

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2009  
7:00 P.M.**

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**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Those present included Mayor Cox, Council Members Linda Grant, Mike Sosebee, and Mike Wilson. Council member Jonathan Cox was absent. Staff present included Kim Cornelison, Steve Holder, Dana Miles, City Attorney, Gary Barr, Water and Sewer Superintendent, and Bonnie Warne, Zoning Administrator.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation was led by Mayor Cox, followed by the pledge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the called meeting held on February 16, 2009; motion by Linda Grant, second by Mike Sosebee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Proclamation – Exceptional Children’s Week Mar 2-6, 2009: Kim Cornelison invited special guests Dr. Lonnie Trahan-Dikowski, Director of Special Education for Dawson County, Ann Collett and Angela Cooper and family, members of the Dawson County Parent Network forward and read the proclamation in to the minutes. A copy of the proclamation was subsequently presented Dr. Lonnie Trahan-Dikowski. Proclamation is attached as Exhibit “A”.

Presentation on CVB activities for 2008/2009: Marty Williams did a presentation to the council showing how tourism is a form of economic development. He shared the benefits of tourism and how it affects our state and local government. He followed up by outlining where he has concentrated his efforts in the past, and where he will concentrate them in the coming year. He explained that local tourism is healthy and that the assets located within our county and city makes it easier to market. Presentation is attached as Exhibit “B”

Request to consider Hotel Motel tax rate change: Marty Williams asked the council to consider increasing the city’s hotel/motel tax in light of recent changes to House Bill 1168. He would like the extra funds directed to the Chamber and Convention and Visitors Bureau – the change outlines that the funds must be expended promoting tourism or promoting tourism development projects.

Council authorized Dana Miles to review the request, the law, and make a report back to the council at the next meeting.

Resolution – Authorizing the Mayor to submit applications for GEFA funds: Kim Cornelison asked the council to authorize Mayor Cox to execute applications for GEFA funds to continue with the reuse plant and to make improvements to the water system consisting of well development and water line replacements.

Council unanimously authorized the mayor to execute the resolutions. Motion by Mike Sosebee; seconded by Linda Grant.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Gary Barr, Water & Sewer Superintendent: Gary Barr made a presentation to the council outlining the scope of activities within his department and what services his team provides. He thanked his staff for being an outstanding team to work with; always ready to do what it takes to get the job done. Presentation is attached as Exhibit “D”.

Bonnie Warne, Zoning Administrator: Bonnie Warne gave a brief presentation outlining her responsibilities which included a diverse scope of activities. A few items presented included forms,

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permits and licenses that she takes payments and processes as well as tracks. Maintenance of the web site for both the City and the museum, document assembly and routing for the Planning Commission, maintaining the event calendar, and numerous other functions. A copy of presentation is attached as Exhibit "E".

Steve Holder, Planning Director: Steve Holder gave a brief overview of permitting, both commercial and residential, available properties on inventory, stating that residential inventory is in good shape and will likely see some new activity in 2009. He also presented significant milestones that were completed and what project will be coming in 2009. A copy of the presentation is attached as Exhibit "F".

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

To hear an Ordinance of the City of Dawsonville, a Georgia Municipal Corporation, to provide for regulations concerning public rights of way, to provide for the use of public rights of way, to provide for regulations concerning work performed within public rights of way, to provide for regulations concerning the maintenance and expansion of activities in public rights of way, to provide for applications for the use of and work in public rights of way, to provide for severability, to provide for an effective date, and for other purposes. First hearing March 2, 2009; second hearing April 13, 2009.

Dana Miles presented the ordinance to the council for the first reading.

Mr. Miles opened the public hearing; there were approximately 20 people in attendance and no one spoke in favor or opposition. The public hearing was closed and turned over to the Mayor. Mayor Cox called for a vote. Mike Sosebee made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance; Mike Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor reported on the TE Grant stating that the GDOT has affirmed that the project has been funded in this fiscal year. Once the authorization process is completed, the notice to proceed will be sent to the city without delay.

Mayor Cox informed the council that there will be a work session regarding the AMP motorsport part on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Cox brought up the issue of Alcohol Licenses for caterers and turned it over to Kim Cornelison. Mrs. Cornelison made the council aware of a letter received by Caroline Christy in regards to the costs associated with pouring licenses for caterers. Mrs. Cornelison asked the council to authorize the city attorney to review the alcohol ordinance to make provisions for local caterers to acquire a pouring license as well. Council authorized the city attorney to proceed with this research and to bring a report back to the council.

Mayor Cox announced that the GMA Annual Conference registration is fast approaching and those council members who wish to attend need to get with Kim Cornelison.

Mayor Cox asked for any public comments.

Scott Smith thanked city for help and for all of the services that the city provides.

