

FALL ISSUE 2023 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

THE MAINSTREAM

The official publication of Mainstreet Community Services
Association, Inc.



*Photo courtesy of
Madine Rivers-Johnson*

5001 MAINSTREET PARK DRIVE, STONE MTN., GA 30088
WWW.MAINSTREETCOMMUNITY.ORG



Message from the President

Greetings to our fellow Mainstreet neighbors! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is geared up for the upcoming fall season bringing, hopefully, cooler weather! Please be mindful of our children back in school! Be mindful of the children that have to walk to our neighborhood school(s), the school buses running throughout our community, and most importantly be aware of the posted speed limit in these zones and school crosswalks.

The board and staff are continuing to strive to better our community by engaging our fellow Mainstreet neighbors "throughout" our community, focusing on positive and meaningful projects that enhance the community as a "whole," and always looking for and/or willing to work with community members that want to partner in that goal. Mainstreet has 14 neighborhoods within the association, and we are here to help foster a better community for us all.

We are approaching Mainstreet's 50th celebration of being in existence this November, and we have a lot to be thankful for too: (1) preservation of our community with minimal degradation of amenities; (2) green spaces that can still be enjoyed; (3) distinctively designed homes, as the builder had in mind; (4) home values continuing to increase with young families moving in - the lifeline of any community - and, (5) being aware of room for improvement as this board/staff looks at, seeks, and tackles ways to make the community better. Go Mainstreet!

Yours in service,
Patrice Diamond



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Message from Association Manager Nadine Rivers-Johnson

Mainstreet... A Historical Perspective

DeKalb County is Georgia's most culturally enriched county, with a wonderful blend of ethnic groups and cultures where over 64 languages are spoken. The county includes the cities of Clarkston, Decatur, Doraville, Lithonia, Pine Lake, Stone Mountain, Dunwoody and parts of Atlanta.

Dating back to 1822, the county was named in honor of Johann Baron de Kolb, a peasant mercenary who fought for the colonies in the Revolutionary War. Much of the Battle of Atlanta took part in DeKalb County.

Some of the distinctions of our county include being home to the nation's second most affluent African-American population; home to the world's largest indoor farmer's market, Your DeKalb Farmers Market; home to the world's largest dinosaur replicas, on prominent display at Fernbank Museum of Natural History; and – most notably – home to Stone Mountain Park, the world's largest granite outcropping and the world's largest relief carving. Mainstreet Community is located less than five miles from Stone Mountain Park, one of the United States' most popular attractions. In our very own backyard, this popular attraction hosts over four million visitors annually and is home to the largest exposed piece of granite in the world.

Mainstreet Community, consists of 1,164 homes and over 70 acres of common area. As a matter of fact, did you know that Mainstreet was developed by Cohn Properties, and according to the DeKalb Historical Society, was the first, and largest, planned community in Stone Mountain, Georgia?

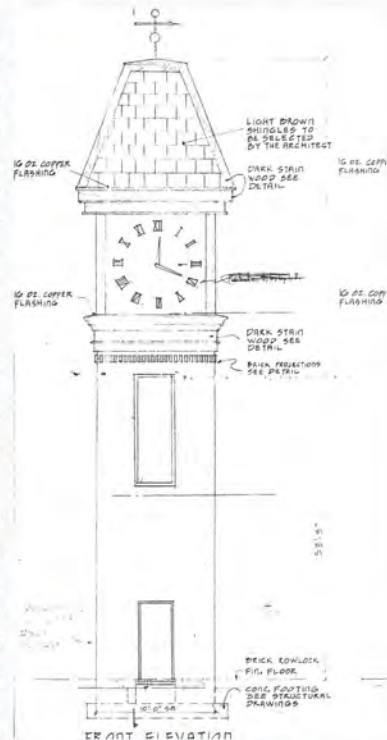
Our community is rich in significance. Demographically, in 2023 the area consisted of 52.4% Black; 31.1% White; 0.2% Native Americans; 7.8% Asian/Pacific Islanders; and 8.5% Latinos. This covers 786,129 households in this selected geography. It is estimated that the number of households in this area will increase representing a change of 0.93%. The average household size in this area is 2.78 persons, and the median income is \$69,423.

At the other end of the spectrum, we also have an above average percentile of school age children in our demographic base. By 2027, there will be as many people under the age of 25 as there are over the age of 55. Statistics put this number at about 32.8% respectively. Our community boasts ample accessibility to many of the support services and facilities that meet the basic day-to-day needs of these two diverse age groups. Preserving those amenities is the challenge we face as a mandatory property owners' association.

