



COUNTY BY COUNTY

NORTHSIDE ROSWELL

Building rules set to change

By **Adrienne Murchison**
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In 2017, Fuqua Development planned to bring a grocery store, office, retail and restaurant space to Roswell on Ga. 9, along with residential apartments. But only the apartments were ever built, and the rest of the 18-acre property is still empty.

Roswell city officials hope to draw on that failed development to prevent more in the future.

Roswell plans to tweak a city code to try to control construction in mixed-use development projects. Officials said they want to attract more development to the city too because, no new development projects have been completed in Roswell in several years.

Meanwhile, cities such as Sandy Springs and Alpharetta have steadily moved forward with development.

For the past several months, the city's planning commission and city staff have researched more than 20 cities across the U.S. looking for strategies on how to better approach mixed-use development. One of the cities, Fredericksburg, Virginia, has a construction policy similar to what Roswell is considering.

During a committee meeting Wednesday with the community development department, City Council members discussed new city development guidelines for mixed-use projects. They are considering a requirement for builders to have a certain percentage of commercial development started before permits are issued for residential construction.

Known as "construction phasing," the new guidelines are intended to ensure developers finish all aspects of mixed-use developments.

Councilman Matthew Tyser told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he's in favor of construction phasing but voted against the amendment in its current form.

"I don't think we're far off," Tyser said of the proposal. "I want to make sure the people who do this kind of building can make something like that work. Does the financing and bidding process work for them with this?"

An example of what Roswell officials are considering is granting building permits for about 80% of the residential portion of a project only if at least a quarter of the commercial space already has certificates of occupancy.

During an April meeting with the planning commission, Mayor Lori Henry said construction phasing might've prevented the failure of the 2017 project planned for Alpharetta Highway at Sun Valley Drive.

During Wednesday's committee meeting, council members approved moving the new construction phasing requirements to a future regular meeting of the City Council.

Tyser believes there's a bigger problem the city needs to address to encourage developers to come to Roswell. He said he wonders if there's a reason there's been minimal development in Roswell compared with other metro cities.

"I want to know: Is there something wrong in our current codes?" Tyser said. "I agree we want people to finish the projects they start. I just want them to be able to start a project. If this (amendment) gets in the way, there will be no project."



Only the apartments were built in a 2017 mixed-use plan for 18 acres in Roswell. ADRIANNE MURCHISON/ADRIANNE.MURCHISON@AJC.COM

MORE DETAILS



Northside

North Fulton, Forsyth, Cherokee and others on Twitter: @fultonnews

MILTON

Officials worry about fireworks near horses

Through a series of social media posts, Milton has been expressing concern for the inevitable fireworks that come with Fourth of July celebrations and their impact on the city's many horses.

In one, a video shows Milton horses reacting after fireworks went off unexpectedly earlier this month. Another post shows a map with half-mile radius bubbles around many of Milton horse farms.

On a handful of dates and times (like between 10 a.m. and midnight Saturday-Sunday), fireworks are allowed in Milton per state law. At all other times, Milton strictly prohibits noisy fireworks.

Learn more about fireworks' impact on sensitive animals, safety and regulations: city-ofmiltonga.us/fireworks.

KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

JOHNS CREEK

Shakerag Park reopens walking/jogging track

The Shakerag Park walking/jogging track has reopened after crews finished repaving with an asphalt overlay.

In April, Johns Creek approved a \$1,391,077 contract with Northwest Georgia Paving Inc. for the city's Main Roads Resurfacing Project. The contract included resurfacing State Bridge Road from Jones Bridge Road to Johns Creek High School/East Morton Road/Twingate Drive, and the asphalt overlay at the Shakerag Park track.

The 66-acre Shakerag Park features a 3.8-acre lake, a new playground, three picnic shelters, a quarter-mile running track, three large multipurpose athletic fields and 2 miles of nature trails.

KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC



WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD?

Available now! Want more neighborhood news — delivered to your inbox each week? We've introduced four free community newsletters: Alpharetta, Dunwoody, Sandy Springs and Roswell. You can sign up today at myaccount.ajc.com/ajc/preference

CHEROKEE COUNTY

District makes changes to student dress code

The Cherokee County School Board at its most recent meet approved the 2021-22 Code of Conduct for students, which includes significant changes to the dress code, according to a news release.

The changes, requested by School Board members, are designed to simplify the rules to increase understanding and adherence; make the dress code more equitable across genders; and set more specific guidelines to ensure the dress code is fairly enforced.

It can be reviewed in this document that contains the new Code of Conduct at bit.ly/CherokeeCodeConduct.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian V. Hightower said, after school resumes, he plans to convene an ad hoc committee made up of students, parents and staff to further review the dress code and propose any additional recommended changes.

