

September 2020 Newsletter

Mayor's Message



With the month of August behind us we find our little community still facing a number of issues in this incredible year 2020. I personally can't wait to get this particular year behind us and move into a safer, more open time where coming together for a gathering on the Green isn't considered hazardous. I miss the live music on Sundays with Dave & Daria and the Craft Beer or Arts & Crafts Festivals that we enjoyed over the years in The Park which brought many of our neighbors from the surrounding subdivisions down here to have fun with us. Those days will find us again but we will be a smarter and more cautious community with our approach. Such is life's lessons.

We also face another one of our greatest challenges which is to continue providing Public Safety for our citizens that include Fire, Police and 911 services. Roswell is requiring approximately a 600% increase in the cost of these services for the City of Mountain Park in the near future which could mean a huge tax increase. We are studying all of our options and they are limited at best but we will continue to work on identifying a better plan and new relationships to provide these services for our community.

I want to acknowledge the Dasher, Hendricks, King, Kolbrener, McKenzie, Menden and Murphy families who have stepped up in making an effort to keep our community looking beautiful and clean. Also Gisela for her continued efforts to keep the Green as beautiful as ever. Thank you!

A monumental election for our country is coming up this November and I encourage all citizens regardless of your preferences to come out and vote. It will truly set the course for the United States of America for many years to come. Remember whether you vote or don't vote you will get the government you deserve.

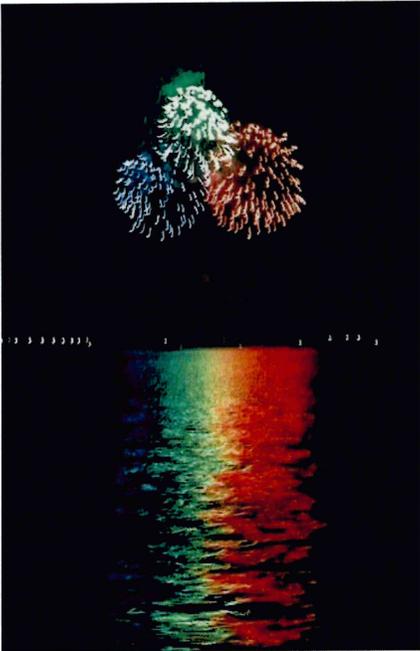
Thanks and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Jim Still Jr



Mountain Park Fireworks

September 6th at Dark the City will be holding the fireworks show that we postponed back on July 4th. The City is looking forward to providing this to all our citizens and hopes everyone will get to see them on Sunday night. There are a few things listed below that we ask all citizens to be aware of for the event.



1. A portion of the roadway by the pool area will be blocked for the event beginning at 7:00pm. One of the blockades will be at the Mountain Park Rd. and Spruce St. intersection. The other blockade will be at the Mountain Park Rd. and Russell Rd. intersection. Please plan accordingly due to the restricted access and diverting of traffic in the area.
2. Parking will not be allowed at the event. Please plan on walking to the lake if you are not able to view them from where you live.
3. Social Distancing needs to be used during the event. Please remain 6 feet apart from anyone that is not living in your household.
4. ENJOY THE SHOW!!!!!!!

GACD and local Conservation Districts announce Georgia Conservation Assistance Program

Application period for funding starts September 10 and ends September 30

In urban areas, stormwater runoff is one of the major sources of pollution that impacts watersheds. Green infrastructure practices such as cisterns, dry wells and rain gardens installed in residential areas can reduce the rate of stormwater runoff & water pollution in urban areas all while maintaining a beautiful home exterior.

Georgia Conservation Assistance Program (GCAP) is a partnership between the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD), Cobb County Conservation District and Fulton County Conservation District that will fund the installation of green infrastructure practices on residential properties located in Cobb and Fulton County.

GACD and the Conservation Districts are partnering with the University of Georgia to host a free virtual workshop that will provide information on green infrastructure practices and maintenance, and outline the GCAP program and application procedure. This virtual workshop will be held on September 10 at 10am and again at 6:30pm. **Anyone who participates in the workshop will receive extra points on their GCAP application.**

GCAP application period will be open September 10- 30, 2020. For more information and to register for the virtual workshop, please visit www.gacd.us/gcap . Also see the attached flyer.

Civic Club News

We will meet at the Community Building at 7:00 pm on Tues, Sep 8, 2020, and will Follow COVID-19 Guidelines for Meetings (Masks, Social Distancing, Hand Sanitizer) Persons occupying the same household may sit together.

We will take our final vote on an amendment that will enable members to attend meetings virtually and to vote.

