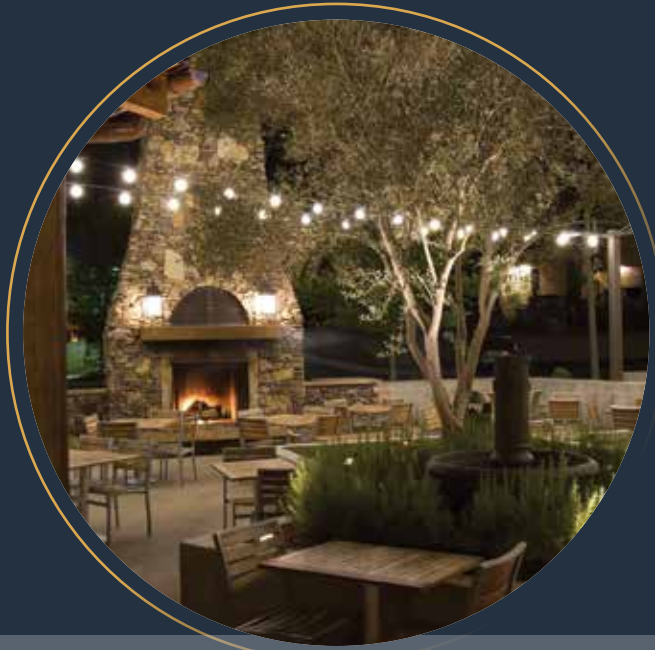
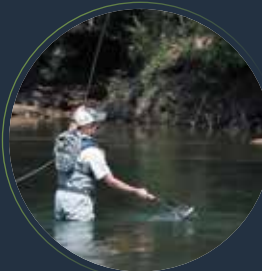


# Annual Report 2021



**Cherokee County**  
GEORGIA  
**Harry B. Johnston**  
CHAIRMAN



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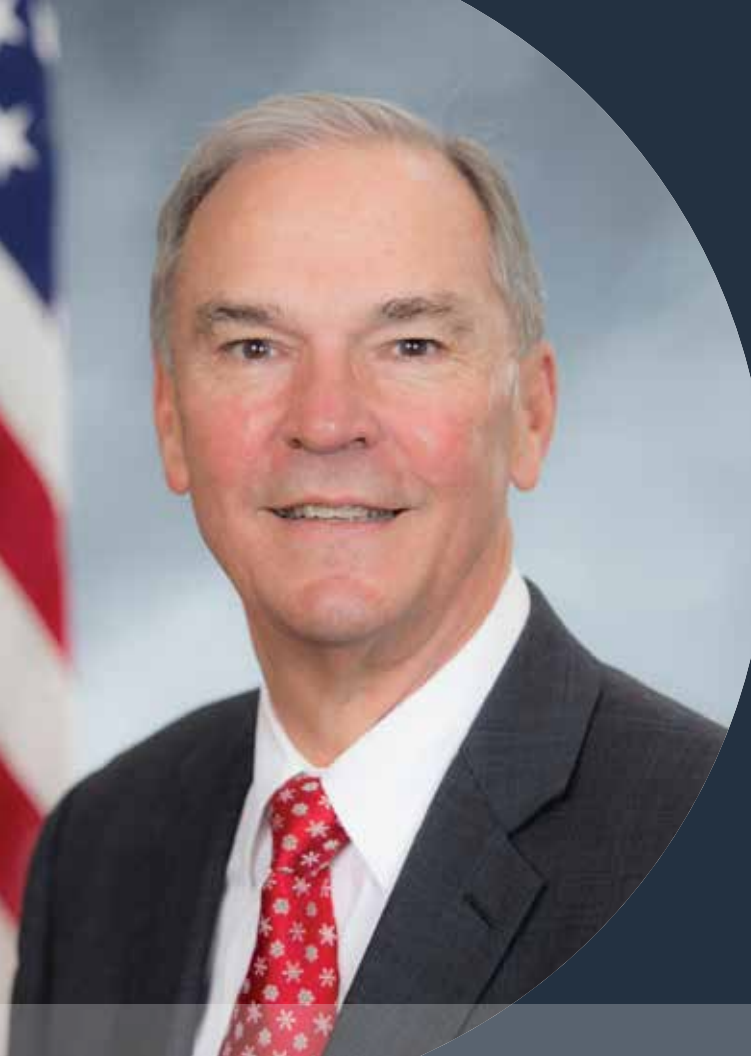
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CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA



CHEROKEE COUNTY  
**Board of Commissioners**

1130 Bluffs Parkway  
Canton, Georgia 30114  
678-493-6000 | CherokeeGA.com



# Chairman's Welcome

## 2021 STATE OF THE COUNTY

As we move forward in a new year, Cherokee County can know we faced the challenges of 2020 and overcame them to finish strong. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted us, but our community handled it better than most. We are positioned for greatness in 2021 and beyond.

Our economy remains strong, our healthcare community and front-line workers performed admirably, and residents pulled together in a time of difficulty.

Cherokee remains a shining light among Georgia counties. Our location is perfect, literally where metro meets the mountains. We have abundant natural resources. And we've created a superior value proposition with top-tier schools, public safety, and other services at low tax rates.

As a result of this success, more people want to live here. We're now the seventh largest county in Georgia and the second-fastest growing.

Our ongoing goal is to carefully manage our growth so as to:

- retain our highly desirable small-town and semi-rural character,
- create more jobs,
- keep infrastructure and services excellent, and
- keep our taxes among the lowest in Georgia.

Thank you to everyone in our community who helps keep us a great place to live, work, and play.



