. There is no charge to Turner County landowners for this service.

Ever consider what pets must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul - chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!

Anne Tyler