Our community was well planned for addressing the needs of core families and their lifestyles. For instance, Eldridge L. Miller (E.L.) Elementary School is located in the middle of Mainstreet Subdivision. The focus of E. L. Miller is to reach the "total child." While focusing on a stimulating and positive environment in which students can maximize their potential, the aim of this approach is to develop a love of learning that will become a life-long endeavor. In the past, E. L. Miller has won awards for outstanding participation several years in a row. Programs available through Student Support Services include community and corporate. Also, school-based mentoring programs such as Peer/Friendly Helpers, & Teacher/Student are listed.

Mainstreet was developed in the "green peace" mind set, and currently maintains these standards for natural preservation. We are a family-oriented community that submits to Covenants designed to maintain a pleasing community that adheres to common design standards. This ensures the standards of home appraisal values, upkeep, and pride in ownership are maintained in a uniform fashion.

Future projects include programs that enhance or promote "natural preservation" communities such as ours. The Clock Tower, originally installed and provided by the Verdin Clock Company since 1973, is one of only a handful of historical clock towers in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Our subdivision was conceived by a developer with clear, visionary objectives that were years ahead of its time – of that we can be extremely proud. The J. Cohn & Co. architects received numerous awards for encompassing aesthetics that speak to maintaining the natural beauty and amenities of the environment in which the community lies. Join us as we seek to concentrate future years on the areas of Pride and Safety in our own backyard.



Sketch of Clock Tower

REMINDER

PAYMENTS ARE DUE ON THE 1ST OF THE MONTH, LATE AFTER THE 15TH. A 10% LATE FEE OF \$7 APPLIES AND 10% INTEREST ACCRUES ON PAYMENTS NOT POSTED BY THE 16TH. CONTACT THE CLUBHOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TO UPDATE BILLING, EMAIL OR TELEPHONE NUMBER INFORMATION TO YOUR HOMEOWNER ACCOUNT.

OFFICE HOURS:
TUE –FRI 9:00AM—6:00PM
SATURDAY 9:00AM—3:00PM
PHONE NUMBER: (770) 469-7238
www.mainstreetcommunity.org

Mail Payments to:
Mainstreet Community
c/o CMA
P. O. Box 65851
Phoenix, AZ 85082-5851

A Caring and Thriving Community

TYPES OF MEDICARE

Mainstreet is currently comprised of families with school-age children and a senior population. We aim to provide services that address our youth, adults, and seniors with information relevant to them.

In this issue, we want to remind parents that Mainstreet Community offers a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating senior each year. The qualifying criteria requires a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher, current primary residency in Mainstreet Community, and the homeowner must be current on assessments in the six months prior to and after awarding of the scholarship. Application packets are made available in late January of each year. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to subsidize a child's dream of a college education. With changes to the HOPE Scholarship and less federal dollars in aid available, this award can assist a needy and deserving college-bound student.

For the adult population, another major area of concern to each of us is property values. While the market continues to improve in this area, it is even more important that you consider the "curb appeal" of your property and how it helps to drive home sales and valuation. It is our responsibility, as homeowners, to keep up our property's aesthetic value both inside and outside. Please MAINTAIN your home's exterior and landscaping. PARK your cars in the driveway, and don't let pets run free without a tag and leash; also have poop bags with you when walking pets! KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS! Exchange numbers in case of suspicious activity in and around the home for emergencies. Know DeKalb County's trash pickup days, and don't leave your garbage at the curb. BE MINDFUL of the proper way to dispose of debris from trees or large trash items and utilize the Special Collections Bulky Item Pickup process through DeKalb County Sanitation. We've taken the liberty of providing the online link for you here: <https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sanitation/bulky-item-collection-0>.

The largest growing demographic over the next decade, however, is our senior population. As your loved ones become eligible for retirement benefits, such as Medicare, they will be deluged with information concerning Parts A, B, C, and D. Finding out that a loved one may have to rely on you for their needs can be hard. Be sure to talk to them about healthcare needs now, including prescription drug needs.

Please have readily available the following information to make the process easier for family members or caregivers assisting you in this process: social security number, other insurance plans and policy numbers, history of health problems, allergies or food/diet restrictions, financial and legal information, as well as emergency contacts (such as family, close friends, neighbors, etc). It is also important to discuss advance directives (Power of Attorney, Healthcare Proxy, and Living Will) with loved ones! If these terms are unknown to you, get familiar! They can determine the quality of life in your later years. Many seniors wait until it's too late to know what their wishes are and never discuss these things with their children or primary caregivers — don't put off these critical issues that will eventually affect us all in some way.

Before making important decisions about Medicare, get in touch with the free insurance counseling program called SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program). Please be aware of your annual enrollment period each year to make changes to current Medicare coverage if your health situation changes.

