

Milestones mark the year's successes

Cobb County Government has issued its annual report for 2015, detailing numerous instances of advancement by the community during the past year.

The complete report, including messages from the Board of Commissioners and county manager, is available online at cobbcounty.org.

A few examples include:

- The nation's top three bond rating agencies, Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, reaffirmed Cobb County's "Triple A" bond rating for the 19th consecutive year. These are the highest credit ratings available.
- In November, major league soccer team Atlanta United announced it would locate its headquarters and practice fields in Marietta. The 32-acre site will feature a training complex with six soccer fields and a youth academy. This development will bring more than 80 new jobs, representing a more than \$50 million investment by Atlanta United.
- Wireless customers in Cobb County can now send a text message to 911 operators for emergency help when unable to make a voice call. This service is available to the majority of wireless customers. Cobb County will receive text to 911 messages from both unincorporated Cobb County and from the cities within Cobb.
- In 2015, Cobb County Department of Transportation initiated, continued and completed work on many of its Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax-funded projects. For the 2005 SPLOST, engineering/design has started or been completed on each of the 340 identified projects. Construction has started on 328 projects with 322 projects reaching completion.
- Major projects underway or completed in 2015 included Windy Hill Road, Atlanta Road at I-285 interchange, Cedarcrest Road, Powder Springs Road at Cheatham



Special

Hill Road/Callaway Road intersection improvement and Cobb Parkway bridge over the Chattahoochee River.

- Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services created a computer application which promotes awareness, safety and education to residents. Cobb County is one of the first in the country to design such an application.
- As the first law enforcement agency in Cobb to issue body cameras in 2011, the Sheriff's Office has continued to increase their use. In 2015 the office equipped all its uniformed deputies with this technology.
- The aquatics program's largest addition this year was the opening of the new Seven Springs Water Park. Daily attendance averaged approximately 1,000 participants. All aquatic facilities maintained high demand and provided services to approximately 500,000 participants throughout the year.
- The Water System continues to replace water mains of substandard materials with ductile iron at a rate of about 25 miles per year. In 2015, in addition to a number of sewer and stormwater pipe replacement projects, workers were able to repair several miles of pipe with synthetic internal liners. This process is less expensive and much less disruptive than traditional techniques.
- In 2015, Cobb County library patrons borrowed 2.2 million books, more than 355,000 videos and CDs and nearly 150,000 audiobooks. Library digital downloads (including eBooks and eAudiobooks) in fiscal year 2015 increased to almost 290,000, up from nearly 230,000 in 2014.

Metro Atlanta Millage Comparisons

KEY	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Atlanta*	21.99	23.71	21.73	23.80	22.20
Fulton*	15.16	15.16	15.09	16.66	15.36
DeKalb	21.21	21.21	21.21	21.21	20.81
Gwinnett	13.02	13.02	13.75	13.75	13.58
COBB	11.11	11.11	10.91	10.71	10.51

Figures are without school & state taxes (based on Fiscal Year)

*North Fulton County *City of Atlanta within Fulton County

Chairman Tim Lee's State of the County presentation is available on the county's web site via Video On Demand at cobbcounty.org and the county's YouTube channel.

Register for the the 2016 primary

The Presidential Primary in Georgia will be held March 1, and you can register to vote or update your address online now at sos.ga.gov/elections. You can also download the free app, GA VOTES, at your Apple or Android app store.

The last day to register for the March 1 Presidential Primary is **Feb. 1**. Make sure your voter registration is up to date so you can vote in the correct precinct. Visit www.mvp.sos.ga.gov or the GA VOTES app and enter your name, county and birth date. Your voter registration will be displayed along with other available voting information, such as your assigned polling place, advance voting information and sample ballots. You can even print a copy of your precinct card or have a copy sent to your email. For more information, contact the Cobb County Elections Office at 770-528-2581 or visit cobbelections.org.

Workers needed for Election Day

If you are interested in serving your community and earning a little extra cash, the Cobb County Board of Elections is looking for people to work at voting precincts during the 2016 elections cycle. A poll worker must be a U.S. citizen, Cobb County resident, at least 16 years old, be able to read, write and speak English and not have any felony conviction in the past 10 years.

Poll workers must attend at least one mandatory training class before working at the poll. New workers are paid \$110 for Election Day, \$20-\$30 for each training class and \$15 for helping to set up the poll. Workers must arrive at 6 a.m. on Election Day and stay until all voters leave and closing procedures are completed. You must provide your own transportation to your scheduled training class and to the poll on Election Day. If you would like to add your name to the list of potential poll workers, or for more information, download a brochure and application at cobbelections.org/pdf/PollWorkerBrochure.pdf.

New location and time for egg hunt

Cobb County will be hosting the Second Annual "Eggstravaganza under the Stars," on Saturday, **March 26**, at Al Bishop Softball Complex in Marietta, 1082 Al Bishop Dr. Marietta. The complex gates will open at 6 p.m. and the first hunt begins at 7 p.m. The 2016 "Eggstravaganza" will feature an evening egg hunt under the stars and we are asking you to bring your flashlights. There will also be children's art activities, live entertainment, inflatable's, Hula hoop contest, tug-of-war contest, musical chairs, food vendors and more.



Gary A. Witte

Safety Village an international draw

The Minister of Internal Affairs for the city of Tbilisi in the country of Georgia visited the Cobb County Safety Village in December. Safety Village Coordinator Allison Carter and Cobb County leaders provided the minister and other international officials with a complete tour of the facility.

Tbilisi hopes to build its own version of the village to improve safety education for its youth. Officials were able to watch area children participate in classes and see the facility's many features.

The tour was followed by a presentation by the Cobb County Police Department and a ride-along with officers.



Support the shelter with a calendar

Cobb Animal Control has 2016 calendars for sale to benefit shelter operations. The calendars, featuring pets from the shelter, are \$10 each. The calendars can be purchased at the shelter, located at 1060 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta. and online through cobbcounty.org. For more information, call 770-499-4136.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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