

Summerbrooke Newsletter

summerbrooke-community.com

Edition: 1st Quarter 2006

February

Robin Ferguson—President

John McKinney—Co-Vice President / Recreation Area Chairman

Henry Gomez—Co-Vice President

Gary Greenhut—Secretary

Kathryn Bigliardi—Treasurer

Richard Maritt—Manager

Vacant—ACC Chairperson

Dave Ford—Landscape Chairman

Pat Webster—Tennis Chairperson

Vicki Swaney—Social Chairperson

Teresa Parkinson—Newsletter Editor

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BOARD MEETINGS

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING is Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 7p **at the Kennesaw Public Library**. Additional meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of every *other* month. A sign at the entrance of the neighborhood will be

placed out a few days in advance as a reminder. Please join us at those meetings held at the Kennesaw Library (just off Main Street @ Lewis Street, 770.528.2529). The next public meeting after the March meeting will be held on

May 4, 2006.



PRESIDENT'S PIECE



Dear Neighbors,

As I sit down to write this short note to you the sun is shining and the temperature outside is over 60 degrees. This morning I noticed that my roses are beginning to put out new shoots. Spring, I think, is just around the corner. Although we have probably some days of cold weather to come I am reminded how lucky I am to live in this neighborhood with it's modern well kept homes and gardens, with it's own tennis facilities just a few minutes walk down the

road and most of all with it's friendly inhabitants.

But now to more mundane but important things—Richard Maritt resigned from the HOA Board, and from his position as Treasurer and Secretary, at the end of last year. His new relationship with our Association began on January 1st, 2006. Richard is now the President of Just Right Management, LLC which is the Management Company we have hired to help us manage Summerbrooke Subdivision.

Kathryn Bigliardi is

now the Association Treasurer and she will be working closely with Mr. Maritt to ensure our finances are kept on a sound footing and are properly recorded.

After my appeal in our last Newsletter for a volunteer to join the HOA Board, Gary Greenhut came to see me and he is now a confirmed member of the Board and has been elected by the other Board members to the position of Association Secretary. We are in the process of try-



(Continued from Page 1—President's Piece)

ing to improve the entrance. The brick walls which form the gateway to Summerbrooke, although only about 10 years old, were beginning to crumble. We have had them cleaned and re-pointed. We are going to have the stucco/plaster work which surrounds the subdivision name repaired. The lighting too had deteriorated and in some cases had become covered by plant growth. This will be repaired and rejuvenated in the next few weeks. At an appropriate time in the next couple of months we hope to improve the planting, particularly on the island, to give more color and a more attractive and welcoming appearance. In this regard if any of you have ideas as to how the landscaping at the entrance could be affordably improved we would love to hear from you.

We regularly inspect the pool, tennis courts and the club house to ensure they continue to be maintained properly and are working on a few minor issues. A climbing pole attached to the children's playground equipment was broken sometime in the past few weeks. We will

have this repaired soon.

At the beginning of this letter I noted that a new growth was already beginning in my garden. In not too many weeks it will be time again to begin pulling weeds, cutting grass, trimming shrubs and generally tending to our yards. I suspect that for a few of you this is an unwelcome chore, but hope that most of you enjoy getting out in the fresh air and keeping your homes and their surroundings looking attractive and cared for. I ask you all to help keep our neighborhood looking good.

Our next open Board meeting will be held on March 2nd at the downtown Kennesaw Library. I hope that some of you will be able to attend that meeting.

~ Robin Ferguson



ACC UPDATE

ACC Modification Request Forms must be submitted *more than 14 days prior to beginning your project*. Most communities require 30 or more days; Summerbrooke is requiring only 14 days. A group of volunteers with varying schedules, work commitments, and family commitments must review these submissions and collectively make a decision. Please respect their time and efforts and submit your requests *more than 14 days prior to beginning your project*.

When repainting your home, whether you are changing the color or not, the forms must be accompanied by paint chips which indicate on them (or be written on the form) the brand, paint name/number, and on which part of the home they will be applied (i.e., siding, trim, doors/shutters, etc.).

For all other submitted requests, please ensure you submit the requested samples and/or pictures (especially when colors, textures, or materials used are to change from what is currently in place).

The ACC Modification Request Form has been included in past newsletters, mailed to each homeowner in September 2005, and may be obtained from the website: <http://www.summerbrooke-community.com/acc.htm>. If you do not have Internet access, request a copy from Just Right Management, LLC at (770) 425-1712.