Remember that our children and seniors are two of the community's most valuable commodities.

MEDICARE PART A:

Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) — helps to cover inpatient care in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, hospice and home health care for people over 65, people under 65 with certain disabilities, and people any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

MEDICARE PART B:

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) — helps cover doctor services, outpatient care and home health care. This includes preventive services to maintain health.

MEDICARE PART C:

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans) — these are third-party health plans run by Medicare-approved private insurance companies. It includes Part A, Part B, and usual prescription drug coverage (Part D) at an extra cost. Part C is usually for the healthy senior with very little age-related health issues.

MEDICARE PART D:

Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage) — helps cover the cost of prescription drugs and is run by Medicare-approved private insurance companies also. It can help lower prescription drug costs and protect against higher future costs.

[Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)

Fight SAD Early! Start Taking Vitamin D Now, Before the Sun Goes Away

Do you get SAD? We're talking about seasonal affective disorder, which affects 1%–10% of the population depending on the state you live in. Symptoms of SAD are similar to symptoms of depression, but unlike chronic depression, which can occur at any time, people with SAD only experience symptoms during a certain time of year, usually winter.

SAD has been strongly linked with shorter days and less sun — although summertime SAD can result from long days that make sleep difficult, resulting in irritability and mood swings. In most cases, however, winter is the problem season, likely due to a link between less sun and a vitamin D deficiency.

Depression is one common symptom of vitamin D deficiency, especially in patients who aren't prone to depression due to other circumstances. Unfortunately, very few foods are good sources of vitamin D. The best source is sunlight itself.

There are a few ways to combat wintertime SAD. Establishing a regular sleep schedule is

important, as is an exercise routine and healthy diet. As mentioned, it's hard to find vitamin D in foods, but milk and other food products are often intentionally enriched with it during processing.



The most common solution, however, is taking a vitamin D supplement, which can be purchased over the counter at drugstores and grocery stores. It is commonly recommended for people living in places with harsher winters, and although there are negative side effects if taken in excess, a regular daily dose of vitamin D is a healthy way to ensure you have the right levels in your system.

This month is the perfect time to begin that process. Vitamin D can take several months to build up to effective levels in our bodies. It may be the hottest time of the year in many places, but it's also the ideal time to start fighting SAD early!



Gardening Know How

Reasons to Use Coffee Grounds with Your Flowers and Garden

Composting with coffee is a great way to make use of something that would otherwise end up taking up space in a landfill. Composting coffee grounds helps to add nitrogen to your compost pile. Incorporating coffee grounds into your garden has other added benefits such as:

It Enriches the Soil – Coffee grinds are fairly rich in nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and calcium.

It Improves Drainage, Water Retention, and Aeration– Because coffee grinds are made up of organic matter, when used as mulch, it can help enhance the soil's drainage, water retention, and aeration.

It Prevents Weed Growth – Coffee grounds placed sparingly throughout gardens can suppress weed growth. It's difficult for weeds to rise through coffee grounds, so they have no way to flourish or take over.

It Repels Common Garden Pests – It can deter pests from finding a home in your garden. Adding coffee grounds to your soil or sprinkling them around susceptible plants can naturally repel slugs, snails, ants, mosquitoes and common garden threats. Additionally, animals like cats, rabbits, deer, chipmunks and squirrels might turn away from your garden due to coffee grounds.

It Attracts Earthworms – It attracts earthworms, which are beneficial to garden soil. Earthworms help to aerate the soil by digging tunnels in it which leads to better decomposition and water drainage.

It Is a More Sustainable Option – Coffee grounds benefit your garden but using them will also eliminate waste. By recycling used coffee grounds and repurposing them for your plant's soil, you are contributing to a more sustainable environment.

It Suppresses Fungal Disease – According to research, coffee grounds can actually stifle fungus. Specifically, decomposing grounds can suppress species like Fusarium, Pythium, and Sclerotinia. Coffee grounds prevent fungi from attacking flowers and vegetation and spreading through your garden, which can wreak havoc.

It Offers a Cost-Effective Alternative – Coffee grounds in your garden will save you a ton of money you'd normally spend on mulch, fertilizer, pest repellents, or herbicides.

Patrice Diamond
Board President and Landscape Enthusiast

mushroom canapés

Put these canapés together in the afternoon, cover and refrigerate. Once guests have arrived, pop them into the oven and serve hot.

Sausage meat	1/2 lb.	225 g
Light salad dressing (or mayonnaise)	3/4 cup	175 mL
Chopped green onion	1/4 cup	60 mL
Baguette bread slices (1/2 inch, 12 mm, thick)	24	24
Fresh whole white mushrooms, sliced	24	24
Grated medium Cheddar cheese	2 cups	500 mL
Paprika, sprinkle		

Scramble-fry sausage in medium frying pan for about 10 minutes until no longer pink. Drain well.

