WINTER ISSUE 2026 • DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBURARY/MARCH

THE MAINSTREAM

The official publication of
Mainstreet Community Services Association, Inc.

Photo courtesy of
Nadine Rivers-Johnson

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year neighbors! We've left another year behind and are stepping into 2026 with a sense of purpose and plans for the community. I would like to take this time to say that I am honored to continue serving as your Board President.

The start of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on the association's progress and set a fair vision for this quarter. Over the next few months, the board is focused on continuing to maintain our landscaping and planning a scheduled colorful look for spring at our entrances and common areas next quarter. These projects are vital for maintaining our property values and ensuring our neighborhood remains a beautiful place to live.

We are also looking for fresh perspectives, so if you have ever considered getting more involved, consider joining one of our committees or attend our board meetings. They will once again be held virtually to make it easier for a greater percentage of residents to attend from the comfort of your homes.

As I look back on over a decade of service to this association, I am reminded of my commitment to get involved and make a difference in working towards the type of association that all of us homeowners could be proud of. I would like to think that I've made a positive difference over the last decade.

I thank the many homeowners who recognize that this board makes decisions to ensure resources are used for the benefit of the community as a whole. Our goal is to continue to keep Mainstreet attractive to potential buyers, while also making it easier to sell for those who have made the decision to put their homes on the market. Maintenance of our many amenities is a key component in assessment of our collective property values.

Thank you for being such wonderful neighbors. I look forward to working together to make 2026 our best year yet.

Patrice Diamond, President, Board of Directors

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Message from Association Manager
Nadine Rivers-Johnson

Community Resolutions: Let's Make 2026 Our Best Year Yet!

You are never so old that you cannot dream and set a new resolution! As we close out 2025 and set foot in the new year's first quarter, we get a chance to assess last year's lessons and make plans for the next season.

Managing the day-to-day operations of an association as large as Mainstreet is a balancing act. In 2025, we exceeded the projected association income by $180,000. However, we spent over $90,000 in legal fees for collections, liens, and in defense of maintaining community design standards, rules, and regulations.

The association celebrated its 52nd year as a vibrant association that's still a very desirable place to live. Over 60 properties changed ownership with a majority going to homeowners who have moved in as our newest neighbors. The rental percentage dropped from an all-time high of 28% five years ago to 22.3% at the end of last year. Our community is more diverse than ever, and we extend a hardy welcome to all of our new neighbors!

As one of DeKalb County's earliest and oldest "natural environment" communities, trees are a part of our design aesthetic. We budgeted for a scheduled project for major tree pruning and maintenance in our common areas, yet weather related events caused an additional $40,000 in unbudgeted tree removals and additional pruning to maintain the health and beauty of our tree lines. We also had to replace a wooden walking bridge at the rear of the playground area and fencing along Mainstreet Park Drive.

We hosted Coffee With A Cop, participated in National Night Out in August of 2025, welcomed the new Principal of E.L. Miller Elementary School, Delicia Stephens, as a guest at a board meeting, and hosted DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson and 4th District Commissioner Chakira Johnson at the 2nd Community Day on November 1, 2025.

We are looking forward to new opportunities for community engagement in 2026, and volunteers - as well as ideas - are welcome!

Other plans on board for the coming year include common area improvements and replacements that will bring value to the association's many amenities. Mainstreet has beautiful open spaces not available to many other associations in this area of Stone Mountain:

- A new swing set for the playground area will be a welcomed addition for families at our parks.
- Bids will be obtained for resurfacing the Mainstreet tennis courts as well as the clubhouse parking lot.
- Tree lines will be trimmed back by our landscape vendor during the non-growing season. This will add to the visual appeal of our common area greenspace.
- An engaged community makes for a stronger educational partner. The association will once again support E.L. Miller for their spring festival. We encourage homeowners to be a part of the elementary school's ongoing playspace project scheduled to be completed in 2026.

As always, the on-site administrative office door is open for homeowners needing to discuss a delinquent account or possibly enter into a payment plan. Let us assist you with a plan to help avoid additional legal fees while coming into compliance and bringing your account current.

Let's dream big for our community in the new year! Let's take care of our properties individually and help keep our community clean and safe collectively. Together, we can help cultivate and keep Mainstreet as a hidden gem in Stone Mountain. Let's get to work!

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 ACCNT.

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

Emerging HOA Management Trends:

New Technologies, Best Practices, and Industry Shifts

The landscape of Homeowners Association (HOA) management is ever-evolving, shaped by technological advancements, legislative changes, and shifts in homeowner expectations. As we move into 2026, several key HOA Management trends are emerging, promising to redefine how HOAs operate and engage with their communities. Understanding these trends is crucial for board members, property managers, and residents alike to adapt and thrive in the changing environment.