Linda Williams announced that Business after Hours this month (March 24<sup>th</sup>) is a Walk Around Downtown and invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Cox announced the need to go in to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:30 p.m. Mike Sosebee made a motion to suspend regulation session and go in to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Mike Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

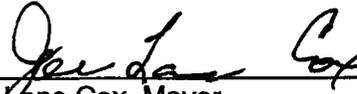
Dana Miles made the council aware that the Judge in Cherokee council granted the City's motion for Summary Judgment in the Butler case. However the Plaintiff did file an appeal.

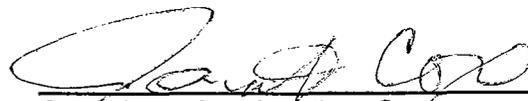
Dana Miles also presented information in regards to the threatened litigation and the city's legal position on this issue.

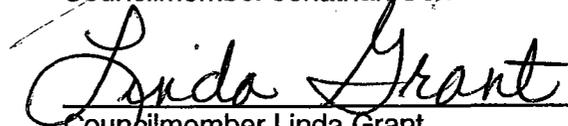
Council adjourned executive session at 8:55 p.m. Motion by Mike Sosebee, second by Linda Grant; motion carried unanimously.

Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion by Mike Sosebee, second by Linda Grant, motion carried unanimously.

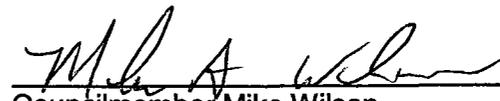
**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mike Sosebee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Linda Grant. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Jonathan Cox

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Linda Grant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Mike Sosebee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Mike Wilson

Attested:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk



# Proclamation

Exceptional Children's Week

March 2-6, 2009



**Whereas**, Exceptional children are active citizens who contribute much to the overall quality of life in this community; and

**Whereas**, greater public awareness and acceptance of these persons will increase their access to education, employment, housing, and social and recreational opportunities; and

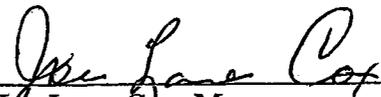
**Whereas**, it is the desire of our community to create a place where all people can explore and develop their varied abilities, can enjoy productive work, and can contribute by meaningful participation in the life of the community; and

**Whereas**, the Dawson County School System and the Dawson Support Group, on behalf of the Georgia Exceptional Children Council, have worked to secure this proclamation; and

**Whereas**, it is the goal of the City of Dawsonville to instill positive perceptions of people with exceptional/special needs;

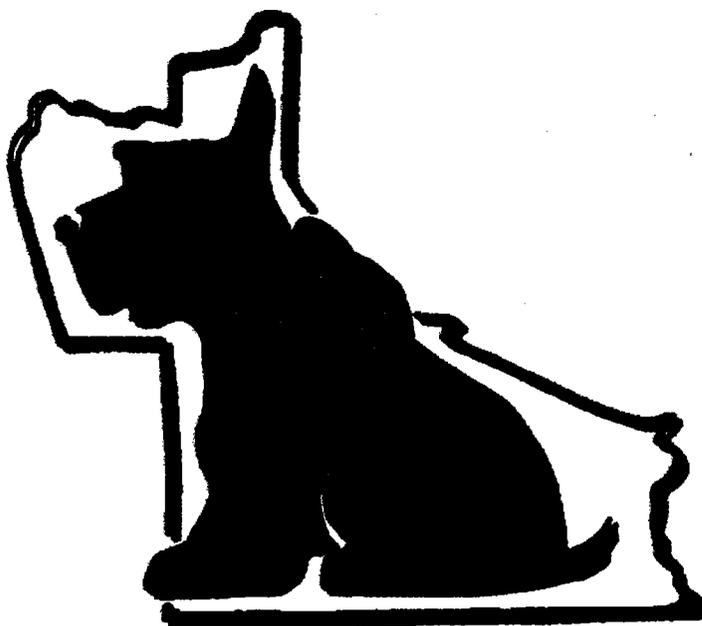
**Now**, therefore, I, Joe Lane Cox, do hereby designate March 2-6, 2009 as Exceptional Children's Week and encourage all our citizens to promote positive awareness and greater opportunities for persons with exceptional/special needs, and challenge the citizens of our community to look beyond a person's particular disability, and focus instead upon each person's diverse abilities and contributions to the community.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have set my hand and seal this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

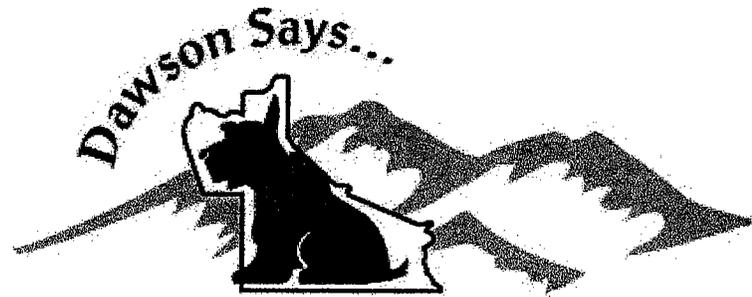
Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk



# Dawson County Chamber of Commerce

Exhibit "B"



# TOURISM

**Is Economic Development**

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# The Benefits of Tourism

## Total Direct and Indirect Tourism Expenditures

### State

20.2 Billion Up 5.8%

### Payroll

6.9 Billion Up 3.5%

### Employment-Jobs

248.01 Thousand Up 2.2%

### Sales Tax

844.9 Million Up 4.1%

### Local Tax

566.96 Million Up 6.5%

### Dawson

35.17 Million Up 9.6%

9.45 Million Up 9.9%

.47 Thousand Up 7.2%

1.43 Million Up 8.8%

1.08 Million Up 11.1%

# The Benefits of Tourism

Counties	Expenditures		Payroll		Employment		State Tax		Local Tax	
	(\$ Millions)	%+/-	(\$ Millions)	%+/-	(Thousands)	%+/-	(\$ Millions)	%+/-	(\$ Millions)	%+/-
Banks	12.15	2.0%	3.10	2.3%	0.15	-0.2%	0.48	1.0%	0.37	3.1%
<b>Dawson</b>	<b>35.17</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>9.45</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
Eibert	16.34	1.7%	3.14	2.0%	0.18	-0.5%	0.59	0.2%	0.49	2.4%
Forsyth	116.28	3.2%	30.67	3.5%	1.49	1.0%	4.65	2.2%	3.51	4.4%
Franklin	28.04	3.8%	4.51	4.0%	0.27	1.5%	0.95	2.1%	0.83	4.3%
Habersham	37.32	0.6%	8.09	0.8%	0.45	-1.6%	1.39	-0.8%	1.12	1.4%
Hall	205.31	13.1%	46.32	13.4%	2.34	10.6%	7.71	13.0%	6.15	15.4%
Hart	19.20	8.0%	5.14	8.2%	0.26	5.6%	0.77	7.2%	0.57	9.5%
Jackson	43.26	-4.5%	7.61	-4.2%	0.45	-6.6%	1.50	-6.9%	1.28	-4.9%
Lumpkin	31.07	2.4%	6.50	2.6%	0.33	0.1%	1.16	1.2%	0.95	3.3%
Madison	8.87	4.2%	1.68	4.5%	0.10	1.9%	0.31	2.8%	0.26	5.0%
Rabun	42.09	1.4%	10.50	1.6%	0.50	-0.8%	1.67	0.3%	1.29	2.4%
Stephens	25.24	-0.1%	5.07	0.2%	0.29	-2.2%	0.91	-1.9%	0.75	0.2%
Towns	32.28	-0.6%	8.57	-0.3%	0.41	-2.7%	1.31	-1.5%	0.99	0.6%
Union	19.47	4.0%	4.16	4.3%	0.24	1.7%	0.73	2.9%	0.59	5.1%
White	55.13	4.3%	12.63	4.5%	0.63	2.0%	2.10	3.2%	1.67	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>727.24</b>	<b>5.20%</b>	<b>167.16</b>	<b>5.50%</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>2.80%</b>	<b>27.65</b>	<b>4.20%</b>	<b>21.89</b>	<b>6.40%</b>

# Dawson County has a wide variety of Tourism Assets

## ■ Shopping (The #1 activity of the leisure traveler)

- North Georgia Premium Outlet - 6 Million Shoppers Annually
- 300-400 Tour Buses Visit the N GA Premium Outlets Annually

## ■ Agricultural Tourism

- Kangaroo Conservation Center – Largest collection of Kangaroo's outside of Australia

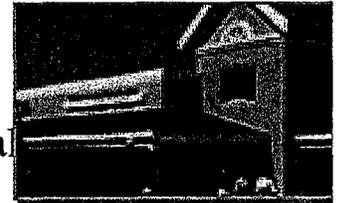
- Burt's Farm – 250,000 Visitors
- Uncle Shuck's – 35,000 Visitors
  - Bucks Corn Maze
  - Bradley's Pumpkin Patch

## ■ Nature Based Tourism

- Amicalola Falls State Park – 1.5 Million Visitors
  - Appalachian Trail
- Len Foote Hike Inn – 5,095 Visitors
- Dawson Forest – 71,800 Visitors