We will keep our reservations for **The Events Calendar** for this Year until Covid-19 numbers improve, with hopes of coming up with creative ways to do some outdoor things this fall. (For Example: Saturday Coffee-W-Neighbors Sat, Sep 19, 9:30-11am, might be solved by including chairs spaced out on the patio.) We also have reserved days in Oct, Nov, and Dec. Come help us figure out how to use these dates creatively, while maintaining safety.

We are planning a Membership Drive and a number of suggestions of ways to work together and unite to serve our Community will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

COME JOIN Us at the Community Building

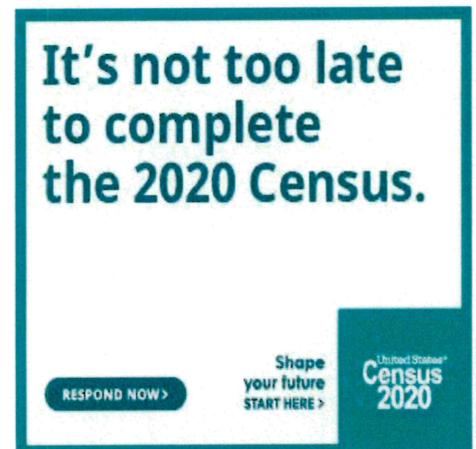
Please remember your mask

☺Free mini ice cream cones, Chocolate and Vanilla ☺

2020 Census Ends September 30th!

If you have not responded online, by phone or by mail to the 2020 Census you need to do it now because the Census end date has been pushed up to September 30th. Those that have not responded to the 2020 Census will get a visit at their home from a Census taker before the end of September. Please review the attached documents for more information on what to expect if a Census Taker visits your home. To avoid a visit at your home you can respond to the Census today at 2020census.gov.

Mountain Park's current response rate is 76.8%.



About the 2020 Census

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The 2020 Census counts everyone who lives in the U.S. as of April 1, 2020. Census statistics help determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years.



MPVFR MESSAGE



I get asked all the time, if I think that things will go back to normal after COVID.

In return, I would ask back, "Well... What was normal for you?" Me asking that, would sometimes throw the person into a tailspin because he/she had never really thought about what their "normal" use to be.

What would each of you have considered your "norm" before COVID? Think about it. No, don't just make a face and move on to my next sentence. Slowly step away from the newsletter, take a deep breath, and think about it. Really think about it. The reason that I am asking is because "normal" is very vague. There are no specifics. "Normal work hours." "It was too loud to have a normal conversation." "Alabama had normal rainfall for this season." So, what is normal?

"Normal" is different to each area within the country, and to each person in each area. Even in each of your homes, there is a household "normal" and each person inside of the home has a "normal." However, the "norms" have changed. In fact, I don't think that "normal" exists anymore. Things have become very specific and I don't know about you but I'm okay with that. I'm okay with that because I realized that I was more in "Cruise Control" than I thought I was. I was taken back because I am a very detailed and plan driven person however; even that was a part of my "Cruise Control." Can you believe that?

How many of you realized that you were in Cruise Control as well? Shocked right?!? If you wore pearls, they would have been clutched by now, huh? Well, Mountain Park... This is why not "going back to normal after COVID" is important. We became very specific within each of our lives. And by doing so, look at how many improvements we have made. Improvements individually, as households, as communities, cities, counties, states, and as a country. Don't get me wrong, there is a still a bit of work to be done. But improvements have been made.

How many got to spend more time with your family? When before COVID, you kept telling yourself that you need to spend more time with your family? Got to make some home improvements? Before COVID, you looked at the same ugly tile in your master bathroom for years and yearned to change it and now look at you! New tile! I could lay out many examples... Books read and weight shed. I will let you fill in the blanks.

I like how far away from "normal" we have moved. Moving away from what "normal" was is moving us all in better directions for ourselves and as a people. Let's keep that positive energy up. Let's keep moving forward. Don't worry about what "normal" use to be. Let's not want to be "normal." That's too vague. Let's be exceptional. Let's continue growing into better, healthier, more loving people. There is this cliché line that says, "It's not about where you've been. It's about where you are going."

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "**Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.**" So let's stop talking about "going back to normal." Let's get excited for the possibilities of what's to come. I don't know about you, but I'm excited to see where we are going. Just as long as it is not "normal"... or like The Walking Dead.

Keep your head up my Mountain Park Family! We've been getting through this together and we will continue to do so. Continue to embrace the good moments! Let's continue to lift each other. And for Christ's sake... Live people. Live to your fullest potential and then some. Life is not the amount of breaths you take, it's the moments that take your breath away. You can't have those moments being "normal."

