

MAYOR
Lamar Scroggs

CITY COUNCIL
Martha Collins
Sam Evans
Montie Robinson, Sr.
Todd Wilson



CITY MANAGER
Stan Brown

CITY CLERK
Tangee Puckett

NEWS ARTICLE: Gainesville Times on January 23, 2015

Hall County Green Alliance keeps it green with annual awards

The day was gray and gloomy, but a group of dedicated community members and volunteers have proven that Hall County is nothing but green.

The Hall County Green Alliance held its second annual ceremony Friday to recognize individuals and groups for their work in creating a cleaner environment for the area.

“This is our tagline we have ... to ‘make it second nature,’” said Stan Brown, Oakwood city manager and chairman of the alliance. “We shouldn’t have to think about, ‘Is this something to do environmentally?’ It ought to be just part of our makeup and we ought to do it each and every day.”

Hall County District 2 Commissioner Billy Powell gave the keynote speech, pointing out some of the ways the county has cut down on energy costs and increased its green footprint over the years.

He mentioned certain improvements have been made to the Spout Springs Water Reclamation Facility, improving power consumption by 26 percent. According to Powell, the plant’s energy consumption has dropped from 71,000 kilowatts per month to 52,000 kilowatts per month.

“We made sweeping upgrades to the lighting systems in the county facilities,” Powell said, noting the improvements were paid for using a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. “Hall County has replaced fluorescent lighting fixtures in county buildings with more efficient modern standards.

“In all, Hall County has saved more than \$120,000 per year due to the energy saving measures such as lighting retrofits and HVAC updates,” Powell added about the buildings’ heating and air systems. “In addition, approximately \$200,000 has been saved annually in energy savings by consolidating government functions ... in the Government Center.”

Powell also mentioned the county’s Adopt-a-Can program and the construction of Cherokee Bluffs park in Flowery Branch as ways county government has help create more green space for the area.

In an interesting touch at the event, plaques given to award winners were made out of melted down glass bottles found on either Flat Creek or Lake Lanier.

Those recognized at Friday’s ceremony were:

- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton as the private sector project of the year
- Hall County's "Adopt-a-Can" program for the public sector project of the year
- Marcial Mosqueda as the individual trailblazer of the year
- The Alpharetta Young Men's Service League as the group trailblazer of the year
- Lanier Charter Career Academy for the education award
- The City of Oakwood as partner of the year

Also recognized was Dave Rosselle as volunteer of the year, having spent hundreds of hours volunteering to pick up litter, particularly around Lake Lanier.

Dr. Anderson Flen received the champion award for his role in promoting healthy practices, including creating a community garden so schoolchildren could learn how food is grown.

Brown himself received the Green "Foote" Print award, a legacy award in the name of environmental steward Rick Foote.

"I'm proud to live in a community where we've got so much going on," Powell said of the alliance's efforts. "It certainly ... has grown into a movement."