

Woodstock prepares for 'green' day

Greenstock event to provide environmental education, entertainment, recycling opps

By Kristal Dixon
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

The city of Woodstock is gearing up for a Saturday filled with environmental education.

The Woodstock City Council has set Saturday aside as Greenstock Day during which events will be conducted to encourage recycling.

The day will begin at 8 a.m. with a ribbon cutting and 1-mile hike on the Trestle Rock Trail at Olde Rope Mill Park. The trail is a part of the city's proposed Greenprints Plan, which would add roughly 60 miles

of trails throughout the city.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., an E-Recycling event will be conducted at the parking lot of Furniture Express (the former Wal-Mart shopping center) at the corner of Highway 92 and Main Street.

Recyclables that will be accepted at no charge include household batteries and electronics including computer monitors, CPUs, laptops, telephones, stereos, copiers, CD players and CB radios.

People who recycle an old pair of Crocs sandals will receive a discount coupon to purchase a new pair.

Woodstock Recycles!

Items that will not be accepted include microwaves, refrigerators, ovens, auto parts, washers and dryers.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be conducted at 10 a.m. to celebrate the city's new recycling center at Woodstock Elementary School. The center will accept paper, plastic, Styrofoam and aluminum cans.

At 10:30 a.m., "That Puppet Guy" Lee Bryan will perform a free Planet Earth Puppet Show at Woodstock Public Library, and a free mini-con-

cert and environmental seminar with Chuck Leavell will be at 3 p.m. at Woodstock Community Church.

The day concludes with a free Concert in the Park series at 7:30 p.m. in Woodstock City Park featuring a performance by Leavell.

The idea to dedicate a day to events pertaining to the environment has been in the work for months, Mayor Donnie Henriques said.

Henriques said the day would be a "great tie-in" to the Leavell concert, which had been scheduled months

in advance of Greenstock Day.

Leavell, a world-renowned environmental activist, will provide a boost to the city's efforts, Henriques said.

"The guy is a renaissance man," Henriques said.

Greenstock's cost to the city is "minimal," with the mini-concert and seminar, puppet show and main concert costing about \$1,500, said Mary Beth Stockdale of the city's community affairs department.

New recycling efforts already are under way in the city as part of a "greening" campaign led by Henriques.

Advanced Disposal, the city's

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Donnie Henriques



Cobb EMC's 70th annual meeting set for Thursday

Board member election still postponed by 45-60 days

By Kim Isaza
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

Cobb Electric Membership Corporation will host its 70th annual meeting Thursday morning at 1000 EMC Parkway, Building 3000, Marietta, although its election of board members has been postponed by 45 to 60 days.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and close at 11 a.m., when the business meeting begins. Members must show photo identification at reg-

IF YOU GO

What: Cobb Electric Membership Corporation Annual meeting

When: 10 a.m. Thursday

Where: 1000 EMC Parkway, Building 3000, Marietta, 30060.

members in the voting. The

Green

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trash collector service, is now collecting plastic, cardboard paper and glass from residents.

Recycling of paper and plastics is also available to city employees at government buildings, Mrs. Stockdale said. She added the city recently added battery recycling containers to its government buildings. They will accept traditional household batteries, small electronics batteries and cell phone and personal digital assistant batteries.

The public can at no charge drop off their batteries to City Hall or the fire station and the building department buildings on Arnold Mill Road to be recycled, Mrs. Stockdale said.

Greenstock can provide residents with information to make the quality of their lives better, city officials said.

"A clean community leads to a good quality of lifestyle for the citizens of Woodstock," Mrs. Stockdale said. "Greenstock Day will raise public awareness of community programs and initiatives."

Councilman Chris Casdia said he supports providing residents with resources on how to recycle.

"Everyone needs to raise their level of awareness," Casdia said.

While he's aware all residents won't start recycling overnight, Henriques said the events will teach some — including children — about recycling and caring for the environment.

He pointed to the struggle for racial equality in the 1960s as a prime example of how educating current generations can change the attitudes of future generations.

"He knew he had to educate the next generation so they can educate the next one," he said of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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MORE INFORMATION

What: City of Woodstock's free Greenstock Day to encourage environmental awareness

When: Saturday

What: An 8 a.m. ribbon cutting and one-mile hike at the Trestle Rock Trail at Olde Rope Mill Park off Ridgewalk Parkway; an E-Recycle Drop Off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart at the intersection of Highways 5 and 92; a 10 a.m. grand opening of the Recycle Drop-off Center at Woodstock Elementary School, 230 Rope Mill Road; a 10:30 a.m. free Planet Earth Inc. puppet show by "That Puppet Guy" Lee Bryan at Woodstock Public Library, 7735 Main St.; a free seminar and performance from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Woodstock Community Church, 8534 Main St., with Chuck Leavell, Captain Recycle and performances by the Woodstock Elementary Choir and Cheaper Than Therapy; Summer Concert Series with Chuck Leavell at 7:30 p.m. at Woodstock City Park, intersection of Main Street and Arnold Mill Road downtown

Cost: Admission to all events is free and open to the public

Info: (678) 445-6518; www.woodstockga.gov

EMC

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of Atlanta, has been on the board since 1999. He is being challenged by Johnny Woodward, who owned and operated Johnny's Steak and Bar-B-Que in Powder Springs for 17 years.