1. Increased Use of Technology in Operations

The digitization of HOA management functions continue to accelerate. Some of these platforms streamline administrative tasks, from dues collection to homeowner online access, making operations more efficient and transparent. In 2026, expect to see broader adoption of these technologies by CMA.

2. Virtual Meeting Practices Becoming Standard

The pandemic era introduced the world to the convenience and efficiency of virtual meetings. As restrictions eased, many HOAs retained virtual meetings for their accessibility and higher attendance rates. This trend is likely to continue, with a blend of in-person and virtual meetings becoming the norm, facilitated by platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

3. Sustainability Initiatives

Sustainability is no longer a buzzword but a necessity. HOAs are increasingly adopting green practices, from solar panel installations to water-efficient landscaping. In 2026, we'll see more homeowners implementing sustainability programs, driven by the potential for long-term cost savings by residents. ARB pre-approval is still required.

4. Adaptation to Legislative Changes

Legislative changes at both the state and federal levels will continue to impact HOA operations. From regulations around solar panel installation to rental and Airbnb restrictions, staying abreast of and adapting to these changes will be a major focus for HOAs in 2026 and beyond.

5. Increased Demand for Transparency

Homeowners are demanding greater transparency in how their associations are run, from financial management to decision-making processes. This trend will lead to continued open communication channels, regular updates, and access to documents and account information online made easier than ever.

6. Embracing Pet-Friendly Initiatives

As the number of pet owners within communities rises, HOAs are prioritizing pet-friendly initiatives. This includes the establishment of dog parks, pet waste stations, and community events geared towards pets and their owners, aiming to enhance the living experience for all community members, including their furry friends. Mainstreet plans to explore these initiatives to catch up with this trend.

7. A Shift Towards Flexible Payment Options

With the rise of digital payment platforms, residents are looking for more flexibility in how they pay their dues and fees. HOAs are responding by adopting a wider range of payment options, including mobile payments, to accommodate this demand. Mainstreet homeowners can pay online, by mail, or at the onsite office. Consider auto debit for an even easier option to avoid missed payments or incur late fees and interest.

8. Data Security and Privacy Concerns

As HOAs adopt more digital tools, the security of resident data is a growing concern. In 2026, expect to see a heightened focus on cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive information from breaches, including regular security audits and updated privacy policies.

The landscape of HOA management is rapidly evolving, driven by technological advancements, changing resident expectations, and a focus on sustainability and inclusivity. In 2026, forward-thinking HOAs are embracing these emerging trends to create smarter, more connected, and resilient homeowner data protection. By adopting innovative tools, prioritizing transparency, and fostering inclusivity, HOAs are not only meeting the demands of today but also preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. Staying ahead of these trends ensures that HOAs can continue to enhance the quality of life for their residents and remain at the forefront of community management.

DEKALB RESIDENTS: LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE? GET THE HELP YOU NEED WITH THE HUMAN SERVICES FREE RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The free resource directory provides referrals and resources to DeKalb callers who need services within our community.

We have already done the work for you to find assistance for:

- ✓ Children, Youth & Families
- ✓ Disability Care
- ✓ Domestic/Elder Abuse
- ✓ Crisis Intervention
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Food Insecurity
- ✓ Homelessness/Housing
- ✓ In-home Services
- ✓ Legal
- ✓ Mental/Behavioral Health
- ✓ Senior Services
- ✓ and much more

Scan here for access

or go directly to resourcesindekalb.com

DeKalb County
GEORGIA

DEKALB COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES INFORMATION & REFERRAL DIVISION
For more information, contact Information & Referral at 770-322-2950
www.dekalbcountyga.gov

DeKalb County
GEORGIA

SPECIAL PURPOSE HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Eligible Repairs:

- Roofing
- Heating Cooling Systems
- Electrical Plumbing

How to Apply:

During the period January 2, through February 28, 2025
Pre-Application packets and information is available at:

- DeKalb Libraries
- DeKalb Senior Centers
- www.dekalbcountyga.gov/community-development/dekalb-first-timehomebuyersdown-payment-assistance-program
- Or, Call 404.371.2727

Assists DeKalb County homeowners 62 years and older, and disabled adults 21 years and older in repairing critical home conditions.

Eligible Homeowners:

- Household income at or below 60% AM I according to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development guidelines.
- Property is the primary place of residence.
- Homeowner is listed on property title and has been listed on the title for past 12 months.
- Current on mortgage and insurance.

