

State of the County

Commissioner Shannon Whitfield

April 25, 2017

115 Days in Office

Week #1 = Top question?

**Commissioner is it as
“bad” as you thought
it would be ??**

Week #1 = Financial Review

\$13,795,440.49 in taxes collected to
the general fund revenue
account for First Quarter =
October - December 2016

Week #1 = Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Only \$800,000 was left in the general fund on my first day!

Approximately \$13 million had been paid out in the prior 3 months!

Week #1 = Friday January 6, 2017

Over \$3.5 million in past due
invoices and bills due now!

**Staff overwhelmed with
creditors calling daily!**

Week #2 = Monday January 9, 2017

Payroll due by Friday

for 435 employees

\$500,000 to cover payroll!

Week #2 = Tuesday, January 10, 2017

1. Money in general fund +\$1 million

2. Payroll for the month -\$1 million

3. Bills due & Past due -\$3.5 million

Electric Company disconnect notices
came in the mail today!

Week #2 = Wednesday January 11, 2017

**Reduced annualized personnel cost by
\$660,000 in the first 1 ½ weeks**

**Accounting staff has been working
on cash flow projections!**

Week #2 = Thursday January 12, 2017

**Borrowed \$4 million dollars TAN from
Bank of Lafayette to meet pending obligations.**

**Cash flow projections show we will need to
borrow \$8 million total to get thru 2017.**

New HR Director - Sharleen Robinson



New Public Relations Director Joe Legge



New Codes Enforcement Director David Brown



Changes in Workforce

3 new positions created:

Human Resource Director

Public Relations Director

Codes Enforcement Director

People no longer on staff
from prior administration

23

People added to fill needed open positions:

5

Net Personnel Annualized Cost Savings 1.2 Million!!!

Emergency Services

- 80% of our calls to our fire department are on the north end of our county.
- Closest fire station to the north end is Rock Spring Station #1



Some of our biggest fire trucks responding to accidents



- 85% of our calls are medical or accident related.

Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs)

Advantages:

- Respond to any incident
- Quicker response time
- Better gas mileage
- Less costly to maintain
- Extends the life span of traditional fire engines



Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs)



3 Repurposed Brush Trucks
(No additional taxpayer
expense)

- Rock Spring
- Chickamauga
- Lafayette

24-7-365 staffed stations

Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs)



Statistics:

First week:

QRVs responded to
39 of 44 calls

First 25 days:

QRVs responded to
284 of 308 calls

Additional Full Time Staffed Station



4th location being renovated, adding full time staff 24-7-365

QRV equipped

**Flintstone Station #2
Ready - July 2017**

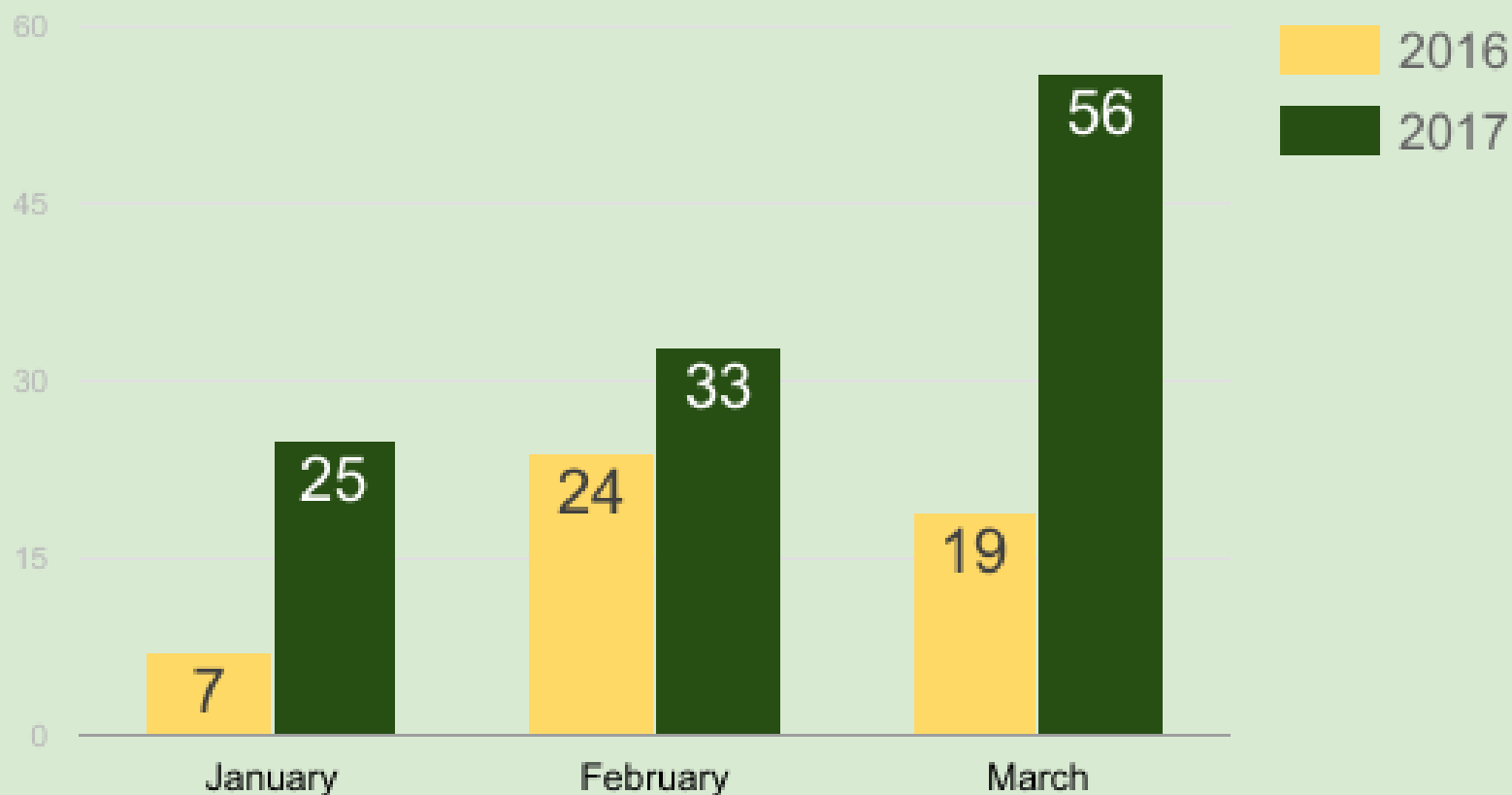
Codes Enforcement



Biggest Issues:

- Household garbage
- Junk
- Junk cars
- Dilapidated structures

Code Violations - January through March



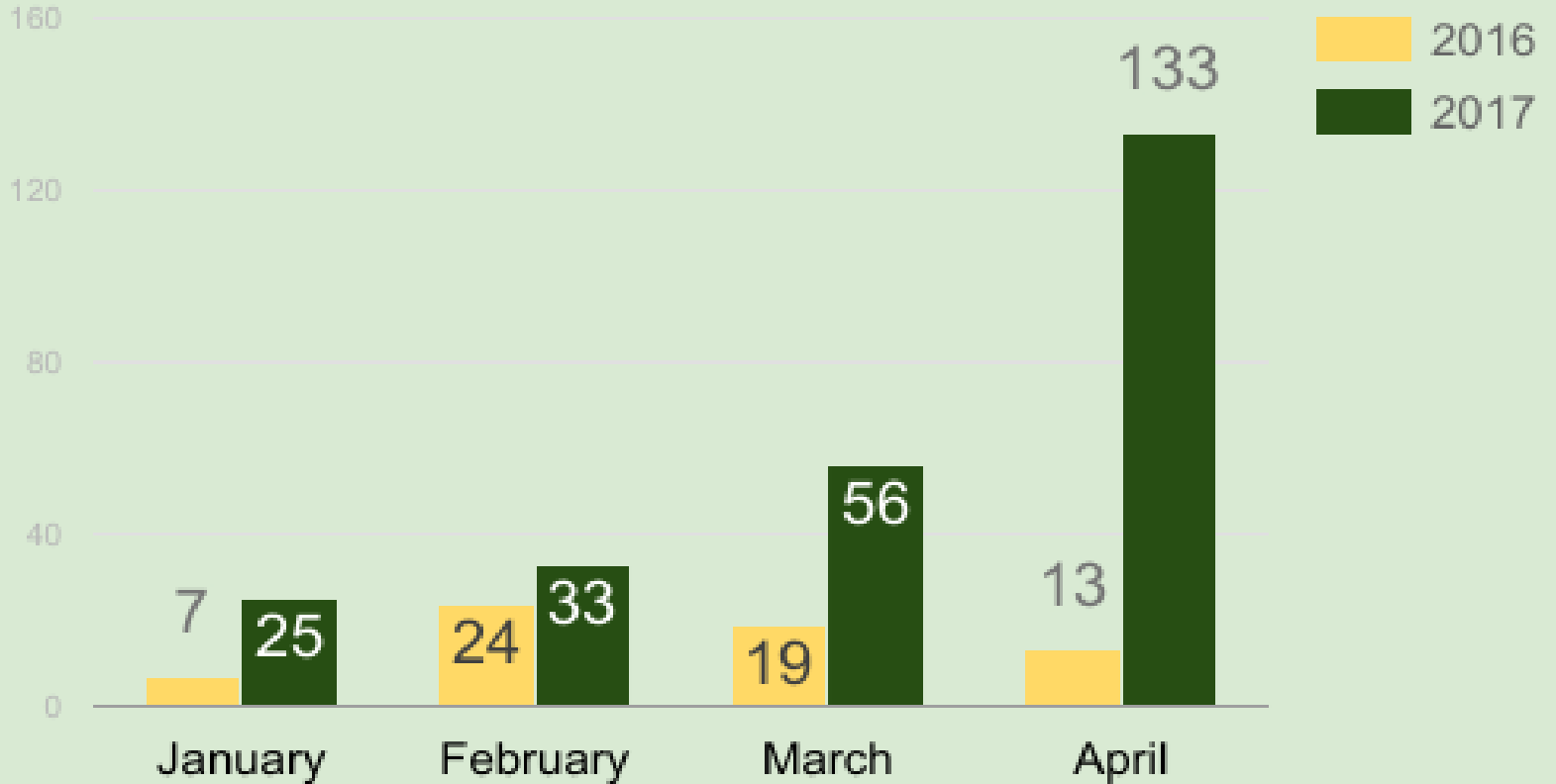
Codes Enforcement



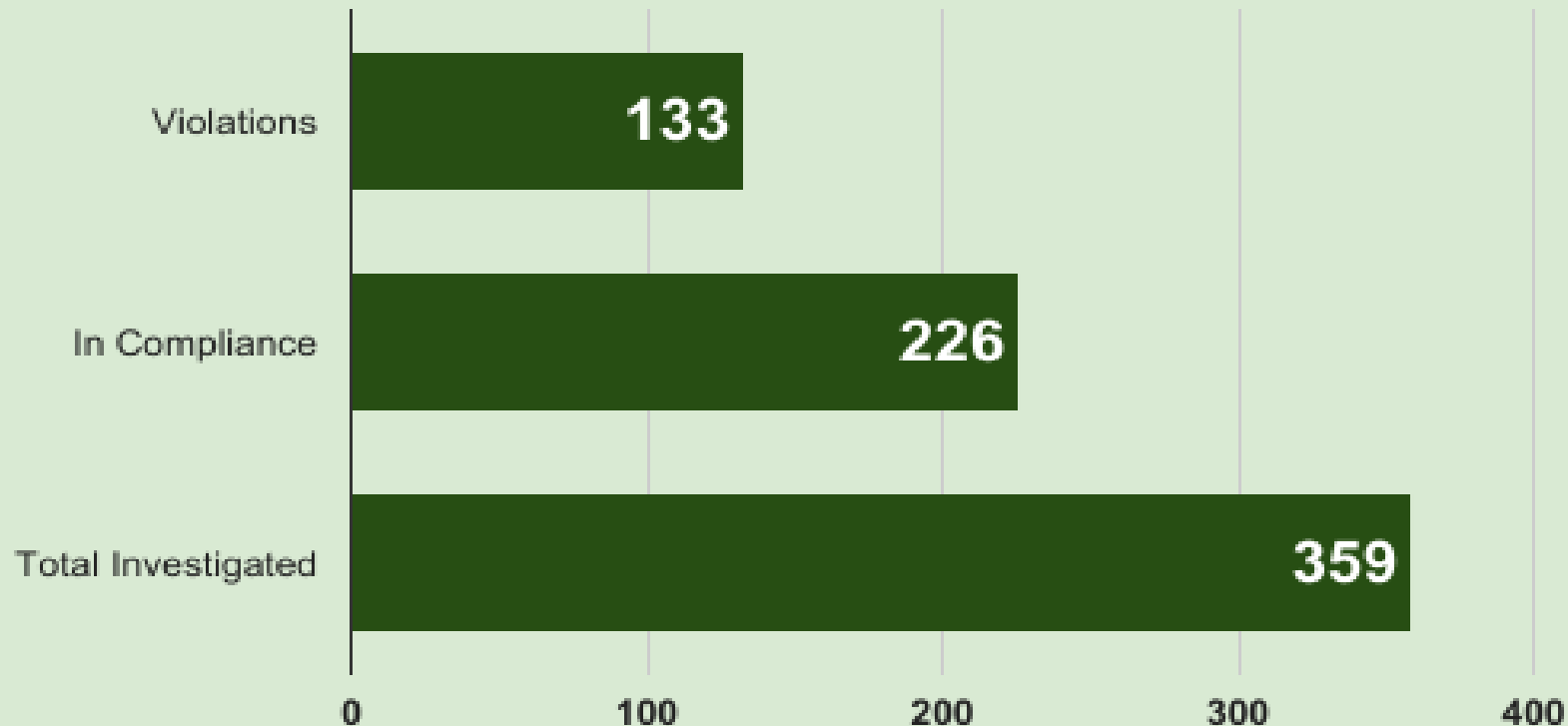
Recent Changes:

- Added a Director of Codes
- Promoted 2 existing employees to Codes Enforcement Officers
- Compliance Campaign in Zone #1 northwest end of the county

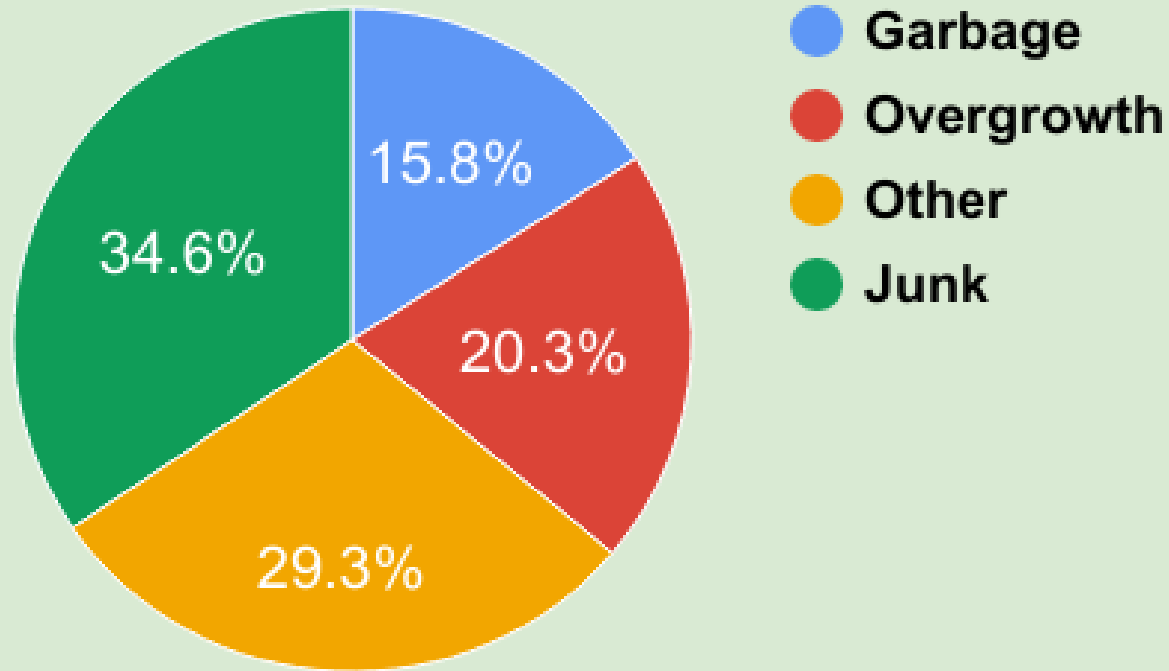
Code Violations - January through April



April 2017 Cases



April 2017 Codes Summary

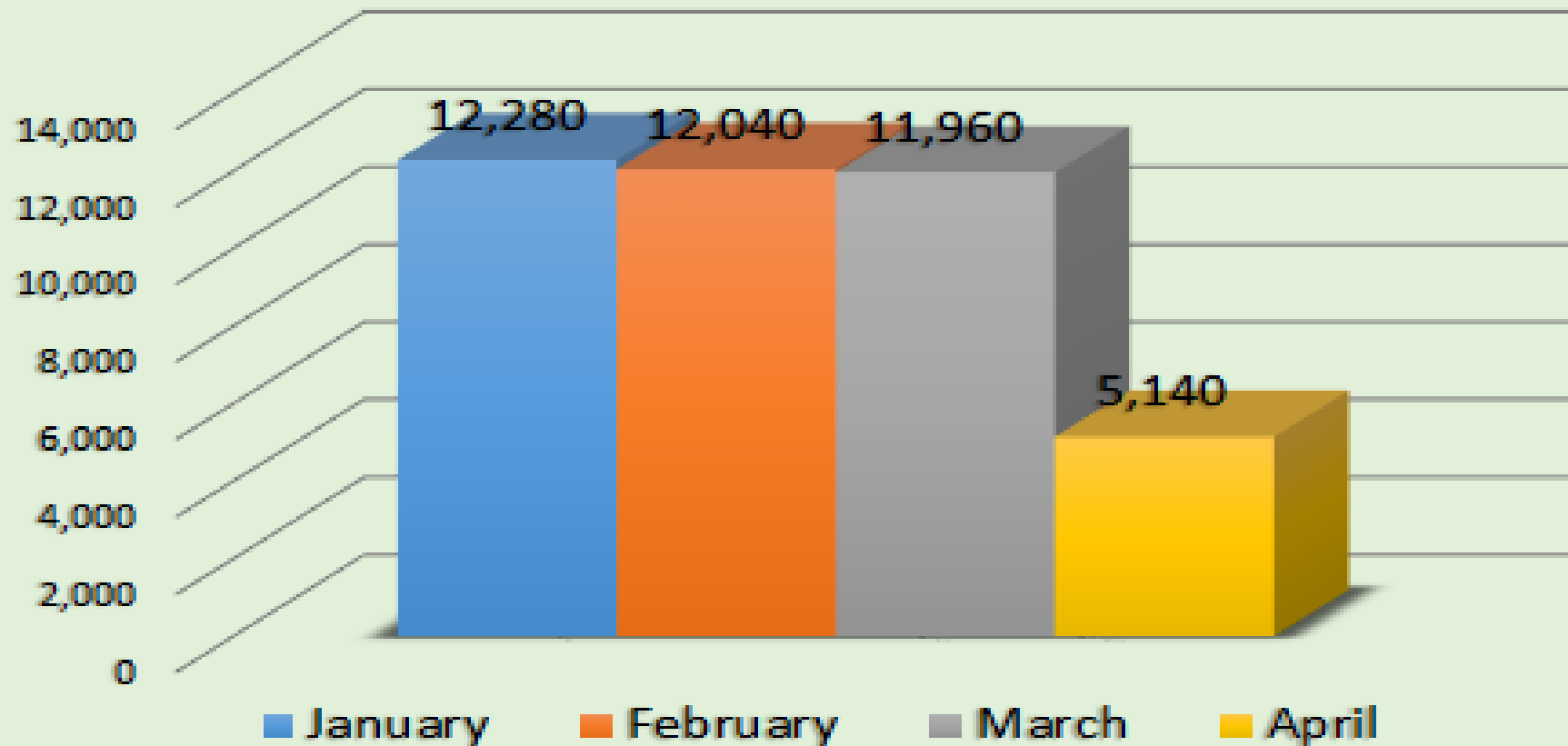


Litter Detail