Lieutenant Michael Peck
EMS Lieutenant

Mountain Park Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Check out the Monarch's on the Green!



Code Enforcement in Mountain Park

What is a Code Compliance Officer?

In the City of Mountain Park, the Code Compliance Officer is a sworn employee of the city whose primary duties are in assisting the police department and other city personnel and agencies in the enforcement of certain laws of the city.

What laws/codes are being enforced?

These laws are set forth in the Code Book, which can be found on the website of the City of Mountain Park. It includes sections on parking, building ordinances, fishing or boating violations, leash violations, nuisances, and more. The codebook of the city can be found at this link:

https://library.municode.com/ga/mountain_park/codes/code_of_ordinances

How are laws enforced?

The process begins in three ways:

- First, by the individual taxpayer pro-actively, such as by obtaining a permit, parking their car properly, not letting their house or yard degrade into a nuisance, etc. This is the preferred approach!
- Second is by roving patrol, in which violations are identified by the Code Compliance Officer.
- Third, by complaints made by citizens to City Hall.

Any violation is then documented, fine paid at City Hall – if payment is allowed without a court proceeding - or otherwise processed through the court system, and corrective action taken.

How do I file a complaint?

All complaints should be directed to the City of Mountain Park

- **In person** at City Hall; or
- **By phone** 770-993-4231 (City Hall); or
- **By eMail:** code.compliance@mountainparkgov.com

Please do not contact the Code Compliance Officer directly – dispatch is handled *only* by Staff at City Hall.

What are current areas of emphasized enforcement activity?

Although the Code Compliance Officer has responsibility for a wide range of responsibilities, special emphasis in the Summer and Fall of 2020 is being placed on parking, and fishing and boating activities.

The most commonly encountered problems regarding **parking** are with vehicles, boats, trailers and RV's that are parked on unpaved surfaces, such as lawns, or driveways that are not up to code, parking in the right of way (no parking allowed on City Streets) or parking with expired or non-existent tags. This is an area that many residents can take care of now, before they are cited.

Fishing and boating violations are also commonplace, despite the codebook on the City's website and obvious signage. However the majority of violators recently cited are non-residents of the City of Mountain Park.

Permits are required for residents and non-residents alike, although City residents get a break on some of the permit fees. Separate permits are required for each category of fishing or boating, and can be easily obtained at City Hall.

City of Mountain Park boating and fishing permits are separate from your boat registration and fishing license issued by the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The City will issue honorary boating permits (no charge) to boaters over 65 years old who are property owners or residents of the city – but you have to come to city hall and get your permit! Although season passes are available at City Hall for fishing or boating, a day fishing pass is also conveniently obtainable on the City's website. Just click and fish!

Aside from not having a permit, common fishing violations are for using live or non-artificial bait (fishing is by artificial lures only) and for possessing fish (fishing is "catch and release" only). Hefty fines can result for violators.

Residents of Mountain Park may notice that the level of fishing and boating activity on lakes Garrett and Cherful has decreased significantly over the past few weeks as the result of enforcement activity.

**The City of Mountain Park is a beautiful, special place.
Code Compliance is one way to help keep it that way!**



Know Your City Code



ARTICLE IV - WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Sec. 6-131. - Purpose.

This section is adopted for the purpose of declaring and designating the City of Mountain Park as a wildlife sanctuary in an effort to protect wild animals and birds within the city in order to promote the aesthetic and environmental amenities of the city for the edification, education and well-being of the citizens and residents of the city.

Sec. 6-132. - Definitions.

For the purpose of this section, words and terms are defined as follows:

- (1) *Wildlife* shall mean and include birds, warm-blooded animals and reptiles, which are not domesticated and which are not vermin as defined herein. "Wildlife" shall not include formerly domesticated animals which are feral, and any warm-blooded animals or reptiles which are determined to be a nuisance under applicable city ordinances.
- (2) *Vermin* shall mean rats, mice, dangerous or rabid animals, and poisonous snakes which are inherently dangerous to human health or life.
- (3) *Sanctuary* shall mean a place set apart for the protection and propagation of wildlife.
- (4) *City* shall mean the City of Mountain Park.
- (5) *Weapon* shall mean:
 - a. Firearms of all sizes, makes and types;
 - b. Guns or devices which discharge projectiles by spring under tension, by compressed air or gas, or by any other means, including but not limited to BB guns, air guns, and pellet guns;
 - c. Bows and arrows;
 - d. Spears;
 - e. Slingshots;
 - f. Any other missile or projectile thrown or launched with intent to harm or injure or kill wildlife;
 - g. Any vehicle used with intent to harm or injure or kill wildlife; and
 - h. A stick, club, tool, or other device used with intent to harm or injure or kill wildlife.
- (6) *Trap* shall include any device or man-made creation by which wildlife can be trapped or ensnared.



