NEW BUILDING TO UPGRADE PARK EVENTS

To attract large events, you need a quality facility big enough and nice enough to draw an organizer’s interest.

And while Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta has spent years hosting sizable occasions, ranging from rodeos to concerts, officials realized it was time to upgrade from the decades-old buildings being used for exhibits and other gatherings.

As part of the voter-approved 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, the old buildings A and B are now closed and being torn down. This will make way for a modern, more than 41,000-square-foot exhibit hall.

“I feel that the new exhibit hall is going to be a great addition to our park system,” Cobb County PARKS Director Jimmy Gisi said. “It will help Jim R. Miller Park become one of the premier special event facilities in the Atlanta metro area.”

This SPLOST project will cost approximately $13.2 million and the exhibit hall is expected to open by August in time for the annual North Georgia State Fair. The new building will feature a large lobby area, surrounded on two sides by glass curtain walls to allow maximum natural light, officials said.

It is planned to be suitable to host corporate meetings, banquets and trade shows that require more space and a higher degree of refinement, officials noted. The kitchen will have two windows to support concession sales to both the main exhibit halls and exterior plaza area. Featuring three halls, the new facility will be able to host a wide variety of events.

Its meeting space will be able to accommodate groups of any size with a large 25,000-square-foot room that can be broken down into three smaller 8,400-square-foot rooms. A loading dock will make it easy for any group to offload its supplies at the exhibit hall.

During the past year, Jim R. Miller Park has hosted 100 events and raised more than $108,000 for the county while still using the older buildings. Gisi said while the park is already home to events such as the YAARAB Shrine Circus and the fair, the new exhibit hall will help the park host additional special events such as weddings and conferences. The public reaction to the planned upgrade has been welcoming, he added.

“We have received nothing but positive comments and excitement from the current users of Miller Park and the business community,” he said.
Veterans Day parade scheduled in Marietta

The City of Marietta and the Kiwanis Club of Marietta will host a Veterans Day parade in the downtown area on Saturday, Nov. 11. The parade, which starts at 11 a.m., runs from Roswell Street Baptist Church through Marietta Square.

The event will culminate with a Veterans Day ceremony at noon in the Marietta Square. U.S. Marine Col. Michael C. Varicak is scheduled to serve as the grand marshal for the parade and the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

Soccer complexes closed for renovations

Hubert Soccer Complex in Acworth and Mud Creek Soccer Complex in Powder Springs will be closed for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax-funded construction projects from Nov. 1 through March.

The projects consist of replacing the existing bermuda grass field surface with a synthetic turf surface. The project also includes installing the turf at one rectangle field at Terrell Mill Park in Marietta. Synthetic turf fields offer advantages over grass turfs, including lower maintenance costs, increased programming opportunities and improved playability. The fields will drain much faster after rain events, will not need watering or mowing and will not require periodic replacement of grass sod due to wear and tear.

The entire parks will be closed at both Hubert and Mud Creek Soccer Complex, including the playground and walking track. Terrell Mill will remain open with the exception of the one field being reconditioned. Alternate walking tracks are located at Hurt Road Park, 990 Hurt Road, Marietta, and at Sweetwater Park, 2447 Clay Road, Austell. If you have questions, please contact the Cobb County PARKS Department: Ed Czyscon, ed.czyscon@cobbcounty.org, or Tom Bills, tom.bills@cobbcounty.org.

Free firearm safety for Cobb County public

The Sheriff’s Office will hold another free gun safety class for Cobb residents this month. The class will be held 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 16, at West Cobb Senior Center, 4915 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs. During the class, you will learn about gun safety and storage, gun types, choosing the right gun for you, gun ownership and transfer laws, use of force, firearm alternatives, Georgia weapons license and requirements, active shooter situations and a question and answer session. This is a classroom instruction and familiarization class only. There will be no live fire training. Each participant will receive one free safety gun lock. No registration is needed.

Helping find lost pets

Cobb County Public Safety has partnered with PetHub.com to offer digital identification tags to help increase the chances of finding lost pets. Only animals living in the Cobb County service area are eligible. Anyone who registers a new pet license through cobbcounty.org/pets will receive the new digital ID tag.

PetHub’s system links a physical ID tag to an animal’s online profile that can be accessed through an encrypted connection by anyone with a mobile phone. The profile can be updated for free, allowing owners to list emergency contact information. Optional upgrades include “found pet” alerts, GPS notifications and a way to broadcast a missing pet’s profile. PetHub will donate a portion of proceeds from premium services to Cobb County Animal Control. For more information, visit cobbcounty.org/pets.