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Marietta Requires Residents and Businesses to Register Burglar Alarm Systems



The City of Marietta recently passed an ordinance that requires anyone with a burglar alarm system to register the system with the city's Alarm

Coordinator.

There is no registration fee.

But beginning

January 1, 2008 anyone

who operates an alarm system

in the city without first obtaining the proper permit will have to pay a \$100 fine. Alarm owners can obtain a permit application at the front desk of the Marietta Police Department, or download an application at <http://www.mariettaga.gov/departments/emergency/police/falsealarm.aspx>.

The ordinance also includes provisions to

ensure that alarm users take full responsibility for the proper operation of their systems. These provisions include a series of fines intended to reduce the number of false alarms to which Marietta Police Officers must respond.

In 2006, the Marietta Police Department responded to 9,317 alarm calls. Of these calls, 98.6 percent turned out to be false alarms. Since standard protocol requires two officers to respond to an alarm call, Marietta Police officers spent a total of 3,882 man-hours responding to false alarms last year. Therefore, reducing the number of false alarms will enable officers to spend more time on other areas of crime prevention and law enforcement.

For more information about the ordinance, or to download a permit application, please visit <http://www.mariettaga.gov/departments/emergency/police/falsealarm.aspx>. If you have any unanswered questions after visiting the site, please call (770) 794-2364 or e-mail alarms@mariettaga.gov. ⚡

Marietta Water Bans All Outdoor Water Use

Marietta Water has banned all outdoor water use, except for activities exempted in Environmental Protection Division regulation 391-3-30-.05.

The ban took effect when the Cobb-Marietta Water Authority elevated its Declared Drought Response to LEVEL FOUR. The Level Four Drought Response prohibits:

- Watering of lawns and flowerbeds.
- Watering of newly installed landscape by homeowners.
- Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety, or flushing.
- Washing hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks, or driveways — except when necessary for public health and safety.
- Filling installed swimming pools, except when necessary for healthcare or structural integrity.

- Washing vehicles, including cars, boats, trailers, motorcycles, airplanes, and golf carts.
- Washing buildings or structures except for immediate fire protection.
- Non-commercial fund-raisers, such as car washes.
- Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools, and waterfalls, except when necessary to support aquatic life.

Watering personal food gardens is still allowed under the current restriction.

Marietta Water will strictly enforce the restrictions. Offenses can result in escalating fines for each offense up to \$500, water service disconnection and prosecution.

For more information, call (770) 794-5229. For a complete list of activities exempted under EPD regulation 391-3-30-.05, please visit rules.sos.state.ga.us/docs/391/3/30/05.pdf. ⚡



Conserving Electricity Will Help You Keep Power Bills Under Control

With the days getting shorter and cold weather on the way, you need to begin planning ways to keep your electricity bills under control this fall and winter.

The following tips will help you keep power costs as low as possible:

Limit Lighting Expenses – Replace incandescent bulbs with screw-in fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs use 75 percent less electricity and last at least 8 times longer.

Visit the Marietta web site and pledge to make your next light one that has earned the government’s ENERGY STAR® for excellence in energy efficiency. Next, forward your verification e-mail to: rsmith@marietta-ga.gov. Then, receive your coupon for The Home Depot and enjoy your savings. Finally, remember to turn lights off when you don’t need them. After all, unused lights won’t cost you any money.

Unplug Nonessential Appliances – Televisions, DVD players, computers, and many other appliances use electricity even when switched off. You can therefore reduce power usage by unplugging these items when they’re not in use.

Maximize Central Heating Unit Efficiency – Clean your unit’s air filter at least once a month. Altering your vent configuration can help as well. For example, people in two-story homes can often balance upstairs and downstairs temperatures by closing off upstairs vents. Since heat

rises, you can direct warm air into the lower floor living areas of the home, knowing that it will slowly rise to the upper floors on its own.

Minimize the Use of Space Heaters – Although they can provide a useful way to warm a hard-to-heat portion of a home or apartment, electric space heaters also use more energy than just about any other kind of appliance. So use them as sparingly as possible.

Stop Warm Air From Escaping – Installing storm windows and doors, and sealing anyplace where warm air can escape, will keep your heating system from working harder than it needs to.

Keep Warm Air Circulating – Installing a ceiling fan to keep the air in your home moving will keep warm air from hugging the ceiling.

Shoot for the (Energy) Stars – When buying new appliances, choose those with the Energy Star® label. The labels signify that an appliance uses energy more efficiently than others on the market.

Putting these simple practices to work will do a great deal to limit the amount of money you spend on electricity during the fall and winter. For more tips on saving electricity, please visit www.mariettaga.com. ⚡



Calendar of Events

November 4
Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 22
Gobble Jog

7a.m. until 10 a.m.
Glover Park - Marietta Square
To register, go to the Gobble Jog web site (www.gobblejog.org) and download a registration form or register on active.com through Tuesday, November 20 at mid-night. You can also register in person for \$20 at the First United Methodist Church in Marietta from 3 until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21. For more information, contact (678) 218-4481.

November 29
Holiday in the Square

5 to 8 p.m.
Glover Park, Marietta Square
Santa will arrive in Marietta around 5:30 p.m. and listen to children’s holiday wishes. The giant Christmas tree will light up the night at 6 p.m. Local choruses will provide entertainment. Santa will visit in the Square until 8 p.m.

Marietta Power and Water will be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday November 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

November 30 through December 2

The Georgia Ballet Presents: The Nutcracker
Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday 2 and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1:30 and 5:30 p.m.
Cobb County Civic Center, Marietta
Admission is \$24.50 to \$31.50.
The Georgia Ballet professional company and more than 140 students present this colorful production of dancing sugar plums, giant mice, exotic candies, and magical snowflakes that will get you in the spirit for the season. Call (770) 528-0881 or visit www.georgiaballet.org for information.

For a complete list of City of Marietta events please visit www.marietta-ga.gov and click on Calendar of Events.

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