Add salad dressing and green onion. Stir.

Arrange baguette slices on ungreased baking sheet. Spread about 1 tbsp. (15 mL) sausage mixture on each. Arrange mushroom slices evenly over sausage mixture.

Sprinkle about 1 tbsp. (15 mL) cheese over mushroom slices. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake in 350°F (175°C) oven for about 20 minutes until hot and cheese is melted. Makes 24 canapés.

1 canapé: 248 Calories; 10.3 g Total Fat (4.4 g Mono, 1.9 g Poly, 3.3 g Sat); 20 mg Cholesterol; 30 g Carbohydrate; 2 g Fibre; 9 g Protein; 502 mg Sodium

Sheet Pan Roasted Chicken & Vegetables

Ingredients

- 2 pounds red potatoes (about 6 medium), cut into 3/4-inch pieces
- 1 large onion, coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1-1/4 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary or 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon pepper, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 6 bone-in chicken thighs (about 2-1/4 pounds), skin removed
- 6 cups fresh baby spinach (about 6 ounces)
- Lemon wedges, optional

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°. In a large bowl, combine potatoes, onion, oil, garlic, 3/4 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons fresh rosemary or 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper; toss to coat. Transfer to a 15x10x1-in. baking pan coated with cooking spray.
2. In a small bowl, mix paprika and the remaining salt, rosemary and pepper. Sprinkle chicken with paprika mixture; arrange over vegetables. Roast until a thermometer inserted in chicken reads 170°-175° and vegetables are just tender, 35-40 minutes.
3. Remove chicken to a serving platter; keep warm. Top vegetables with spinach. Roast until vegetables are tender and spinach is wilted, 8-10 minutes longer. Stir vegetables to combine; serve with chicken. If desired, serve with additional fresh rosemary and lemon wedges.



As we seek ways to keep our properties secure, here are some common sense tips from the DeKalb County Department of Public Safety:

Please remain cognizant of your surroundings at all times. Listen to your gut!

Avoid stopping for gas and using ATMs at night; if you must use an ATM, remember that most major supermarkets have banks/ATMs inside. Gas station ATMs alert criminals that may be loitering about that you have valuables and make you an easy target.

Criminals watch people walking to their cars while talking on cell phones and carrying bags; you are distracted and become an instant target. Have your keys out and ready to get in your car, and immediately lock your doors.

The days are getting shorter. Plan ahead. Make sure you know where you are going and how to get there. If you are catching a bus or train, know the departure times to avoid waiting for long periods at bus stops or stations.

If you do have to pass danger spots, think about what you would do if you felt threatened. Pay attention while driving.

Avoid passing stationary cars with their engines running and people sitting in them; whenever practical, walk facing oncoming traffic to avoid curb crawlers. If walking after dark, wear reflective clothing or strips so that vehicles can clearly see you.

Again - Stay alert and keep your mind on your surroundings – remember if you are wearing headphones or chatting on a mobile phone, you will not hear trouble approaching.

If you think you are being followed, trust your instincts, and take action. As confidently as you can, cross the road. Turn and look to see who is behind you. If you are still being followed, keep moving. Travel quickly to a busy area and tell people what is happening.

Try not to keep all your valuables in one place. Instead, place valuables such as wallets in an inside pocket or use a money belt.

Try to keep both hands free, and don't walk with your hands in your pockets.

Consider carrying a personal safety alarm, which can be used to shock and disorientate an attacker; this will give you vital seconds to get away!

Trim hedges around your windows, doors, garage, and driveway.

Use dusk-to-dawn lighting or light timers, and keep your home well illuminated. Criminals HATE well-lit areas!

Consider getting cameras for your home that clearly view the front, sides, and back of the home!

Be sure to have highly visible numbers on your mailbox and/or house. This makes it easy for police or first responders to locate your home in case of an emergency.

Don't post everything on social media!

Tell someone where you are headed and carry mace or a weapon - if you are trained and prepared to handle it!

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS! Exchange contact information with neighbors on your immediate left and right, as well as across the street if at all possible.

Consider being a block captain or joining Mainstreet Community Crime Watch by contacting Darryl Irvin at: darryl.irvin1@gmail.com.

Tree Cutting

Mainstreet has a strict prohibition on the cutting down of trees, which requires the approval of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) before any trees may be cut down, except in the case of an emergency, i.e., trees about to fall on their own, trees destroyed by wind or storms, or any other condition that could pose harm or injury to persons or damage to property. In such cases, the homeowner must contact the ARB as soon as practicable after such incident to advise the reason why the tree(s) were cut down.