Sec. 6-133. - Wildlife sanctuary.

The city within its corporate limits is herewith declared to be and is designated as a wildlife sanctuary, and the appropriate officials are directed to place signs at all entrances to the city stating that the city is a wildlife sanctuary.

Sec. 6-134. - Protection of wildlife.

It shall be unlawful for any person within the corporate limits of the city to:



- (1) Intentionally harm or injure or kill any wildlife;
- (2) Intentionally use any weapon to harm or injure or kill any wildlife;
- (3) Place or set any traps designed to entrap or ensnare any wildlife;
- (4) Intentionally disturb or destroy the nesting or breeding place of any wildlife;
- (5) Knowingly permit dogs and cats to harm or injure or kill any wildlife, or to disturb or destroy the nesting or breeding place of any wildlife; and/or
- (6) Take the eggs or young of any wildlife.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2nd.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

September 12th.....Dumpster Day 7am-10am

1. Must provide proof of residence in the City of Mountain Park.
2. ONE TRUCKLOAD OR TRAILER LOAD PER RESIDENCE.
3. All yard debris must be cut into 3 feet sections or less.

Please note that this is a service provided by Waste Pro as a courtesy and the City of Mountain Park does not have any control over what time they arrive/depart or the rate which the dumpster fills and the amount it can hold. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

September 6th.....Fireworks on the Lake @ Dark

September 7th.....City Hall Closed

September 9th.....City Court @ 7pm

September 23rd.....Work Session @ 7pm

FOR CITY COUNCIL: Citizen Participation is welcome – Please give at least 24 hours advance notice if you wish to be added to the agenda by contacting City Hall.

September 28th.....Regular Council @ 7pm

The 2019 Water Quality Report for the City of Mountain Park is now available!

You can view it on our website at mountainparkgov.com or you can request a copy from City Hall.

REMINDER

Water bills are due by the last day of every month. Please use the drop box at City Hall or pay online at https://mtnpark.secure.munibilling.com/customers/sign_in. Payments received on the 1st of the month or later will be assessed a \$25 late fee.

REMINDER

Please ensure you put your cans out the night before after 6pm or by 7am on Wednesday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Please remove your cans from the curb by 8am on Thursday. No yard debris is allowed. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed please email City Hall at utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com or call City Hall at 770-993-4231 on Thursday morning by 12pm.

REMINDER

If you see a street light out in the City of Mountain Park please contact City Hall at 770-993-4231 to report it.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A CENSUS TAKER

To Ensure EVERYONE is counted, Census takers are visiting households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census to collect their responses in person.



PPE MASK

All Census takers are required to wear a PPE mask.



2020 CENSUS BADGE

Census employees will possess an authentic work badge with logo and employee's name.



2020 CENSUS PHONE

Census employees will possess an iPhone® with Census logo on back.



U.S. CENSUS TOTE BAG

Census employees will carry a tote bag with the Census logo on it.

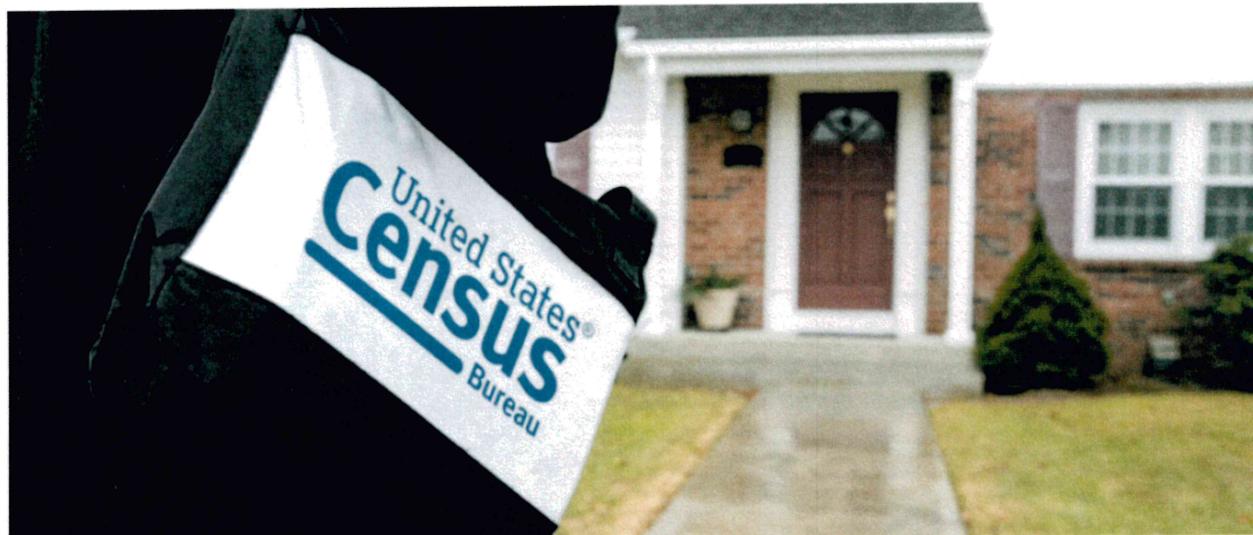
NOTICE OF VISIT:

If no one is home, Census takers will leave a Notice of Visit with info on how to respond.

Respond TODAY at
[MY2020CENSUS.GOV](https://my2020census.gov)
1-844-330-2020 (English)
or 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish)

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2020 Census: Census Taker Visits

What Your Community Needs to Know

To ensure everyone is counted, census takers visit households that haven't responded yet to the 2020 Census to collect their responses in person.

Health and Safety

Census takers will follow public health guidelines when they visit.

Census takers are trained to:

- Wear a mask.
- Conduct the interview outside a home in an open, well-ventilated space, when possible.
- Allow 6 feet of space between them and the person they are interviewing.
- Not allow anyone else to handle Census Bureau equipment.

- Follow healthy hygiene habits for frequent hand-washing, avoiding contact with high-touch surfaces, avoiding touching their face, etc.

If a household does not want to conduct the interview in person, they can provide the census taker with their phone number to complete it over the phone.

Confidentiality

By law:

- Interviews are confidential.
- Answers cannot be shared with immigration or law enforcement agencies.
- Census takers must keep answers confidential for life. They face stiff fines and jail time if they break that law.

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Identifying a Census Taker

Households can identify the census takers by their:

- ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- Census Bureau-issued phone.

Many census takers will also carry a bag with the Census Bureau logo.

What to Expect During the Interview

The interview is quick and easy. The census taker will ask the household the 2020 Census questions and enter the answers in their secure Census Bureau phone. You can expect:

- A few questions like name, age, race, and sex.
- No questions regarding Social Security numbers, bank information, or citizenship status.
- Availability of a census taker who speaks your language. Households can request a return visit if needed.
- A visit between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. local time, including on weekends when people are likely to be home. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of the visit with information about how to respond online or by phone. If necessary, a census taker will return several times to ensure the household is accurately included in the census.

Responding Is Important

Census takers are from your community. They know that a complete and accurate count will benefit your area. By answering a few questions, you'll help shape the future of your community for the next 10 years.

The 2020 Census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress and how public funds are spent on schools, roads, fire and emergency services, hospitals, and more in your community.

Now Is the Time to Respond

Please encourage your community to respond now instead of waiting for a census taker to visit and to talk with the census taker if they do receive a visit.

Even after census takers begin visiting your area, households can still respond online at 2020census.gov, by phone at 844-330-2020, or by mail until September 30.

Households can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more at <http://2020census.gov/languages>.

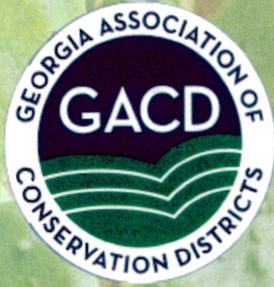
Note: Some households that have already responded may still get a call or visit from a census taker conducting quality checks.

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GEORGIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GCAP)

A FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WILL
ALSO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10
TO REVIEW PRACTICES AND
APPLICATION PROCEDURE.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
AND LOCAL CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS ARE FULLY
FUNDING THE
INSTALLATION OF GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE
PRACTICES LIKE RAIN
GARDENS, CISTERNS, DRY
WELLS, DOWNSPOUT
DISCONNECTS AND
IMPERVIOUS SURFACE
REMOVAL ON RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTIES IN COBB AND
FULTON COUNTY.

APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS SEPTEMBER 10.

APPLY AND REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP AT
WWW.GACD.US/GCAP

