



DON'T TOSS YOUR TREE AWAY; RECYCLE IT

Instead of throwing your yuletide tree to the curb after the holidays, consider taking the time to donate it for a good cause.

Keep Cobb Beautiful will sponsor free tree recycling drop-offs throughout Cobb County 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 6.** The trees will be used to create mulch, fuel, wildlife habitats and other useful materials.

Please note that no trees will be accepted with decorations still attached. All decorations, mesh and strings must be removed before they can be dropped off.

Trees will be accepted at select Home Depot and Cobb County Park locations. These include:

Lost Mountain Park, 4845 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs

Noonday Creek, 489 Hawkins Store Road, Kennesaw

Fullers Park, 3499 Robinson Road, Marietta

Home Depot

3355 Cobb Parkway, Acworth
1200 East-West Connector, Austell
2350 Dallas Highway, Marietta
4101 Roswell Road, Marietta

449 Roberts Court, Kennesaw
3605 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta
1062 Richard Sailors Parkway, Powder Springs
1655 Shiloh Road, Kennesaw
2450 Cumberland Parkway, Atlanta

Free mulch is available. For more information, contact the Keep Cobb Beautiful office at 770-528-1135 or keepcobbbeautiful@cobbcounty.org.



Special

County property purchase will translate to future public parkland

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners recently approved the purchase of two more parcels of land that will add to the county's park land area.

The site at 1101 Veterans Memorial Highway and a smaller parcel at 6800 Henderson Road will form a more than six-acre park in South Cobb. Following the board's vote to issue the \$27.4 million parks bond last year, staff started with a list of 113 potential sites across the county to review.

Commissioners and staff visited around 14 of those sites and eventually asked the county attorney to enter into negotiations with eight of those properties.

The county purchased two parcels comprised of 94 acres off Burnt Hickory Road last month for \$6.5 million and have contracts to acquire five other parcels. Attorneys are currently in negotiations with owners of four other properties. The value of those nine other properties is estimated to be around \$10.6 million.



Besides those properties, staff has ordered appraisals on three other potential park sites. Negotiations are done outside the public forum by law to prevent undue influence in the real estate purchasing process.

County Chairman Mike Boyce has said the robust real estate market in Cobb County has made negotiations difficult since the county is restricted to buying land for no more than its appraised value.



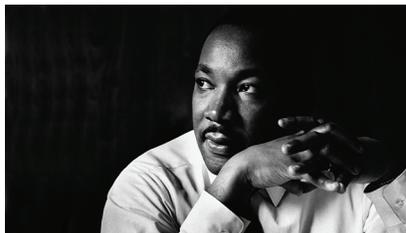
Special

Youths win 4-H competition; will go to next level

Congratulations to our Cobb 4-H team for winning the Georgia 4-H Food Challenge Competition. These four talented young ladies, Dabirichi Chukwuezi, Kayla Faulks, Rebekah Glover and Chantal Cyrier, will go on to compete in the National 4-H Seafood Cookoff in New Orleans in August. The Food Challenge is a competition similar to the Food Network show "Chopped." Students are given a basket of mystery ingredients and within 40 minutes they must create a dish, calculate the cost per serving and write a presentation on the nutritional value of the dish.

Your chance to participate in the MLK celebration

Each year, Cobb County Government and the Cobb County Branch NAACP host our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. Those wishing to help honor the life and works of Dr. King by performing at the 2018 celebration should take note of these important audition dates: 10 a.m., **Saturday, Dec. 30**, 6 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 4** and 10 a.m., **Saturday, Jan. 6**.



This annual celebration is not a play; entertainment can include dance, spoken word and voice/musical performances. All performances are limited to three minutes and should relate to Dr. King's message. Auditions will be held at Jennie T. Anderson Theatre, Cobb Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Parkway, Marietta. To secure your audition slot, call the NAACP at 770-425-5757 or Cobb County at 770-528-8490.

East Cobb Service center office closing in 2018

The East Cobb Government Service Center business office will be closing on or before **Jan. 1**. Please note: The building is not closing, only the business office.

Beginning **Jan. 1**, meeting room reservations for February 2018 bookings and beyond at East and South Cobb Government Service Centers must be booked online using a link that will be found on the Cobb County web site at cobbcounty.org/gsc.

Stay informed with county social media

Through our social media pages, Cobb County was able to quickly communicate important information to residents about the recent snowstorm. Cobb County was also able to share, and enjoy, some great snow photos and stories.

You may have missed out on all of this if you aren't following Cobb on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Connect with Cobb County by "liking" its page at [facebook.com/cobbcountygovernment](https://www.facebook.com/cobbcountygovernment), following it on Instagram [@cobbcountygovt](https://www.instagram.com/cobbcountygovt) and following it on twitter [@cobbcountygovt](https://twitter.com/cobbcountygovt).

Volunteers sought for Cobb animal shelter

Cobb Animal Control staff is looking for volunteers to help take care of the animals who have been placed in our care. Volunteers play an integral role at the shelter, from serving as dog walkers to kitten feeders and groomers. To ensure volunteers meet the high standards required by Cobb County, a volunteer package must be completed in its entirety. Those interested must be at least 18 years old. Visit cobbcounty.org/pets for an application or call 770-499-4136 for more information.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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