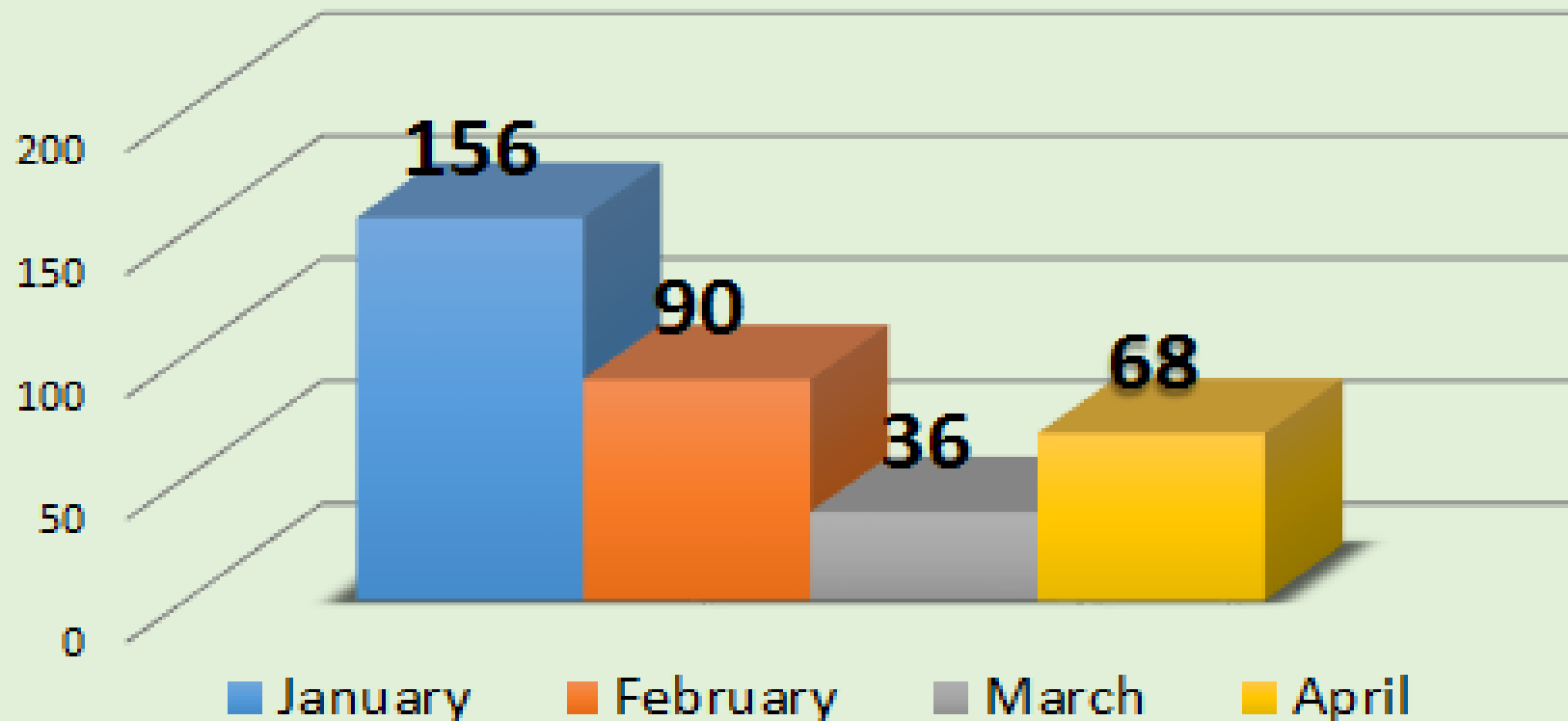


- New Department
Animal Control, Codes Enforcement, Building Inspections, Planning & Zoning.
- Crew works 5 days a week
- 1,368 miles of road to cover
- Tire Amnesty Day
- Developing an Adopt-a-Road program

Litter



Tires

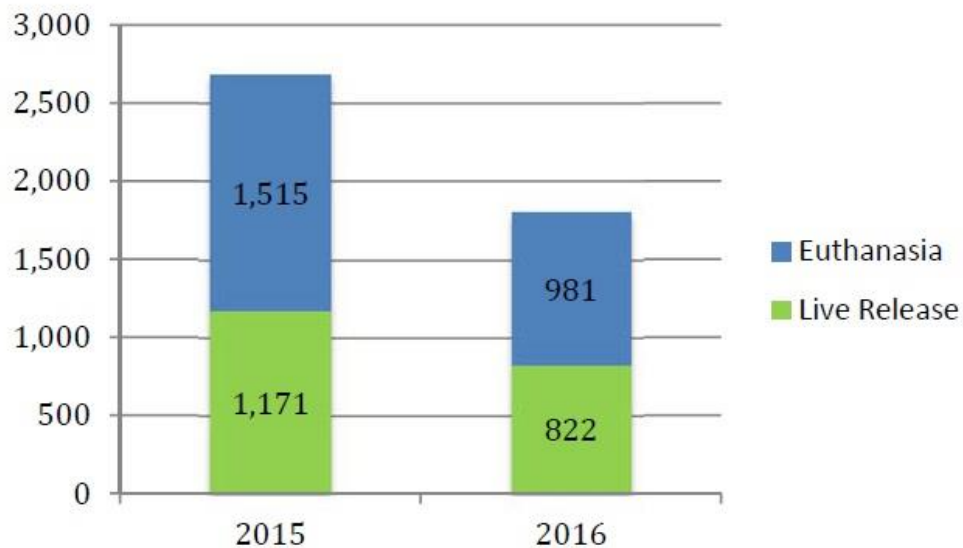


Animal Shelter



Year	Dog Intake	Dog Save Rate	Cat Intake	Cat Save Rate	Combined Save Rate
2015	1,652	57.32%	1,334	16.79%	39.22%
2016	1,119	60.59%	894	16.11%	40.83%

Live Release vs Euthanasia of Shelter Dogs and Cats





Currently working on:

- Digitized record keeping
- Spay/Neuter animals before they leave the shelter
- Increase ability to find animals available for adoption
- Formalized volunteer program