Harry B. Johnston, Commission Chair

# COMMISSIONERS



COMMISSIONER  
**Steve West**  
DISTRICT ONE



COMMISSIONER  
**Richard Weatherby**  
DISTRICT TWO



COMMISSIONER  
**Benny Carter**  
DISTRICT THREE



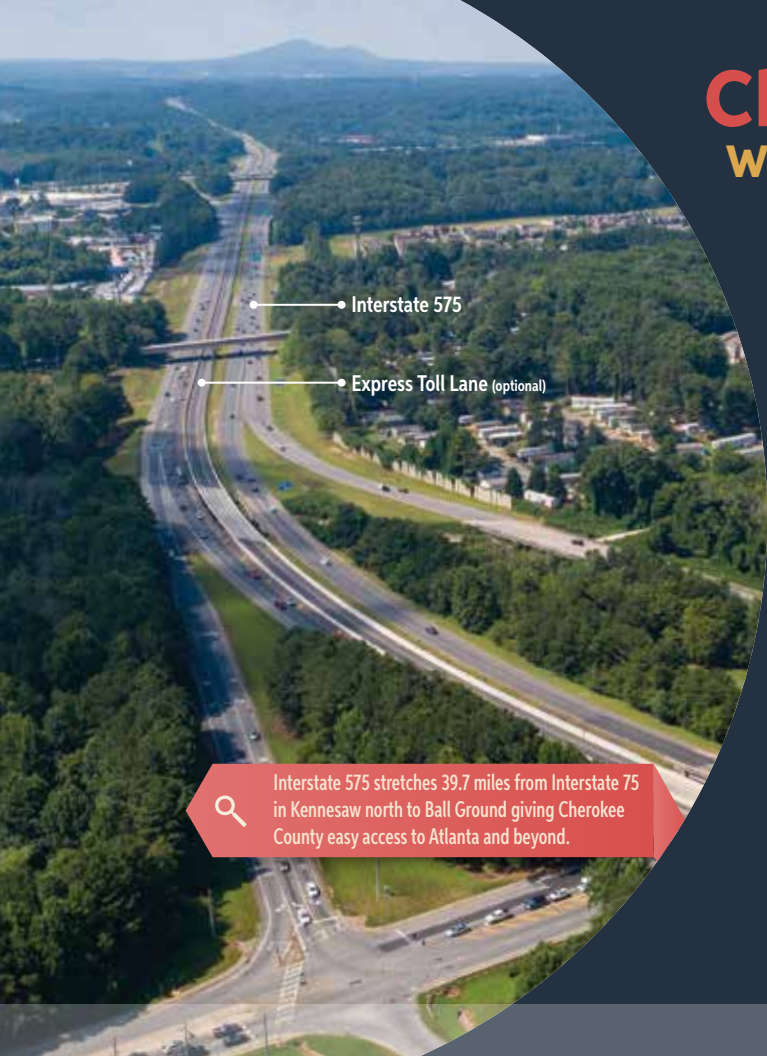
COMMISSIONER  
**Corey Ragsdale**  
DISTRICT FOUR

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**EXCEPTIONAL**  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA



COUNTY MANAGER  
**Jerry Cooper**

Jerry Cooper has served as Cherokee County manager since 2001. During that time, Cherokee County has grown in population, raised the bar for customer service, and increased services to its residents, all while keeping taxes one of the lowest in the metro Atlanta region.



# Cherokee County

## WHERE METRO MEETS THE MOUNTAINS

### Rolling Hills

CHEROKEE COUNTY — 421 SQUARE MILES OF BEAUTY SET IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN RANGE

Source: Census Quickfacts

### Plush Forests

CHEROKEE COUNTY TREE CITIES INCLUDE BALL GROUND, CANTON, HOLLY SPRINGS, AND WOODSTOCK

### Winding Rivers

NEARLY THIRTY RIVERS AND CREEKS RUN THROUGH CHEROKEE COUNTY

### Expansive Lake

LAKE ALLATOONA ATTRACTS NEARLY 7 MILLION VISITORS ANNUALLY

Source: Army Corps of Engineers

### Exceptional People

FROM VOLUNTEERS TO ENTREPRENEURS TO BIG BUSINESS—PEOPLE IN CHEROKEE COUNTY EXUDE A GOOD AND WHOLESOME VIBE.

Interstate 575 stretches 39.7 miles from Interstate 75 in Kennesaw north to Ball Ground giving Cherokee County easy access to Atlanta and beyond.



JANUARY  
52°/34°

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. www.ncdc.noaa.gov



APRIL  
74°/51°



JULY  
88°/69°

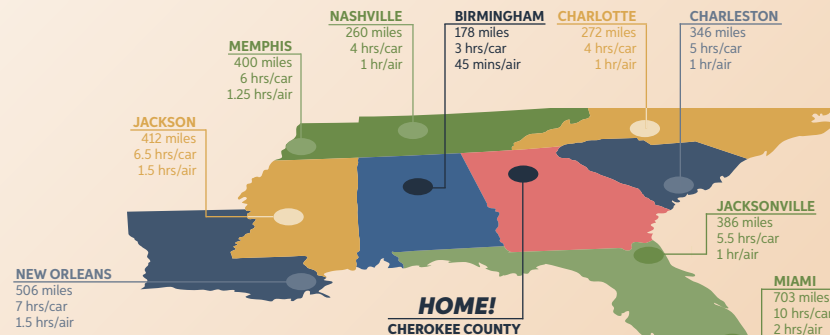
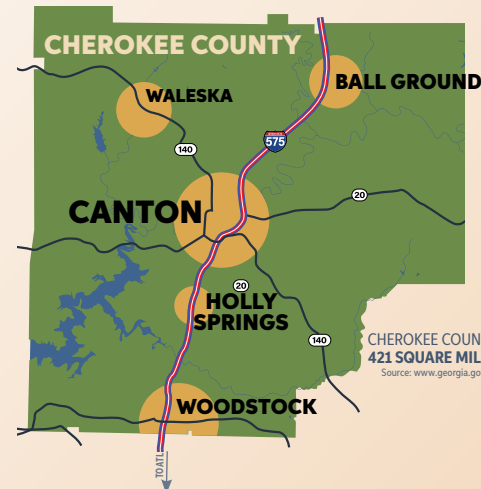
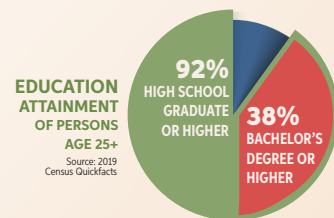


OCTOBER  
73°/52°

# DEMOGRAPHICS

2020 POPULATION EST.  
**269,500**

**25%**  
POPULATION  
GROWTH  
SINCE 2000



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COUNTY CLERK  
**Christy Black**

Christy Black has served as the Cherokee County Clerk since 2011. The County Clerk is the official custodian of records for the Board of Commissioners. The County Clerk is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and serves at their pleasure.

