



District 4 2022 Year in Review

COBB COUNTY DISTRICT 4



COMMISSIONER MONIQUE SHEFFIELD



A Message from Commissioner Sheffield

Greetings District 4! As we embrace 2023, my reflections lead me to a place of gratefulness, gratitude and a stronger desire to serve my community.

The year has been remarkable and outstanding with a great deal of work, accomplishments, collaboration and zoning approval and denials to move D4-ward.

I share the accomplishments of our beloved district and county with many in the community. There are countless members of the community who have also helped with the heavy lifting. Whether you participated in our zoning process, shared public comments at our Board of Commissioners' meetings, participated in community cleanups, or send emails regarding a pothole that needs attention, your time and energy are greatly appreciated.

During this season of gratitude, I would like to acknowledge and thank the District 4 appointees, community volunteers and members of our civic organizations - the Austell Community Taskforce, Mableton Improvement Coalition and the Powder Springs Taskforce for their never-ending love, commitment and service to District 4. A special thanks to my assistant Deedra Watts for all that she does in helping to keep the business of District 4 moving forward. Thanks to District's 4 Planning Commissioner, Michael Hughes for co-hosting our monthly "In the Zone" community zoning meetings. Thanks to Cobb County staff and my fellow commissioners for your support and meaningful conversations regarding policy initiatives.

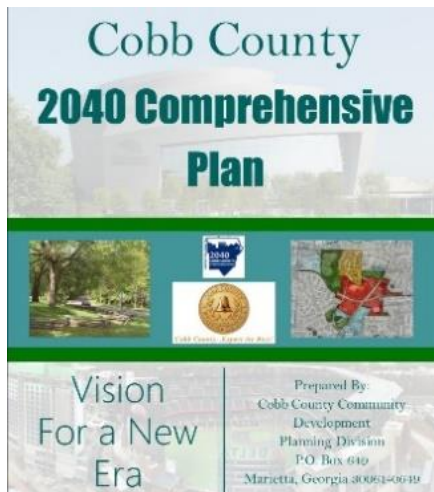
A special and heartfelt thanks to all the residents and businesses for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your District Commissioner. Enjoy the following pages as we journey through 2022 and embrace 2023.

- *Commissioner Monique Sheffield*

January

Continuing in the spirit of governing by the 3Cs – Constituents, Community and County, we began 2022 in our endeavors to strengthen our communities and increase our quality of life. The year began with excitement, enthusiasm, and readiness to serve the constituents of District 4.

We introduced the new D4 logo in an effort of creating a unique identity for south and southwest Cobb. The logo was created exclusively for District 4 and used to promote Commissioner Sheffield's sponsored District 4 community events.



January is reserved for the Board of Commissioners to review and provide recommendations for the 2022 Code Amendment package and 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Constituents were able to participate in those meetings virtually.

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range, community-designed growth strategy that will continue to make Cobb County an attractive place to invest, conduct business, and raise a family. The current plan, adopted in 2007 with subsequent annual amendments, covers the time period between 2007 and 2040.

Bringing the month to a close, I had the opportunity to discuss my first year in office, share challenges and triumphs, and moving D4-ward. Thanks to our civic organizations; Austell Community Taskforce, Mableton Improvement Coalition, and Powder Springs Taskforce for providing a platform for me to connect with the community.





Commissioner Sheffield and SHE Founder, Tiara H. Smith

District 4 welcomed a new non-profit to the community. Strengthening Her Evolution (S-H-E), Inc. SHE's Program is designed for girls ages 8 to 16 years of age. This age group has specific developmental milestones that influence a child's cognitive and social development.

The non-profit provides female youth with the tools and resources needed to develop character and self-esteem, understand cultural awareness, society and economic conditions, both locally & worldwide.

I was delighted to join SHE, Inc. for their inaugural community cleanup. Keep up the good work.



**SHE Cleans
Community
Project**

Help Us Keep Cobb Beautiful!



The county said goodbye to former Chairman Mike Boyce. Chairman Boyce died on January 25, 2022, after suffering two strokes. During his four years as Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners, Boyce garnered a reputation as a true public servant, putting the needs of those he served above anything else. He served the county well and will be missed.

Mike Boyce
1949 - 2022



February

Miles Ahead Charter School (MACS) announced that they're bringing a tuition-free, K-8 school to Powder Springs. The school will be temporarily located at 4665 Macland Road, Building 300, Powder Springs. The school's mission is to provide all students with the social and academic achievements necessary to help realize their potential for local impact and global change.

