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bluePrint

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MARIETTA

Spring 2010

Largest makeover in Marietta's history

2010 is shaping up to be the biggest year in the city of Marietta's history for road construction and beautification projects. Seventeen projects worth more than \$87 million are underway or complete that will help improve traffic flow, increase safety for motorists and pedestrians, create attractive boulevards and improve corridors coming into the city.

You may have seen the first phase of the work as the city planted more than 500 trees along major gateways of the city. Since then, substantial work has been done on Kennesaw Avenue to create a new bridge over Noses Creek, consolidate overhead utility lines and install new curbs and sidewalks.



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350 new technology jobs announced for Marietta

At least 350 new technology jobs are coming to the city of Marietta in the next 18 months as a Fortune 500 company moves two offices from California to our community.

First Data, a reseller of payment processing systems, has leased an approximately 260,000 square foot building on Canton Road off I-75 to consolidate its west coast and Kennesaw, Ga., operations. While some California employees may relocate to Marietta, the company says many of the positions will be filled locally.

"First Data was looking at opportunities in several states, and the main reason we are the winner is because of the new Opportunity Zones we created in 2009," city manager Bill Bruton said.

Opportunity Zones are a Georgia Department of Community Affairs economic development program that encourage new businesses to locate in the city or expand existing businesses here. When two or more jobs are created, businesses may be eligible to receive \$3,500 in employee state tax credits for each new job through October 2019. Marietta's opportunity zones include portions of Fairground Street, Roswell Street, Powder

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Fire department earns high ranking, insurance rates could decrease

A firm that specializes in analyzing data used to determine insurance rates for home and business owners recently inspected the Marietta Fire Department and awarded the department the second highest rating possible based on how well the department reduces the risk of fire and protects property and citizens in Marietta, which could result in decreased insurance rates for Marietta homeowners and business owners.

The new ranking lets the public know that Marietta is dedicated to keeping residents and visitors safe while saving money, Mayor Steve Tumlin said. "This new ranking shows that Marietta has one of the best fire departments in the metro Atlanta area, is a sense of pride and safety for our residents and business owners, and helps save money."

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Get tax incentives when you create or expand business in Marietta

New businesses that locate in the city of Marietta or expand existing businesses in certain parts of the city may be eligible to receive \$3,500 in state employee tax credits for each new job when two or more jobs are created.

“This is the biggest economic development incentive we have ever had to encourage the expansion of local business and the relocation of other businesses to Marietta,” city manager Bill Bruton said. “In many cases this may be the extra incentive that we need to make Marietta look better than our competition.”

Marietta is the first city in Cobb County and one of the first in the state to receive opportunity zone designation. Marietta’s opportunity zones include portions of Fairground Street, Roswell Street, Powder Springs Street, the South Loop, Franklin Road, and industrial and heavy commercial locations throughout Marietta, Bruton said.

“Businesses may claim the tax credits for every new job created for five years, beginning in their first year of eligibility,” Marietta economic development manager Beth Sessoms said. “The salaries of the new jobs must be above the average range of the poorest county

in Georgia,” she said. “Businesses may claim the tax credits against their income tax liability and/or state payroll withholding.”

The opportunity zones will be in effect for 10 years and allow Marietta to expand the definition of “business enterprise” to include all types of businesses.

Encouraging redevelopment while strengthening neighborhoods and commercial areas is a goal City Council established as part of Marietta’s vision statement.

For more information, call (770) 794-5717. 



The city of Marietta presented a \$75,000 check to Summit Industries, Inc., which will be used to hire three full-time employees and allow the company to expand and modernize.

City opens new bike trails at Burruss Park

The city of Marietta’s Burruss Park, off South Cobb Drive near Cobb Parkway, has four hiking and family-friendly biking trails, which total approximately a mile.

To help prevent injuries on the trails and ensure long-term trail sustainability, directional signs are posted to let bicyclists and pedestrians know which way to go. City of Marietta and Life University police officers patrol the park regularly.