**Living in Cherokee**  
IS AFFORDABLE LUXURY



MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME  
**\$82,740**

Source: Census Quickfacts, 2019



MEDIAN HOME VALUE  
**\$285,100**

Source: Cherokee Co. Tax Assessors Office



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH  
**49.3%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
2010-2019



SPLOST REVENUE  
**↑10.5%**

Source: Cherokee County Finance

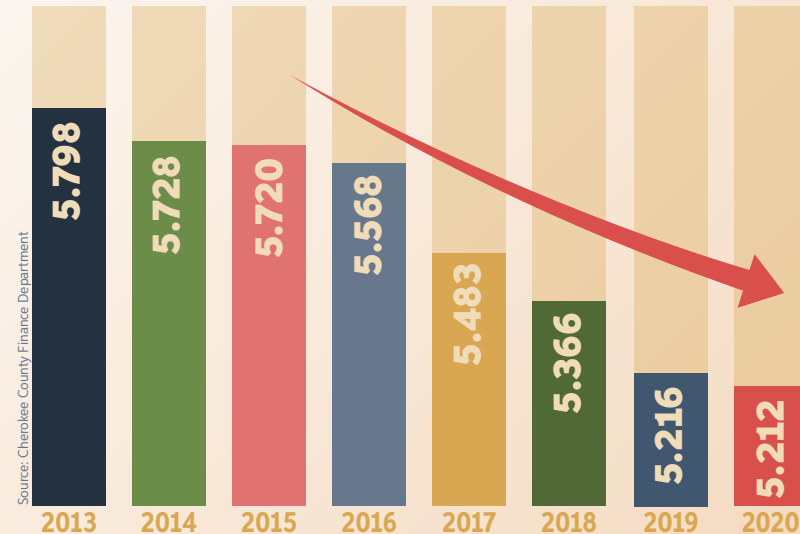


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
**4.9%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## CHEROKEE COUNTY MILLAGE RATE HISTORY



**LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 10-COUNTY ARC METRO ATLANTA REGION**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGENCY DIRECTOR

**Stacey Williams**

The Administrative Services Agency houses internal service departments including Finance, Procurement, Risk Management, Information Technology, Capital Projects, Property Management, and Fleet Services. Each department supports elected officials, constitutional officers and other agencies in their day-to-day operations.



# Economic Development

CHEROKEE MEANS BUSINESS

## BE PRO BE PROUD

The Cherokee Office of Economic Development launched Be Pro Be Proud Georgia—an initiative to bring a new generation of skilled professions to Cherokee’s workforce.

Over 47 percent of Georgia’s skilled professionals are over the age of 45 and nearing retirement. This initiative sparks interest in the essential skilled trades by providing students with a fun, interactive experience in the Be Pro Be Proud Mobile Workforce Workshop. The 40-foot rig features simulations of in-demand skilled professions powered by industry-driven technology.

**\$155 Million**  
NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

**53**  
FILM PROJECTS  
COMPLETED

**600+**  
BUSINESSES SUPPORTED  
DURING PANDEMIC

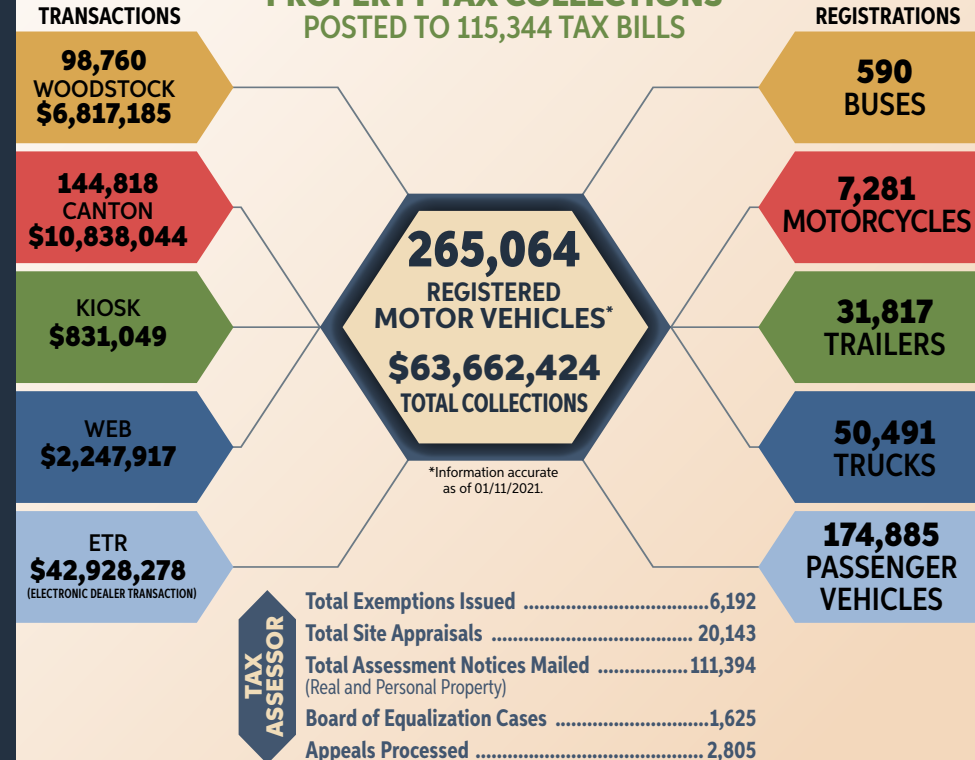
**59**  
BUSINESS PROSPECTS

**19**  
NEW LOCATIONS and/or  
EXISTING INDUSTRY  
EXPANSIONS

# TAX COMMISSIONER

**\$283.2+ MILLION**

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS  
POSTED TO 115,344 TAX BILLS



uniquely  
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CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA



TAX COMMISSIONER  
**Sonya Little**

The Tax Commissioner is an elected Constitutional Officer responsible for collecting property taxes, preparing the tax digest, billing, accounting, and disbursements. Property taxes include those assessed on real estate, personal property, public utilities, timber, and ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles and mobile homes. Sonya Little has served as Cherokee’s Tax Commissioner since 2011.