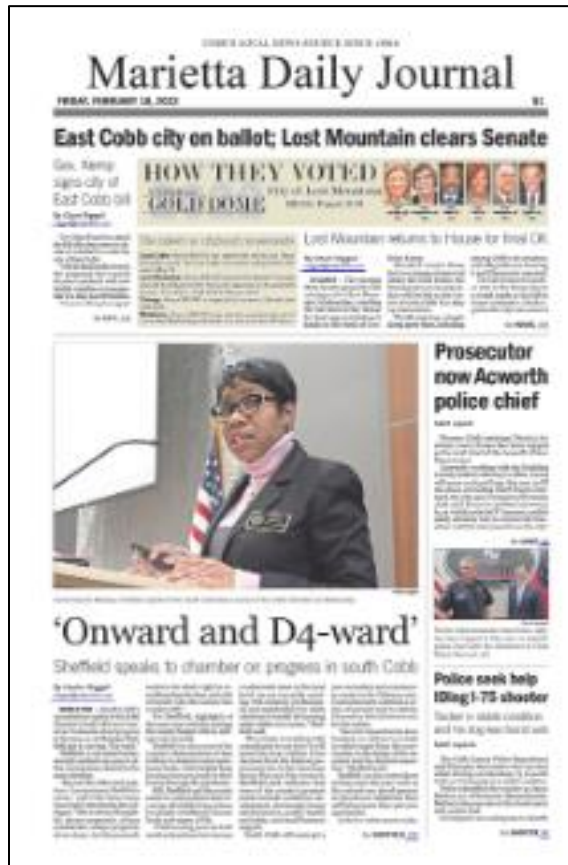


Black History Month Celebrations

February is dedicated to recognizing the achievements and contributions of African Americans to American history and the positive impacts of their contributions.

We also celebrated some local champions. I had the pleasure to serve as a guest judge at The Haven of Help's Spelling Bee. Myracle Hurst was the 1st place winner, Angel Mitchell came in 2nd place and Keyo Underwood was the 3rd place winner. Kudos to the winners! A special thanks to The Haven of Help's Founder, Quintasha Swanson, and The Cenacle Coffee and Bistro in Austell for hosting.





State of the District Address

Thank you to the Cobb Chamber of Commerce for the opportunity to kick off the year as the keynote speaker for the South Cobb Area Council meeting.

The message was “Onward and D4-ward”. I shared my vision to move the district in an upward trajectory. I was proud to share some wins from 2021 and talked about District 4 SPLOST 2022 projects, improving our quality of life by designating more green space in the district. Some notable highlights included passing the county’s budget without increasing the millage rate; disbursement of \$30 million dollars to help stabilize families and businesses through the COVID pandemic; potential purchase of 20 acres for the future site of the Milford-Osborne recreational facility (the 20 acres were subsequently purchased in April 2022.)

Cobb Honors

Cobb County earned the highest certification as a Platinum level Green Community. The Atlanta Regional Commission’s Green Communities program helps local governments implement measures that will reduce their environmental impact. It recognizes its commitment to environmental stewardship and its leadership in sustainability practices.



March



Dr. Jackie McMorris, Cobb County Manager was named the 2022 LiveSafe Resources “Woman of the Year.” Dr. McMorris received the top honor and was selected from a group of fifteen women. This award honors women who exemplify the qualities of leadership, achievement, dedication, and generosity as well as their expertise in balancing business, community, and family.

It is an honor to work alongside Dr. McMorris. Her hard work and dedication to Cobb County are appreciated by staff and the Board of Commissioners.

Park Pride hosted its 2022 Parks and Greenspace Conference at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. I was invited to serve as a guest panelist to speak on this year’s theme, “The Parks We Need Now”.

There is a great deal of anticipation and excitement from the greenspace community regarding the Chattahoochee Riverland project. The guests were eager to learn more about the 100-mile waterway and multi-modal trail with a potential regional trailhead in District 4 along the Chattahoochee River and how the project will transform the community.



April

We held our inaugural District-wide litter cleanup on April 23 during Earth Day weekend. The driving force behind the initiative was to bring awareness to the county's litter challenges and beautify our district in honor of Earth Day which is traditionally observed on April 22. There were three meetup locations. The five-hour event kicked off in D4's unincorporated Smyrna and two Austell locations.

A special thanks to Keep Cobb Beautiful (KCB), District 4 KCB appointees Barry Krebs (for also providing a DJ) and Jeff Padgett, Adopt-A-Mile sponsors, District 4 civic groups, the Austell Community Taskforce and Mableton Improvement Coalition, the Forest Acres HOA rolled up their sleeves to help beautify River View Road. Councilman Lewis Wheaton of Smyrna Ward 7 joined to help (I later realized that it wasn't his Ward!), Finally, thanks to the county staff from our Public Services Agency, Cobb DOT and PARKS, and the nearly 100 volunteers, including children.

The tally of litter collected was over a whopping 2,400 pounds. Let's all continue to Keep Cobb Beautiful.

The City of Powder Springs also hosted its annual "Pick It Up Powder Springs" beautification event on the same day. It was a day of district-wide clean fun!



A Day of Unity in Mableton

The Mableton Improvement Coalition (MIC) hosted its inaugural Taste of Mableton on April 2. The event kicked off with a parade on Floyd Road with Keep Cobb Beautiful District 4's appointee, Jeff Padgett, who served as the Grand Marshal and former Governor Roy Barnes, who served as the honorary marshal.