## □ Heritage Tourism

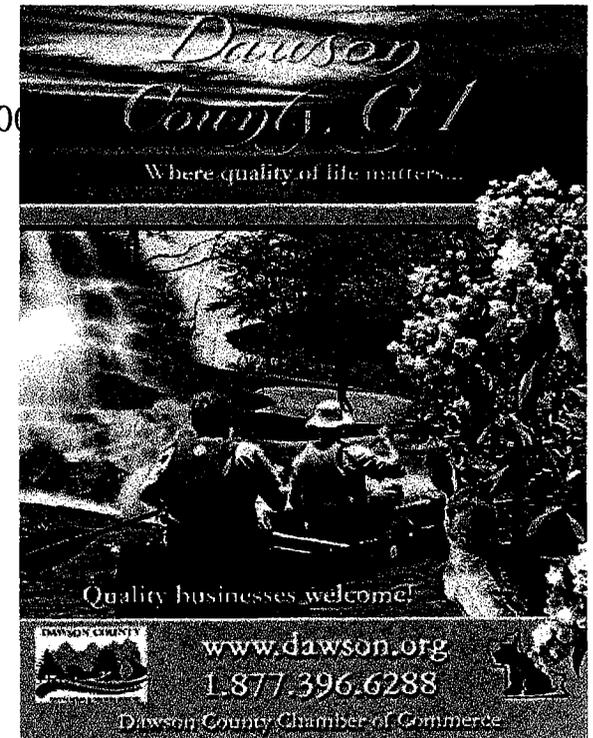
- Georgia Racing Hall of Fame



# 2008 MARKETING FOR DAWSON COUNTY

## 2008 Advertising Schedule

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
State Travel Guide	\$9,500	\$19,500
DNR State Park Guide	\$7,300	
Georgia Magazine – Two issues	\$2,400	
Northeast Travel Co-op.	\$3,500	
Hospitality Co-op	\$10,000	
SE Newspaper Insert	\$2,450	
Writers FAM & PR	\$12,000	
Video Production	\$3,000	
Rack Cards	\$1,400	
Other	\$12,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,000</b>	
Highway Welcome Signs	\$10,000	

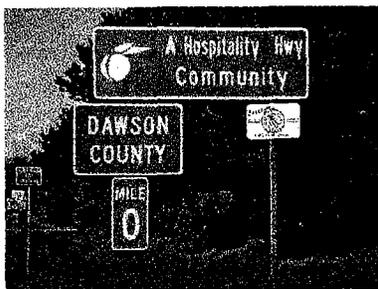


# ACTIVITIES REPORT

<b>Information Requests Filled</b>	<b>YTD</b>
●Email	6,057
●Mail – Direct Inquiries	2,371
●Mail – Leads from Advertisements	15,223
●Telephone	40,877
<b>Number of Walk In Visitors</b>	7,499
<b>Unique Website Visitors</b>	34,333
<b>Web Site Hits-</b>	84,711
<b>Number of “New Move-in” Bags distributed</b>	880
<b>Number of Press Kits Mailed</b>	221
<b>Number of Press Releases and Featured Stories</b>	479
<b>Conferences/Meetings Attended</b>	
● Governor’s Tourism Conference	
● GMOA Trade Shows	
● Southern Living and GA/FL military shows with NEGMTA	
● GACVB Annual Meeting	
● Tourism Day at Capitol	
● Monthly NE Georgia Board Meetings & Annual Legislative Dinner	
● Was Speaker at GDEcD Tourism Foundation Techno Tourism Conference	

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008

- ❑ Submitted 6 local attractions for nominations to National Geographic Map Guide – and the Appalachian Trail made it!! The maps and promotion of this project will be a one year project.
- ❑ Hospitality Highway awarded Tourism Attraction of year by STS.
- ❑ 41<sup>st</sup> Moonshine Festival was filmed by Georgia Public Television.
- ❑ 2 Writers FAM Tours – Generated over \$75 thousand in Ad Value
- ❑ Dawson County Welcome Signs both directions on GA 400
- ❑ Corporate Regions Bank adds Dawson County to Travel Club
- ❑ State Advertising includes Kangaroo Center



