



AN EDUCATED AND INFORMED ELECTORATE

Cobb County Government is keeping residents informed through a series of public meetings this summer concerning the construction of the upcoming year's budget.

In May, national rating agencies Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Ratings reaffirmed Cobb's "Triple A" rating on tax anticipation notes, but downgraded the county's financial outlook.

Moody's revised its outlook on Cobb County to "negative."

"I think it confirms my concerns that this county has been relying on its past accolades," said Cobb Commission Chairman Mike Boyce. "And it shows we must go down a different path when formulating the Fiscal Year 2019 budget."

A statement from Moody's says the revised outlook "reflects the fiscal challenges the county faces, driven by a projected operating deficit in fiscal 2018 and a sizable budget gap in fiscal 2019, likely bringing reserve levels significantly below the national medians for Aaa-rated counties for the next two fiscal years."

Boyce says he will reiterate his stance on the budget during a series of town hall meetings throughout Cobb County in June and July.

"We have been drawing down our reserves using buckets of one-time monies," said Boyce. "But there are no more buckets to raid."

Without a millage rate increase this year, Cobb faces a downgrade in its credit rating, said Boyce. That would make borrowing money in the future more expensive for taxpayers. The county is forced to apply for tax obligation notes each year because the county's fiscal year does not align with tax collections.

The chairman plans seven town hall meetings and the county commission has three public hearings scheduled before the adoption of the FY19 budget and millage rate on **July 25**.



Ross Cavitt

TOWN HALL DATES	
June 18 @ 7:00 pm East Cobb Senior Center	June 25 @ 7:00pm Freeman Poole Senior Center
June 19 @ 7:00 pm North Cobb Senior Center	June 27 @ 7:00pm West Cobb Senior Center
June 20 @ 7:00 pm Senior Wellness Center	June 28 @ 7:00pm South Cobb Comm. Center
July 9 @ 7:00pm Sewell Mill Library and Cultural Center	
Public Hearings: July 10th (9 am), 17th (6:30 pm), and 25th (7 pm) BOC Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 100 Cherokee St., Marietta	

The town hall meetings will take place **June 18** at the East Cobb Senior Center, **June 19** at the North Cobb Senior Center, **June 20** at the Senior Wellness Center, **June 25** at the Freeman Poole Senior Center, **June 27** at the West Cobb Senior Center, **June 28** at the South Cobb Community Center and **July 9** at Sewell Mill Library. All town halls are scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Board of Commissioners will hold three public hearings on the county millage and budget. They will be held at 9 a.m., Tuesday, **July 10**, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, **July 17** and 7 p.m., Wednesday, **July 25**. All three hearings will be held in the BOC Room on the second floor of 100 Cherokee St., Marietta. The **July 10 and 25** hearings will be held as part of the BOC's regular monthly meetings.



Gary A. Witte

Family safety events this summer

Come tour Sparky's House, enjoy safety games and up-close views of emergency vehicles at Family Fun Safety Days throughout the summer. There will be fun and educational activities for children of all ages. These events will be held at the Cobb County Safety Village 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, **June 6**, Tuesday, **June 19** and Tuesday, **July 17**. The cost is \$5 per person, with a \$20 per family maximum. Group rates are available for 20 or more people. Please call 770-852-3270 for more information. The Cobb Safety Village is located at 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta.

How to navigate the hazards of the web

Protect yourself online by learning to recognize phishing and fraud attempts in the Safety First: Privacy and Safety Online class, designed for Internet users of all ages. Residents can learn how to create and use effective passwords, develop and practice good security habits and reduce exposure to threats. The class also covers virus protection, firewalls, top scams, credit monitoring and job search scams. It will be held:

- East Cobb Senior Center: 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, **June 13**
- Senior Wellness Center: 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, **June 20**
- C. Freeman Poole Senior Center: 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday, **June 28**
- West Cobb Senior Center: 9 a.m.-noon, Monday, **July 23**
- North Cobb Senior Center: 9 a.m.-noon, Monday, **Aug. 13**

For more information call 770-528-5381. To register, go to <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/cobb-county-ga/catalog>

Movie series offers free entertainment

The Summer Movie Series, presented by Kaiser Permanente, is back and features an awesome lineup of family-friendly favorites. The series will kick off with a free screening of "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" on Friday, **June 8**, at Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre, 5239 Floyd Road, Mableton. Pre-movie festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. and include games, music and arts and crafts. The movie will start at dusk.

Picnics are encouraged and food options will be available to purchase. Blankets are allowed. Other upcoming movie screenings in the series include "Wonder" on Saturday, **June 16**, at Sewell Mill Cultural Art Center, "The Greatest Showman" Friday, **June 22**, at Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre, "Peter Rabbit" Saturday, **July 14**, at Seven Spring Water Park and "Coco" Thursday, **July 26**, at the Art Place Mountain View.

Farmers' markets weekly this summer

Farmers' markets support the local agricultural economy and help foster stewardship of our land by providing a place for farmers and growers to sell their goods directly to consumers.

There are two farmers' markets held weekly at county facilities:

- **Mableton Farmers' Market**
Mable House Complex, 5239 Floyd Road SW, Mableton
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Thursday **through Aug. 25**
- **Lost Mountain Farmers' Market**
Lost Mountain Park, 4845 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs
3-7 p.m., every Tuesday **through October**



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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Mike Boyce, Chairman
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