The theme of the event was One Mableton: Stronger Together. MIC's Chair Ray Thomas addressed the crowd with solid words rebuking divisiveness for unity. He went on to say that "Mableton is an amazing community; we are very diverse, and we are celebrating that diversity today."

Dr. Maxine Wilson was the visionary behind the event and shared that her inspiration was a combination of her love for the origin of food and how it connects us as humans. Dr. Wilson emphasized the sorrel plant as a universal plant that is a "global citizen" but is used differently based on the region and its traditions, culture, and preferences. She demonstrated in her educational exhibit that although the plant is used in different ways in different areas around the world, it is the same everywhere at its core. Like the sorrel plant, humans are the same at their core regardless of traditions, culture and preferences, which was evident at the Taste of Mableton.



SAVE THE DATE



April 15, 2023
10 AM- 5 PM
Mable House Complex
5239 Floyd Road SW, Mableton, GA 30126
No Entry Fees!!

Milford/Osborne Recreation Center coming soon...

For more than two decades, District 4's Milford/Osborne community has championed a community center in the area. On April 27, 2022, the Board of Commissioners voted to make it a reality. The agenda item (passed 5-0) to approve an amendment to the purchase agreement for one of the three parcels and on April 29 the transaction closed. The parcels were purchased as an assemblage and will total approximately 20 acres as the site of the new community center that will offer various amenities. Thank you to Cobb County staff and others for working alongside me and the community to finally offer the much-needed community outlet to enjoy for generations.

SOLD

Subject parcels are highlighted in blue.



May



Leadership Cobb - Class of 2023



The third time is a charm. After three attempts, my nomination as a Leadership Cobb candidate by an anonymous source was granted and I was selected along with 51 other Cobb County leaders to participate in the year-long leadership development program.

This program will give me the opportunity to enhance my personal and professional growth, gain awareness of current issues, community resources and focus on the social, political and economic needs of the community. Participants are introduced to a variety of viewpoints that illustrate the array of economic, political, educational and social factors at work in Cobb County. Sessions combine lectures and dialogue among speakers as well as audience interaction with leaders in all facets of the community.

Senator Ossoff met with elected officials and community leaders to learn of our concerns and how he can better serve us in D.C. He also shared legislative updates and information regarding his Chattahoochee River Act.



The *Chattahoochee River Act* will help improve water quality, protect essential public works, and restore ecosystems along the river — which are all vital to Georgia's drinking water supply, agricultural industry, power generation, and more.

The first-of-its-kind law authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work on water projects up and down the Chattahoochee River throughout the state of Georgia. The bill was signed into law as part of this year's *Water Resources and Development Act* reauthorization.



June



Cobb County's Board of Commissioners approved the 2022 millage rate and 2023 budget. The general fund millage rate remains steady at 8.46 mills, but the budget climbed by more than \$60 million primarily due to a tax digest fueled by a rise in property values.

The board adopted a \$22 million compensation and classification study designed to increase county employees' pay to more competitive levels. A previous study showed that the county's pay rates were eight percent below similar governmental entities, leading to significant vacancies across county departments. The

budget will move the minimum pay rate in the county to \$17/hour.

The budget also adds 148 new positions out of the 658 new staffers department managers had requested during a series of work sessions since last fall.

Homeownership Summit

As part of our annual Path to Home Ownership Summit (PTHO), we kicked off our month with a homebuyer financial workshop. Bill Cheeks with ABBA Associates, Demetrius Lockett with Southeast Mortgage provided attendees with a wealth of information on budget, credit, and getting mortgage ready. Jade Smith with Exp Realty was available to assist with updates on down-payment programs and other pertinent information as it relates to buying a home. Attendees were provided lunch, some walked away with gas cards and many principles to apply to everyday living and financial strategies to purchase a home. More good news is below in October.



June proved to be another great month for District 4. I was accepted into the National Association of Counties' Economic Mobility Leadership Network.

The EMLN is a cohort of county-elected leaders focused on helping residents move up the economic ladder. Network members examine the interconnected issues of economic mobility, including housing and workforce development and an overall lack of opportunities.

Milford-Osborne Recreation Center



The Milford/Osborne community town hall was held on **June 29** to obtain input on the proposed Milford-Osborne Recreation/ Community Center. The meeting was met with positive energy, excitement, and feedback regarding traffic and other concerns from neighbors of the proposed community gathering space.

The residents shared great ideas on the amenities to incorporate into the design of the center. The design team was in attendance to receive feedback from the Milford/Osborne residents. Some top ideas are a recreation center for multiple sports, a fitness center, a multipurpose community cultural room, a pool, and of course pickleball! Stay tuned for updates.