The park is open to the public seven days a week during daylight hours, and admission is free.

Encouraging revitalization of current parks, establishing new parks for active and passive use and rejuvenating park and green space for the community are goals City Council established as part of Marietta’s vision statement.

For more information, call Marietta’s Parks and Recreation Department at (770) 794-5601. 

The city of Marietta and mountain biking enthusiasts hit the trails to open four hiking and family-friendly mountain-biking trails at Burruss Park.



Blueprint Marietta is a publication of the city of Marietta Public Information Office to inform residents and property owners about city news, services and events. The newsletter is produced and mailed to residents and business owners within the city limits and is also available on the city’s Web site, www.mariettaga.gov.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed and may be directed to:

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City Manager William (Bill) F. Bruton Jr.

Mayor

R. Steve Tumlin Jr.

Marietta City Council

Ward 1 - Annette Paige Lewis
Ward 2 - Griffin “Grif” L. Chalfant Jr.
Ward 3 - Johnny Sinclair
Ward 4 - Irvan A. “Van” Pearlberg

Ward 5 - Rev. Anthony C. Coleman
Ward 6 - James W. King
Ward 7 - Philip M. Goldstein

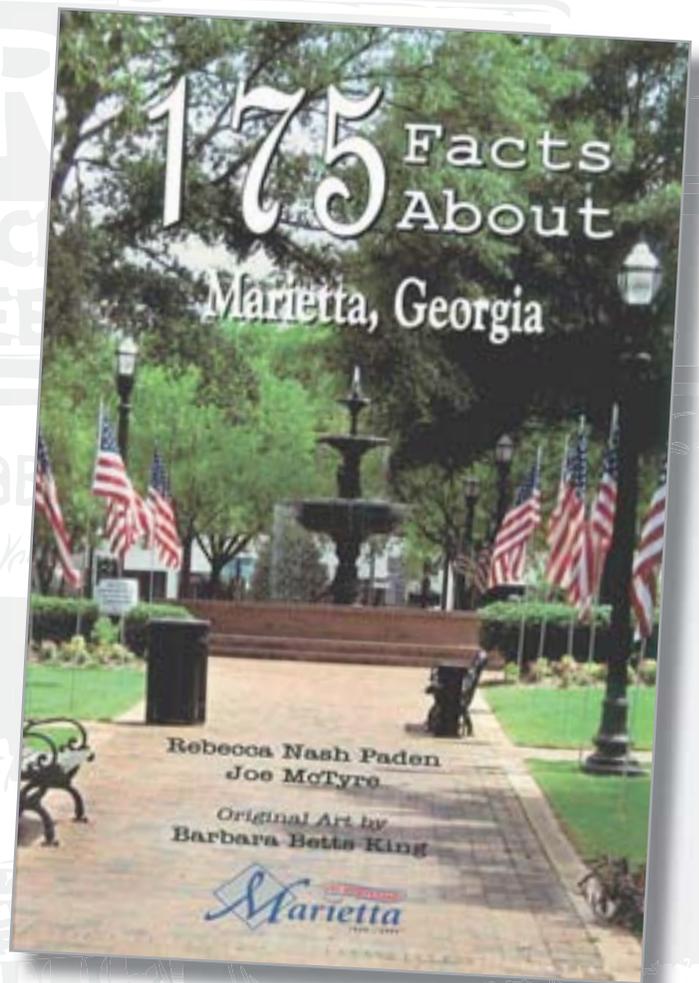
Commemorative book honoring Marietta's history for sale

The city of Marietta has published a book featuring more than 300 facts and pictures about the city from its founding in 1834 to the present, and you can get your copy now for only \$10.

The book, which makes a perfect gift for anyone who has ever called Marietta home, features stories about Marietta's cemeteries, museums and theatres on the Square; how the Kennesaw House was used as General Sherman's headquarters during his March to the Sea; the history of the Marietta Fire and Police departments; Marietta's post office; the courthouse; and how the current Hilton on Powder Springs Street was home of the Georgia Military Institute before the Civil War.