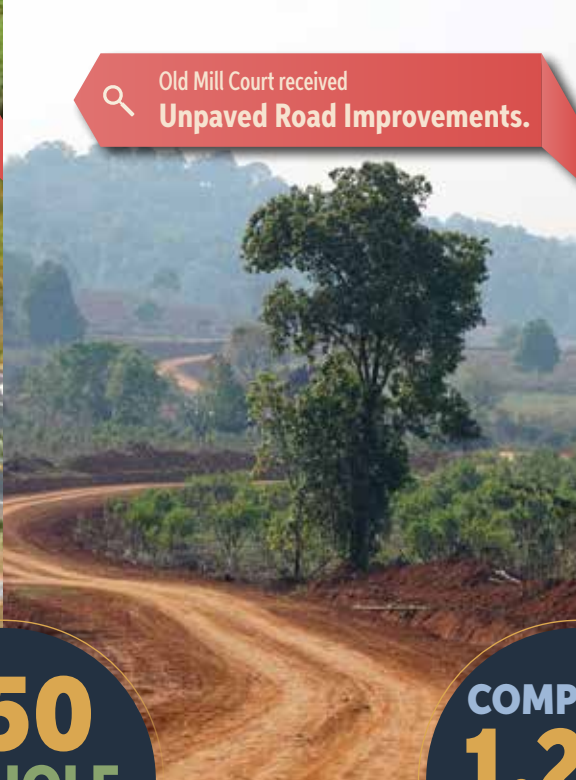
**Sight Distance Improvements** were made at Keeter Road, Mill Creek Road, and Putnam Ford Drive.



**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:**  
East Cherokee Drive at Berry Patch Road and at Little Brook Drive

**350 POTHOLE TICKETS COMPLETED**

Old Mill Court received **Unpaved Road Improvements.**



**IN-HOUSE GRADING PROJECTS:**  
Senior Center addition  
Fleet Services expansion

**COMPLETED 1,244 WORK ORDERS**

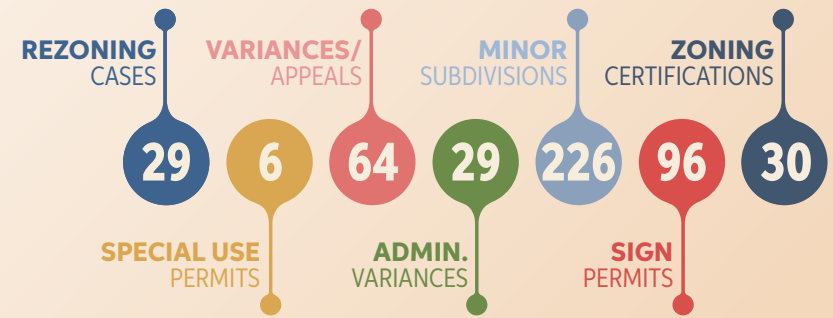
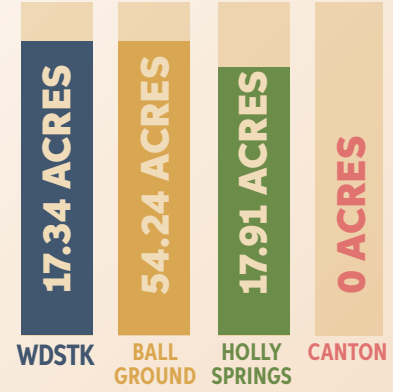
**Roads & Bridges** completed 30 miles of resurfacing. 17.5 miles in-house | 12.5 miles contract



**ROADWAYS WIDENED WITH ASPHALT:**  
Cotton Road  
Hester Drive  
McClure Drive

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**ANNEXED 89.49 ACRES**  
15 ANNEXATION CASES IN TOTAL

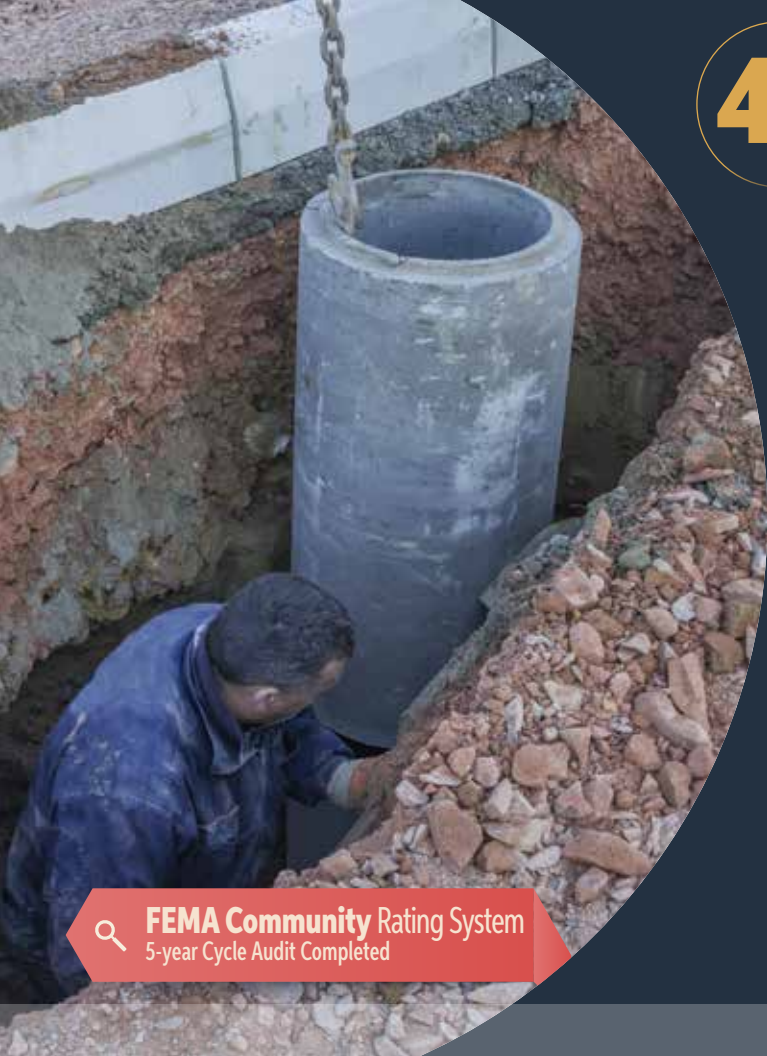


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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR  
**Geoff Morton**