Eligible Properties:

- Single- family detached homes. However, townhomes, duplexes, condominiums, eligible cooperatives, and mobile homes are not eligible.
- Property taxes are current with no Federal or State Liens
- Leans on property do not exceed 5,000.
- Located in DeKalb County.

SEAL OF LORRAINE COCHRAN JOHNSON VI DEKALB COUNTY CEO

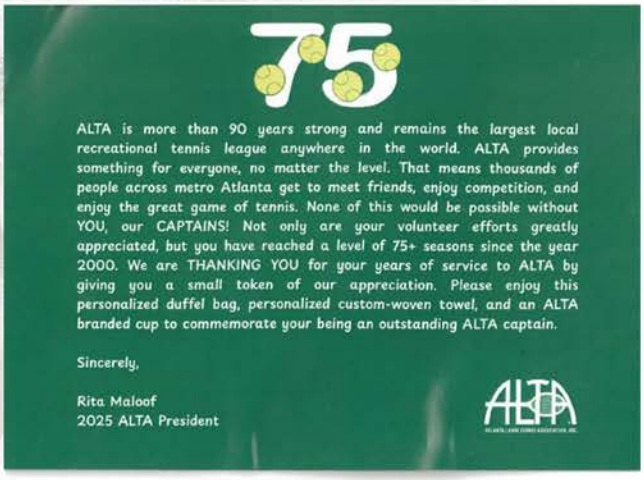
Karate At Mainstreet - 20+ Years (and Still Going)!

Want to start the year out by getting in shape? Join Mainstreet's Karate Program at Brown's Dojo on Saturdays from 10:00am - 12:00 pm. This program has been on-going at Mainstreet since 2004 and has been enjoyed by hundreds of Mainstreet's residents - both young and old! Classes are free of charge for those interested, and they are held at the Mainstreet Clubhouse located at 5001 Mainstreet Park Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30088.

Some of the benefits of marital arts involving children are: building self-discipline, courage and self-confidence, while also addressing issues such as focus, respect, and the skills needed to employ the basic principles of conflict resolution. Martial arts benefit adults in the form of self-defense, weight loss through exercise, becoming more in tune with your inner self, and improving your overall health.

For questions regarding the program, please contact Sensei Brown directly at 312-618-4376 or via email at albrown25@hotmail.com. Feel free to come observe a class!

Game, Set & Match: Congrats Tennis Captain Larryette Kyle!



Congratulations to Mainstreet Community Tennis Captain Larryette Kyle! She was recently recognized and commended by the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association, Inc. (ALTA) for serving as an ALTA Captain for 75 seasons! We are extremely proud of her dedication and commitment to this organization, as well as to Mainstreet Community's tennis program.

Larryette not only serves as the Senior Women's Tennis Captain, but she is the former Tennis Committee Chair and current senior ranking tennis captain for the association. She has been recognized for her volunteer services by ALTA, and the board and staff - as well as the community - owes her a deep debt of gratitude for her work.

She would also like to thank and acknowledge fellow homeowner Marsha Jackson, who has served as her co-captain for most of those 75 seasons! This team of dynamos have personally kept tennis teams alive in the community!

If you are interested in tennis or just want to lob a few balls at the association tennis court, reach out to Larryette personallly at: ellelady@aol.com. Thanks for all you do Larryette!

Boost Your Confidence Join Toastmasters

- Improve your public speaking skills
- Gain self-confidence and self-awareness
- Practice writing speeches and presenting in a group setting
- Gain a competitive advantage in the workplace
- Enjoy unlimited personal growth
- Maximize your potential
- Build leadership skills
- Work on networking in a small and supportive environment
- Receive regular and constructive feedback from peers with similar interests as you
- Access to the Pathways learning experience, which is an education program that allows you to leverage over 300 practical workplace skills, including:
  - Interview preparation
  - Online meeting management
  - Leadership development
  - Project management
  - Conflict resolution

ON Crime Stay Vigilant and Engaged

Happy New Year, Mainstreet Neighbors!

With more people out of work and less federal programs to help underserved and marginalized members of society, hard times will increase certain crimes, such as theft. Please take precautions to ensure the safety of your home and property.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) used by criminals will increase. Be aware of phone scams and computer scams that seem so real but attempts to steal from you. Be conscious of calls that try to get you to divulge personal information.

Continue to engage with the DeKalb Police Department by calling in tips, crimes that happen to you or others, attending law enforcement events, and alerting the department when you travel. The more interaction with DeKalb County Police Department, the better it helps our neighborhood.