# GOALS FOR 2009

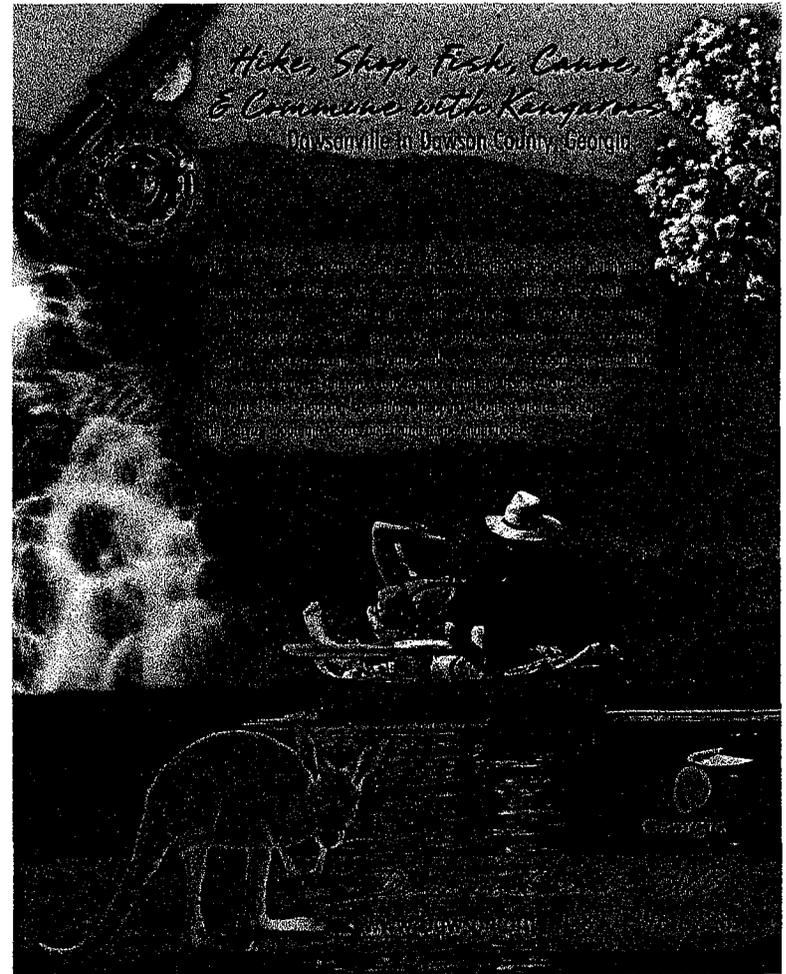
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- Implement Marketing and Public Relations Plan using image based advertising that is, visual and emotional imagery that connects the attributes and life styles of the County.
  
- Publish new Dawson.org Tourist Friendly Web site that includes Social Media.
  
- Promote and expand festivals and events that will increase overnight accommodations revenue.
  
- Build a strong Tour/Consumer tourism focus to emphasis development of SMERF market group tours to bring added revenue to lodging, restaurants, attractions and shopping

# 2009 MARKETING FOR DAWSON COUNTY

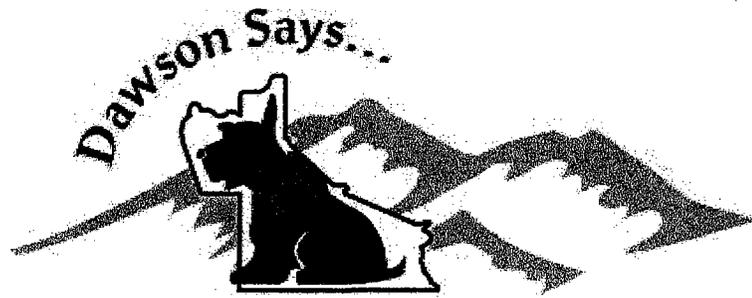
## 2009 Advertising Schedule

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Amount</u>
State Travel Guide	\$9,000
DNR State Park Guide	\$7,332
Madden Newspaper Insert	\$4,996
Northeast Travel Co-op.	\$3,500
Hospitality Hwy. Co-op	\$5,000
Collinson Tourism Insert	\$3,995
Writers FAM & PR	\$12,000
Group Travel Planet	\$8,665
Rejuvenate Magazine	\$7,011
Points North Magazine	\$2,700
Bank Travel Journal	\$1,785
Going on Faith Magazine	\$761
New Web Site	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,000</b>



# Chamber & Community Wish List

- Welcome Center located on GA 400
- Resort Hotel to attract large Corporate Groups
- Events Facility with fairgrounds
- Development of R.V. Park



Thank You  
For your support  
of Tourism

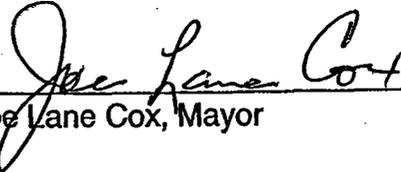
**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the City of Dawsonville realizes the need to construct a wastewater reuse plant to meet existing and future growth in the City and surrounding areas;

WE HEREBY AUTHORIZE Mayor Joe Lane Cox to sign and submit applications for funds to facilitate water system and wastewater system improvements through the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. Such funds will be used to construct the necessary infrastructure improvements.

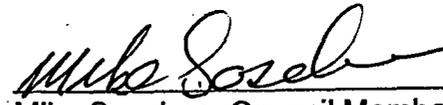
THIS RESOLUTION was passed by a vote of 3 to 0 at a Council Meeting held March 2, 2009.