Community Development Agency Director Geoff Morton leads departments responsible for land and building development, stormwater, permitting, roads, and long-range planning. In 2020, Morton was named Deputy County Manager in addition to his agency director position.



# 49 STORMWATER PIPE IMPROVEMENT LOCATIONS

**2,136** STRUCTURES INSPECTED

**44** PONDS INSPECTED

**397** COMPLAINTS REVIEWED

**798** EROSION CONTROL INSPECTIONS

**59 miles** OF DITCHES INSPECTED

**57 miles** OF PIPE INSPECTED

**18** GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES MAPPED/INVENTORIED

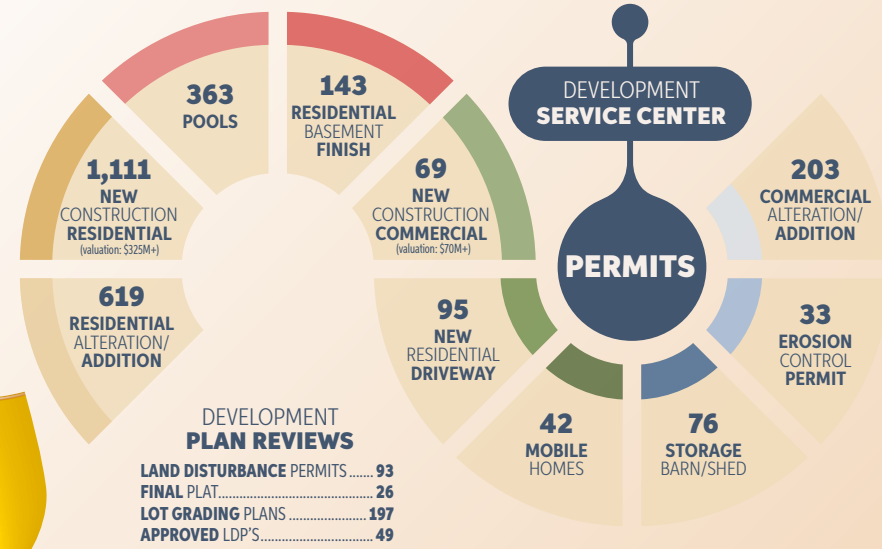
**6** GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES INSPECTED

**FEMA Community Rating System**  
5-year Cycle Audit Completed

**113** ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**485** HOME OCCUPATIONS APPROVED

HOME OCCUPATIONS ISSUED **470**

**187** COMMERCIAL APPROVED

COMMERCIAL ISSUED **170**

**89** NEW SOLICITORS

**1,414** BUSINESS LICENSE FILINGS

NEW ALCOHOL LICENSES **13**

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
**Award Winner**

The Development Service Center earned the 2020 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for its Tenant Occupancy Permit Process Improvement Program. Members from the county's Community Development Agency collaborated with the county's Information Technology Department to create an online permitting process that is efficient, easy to use, and improves customer experience.





**1,880+**  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
SERVICE HOURS

**298**  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
CLIENTS

**200+**  
INFORMATIONAL  
PHONE CALLS  
PER MONTH

Family First and Cares Act Funds  
**\$274,000+**

**2,700+**  
FUN LUNCHES  
DELIVERED

**500+**  
BAGS OF FOOD  
DONATED BY  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**3,835**  
HOURS OF SERVICE  
FOR HOMEMAKER SERVICES

**MEALS ON WHEELS**

**41,186**  
MEALS SERVED

**180**  
SENIORS BENEFITED

**2,400**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**29**  
VOLUNTEERS

**8,400+**  
MEALS SERVED  
FROM 2 SENIOR CENTERS

**140**  
HOMEMAKER CLIENTS

**12**  
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**



**158**  
VISITORS PER DAY

**14,543**  
POUNDS OF  
ALUMINUM CANS  
(\$4,362 PROFIT)

**10,648**  
BAGS OF TRASH

**141+**  
TONS OF SCRAP  
METAL PROCESSED

**442**  
MATTRESSES  
(\$5,248 PROFIT)

**157**  
GALLONS OF PAINT  
(\$785 PROFIT)

**16,862**  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE HOURS  
PROBATIONERS

**1**  
NEW FULL-TIME  
EMPLOYEE



**20**  
VEHICLES SERVING AGES  
**16-99**

**12,609**  
DEMAND RESPONSE TRIPS

**12,287**  
FIXED ROUTE TRIPS

**682**  
MEALS ON WHEELS  
DELIVERIES

**\$2.79**  
PER HOMEOWNER PER YEAR  
FOR CATS SERVICE

**19,699**  
EMPOWER CHEROKEE &  
SENIOR SERVICE TRIPS

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COMMUNITY SERVICES  
AGENCY DIRECTOR  
**Bryan Reynolds**

The Community Services Agency began in October 2019 to encompass services provided to the overall community, including Recreation and Parks, Community Development Block Grants, Senior Services, CATS, and the Cherokee Recycling Center. Director Bryan Reynolds was appointed as the agency director after serving with Recreation and Parks for more than 20 years.

**GREAT PUMPKIN FEST**  
**4,000+**  
 RECORD BREAKING ATTENDANCE  
 & VENDOR PARTICIPATION

**Recreation & Parks**  
 PLAY CHEROKEE



**NEW LOGO**  
**NEW WEBSITE**  
**NEW CATALOG**



**The National Alliance for Youth Sports** has recognized CRPA as an elite “Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider.” This honor is the benchmark for outstanding organizations for having met a number of high standards when it comes to administering youth sports.