The Design Standards and Rules & Regulations require items not be stored where they are visible from the street. They are not be stored on the sides of your home nor on the front of it. Storage of these items includes garbage cans, recycle bins, ladders, wheelbarrows, etc. It is slowly becoming more and more common that many residents are storing their garbage cans on the side of their home. This is unacceptable and can cause fines to be charged for doing so.

The City of Kennesaw also requires, as does Summerbrooke, that all garbage and recycling containers be placed out *only* on the day of pick-up and removed from the street to a *non-visible* area of the home *on the same day of pick-up*.



FINANCIAL

Profit and Loss Statement Summerbrooke HOA, Inc.

G/L ACCOUNT	PERIOD MONTH OF January 2006			YEAR-TO-DATE 1 MONTH ENDING JAN 31, 2006			FISCAL YEAR
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	BUDGET
OPERATING CASH RECEIPTS							
Regular Association Fees	235.80	0.00	235.80	235.80	0.00	235.80	49,280.00
Special Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ACC Fines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest-Delinquent Accounts	50.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Attorney Fees-Members	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Filing Fees-Members	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rtd Check Fees-Members	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Ad Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	285.80	0.00	285.80	285.80	0.00	285.80	49,280.00
OPERATING CASH DISBURSEMENTS							
Electric	468.32	175.00	293.32	468.32	175.00	293.32	5,535.00
Water and Sewage	252.95	175.00	77.95	252.95	175.00	77.95	2,825.00
Sanitation	30.00	30.00	0.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	360.00
Management Fee	450.00	450.00	0.00	450.00	450.00	0.00	5,400.00
Insurance	225.00	225.00	0.00	225.00	225.00	0.00	2,685.00
Legal Fees	1,132.50	1,000.00	132.50	1,132.50	1,000.00	132.50	2,100.00
Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postage and Printing	74.76	175.00	(100.24)	74.76	175.00	(100.24)	785.00
Office Supplies	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	300.00
Telephone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Administrative	0.00	30.00	(30.00)	0.00	30.00	(30.00)	140.00
Social	0.00	20.00	(20.00)	0.00	20.00	(20.00)	680.00
Property Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Landscape Maintenance	945.00	650.00	295.00	945.00	650.00	295.00	7,800.00
Pinestraw	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Flowers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Irrigation Repairs and Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Pool Service	405.00	405.00	0.00	405.00	405.00	0.00	5,355.00
Pool Maintenance and Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Pool Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	625.00
Pool Permit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Pool Phone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	415.00
Tennis Courts	0.00	75.00	(75.00)	0.00	75.00	(75.00)	300.00
Clubhouse Maintenance	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	650.00
Janitorial Service	180.00	225.00	(45.00)	180.00	225.00	(45.00)	3,825.00
Common Area Improv.	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	600.00
Common Area Maint. & Repair	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	600.00
Misc. Repairs & Supplies	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	300.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	4,163.53	3,835.00	328.53	4,163.53	3,835.00	328.53	45,930.00
RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	<u>(3,877.73)</u>	<u>(3,835.00)</u>	<u>(42.73)</u>	<u>(3,877.73)</u>	<u>(3,835.00)</u>	<u>(42.73)</u>	<u>3,350.00</u>