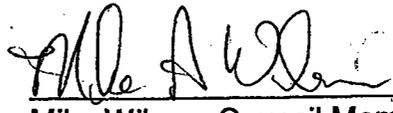
**CITY OF DAWSONVILLE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Cox, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Grant, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Sosebee, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Wilson, Council Member

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION**

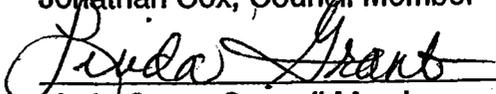
WHEREAS the City of Dawsonville realizes the need to construct water system improvements consisting of well development and water line replacement to meet existing and future growth in the City and surrounding areas;

WE HEREBY AUTHORIZE Mayor Joe Lane Cox to sign and submit an application to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, State Revolving Fund Program, to obtain funds to construct the necessary improvements.

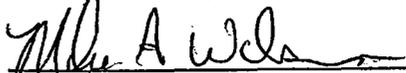
THIS RESOLUTION was passed by a vote of 3 to 0 at a Council Meeting held March 2, 2009.

**City of Dawsonville, Georgia**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Jonathan Cox, Council Member  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Grant, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Sosebee, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Wilson, Council Member

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk



# City Of Dawsonville

Public Works Director

Gary Barr

Exhibit "D"

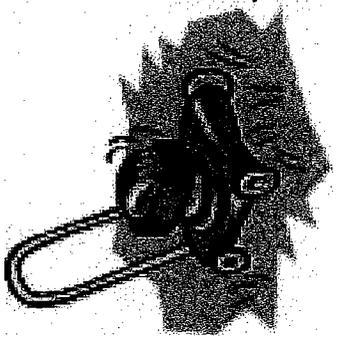
# Road Maintenance

1. Installing new Signs
2. Repairing signs either damaged or faded
3. Storm drains
4. Trash pickup
5. Right of way mowing over 10 miles
6. Paving and patching pot holes
7. Trash pickup & grass cutting  
at city hall



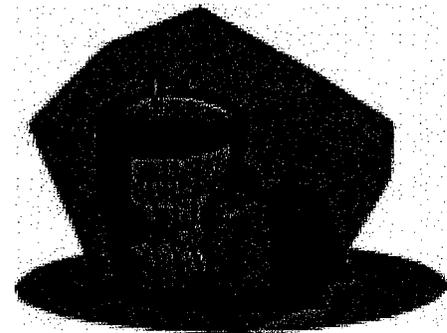
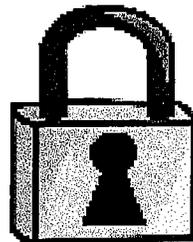
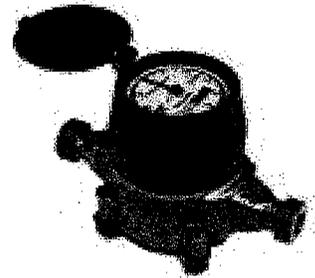
# Cemetery & City Park

- ▶ Every week we maintain cemetery
- ▶ Trash pickup
- ▶ Mark all new graves
- ▶ Maintain landscaping of graves
- ▶ During grass season we cut every week
- ▶ Maintain city park playground & Pavilion