The book is available for purchase in the city's Purchasing Department, located on the lobby level of City Hall, 205 Lawrence Street, and at locations around the downtown Square, including the Marietta Welcome Center, Church Street Market, Gone with the Wind Museum, and Marietta Museum of History. It is also available at the Avery Gallery, 390 Roswell Street, and the William Root House, located at the corner of Polk Street and North Marietta Parkway.

For more information, call the City Manager's Office at (770) 794-5507. 



Largest makeover in Marietta's history

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Work to improve downtown Marietta around the Square also began in 2009 and should be completed this spring. New lights have been installed along with upgraded water service, brick sidewalks, paving and fountain renovations in Glover Park.

Ongoing improvements to Roswell Street include streetscapes, sidewalks and landscaping. When finished, a new entrance to the city will be visible at Cobb Parkway. In addition, an enhanced intersection will be created at Roswell Street and Fairground Street. A pocket park is planned for Roswell Street at Anderson Street, and the Kiwanis Club of Marietta is leading efforts to install a statue honoring families whose loved ones engage everyday in the protection, service, support and defense of our freedom at home and abroad.

Construction will begin late this fall or winter on a new traffic circle at the intersection of Fairground Street at Allgood Road,

and Franklin Road will benefit from medians and sidewalks, which are also expected to be under construction late this fall or winter. Substantial improvements are underway for Powder Springs Street from Chestnut Hill Drive to Sandtown Road including beautification, landscaped medians and safety enhancements.

The intersection of Whitlock Avenue and South Marietta Parkway will be upgraded with raised islands to ensure motorists turn in the correct direction and provide pedestrians a safe place to wait before crossing the street and improve access for the visually impaired.

The city will expand its trail system with a trail for walking, biking and running from Kennesaw Mountain to the Chattahoochee River that will include a pedestrian bridge over the South Loop.

For more information, call the city's Public Works Department at (770) 794-5650. 



Take a walk on the Wild (wood) side

The city of Marietta recently celebrated the grand opening of an off-leash dog park at Wildwood Park, off South Cobb Drive, where your four-legged friends can run and play. The dog park has separate areas for small and large breeds, with Rottweilers and pit bulls prohibited in the new area and other off-leash areas in the city.

Two-legged creatures can enjoy new walking, hiking and biking trails at Wildwood Park from dawn until dusk.

Encouraging revitalization of current parks, establishing new parks for active and passive use and rejuvenating park and green space for the community are goals City Council established as part of Marietta's vision statement.

For more information, call Marietta's Parks and Recreation Department at (770) 794-5601. 



State organization recertifies Marietta as City of Ethics

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) has recertified Marietta as a City of Ethics for adopting an ethics ordinance and for adopting and following key ethical principles. GMA initially certified Marietta as a City of Ethics in 2000.

Established in 1999 by a panel of business and government leaders, the City of Ethics program is

voluntary and encourages cities to adopt a local ethics ordinance. The ordinance must contain definitions, prohibited conduct and due process for officials accused of violations in areas such as financial disclosures, conflicts of interests and outside employment. The ordinance must also contain penalties for city officials who violate the ordinance. 



350 new technology jobs announced for Marietta

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Springs Street, the South Loop, Franklin Road, and industrial and heavy commercial locations throughout Marietta.

"We are excited that First Data is the first business to relocate in one of Marietta's new opportunity zones that will help the city's economy and provide new jobs for our community," Mayor Steve Tumlin said. "With help from the Georgia departments of Economic Development and Community Affairs, Marietta was one of the leaders in the state to take advantage of the program that encourages companies to create jobs by providing state tax credits. This is a great announcement for Marietta and Georgia."