Remember to keep your home well-lit. Dusk-to-dawn lightening is preferable.

So, whether you are on your way to work, walking in your neighborhood, or out and about in your community, remember that we all play a role in keeping our communities safe. Stay vigilant and say something when you see signs of suspicious activity.

Please consider becoming a part of the Mainstreet Community Crimewatch or form a neighbor group on your street.

Thanks,

Darryl Irvin
Mainstreet Community Crime Watch

Message from Office Associate Velvet Loyal
Maintaining Healthy Lakes Matters for EVERYONE

When most people look at a lake, they see peaceful waters reflecting the sky, surrounded by greenery and wildlife. Lakes are undeniably beautiful and serve as the centerpiece of many communities and natural landscapes. But beyond their aesthetic charm, healthy lakes play a vital role in maintaining environmental balance, supporting local economies, and ensuring public health.

- A Source of Clean Water and Life

Lakes serve as reservoirs of freshwater, supporting countless plant and animal species. They provide drinking water for nearby communities and habitat for fish, birds, and aquatic vegetation. When a lake's ecosystem is healthy, it maintains natural filtration processes that help purify water by trapping sediments, nutrients, and pollutants. However, when pollution, erosion, or sediment buildup overwhelms these natural systems, the lake's water quality begins to deteriorate. Maintaining a healthy lake ensures that this balance is preserved, keeping water safe and the ecosystem thriving.

- Protecting Local Biodiversity

A healthy lake is home to a diverse range of organisms that rely on each other to survive. From microscopic plankton to large fish and waterfowl, every species contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem. When water quality declines, so does biodiversity. Fish populations may drop, invasive species may take over, and native plants can die off. Pollution control and proper shoreline cleanliness help restore these natural habitats and promote the return of balanced aquatic life. Protecting biodiversity is not only an ecological necessity but also essential to preserving the natural beauty and recreational appeal of the lake areas.

- Supporting Recreation and Quality of Life

Healthy lakes enhance the quality of life for local residents and visitors alike. They provide a space for recreational activities such as fishing. Lakes can attract families and outdoor enthusiasts year-round. When lakes become polluted or overrun with weeds and algae, however, these activities become unsafe or unpleasant. Let's keep our lake areas clean by refraining from littering, or organize and volunteer for a cleanup project.

- Preventing Flooding and Erosion

Healthy lakes also play a role in stormwater management. By storing runoff and absorbing excess rainwater, lakes reduce the risk of flooding in nearby areas. However, sediment buildup can reduce a lake's depth and capacity, limiting its ability to handle heavy rains. This can lead to flooding, shoreline erosion, and property damage.

You can contribute to maintaining the health and wellbeing of our community lakes with these daily action steps:

- Responsible Landscaping: Minimize fertilizer/pesticide use, don't mow to the water's edge, and use native plants to filter runoff.
- Reduce Pollutants: Properly dispose of pet waste, chemicals, and trash; avoid dumping anything into storm drains.
- Prevent Runoff: Install rain gardens or permeable pavers to absorb stormwater.
- Enjoy Responsibly: Participate in catch-and-release fishing, and keep recreation areas clean.

A portion of this article was obtained from the Aquatic Restoration's website

Reminder

REMEMBER: Association fees are due the 1st of each month and late after the 15th of each month. Any payments received after the 15th will result in a late fee. We are committed to working with homeowners and offer payment plans tailored to your financial needs. Homeowners with delinquent accounts are encouraged to contact the Mainstreet administrative office in order to discuss payment options. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK OUT SUITABLE TERMS.

Chicken Primavera Spaghetti Squash Boats

Prep: 20 mins | Total: 1 hr | Calories Per Serving: 374 | Yields: 2 servings

Ingredients For Primavera Filling

- 1 Tablespoon of Extra-Virgin Olive Oil
- ½ cup of Small Red Onion, chopped
- 1 Orange Bell pepper, chopped
- 1 cup Grape tomatoes, halved
- 1 Medium zucchini, cut into half-moons
- 2 Cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tablespoon of Lemon Zest
- Kosher Salt
- Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- ½ teaspoon of Italian Seasoning
- 2 ½ cups of cooked shredded Chicken
- 1 cup of shredded Mozzarella
- ¼ cup of freshly grated Parmesan
- Freshly Chopped Parsley, for garnish

Ingredients For Spaghetti Squash

- 1 Medium Spaghetti Squash, halved, seeds removed
- 1 Tablespoon of Extra-Virgin Olive Oil
- Kosher Salt
- Freshly Ground Black Pepper

