

Deal will bring stadium to Cobb



On Nov. 26, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved a memo of understanding that will lead to the creation of a \$672 million stadium on a 60-acre site at the intersection of Interstates 285 and 75. Officials plan for the stadium to be ready for the team's Opening Day 2017. Further details about the stadium project are available at homeofthebraves.com

Special

Entertainment district, transportation improvements coming to Cumberland

The Board of Commissioners approved a 30-year agreement on Nov. 26 that will help build a \$672 million stadium for the Atlanta Braves in Cobb County.

Chairman Tim Lee expressed happiness with the decision.

"This is an unparalleled opportunity for our county and will help propel our community into the foreseeable future," he said. "I am excited to be part of it."

At least \$372 million of the stadium project will be paid for by the Atlanta Braves, which will also invest an additional \$400 million for an entertainment district on the 60-acre site. This will include retail, restaurants and other development projects on the location at the intersection of Interstates 285 and 75.

Local costs will draw from various sources including payments by private businesses within a special district around the project, the motel/hotel tax and existing county revenues.

Lee said Cobb will not increase the property tax millage rate for homeowners and its economy will be boosted by the project.

"In addition to construction jobs we anticipate from the creation of the stadium, crowds will bring steady employment for those who will work there," he said.

Road improvements are planned around the future stadium site, while there are already 14 points of access and service by Cobb County Transit to the area.

Projects include a Windy Hill diverging diamond interchange and corridor improvements extending from U.S. 41 to Powers Ferry Road, scheduled to open to traffic in 2017.

- Windy Hill Road West: This SPLOST 2011 project improves Windy Hill Road from U.S. 41/Cobb Parkway to I-75 from five lanes to a six-lane divided with curb, gutter and sidewalks. Traffic signals will be upgraded and all new pedestrian accommodations will be included.

- Windy Hill Road East: This SPLOST 2011 project adds an eastbound lane to the current alignment from the bridge over Rottenwood Creek to Interstate North Parkway/Spectrum Circle. The project, a 2005 SPLOST deferred project, will add an additional westbound lane from Interstate North Parkway/Spectrum Circle to Powers Ferry Road. Additional turn lanes will also be added to Windy Hill road east of Powers Ferry Road.

- Cobb Parkway from Akers Mill to Paces Mill is currently under contract to be widened to six lanes.

- Cobb Parkway/Chattahoochee River Bridge is currently under construction, expanding from four to six lanes.

Other roadway improvements under consideration include improved access to Windy Ridge Parkway Connector, operational improvements in the area, Windy Hill-Terrell Mill Connector, a Cobb Parkway/I-285 Diverging Diamond Interchange, Cobb Parkway/Cumberland/Spring Road split diamond and I-285 access to Circle 75 Parkway roundabout.

Officials anticipate the new stadium to be ready for Opening Day of the 2017 baseball season.

Further details about the stadium project are available at homeofthebraves.com and cobbcounty.org.

Holiday donations still needed

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 offering support 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.

Event to benefit local charities

The 2013 Empty Bowl Brunch will be held 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sunday, **Dec. 15**, at The Art Place - Mountain View, 3330 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta. Participants can purchase specially-designed, handmade bowls being sold for charity. There will be soup, chili and other foods to fill the bowls.

All funds go to local charities and the Empty Bowl Brunch has raised more than 20,000 since 2002. Tickets are \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit theartplace.us.

Proposed project for Atlanta Road

Georgia Department of Transportation staff proposed a project to improve Interstate 285 at Atlanta Road. The project consists of modifications to the existing interchange, from west of the intersection of Atlanta Road and North Church Lane to the intersection of Atlanta Road and Pine Street.

The proposed upgrades include replacement of the existing twin bridges, widening of ramps, addition of deceleration and turn lanes to Atlanta Road and addition of an auxiliary lane to I-285 southbound and northbound, between Atlanta Road and Paces Ferry Road.

To accommodate the proposed auxiliary lanes, the existing Orchard bridge over I-285 will be reconstructed at its present location. In addition to road improvements, based on public input and studies, noise walls will be constructed as part of the project.

Project development is in its final phases and the project is scheduled to be opened for bids on **March 21**. Construction, which will start in the late spring, is estimated to last 30 months. Questions about the project may be directed to Cobb DOT at 770-528-1600.



Make recycling part of season

Residents can dispose of their Christmas trees after the holidays and help the environment at the same time by participating in Keep Cobb Beautiful's "Bring one for the Chipper" program. Recycling trees creates mulch, fuel, wildlife habits and other useful materials.

Trees will be accepted at select Cobb County PARKS locations from **Dec. 26** through **Jan. 4**:

Lost Mountain Park

4845 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs

Noonday Creek Park

489 Hawkins Store Road, Kennesaw

Fullers Park

3499 Robinson Road, Marietta

Harrison Park

2650 Shallowford Road, Marietta

Sewell Park

2085 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta

Trees will also be accepted at selected Home Depot locations throughout Cobb County 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, **Jan. 4**:

- 3335 Cobb Parkway, Acworth
- 1200 East-West Connector, Austell
- 2350 Dallas Highway, Marietta
- 4101 Roswell Road, Marietta
- 449 Roberts Court, Kennesaw
- 3605 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta
- 1062 Richard Sailors Parkway, Powder Springs
- 1655 Shiloh Road, Kennesaw
- 2450 Cumberland Parkway, Atlanta

Free mulch will be available after Jan. 4. For more information, contact 770-528-1135 or keepcobbbeautiful@cobb-county.org.



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