JUANITA LOVE FOR THE AJC

Upcoming

■ **Johns Creek: Independence Day Celebration.** 6-10 p.m. today. Free. Newtown Park, 3150 Old Alabama Road, Johns Creek. Live music

by The Block Party Experience (BPX) from Atlanta will accompany food trucks, activities and a fireworks display. No outside alcohol, no pets (except service animals), no tents and no personal fireworks are allowed. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. bit.ly/3h7mwFZ

■ **City of Milton: Independence Day Walking Parade.** 9 a.m. gather, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Broadwell Pavilion, 12615 Broadwell Road, Milton. Wear your most festive red, white and blue. Also, dress up your children, wagons, golf carts, bikes and leashed pets to walk or ride in the patriotic parade to be led by the Milton Fire Department. The parade route takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Then parade-goers are invited to return to Broadwell Pavilion for crafts and snacks. bit.ly/3Ag3Dlw

■ **City of Cumming: Independence Day Celebration.** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. Free. bit.ly/3hqAOLM

■ **10 a.m. Thomas-Mashburn Steam Engine Parade.** Forsyth Central High School to Cumming Fairgrounds

■ **4-10 p.m. Cumming Fairgrounds Festival.** Music, vendors, games and children's activities

■ **9:30 p.m. Fireworks Extravaganza.** At Fairgrounds but will be visible all over town



Sweet music for expectant mothers

Singing group went above and beyond with a project to soothe a sleepy baby. An Octave Above, an a cappella vocal jazz ensemble at Starr's Mill High School, recorded a CD of lullabies and made tie blankets for expectant mothers. COURTESY

MORE DETAILS



Gwinnett

Peachtree Corners, Duluth and others on Twitter: @gwinnettnewsnow

NORCROSS

Red, White and Boom returns Saturday

Fans of the Norcross pre-Fourth of July block party will be thrilled to know the event returns this year in downtown Norcross on Saturday. Red White and Boom officially begins at 5 p.m. with bounce houses (nominal fee), face painting, music and an assortment of food vendors. Fireworks begin just after sunset, typically around 9:40 p.m.

Motorists accustomed to driving through the city should be aware streets close at 3 p.m., and there is no parking downtown after 1 p.m. Streets that will be closed include Jones Street, Buchan Street, Park Drive between N. Peachtree Street and College Street, Thrasher Street S. between Park Drive and Holcomb Bridge Road, S. Peachtree

Street, Wingo Street, Britt Avenue, College Street and Skin Alley.

The event will be following CDC guidelines. Most vendors, spaced more than 6-feet apart, will be offering touchless payment, order and pickup service. Sanitation stations will be available throughout the event area.

Parking details and what visitors are allowed to bring to the event: norcrossga.net/civicalerts.aspx?AID=1004.

KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

COUNTYWIDE

Nonprofit group to host environmental town hall

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate, will host and co-create the first of its kind "Connecting People and Places: A Community Conversation," an environmental town hall

Oct. 5 at Georgia Gwinnett College to address the issue of littering on a hyperlocal scale.

GC&B will create a forum for the Gwinnett community to submit questions and share their concerns during the hybrid in-person and virtual event.

"We are incredibly honored to have been selected from 700 national affiliates to get this conversation started," said Schelly Marlatt, executive director for the Lawrenceville, Georgia-based, eco-focused nonprofit. "On the heels of the release of the Keep America Beautiful 2020 Litter Study, we know we've made great strides as a nation over the course of the last decade. There has been a decrease of 54% in litter along U.S. roadways since the 2009 Litter Study, but there is still so much more to do."

KAREN HUPPERTZ FOR THE AJC

MORE DETAILS



Cobb

Powder Springs, Marietta and more can get the latest on Twitter: @cobbnewsnow

POWDER SPRINGS

Free COVID-19 vaccines during SpringsFest

Free COVID-19 vaccines will be offered during the city of Powder Springs' annual SpringsFest event on Sunday.

The vaccine administration will be given by Cobb & Douglas Public Health with which the city partnered in an earlier vaccine offering this spring, according to a city statement.

Vaccines will be administered from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday in the city's Community Development building, 4488 Pineview Drive.

The facility is across the street from Thurman Springs Park, the site of SpringsFest.

The vaccine that will be given at this session is the first of the two-shot Pfizer regimen, which may be received by individuals 12 years of age and older.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health is seeking to inoculate at least 25 individuals Sunday.

Those who wish to receive the vaccine on July 4 are asked to pre-register by visiting cdbh.jotform.com/211656056975969.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health encourages those who wish to speak with a public health operator concerning COVID-19 and their vaccine options to call 833-974-3366 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

CAROLYN CUNNINGHAM FOR THE AJC

Upcoming

■ **Family Fun Safety Day.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 8. \$5/person with a maximum of \$20/family. Group rates are available for 20 or more people. Cobb County Safety Village, 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta. Children of all ages can tour Sparky's House, play safety games and get up-close views of emergency vehicles. 770-852-3270 or CobbCounty.org/public-safety/safety-village

■ **Kennesaw's Grand Prix 5K Series.** Remaining races are July 10 — The Sports Fanatic; Aug. 14 — Dream Dash; Sept. 18 — Great Locomotive Race; and Oct. 30 — Garden Gallop. \$25/online, \$35/race day, including a T-shirt. Through Historic Downtown Kennesaw. The series is on a mostly flat and fast asphalt course, timed by Orion Racing and USAT&F certified, especially for competitive runners seeking a qualifying time for the AJC Peachtree Road Race. The festival-like atmosphere and food and drink make these races appealing for beginner runners/walkers and families. KennesawGrandPrix.com Register: raceroster.com/series/2021/47611/kennesaw-series

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