

The Catoosa County News

Email: catoosacountynews@catoosanews.com

Website: catoosawalkernews.com

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Ringgold eyes downtown crosswalk improvement

By Adam Cook

ACook@CatoosaNews.com

Officials in Ringgold are evaluating a potential downtown sidewalk improvement that will allow them to add a crosswalk to the intersection of Tennessee and Lafayette streets.

During the June 10 council meeting, City Manager Dan Wright presented the proposed project for discussion as a way of enhancing downtown connectivity.

"The approximate location of the proposed crosswalk and stormwater structure is across Lafayette Street at

Tennessee Street," Wright said. "We would have to place some ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) skids at the end of it before you enter the right-of-way area."

Wright explained that early projections for the project have it coming in a little over \$2,700.

"Our public works director, Mike Cagle, prepared an estimate of \$2,545 in hard costs, and then about \$200 worth of equipment," Wright explained. "It (the project) would have to be a fund balance type project because all of our other monies have been appropriated in the



Adam Cook

The city of Ringgold is working on a plan to upgrade a dipped sidewalk area and add a crosswalk to the intersection of Tennessee Street and Lafayette Street downtown.

street department."

Mayor Nick Millwood says business growth near the lo-

cation has highlighted the need for the crosswalk.

"Where the new Southern

Charm building has gone in, there's a significant dip at the sidewalk where that sidewalk comes to Lafayette Street," Millwood said. "It's a pretty big drop off there, so we're talking about leveling that to the road and just striping it across the road. Overall downtown connectivity is the goal there and safety."

Ultimately, the council voted to proceed with the project and also talk to the business owner about the future of the sidewalk and negotiate how the property will fit into the city's visioning plan.

75 cents



7513 Nashville St.,
Ringgold, Ga. ♦
706-935-2621

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County focusing on enforcing hands-free driving law

♦ The month-long concentrated effort coincides with Tennessee's new law.

By Adam Cook

ACook@CatoosaNews.com

The Catoosa County Sheriff's Office will participate in a month-long concentrated patrol effort throughout July focused on Georgia's hands-free law.

Sheriff Gary Sisk said his office will begin one month of concentrated patrol efforts Monday, July 1, in an attempt to make the county's roadways safer.

"We are still seeing a number of people not obeying the hands-free law in Georgia. And with Tennessee's law going into effect July 1, now is a good time to remind everyone operating a motor vehicle on the roadways in Georgia about the law already in effect," Sheriff Sisk said.

During the month, additional deputies will be assigned different days and times to hold concentrated patrols throughout the county to identify distracted driving, speeding and impaired driving, as well as all other violations of law.

Sisk says the plan is in correlation with the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety 100 Days of Summer HEAT (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic) campaign designed to reduce fatal crash counts during Georgia's deadly holiday driving period from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Adam Cook is a general assignment reporter and covers the Walker County-Catoosa County area. He has been a reporter since 2009.



Adam Cook

Catoosa County Sheriff Gary Sisk said the Sheriff's Office will participate in a concentrated patrol effort throughout July to enforce Georgia's hands-free law and also closely monitor summer traffic activity.



Scott Nguyen

On June 22, 15 members of the Nguyen family joined Andy Addison, his family and members of Fort Oglethorpe First Baptist Church to celebrate the family's 40 years in America; Addison sponsored the family and members of First Baptist helped them after they escaped from Vietnam.

COMING TO AMERICA

Ringgold man reunites with Vietnamese family he helped bring to United States

By Tamara Wolk

TWolk@CatoosaNews.com

Forty years ago, Trieu Nguyen, his pregnant wife Lanh and their seven children were afloat at sea between Vietnam and Thailand. The boat they shared with several other families was falling apart, they had been attacked by Thai pirates who had stolen all their possessions and they hadn't had enough food or water for four days.

The situation looked almost hopeless.

On June 22, the Nguyens were at Park Place Restaurant celebrating with Ringgold resident Andy Addison, who sponsored them to bring them to the United States shortly after they had landed safely in Thailand in 1979.

Nguyen Van Trieu had served in South Vietnam as an undercover officer and a code decipherer during the Vietnam War. When the war ended with the fall of Saigon to North Vietnam in 1975, Nguyen was sent to a re-education camp by the Communist conquerors. He spent his two years at the camp planning an escape for his family.

Freedom was not an easy thing for the Nguyen family to achieve.

Four times smugglers stole money Trieu Nguyen had paid to transport them to another country.



Tamara Wolk

Sarah (Lanh) Nguyen (middle) escaped from Vietnam in the middle of the night 40 years ago with her husband and her seven children. She was pregnant with her eighth child at the time.

Andy and Cheryl Addison and First Baptist Church of Fort Oglethorpe welcomed us with a home. In fact, the entire community pitched in to help supply furniture, clothing and toys.

Karan (Nhung) Nguyen

With the help of a colleague, he finally succeeded in securing a place on a fishing boat for the whole family. His brother's family was also on the boat that left Vietnam in the middle of the night.

The families landed in Thailand after their harrowing ordeal and were escorted to a refugee camp where they lived for five months.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., the government was look-

ing for people to sponsor Vietnamese families who had fled their country. So many had left with no particular place to go that it had become an international crisis.

When Andy Addison and his late wife Cheryl heard about the need, they felt moved to help. "We were given a choice of three families to sponsor," says Addison. "I chose the Nguyens because I wanted Lanh's baby to be born in the United States."

Karan (Nhung) Nguyen was 4 years old when her family arrived in Georgia. "Andy and Cheryl Addison and First Baptist Church of Fort Oglethorpe welcomed us with a home," says Karan. "In fact, the entire community pitched in to help supply furniture, clothing and toys."

Addison says his church owned a house and offered it as a residence for the Nguyen family.

"Marlin Paulson and a lot of other people from the church helped fix up the house and paint it," says Karan. "Barbara Holland and Odell Culvert provided weekly English lessons for us. Everyone was generous with gifts from quilts to bikes. We all attended church and the kids who were old enough went to school."



6-year-old Brooklynn Groce needs your help. Story on page A2.



Catoosa Chamber of Commerce Leadership Catoosa class graduates. Story on page

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Walker County held its first Kayak Day on Saturday, June 22, at Lee & Gordon's Mills in Chickamauga. Story on page C1.

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