Any healthy tree that is over 6" in diameter cannot be cut without prior ARB approval. The penalty for any person who cuts down trees without the prior expressed written approval of the ARB will be fined \$250 per tree. This resolution was passed by unanimous Board approval in 2015.

"Unauthorized tree cutting is prohibited."



DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance: Removal of more than five (5) trees but less than ten (10) trees may require a clearing and grubbing permit from the Department of Development and Sustainability. DeKalb County code requires at least 1 or 2 trees in the front yard of zoned residential neighborhoods. Dead, diseased or hazardous trees may be removed at any time. You may remove up to five (5) healthy trees on your property per calendar year, provided that those trees are not specimen trees. A specimen tree is defined as a tree with a life expectancy of 15 years or more, relative sound trunk with no extensive decay or hollow, less than 20% trunk dieback, no major insect or pathological problem and meets the following size guidelines:

- * For Overstory (large) trees, ex.: Oak, poplar & pine– diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet up from the ground) is greater than or equal to 30 inches (which equates to a circumference of 94.2 inches)
- * For Understory (small) trees, ex: Dogwood - diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet up from the ground) is greater than or equal to 10 inches (which equates to a circumference of 31.4 inches). If the tree in question meets the criteria for a specimen tree, it cannot be removed until it is assessed by a certified arborist.

If you need to remove more than five (5) trees, you must have all trees assessed by a certified arborist and forward tree assessments in writing to the Dekalb County Arborist. You can find arborists in the yellow pages or by going to the International Society of Arboriculture web site at www.isaarbor.org.

Message from Office Associate Velvet Loyal



Tips for Lowering Your Property Tax Bill

Property taxes are real estate taxes calculated by local governments and paid by homeowners. They are considered ad valorem which means they are assessed according to the value of your property. They tend to rise steadily over time. Even after you pay off your mortgage, the property tax bills keep coming until you no longer own a home. So, here is a quick review of property tax bills and some helpful ideas that may help you lower yours.

1. Ask for Your Property Tax Card

Few homeowners realize that they can go down to the town hall and request a copy of their property tax cards from the local assessor's office. The tax card provides the homeowner with information about the size of the lot, the precise dimensions of the rooms, and the number and type fixtures located within the home. Other information may include special features or any improvement made to the existing structure.

2. Don't Build

Any structural changes to a home or property will increase your tax bill. A deck, a pool, a large shed, or any other permanent fixture added to your home is presumed to increase its value.

3. Limit Curb Appeal

Tax assessors are given a strict set of guidelines for the actual evaluation process. However, the assessment still contains a certain amount of subjectivity. This means that more attractive homes often receive a higher assessed value than comparable houses that are less physically appealing.

4. Research Neighboring Homes

As mentioned above, information about your home is available at the local town hall. In many cases, information about other home assessments in the area is also available to the public. It is important to review comparable homes in the area and general statistics about the town's evaluation results. You may find discrepancies that could lower your taxes.

5. Allow the Assessor Access to Your Home

You do not have to allow the tax assessor into your home. However, if you don't, the assessor may assume that you've made certain improvements to the interior, such as new fixtures or exorbitant refurbishments. This could result in a bigger tax bill.

6. Walk the Home with the Assessor

Many people allow the tax assessor to wander about their homes unguided during the evaluation process. This can be a mistake. Some assessors may only see the good points in the home such as the new fireplaced or marble-topped counters in that kitchen, they may overlook the fact that several appliances are out of date, or that some small cracks are visible in the ceiling.

7. Look for Exemptions

Exemptions don't just apply to religious or government organizations. You may qualify for an exemption if you fall into certain categories. Some states and municipalities lower the tax burden: Seniors, Veterans, people with certain disabilities, Agriculture properties, Homestead exemptions. Check with your taxing authority to see if you qualify for an exemption that wasn't applied.

8. Appeal Your Tax Bill

If you believe your bill should be lower but haven't managed to get your tax assessment office to see things your way, don't fret. You still have an option available: the tax bill appeal. If you decide to appeal, file in a timely manner; otherwise, you're stuck with the bill you received from your local tax office. Keep in mind, though, that the appeal process is not a guarantee that your bill will drop. It may remain the same or, in rare cases, it may increase if the reviewer feels your assessment is too low.

"It's worth knowing whether you can get your tax bill lowered."

DID YOU KNOW?

Libraries Keep Communities Healthier and Vital

Libraries are a place where everyone is welcome! They connect people to information and connect people to people. Now more than ever, individuals turn to libraries for help finding a job, printing services, and of course, access to the latest books, movies and more.

