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"We're Over It": A Letter from MSCID President Emory Morsberger About Tire Dumping



Illegally dumped tires are both an eyesore and hazard. They not only create blight but also contribute to harmful vector-borne illnesses like West Nile, Zika and dengue fever. Tires can also become an ignition source for environmentally harmful fires resulting in added air pollution. Illegally dumped tires are Atlanta's "broken windows" and the businesses that fund community improvements are not only over it, but also want to see a change.

For more than 10 years, Georgia government has diverted more than \$200 million in fees and assessments collected for environmental cleanups to other issues they deemed more important. Now this November, we have an option to change that.

The Trust Fund Honesty Amendment, also known as the "anti-bait-and-switch" amendment, is a proposed statewide constitutional amendment with bipartisan support that would have positive outcomes for Georgia's environmental health. HR 164 would allow the General Assembly to earmark funds from certain taxes and fees to the causes they promised the money would go to when they approved the levies. What does this mean? If I purchase four new tires and pay a tire disposal tax, that money would be dedicated to tire cleanup, including illegally dumped tires.

[Continue Reading on the MSCID Website](#)

DeKalb County Earns National Recognition for Innovative Technological Response to COVID-19



Congratulations to DeKalb County! The Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties (NACo) recognized DeKalb County Government as a leader in its response to COVID-19 with its use of innovative technology.

DeKalb County ranked fourth out of 106 in the nation among counties with a population of 500,000 and 999,999. The only other Georgia County recognized was Gwinnett County, which ranked fifth.

Learn more about DeKalb County's early adoption of "socially distant service delivery" and other strategies in this [On Common Ground article](#).

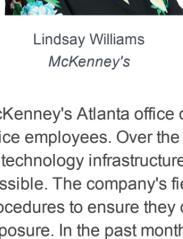
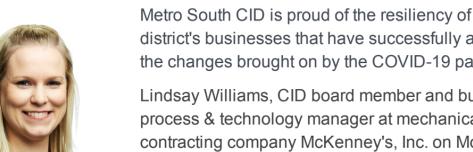
[Read More in On Common Ground](#)

New Security Cameras in the District

In the past month, the CID was able to install three new security cameras in the district due to the generosity of Lonza Wood Protection led by Chris Babbett. These added cameras allow the CID and the DeKalb County Police Department to better protect the district from potential crime in the area.

Are you a business owner in the Metro South CID and looking to maximize security for your business? Look no further! Consider investing in a Flock Safety Security Camera. If you're interested, visit Flock Safety's [website](#).

McKenney's is Thriving During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Lindsay Williams
McKenney's

Metro South CID is proud of the resiliency of our district's businesses that have successfully adapted to the changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lindsay Williams, CID board member and business process & technology manager at mechanical contracting company McKenney's, Inc. on Moreland Industrial Blvd., is proud of the way her company and the CID have transitioned to the current circumstances. According to Williams, McKenney's has been able to nearly match its performance when compared to previous years!

When the pandemic hit in full force in March, McKenney's Atlanta office quickly transitioned to a fully remote workforce for all of its office employees. Over the past few years, the company has focused on modernizing its technology infrastructure, which helped make the transition as smooth as possible. The company's field employees immediately implemented safety procedures to ensure they could continue working while minimizing risk and exposure. In the past month, McKenney's workforce has started transitioning to a hybrid remote/in-person work schedule, with procedures in place to ensure employees are staying safe.

In the coming months, Williams says that her company has developed a mindset to be ready for anything.

[Continue Reading on the MSCID Website](#)

Cedar Grove Bridge Closure

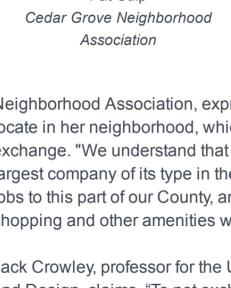
The Cedar Grove bridge over the Norfolk Southern railroad has been closed for the past several months and has created a major disruption for our trucking companies, resulting in increased trucking costs and commute times. The bridge was built in 1965 and is at the end of its useful life. The CID is working with DeKalb County and business owners to move the bridge replacement project forward.