**RECREATION & PARKS**



**626+**  
**PARTICIPANTS**  
 AT 44 CLINICS  
 (YOUTH BASKETBALL & SOFTBALL)

**500+**  
**LIFEGUARDS**  
 TRAINED

**9.1**  
 ACRES OF  
**PARKLAND PER**  
**1,000 RESIDENTS**

**4,159**  
 ACRES OF  
**PROTECTED LAND**

**PROGRAMS WITH**  
**INCREASED**  
**ATTENDANCE:**

- TOUCH A TRUCK
- CHEROKEE YOUTH SOFTBALL & LACROSSE
- ADULT BASKETBALL & SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL

In partnership with the local **Youth Athletic Associations**, Cherokee County utilized **7 parks** to host a total of **44 athletics events** in 2020. One of which, was the annual Classic Youth Softball tournament, recently renamed in honor of the late **CYS League Director Sammy Long**.

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CHEROKEE  
 RECREATION AND PARKS  
**Awarded Grant**

Pilgrim's awarded Cherokee Recreation and Parks with a **\$250,000** grant to renovate the county's most aged park—Kenney Askew Park (1970s). The Pilgrim's grant, in conjunction with matching funds from Cherokee County, will provide the means to add a modular skate park, playground, large pavilion, walking track, permanent pickleball courts, additional parking, and improvements to the t-ball equipment and landscaping.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**Block Grant**  
 Program

**\$736,185**

RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED



**CHILDREN'S HAVEN**

Completed a new basketball court and playground.



**38**  
BOYS ENJOYED

**GOSHEN VALLEY BOYS RANCH**

Completed construction on "The Well" (wellness center).



Cherokee County Historical Society

The former **Canton Police Station** was acquired to house the museum and administration. Educational programming and historical preservation was enhanced.

**PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

- Transportation services
- After school programs
- Reading programs
- Youth development program
- Summer programs
- Summer camp
- Post high-school preparation
- Workforce readiness program



**12**  
HOME REPAIR PROJECTS FOR SENIORS



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

A parcel of land was acquired for future home building.



**22**  
RIDERS

**MUST MINISTRIES**

Two passenger vans were purchased.



**13**  
RIDERS

**207**  
DELIVERED MEALS

**CHEROKEE SENIOR CENTERS**

Additional meal delivery and bus service was available.



REACHED **556** PEOPLE

**BETHESDA COMMUNITY CLINIC**

New mobile medical unit and specialist appointment coordination.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program allows communities flexibility to address a wide range of unique developmental needs. It is one of the longest, continuously running programs at HUD. Cherokee County's CDBG program uses funds provided by HUD to assist on a local level through CDBG grants.

**CORONER'S OFFICE**

**IN 2020, THE CHEROKEE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE TRACKED 604 CASES.**

The Coroner's Office tracks each death in Cherokee County to help streamline information for other departments like the District Attorney's Office, CMANS, Child Fatality Board, Suicide Prevention Board, and the Department of Public Health.

The Cherokee County Coroner's Office keeps up with the decedent, as well as their family, from the point of death until they are at the funeral home. It also keeps in contact with the funeral homes to make sure families' needs have been met.

The Coroner's Office also tracks information regarding the case and the decedent to report to other departments to keep Cherokee County's knowledge base accurate and safety up to date.



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COUNTY CORONER  
**Sally Sims**

Sally Sims began her first term as Coroner in January 2020, following in the footsteps of longtime Coroner Earl Darby, who retired. The Coroner is a Constitutional Officer who assists with death investigations, working with agencies across the county, state, and nation. Sims has more than 30 years of experience in nursing and is a Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator.



# PUBLIC SERVICES

THE ONLY  
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED  
MARSHAL'S OFFICE  
IN THE NATION!



**2,665**  
CODE  
ENFORCEMENT  
CALLS RECEIVED

**713**  
NEW MISDEMEANOR  
PROBATION CASES  
Year before was 1,046

**↑1,021%**  
INCREASE OF  
**CodeRED\***  
SUBSCRIPTIONS:  
2019: 460 | 2020: 5,157

**13**  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS  
CENTER ACTIVATIONS



1 OF 9 NATIONALLY ACCREDITED E-911 CENTERS IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

E-911 CHANGED SOFTWARE PROVIDERS IN DECEMBER OF 2020.

\*CodeRED is a notification service for weather alerts, child abductions, road closures, and more.  
To sign up, visit [www.cherokeega-ema.org/codered](http://www.cherokeega-ema.org/codered).

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PUBLIC SERVICES  
AGENCY DIRECTOR  
**Dana Martin**

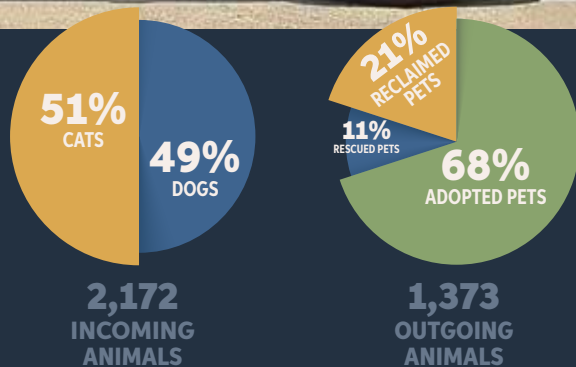
Dana Martin was tapped in Fall 2020 to lead the newly created Public Services Agency, which oversees the Cherokee Marshal's Office, Emergency Management, E-911, Animal Shelter, and Probation Services. Also under the PSA umbrella is Code Enforcement and Animal Control, which reports directly to the county marshal.