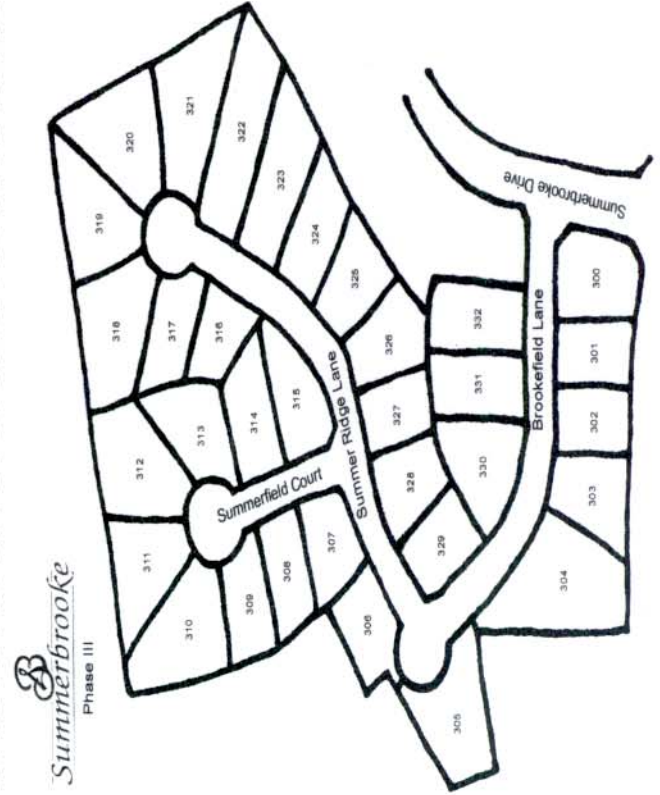
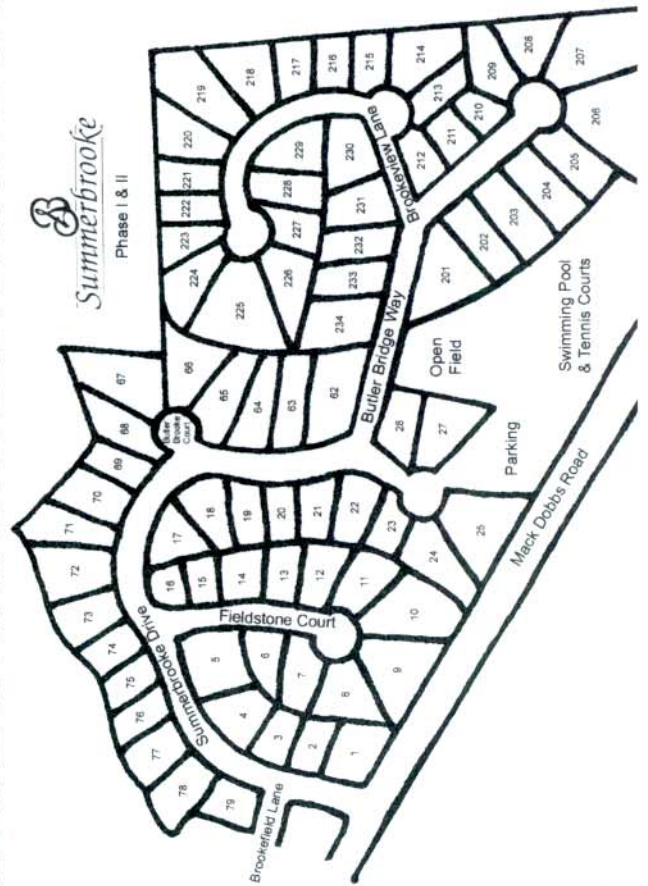
Addresses Paid in Full

