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# CULLMAN

ALABAMA

## CULLMAN CITY CONNECTION

January 2026

### Cullman Approves \$1.2M 24th Street Waterline Extension to Strengthen City Infrastructure

The City of Cullman is moving forward with the 24th Street waterline extension project, a significant infrastructure investment that will strengthen the City's water system and support continued growth in the area.

The Cullman City Council awarded the construction contract for the project to Willoughby Contracting in the amount of \$1,233,535. The project includes extending a major waterline along 24th Street, improving water capacity and reliability for residents, businesses, and future development.

Projects like this are an important part of maintaining a strong foundation for the community. Upgrading and expanding water infrastructure helps ensure dependable service, supports economic development, and positions the City to meet future needs as Cullman continues to grow.

The City will work closely with the contractor to coordinate construction activities and minimize disruptions to traffic and nearby properties as much as possible. Residents are encouraged to remain aware of activity in the area as work progresses.

This project reflects Cullman's continued commitment to investing in essential infrastructure that serves the community today while planning responsibly for tomorrow.



# WildWater Season Passes for Residents of Cullman City and Cullman County!

The Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Board of Directors, together with the Cullman City Council and co-sponsored by Council Chairperson of Tourism David Moss and Council-member Jason Willoughby, is pleased to announce a special opportunity exclusively for Cullman County residents.

Now and continuing through April 1, WildWater season passes will be offered at a reduced rate of \$99, a \$40 savings off the regular season pass price. This limited-time offer reflects the ongoing commitment of our City Council and Park Board to provide families with high- quality, affordable recreation and to expand access to the amenities that make Cullman an exceptional place to call home.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this early-season rate—the lowest available—and enjoy this opportunity reserved solely for Cullman County families. We look forward to welcoming you back for another memorable summer at WildWater.

[Link to buy a season pass!](#)



## City Council Recognitions

Several City of Cullman employees were recognized during the January 12, 2026, Cullman City Council meeting for exceptional professional achievements and years of dedicated service. Adam Brown, of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, was honored for earning his Grade IV Wastewater Certification—a significant accomplishment that highlights his technical expertise, commitment to excellence, and vital role in safeguarding public health and critical infrastructure.

Michelle Bates, Human Resources Director, was also recognized for achieving two professional certifications: Alabama Certified Human Resources Professional and Alabama Certified Risk Management Specialist. These accomplishments further enhance the City's leadership in employee services, regulatory compliance, and organizational effectiveness.

In addition, Dale Greer was formally recognized as he prepares to retire from his role as Director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency, concluding more than three decades of service to the City of Cullman.

The City of Cullman extends its sincere appreciation to these individuals for their professionalism, dedication, and lasting contributions, and congratulates each of them on their well-earned recognition.

The City is excited to recognize WWTP Operator Canaan Lipsey for earning his Grade IV Wastewater Operator's License—a major professional milestone that showcases his dedication, expertise, and commitment to serving our community.

**Pictured, bottom row:** Water/Sewer Superintendent Chris Freeman, Councilmember Paul Schaffer, and Canaan Lipsey

**Pictured, top row:** Council President Kim Hall, Councilmember Jason Willoughby, and Councilmember Chuck Shikle

Canaan's hard work and ongoing professional growth is to be recognized. The city appreciate our water, wastewater, and treatment personnel for keeping our systems safe, reliable, and running smoothly every day. Well done!



The Mayor and City Council of Cullman proclaimed January as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month, reaffirming the City's commitment to raising awareness, supporting survivors, and strengthening prevention efforts to combat human trafficking in the community.

Organizations recognized for their ongoing work include the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, the Department of Homeland Security, the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama, the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force/End-It Alabama, the Alabama Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance within the Office of the Attorney General, the Children's Aid Society of Alabama, and other dedicated partners working in education, prevention, and coordinated response.

The City of Cullman remains committed to continued awareness, collaboration, and partnerships that promote safety and a stronger, more informed community.





The Mayor and City Council of Cullman proudly recognized the Cullman High School Theatre Program for its remarkable achievements and were pleased to welcome the students and directors in attendance for this special honor. The program received top distinctions at the Alabama State Trumbauer Festival, including Best in Show for its production of Suite Surrender—the highest award in high school theatre and the equivalent of a state championship.

Led by directors Wayne Cook and Sarah Jane Skinner, the Cullman High School Theatre Program continues a strong tradition of excellence and has been selected for the second consecutive year to represent the State of Alabama at the Southeastern Theatre Conference. The City of Cullman congratulates the students and directors on this outstanding achievement and for representing the community with talent, dedication, and pride.

The Cullman City Council approved a request from the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce to host a Mardi Gras parade on February 14, 2026.

Cullman Municipal Court Magistrate Jenny Perkins recently earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. The City of Cullman Court Clerk and all City Magistrates hold bachelor's degrees, reflecting the high level of professionalism and commitment within the Municipal Court.