"We are extremely pleased that First Data has chosen to consolidate its TASQ subsidiary here in Georgia," said Ken Stewart, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. "We have all the assets that companies look for when selecting sites for their corporate headquarters: plentiful, skilled workers, easy access to domestic and international airports, and affordable real estate and energy."

For more information, contact the city's Economic Development division at (770) 794-5717. 

Marietta's money-saving featured on national TV news

ABC's World News with Charles Gibson featured the city of Marietta's efforts to save taxpayers' money by selling surplus equipment online. The report was broadcast during the network's national evening newscast.

In the last five years, Marietta has sold more than \$680,000 worth of older fire trucks and used city equipment on the Internet. The sales

return dollars to the city budget, critical in the current economic climate.

To subscribe to receive an e-mail when a new item is for sale, visit www.mariettaga.gov/subscribe.

For more information, call Marietta's Purchasing Division at (770) 794-5699. 

In the last five years, Marietta has sold more than \$680,000 worth of older fire trucks and used city equipment on the Internet. The sales return dollars to the city budget, critical in the current economic climate.



ABC's World News with Charles Gibson

Citizens committee seeking public input to create parks plan

Voters last fall approved a parks bond to improve Marietta's park system, and a citizen committee appointed by City Council is developing plans to implement the changes based on public input. The \$25 million bond can be spent on land acquisition; improvements to existing parks and facilities; development of parks, facilities, trails and greenspace (new and existing); planning and design of improvements; and administration and contingencies.

A blog on the city Web site — mariettaga.gov/blogs/cacmp — allows the public to track the committee's progress and provide input on improvements they'd like to see to Marietta's park system. Residents can submit questions, comments and recommendations and see a schedule of the committee's meetings, a copy of the parks master plan, and summaries of meeting minutes and agendas.

City purchases apartments on Franklin Road for park space

The first purchase of new park space occurred this spring, as the city bought the Preston Chase apartment complex on Franklin Road to expand the city's park system. The city purchased the property for \$2.7 million and saved \$4.8 million because it was a foreclosure. The 13-acre property is inside the city limits and adjacent to greenspace Marietta already owns and along a proposed multi-use trail that would connect Kennesaw Mountain with the Chattahoochee River. The city expects to tear down the apartments this fall or next winter, and the citizens advisory committee for parks is working on plans for the area and how it can be redeveloped.

For more information, call Marietta's Parks and Recreation Department at (770) 794-5601. 



City attorney Doug Haynie and city clerk Stephanie Guy sign documents for Marietta's purchase of a Franklin Road apartment complex to use the land to expand the city's park system.

Help Marietta receive funding for services, improvements during 2010 census

United States
Census
2010

The U.S. Census is underway and data will determine the distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds nationwide, which amounts to approximately \$1,700 per person. Help Marietta get its share of funds for hospitals, schools, health facilities and other programs you and your neighbors need.

Take the time to answer and return your Census. It's just 10 questions and takes only 10 minutes to complete. Census workers will visit households that don't return their mailed form and will be wearing a badge and carrying a 2010 census bag.

For more information, visit 2010census.gov. 



Cleaner air for city parks

Marietta City Council has banned smoking at any time in all city parks and recreation centers to protect visitors' health. Council acted after hearing from citizens concerned about the effects of secondhand smoke at Glover Park concerts.

Marietta's smoking ban makes it unlawful for any person to inhale, exhale, burn or carry any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, weed, plant or other combustible substance in any manner or form in indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities in the city.

For a list of all city parks, visit www.mariettaga.gov or call (770) 794-5601. 



Feds award Marietta \$785,500 to fund energy efficiency improvements

Marietta has received \$785,500 as part of the federal stimulus package to fund energy-efficiency projects in the city.

The announcement builds on an investment of \$207,251,312 in Georgia weatherization and energy funding announced by the federal government last spring and detailed at energy.gov/recovery.

“These investments will save taxpayer dollars and create jobs in communities around the country,” Vice President Joe Biden said. “Local leaders will have the flexibility in how they put these resources to work – but we will hold them accountable for making the investments quickly and wisely to spur the local economy and cut energy use.”

