



Left: Kennesaw Mayor Mark Mathews shows off his new trimmer form Wednesday in downtown Kennesaw, after losing 55 pounds since April. Cutting out Diet Cokes helped lose the weight, he said. He will be walking this year in the Heart Walk 5K in October. **Below:** A 2013 photo of Mathews before his weight loss.

Staff/Kelly J. Huff

Mayor slims down for Heart Walk

The secret? No more Diet Coke

Sarah Westwood
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KENNESAW — The mayor of Kennesaw is preparing for an event dedicated to healthy hearts by making sure his own is safe.

Mark Mathews, who will lead one of several teams associated with the city during the American Heart Association's 5K Heart Walk this fall, has lost 60 pounds since December.

"It's just been the craziest thing, because I've got more energy, I feel better, I'm sleeping better, I'm eating better, I'm thinking better. There's not enough time in the day to get everything done for me now," Mathews said.

After putting off the "proverbial New Year's resolution to lose weight," Mathews said he decided to make an effort in February.

He said he began to up his physical

activity and monitor his diet until his birthday in April, when he received his annual physical.

Although Mathews had lost about 10 pounds, he said his blood pressure remained high and he "still felt horrible."

"The only thing (the doctor) would do is refer me to a dietician and suggest that I cut back on Diet Coke. That's right, Diet Coke," Mathews said.

Mathews said he went from drinking 10 to 12 Diet Cokes a day to just two at the end of April, and on May 1, drank his last sip.

The mayor credits the soda's elimination from his refrigerator for his slim-down.

"That's the only thing I can attribute it to," he said. "I'm more active. I'm not as hungry, so I'm not eating as much. I no longer have sleep apnea."

Mathews said he experienced no symptoms of withdrawal from a soft drink many say can be addicting.

"I've had no headaches, nothing people talk about for giving up Diet Coke,"

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MARIETTA

Police write invalid tickets in downtown church lot

By Hilary Butschek
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MARIETTA — The Marietta Police Department has been writing parking tickets in a church lot it

doesn't have the right to regulate, the City Council discovered Wednesday.



Dan Flynn

Police don't have authority to ticket cars parked in the First Baptist Church of Marietta lot because it is not controlled by the city, but some people have still received tickets there. Police Chief Dan Flynn said he could not estimate how many tickets were issued there in the past.

The parking lot is owned by First Baptist Church of Marietta, which leases it to the Downtown Marietta Development Authority. But DMDA attorney Tom Cauthorn said the development authority lacks police power.

"It's a legal question as to whether we have the authority to write tickets there," Flynn said.

The DMDA allows the lot to be used by the public except Wednesday night and Sunday, when it is used for church functions, but the DMDA enforces a two-hour time limit.

The 50-year lease between the DMDA and the church was signed in 1979, Cauthorn said. When the lease began, Cauthorn said the church didn't have a paved parking lot, but it allowed the DMDA to tear down dilapidated buildings on its land to make room for parking spaces.

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SCHOOLS

Cobb Board of Education OKs \$10K settlement

By Emily Boorstein
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MARIETTA — Lumped in an unanimous vote regarding personnel, the Cobb Board of Education approved a \$10,000 settlement agreement Thursday with a former South Cobb High School football coach who had threatened to sue the district.



Geoff Pastrick

Geoff Pastrick, 37, was hired as the new football coach at South Cobb High School by Principal Ashley Hosey on March 21, but his employment was rescinded April 18 by Assistant Superintendent Barbara Swinney.

Attorney Justin O'Dell previously told the MDJ the district cited an unsatisfactory evaluation from 2011 as the reason Pastrick could not be hired. Believing the real reason was racial discrimination, O'Dell filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Pastrick's behalf.

On Thursday, O'Dell said he was "pleased" with the settlement agreement, which he said stipulated he could not comment on it further.