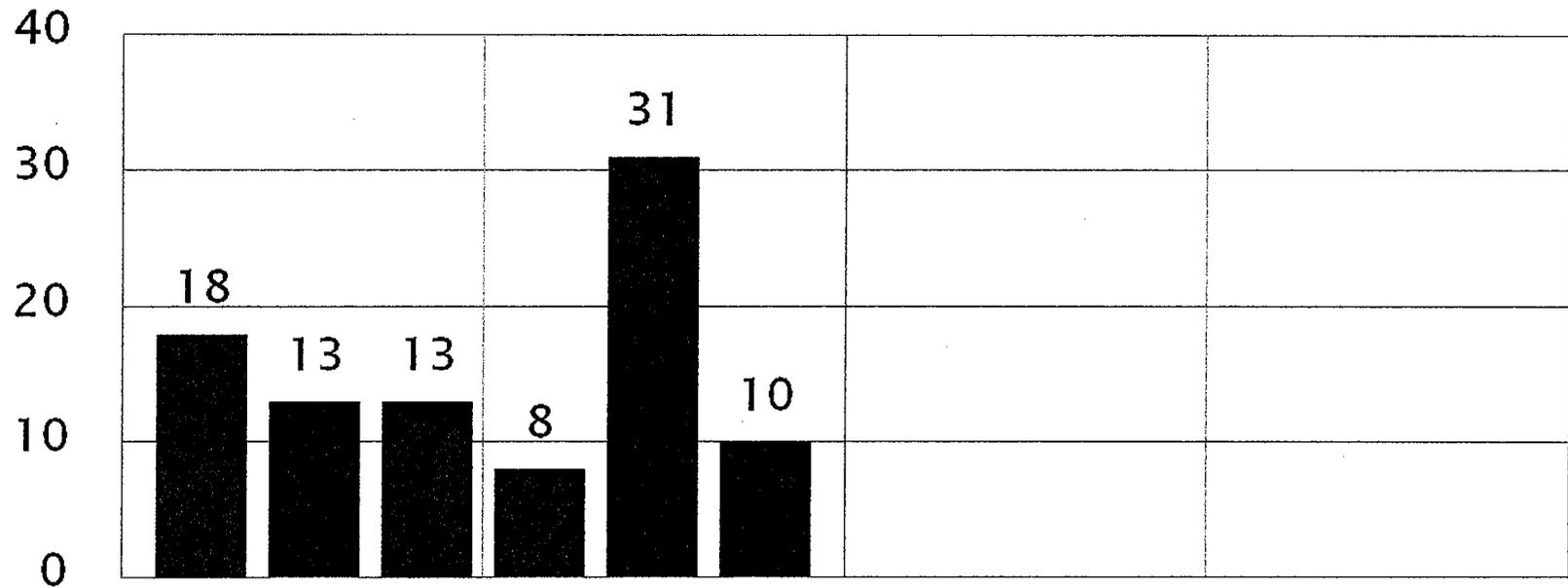
# Work Orders

1. New services
2. Terminate services
3. Office services
  1. Late Notices
  2. Termination Notices
  3. Office notices
4. Customer services
  1. Complaints
  2. Leak Checks
  3. Meter Re-read's



# Work Orders

Total 93



January

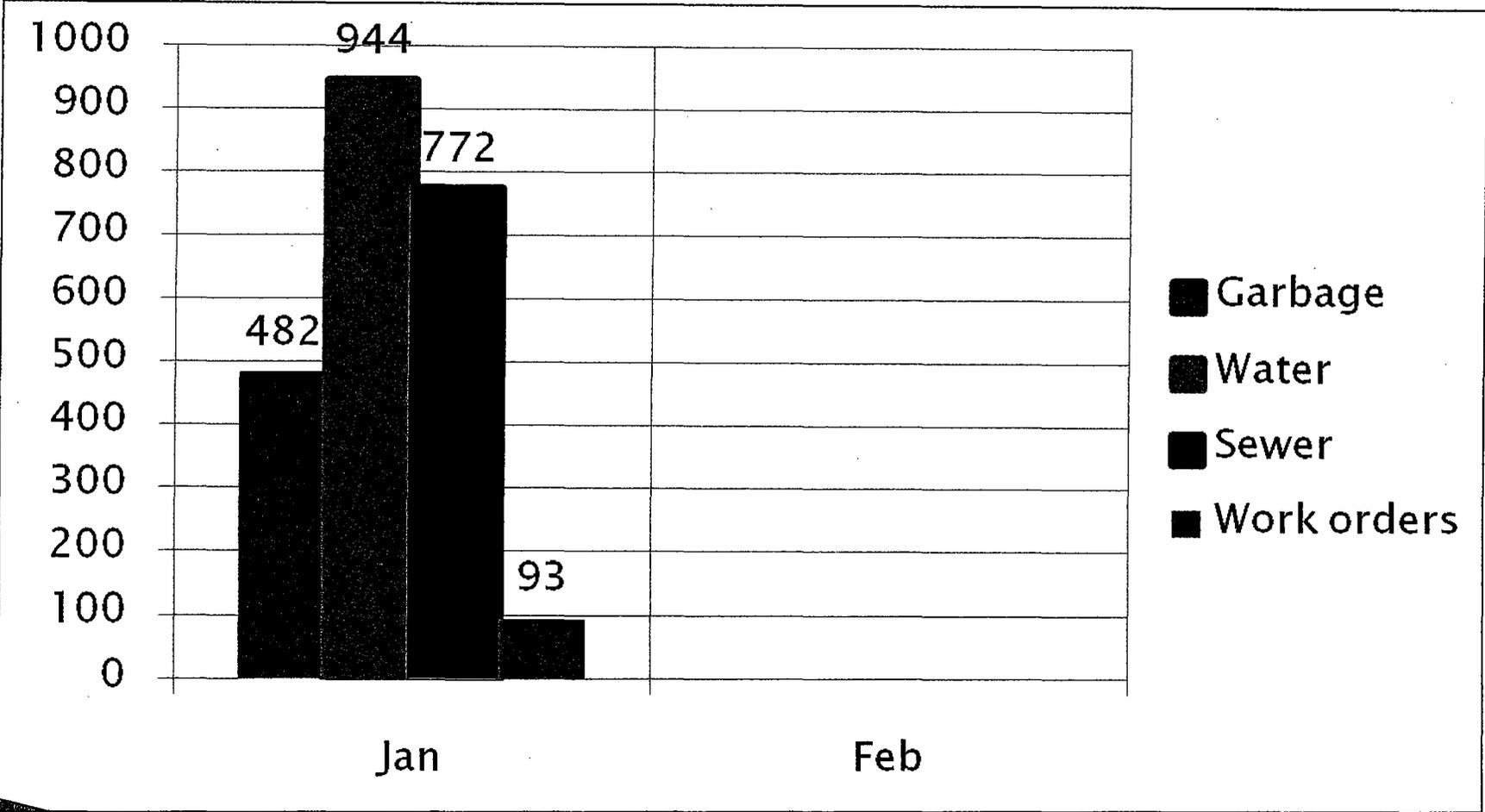
- New Water
- Terminate Water
- Tape letter to door