The Municipal Court has also assisted 234 individuals through its Pre-Trial Diversion Program, achieving a 97% success rate. This program allows first-time offenders to have their charges dismissed upon successful completion, providing a meaningful opportunity for accountability and fresh starts.

On Monday, January 27, 2026, Cullman Municipal Court officers were recognized for their service and accomplishments at the City Council meeting.

**Pictured, bottom row:** City Prosecutor Jeremy Cline, Municipal Court Judge Jason P. Knight, Court Clerk Blakelee Cockrell, Magistrate Jenny Perkins, City Council President Kim Hall, and Magistrates Brooks Bryant, Ashley Turner, and Laura Allison Wade.

**Pictured, top row:** Councilmembers Jason Willoughby, Paul Schaffer, and Chuck Shikle.



Mayor Jacobs issued proclamations for Catholic Schools Week and Lutheran Schools Appreciation Week, acknowledging the contributions of local Lutheran and Catholic schools. Additionally, the Mayor addressed the Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership class and recognized their involvement in the community.



## City Council Minutes

During the month of January, the Cullman City Council addressed a wide range of items focused on planning, infrastructure, public safety, and community priorities. Council actions included public hearings and zoning matters related to future development, including a rezoning request along Beech Avenue SE, as well as scheduling a public hearing for the City's Neighborhood Enhancement Program. The Council also approved several administrative and operational items, including surplus declarations, technology and service contracts, airport-related agreements, and professional services contracts supporting City operations. In January, the Council approved special event and demonstration requests and received updates on Municipal Court programs, including the pretrial diversion program. The Council took action on multiple capital and infrastructure projects, including vehicle purchases for City departments, water and wastewater system improvements, and development-related agreements. Among these actions was approval of the contract for the 24th Street waterline extension project, an important investment in the City's water infrastructure. The Council also addressed construction-related matters involving the OmniPlex and approved maintenance work at the wastewater treatment facility. Additionally, the Council introduced several ordinances for consideration, addressing matters such as property surplus and vacation, annexation of additional acreage into the City limits, and updates to building department authority. Appointments were also made to several City boards and commissions to support ongoing civic oversight and engagement. Overall, January's Council activity reflected a continued focus on responsible growth, infrastructure investment, efficient operations, and serving the needs of the Cullman community.



## Cullman Welcomes Life-Saving Safe Haven Baby Box

The City of Cullman officially placed the Safe Haven Baby Box into service at Fire Station #3, providing a safe, secure, and anonymous option for parents in crisis to surrender an infant. Located at 1920 Butler Street NW, the box is equipped with a silent alarm that notifies first responders immediately, ensuring every child receives timely care.

The blessing ceremony included Mayor Woody Jacobs, Fire Chief Darren Peeples, City Council members, and community partners, with remarks from Jessi Getrost of Safe Haven Baby Boxes. Cullman joins hundreds of communities nationwide in offering this life-saving resource, reflecting our commitment to preparedness, dignity, and care for the city's most vulnerable.





## Message from Mayor Woody Jacobs



January has been a great month and a strong start to 2026 for the City of Cullman. I appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Cullman County Youth Leadership group and spend time with young people who are already thinking about the future of our community.

We are also excited to see progress and momentum across the city. The OmniPlex is officially up and running and recently hosted the Ultimate Fishing Expo, highlighting its role as a hub for recreation, events, and community gatherings. At WildWater, work on the Lazy River addition is proceeding nicely, and we look forward to another season of growth and fun at one of Cullman's favorite destinations.

This month, I was honored to proclaim Lutheran Schools Appreciation Week and Catholic Schools Week, both observed during the last week of January, recognizing the important role our faith-based schools play in education, service, and community leadership.

We were also pleased to honor Dale Greer upon his retirement as Director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency. During the Economic Development Association of Alabama Conference in Montgomery, Dale received the Dave Echols Distinguished Service Award, the highest award presented by the EDAA. This honor recognizes exemplary service and lasting contributions to economic development across the state and is a fitting tribute to Dale's leadership and dedication to strengthening Cullman's economy.

It has truly been a great month and an encouraging beginning to the year ahead. I look forward to continuing the work that helps Cullman grow, thrive, and move forward together.



# Honoring Dale Greer's Retirement

After more than 32 years of dedicated service, Dale Greer will retire as Director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency, effective February 1, 2026. Beginning his career with the agency on May 28, 1993, Dale has played a pivotal role in strengthening Cullman's economy through business recruitment, expansion, and long-term community growth. Promoted to Director in 2017, he provided steady leadership, fostering partnerships with local, regional, and state organizations, promoting workforce development, and ensuring Cullman remained a competitive location for industry. Under his guidance, the city experienced sustained economic momentum, strengthened ties with industry and education partners, and continued recognition as a leading micropolitan community for growth and quality of life. The Mayor and City Council extend their sincere appreciation for Dale's professionalism, institutional knowledge, and lasting contributions, wishing him a long and fulfilling retirement.



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