Pastrick was unemployed earlier this month when the MDJ reported on his plans to file a discrimination lawsuit with the district, but the personnel report at Thursday's meeting indicated he's been hired for the 2014-15 school year as a content specialist in health and physical education for the county's online education program and as an assistant

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Staff/Jeff Stanton

Going with the grain

Above: Bob McDaniel of Marietta begins to carve an eagle on a wooden plaque during the woodcarving class at C. Freeman Poole Senior Center in Smyrna each Wednesday from 12:15 to 3 p.m. **Right:** Kent Morgan of Mableton, carves cowboy boots out of small blocks of wood then attaches a ring to each one to form a keychain. **Below:** Herman Conrader, 91, of Mableton, thumbs through his images of wood carvings he has made, including the one at the right of a parrot fish. Conrader carved the wood, then painted it before mounting.



Tickets

Continued from Page 1B

"There was a dilapidated structure on the property that had to be demolished and it had to be improved and graded to make it a parking lot, and the DMDA picked up the cost of that," Cauthorn said. "And then to make it a binding agreement, the DMDA paid the church \$10."



Tom Cauthorn

Neither the police nor the DMDA know when police started enforcing parking in the lot.

"The reason the police department had enforced it was because it's public parking," Cauthorn said.

Police enforced the lot just like any other, not because someone directed them to, Cauthorn said.

Police realized they were writing tickets in a lot the city didn't own when one driver protested her ticket, said Councilman Johnny Walker.

"I had a lawyer and his wife get a ticket in that lot, and he questioned it, and I said I can't answer," Walker said.

Walker would not specify who the couple was.

City attorney Doug Haynie questioned what people who had previously received tickets in the lot could do about the money they had already paid or owed the city.

"Can they prosecute those tickets or not?"

Haynie asked.

The city has not yet decided if it will allow ticketed drivers to refund ticket fees they have paid in the past or challenge their tickets.

"It's not that big of an issue," Flynn said "I don't think we're dealing with many tickets here."

Flynn said officers have not been writing tickets in the lot since the issue came up.

To solve the problem, Councilman Philip Goldstein suggested the city could take over the lot.

"The city could enter into an agreement to enforce the two-hour time limit," Goldstein said. "It's an agreement between the DMDA and the city to allow the city to enforce a two-hour time limit."

Councilman Andy Morris said he was opposed to the idea of any group monitoring the lot because it's owned by the church, a private entity.

"It's a private lot, and I don't think we ought to regulate it," Morris said.

The council will vote on an agreement between the city and the DMDA that would put the city in control of the parking lot at its Aug. 13 meeting.

Update on Whitlock plans

Following a rebuff from the Board of Lights and Water to the City Council's plans to put new sidewalks along Whitlock Avenue at the council's last meet-

ing, the board governing the city's utility agreed to donate money to the project Wednesday.

The BLW will pay an estimated \$165,000 for 26 pedestrian crossing lights to be installed along a 1-mile portion of Whitlock Avenue, said Charlie Lanz, the city's acting engineer.

The board's contribution is an addition to the \$4 million the city will spend on the project to install sidewalks, pedestrian lights and intersection signs along the 1.5-mile portion of Whitlock. The project covers the stretch of road toward Marietta from Polk Street Extension to Oakmont Drive on both sides of Whitlock.

The city asked the BLW to pay for the lights because the cost was too much to fit in the allotted \$4 million from the redevelopment bond the city could spend on the project. The lights will go in at "select locations, mainly where side streets come in to Whitlock," Lanz said.

Bill Bruton, the city manager, said staff is still working to figure out how many pedestrian crossing lights need to be installed, so the cost could fluctuate.

"We want it to look good, but we don't want it to irritate the residents," Bruton said.

Councilman Johnny Walker pushed for the plans to include more opportunities to cross Whitlock. He said the portion of the road between Kirkpatrick Drive and North Marietta Parkway is mostly residential.

"I just think a lot of people will want to walk through there," Walker said.

The portion of Whitlock

Settlement

Continued from Page 1B

football coach at an unspecified school.

Jay Dillon, district spokesman, confirmed Pastrick has been offered an employment contract for those positions, but said other details of the settlement report would need to be obtained through an open records request.

Also approved Thursday night was the appointment of three district employees to new central office positions.

