



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

Being ready for the worst takes some forethought.

Officials are encouraging the public to take time in September for National Preparedness Month and plan for all the possible hazards that could arise at work, home or elsewhere.

“Being prepared for emergencies can literally mean the difference between life and death for many people,” Cobb Emergency Management Agency Director Cassie Mazloom said. “If nothing else, planning ahead can help reduce the problems that arise with a crisis and can make the event more bearable.”

Becoming prepared is a three step process: Become informed, make a plan and take action. The first of these simply involves gathering information and thinking carefully about what possible hazards your family might face, ranging from a power outage to a tornado. It can include learning the different methods available to be alerted about emergencies.

The second step requires deciding the items you would need during a crisis, such as flashlights, food and water. Families should map out a communications plan, so they can get in touch with each other if they’re separated, and a safe location where they can meet.

One also has to think about potential pet issues, how to solve mobility concerns for older people and what amount of medicines your family might need if they can’t go to the pharmacy for a week or more. Identify important papers you might need copies of, including insurance policies, identification and bank account records.

The third step, taking action, means making the plan a part of your daily life.

“It doesn’t do any good to have a plan to solve a problem if you aren’t ready to implement it,” Mazloom said. “You need to set aside resources and make certain everyone in your family knows what to do when the time comes.”

Assembling emergency kits for your home and motor vehicles ensure the items you need are available when you need them. First aid kits fill an obvious requirement, but local maps may not be considered essential until you no longer have Internet access. A radio can help keep in contact with the world if your cable is out.

Residents have several opportunities this month to learn more about how they can handle emergencies and even help first responders through Community Emergency Response Team classes.



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East Cobb County Area

- Learn how to help yourself, family, workplace and community by attending CERT classes on three consecutive Saturdays, **Sept. 9, 16 and 23**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. St. Ann instructors teach basic disaster preparation and response skills necessary in the event of a communitywide emergency, when professional responders’ arrival may be delayed.

A certificate will be issued by the Cobb Emergency Management Agency upon completion of the full course (all three Saturdays). Classes are free and open to the public. Contact Linda Walsh at 770-552-6400 ext. 6019 or LwalshRN@st-ann.org for more information and registration.

Kennesaw Area

- This CERT class will be held on three Saturdays – **Sept. 9 and 23 and Oct. 7** -- at the Ben Roberston Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw. CERT basic training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, your workplace and your community in the event of a major disaster. Email: cok.cert.training@gmail.com with any questions or use this link to sign-up goo.gl/forms/93PN2zTZ8doKTeOC2.

Marietta/Central Cobb County Area

- CERT classes at the Cobb County Emergency Management Agency/Emergency Operations Center, 140 North Marietta Parkway, Marietta. The class meets in the EOC from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, **Tuesday, Sept. 5, through Thursday, Sept. 28**. To register contact kimberly.repak@cobbcounty.org so you can be given an application packet.

For more information about preparing for emergencies go to the web site <http://ready.ga.gov/make-a-plan/>.



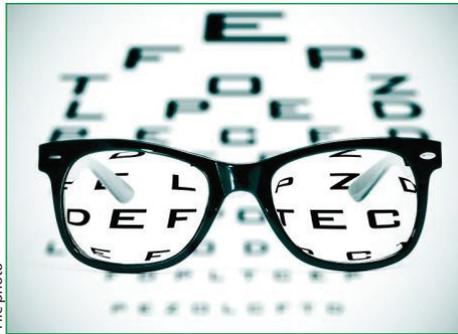
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Library book sale returns in October

The 2017 fall book sale will be held **Oct 27-29** at the Cobb Civic Center. All profits from this sale go directly to buying more items for the 16 libraries in the Cobb County Public Library System. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Acceptable forms of payment are cash and checks. On Friday until 1 p.m. electronic devices are not permitted. The book sale will only be able to sell up to two boxes of items at a time on Friday until 1 pm. Please plan to pay and take items to your vehicle before continuing shopping. Cobb Civic Center is located at 548 South Marietta Parkway SE, Marietta. Parking is free. For additional information, please call Jonathan McKeown at 770-528-2332 or email mckeownj@cobbcat.org.

Watch the impact of free vision screenings

Three area Lions Clubs will offer free vision screenings in September at five county libraries. The screenings are for adults and children, from six months of age. Lions Club volunteers use a screening device to detect possible vision issues that require follow-up professional care. Walk-ins are encouraged.



File photo

The free screenings will be held:

• 2-4 p.m., Wednesday, **Sept. 6**
West Cobb Regional Library, 1750 Dennis Kemp Lane, Kennesaw
Paulding-West Cobb Lions Club

• 2-4 p.m., Saturday, **Sept. 9**
Kennesaw Library, 2250 Lewis St., Kennesaw
North Cobb Lions Club

• 3-5 p.m., Wednesday, **Sept. 13**
Sibley Library, 1539 South Cobb Drive, Marietta
South Cobb Lions Club

• 2-4 p.m., Monday, **Sept. 18**
Powder Springs Library, 4181 Atlanta Street, Building 1, Powder Springs
Paulding-West Cobb Lions Club

• 3-5:30 p.m., Friday, **Sept. 22**
South Cobb Regional Library, 805 Clay Road, Mableton
South Cobb Lions Club

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.

First-hand vehicle experience for families

Make plans to enjoy a family-friendly, fun and educational event for kids of all ages at the Safety Village Truck-a-Palooza 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, **Sept. 30**, in the Sears parking lot of Town Center at Cobb.

Attendees can expect to see police cars, fire engines, heavy construction vehicles, front end loaders, fire rescue trucks, military vehicles, SWAT trucks, fire rescue trucks and a police helicopter.

All proceeds benefit the Cobb County Safety Village. The cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 maximum per family.

New food available at Senior Wellness Center

As part of a pilot program, Chick-fil-A of West Cobb will begin serving breakfast and lunch to the public in September at the Senior Wellness Center, 1150 Powder Springs St., Marietta. All are invited to join the lunch opening on 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday, **Sept. 7** and Friday, **Sept. 8**. Regular operating hours for Chick-fil-A will be 7-9 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for lunch Mondays through Fridays, starting Monday, **Sept. 11**.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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