ANIMAL SHELTER

**3,163**

CALLS FOR  
ANIMAL CONTROL  
SERVICE



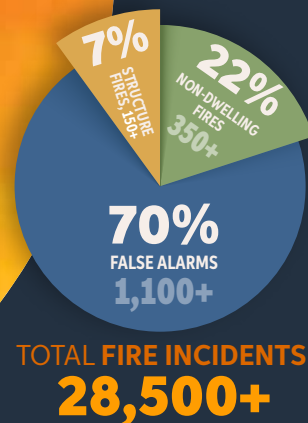
**6:14**  
AVERAGE  
RESPONSE  
TIME

### CHEROKEE COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The Cherokee County Fire Marshal's Office conducts construction inspections to ensure compliance with fire and life safety requirements. The following types of activities are performed by fire inspectors: New Construction Inspections, Underground Inspections, Fire Protection Systems Inspections, and other types of inspections.

Additional activities performed by the Fire Marshal's Office include Subdivision Reviews, Variance Request Reviews, Special Event Reviews, and various project reviews. The number of overall activities performed in 2020 are as follows:

**OVERALL ACTIVITIES:** 3,568  
**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:** 996



**TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS**  
**28,500+**

### PREVENTION EDUCATION & SAFE KIDS CHEROKEE COUNTY

**SAFE KIDS CHEROKEE COUNTY**, led by Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services, is one of 24 local coalitions to implement safety programs and hands-on training within the State of Georgia. Safe Kids Cherokee County distributes equipment to the public that includes life jackets, smoke alarms, and bike helmets.

Additionally, Safe Kids Cherokee County distributes educational materials related to car seat safety, fire safety education, and smoke alarm installs. The number of overall items distributed in 2020 are as follows:

**EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTED:** 1,200  
**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** 81,065

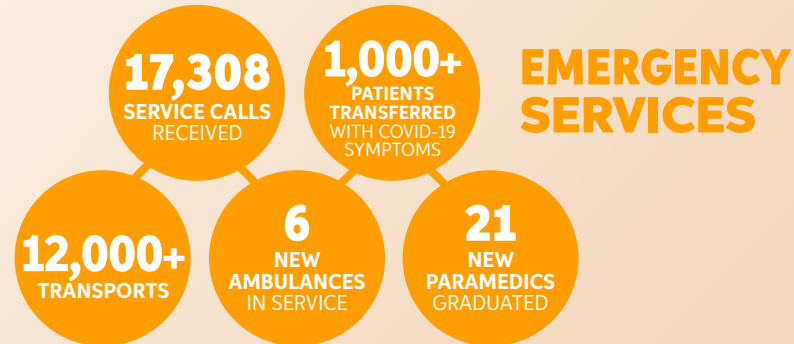
## FIRE & EMERGENCY

### FIRE SERVICES



**353 FIREFIGHTERS & EMTS, OF WHICH 156 ARE PARAMEDICS.**

**MAINTAINS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AND THE APCO CERTIFIED TRAINING PROGRAM.**



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CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA



FIRE CHIEF  
**Tim Prather**

Cherokee Fire and Emergency Services provides emergency fire and medical services to unincorporated Cherokee County, as well as the cities of Holly Springs, Canton, and Ball Ground. All field personnel hold, at minimum, basic emergency medical technician training. More than half of field personnel are paramedics.



**123,702**  
CALLS FOR SERVICE

**INCREASED AGENCY SIZE**  
in preparation of the new jail facility.

**UNIFORM UPDATE**  
Uniform colors changed from tan to black.

**ONE NEW K-9**  
FOR COURTHOUSE SECURITY



**64 NEW HIRES**  
51 SWORN  
13 CIVILIAN

Opened a Video Visitation Facility at Headquarters

Launched Premier One Records Management System

# SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**TOP 2% IN THE NATION**  
1 OF 46 SHERIFF'S OFFICES IN THE NATION AWARDED THE **TRIPLE CROWN**



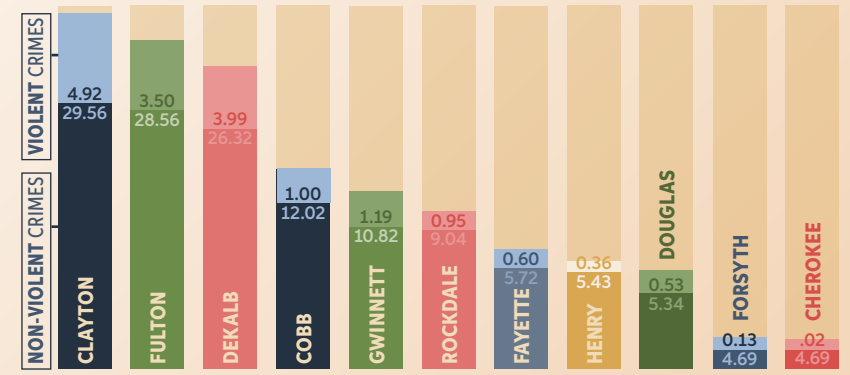
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CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA



SHERIFF  
**Frank Reynolds**

Sheriff Frank Reynolds began his second elected term in January 2021 with continued goals of expanding service to Cherokee County citizens. Upcoming projects include a new precinct in Ball Ground, the opening of the expanded Adult Detention Center, and a new home for the Traffic and K-9 units.

## LOWEST VIOLENT & NON-VIOLENT CRIME RATE IN THE METRO REGION





# CHEROKEE COUNTY Jail Expansion Project

- Estimated completion date ..... March 30, 2021
- Budgeted amount ..... \$40 million
- Current spend amount ..... \$32.6 million
- Additional beds ..... 582
- Square feet ..... 109,000



## CHEROKEE COUNTY Fire Station #9

- Completed September 18, 2020
- Budgeted amount \$4.5 million
- Total amount spent was \$3.7 million
- The new station is capable of housing the following:

- Fire engine
- Ambulance
- Rescue
- Ladder truck
- Sleeps 12 personnel



**CAPITAL PROJECTS**



**CHEROKEE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER**  
**Courthouse Expansion**

- Budgeted amount ..... \$17.5 million
- Estimated start date ..... June 2021
- Parking deck ..... 550 spaces
- Security entrance building

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**1,459**  
**FELONY CASES**  
 OPENED

**912**  
**FELONY CASES**  
 CLOSED

**858**  
**PROBATION**  
 REVOCATIONS

**599**  
**JUVENILE CASES**

**2,456**  
**CRIME VICTIMS**  
 ASSISTED

Cherokee County  
**District Attorney's Office**

The District Attorney's Office prosecutes felony crimes in Cherokee County, provides victim services, and closes cases through plea hearings, bench trials, and jury trials. Staff members collaborate with law enforcement agencies and other partner organizations, in order to ensure that justice is served and crime victims are protected.