target
ZERO

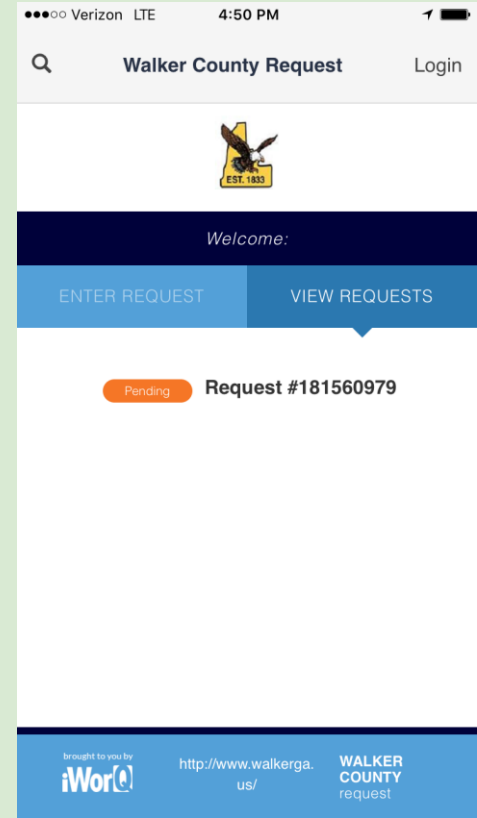
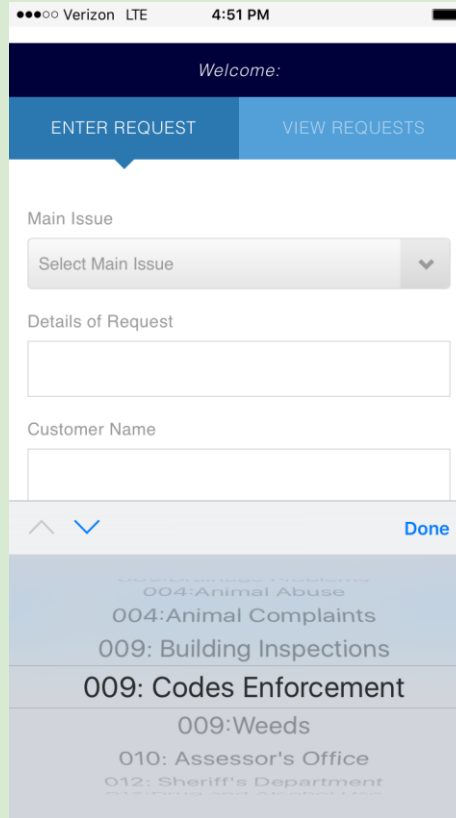
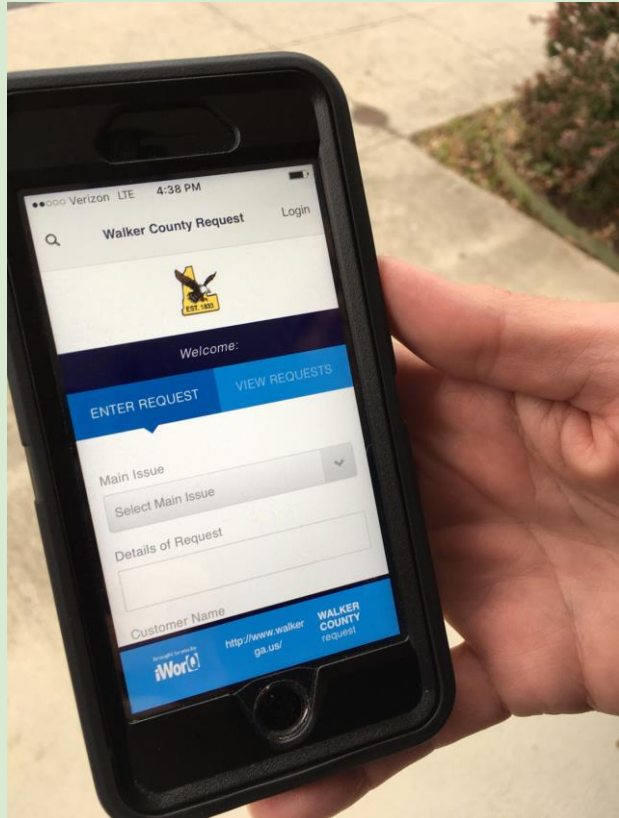


Reporting Issues

Imagine being able to report an issue with codes, roads, animals or another concern using an app on your smart phone?



iWorQ Service Request App



iWorQ Service Request App

Download in the App Store for Apple devices and Play Store for Android devices

Use agency code: **Wa102**

Create an account or continue as a guest



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GA



THE BEAUTY OF WALKER COUNTY



Walker County Tourism Destinations

Chickamauga Battlefield National Park

Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area

McLemore Cove / Mountain Cove Farms

See Rock City / Lookout Mountain

NEW Tourism Destination Coming Soon!