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, funded by President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide formula grants for projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emission and improve energy efficiency.

The funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements.

Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of combined heat and power and district heating and cooling systems, and others.

To ensure accountability, the Department of Energy will provide guidance to require grant recipients to report on the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved, renewable energy capacity installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced, and funds leveraged. Funding is based on a formula that accounts for population and energy use.

“The block grants are a major investment in energy solutions that will strengthen America’s economy and create jobs at the local level,” Energy Secretary Steven Chu said. “The funding will be used for the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have – energy efficiency and conservation – which can be deployed immediately. The grants also empower local communities to make strategic investments to meet the nation’s long-term clean energy and climate goals.”

Fire department earns high ranking, insurance rates could decrease

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The Marietta Fire Department is one of only 15 departments in Georgia and 568 nationwide to receive a Class Two ranking.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO), based in New Jersey, inspected the Marietta Fire Department and awarded it a Class Two ranking based on several criteria including how well the fire department is distributed through the city, the quality and maintenance of the water system, 911 communications system, the number of firefighters assigned to reported fires and firefighter training.

The ISO helps insurance companies determine the probability of future property losses by evaluating fire departments across the country and giving them a public protection classification rating. Insurance companies use the rankings to determine property insurance rates for home and business owners.

The ISO ranks city and county fire departments on a scale from one to 10. A ranking of one is the best score a department can receive and indicates they provide the best possible protection from fire. A score of 10 indicates a department offers little or no fire protection to the community. The ISO awarded the Marietta Fire Department a Class Two ranking, up from a Class Three ranking during its inspection in 1990.

Property owners should call to see if they can save money

Home and business owners should check with their insurance company when they renew their policy to see which benefits, if any, they qualify for and to make sure their provider is aware of the fire department’s higher ranking, city manager Bill Bruton said.

“The more property our fire fighters are able to save in the city will result in a decrease in the amount of money insurance companies have to pay as a result of fire damage,” Fire Chief Jackie Gibbs said.

The amount homeowners’ and business owners’ insurance premiums may decrease depends on which provider they have and their particular plan.

“The Marietta Fire Department has worked hard for many years in all areas to increase our rating,” Gibbs said. “The department thanks the city of Marietta and its citizens for their continued support of the department and our goal to continue to provide outstanding emergency service to the area as a whole.”

For more information, call the Marietta Fire Department at (770) 794-5466.



Calendar of

Events

**April 28-May 30**

His Eye is On the Sparrow
Theatre in the Square

May 1

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

May 1

Marietta Go Girl
Glover Park-Marietta Square

May 1-2

May-retta Daze Arts and Crafts Festival
Glover Park-Marietta Square

May 1-2

Little Shop of Horrors
Presented by Atlanta Lyric Theatre at Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 6

Brown Bag Concert Series
Glover Park-Marietta Square

**May 7**

First Fridays Art Walk
Marietta Square Shops and Atherton Courtyard by Marietta Welcome Center

May 7

Brew with a View: Art Walk featuring Eduin Rosell
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 7

Chita Rivara: My Broadway
Presented by Atlanta Lyric Theatre at Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 8

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

May 12

Museum Mice Tours: Etta's Sweet Treats
Marietta Museum of History

May 12

City Council Meeting
City Hall-Council Chamber

May 13

Brown Bag Concert Series
Glover Park-Marietta Square

May 14-16

Cotton Patch Gospel
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 15

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

May 20

Brown Bag Concert Series
Glover Park-Marietta Square

May 20

Evening with History Lecture Series
Marietta Museum of History

May 21

Art Auction benefitting Forever Remember statue
Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art

May 22

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

May 22

Brew with a View
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 22

Jaws in original 3-D
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 22

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 27

Brown Bag Concert Series
Glover Park-Marietta Square

May 28

Brew with a View: Glover Park Evening Concert
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