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Drizzle cut sides of spaghetti squash with oil and season with salt and pepper. Place cut side down on a large, rimmed baking sheet. Roast until tender, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool slightly. Using a fork, break up squash strands. Keep oven on.
2. Meanwhile, make filling: In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add onions and bell pepper and cook until slightly softened, 3 to 4 minutes. Add tomatoes, zucchini, garlic, and lemon zest. Season with salt, pepper, and Italian seasoning and stir until combined. Cook until soft, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in shredded chicken. Remove from heat.
3. Divide mixture between squash halves and stir to combine with squash strands. Top each half with mozzarella and return to oven to melt, 5 minutes.
4. Garnish with Parmesan and parsley before serving.

One-Pan Chimichurri Shrimp

Prep: 10 mins | Total: 25 mins | Calories Per Serving: 335 | Yields: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 3/4 tsp. of Coriander seeds
- 3/4 tsp. of Cumin seeds
- 1 Lemon, zested, quartered
- 3/4 tsp. of Chili Powder
- 5 Tbsp. of Extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 1/4 tsp. plus a pinch of Kosher Salt, divided
- 1 lb. of Large Shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 1/4 cup of Packed fresh Cilantro
- 1/4 cup of Packed fresh Parsley
- 2 Tbsp. of Packed fresh Oregano
- 2 Garlic Cloves, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. of Red Wine Vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. of Crushed Red Pepper flakes
- 1 Shallot, finely chopped
- 2 cups of low-sodium Vegetable or Fish stock
- Toasted crusty bread, for serving

Directions

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, toast coriander and cumin, stirring frequently, until fragrant and slightly darkened, 3 to 4 minutes. Let cool slightly. Transfer to a spice mill or mortar and pestle and grind into a powder. Wipe out skillet.
2. Transfer ground spices to a medium bowl. Add lemon zest, chili powder, 1 Tbsp. oil, and 1 tsp. salt, then add shrimp. Toss to coat and let marinate at room temperature for 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, finely chop cilantro, parsley, and oregano and transfer to a medium bowl. Add garlic, vinegar, red pepper flakes, 3 Tbsp. oil, and 3/4 tsp. salt and stir to combine.
4. In same skillet over medium heat, swirl remaining 1 Tbsp. oil to coat pan. Add shallot and remaining pinch of salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until shallots start to brown around the edges, 3 to 4 minutes. Add shrimp and any remaining marinade to pan in a single layer. Cook, undisturbed, 2 minutes, then turn shrimp. Add stock and bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until shrimp is pink and cooked through, 1 to 2 minutes more.
5. Top with chimichurri. Serve with lemon wedges and bread alongside.

What is a snowman's favorite seasoning?

Chilly flakes!

What bites but doesn't have teeth?

Frost!

How did the snow globe feel after listening to a scary story?

A bit shaken up!

How do you decorate a cake for a snowman?

With lots of icing!

Did you know that DeKalb County is undergoing a text amendment to its Code? This will affect both commercial and residential projects. If you're planning on making improvements to your property, please be sure to contact DeKalb County Office of Planning & Sustainability to ensure that your improvements are not breaking any code standards.

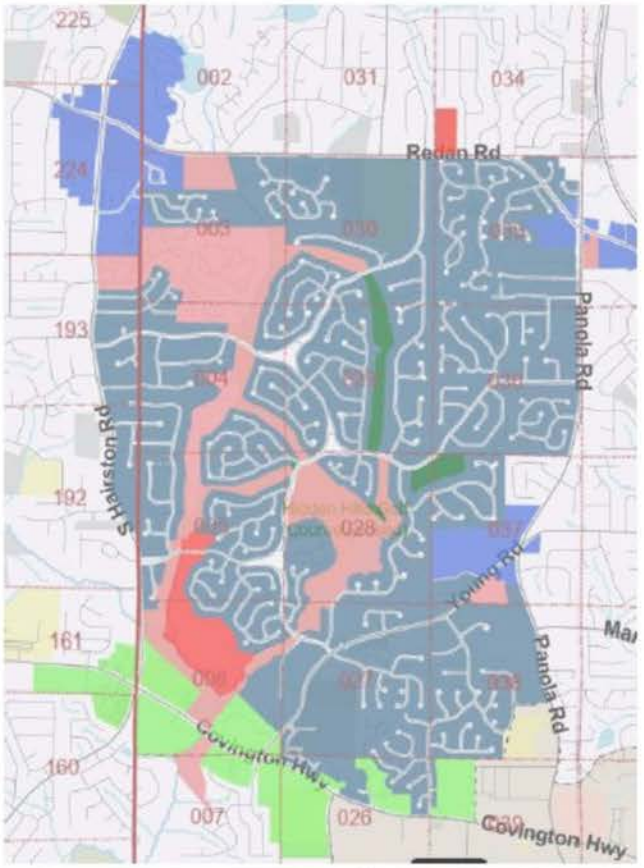
Did you know that parts of Mainstreet Community are within the Hidden Hills Overlay District? This should be considered when hiring a contractor to do improvements or additions at your property. We encourage you to make sure that proper permits are pulled through the County by any vendor or handyman contracted for large or major projects at your property. Ask how long they've been doing work in DeKalb County and make sure they are aware of the proper procedure for ensuring your work is properly permitted. For information or possible vendor recommendations, feel free to call the on site administrative office at 770-469-7238.