■ Area 6 incumbent Alton Fortney Jr., the secre-

tary/treasurer of the EMC board and a resident of Woodstock, was elected to the board in 1999. He has two challengers, William Sharp Jr. and Dr. Hartmut Ramm.

Sharp retired after managing a Gibson Greetings distribution facility and now lives in Acworth. Ramm, an emeritus professor of physics and physical geography of Young Harris College, has lived in Kennesaw since January 2004.

■ Area 7 incumbent Frank Boone is a veterinarian who owns North Cobb Animal Clinic in Kennesaw. He has served on EMC's board since 1990. Until recently, he also served on the board of directors of Cobb Energy, which was found to be a conflict of interest by a special litigation committee that investigated the claims in the lawsuit.

Boone is challenged for his seat by Ralph Frey Sr., a

retired builder-developer and a Marietta native. Frey is a past owner of the Old Mill Cabinet Shop.

■ Incumbent Henry Balkcom III represents Area 10, in southwest Georgia. He is a lifelong resident of Georgetown, Quitman County. In 2005, the Pataula EMC board, of which he was a member, appointed him to represent Pataula on the Cobb EMC board.

Pelosi visits Hiroshima atomic bomb memorial

By Tomoko A. Hosaka
Associated Press Writer

HIROSHIMA, Japan — U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday became the highest-ranking sitting American official to visit ground zero of the world's first atomic bombing.

The Democrat, who came to this western port city for a two-day annual gathering of Group of Eight legislative heads, joined other speakers in paying their respects at a memorial to the Hiroshima bombing. One by one, each bowed, then laid flowers at a white, arch-shaped monument containing the names of more than 200,000 victims of the nuclear blast.

No serving U.S. president or vice president has ever visited Hiroshima. As speaker of the House of Representatives, Pelosi is second in line to the presidency after U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter stopped by the memorial in 1984, after his term, as a private citizen.

Yohei Kono, leader of Japan's House of Representatives, said no decisions were made during the meeting on peace and disarmament, but he emphasized the symbolic importance of discussing the future of nuclear weapons in the city.

"The fact that they all came to Hiroshima has significant meaning," said Kono after the group's daylong meeting Tuesday.

"I hope that even more international political leaders come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and see with their own eyes, so that they will be able to strengthen their resolve for disarmament and nuclear disarmament going forward."

Pelosi said nothing to reporters after the ceremony, a possible reflection of the lingering sensitivity that surrounds the history of Hiroshima.

Americans and others continue to debate whether the decision to use the nuclear bomb was a pragmatic one that hastened the war's end or a brutal, unnecessary crime against humanity.



Nancy Pelosi

Hanna

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Bahamas. But the Hurricane Center said it could intensify back to hurricane strength Wednesday, when the storm was expected to turn to the northwest.

Local emergency officials for Savannah and surrounding Chatham County urged residents to have an evacuation plan ready. But no decisions on voluntary or mandatory evacuations were expected by today.

Ken Davis, spokesman for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, said Hanna's unpredictable path made it "a pretty difficult storm" for planners to gauge whether to order evacuations with just a day or two left to decide.

"We're getting closer and

closer to the point where decisions have to be made," Davis said. "It's a fine line between calling an evacuation and crying wolf."

Davis said state officials were looking ahead to the possibility of turning Interstate 16 into a one-way escape route westward out of Savannah.

The highway bore the brunt of 2.5 million people fleeing Georgia, Florida and South Carolina when Hurricane Floyd menaced the coast in 1999.

The Georgia State Patrol has since equipped 115 miles of the interstate with orange-striped control gates, much like railroad crossing arms, that can be dropped at entrance ramps to block cars from traveling east during a one-way evacuation.

In Florida, where Hanna is the third storm to threaten in three weeks, Crist's emergency declaration allows the

state to more easily mobilize employees, law enforcement personnel and other resources. The governor said residents should prepare for possible flash floods and winds up to 111 mph.

The state Emergency Management Division in South Carolina was monitoring Hanna closely around the clock, but spokesman Derrec Becker said it was too early Tuesday to call for residents to flee.

"At this time there is still so much level of uncertainty, what we're doing right now is simply paying attention to this storm," Becker said.

Meanwhile, college administrators at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C., and Charleston Southern University watched the storm for a possible call on whether to cancel football games Saturday, coaches at both schools said.

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries asked

fishermen to monitor Hanna and two other tropical storms — Ike and Josephine — developing far out in the Atlantic. It said fishermen should remove gear such as nets and crab pots from the coastal waters ahead of storms and check their own safety equipment.

FEMA regional administrator Phil May said the agency will send federal liaisons and disaster response teams to Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina on Wednesday to prepare for Hanna.

FEMA is already pouring supplies and resources, like search and rescue teams, into the region. And it's scrambling to move some supplies from the Gulf Coast back toward the Atlantic seaboard.

"We'll be moving things that may have been in position for Gustav back this way in case of Hanna," said May, who is based in Atlanta. "There's a lot of moving parts."