(including Dues, Interest, and Fines) as of 2/16/2006 11am

Lot#	Address	Lot#	Address	Lot#	Address	Lot#	Address				
206	2600 Mack Dobbs Road	69	2677 Summerbrooke Drive	13	3107 Fieldstone Court	224	3126 Brookeview Lane	300	2701 Brookefield Lane	320	2783 Summer Ridge Lane
25	2655 Summerbrooke Drive	70	2679 Summerbrooke Drive	12	3109 Fieldstone Court	225	3127 Brookeview Lane	79	2702 Brookefield Lane	321	2784 Summer Ridge Lane
24	2656 Summerbrooke Drive	17	2680 Summerbrooke Drive	7	3110 Fieldstone Court	223	3128 Brookeview Lane	301	2703 Brookefield Lane	319	2785 Summer Ridge Lane
23	2658 Summerbrooke Drive	71	2681 Summerbrooke Drive	11	3111 Fieldstone Court	226	3129 Brookeview Lane	332	2704 Brookefield Lane	322	2786 Summer Ridge Lane
27	2659 Summerbrooke Drive	72	2683 Summerbrooke Drive	8	3112 Fieldstone Court	222	3130 Brookeview Lane	302	2705 Brookefield Lane	318	2787 Summer Ridge Lane
22	2660 Summerbrooke Drive	16	2684 Summerbrooke Drive	10	3113 Fieldstone Court	221	3132 Brookeview Lane	331	2706 Brookefield Lane	323	2788 Summer Ridge Lane
28	2661 Summerbrooke Drive	73	2685 Summerbrooke Drive	9	3114 Fieldstone Court	227	3133 Brookeview Lane	303	2707 Brookefield Lane	317	2789 Summer Ridge Lane
21	2662 Summerbrooke Drive	74	2687 Summerbrooke Drive	207	2633 Butler Bridge Way	220	3134 Brookeview Lane	330	2708 Brookefield Lane	324	2790 Summer Ridge Lane
29	2663 Summerbrooke Drive	75	2689 Summerbrooke Drive	208	2635 Butler Bridge Way	219	3136 Brookeview Lane	304	2709 Brookefield Lane	316	2791 Summer Ridge Lane
20	2664 Summerbrooke Drive	76	2691 Summerbrooke Drive	205	2636 Butler Bridge Way	218	3138 Brookeview Lane	329	2710 Brookefield Lane	325	2792 Summer Ridge Lane
63	2665 Summerbrooke Drive	4	2692 Summerbrooke Drive	209	2637 Butler Bridge Way	228	3139 Brookeview Lane	305	2711 Brookefield Lane	315	2793 Summer Ridge Lane
64	2667 Summerbrooke Drive	77	2693 Summerbrooke Drive	204	2638 Butler Bridge Way	217	3140 Brookeview Lane	311	2990 Summerfield Court	326	2794 Summer Ridge Lane
19	2668 Summerbrooke Drive	3	2694 Summerbrooke Drive	210	2639 Butler Bridge Way	216	3142 Brookeview Lane	310	2991 Summerfield Court	327	2796 Summer Ridge Lane
18	2670 Summerbrooke Drive	78	2695 Summerbrooke Drive	203	2640 Butler Bridge Way	215	3144 Brookeview Lane	312	2992 Summerfield Court	328	2798 Summer Ridge Lane
65	2669 Butler Brooke Court	2	2696 Summerbrooke Drive	211	2641 Butler Bridge Way	214	3146 Brookeview Lane	309	2993 Summerfield Court	306	2799 Summer Ridge Lane
66	2671 Butler Brooke Court	1	2698 Summerbrooke Drive	202	2642 Butler Bridge Way	213	3148 Brookeview Lane	313	2994 Summerfield Court		
67	2673 Butler Brooke Court	5	3100 Fieldstone Court	212	2643 Butler Bridge Way	229	3149 Brookeview Lane	308	2995 Summerfield Court		
68	2675 Butler Brooke Court	15	3103 Fieldstone Court	201	2644 Butler Bridge Way	230	3151 Brookeview Lane	314	2996 Summerfield Court		
		14	3105 Fieldstone Court	233	2645 Butler Bridge Way	231	3153 Brookeview Lane	307	2997 Summerfield Court		
		6	3106 Fieldstone Court	234	2647 Butler Bridge Way	232	3155 Brookeview Lane				

If an address is grayed, use of the amenities (pool, tennis courts, playground) is suspended.

Please contact the Just Right Management, LLC at 770.425.1712 or hoa@summerbrooke-community.com to resolve.



MORE FINANCIAL



Delinquent Accounts Update

As of February 9th, 3 of your neighbors have not paid all of the amounts they owe *from years prior to 2006!* The total amount they owe is \$1670.54. Of these, two have both a lien and a lawsuit filed against them. The third homeowner has diligently been paying via a payment plan and should have their account paid no later than March 2006; the Board thanks that homeowner for their diligence in clearing their account!

For 2006, all delinquent homeowners will have a lien filed against their home once any payment is past due. There is no grace period allowed past the due date; payments are due on or before the date indicated. If the lien is not paid off prior to 30 days after it is filed, a lawsuit will be filed against the homeowner(s) and a default judgment will be sought. As in previous years, all of the paid addresses will be published in each newsletter and will be posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse. To be indicated as a "paid" address, all association fees, interest, fines, and other amounts owed must be cleared.

It is important to note that the Association does not incur long-term costs for the lien and lawsuit filings. The Association pays the cost of the lien filings and those costs are added to the amount of the lien which the homeowner must pay to settle it. When the lien/lawsuit is paid off, the Association gets back the lien filings costs from the homeowner! The attorneys do not charge the Association their fees; those fees are also added to the amount of the lien so the attorneys get their fees paid to them when the lien/lawsuit is settled.