Economic Development



Economic Development

300+ positions to be created before the end of 2017

- Roper Corporation - 100 positions now
- Nissin Brake - 60 positions now
- Audia - 40 positions later this year
- Unique Fabricating - 10 positions now, 100 more later this year



In serious talks with 3 companies, that would create 450+ jobs



MULTI-EMPLOYER CAREER EXPO

May 11, 2017 | 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Walker County Civic Center, 10052 N. Highway 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739

Hosted by:

- Walker County
- Dade County
- Chattooga County
- Georgia Dept of Labor
- Walker County Chamber of Commerce
- Dade County Chamber of Commerce
- Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce

Public Relations

Walker County Newsletter

- Launched in February 2017
- 1,002 subscribers
- Issues sent monthly via email
- Subscribe at www.walkerga.us



Quick Hits



Community Meetings:

Commissioner Whitfield recently met with the Wilson Road Neighborhood Group to discuss codes enforcement and litter. Residents posed many questions, including the financial state of the county and the previous administration's early retirement pension incentive program. Commissioner Whitfield also addressed legislation to let voters decide if they want to change the county's form of government, which has since passed the Georgia House & Senate.

Community Event:

The City of LaFayette, in cooperation with Walker County, the City of Chickamauga and Rock City, will host the inaugural Honeybee Bicycle Ride on May 13th. Proceeds will be used to lower registration fees for all youth wanting to play baseball, soccer and other sports at LaFayette Rec. Scenic routes featuring 10, 34 and 63 miles will be available to ride through the hills and valleys of Walker County. To register visit www.bikereg.com/honeybeemetric.



Improving Safety:

Researchers with the University of Mississippi's National Center for Physical Acoustics placed a microphone array in Walker County, as part of a tornado detection and warning research program for NOAA. One of ten being deploy across the Southeast, this device aims to identify low-frequency acoustic signals that could be used to help forecasters anticipate, detect, track and warn the public of tornadic activity.

Public Relations



Walker County facebook page

- @WalkerCounty Commissioner
- Launched in late January 2017
- 2,408 followers
- 22,574 reach
- Videos, photos, agendas, etc.

Walker County, GA

Walker County, GA
@WalkerCountyCommissioner

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Get in touch with Walker County, GA
2,359 people like this
Ashley Henderson and 29 ... Contact Us

Get in touch with Walker County, GA
Walker County Profile: W...
05:44 · 19.9K Views

Government Organization

Invite friends to like this Page

Over 68,000 people live in Walker County, which borders Chattanooga, TN. Walker County operates under the Sole Commissioner form of government.

2,350 Likes
Mike Chambers and 29 other friends like this

About See All
706-638-1437 Chat (Off)

Public Relations



Commissioner meetings and County video profiles archived on the Walker County Commissioner Youtube Channel



Walker County Commissioner



Video highlights from the bi-weekly Walker County, GA Commissioner Meetings, among other county related videos

Uploads Public



The Adventures of Gem & Jet: Webisode 1

35 views • 2 weeks ago



Walker County Commissioner Meeting 4-6-17

56 views • 2 weeks ago



Walker County Commissioner Meeting 3-23-17

42 views • 1 month ago



Walker County Commissioner Meeting 3-9-2017

47 views • 1 month ago



Walker County Profile: Walker State Prison Firefighters

3,153 views • 1 month ago

Commissioner Shannon Whitfield holds public meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.

Agenda's for each meeting will be posted once available.

Location: Walker County Commissioner's Office • 101 South Duke Street • LaFayette,

Video Archives: Commissioner Meetings are available on **You Tube**

4/06/17 - [Complete Agenda packet](#) for Regular Meeting

3/23/17 - [Complete Agenda packet](#) for Regular Meeting

3/09/17 - [Complete Agenda packet](#) for Regular Meeting

2/23/17 - [Complete Agenda packet](#) for Regular Meeting

2/09/17 - **CANCELLED** due to a scheduling conflict.

1/26/17 - [Complete Agenda packet](#) for Regular Meeting

1/12/17 - [Agenda for Regular Meeting](#)

1/10/17 - [Agenda for Called Meeting](#)



www.walkerga.us

Public Relations

Media coverage of Walker County

- 52 stories in March
- 35 stories in February
- 27 stories in January
- Newspaper, TV, Radio, Online



Public Relations Summer Internship

Funded in part with a grant from ACCG

Undergraduate or Graduate College Student

\$10 an hour, up to 40 hours a week

Produce content for web and social media

Assist in community education efforts

Applications now being accepted

Visit the Human Resources section at walkerga.us for details

Coming Soon

- Animal Shelter / Target Zero campaign
- New fire station in Flintstone
- FY 2016 Financial Audit
- Adopt-a-Road program
- Website redesign with more records online
- Used Tire Amnesty Day

Contact us

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