

The Braselton News

Serving Braselton, Hoschton, Chateau Elan, Traditions, Reunion, Deaton Creek and West Jackson

\$1.00 copy

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Vol. 14 No. 29

A publication of MainStreet Newspapers, Inc.

www.BraseltonNewsTODAY.com

12 pages

Planners give initial nod for large WJ subdivision

A request for a large subdivision in West Jackson crossed a hurdle last week.

In a split vote, the Jackson County Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of two map amendments for 170 acres off Hwy. 332 at Boone Rd. The applicant is requesting a change in the future land use from ag/forestry to residential and a change in the character area from suburban to urban.

Planner Steve Wittry was opposed to the recommendation for approval. Planning commission member Harold Mull was absent.

The Jackson County Board of Commis-

sioners will consider the requests at its July meeting.

Stanton Porter, an attorney who spoke for the applications, outlined plans for the project at the planning commission's June 24 meeting. Approximately 340 lots are proposed, which would be constructed in phases over 5-6 years. Green space and a number of amenities are also planned.

If the map amendments are approved, developers plan to seek an R-2 zoning.

A number of area residents voiced opposition to the project, mostly citing issues with traffic in the area and lack of road infrastructure, specifically on Boone Rd.

COUNTY FARM ROAD REZONING

Also at its meeting, planners unanimously recommended approval of a rezoning request from Genuine Mapping and Design for 113 acres on County Farm Rd., Jefferson. The applicant is requesting a rezoning from A-2 to A-R.

A 64-lot subdivision is planned on the property.

CREEK NATION REZONING

Planners also voted to recommend approval of a rezoning — also from Genuine Mapping — for 84 acres on Creek Nation Rd., Jefferson. The applicant is requesting a change from A-2 to R-1.

Plans for the property include a 99-lot open space subdivision.

A handful of residents voiced opposition to the project, citing concerns with environmental impacts, stormwater runoff, among others.

OTHER ZONING BUSINESS

Also at its meeting, the planning commission voted to recommend approval of:

- a map amendment request from Jasmine Stribling for 5.15 acres at 644 Chandler Bridge Rd., Nicholson. Stribling requested a character area change from rural to

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Celebrate Fourth of July in Braselton

Braselton is gearing up for its weekend festivities in celebration of the Fourth of July.

Kickoff for the weekend begins Friday, July 2, with the farmers market staged on the patio of the Braselton Brothers store at 9924 Davis Street. Visit the Main Street Braselton tent to get an American flag to wave in Sunday's parade. The market runs from 4-7 p.m.

North Winds Symphonic band will present a free patriotic concert on the Town Green on Saturday evening, July 3, at 7 p.m. Chairs or blankets are encouraged for the family event.

On Sunday, July 4, a day-long celebration begins with an outdoor artisan market at Countryside Antiques on Frances Street at 10 a.m. followed by a free concert, parade and fireworks show. Food trucks will arrive at 5 p.m. with the parade starting at 6 p.m. GlowBand will perform after the parade until the fireworks begin at dark.

Event parking is available at YearOne Muscle Car Parts and Free Chapel Braselton starting at 5 p.m., and the Braselton Trolleys will shuttle guests to the festivities downtown.

"As always in Braselton, we're celebrating America and invite all to celebrate with us," said Tourism Director Nikki Perry. "We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Downtown Braselton for this annual event."

Hoschton DDA plans for farmers market, downtown revitalization

By Morgan Ervin

Plans for a farmers market in Hoschton are under way.

The Hoschton Downtown Development Authority is planning a farmer's market, which will be held at the city train depot in early August. Plans are also in the works to incorporate community art and murals into the downtown area, host community clean-up days and create new signage at the city's entrance from

Hwy. 53 next to Hoschton Park.

The DDA is working with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Mainstreet Program, which have been successful at revitalizing many of Georgia's small towns.

According to Tara Bradshaw from the DCA's Office of Downtown Development,

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A ribbon cutting ceremony was held June 24 for the new Braselton Cancer Center. Charles Nash III, MD, FACP, medical director of NGMC's Cancer Services and medical oncologist with Longstreet Clinic cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Braselton Cancer Center opens

The Braselton Cancer Center held its ribbon-cutting ceremony June 24 at Medical Plaza 1, next to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Braselton.

Services in the new facility began this week.

The center is a collaboration between NGMC, Longstreet Clinic and Northeast Georgia Physicians Group. The new facility has an expanded space and dedicated entrance and parking for patients.

"This new collaborative

space puts our patients' needs front and center by providing a more cohesive environment with access to both medical oncology/hematology and radiation oncology services within steps of each other," says Charles Nash III, MD, FACP, medical director of NGMC's Cancer Services and medical oncologist with Longstreet Clinic.

"We understand how challenging it can be to navigate cancer care," adds Kevin Matson, vice president of Cancer Ser-

vices for Northeast Georgia Health System. "Our shared goal is always to create the best possible experience for our cancer patients. From the convenience of a dedicated entrance to the close proximity of services and providers, everything has been designed with patient comfort and healing in mind."

While patients visiting Medical Plaza 1 could previously visit both Longstreet Clinic's Medical Oncology and

Hematology and Northeast Georgia Physicians Group's Radiation Oncology, they had to travel to multiple places. Now, there are less miles to drive and steps to take. Longstreet Clinic has also more than doubled its previous space, adding a larger waiting area and more exam rooms for its patients.

"As the Braselton area continues to grow, this larger space for our

See Cancer, page 2A

Planners' policy limits monthly zoning hearings, aims to speed up process

Jackson County is growing, along with the length of time spent in recent zoning meetings.

A new policy aims to control the number of cases heard during any given month and help speed up the process for county staff, the planning commission and the board of commissioners.

The Jackson County Planning Commission informally approved a policy at its June 24 meeting, limiting the number of zoning items that will be on future agendas to 8. (Items that don't meet the 8-item cut will be scheduled for another month.)

Public Development Manager Jamie Dove said the policy is flexible and can be changed at any time if needed. Dove also noted that multiple zoning issues for the same project (a rezoning and a special use for one development; multiple rezonings for several parcels in one development; etc.) won't be split between two meetings if one or more of the related zoning matters doesn't meet the 8-item cut.

Recent zoning meetings have been lengthy as the

See Policy, page 2A

Number of COVID cases stable at NGHS

COVID cases remained low across Northeast Georgia Health System this week.

On June 28, the hospital system was treating 19 COVID patients across its multiple facilities with three of those patients at Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton. That total has been stable over the past week. The week prior (June 21), there were 21 COVID patients across the system with three at NGMC Braselton.

The number of residents who are fully vaccinated has continued to increase in Braselton's four-county area.

In Barrow County, 33% of residents have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine and 30% are fully vaccinated. Thirty-seven percent of Hall County residents have gotten at least one dose and 34% are fully vaccinated. In Jackson County, 36% have gotten at least one dose and 33% of residents are fully vaccinated. And in Gwinnett County, 47% of

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