Did you know a Short-Term Rental Ordinance Update was approved in July of 2025? This will affect anyone operating or considering Airbnb's and rooming houses. A short-term rental (STR) is the rental of any room, lodging, or overnight accommodation for 30 consecutive days or less. This includes vacation homes, residential dwellings, guestrooms, or overnight lodging advertised through platforms such as Airbnb, Booking.com, VRBO, and others. Highlights include:

- An 8% excise tax is charged on all short-term rentals, as authorized by state law.
- A permit from the County's Business License Division is required before renting any portion of a dwelling unit as a short-term rental.
- Permits cannot be transferred, assigned, or used at another location.
- Permits must be renewed annually through the Business License Division.
- Applications must include owner and property contact information, 24-hour contact for a designated agent, the number and location of parking spaces, and a signed acknowledgment of requirements.
- Owners must ensure guests do not disrupt the neighborhood or interfere with neighbors' quiet enjoyment of their properties.

Did you know that the administrative office can be a great resource for helping you find the correct answer to questions you may have about your association or any of its policies? We're here to help! Feel free to call us anytime!

Hidden Hills Overlay District Map



Mainstreet Pet Corner

Ever Wondered How A Dog or Cat's Mind Works?

Dogs and cats aren't just cute faces with wagging tails or happy purrs—they're complex thinkers with brains built for sniffing, learning, stalking and balance. Let's take a closer look at canine and feline cognition, from the size of their skull to the veterinary specialists who keep their brains healthy.

Dog brain vs. cat brain: what's the difference?

While dog and cat brains share a similar basic structure, they are wired for very different lifestyles. Dogs are social animals, and their brains reflect that with more development of the social cognition portion of the cerebral cortex. They're tuned into human communication and thrive on teamwork. Cats, on the other paw, are more independent hunters. Their brains are built for stealth, balance, vision and quick reflexes.

How big are dog brains compared to cat brains?

You might be surprised to learn how big dogs' brains are compared to their bodies. While dogs range in size from tiny Chihuahuas to massive great Danes, their brains are generally about 1/10th the size of their body weight. A 50-pound dog, for example, has a brain about the size of a kiwi fruit. Though small, these brains are mighty—packed with the tools dogs need to navigate the world using smell, sound and social cues. Although a cat's brain is only about the size of a walnut, it's surprisingly powerful—capable of both short-term and long-term memory. That means your cat can remember where you just hid a treat and also where the litter box has been for years!

How many brain cells do dogs have? Do they have more or less than cats?

Research shows that dogs have around 530 million cortical neurons—the brain cells responsible for higher-level thinking like decision making and problem solving. This gives dogs a bit of an edge over cats, who have about half that number. These extra brain cells help dogs excel at tasks like learning commands, recognizing human emotions and working cooperatively with people.

What do dog and cat brains look like?

Like other mammals, cat and dog brains look similar to human brains. They're pinkish-gray, folded and packed with familiar structures like the cerebral cortex (for thinking), cerebellum (for balance) and brainstem (for basic life functions). But one major difference? Dogs and cats have a massive olfactory bulb—proportionally far larger than ours—which explains their super-powered sense of smell.