DeKalb County Public Library is conducting a major campaign in September and October to remind our citizens about how important libraries are and to encourage everyone to Discover More about what we have to offer by getting a library card.

A DeKalb County Public Library card provides access to the latest books, free Wi-Fi and computers. What you may not know are some of the other materials, benefits and services we provide. We invite everyone to come out for a library card and to Discover More about access to eBooks and eMagazines, downloadable audiobooks, streaming movies, free adult and children's programs and events, free passes to local attractions, and much more!

Library cards are free for DeKalb County residents, property owners and business owners. The library will even be introducing a new limited edition library card for this initiative. Visit your nearest branch and get yours today!



Hairston Crossing Library

Don't Let FOG Get You Down

DeKalb County Fats, Oils and Grease Program (FOG)



Keep DeKalb's Water Clean



What are Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)?



FOG is composed of the animal and vegetable fats and oils that are used to cook and prepare food.

Where does FOG come from?

- Meat fat
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Baking goods
- Food scraps
- Dairy products
- Butter and margarine
- Sauces

What happens when FOG is not properly disposed of?

FOG should be properly disposed of or recycled. It enters the plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks and toilets, coats the interior of pipes, and empties into the County's sewer system. Excessive accumulation of FOG in the sewer system will result in sanitary sewer overflows and sewage backup in homes and businesses. Sewage overflow repairs are costly for the County and its citizens, and can result in increased costs for water and sewer services.



What can I do to help?

Here are three simple practices to help keep FOG out of our pipes and sewers:

- 1. POUR** cooled fats, oils or grease into a sealable container and throw it in the trash. Do not pour down the sink or toilet.
- 2. SCRAPE** plates and cookware before washing. Do not throw scraps of any kind down the sink. Instead, place them in waste containers or garbage bags.
- 3. WIPE** excess grease from all plates, pots, pans, utensils and surfaces with a paper towel before washing. Throw the greasy paper towels away.

Remember, you can make a difference!



Visit the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management's FOG Program Online!

www.dekalbwatershed.com/FOG
1580 Roadhaven Drive • Stone Mountain, GA 30083



Mainstreet Pet Corner

Shedding Light on the American Pit Bull

Did you know that back in the World War I era Pit Bulls were the Poster Dogs and Heroes of World War I? That they were also considered the best loved, affectionate and family oriented dogs for most of their long US history? That the Famous "Little Rascals" dog "Petey" was a Pit Bull? Even today "The American Temperament Test Society" (for dog breeds) rate Pit Bulls with a higher good temperament score than our much-loved Golden Retriever! Did you know that Cocker Spaniels are responsible for far more dog bites every year than any other dogs? Also, did you know that the majority of Pit Bulls held in captivity, and bred for fighting, are being rescued and living their lives with loving and intelligent owners???

Pit Bulls are NOT genetically wired to fight or kill. On the contrary from the very beginning of the Breed, they have been bred to be human and family loving dogs. It was only since the 1970's, when the Media started highlighting them as aggressive, violent and suitable for fighting, because of their overall strength and strong jaws, which by the way, do NOT "lock"; and unable to be separated as one of the myths states, even the owners who train them to fight also train them to let go on command and to never hurt the owner. People with aggressive and violent tendencies themselves were attracted to these dogs by the Media, because they wanted to train them to be violent and aggressive as well as fight. They quickly became the favorite of drug dealers and gang members. By the 1980's Pit Bulls began to be over-bred by mostly "Backyard" breeders who know next to nothing about proper breeding procedures, because they saw the opportunity to make a "quick buck", and bad genes were being passed on.

Many Shelters these days are over-run with Pit Bulls and they are the first to be euthanized, because of all the over-breeding and bad owners. These so-called humans who train these dogs to fight, keep them in horrendous conditions, wearing truck sized chains around their necks to "strengthen" them, beating them to make them angry enough to fight, tying the females to makeshift boards so they won't be able to get away while breeding them over and over. Many of these owners never vaccinated their dogs OR take them to a Vet when they get hurt. They are either left to die a horrible death or are shot!

Many Pit Bulls found in Shelters and slated for euthanasia are not even fighting dogs, or vicious in any way, they are gentle, loving, beautiful animals that just had the "bad luck" to be born a Pit Bull! Dogs who are vicious and bite people are so because of bad owners who have trained them that way!

If any of you watch the "Animal Planet" channel please check out "Pit Bulls and Parolees" which is about the "Villalobos Pit Bull Rescue Center", the largest Pit Bull Rescue, Rehab and Rehome center in America. VRC works ceaselessly to give Pit Bulls (and other types of dogs) another chance in life. Each and EVERY dog is taken in and receives any and all medical treatment necessary. The VRC works patiently to re-acclimatize fearful dogs to the loving care of a human, so that they may eventually be adopted.

