NEW POLICE CHIEF NAMED

The Cobb Board of Commissioners voted to appoint Michael Register as chief of police at its June 13 meeting.

“I’m very honored to return to Cobb County as the chief of police, and look forward to leading this great department into the future,” Register said.

He has more than 30 years of operational and supervisory law enforcement experience. He most recently served as the chief of police for the Clayton County Police Department. He worked for Cobb’s Police Department from 1986 to 2005, serving in many tactical, operational and leadership positions, including assistant academy director and assistant SWAT and tactical team commander.

Register has also managed a law enforcement, operational and intelligence program at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and serves on the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Board, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Legislative Committee as co-chair and is a board member for Safe America. He also served in the U.S. Army Special Forces for 22 years, including combat operations in Afghanistan.

Register is working on his doctoral dissertation in public administration and policy, with an emphasis in terrorism and conflict analysis and resolution. He earned a master’s degree in public administration from Columbus State University and a bachelor’s degree in accounting and international finance from Liberty University. Register also attended Northwestern University’s nationally-recognized Police Staff and Command School and the Georgia Command College. He is an adjunct professor at Columbus State in the areas of strategic planning, management and leadership.

Register replaces Chief John Houser, who retired in January after serving Cobb County for 35 years.

Cobb County teaches “Street Smarts” in pedestrian safety

The Cobb County Department of Transportation has debuted “Pete’s Street Smarts,” an educational video on pedestrian safety for children. A collaboration between CCDOT, the Cobb County Safety Village, Safe Kids Cobb County and Cobb & Douglas Public Health, the animated short showcases what to do—and what not to do—when crossing roads.

Four key tips for traveling safely while walking are illustrated in the three-minute video, including avoiding distractions from devices and waiting to cross at intersections with the protection of the “walk” signal. The life-saving advice is delivered by a narrator, Pete, and presented onscreen through the actions of vividly colored characters. Techniques such as repetition, rhythm and rhyme are employed throughout to encourage retention for young viewers.

“This fun and informative video educates our youth about how to stay safe when walking to school, a friend’s house or elsewhere. It is an engaging way to teach them how to take ownership of their safety as pedestrians,” said Eric Meyer, CCDOT planning division manager.

“Pete’s Street Smarts” is housed online at cobbcounty.org/pedsafety. More information about GOHS is available at gahighwaysafety.org.
**AARP driver safety course**

Refresh your driving skills with the AARP Smart Driver course!

You will learn:

- Defensive driving techniques
- Proven safety strategies
- New traffic laws and rules of the road

Bring a lunch, a beverage, and your AARP card if you are a member. There is a 1/2 hour lunch.

Plus, there are no tests to pass. You simply sign up and learn. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance. Restrictions may apply. Consult your insurance agent for details.

The class is from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., **August 8** at the South Cobb REgional Library. This is a classroom course and costs $15 for AARP members and $20 for non-members.

To sign up go to the adult reference desk or call 678-398-5831.

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**Millage rate hearings**

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners will hold three public hearing meetings regarding the 2017 millage rate.

The meetings will be held at the 2nd floor Commissioners’ meeting room, 100 Cherokee Street, Marietta.

The first hearing will be at 6:30 p.m., **Monday, July 10**. The second meeting will be at 9 a.m., **Tuesday, July 11**.

The third hearing will be held at 7 p.m., **Tuesday, July 25**. At this meeting the BOC will adopt the 2017 millage rate and ratify the Cobb County Board of Education 2017 millage.

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**Cobb Make-a-Wish 5k**

Sign up today for the 2017 run. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the race starts at 8 a.m., **Saturday, October 7** at the Marietta Square.

Mail-in forms must be postmarked by **Friday, September 22**.

After September 22, fees will be:

- Untimed 5K Walk/Run $30, Timed 5K Run $35
- Teams of 10 or more: untimed $20, timed $25
- Children 12 & Under - $10, Kids 5 & Under - Free

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**Scholastic summer reading road trip**

Scholastic is presenting a popup reading festival from 10 a.m. to noon, **Friday, July 21** at the Switzer Library outdoor plaza in downtown Marietta, 266 Roswell St., Marietta 30060.

The free 2017 Scholastic Summer Reading Roadtrip event for families with children will feature award-winning authors, games, crafts and costume characters Clifford the Big Red Dog and Geronimo Stilton. Also scheduled for special appearances are Atlanta Gladiators hockey team mascot Maximus and Dewey, the library’s mascot.

Authors at the summertime festival for book signings will include Carmen Agra Deedy (The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!, Martina The Beautiful Cockroach) and Sandra Merkle (What If You Had Animal Teeth?, Can You Believe?: Hurricanes). Watch for updates on the festival lineup at www.cobbcat.org.

For more information on the **July 21** event, call 770-528-2320 or visit www.cobbcat.org.