Paying Association Fees

Summerbrooke may now be paid by using a credit/debit card or your bank account by going through PayPal. This is the same service which is used by eBay and other internet services as a very secure method for payments. You can pay Summerbrooke via your current PayPal account or by setting up a new

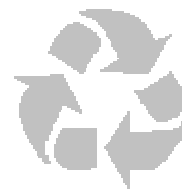
one (they are free). You can access PayPal directly or by using the Pay Summerbrooke option on the menu of the Summerbrooke website.

Once on PayPal, select to Send Money. Use "hoa@summerbrooke-community.com" as the Recipient Email and select "Services" as the Category. You must add \$5 to the amount you are paying the Association as there is a convenience fee applied to each transaction for using the service to pay us. Therefore, if you are paying the \$110 payment due on February 15th, you would enter \$115 on the PayPal site (or \$445 if paying the entire year's amount of \$440). *(Failure to add the \$5 to the amount you are paying the Association will result in your account being delinquent, interest accruing, and a lien being filed if the outstanding amount is not cleared.)*

We hope you enjoy the new option to pay in the manner. You may, of course, continue to pay by mailing checks or money orders to (or dropping them off at) the Association mailbox at 2657 Summerbrooke Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152.

KENNESAW NEWS & REMINDERS

City Council Meetings: For those of you who may be upset with changes within Kennesaw (for example, the way they now allow on-street overnight parking), you should be present at the City Council meetings. The Kennesaw City Council meets at City Hall at 6:30 PM on the following dates in 2006: February 21, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15, June 5 & 19, July 3 & 17, August 7 & 21, September 5 & 18, October 2 & 16, November 6 & 20, and December 4 & 18.



Kennesaw Recycles: The City of Kennesaw is now accepting cell phones and rechargeable batteries for recycling. Drop off points for these items include: Kennesaw City Hall lobby-2529 JO Stephenson Ave., City of Kennesaw Police Department lobby-2529 JO Stephenson Ave. and Kennesaw Community Center-2753 Watts Drive. For more information, call (770) 421-8582.



Congratulations to Lewis & Beth Bramlett on the birth of their baby boy, *Andrew James*. He was born on December 28, 2005 at 9:36 am, and was 20 “ long and weighed 6 lbs and 15 oz.

Congratulations to Mike & Cassie Field on the birth of their baby girl, *Lacey Samantha*. She was born on January 12, 2006 at 12:22 pm, and was 18 “ long and weighed 6 lbs and 7 oz. After surgery and a short hospital stay Lacey is home, and she and mom are doing fine.

Congratulations to Chris & Melissa Bruck on the birth of their baby girl, *Chloe Rose*. She was born on February 6, 2006 at 1:04 pm, and was 19 “ long and weighed 7 lbs and 5 oz.

Brian and Wendy Snipes are our new neighbors at 2794 Summer Ridge Lane .

Mr. & Mrs. Neemias Sirqueira are our new neighbors at 2710 Brookefield Lane.

Stuart & Mariah Henry are our new neighbors at 3138 Brookeview Lane .

Warmest of welcomes to our new neighbors! We are glad to have all of you in our community.

FOOD NEEDED: MUST Ministries warehouse food supply is running low on the following items: rice, flour, sugar, grits, cornmeal, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned meat, juices and dry cereal. Foods can be taken straight to MUST at 55 Elizabeth Church Rd. in Marietta, (770) 427-9862. Also needed are a pallet jack and 2-wheel hand trucks for the warehouse. See <http://www.mustministries.org/Pages/Donations.asp>.

SUMMERBROOKE SANITATION

Exception dates are noted in ***bold italics***. Please only set out your garbage, recycling, or yard waste on the indicated days or the night before.

RECYCLING (usually every Wednesday)

Feb 15	Feb 22	March 1
March 8	March 15	March 22
March 29	April 5	April 12
April 19	April 26	May 3
May 10	May 17	May 24
May 31		

For products eligible for recycling call 770.421.8582 or see <http://kennesaw-ga.gov/documents/Public%20Works/RECYCLE%20ITEM%20RULES.pdf>.