American Rescue Plan Act applications open in Cobb

Cobb County opened an online portal in June for organizations to apply for grants available through the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act. The federal government allocated \$147 million to Cobb County as part of the program. Cobb's Board of Commissioners recently approved ARPA investment guidance that allocates federal funds to five priority areas:



- Community Health - to enhance mental, physical, and behavioral healthcare services
- Support Services - to enhance programming and services for vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community
- Economic Development - to aid economic recovery through the business sector and workforce opportunities
- County Infrastructure - to enhance its physical and/or structural capacity to meet operational responsibilities
- Public Safety - to assist in keeping Cobb County residents safe

There were over 400 applications submitted with multiple pages some over 100 pages for review. The Board of Commissioners will review select applications in January 2023.

July



The Board of Commissioners celebrated the fourth by participating in the City of Marietta's Let Freedom Ring Parade.

A group of Marietta businessmen founded the parade in 1968. The addition of float contests helped the parade grow over the years.

The day was filled with free live concerts, arts and crafts show and carnival games concluding with fireworks for families to enjoy.

Packing meals is one of my favorite community service activities. Before running for office, I volunteered regularly at Open Hand Atlanta to pack meals for those with special dietary needs or chronic illnesses. When I was contacted to lead a rotation of teams for several shifts, I did not hesitate to accept the opportunity to serve. Volunteers at Table 27 packed over 5,000 meals in a six-hour window. Collectively, all teams reached the million-meal pack goal. The event was presented by State Farm and the Atlanta Hawks. What a great way to start and end the day.



MAKE THE ASSIST
Saturday, July 16 | State Farm Arena
ONE DAY. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE MILLION MEALS.

Career Fair & Tenant Forum

For the second year in a row, our annual D4 Career Fair & Tenant Forum successfully connected employers with employees. There were attendees hired at the event or interviewed at the event and offered employment the following week.

A special thanks to our career fair vendors, the participating non-profit agencies, Homefree, MUST Ministries, Sweetwater Mission, HUD, Marietta Housing Authority, Melissa O'Brien with Highland Rivers and Shari Martin, CEO of The Cobb Foundation, Chief Magistrate Judge Brendan Murphy and his legal team, District Attorney Broady and his Second Chance Desk team members, Cobb Legal Aid team members, our volunteers and attendees.

A special note of thanks to our volunteers for operating in excellence in serving our community. Congratulations to those who were offered jobs on-site. Thanks to Latonia Hines, Councilwoman for Smyrna's Ward 2 who takes the best selfies.





Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Cobb Veterans Memorial hosted by The Cobb Veterans Memorial Foundation was held on Thursday, July 7 at the Cobb Civic Center. The park will honor the United States Armed Forces and their families. Foundation members, members of the military and Cobb and Marietta leaders were in attendance. An official military band represented each military branch through song at the ceremony. The Memorial Park plans feature a 142-foot "Star Tower" monument and honor walls listing the names of veterans from each country's military branch. It will also have a plaza for events, two reflection pools and a service hub providing information to Veterans and their families.

Memorial Park will be located near the Cobb Civic Center at 502 Fairground Street SE, Marietta. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.

CROFT DESIGN RENDERINGS



August

Clarkdale Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



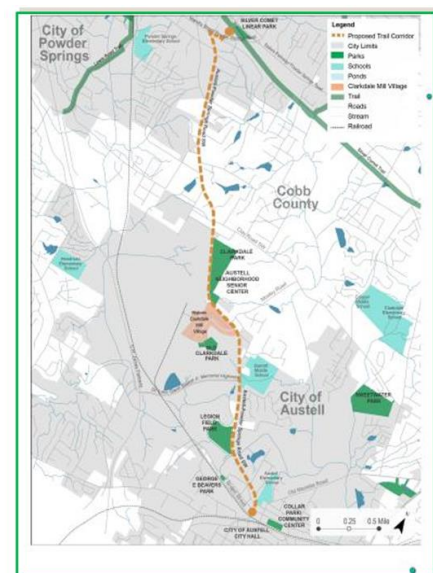
County and community collaboration struck again on August 6 in Austell for the new Clarkdale Park ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new park has two playground zones, an arts and craft pavilion, a community garden and a designated area for the new community center.

The Clarkdale residents were elated that they can rebuild from the devastation of the fire some years ago. Hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, Cracker Jacks and a family-friendly movie had all the makings of a successful community event. A special thanks to our PARKS team and our PARKS appointees for their contribution to the memorable day.

Austell-Powder Springs trail scoping study

Cobb County, in partnership with the City of Powder Springs, the City of Austell, and the Atlanta Regional Commission, worked on a study to examine the possibility of a trail that will connect the cities of Powder Springs and Austell, from the existing trailhead on Silver Comet Linear Park in Powder Springs to Joe Jerkins Boulevard in downtown Austell.

Thanks to the residents in the area that attended the community meetings to provide input. The trail will be transformational for the area and we are excited about offering this amenity to the community.





D4's Application for matching SPLOST funds was considered by Congress earlier this year. I submitted the initial application to Congressman David Scott's office to request matching funds for the Austell-

South Cobb Transfer Center. Funding was available through the federal Community Funding Project but the competitive funds required criteria to be met. If received, the funding will be used for a multi-modal transit facility for CobbLinc riders to transfer between routes and transportation modes. Thanks to our community partners Austell Mayor Ollie Clemmons and the Mableton Improvement Coalition for submitting letters of support on behalf of the community. Thanks to Cobb DOT for submitting the second round of applications.

