

“Priorities That Have to Be in Two Thousand Twenty-Three”

A new year always brings promise of change: lose weight, get in shape, save money, be kinder, etc. It's no different for those of us who are charged with providing services. There will always be needs. Some of the ones that have to be on our priority list for the new year are: (1) remember to thank God every day for all the good things about living in Henry County; (2) continue to try to improve our E.M.S. system to serve those who live in all areas of the county; (3) expand broadband availability to all Henry County families – especially to those living in areas where it's not currently available; (4) support law enforcement at every level; (5) find ways to bring our county jail up to standard – the cost will be high but it has to be a priority; (6) continue to strive to hire good employees as we face the huge challenge of being competitive with private sector salaries...at the same time, we must search for ways to retain the dedicated staff members who serve you every day. We can do this by offering better benefits and a safe working environment; (7) maintain our 700 miles of county roads as the cost of labor and materials continue to rise and we are forced to operate with a reduced number of employees; (8) strive to build on the good relationships we've established with elected officials throughout our county, region and state as we all pledge to serve with honesty, integrity and in accordance with sound financial principles; (9) volunteer, support financially and help recruit others to join those who work anonymously and thanklessly in our animal shelters; (10) challenge our citizens to assist us as we strive to reduce the amount of litter in our communities. We may not meet all these goals but one thing is for certain – we won't make things better if we don't try. Working together is a great start. Happy New Year!

Thirty Day Review:

- Probate activity for November: seven wills probated, six administrations, three final settlements, 16 miscellaneous hearings, four guardianships, one involuntary commitment and 22 marriage certificates recorded.
- Dec. 2 – Wiregrass Forum Breakfast – Ozark
- Dec. 2 – Henry County Economic Development Authority meeting – Headland
- Dec. 5 – Abbeville Christmas Parade
- Dec. 6-7 – ACCA Legislative Conference – Montgomery
- Dec. 6 – HCYLP 'Power of Youth' conference – Ozark
- Dec. 12 – APJA Legislative Issues meeting with ACCA staff – Montgomery
- Dec. 13 – Wallace College Foundation Board meeting – Wallace Campus
- Dec. 13 – Henry County Commission meetings – Annex Courtroom
- Dec. 15 – SEARP&DC Board meeting – Houston County Admin Building
- Dec. 16 – Herndon Building Dedication and Open House
- Dec. 19 – Henry County Health and Rehab Board meeting – Headland
- Dec. 23-26 – Christmas holidays
- Jan. 2 – New Year's Day holiday

Dates to Remember:

- If your last name begins with 'A' or 'D', remember to renew your tags in January. Our hours are (a) Herndon Building: Monday – Friday, 8:00 to 4:00; (b) Headland Municipal Building: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00
- Jan. 5 – Jail renovation meeting with JMR+H – Herndon Building
- Jan. 5 – Reception for District Attorney Pat Jones – Courthouse – 2:00
- Jan. 9 – Boys/Girls Club Scholarship committee meeting – Herndon Building
- Jan. 10 – January Administrative meeting – Annex Courtroom – 9:00 AM
- Jan. 10 – January Commission meeting – Annex Courtroom – 10:30 AM
- Jan. 10 – Commission work session – Annex Courtroom or Herndon Building
- Jan. 11 – Dothan Chamber breakfast – Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
- Jan. 11 – E911 Board meeting – Headland – 9:00 AM
- Jan. 11 – Reception for Sheriff Will Maddox and Diane Killingsworth
- Jan. 12 – Swearing-in ceremonies for Sheriff Eric Blankenship, Circuit Judge Chris Richardson and District Attorney Russ Goodman – 1:00 – Courthouse
- Jan. 12 – Southeast Alabama elected officials' luncheon – Troy – 11:00
- Jan. 23-25 – Alabama Probate Judges Winter Conference - Florence