



GET INVOLVED WITH COBB EXTENSION

Are you interested in starting a new food business, improving your credit score, growing a rose garden or getting your child involved in 4-H? If you are, your local extension service is here to help.

Agriculture and Natural Resources agents are the educational links in relaying current research-based information from the University of Georgia to the local community. Agents teach agriculture and natural resources subject matter and provide educational programs through individual and group instruction.

The **Cobb County Master Gardener's** offer a variety of programs including lunch and learn, workshops and the Thyme to Read Book Club.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program has partnered with Cobb Water for several years, assisting with their Wildlife and Rain Garden. In addition to providing expertise and labor as they develop and maintain the site, they give funding assistance to support the demonstration gardens. Past activities they have funded include replacement plants, bird feeder supplies, rock outcrop garden plantings, and education resources. For more information visit cobbmastergardeners.com.

The **Family and Consumers Science** agents have resources on family, food, health home and money.

Among the courses offered are Walk Georgia - a web-based fitness program, Food Talk - nutrition education, ServSafe Train and Certification, Radon education, Building Baby's Brain series, Child Care provider training, Relationship and marriage education and a Good credit series

Georgia 4-H assists youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished through "hands-on" learning experiences



Junior conference at Rock Eagle 4-H Center

that focus on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation and citizenship.

If you would like to support Cobb County's 4-H program, join them as they host their annual 4-H plant sale. This annual fundraiser helps to support 4-H youth programming, professional development and supplies for youth. They have many new plants this year along with old favorites including blueberries, raspberries, daylilies, crepe myrtles, and more.

The deadline to order is Thursday **March, 2**. Pick up day for all pre-ordered plants will be from 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Saturday, **March 18** at Jim Miller Park. All plants must be picked up at this time.

For more information on how the Cobb County Extension Service can help you visit cobbextension.com.

Cobb County flood maps are changing

New flood hazard maps for Cobb County are ready for public review. The preliminary maps are the result of a multi-year project to develop accurate and detailed digital flood maps for the Etowah watershed based on data from the latest mapping and modeling technologies. The new maps reflect current flooding risks, replacing maps that are based on dated studies. Revisions to these mapping products include residents and business owners in areas of unincorporated Cobb County, Acworth, Kennesaw, Marietta and Smyrna.

To help property owners better understand the changes, a public open house will be held from 5 – 7 p.m, **Feb. 22** at the Cobb County Water System Training Lab, 662 South Cobb Dr., Marietta. No formal presentation will be made so residents and business owners can visit at their convenience to view the new maps.

For those who cannot attend, the maps are available at www.GorgiaDFIRM.com or they can visit Cobb County Water System Stormwater Management Division office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday - Friday at 680 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, 30060, or call James E. Yagadics, P.E. at 770-419-6437 or William J. Higgins, P.E., CFM. at 770-419-6434.

New enforcement procedures for anonymous complaints

The Code Enforcement Division will be implementing new procedures for the filing of anonymous complaints effective Monday, **Feb. 13**. The procedural change is necessary due to the large number of false or unsubstantiated allegations that are filed anonymously through the online citizen access portal. The division has received nearly 2,000 unsubstantiated anonymous complaints filed through the online portal in the past two years.

An officer is assigned to conduct an inspection for each complaint that is received. If the information provided in the complaint is insufficient and there is no complainant to contact for additional details, the case is closed due to a lack of evidence. This results in officers spending time and county resources investigating allegations that have not been verified.

In an effort to improve efficiency and reduce the number of unsubstantiated cases, complaints that are filed through the online citizen access portal will require that the complainant provide their name, address and telephone number. Citizens who wish to remain anonymous may still file anonymous complaints by calling code enforcement staff at 770-528-2180 or by visiting the office at 1150 Powder Springs Rd, Suite 400, Marietta, 30064. A code enforcement staff member will discuss the alleged violation with the complainant and obtain necessary details to move forward with an investigation. The Code Enforcement office is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Activities in honor of African-American History month

To celebrate African-American History month, the Cobb County libraries have some exciting events coming up:

- African American History Month at the Movies 3 - 5 p.m., **Feb. 11**, Switzer Library
- Black History Month Crafternoon 3 - 4 p.m. Feb. 16, Kennesaw Library
- African American History Month: Family Bingo 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., **Feb. 16**, East Cobb Library
- Celebrating Two Famous African-American Inventors 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., **Feb. 18**, South Cobb Regional Library
- Celebrate Black History Month: Family STEM! -3:30 - 4:45 p.m., **Feb. 18**, West Cobb Regional Library
- Winter Break Fun: Black History Month Bingo! 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., **Feb. 22**, West Cobb Regional Library
- Winter Break Kids Create: Celebrate Black History Month! - 3:30 - 4:30 , **Feb. 23**, West Cobb Regional Library



For a complete list of events, please visit www.cobbcat.org/events.

Assistive technology



Senior Services is establishing an assistive technology lab to show individuals in need the items available that will help in their daily life with activities such as eating, bathing, mobility, vision, hearing, and communication.

You are invited to join us for our Open House from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday, **Feb. 14** at Cobb Senior Services, 1150 Powder Springs St., Marietta, 30064, as we open the doors on this imperative program that is new to the area of Cobb, Douglas and Cherokee counties. For more information visit cobbcounty.org. To RSVP call 770-528-5350.

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Road closures

New lane closures and adjustments have begun as the Cobb County Department of Transportation continues work on Cumberland area construction projects.

Roads affected include Interstate North Circle, Windy Hill Road, Interstate North Parkway and Windy Ridge Parkway.

Signage and traffic control devices will be in place to direct drivers in each construction area. Motorists should follow the posted detours or take alternate routes to avoid delays.

Project updates are available at cobbdot.org, @CobbDOT on Twitter and @CobbCountyDOT on Facebook and Instagram. Construction and detour information is also online at cobbcommute.org.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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