Update: On December 20 Congressman David Scott announced that \$22,932,519 in Community Project Funding was secured. District 4 has two projects that will be funded;

- (1) \$2 million for the Austell-South Cobb Transfer Center; and
- (2) \$900,000 for the Chattahoochee Riverlands – Bike/Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study.

Mableton Cityhood Meeting

The Mableton cityhood town hall meeting was held on August 17 with approximately 250 constituents in attendance. Cobb County department directors from DOT, PARKS, Economic Development, Code Enforcement, (all representatives of service areas that the proposed city plans to provide to its residents), and the county's chief financial officer shared pertinent information specific to Mableton becoming a city. The discussion also included information regarding services provided by the county and any potential financial impact. The proposed boundaries include the incorporated areas of Austell in 30106 and 30168, areas of unincorporated Smyrna and all of Mableton.



Major Matt Hurst

Welcome to our new Precinct 2 Commander Major Matthew Hurst. Major Hurst began his career with Cobb County Police Department in 1999 as a patrol officer in Precinct 2.

He later worked as a patrol officer and patrol supervisor in Precincts 5, 2 and 1 before becoming a sergeant at the Police Training Academy. He was promoted to lieutenant and was a watch commander in Precinct 3. Later, following an appointment to the rank of captain, he served in various command assignments as the chief of staff to the chief of police, internal affairs commander and police academy director. We look forward to building a strong relationship with our new Precinct 2 Commander and the community.



Major Hurst succeeds Major Bobby Fisher who retired and enjoying the next chapter at Osborne High School as its football coach.

Austell's new police chief

Congratulations to Scott Hamilton on becoming the first Black Police Chief for the City of Austell. Deputy Chief Hamilton retired from Cobb County in August after decades of service and will lead Austell law enforcement into greatness.



Congratulations!

Cobb Sheriff's Annex Location

In January 2021 at the Board of Commissioners retreat, Sheriff Owens' expressed the desire to have a law enforcement presence in the south Cobb area to aid in deterring crime. In May 2022, I met with the Sheriff, Cobb Public Safety Director Randy Crider, Deputy Chief Stuart Van Hoozer, former Deputy Chief Scott Hamilton, Sheriff Craig Owens and Cobb County's property management to address and provide solutions to curtail crime in one of the busy police beats in the district. In August 2022, after just months of implementing a strategy, Cobb Sheriff's Office hosted a ribbon cutting for its new South Annex Station located at 5786 Old Gordon Road in Mableton. The county building houses deputies assigned to Uniform Operations, K-9 Unit and the FAST team.



Towards the end of the month, the Board of Commissioners met with the trash haulers at the Cobb Civic Center to address constituent concerns and to help generate solutions to address complaints. There are ongoing meetings to come up with viable solutions to the proposed code amendment package of one hauler per district. That is not an option for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.



September



Cobb County celebrated a significant 25-year milestone in September. All three New York-based credit rating agencies awarded Cobb County a AAA rating for the 25th consecutive year. The ratings are from the Fitch Group, Moody's and S&P Global Ratings - considered the "Big Three" agencies.

The milestone marks not just an accomplishment for the county's finance team, but CFO Bill Volckmann says it benefits all Cobb residents. AAA ratings for county governments are rare. Only 49 counties in the United States (about 1.5 percent) are AAA-rated by all three agencies and Cobb is one of only three counties in Georgia with this distinction.

South Cobb Regional Library

Funding for the South Cobb Regional Library improvements was approved by the Board of Commissioners. The improvements will include new shelving and furniture, updating staff bathrooms, replacing all cabinetry including the circulation desk and other general improvements that will cost roughly \$550,000.00. I am currently working on an estimate for funding to expand the footprint of the library to include a second floor. Stay tuned.



**Cobb County
Public Library**

D4 Town Hall Meetings

September 19 - The residents were updated on the Osborne Recreation Center survey results. PARKS Director Michael Brantley shared detail of the results. Results show that the community supports having the flexibility to select activities that interest them. The top three surveyed activities are exercise, walking and running trails, and an indoor track.

September 22 - D4 Town hall updated residents on pending developments in the district. We also received updates from Cobb County Police Chief Van Hoozer, Cobb County Code Enforcement Manager Cathey Pickett, and Economic Development departments Director Jessica Guinn. Cathey shared challenges with the courts and enforcing the county's code enforcement violations. Jessica's presentation included information on the county's Unified Development Code (UDC) and how it will be designed to streamline and update our zoning codes.

Code Amendment Package

The Board of Commissioners voted on the Code Amendment package at the Sept. 27 BOC meeting. This package contains changes to the code involving: code enforcement, multi-family rental housing inspection program, fire safety standards, short-term rentals, nuisances, park rules, solid waste and waste disposal, sidewalks, subdivision streets, and zoning.