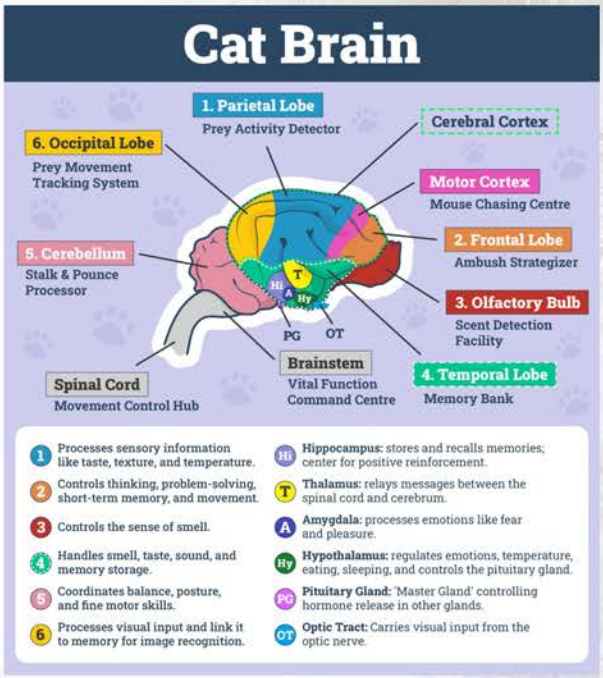
How do dogs' brains work?

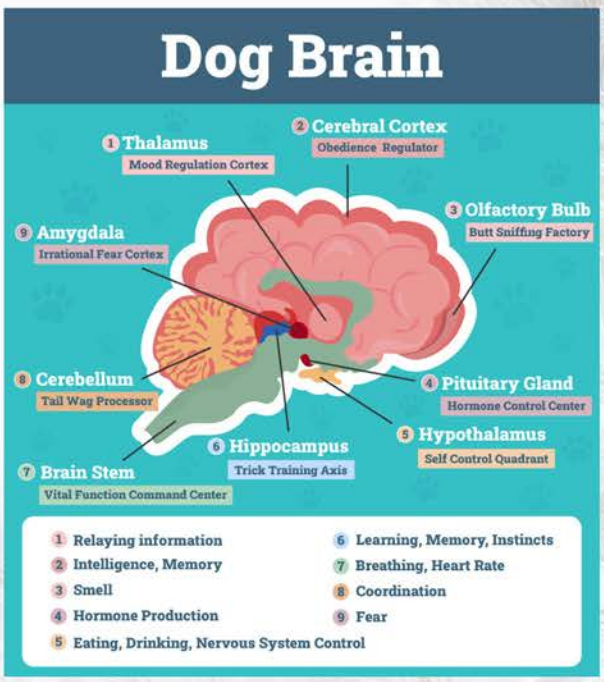
While humans rely mostly on sight, dogs are all about smell. Their brains process scent information in incredible detail, helping them track people, objects and even emotions. The brain also coordinates learning, memory and emotional responses. Dogs are especially good at reading social cues, which is why they often seem to know exactly how we're feeling and what we want them to do.

What does a veterinary neurologist do?

Dog and cat neurologists are veterinary specialists who focus on diseases and disorders of the brain, spinal cord and nerves. If a dog or cat is having seizures, trouble walking or sudden behavior changes, a veterinary neurologist can perform tests to get answers. They diagnose conditions like epilepsy, herniated discs, spinal and head injuries, and tumors in the nervous system. They can create treatment plans to help pets live happier, healthier lives.

By understanding how dog brains work and how they compare to cat brains, you can better appreciate the instincts, behaviors and abilities that make your pet so unique. Whether they're wagging at the door or purring on a perch, their brains are always working hard behind the scenes!