In the district's finance department, Thomas Marshall is being promoted from manager to director of accounts payable. He's been with the district since 2009 and will get a pay increase of more than \$10,000 with his new role, which has a \$90,461 salary.

Alice Stouder, who has been employed by the district since 1978 in

various roles, including a stint as deputy superintendent of leadership and learning, will now earn \$50,103 as the district's director of evaluation systems.

Gretchen Walton, who started with the district in 2000 as a Pope High School teacher and has moved through the ranks as a principal and an assistant director of legal and policy issues, will be the new director of assessment and personalized learning. Her wages will rise by more than \$2,200 with the new job, which will pay \$94,662.

The board also accepted the resignation of Tim Baker, the district's executive director of employment, who is moving to Virginia.

MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL
 For information on recycling, contact Keep Cobb Beautiful at 770-528-1135 or keepcobbbeautiful@cobbcounty.org, or visit their website at kcb.cobbcountyga.gov.

Walk

Continued from Page 1B

he said. "It's the craziest thing I've ever seen."

Mathews said his efforts to lead a healthier lifestyle "fit right in" with the upcoming Heart Walk fundraiser, which will take place at Kennesaw State University on Oct. 25.

He said he was introduced to the event through his employer, Metro Atlanta Ambulance, and decided it would provide "a good challenge" for the city.

Mathews said he will try to raise \$2,500 before the 5K, while the city has set its goal at \$25,000.

So far, Mathews said supporters of his team have paid \$950 and committed a total of \$1,300 toward his fundraising goal.

He said the city has just begun the process of promoting its effort and has not begun collecting donations.

Councilwoman Cris Eaton-Welsh is one of four teammates who have signed up to participate in the walk with Mathews.

Eaton-Welsh said she expects the 5K to be an easy feat because she is already training for a marathon.

"I think it goes along with the wellness work we're doing already," she said of the city's participation in the event. Kennesaw's Fit City initiative puts "the focus on getting people active and moving," Eaton-Welsh said.

Launched in 2012, the initiative partners the city with private entities such as WellStar to encourage healthier lifestyles, she said.

SIMPLY Superior PLUMBING

APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE LICENSE

I have made application at the Business License Office of the City of Smyrna, Georgia for Ruby Tuesday Inc dba Ruby Tuesday located at 3197 S Cobb Dr. requesting privilege licenses for the sale of beer, wine, & liquor (retail pouring). This application will be heard before the License and Variance Board for the City of Smyrna, 2800 King Street, Smyrna, Georgia on Aug 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. All concerned persons are hereby notified.

Spencer Edward Paul Peters Licensee	Ruby Tuesday Inc. dba Ruby Tuesday 3197 S Cobb Dr. Smyrna, GA 300080
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APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE LICENSE

I have made application at the Business License Office of the City of Smyrna, Georgia for Ray's Five Star Inc dba Ray's Liquor Store requesting privilege licenses for the sale of beer, wine, and liquor (retail package) This application will be heard before the Mayor and Council for the City of Smyrna, 2800 King Street, Smyrna, Georgia on August 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. All concerned persons are hereby notified.

Sirak G Kassa Owner and Licensee	Ray's Five Star Inc dba Ray's Liquor Store 1003 Windy Hill Rd Smyrna, GA 30080
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APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE LICENSE

I have made application at the Business License Office of Cobb County, Georgia, for FORTY-ONE, INC., D/B/A, TIN LIZZY'S TAQUERIA CANTINA located at 3470 GEORGE BUSBEE PKWY., NW, KENNESAW, GA 30144 is requesting a license for a RESTAURANT/LIQUOR POURING/BEER POURING/WINE POURING/SUNDAY SALES POURING. This application will be considered on the 14TH day of AUGUST 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at 1150 Powder Springs Street, Suite 400, Marietta, Georgia 30064. Any objection to this application must be in writing and received by the Manager of Cobb County Business License on or before 5:00 p.m. on the 13TH day of AUGUST 2014.

MICHAEL THOMAS EVERSTEN - OWNER/APPLICANT/LICENSEE
 OWNER: FORTY-ONE, INC., D/B/A, TIN LIZZY'S TAQUERIA CANTINA

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