I can attest firsthand to the "normal" temperament of Pits' - I lived with one (my grand-dog, Sweet Pea) for more than six years. She is the most loyal, sweet, loving, and gentle dog you'd ever want to know!

Remember - never go up to any dog you don't know, without the owner or someone telling you it's okay - you never know how a HUMAN has trained that dog.

Your Animal Lovin' Neighbor

* The knowledge in this article was partially obtained from the magazine "Cesar's Way" by Cesar Millan and the Villalobos Rescue Center website (<https://www.vrcpitbull.com>)

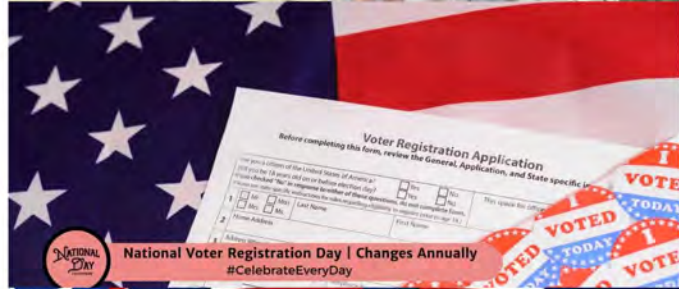
Community Calendar of Events for September



National Grandparents Day
Sunday After Labor Day
#CelebrateEveryDay



National Clean Up Day
Third Saturday in September
#CelebrateEveryDay



National Voter Registration Day | Changes Annually
#CelebrateEveryDay



9.11 PATRIOT DAY
★ NEVER FORGET ★

Patriot Day | September 11
#CelebrateEveryDay



Greenpeace Day - September 15
#CelebrateEveryDay

Eating Healthy Just Got Easier

WITH THE

FRESH ON DEK

DEKALB MOBILE FARMERS MARKET

WWW.FRESHONDEK.COM

Rolling to a neighborhood near you!

Healthy recipes

Nutrition education

Low-cost fruits and vegetables*

Receive a discount by attending UGA Extension's nutrition class each Monday. Then, at the market, provide the "word of the week" at checkout.

*Offer good while supplies last.

For more information, visit www.freshondek.com or call (404) 298-4080.

Make your own! Funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DeKalb County Commission, DeKalb County Board of Health, and UGA Extension.

Refresh on DeK:
DeKalb Mobile Farmers Market
2023 Schedule
JULY 17-SEPT. 8

Tuesday	
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	EMBARC Community Youth Farm 1185 Rock Chapel Rd. Lithonia, Ga. 30058
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Norris Lake Community Benefits Corp. 8320 Norris Lake Rd. Snellville, Ga. 30039
Wednesday	
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	South DeKalb Senior Center 1931 Candler Rd. Decatur, Ga. 30032
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Stone Mill Elementary School 4900 Sheila Ln. Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083
Thursday	
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Redan Recreation Center 1839 Phillips Rd. Lithonia, Ga. 30058
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	The CREST Center 2321 Candler Rd. Decatur, Ga. 30032
Friday	
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Starnes Senior Community 3543 Clarkston Industrial Blvd. Clarkston, Ga. 30021
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	DeKalb County Extension 4380 Memorial Dr. Decatur, Ga. 30032

[@freshondek](https://www.instagram.com/freshondek)

East Memorial Drive Revitalization Foundation PRESENTS

DEKALB COUNTY'S Good Neighbors DAY OUT

ON EAST MEMORIAL DRIVE

DeKalb County GEORGIA

September 30th

Memorial Square
5481 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA

FREE ADMISSION

THE ACTIVITIES

- International Pop-Up Market
- International Food Village
- Kid Zone
- Special Guest Appearances
- Free Community Resources
- Live Entertainment & DJ Games & Prizes

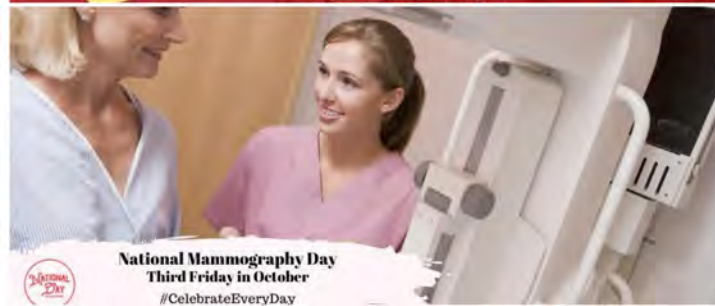
ALL AGES

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

Text +1 (404) 749-0192 for more information

VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE www.bit.ly/EMDVendorApplication

Community Calendar of Events for October



GEORGIA 2-DAY WALK FOR BREAST CANCER

October 7-8, 2023

The Georgia 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer is an annual fundraising endurance walk that takes place on October 7-8, 2023, and takes participants through 30 miles of Atlanta over the course of 2 days.