I was particularly pleased to pass the amendment to hold landlords accountable for poor living conditions in our multi-family dwellings. We have received countless concerns from residents regarding raw sewage in their apartments and neglected repairs. With the passing of the amendment, landlords will be required to get mandatory annual inspections and the inspection report must be submitted with the business license renewal request. This is a step in the right direction to ensure that all residents live in habitable apartments.



Let's Talk Mableton!

Revitalization, Business Growth and Sustainability

Congratulations to the Mableton Improvement Coalition for hosting its inaugural Economic Development Summit. The Summit aimed to galvanize the Mableton business community around efforts for comprehensive business revitalization and sustainability.

The event kicked off with former Governor and Mableton native Roy Barnes who shared a peek into his future mixed-used development on Floyd Road. Leaders from relevant organizations, local and state governments, along with business owners convened for a deep dive into the state of Mableton's commercial development. Panelists discussed the vision, policy, and programs that new and existing businesses need to survive and thrive. The summit is not only about a conversation around strategy, policy, and programs, but also about formulating a concrete set of actionable recommendations and plans for future advocacy.

We look forward to what's in store for the 2023 Economic Development Summit.

Powder Springs Taskforce honored by Walmart

Congratulations to the Powder Springs Taskforce for its recognition at the Austell Walmart grand reopening ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 30. Walmart gifted the organization a check to assist with its annual back-to-school bookbag giveaway. Thanks to the PST for providing this service to the families in our communities.



Powder Springs Community Taskforce

Pictured: Powder Springs Taskforce members Elliot Hennington, Deborah Douglin, Sonya Stegall and Powder Springs Mayor Pro Tem, Henry Lust.

October

Cobb Executive Women's Luncheon



Pictured from left to right: Fran Friedrich, Barb Allen, Secret Holland, Sheronica Burgess, Nicole Lawson and Mary-Kay Boler.

What an honor to receive an invitation to speak at the Cobb Executive Women's luncheon on October 14th. I shared my personal journey and my path to becoming the District 4 Commissioner. I shared insight on my personal leadership style as a servant-leader and to help the women succeed in their perspective roles.

A District 4 Success Story



Congratulations to Mr. Daquan Owens on the purchase of his home. Mr. Owens attended our inaugural Path to Homeownership seminar in 2021 and our inaugural financial workshop in early 2021. His determination to purchase a home for the holidays has paid off. A special thanks to our community partners and Demetrius Lockett of Southeast Mortgage for making Mr. Owens's dream of owning a home a reality.

McEachern Young Women's Conference

The Ladies of Unity of McEachern High School hosted their inaugural Young Women Looking to the Future conference on Oct 8. The event aimed to empower young women as they chart their futures. I was invited to be the keynote speaker and was inspired by the young women.



What I found to be most inspiring is that the idea for the conference is the brainchild of the McEachern Student Body President Shukratt Adesina. Adesina kicked off the conference with empowering remarks and set the tone for other speakers to follow.

In attendance was community activist Faith Fennidy. Ms. Fennidy was discriminated against at age 11 for her choice of hairstyle. In 2018, Faith was told to leave a Louisiana private school because she was wearing braided hair extensions. At the time, the school had a policy against students wearing hair that wasn't natural. Faith decided to turn her painful experience into a positive platform by pushing for her home state of Louisiana to pass the CROWN (Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) Act. The legislation prohibits discrimination based on hairstyle and hair texture.



Commissioner Sheffield and Faith Fennidy

SAE School Celebrates 10 years



Congratulations to the SAE School for its recent 10th-anniversary celebration and the unveiling of its blue-top basketball courts and new soccer field. The school's co-founder conducted an experiment by painting a parking spot with a special reflective coating and found that the area was 12 degrees cooler than the black asphalt. The coating reflects ultraviolet and infrared waves and reflects heat without glare.

The SAE school received a grant from the Atlanta United soccer team to help fund the school's new soccer field. The grant was secured in part by a community letter of support from me and the Mableton Improvement Coalition.

A Zoning Win for Our Community

District 4 had a tremendous win at the Board of Commissioner's zoning hearing on Oct. 18. The win? It is a deed restriction against any auto-related businesses at the proposed AutoZone rezoning location on Veterans Memorial Highway and Buckner Road.

In 2021 and 2022, Commissioner Sheffield and the BOC denied similar auto-related rezoning applications. The applicant filed an appeal to the Superior Court challenging the Board of Commissioners' decision denying those applications.

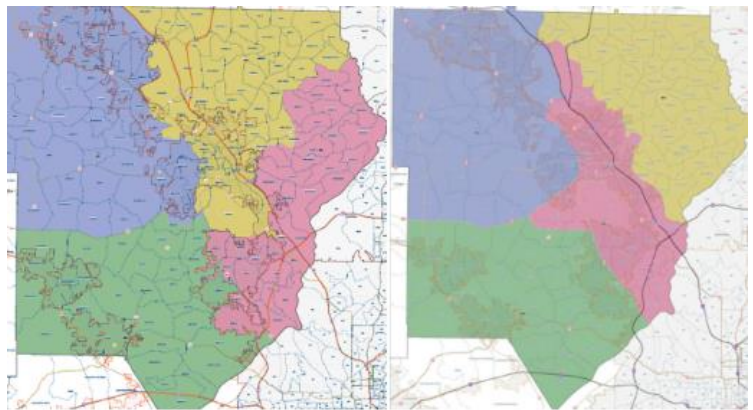
The county and the applicant settled litigation prior to going to trial. There was no monetary compensation for the settlement.