February

- New Garbage
- Terminate Garbage
- check for leaks

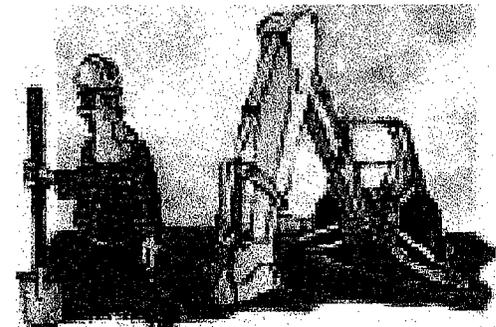
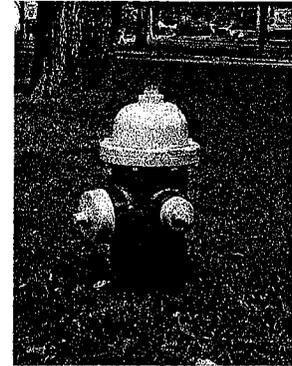


# Current Active Accounts

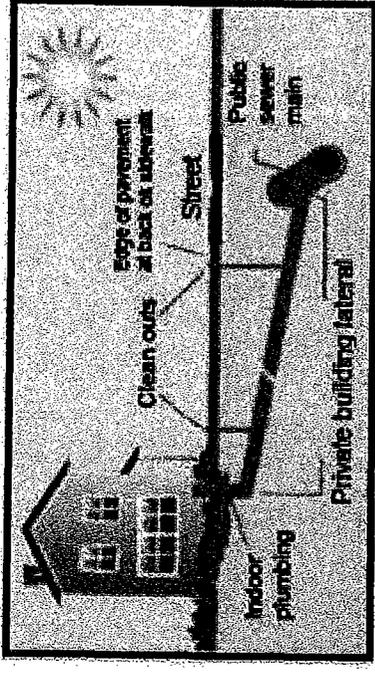


# Water Treatment & Distribution

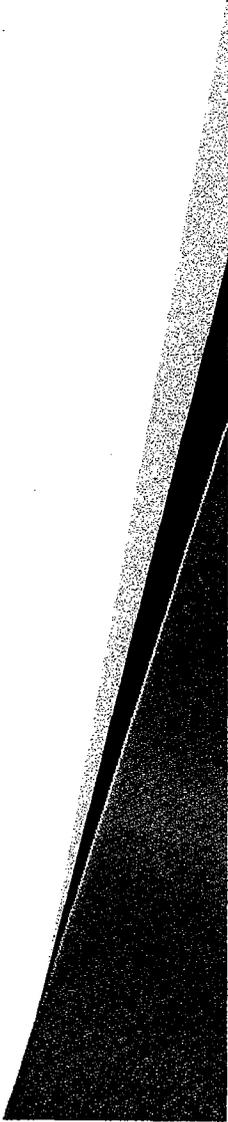
- ▶ 4 – Wells
- ▶ 1 – Spring
- ▶ Chemical mix and check every day
- ▶ Visual Checks on all part of well's & treatment facilities
- ▶ Install service line taps and install meter's
- ▶ Maintenance of Meters, Fire hydrants, valves, tanks, and leak repair
- ▶ Over 220 Fire hydrants
- ▶ Our water system had no violations for 2008



# Waste water Collections & Treatment



- ▶ 8-lift stations
- ▶ 6- Generators
- ▶ 1- surface aeration ponds
- ▶ 9 Million Gallon polishing & Holding Pond
- ▶ 12 LAS Fields ( over 29 Miles of Irrigation line that we maintain , Located on 226 acres of hardwood forest)
- ▶ 2 Miles of gravel roadways maintained
- ▶ We Repair collection lines
- ▶ Install Waste Water Taps



# 2008–2009 Waste Water Improvements

- ▶ Collection system
- ▶ In 2009 all waste water collection lines in city's System Will be done as follows
  - Pressure jetting (cleaning)
  - Video & Recording
  - Inspection
- In 2008 Rehabilitated Gold Creek & Downtown Lift stations
  - This Produced a Dramatic savings in power consumption
  - Reduce pumping times ( wear & tear on Actual Lift station)