

Summertime fun hard to miss in Cobb

Children and their families can find an abundance of benefits to living in Cobb County.

To start with, there are the parks, the pools and the programs.

Cobb has more than 30 parks spread throughout its territory, four aquatic centers, two outdoor pools and five community centers. Creative classes and performances are available to the public at three different art centers as well as the Anderson Theatre and the Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre.

This doesn't take into account all the youth athletic programs the recreation department provides. It hosts special events, such as the **July 27** fishing rodeo for ages 3-16 at Lost Mountain Park, musical performances and summer camps.

"Helping the kids in our community is not a hardship," Chairman Tim Lee said. "It is an investment in our future."

Then there are the fun educational opportunities available through the extensive public library system and the Cobb County Safety Village.

The summer reading program starts in June and ends with a celebratory event **Aug. 3** at the Central Library in Marietta. Library system staff has more than 700 programs and activities planned to celebrate reading and to encourage the development of lifelong literacy skills.

There are 16 branches of the library system in Cobb County, offering services close to home and various Internet services for those who don't have time to go out.

The Safety Village, which is the only training facility of its type in the Southeast, brings schoolchildren from throughout the county to learn practical lessons in how to prevent accidents and protect lives.

"At our facility, children learn all facets of safety awareness through interactive learning and a hands-on approach," Safety Village Coordinator Allison Carter said. "The parent chaperones that accompany the students learn something new themselves along with the students. This is truly a safety prevention facility for all ages."

The village, which includes a scaled-down version of the community where children can take part in important safety



Special

The Cobb County Safety Village helps educate all second and fourth graders in the county – roughly 19,000 students – during the school year. The facility will host Family Fun Safety Day 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, **June 21**.

activities, provides a cost-effective location for fire education. It has demonstrated its worth in reducing fire deaths during the past four decades even as the county's population doubled.

This lifesaving service is not the only important help Cobb County provides its youth.

The Cobb County Police Department partners with a civilian program, the Safe path Children's Advocacy Center, to help care for young victims of crime. It provides therapy, assistance and crisis intervention to aid in reducing the trauma these children are going through.

By supporting children in both their recreational activities and times of hardship, Cobb County government officials hope to maintain the high quality of life residents have come to expect.

"Happier and healthy youths create a happier and healthier community," Lee said.

More information about specific programs and facilities can be found at cobbcounty.org.

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Special



Cobb County DOT

Bridge construction means detours

Cobb Department of Transportation staff will close four roads for all or part of the summer beginning this week. Residents will need to use temporary detours while three bridges are replaced and one hill is cut down for improved sight distance.

Hopkins Road Bridge, west Cobb

The Hopkins Road Bridge over Wildhorse Creek, located between Macedonia Road and Powder Springs Road, will be replaced. The road will be closed **May 28-July 29** during construction.

New Chastain Road Bridge, north Cobb

The New Chastain Road westbound bridge over Noonday Creek off Canton Road will be closed during construction **June 1-Sept. 16**. Westbound traffic will be diverted to the two-lane eastbound side, with one lane each for east and west bound traffic.

Paper Mill Road Bridge, east Cobb

The Paper Mill Road Bridge over Sope Creek will be closed **May 28-Oct. 25** while the bridge is replaced. Local residents are encouraged to take the detour from Paper Mill to Lower Roswell Road to Johnson Ferry Road.

Shallowford Road hill cut, north Cobb

Shallowford Road, from Jamerson Road and Canton Road to Noonday Creek Park, will be closed **May 28-July 29** while crews adjust the hill cut to improve sight distance. Local residents are encouraged to take the detour from Shallowford and Bells Ferry roads to Hawkins Store Road to Canton Road.

For more information, visit cobbcounty.org/dot.

Safety classes available for seniors

Safety education is a vital function of the Cobb Safety Village, and seniors will have opportunities to participate in awareness classes this summer. There is no fee for attendance, but registration is required. The Senior Safety Awareness classes will be held 10 a.m. to noon on **June 13, June 25, July 19** (not July 9 as previously listed elsewhere) and **July 30**. All participants must be 55 or older to participate. To register, call 770-852-3270. For more information, email safetyeducation@cobbcounty.org.

July 1 deadline for assessment appeals

Cobb Board of Tax Assessors has approved about 230,000 annual assessment notices that were mailed May 18. These documents notify Cobb County residential property owners of their 2013 property values. If property owners have questions about their annual assessment notices, they should contact the Tax Assessor's Office at 770-528-3100. The deadline to file an appeal is July 1.

Canning class to teach preservation

Cobb Cooperative Extension staff is offering hands-on canning classes this summer at the Extension office, 678 South Cobb Drive, Suite 200, Marietta. The class 6-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, **June 25**, will teach how to use a pressure canner for preserving low-acid vegetables, soups and meat products. Space is limited and registration is required. The fee is \$10. For more information, call 770-528-4070.



Special

County forming council of gardens

The Cobb County Cooperative Extension Service is working with the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County to form a council of area community gardens. The main purpose of the group is communication, sharing ideas and information. The council will become active in September and will hold quarterly meetings. Any community garden in Cobb County (including gardens in Cobb's cities) is encouraged to participate. A community garden can be a garden of individual garden plots in a common area or a group gardening together. If you wish to participate in the Cobb Community Garden Council please have the garden coordinator email Master Gardener Debbie Abernathy, council chair, at debbie@esmithair.com with your garden contact person's name, garden name and location and contact email address.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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