Alliance to help build sports events

Cobb County commonly attracts national and regional tournaments; now, community leaders will help the community create its own athletic gatherings.

To accomplish this, more than 40 leaders from all walks of life, including private sports organizations, hotels and government have formed the Cobb Sports Alliance.

Teaming up and building support for these new events is expected to bring large economic benefits for the county through outside visitors.

“We really don’t care who owns the event,” Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director Eddie Canon said. “It makes us stronger.”

A recent study commissioned by Cobb Travel & Tourism showed that travel and tourism remains the number one economic driver in the county.

The tourism industry has a total economic impact of more than $2.18 billion and employed more than 31,000 in 2011, according to the study.

Another research study resulting from a partnership between Cobb Travel & Tourism and the Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department helped show the impact of joining with school systems and cities to create tournaments.

“We looked at the whole big picture,” Canon said.

The Amateur Softball Association has held its 18 and Under Gold Tournament, the top of its kind in the country, three times here. The United States Tennis Association has brought players from across the nation to Cobb for weeks at a time to play in its annual 16 and Under tournament.

Canon said the national and regional tournaments are attracted by Cobb’s high quality facilities, athletic programs and its professional staff.

The strength of the Cobb Sports Alliance is expected to be its ability to bring together the resources of the county, cities, school systems and private businesses around local events.

Canon said the group will meet quarterly and can help build a festival-like atmosphere around the events. This will help build traditions and bring more people in to enjoy the fun.

“We want to get people to spend more time here,” he said.

Get holiday decorating tips

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service will host its “Glitter and Greenery” class 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at its Cobb County office.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Neil Tarver will talk about how to select the best holiday tree and care for it through the holiday, caring for popular holiday plants and what type of tree will work best for your landscape. Other greenery questions on topics such as mistletoe, wreaths and tree disposal will be answered.

Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Cindee Sweda will show you how to make herb flavored vinegars for gifts. Emily Harper will join Sweda in a class on how to design simple, natural centerpieces for your holiday table. This event will be held at the Cobb County Cooperative Extension Office, 678 South Cobb Drive, Suite 200, Marietta. Preregister by calling 770-528-4070.
Donations needed for the holidays

Cobb County Senior Services is gearing up for its 8th annual Senior Santa event by soliciting donations for its homebound clients. The public is asked to consider supporting it by one of several methods: contributing a $30 monetary donation, donating grocery gift cards or certificates from major shopping chains or donating new, unwrapped gender-specific gifts. All donations are tax-deductible. Send your check or gift card to Cobb County Senior Services, PO Box 649, Marietta, GA 30061. Please make checks payable to Cobb County Senior Services. Secure online donation may also be made at www.cobb-seniors.org. The event will be held Dec. 18. For additional information, please call 770-528-5368.

Prevent sewer backups and clogs

In Cobb County 85 percent of sewer blockages are grease-related and occur in residential areas. Fats, oils, and grease are the natural byproducts of food preparation and include ice cream, cheese, peanut butter, gravy, and salad dressing. When poured down the drain, these can result in sewer backups that can overflow onto streets, homes, and creeks. Don’t let your Thanksgiving clog the pipes and turn your holiday into a smelly mess. Keep your pipes and the festivities flowing by following these simple practices:
- NEVER pour fats, oils and grease down the drain.
- Scrape leftover food on pans and plates into the trash (not the sink).
- Pour, wipe with a paper towel and scrape oil and grease from pans into a container before washing. Dispose of these materials in the trash.
- Fryer grease should be cooled, placed in a sealed container, and disposed of in the trash.
- Use sink strainers to catch food, and then empty the strainer contents into the trash.
For more information, contact Cobb County’s Grease Management Program at fog@cobbcounty.org.

Celebrate Veterans Day with events

Seniors are invited to the “Veteran’s Salute” noon-2:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8, at North Cobb Senior Center, 3900 Old Highway 41, Acworth. Entertainment will be provided by Take III Trio. North Cobb American Legion Post 304 will also join the event. Another Veterans Day program will be held 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 11, at the East Cobb Senior Center. Registration is required. Join us for a celebration of all the men and women who have served in our armed services. Call 770-975-7740 and 770-509-4900 for more information.

New bridge open to traffic

Contest winners from nearby Sope Creek Elementary School cut the ribbon for the opening of the new $2.5 million Paper Mill Road Bridge Friday afternoon.
This Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax project replaced the original bridge, which had poor structural sufficiency rating and was weight-restricted. The new, wider bridge includes a six foot sidewalk on the south side, providing access to National Park Service trails.
The replacement was funded by the 2005 SPLOST program. The children participated in a drawing contest, with the winners from each grade taking part in the ribbon ceremony.