May 28

Glover Park Evening Concert
Glover Park-Marietta Square

May 29

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

May 31

Memorial Day
City Holiday
*City offices closed

**June 4**

First Fridays Art Walk
Marietta Square shops and Atherton Courtyard by Marietta Welcome Center

June 4

Brew with a View: Art Walk featuring Frank Buckner
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

June 5

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

June 5

Wing N' Rock Fest
Marietta Square

June 9

City Council Meeting
City Hall-Council Chamber

June 9

Museum Mice Tours: Dressing Up with Murray and Etta
Marietta Museum of History

June 11-27

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
Presented by Atlanta Lyric Theatre at Earl Smith Strand Theatre

**June 12**

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

June 17

Brown Bag Banter
Marietta Museum of History

June 18

Brew with a View
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

June 19

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

June 19

Brew with a View
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

June 19

Juneteenth Celebration on the Square
Glover Park-Marietta Square

June 25

Brew with a View: Glover Park Evening Concert
Earl Smith Strand Theatre

June 25

Glover Park Evening Concert
Glover Park-Marietta Square

June 26

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

June 26

Cobb Symphony Orchestra
Glover Park-Marietta Square

July 3

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

July 3

Fourth in the Park
Glover Park-Marietta Square

July 5

Independence Day
City Holiday
*City offices closed

July 10

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

July 14

City Council Meeting
City Hall-Council Chamber

July 15

Brown Bag Banter
Marietta Museum of History

July 17

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

July 17

Love the Loop
725 North Marietta Parkway

**July 20**

Lunchtime Concert celebrating July is Parks and Recreation Month
Glover Park-Marietta Square

July 23-August 8

Hairspray
Presented by Atlanta Lyric Theater at Earl Smith Strand Theatre

July 24

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

July 30

Glover Park Evening Concert
Glover Park-Marietta Square

July 31

Marietta Square Farmers Market
Marietta Square

July 31

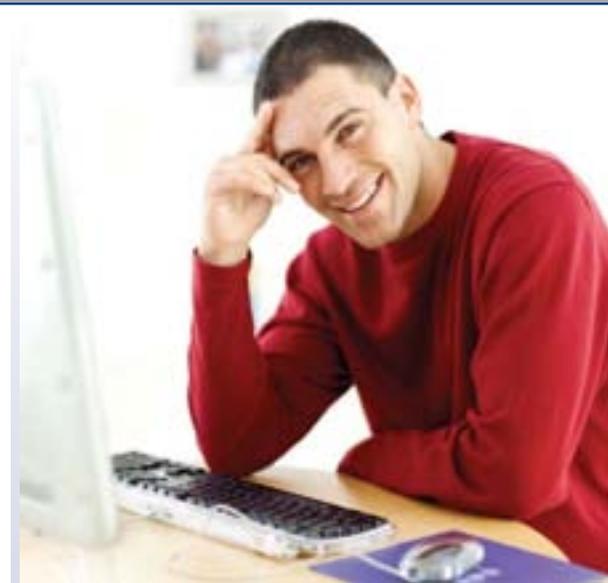
Christmas in July
Glover Park-Marietta Square



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www.mariettaga.gov/subscribe



Stay connected with the city of Marietta

City Departments and Divisions

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Building Inspection (770) 794-5650	Court (770) 794-5400	Fleet Maintenance (770) 794-5660	Marietta Police (770) 794-5300 For emergencies call 9-1-1	Human Resources (770) 794-5562	Section 8 (770) 794-5430
Business License (770) 794-5520	Development Services (770) 794-5669	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (770) 794-5552	Marietta Power (770) 794-5150	Planning and Zoning (770) 794-5440	Streets and Maintenance (770) 794-5676
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Code Enforcement (770) 794-5439	Engineering (770) 794-5650		Mayor (770) 794-5502	Purchasing (770) 794-5699	Traffic Operations (770) 794-5676



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