



## SAFETY A LIFESAVER FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Please be alert and exercise patience and caution, especially around children as they wait at school bus stops and as they load and unload school buses. The Georgia Department of Education warns that impatient, uninformed or apathetic drivers pose a severe threat. Follow these safety practices:

Be on the alert. Exercise care and be responsive as children congregate and wait at their bus stops. They may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.

Be ready to act when you see the yellow flashing lights on the front and the rear of a school bus. This is your warning that a stop is about to take place. Begin to slow down and look for students in the area. NEVER speed up to beat a school bus.

You must be focused and exercise caution any time you are in the vicinity of a school bus stop, as student riders can sometimes be impulsive.

Abide by the law when a school bus comes to a full stop and you see the flashing red lights activate and the stop arm deploy. Motorists are required to STOP in nearly every instance. The only exception to this rule is when highways are separated in the center by a dirt, grass or concrete median. In this situation, only vehicles following or traveling alongside a school bus in the same direction must stop. Be attentive after stopping.

You must remain stopped until all loading students are aboard in the morning or all unloading students have cleared 12 feet off the roadway in the afternoon.

Other Department of Education safety tips include:

- Avoid distractions such as texting or talking on the cell phone.



Gary A. Witte

- Analyze what is happening at and around the bus. Carefully observe student actions, look for stragglers and expect the unexpected.
- Respond appropriately and defensively to the situation. A school bus means children, and children equal unpredictability. Proceed with caution only after all students have safely cleared the roadway, the stop arm is cancelled and the flashing red lights are deactivated.
- Obey all traffic laws and speed limits, paying extra attention to the lower speed limits in school zones.
- Do not pass other vehicles in school zones or at crosswalks.
- Do not change lanes or make U-turns in school zones.
- Watch for and obey signals from school crossing guards.
- Be alert and watch for children near schools and in school parking lots.
- Drive or park only in authorized areas to drop off or pick up children at school.

## Public hearings seek your input for new county comprehensive plan

Because public input is such a vital part of the process, county staff has added an additional public hearing on updates to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The plan is available for review at [cobbcounty.org/comdev](http://cobbcounty.org/comdev) and the public is encouraged to make final suggestions, additions or revisions. Public comments will be heard directly after the presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

9 a.m., Tuesday, **Aug. 8**  
BOC Meeting Room, second floor, 100 Cherokee St. NW, Marietta

7 p.m., Tuesday, **Aug. 22**  
BOC Meeting Room, second floor, 100 Cherokee St. NW, Marietta



The 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a long-range, community designed growth strategy that will continue to make Cobb an attractive place to invest, conduct business and raise a family. The current plan, adopted in 2007 with annual amendments, covers between 2007 and 2030. This 10-year update will extend the current plan's growth outlook to 2040.

The plan is mandated by the state of Georgia and will help Cobb County guide and manage expected population and employment growth and coordinate major public investments in public safety, transportation, community facilities and other important elements. If you have questions or comments about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, call 770-528-2018 or email [comdevplanning@cobbcounty.org](mailto:comdevplanning@cobbcounty.org).



File photo

## Millage rate remains unchanged

During the July 25 regular meeting, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved a motion that established the total 2017 millage rate at 9.85 mills. This action maintains the previous year's millage rate.

The total includes millage rates of 6.76 for the general fund, 2.96 for the fire fund and .13 for the bond fund. The county manager and county staff are working on a budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 that will reflect the new millage rate approved by the Board of Commissioners .

County residents will be mailed their tax bill by **Aug. 15**. Payments must be postmarked by **Oct. 15**. The Cobb Tax Commissioner's Office does not accept metered or kiosk postmarks as proof of timely mailing.

## Register now for citizens academy

Cobb County Department of Public Safety staff will host a fall session of the Citizens Public Safety Academy. This program allows residents to get an inside look into public safety. During the course, participants will learn how the police, fire, animal control and 911 departments are organized and the important role each one plays.



File photo

In order to participate, interested residents should either live in Cobb County or work for Cobb County government or schools and be at least 21 years of age or older. The fall academy will start 6 p.m., Tuesday, **Sept. 5**, at the Cobb County Public Safety Training Academy, 2109 Valor Drive, Marietta. Classes will be held every Tuesday evening for 14 weeks. Those wanting to join must apply. The application can be emailed to you or picked up at the DPS Training Center. The completed application will need to be taken to the Public Safety Internal Affairs Department, 1150 Powder Springs St., Suite 300, Marietta, by 4 p.m. Friday, **Aug. 25**. It is suggested to bring your driver's license with you as they will need to make a copy for the application process. For more information, contact training registrar Mallorie Wheat at 770-590-5650.

## Make-A-Wish 5K signup has already begun

Signup has started for those who want to take part in the 17th Annual Cobb County 5K. Mail-in registration forms must be postmarked by Friday, **Sept. 22**.

The event will be held 8 a.m. Saturday, **Oct. 7**, at the Marietta Square rain or shine. This is an official AJC Peachtree Road Race Qualifying event.

For additional registration information, go to the official web site at [cobbmakeawish5k.org](http://cobbmakeawish5k.org).

## Faith Forum to feature discussions, solutions

As an effort to continue building relationships within our community, Cobb Police Chief Michael Register is hosting a Faith Forum 9:30-11 a.m., Monday, **Aug. 14**.

All pastors from institutions of faith are invited to attend.

The forum will be held at the Public Safety Training Center, 2109 Valor Drive, Marietta. Please RSVP by Monday, **Aug. 7**, to Capt. Barry Little at [barry.little@cobbcounty.org](mailto:barry.little@cobbcounty.org).

## District town hall scheduled this month

Town hall meetings are an excellent way to find out what's happening in your district and the county as a whole.

They are also great opportunities to converse directly with elected officials and county staff, sharing your ideas and concerns.

District Two Commissioner Bob Ott will host a town hall 7 p.m., Thursday, **Aug. 17**, at East Cobb Library. The library is located at 4880 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta.



*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

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