With the money from the walk, It's The Journey, Inc. is able to fund grants that serve over 100 counties in Georgia.

For more information or to register visit <https://itsthejourney.org/event/2023-georgia-2-day-walk-for-breast-cancer/>

DeKalb County
GEORGIA
Public Works Department • Sanitation Division

DeKalb
single-stream recycling
A Sustainable Choice Initiative

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Sponsored by the DeKalb County Sanitation Division

RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023
8 A.M. - NOON

Sanitation Division's Central Transfer Station
3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032

This event is **FREE** and open only to **DeKalb County residents**.
Proof of DeKalb County residency is required. Residents are limited to 10 gallons of paint per vehicle.
No commercial vehicles are allowed. Early arrival is highly recommended.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mercury ✓ Adhesives (glue, etc.) ✓ Lawn care products ✓ Paint & paint-related products (strippers, solvents, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Aerosols ✓ Flammable substances ✓ Fluorescent light bulbs ✓ Household cleaning supplies ✓ Propane gas cylinders (1-20 lbs.; limited to 3 per vehicle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Batteries ✓ Photo chemicals ✓ Hobby and artist supplies ✓ Swimming pool chemicals
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✗ RESTRICTED ITEMS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Ammunition X Business-generated waste X Gasoline X Automotive waste (fuel, oil, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Pharmaceuticals X Explosives X Diesel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Radioactive materials X Biohazardous/Biomedical waste X Kerosene
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For more information, contact the Sanitation Division's Customer Care team at 404-294-2900.

Sanitation Division • Administrative Office • 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032 • 1-404-294-2900 • sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov
www.dekalbsanitation.com Follow us on Twitter @DKalbsanitation

Community Calendar of Events for November



Stone Mountain Christmas

Light up your family holidays with the glow of more than two million lights, more than a dozen performances and activities at Atlanta's most heartwarming Christmas celebration, Stone Mountain Christmas. For more information, visit <https://stonemountainpark.com/activity/events/stone-mountain-christmas/>.



Garden Lights, Holiday Lights

Visit the Atlanta Botanical Gardens from Nov. 2023 - Jan. 2024 for an unforgettable holiday tradition. Ticket information and event details available on <https://atlantabg.org/plan-your-visit/atlanta-garden-calendar/garden-lights-holiday-nights/>.

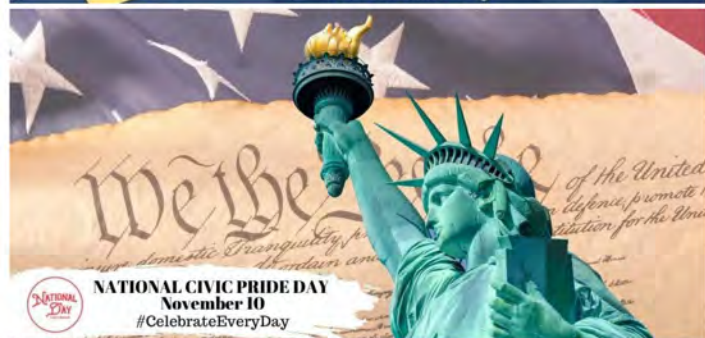


National Stress Awareness Day
First Wednesday in November
#CelebrateEveryDay



#OneHealthDay

One Health Day



NATIONAL CIVIC PRIDE DAY
November 10
#CelebrateEveryDay



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
Veterans Day



#WorldDiabetesDay

World Diabetes Day



Mainstreet...A Caring Community

Phone: 770-469-7238
Fax: 770-498-5138

The Mainstream
The Voice of Mainstreet
Community Services
Association, Inc.

To place an ad, call 770-469-7238 or email
nadine@mainstreetcommunity.org

THE MAINSTREAM NEWSLETTER Fall 2023 Edition.
Homeowners are encouraged to submit articles of interest to the editor of The Mainstream.
Nadine Rivers-Johnson at nadine@mainstreetcommunity.org.

(Editorial licensing strictly enforced.)

The Mainstream is the quarterly newsletter for Mainstreet Community Services Association. Comments are always welcome.



*Photo courtesy of
Nadine Rivers-Johnson*

5001 MAINSTREET PARK DRIVE, STONE MTN., GA 30088
WWW.MAINSTREETCOMMUNITY.ORG