Progress is happening! After obtaining permission from Norfolk Southern, AECOM Engineering has begun surveying the current situation and is working with DeKalb County to provide appropriate recommendations for repairing the bridge. Thank you to David Pelton at DeKalb County for working with the CID to push this project forward!

In the meantime, the CID has requested detour signage be placed throughout the area to better inform and direct truckers not as familiar with this area, and has begun working with business owners within the district to mobilize the County to find a solution to this issue as quickly as possible. While the CID understands this issue is inconvenient, we're asking for patience.

The CID is working to develop a map that details the preferred alternate route for traffic based on the bridge closure. Stay tuned to the CID's social media platforms and future newsletters as updates become available.

Blackhall Land Exchange Update



Pat Culp
Cedar Grove Neighborhood Association

On September 10, 2020, a public meeting was held virtually via Zoom regarding the Blackhall Land Exchange. During the meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to share their opinions regarding the deal.

Ryan Millsap, founder and CEO of Blackhall Studios, expressed, "Since adopting DeKalb County for the headquarters of our growing studio operation, supporting the Georgia film industry, I have been proud to have served on committees focused on the economic development and growth in this county. As Blackhall grows, so do the opportunities for businesses and residents to grow with us."

Pat Culp, president of the Cedar Grove Neighborhood Association, expressed her gratitude that Blackhall chose to locate in her neighborhood, which will now expand following the land exchange. "We understand that they [Blackhall] are working to become the largest company of its type in the world. We hope their trajectory will bring more jobs to this part of our County, and that in time, grocery stores, restaurants, shopping and other amenities will follow," said Culp.

Jack Crowley, professor for the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design, claims, "To not exchange these properties is to miss an important and strategic opportunity. For instance, according to the tree survey in photographs, more mature trees will be protected because of the exchange moving the construction of their studios over to Constitution Road. This will leave more sensitive areas of Intrenchment Creek protected, and all runoff will be captured, filtered and released according to state and federal regulations."

Shortly following the public meeting, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees labor union informed Blackhall Studios representatives that there are 342 film industry workers located in the area surrounding Blackhall Studios. According to Blackhall's representatives, the Land Exchange would help bring more of these jobs to the County.

The Wall Street Journal Logistics Report: Trucking's Restocking Rush

The Wall Street Journal produces a bi-weekly [Logistics Report](#) which may be beneficial for many of our members to review.

The September 4 issue reveals that freight demand is on the rise due to the rush to replenish inventory and supplies after the pandemic shutdowns. Freight rates are increasing due to the limited capacity as retailers attempt to restock in anticipation of holiday sales.

[Learn More in the WSJ Logistics Report](#)

Blackstone's Ken Caplan: Distress Deals Are Coming, Just Not Overnight

In a Bisnow webinar on September 17, Blackstone Global's co-Head of Real Estate Ken Caplan discussed commercial real estate's recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Blackstone, one of the world's largest owners of real estate including property in metro Atlanta, was able to take its company to new heights after the Great Financial Crisis, but Caplan explained that these deals didn't occur overnight.

[Read a Recap of the Bisnow Webinar](#)

It's Not Too Late - Take the 2020 Census and Make DeKalb Count!

· M A K E D E K A L B C O U N T ·

CENSUS 2020

#COUNTMEINDEKALB

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is Wednesday, September 30! Fill out the 2020 Census today!

Currently, only 63.5% of DeKalb County residents have completed the Census. By completing your 2020 Census form, you will help DeKalb County determine how critical resources are distributed. **Ignoring the Census letter can cost DeKalb County up to \$2,314 a year per person.**

Please fill out your census form today! It consists of only 10 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. For more information on alternative way to get counted — by phone or online, please visit the DeKalb Census [website](#).

[Complete the 2020 Census](#)

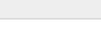
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