Even though 2020 presented unique challenges, the District Attorney's Office continued its essential work, utilizing remote court to keep the justice system moving.

By the end of the year, it opened 1,459 felony cases, closed 912 felony cases, prosecuted 858 probation revocations, handled 599 juvenile cases, and assisted 2,456 crime victims.



DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**Shannon Wallace**

District Attorney Shannon Wallace has served the citizens of Cherokee County since January 2013. She has nearly 20 years of prosecuting experience, including serving as an assistant district attorney in Cherokee County and Ocmulgee Circuit. She began her third term as District Attorney in January 2020.



**CHEROKEE COUNTY**  
**Courts**



SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE  
**Ellen McElyea**



PROBATE JUDGE  
**Keith Wood**



JUVENILE COURT JUDGE  
**Jennifer Davis**



STATE COURT JUDGE  
**W. Alan Jordan**



CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
**James Drane III**

# CHEROKEE COURTS

**SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL CASES**

Felony Filings .....1,425  
Felony Dispositions ..... 876

Misdemeanor Filings .....174  
Misdemeanor Dispositions ..... 168

**SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL CASES**

Filings .....2,269  
Disposed .....2,248

**JUVENILE COURT CRIMINAL CASES**

Filings ..... 689  
Disposed ..... 668

Traffic Filings ..... 218  
Traffic Disposed ..... 203

CHINS Filings ..... 190  
CHINS Disposed ..... 195  
(Child in Need of Services)

Delinquency Filings ..... 281  
Delinquency Disposed ..... 270

**JUVENILE COURT CIVIL CASES**

Filings ..... 323  
Disposed ..... 250

Dependency Filings ..... 255  
Dependency Disposed ..... 205

Special Proceedings Filings ..... 44  
Special Proceedings Disposed ..... 26

Termination Filings ..... 24  
Termination Disposed ..... 19

**MAGISTRATE COURT FILINGS**

Arrest & Search Warrants .....10,421  
New Civil Cases .....5,169  
County & Municipal  
Ordinance Citations ..... 342

**PROBATE COURT FILINGS**

Marriage License .....1,676  
Weapons Carry License .....8,522

Probate Court did not process WCL applications between roughly March 14 and May 14, 2020. The total on those represents 10 months of applications instead of 12.

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CLERK OF COURTS  
**Patty Baker**

Patty Baker has served as the Clerk of Courts in Cherokee County since January 2005. The Clerk is an elected Constitutional Officer responsible for maintaining and safeguarding all documents appropriately presented for recording. Cherokee County's Clerk of Courts Office receives and files criminal and civil court filings and serves as custodian of county land and property records.



## COVID-19 Response CHEROKEE DELIVERS RESULTS

COVID-19 forced everyone to shift in 2020. We had to think of new ways to complete tasks, deliver services, and more. Cherokee County leadership wanted to make sure we were delivering important information, providing services, and protecting our most vulnerable. Despite the challenges COVID-19 brought, Cherokee County delivered results.

**\$1 Million+**  
IN CARES ACT FUNDS  
PUT BACK IN THE  
COMMUNITY

**65,000+**  
MASKS DISTRIBUTED  
TO THE COMMUNITY

**\$175,000**  
TO BETHESDA COMMUNITY  
CLINIC FOR  
MOBILE TESTING UNIT

Partnered with Georgia Highlands Medical to provide drive-through testing at Veterans Park

ARC grant used to help Senior Center clients

Created a COVID-19 website with important information and statistics

Communications Division established for better communication to the public

# SOLICITOR GENERAL

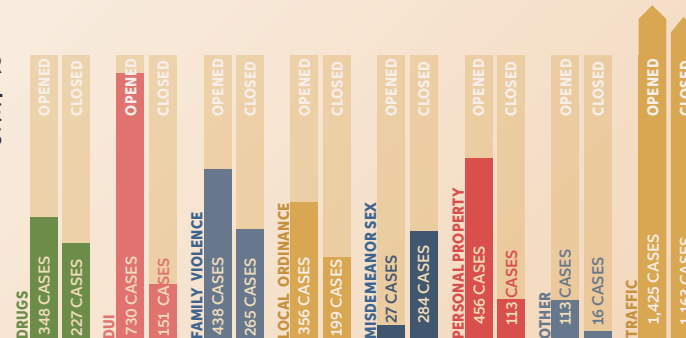
## DECK COURT

"Deck Court" was inaugurated in September 2020 in coordination with partner agencies including Court Administration, the State Court Clerk's Office, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, the Office of Indigent Defense, and Cherokee Probation Services. Court in the parking deck is now possible because of the work of each agency to establish protocols that ensure the physical security of everyone involved, while complying with COVID-19 requirements to minimize the risk posed by this deadly virus. Beginning in September, "Deck Court" has been scheduled an average of three times per week and has allowed the Office to close well over 1,000 cases, reducing the backlog of cases awaiting arraignment to pre-pandemic levels.

## ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Even during the pandemic, the Solicitor General's Office has continued to support and utilize the four accountability courts available to State Court defendants. These are Judge W. Alan Jordan's DUI Court, Judge A. Dee Morris' Misdemeanor Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court, and Judge Keith Woods' Treatment Accountability Court for those with treatable mental health issues.

## SOLICITOR GENERAL COURT CASE STATISTICS



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SOLICITOR GENERAL  
**Todd Hayes**

Todd Hayes has served as Solicitor General for Cherokee County since January 2019. Prior to holding the elected office, Hayes served as a prosecutor for 15 years and was selected as chief assistant solicitor general under former Solicitor Jessica Moss. His office is responsible for prosecuting crimes in State Court that can be punished by less than a year in jail.

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CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA

