



Kennesaw Resident John Lemire gathers with search and rescue team members at Riverside Church to help locate a missing person in March.

CRISIS VOLUNTEERS READY FOR ACTION

Cobb County's Community Emergency Response Team is here to help.

In March, these trained volunteers have stepped up to lead and organize three separate searches for missing persons. Previously, members have assisted in police training events, performed disaster damage assessments and supplemented staffing for the county's Emergency Operation Center to keep it ready for crises.

Though the county runs free training classes on an almost monthly basis, the Cobb Emergency Management Agency would like to see more participants join its efforts. Staff is hoping to see similar programs run by all of Cobb's cities as well as more participation by churches and large employers.

"This training is needed more and more because civilians are typically the initial responders at incidents and are on the scene at the time," CEMA Public Programs Coordinator Bernard King said. "This was the case in Boston, Paris and Las Vegas."

Training includes disaster preparedness, first aid, evaluating wounded patients, fire suppression, team organization and conducting searches.

While each class is designed for up to 30 attendees only about 15 to 20 are typically enrolling, leaving plenty of room for those interested, King said. Cobb CERT just graduated a class of volunteers in March and another is planned in May.

In February, CERT had classes for deaf participants held entirely in sign language. A total of 16 graduated. In a related effort, Boy Scout Harrison Sullivan from Kennesaw put together more than 100 "3-day" survival packs for the deaf community as his Eagle Scout project.

Applications are now being accepted for next month's course, which will be **May 12, 19 and 26**. Fill out an application on the CERT web site located at cobbcounty.org.

Once completed, this online application will be submitted to the Cobb County EMA for processing. You will need to send a legible copy of your driver's license via e-mail to bernard.king@cobbcounty.org to complete the application process. Please call (770) 499-4568 if you need assistance.



Special

Classes are held regularly for those who want to join CERT.



Gary A. Witte

Book sale returns to civic center

Make plans now to attend the spring semi-annual book sale **April 13-15** at the Cobb Civic Center. Book sale hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The civic center is located at 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta and has plenty of free parking. Acceptable forms of payment are cash and checks. On Friday until 1 p.m., electronic devices are not permitted. Patrons will only be able to buy up to two boxes of items at a time on Friday until 1 p.m. Sunday is BYOB (Bring Your Own Box) Day. You can bring any size box you like and fill it to the top. All profits from this sale go directly to buying more items for the 16 libraries in the Cobb County Public Library System. For more information, call Jonathan McKeown at 770-528-2332 or email mckeownj@cobbcat.org.

Give feedback on new trails master plan

Join the Cobb County Department of Transportation for a Public Open House to review the draft Cobb County Greenways and Trails Master Plan. The session will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, **April 10**, at the Cobb County Civic Center located at 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta.

Learn more and let us know what you think:

- Learn more at CobbTrailPlan.com
- Send your comments by email to info@cobbtrailplan.com



Share your thoughts with commissioners

Town hall meetings are great opportunities to interact directly with your elected officials and find out information about activities around the county.

- District One Commissioner Bob Weatherford will host a joint town hall with officials from the City of Acworth at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, **April 10**. It will be held at Acworth Municipal Court, 4408 Acworth Industrial Drive, Acworth.

- District Two Commissioner Bob Ott will host a town hall 7-8:30 p.m., **April 23**, in the conference room at SunTrust Park Stadium. Attendees will learn about the county budget, the Cumberland area, District Two and be able to ask questions. Attendees should park in the Red Deck and enter at the Right Field Gate.



Gary A. Witte

Deadline for voter registration this month

The last day to register or update your address for the May 22 General Primary and Nonpartisan Election is **April 24**. Some precincts and polling locations have changed. Be sure your voter registration is up to date so you can vote in the correct precinct. To register or check registration:

- Visit mvp.sos.ga.gov
- Text 'GA' to 2VOTE to receive a link
- Download the 'GA SOS' mobile app

If you need more information, visit CobbElections.org or contact the Cobb County Elections office at 770-528-2581.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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