Although auto-related uses were stipulated in the zoning conditions as a prohibited use, an applicant reserves the right to request that the stipulation be removed. My concern is not imposing a deed restriction is that the request to remove the stipulation restricting auto-related uses can be granted by any future Board of Commissioners. A deed restriction would require court action. All in all—this is a big win for our community!



Board of Commissioners Redistricting

The Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to pass the home rule redistricting resolution in party-line vote that will keep Commissioner Jerica Richardson in office. The resolution, which includes reverting the commission district maps to those drawn by Representative Erick Allen (left), starting Jan. 1, 2023, did not have any bearing on the 2022 general elections.

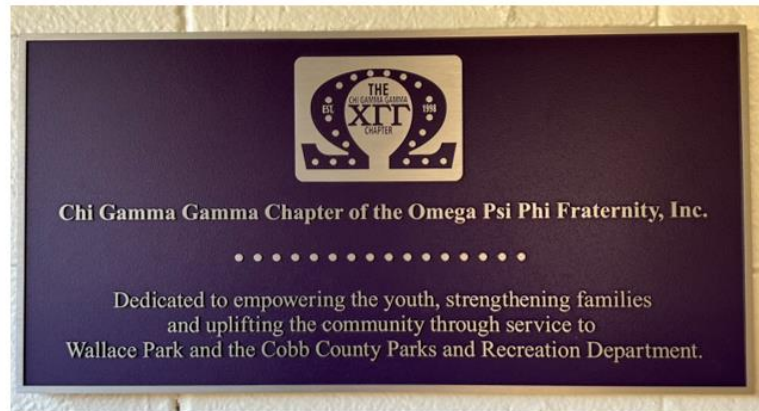


The proposal would change the commission's district boundaries to reflect the map it approved and incorporated into H.B. 1256 (<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61866>).

Update: On December 20 the Cobb Board of Elections determined that they are not the appropriate authority to render a court judgment. This means the question of Commissioner Richardson's status in office may remain unresolved before two conflicting County Commission maps take effect on January 1, 2023.

Wallace Park Beautification

The fraternity brothers of Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. partner with PARKS to assist with the beautification of Wallace Park. Their beautification efforts included picking up litter, painting the pavilions, picnic tables, and pressure-washing the pavilion walls and concrete paving. Thank you for your service and commitment to our community.



Annual Community Halloween Event

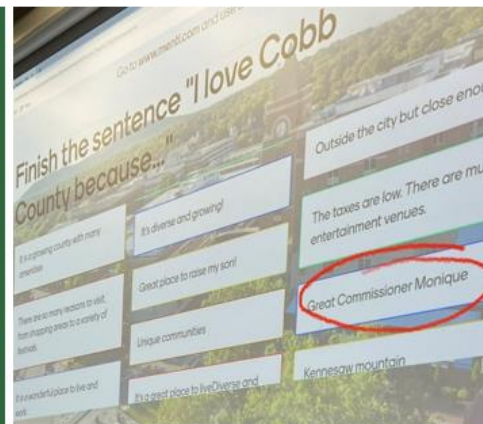
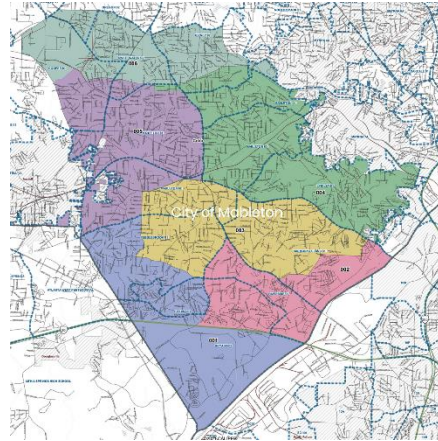
Our annual trunk or treat for the Osborne was a SPOOKtacular event. The kids and four-legged friends came dressed in their fun and scary Halloween costumes. Everyone enjoyed live music, games, hot dogs, popcorn, and of course, candy. The event would not have been a success without our community partners. A special thanks to the organizers, Deedra Watts (Commissioner Sheffield's assistant), Cynthia Edwards (District 4 appointee to the Neighborhood Safety Commissioner), and Major Bullock of Precinct 3. Additional thanks to David Harris of the NSC, Cobb Fire, Police, and Library; MUST Ministries for providing fresh fruits and vegetables.



November

Mableton Cityhood passed on November 8 and will now become the seventh largest city in Cobb County with approximately 77,000 residents. The new city includes Mableton, portions of unincorporated Austell, and unincorporated Smyrna.