GARBAGE (usually every Tuesday & Friday)

Feb 14	Tue	Feb 17	Fri
Feb 22	Wed	Feb 24	Fri
Feb 28	Tue	March 3	Fri
March 7	Tue	March 10	Fri
March 14	Tue	March 17	Fri
March 21	Tue	March 24	Fri
March 28	Tue	March 31	Fri
April 4	Tue	April 7	Fri
April 11	Tue	April 13	Thu
April 18	Tue	April 21	Fri
April 25	Tue	April 28	Fri
May 2	Tue	May 5	Fri
May 9	Tue	May 12	Fri
May 16	Tue	May 19	Fri
May 23	Tue	May 26	Fri
May 31	Wed	June 2	Fri

YARD TRIMMINGS (usually every Wednesday)

Feb 15	Wed	Feb 23	Thu
March 1	Wed	March 8	Wed
March 15	Wed	March 22	Wed
March 29	Wed	April 5	Wed
April 12	Wed	April 19	Wed
April 26	Wed	May 3	Wed
May 10	Wed	May 17	Wed
May 24	Wed	May 31	Thu

For any questions, issues, or request for more bins, please contact the Public Works Department at 770.421.8582 or email at public-works@kennesaw.ga.us.

MOVE OVER OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES

Georgia's new Move-Over Law says drivers must move-over for emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the highway. The law is meant to keep officers AND traffic violators safe from crashes with passing cars.

The Move-Over Law was passed in the aftermath of growing numbers of police, emergency technicians and DOT workers being killed during routine traffic stops, crash responses and highway construction projects around the nation. Right now, more than thirty states have Move-Over Laws on the books, with fines that range as high as a thousand dollars or more in some jurisdictions. The Move-Over fine in Georgia is an "attention-getting" \$500.

However, failure to obey the Move-Over Law can lead to consequences far more serious than fines. According to FBI statistics, traffic crashes claim the lives of more police personnel than any other cause of death in the line of duty, including shootings. The FBI says last year, forty-nine officers died in crashes across the country. Thirteen of those law enforcement officers were struck and killed by passing vehicles while they worked outside their patrol cars.

"Georgia's Move-Over Law was meant to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, tow truck operators and highway maintenance workers," said Director Bob Dallas of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Reports show emergency vehicles of all types have been struck while parked beside Georgia highways, even while their emergency lights were flashing.

The Georgia Move-Over Law requires drivers to move-over one lane when possible if an emergency vehicle with flashing lights is parked on the shoulder of the highway. If traffic is too heavy to move-over safely, the law requires drivers to slow down below the posted speed limit instead AND to be prepared to stop.



FEBRUARY 3RD WAS NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY.

Some of us may have missed the day of celebration, but you can celebrate the cause every day by making easy everyday choices to

live a heart healthier life:

Get up off the couch. Step, march or jog in place for at least 30 minutes most days of the week.

Quit smoking in four steps. Cut the number of cigarettes you smoke each day in half; then in half again, finally, cut down to zero.

Drop a pound or two. Cutting out just 200-300 calories a day (about one candy bar's worth) can help you lose up to two pounds a week and gradually bring you closer to a heart-healthy weight.

Know your numbers—your blood pressure, cholesterol count, current weight and height. Make an appointment with your physician to have these checked.

Register today to receive your free red dress pin and share the message of the fight against heart disease. Call 1-888-MY-HEART (888-694-3278) or visit www.goredforwomen.org to learn more.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

For the new homeowners in Summerbrooke and for those residents in which your own home's ownership may have changed for some reason, remember you must apply for homestead exemption no later than March 1!

To file your homestead exemption, download the forms at <http://www.cobbtax.org/Forms/HtmlFrame.aspx?mode=content/taxforms.htm> (or go to <http://www.cobbtax.org>, click Property Taxes at the top of the page and click Property Tax Forms at the top of the next page). The first form listed is for all homeowners. The exemptions are automatically renewed each year unless there is a change in ownership or you no longer meet the eligibility requirements. You do not need to reapply for exemptions if you refinance your home. To legally change ownership into your name a new deed must be recorded in Superior Court. A copy of the recorded warrant deed is required with all completed applications. Applications may be returned by mail or in person.

The Tax Commissioner's office has relocated and is no longer on Marietta Square! It is at 736 Whitlock Avenue, Suite 100, in Marietta. For more information, call 770.528.8600 or email tax@cobbtax.org.

OTHER EXEMPTIONS

There are many other forms which can be used for further exemptions by certain homeowners (only one of the home's owners needs to meet the requirements to file using these

exemptions):

Cobb County Regular Homestead: Homeowners who meet the regular Homestead Exemption requirements are entitled to a \$10,000 exemption in the county general and school general tax categories. The regular Homestead Exemption reduces the tax bill by approximately \$250.00, depending on the millage rate.