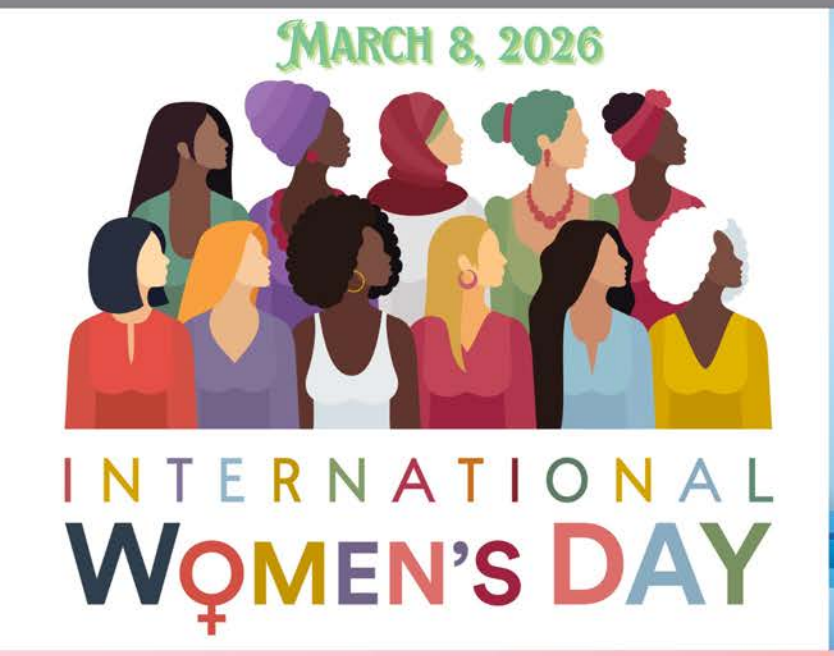


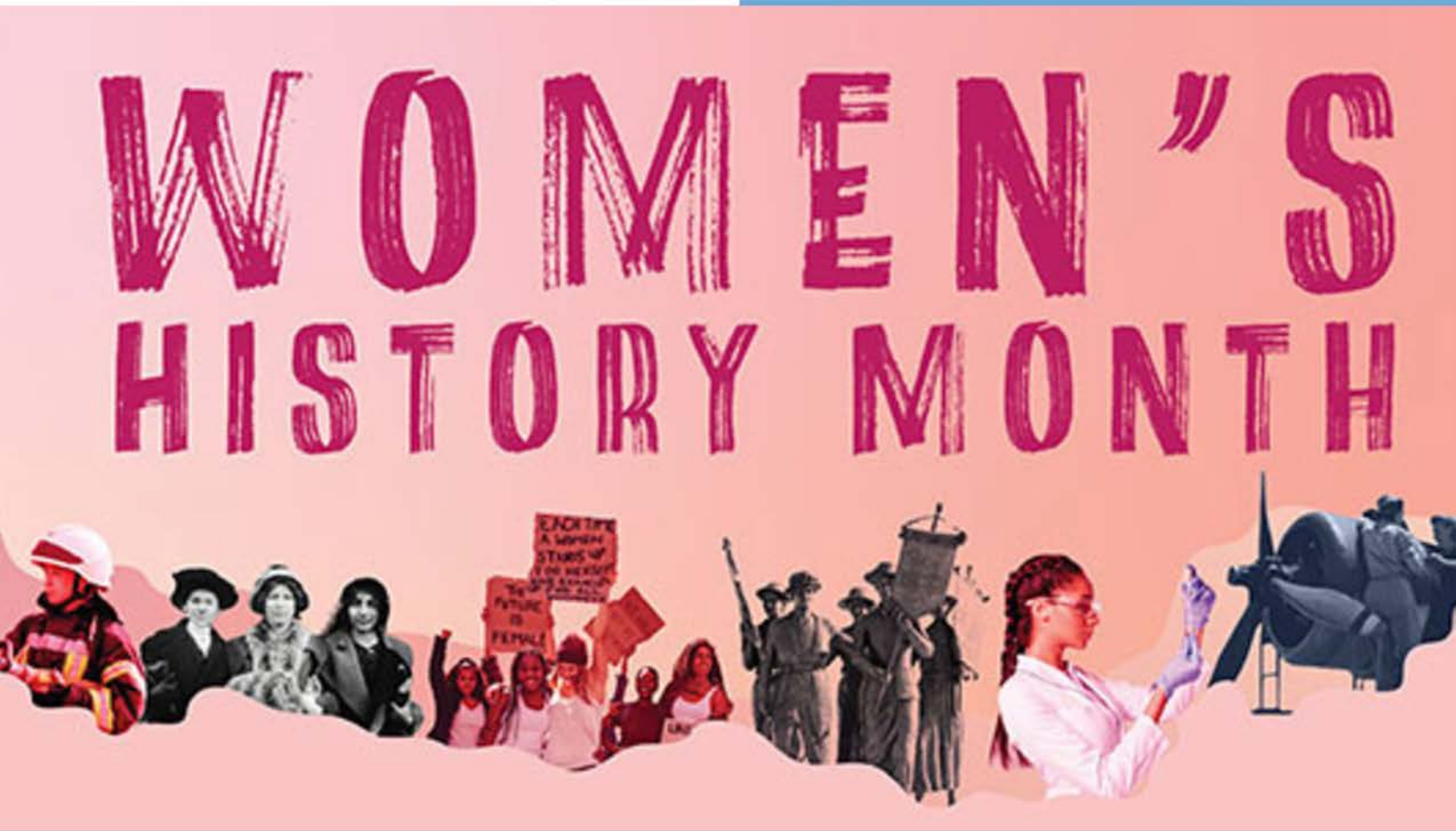
This article was obtained from vcahospitals.com

Community Calendar of Events for January

Community Calendar of Events for February

Community Calendar of Events for March





Mainstreet...A Caring Community

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

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

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

THE MAINSTREAM NEWSLETTER Winter 2025 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