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WASHINGTON SPARK!

A monthly newsletter
from the city
government of
Washington, Georgia.

Empowering our
citizens through
public information.

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Code Enforcement in Washington

This month we are taking a closer look at the city's code enforcement office and its purpose. This department is comprised of two enforcement officers, David VanHart and Yoshe Jenkins. They are both dedicated to educating and informing citizens of the codes and ordinances established for the City by the Mayor and City Council. Mayor and Council set the minimum requirements and standards regarding property and structures to promote and protect the public health, safety, convenience, order and general welfare of all its citizens. These minimum standards are designed to preserve and improve the quality of life for present and future citizens of the city and to promote a sense of community by preserving the sanctity of the family and facilitating quiet and peaceful neighborhoods

Questions Answered:

Code Enforcement Officer Yoshe Jenkins (shown above inspecting a nuisance property) spoke on some of the most frequently asked questions. One of the main ones is "what is your job with the city?" The code enforcement officer is responsible for enforcing the ordinances that the City of Washington has set forth. "I am not always looked upon favorably, because many times I am the bearer of bad news" stated Jenkins. "No one wants to hear that they are breaking a City ordinance, and in many cases they are unaware of the ordinance. That is why we try to work with the citizens to educate them and give them time to fix whatever issues they may have." The city adopted and abides by the International Code Council (ICC codes). These codes are accepted throughout the U.S. and are the basis for our enforcement, along with the city's ordinances.

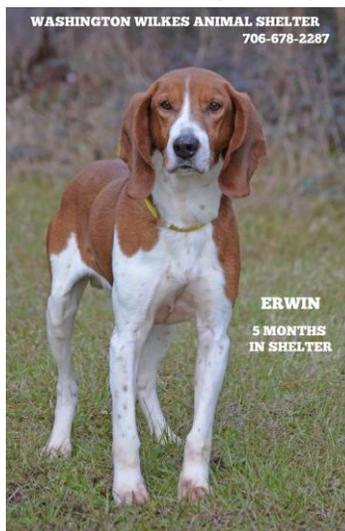
Another common question is what happens if you are found breaking codes or ordinances? Jenkins explains that "a notice of violation will be issued with a compliance deadline. After the deadline is met, our office will follow up and if the violation(s) still exists, a citation can be issued." But she went on to explain, "We try really hard to work with the citizens before we get to the point of a citation. If we see that a citizen is trying to fix the problem, we will extend the deadline and continue to help them as long as they are making progress." If it does get to the point of a citation the individual would have to appear in Municipal court, where the city judge would determine the course of action to be taken.

One important function of the Code Enforcement office is to issue permits, as required by city ordinances. Items that require a permit within the city limits are:

- new structures as well as additions and demolitions of structures
- mechanical, electrical, & plumbing
- decks, roofing, & fences over 7'
- boarding & signs
- swimming pools
- manufactured homes
- land disturbing
- moving & handicapped ramps
- COA's (Certificate of Appropriateness) for historic districts.

If you would like to see all of the City's ordinances, they can be found on-line at www.municode.com. You can also reach David or Yoshe at 706-678-3277, ext. 1 & 2.

PLEASE ADOPT A NEEDY PET



Erwin is a big, easy going guy! He is about 3 years old and weighs about 60 lbs. He loves attention and is good with most dogs. If you are interested in adopting Erwin, please call or visit the Animal Shelter. They are open Tues-Fri from 9:00 to 2:00 and on Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00. Not able to adopt but still want to help? Consider fostering one of the many loving animals at the shelter.

Calendar:

March 14th: City Council Work session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at Pope Center
March 15th: URA meeting 4:00 p.m. at City Hall Annex
March 17th: DDA meeting 9:00 a.m. at Farmers State Bank
March 26th: Easter Eggstravaganza 1:00-4:00 Ashley Park