The Cobb County Taxpayer Reassessment Relief Act, which affects homestead property that is *reassessed*, automatically increases the Homestead Exemption amount in the County General tax category by the same amount that the value increases.

Cobb County School Tax: Homeowners who are 62 years of age on or before January 1 are entitled to a full exemption in the school general and school bond tax categories. You must furnish proof of age when you apply.

State Regular Homestead: This exemption applies only to the state tax category. All Georgia residents who meet the regular Homestead Exemption requirements are entitled to a \$2,000 exemption.

State Senior Citizens \$4,000 Homestead: This exemption affects only the state, county bond, and fire district tax categories. Homeowners who are 65 years of age on or before January 1, and whose annual NET income does not exceed \$10,000 for the immediately preceding tax year (including income of the spouse but not including Social Security or retirement income), are entitled to a

\$4,000 exemption. You must furnish proof of age and income when you apply.

Cobb County \$22,000 Disability: This exemption applies to all tax categories except the state. Homeowners who are disabled on or before January 1, and whose annual NET income (including income of the spouse but not including income received as a result of the disability; e.g., disability retirement) does not exceed \$12,000 for the immediately preceding year are entitled to a \$22,000 exemption. You must furnish proof of income and a doctor's certificate stating that you are disabled and that the disability is likely to remain permanent.

State Veteran's Disability: This exemption applies to all tax categories. Homeowners who are disabled veterans as defined in O.C.G.A. 48-5-48 are entitled to a \$50,000 exemption. You must provide legally required documentation. This exemption extends to the unremarried surviving spouse or minor children at the time of the applicant's death, provided they continue to occupy the home as a residence and homestead.

State Unremarried Surviving Spouse: This \$50,000 exemption applies to the state, county, municipal and school tax categories as defined in O.C.G.A. section 48-5-52.1. Any citizen who is the unremarried surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces killed in any war or conflict and receiving spousal benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs is eligible. Legal documentation is required.

MEETING TO DISCUSS WATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) will hold a public information meeting 10 a.m. Monday, **Feb. 13**, at the Kennesaw Library, 2250 Lewis St., to draft plans to reduce pollutants in the Little River Embayment of Lake Allatoona. The City of Kennesaw has been identified as a stakeholder in the Coosa River Basin, which includes segments of Proctor Creek and Butler Creek. For more information, attend the meeting and visit <http://www.atlantaregional.com/cleanerstreams/coosa.html>.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PUT YOUR CELL PHONE ON ICE...

A movement is underway to turn the ubiquitous cell phone into a source of information for paramedics and other emergency personnel responding to accidents, crimes and disasters.

A British paramedic came up with the idea of asking cell phone users to input an entry into the cellular phonebook called ICE for "in case of emergency." Accompanying that acronym would be the name and phone numbers of the person who should be called if something happened to the owner of the phone.

The ICE campaign was launched in Britain in April, but people really started paying attention after the July terrorist bombings in London that killed 56 and injured hundreds.

Bob Brotchie, a Cambridge-based paramedic for 13 years, says he has responded to many accidents in which the injured person carried no information about next of kin or emergency contacts. This makes it difficult for paramedics because they don't know the patient's medical history or allergies, he says.

The British campaign, initially promoted in conjunction with Vodafone's annual Life Savers Awards, is "going phenomenally well," says Brotchie. Vodafone is a British mobile phone company.

Now paramedics in the USA want to encourage ICE usage by Americans. "I certainly think it can help," says Matthew Levy of the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics. "(We are) hoping that we

can get people excited."

Joe Farren of the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association-Wireless Network says the industry is definitely interested in joining the campaign.

And word is spreading in the USA via news reports and word of mouth.

Linda Huntress of Meredith, NH, received an email about ICE that she forwarded to her friends and family. She programmed ICE into her phone, noting that it's better than other forms of identification because women sometimes go out without a purse but bring their cell phone.

"Basically, we have cell phones so that we have a way to reach help," she says. "I would want my family to know what happened to me."

Farren says there are so many different US service providers that one of the challenges is getting all the companies to promote use of the same acronym. If they don't it will be confusing to those who need the number, he says. *By Elyse Andrews, USA Today*

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