

# The Braselton News

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## Braselton Oks FY22 budgets

The Town of Braselton has approved its budget for FY22.

The town is expecting a 31% increase in its General Fund for the upcoming year.

The town council voted on the budget June 18 in a called meeting.

### GENERAL FUND

The town's General Fund, its main governmental fund, is slated to net \$7.45 million in revenues in FY22, 31% higher

than the town's FY21 budget.

Most of the anticipated revenue increases come from projected higher sales taxes, hotel/motel taxes and alcoholic beverage taxes. Various other franchise fees are also expected to go up in FY22.

Braselton doesn't levy a city property tax.

In expenses, Braselton expects its General Fund to have \$5.57 million in ex-

penses, leaving a balance of \$1.87 million to go toward debt service and reserves.

### WATER & SEWER

Braselton expects to have revenues form its water and sewerage operations of \$11 million in FY22, up from \$9.5 million budgeted in FY21.

After expenses and debt payments, Braselton expects to net \$2.1 million from its

water and sewer operations in the year.

### OTHER FUNDS

In its other funds, Braselton has the following budgets:

- Stormwater Fund: \$375,000
- Civic Center Fund: \$406,500
- Visitor's Bureau Fund: \$2.1 million
- DDA Fund: \$130,000
- Urban Redevelopment Agency: \$450,000

## Progress continues at Gum Springs Park

Construction at Gum Springs Park in West Jackson continues to progress. Action taken by county leaders this week will help move that project further along.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners approved a number of items related to the park at its June 21 meeting.

Commissioners approved two change orders with Magnum Contracting, LLC.

The first is for electrical work at the park. Magnum received the contract to complete the first phase of work and the \$220,000 change order will allow the company to complete the remaining electrical work.

The second change order will allow Magnum to complete field fencing at the park, totaling \$283,000. County manager Kevin Poe said they put the project out to bid twice and didn't get any responses.

See BOC, page 2A



The Gum Springs Elementary School Relay for Life Team raised over \$10,000 this year.

## Gum Springs raises over \$10,000 for Relay for Life

The Gum Springs Elementary School Relay for Life Team, led by LaShea Branton and Heather Backer, raised over \$10,000 this year. The money was raised by selling various items at the district Relay for Life event and through faculty donations collected

throughout the year.

The Jackson County Relay for Life event consisted of an auction, and GSES collected the most donations out of the participating teams this year. Several impressive items received high donations, including a guitar signed by

Chris Stapleton.

"The Gum Springs Elementary School team is grateful to the community and the staff for all of the donations and efforts that were given for the cause," said Lisa Ellis, principal at Gum Springs Elementary.

## Registration ends June 25 for Braselton's Fourth of July parade

Braselton will hold its Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks on Sunday, July 4, in downtown.

Food and activities kick off at 5 p.m. and will continue through 9:30 p.m.

A patriotic parade will begin at 6 p.m. and travel through downtown. Registration to participate in the parade is open through June 25. Find the registration link on the Celebrate Braselton 4th of July Festival & Fireworks Facebook page.

A free concert with GlowBand will be held on the Town Green following the parade.

The fireworks show will begin at dark.

## Summer magazine inside

Find the summer issue of the *Braselton TODAY* magazine inserted in this week's edition of *The Braselton News*.

This issue focuses on the history of Braselton and Hoschton.

For previous issues of the magazine, visit BraseltonTODAY.com

MAILING LABEL

## County BOE looks at lower millage rate

The Jackson County School System has tentative plans to lower its millage rate this fall, but that didn't seem to satisfy a room full of red-shirted protestors at a recent school board meeting who want a bigger tax break for senior citizens.

The Jackson County Board of Education approved a tentative FY22 budget of \$96.5 million during its June 14 meeting. That's up from its FY21 budget of \$89.8 million. About \$40 million of the total will come from local property taxes.

Much of the budget's growth is linked to a rapidly expanding student population and the hiring of additional teachers and other staff.

The budget calls for a millage rate of 18.00 mills, down from 18.39 mills last year. If approved in September, that rate will mark the fourth year in a row the system has lowered its millage rate.

The BOE will hold two public hearings on the final budget and millage rate on Aug. 5, and Sept. 9, and take action on Sept. 13.

The decision is pending the system getting the county's tax digest data, which is currently undergoing appeals and corrections.

Related to that, large reassessments of proper-

ty across the county has sparked complaints from taxpayers in recent weeks. At a recent meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, citizens complained about the reassessments having gone up, in some cases by double-digits.

At the June 14 Jackson BOE meeting, a crowd of citizens wearing red protest shirts were on hand. Dick Crosby spoke on behalf of the group, calling for the BOE to pressure the board of commissioners to eliminate all property taxes in the county for those over age 65. He said it would "be very simple to get done."

Crosby said the county doesn't give school property tax breaks to senior citizens. However, various homestead exemptions are available to those over age 62, but with income caps to qualify.

Although county officials have tweaked senior citizens exemptions in recent years, they have not greatly expanded the pool of those eligible for the tax breaks. At previous meetings, officials have said the county needs a larger commercial and industrial tax base before it can begin to lower residential taxes for older citizens.

See BOE, page 2A

## Qualifying announced in Braselton, Hoschton

Braselton and Hoschton have a number of seats up on the ballot in the upcoming Nov. 2 General Municipal Election.

In the Town of Braselton, the mayoral seat is up for election, along with town council seats in district 2 and district 4.

In the City of Hoschton, the mayoral seat is up for election, along with two existing council seats and two additional council seats.

Qualifying details for those seats include:

See Qualifying, page 2A

## New burn rules in place July 1

Some new rules about burning yard waste are slated to go into effect July 1.

Under the new rules, those burning leaves, limbs and other yard debris will no longer have to formally notify the Georgia Forestry Commission in advance.

But those burning debris must now follow new guidelines, including:

- burn sites will have to be 25 ft. from woodlands, fields or other flammable materials.

See Rules, page 2A

## COVID cases remain below 20 at NGHS over past week

The number of COVID patients remained below 20 at Northeast Georgia Health System over the past week.

On June 21, there were 17 positive COVID patients

See COVID, page 2A