For additional information and FAQs, please visit cobbcounty.org or email monique.sheffield@cobbcounty.org. The county will work with a transition team as appointed by Governor Kemp as well as the newly elected officials for the city for the next two years. There will be information sessions in the coming months to keep the community apprised of the transition.



Cobb County Government in partnership with Accenture will conduct a community listening session and share information regarding the ongoing development of the county-wide Comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan. This is an opportunity for all community members to impact the future of the county through sharing experiences, insights, and aspirations with district and county leadership. I was pleasantly surprised and humbled to see my name as one of the reasons that my constituents love Cobb County! It is my pleasure to serve.

Thanksgiving Activities

My assistant Deedra and I had the pleasure of partaking in a Thanksgiving luncheon with our seniors at the Freeman Poole Senior Center. The South Cobb Gospel Choir serenaded us over our feast as we reflected on the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Thanks to the staff at Freeman Poole, Sandee Panichi, Deputy Director of Cobb Senior Service, the staff at Delmar Gardens and all who helped to make this a great event.



November 19 proved to be a very busy and fulfilling day! Reflections of Trinity Community outreach was overwhelmingly successful. Over 1300 families were served and received a turkey with all the Thanksgiving fixings to make their holiday complete. A special thanks to Pastor Laurie Wong for the opportunity to serve the community alongside her and the Reflections of Trinity team and other volunteers.



December

The Mable House tree lighting ceremony was an evening was filled with carolers, hot cocoa and treats, a visit from Santa, and to top off the evening a movie showing of The Grinch. Thank you to our Parks Department staff for making it a fun-filled evening.



Cobb unveils site for new Family Advocacy Center

Cobb District Attorney Flynn D. Broady, Jr. hosted a building dedication for the first Georgia Family. Modeled after similar Family Justice Centers around the country, the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) will provide services to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking victims.



COBB FAMILY ADVOCACY
CENTER

**BUILDING DEDICATION
CEREMONY**

The creation of the Family Advocacy Center was made possible due to the collaboration of community partners, including the Cobb County Board of Commissioners, County Manager Dr. McMorris, LiveSafe Resources, Safepath Children's Advocacy Center, the Cobb County Police and Sheriff's Department, the Cobb Solicitor's Office, Public Safety Director Randy Crider, Legal Aid of Atlanta, and many more community service agencies. The building is located at 277 Fairground Street SE, Marietta 30060.

Spending time with our seniors

Freeman Poole basket making class was a huge success! I had the opportunity to spend time with the Silver Sneakers group on Friday, December 9th where attendees learned to make a Snack Attack holiday basket. The Snack Attack box was filled with yummy treats for attendees to enjoy or to gift to someone else. I had such a wonderful time and I look forward to joining them again for other basket-making classes.



BASKET MAKING

Christmas Celebration



The Friends of Mableton, First Christian Church of Mableton, Lions Club, and Lee Sanders hosted their first Mableton Square party right outside of Mableton Elementary School.

The event was filled with performers, exhibitors, treats and hot chocolate to keep us warm. There were special appearances by the Pebblebrook Gospel Choir, Esau Afaou Praise Dancers, the Smith Acoustic Dou, and of course, Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Thank you to all who made this event a success!

DOT

The Board of Commissioners passed several Department of Transportation (DOT) agenda items with the following being of notable mention:

February 8th, the creation of two new Street Light Districts at Edgemoore @ Milford, Phase II and Schaffer Road. The item is available in the Street Light District Fund approved FY22 Operating Budget.

March 8, Hillcrest Sidewalk improvements

March 22, Mableton Parkway Pedestrian Improvements, Phase 2

May 10, Mable Oak Development Roadway improvements on Veterans Memorial & Burruss Road

May 10, Church Road Sidewalk Improvement (Project No. X2774)

June 14, Ewing Road Sidewalk Improvement – adding a five-foot-wide sidewalk along the east side of Ewing Road

July 12, Chattahoochee River Trail Pedestrian Improvements

August 9, Intersection Improvements to Riverside Parkway at White Road (B2309) and South Gordon Road at Pisgah Road (B2310)

August 23, Installation of a traffic signal at Floyd Road & Glore Roads

September 13, Old Alabama Road Sidewalk improvements (Old Alabama – Maxham to Thunderwood Roads)

September 13, Intersection improvements on Powder Springs Road at Flint Hill Road/Pine Grove Drive & Powder Springs Road at Deercreek Drive

September 27, Resolution adopted authorizing submission of a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant application for East-West Connector Corridor Improvements planning project

September 27, Resolution authorizing the submission of a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grant application - Georgia Department of Natural Resources with funding construction of Chattahoochee River Trailhead

October 10, Approved Supplemental Agreement No. 2 (Project X2769-TO#01) – engineering design of Old Alabama Road Sidewalk

Zoning

District 4 received 77 new zoning applications for 2022, the breakdown is as follows: 58 zoning applications and 19 Other Business cases.