

**TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA**  
**QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS**  
**AND/OR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY**  
**APRIL 1, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2009**

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW ARE PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, AND  
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AFFAIRS PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

(Mini-Series Documentaries are produced by WSB-TV's News Department and appear within the newscasts as a public service to the community. The Action News "mini-series" are aired one to four times daily Monday -Friday from 5am-7am; 12-1:00pm; 5-7pm; 11-11:35pm; 1:35-2:05am (repeat). On Saturdays, Action News is aired from 6-9am; 12-12:30pm; 6-6:30pm; and 11-11:35pm. Sundays: 7:30-11am; 12-12:30pm; 6-7pm; and 11-11:35pm. Segments are generally 1:00-6:00 minutes in length. The following, in date order, are the reports broadcast during second quarter, 2009)

**QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST**

- EDUCATION / YOUTH
  - HEALTHCARE
  - ECONOMY
- ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION
  - TRAFFIC / TRANSPORTATION
- LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
  - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
  - COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOODS

**PRINCIPAL CONTROVERSY GWINNETT**

Date: **04/24/09 12PM** duration :39 Fred Blankenship

A large group of parents are coming to the defense of a principal who lost her job. At least 60 of them packed Beaver Ridge Elementary school last night for a school board meeting. All wore matching t-shirts. They believe former principal Esther Adames should've been allowed to finish out the school year. Parent Stephanie Bowen: "What i think they're missing is that we care and highly value the high level of excellence and belief that she's instilled in our children and that we stand behind her - the parents of the school." Adames resigned last month during an administrative investigation into her for breaking discipline rules. Gwinnett County says the issue is over – and Adames is finishing her contract in another position.

**11V SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT CLAY VO**

Date: **05/18/09 23:49:25** duration :32 Monica Pearson

Tonight Clayton County's school system selected a new superintendent, but it was not without controversy. By a vote of five to four, the board named Edmond Heatley to lead the district. Heatley recently led a school district in California. Some board members and parents say there was not enough public input before the vote. Linda Granger: "I don't know why they made the decision. The only thing I can see is for they interest, own personal interest." Heatley was not at tonight's meeting. The board awarded him a three year contract for \$250,000 dollars a year.

**MILITARY SCHOOL DEKALB**

Date: **04/16/09 18:49:00** duration :19 Richard Elliot

Opponents of a proposed Marine Corps high school are demanding the school system scrap the idea. DeKalb wants to create the school for at-risk students and place it temporarily inside Heritage Elementary school on Heritage Drive.

Date: **04/15/09 07:13:10** duration :35 Richard Elliot

Residents in one DeKalb County neighborhood don't want to see their local elementary school become the new Marine Corps high school. Hundreds packed into a meeting last night to tell school board members that while they support the idea of the military-based school, they don't want to see it located inside Heritage elementary. They say they're worried about the traffic. "This is not the right location for that many people. That much traffic into the neighborhoods." (applause) Superintendent Dr. Crawford Lewis told the crowd the school would be located there for just one year ... long enough to find a more permanent location.

Date: **05/29/09 11PM** duration :36 Monica Pearson

DeKalb County schools and the US Marine Corps are suspending plans to join forces on a controversial school. The school would have been at Heritage Elementary and would've provided extra discipline to students at risk of failing. But today the superintendent said the agreement wasn't feasible and the school won't open in August. Opponents said they won't let down their guard. Tim Franzen, American Friends Service Committee: "They were talking about opening the school August 10 and this gives us another year to continue to do research and continue to build our campaign and really build the case that this is a bad deal. " The school system said it would continue discussions with the Marines.

## **REPORT CARDS COBB**

Date: **05/29/09 6am** duration :33 Fred Blankenship

Cobb County schools have approved a new "standards based" controversial grading system. Some parents crowded into a board meeting last night with signs of protest. They feel the system is confusing and doesn't leave room for great students to excel. Cobb County students in kindergarten through 2nd grade are measured on the 3-2-1 system now, and last night in a 4-2 vote, the district added 3rd grade. The standards system will be added to 3rd grade next year. The board has no plans to expand into upper grades.

## **CRCT INVESTIGATION DEKALB**

Date: **06/11/09 7am** duration :28 Carol Sbarge

A state investigation revealed that four Georgia schools may have cheated on the CRCT test, including three in metro Atlanta. But it was not the students cheating. One of the schools is Atherton Elementary in Decatur. The state found someone changed the students' answers on the math portion of the test to boost their scores and meet 'no child left behind' federal standards. The other metro schools with irregularities are Deerwood Academy in Atlanta and Parklane Elementary in Fulton County.

## **PARENTS EJECTED FROM GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Date: **05/31/09 6PM** duration :38 Anissa Centers

Some metro Atlanta parents are irate today, after being kicked out of their children's graduation. One parent recorded Maynard Jackson High School's commencement ceremony Thursday night. You can hear applause as the graduates names are read. The police, then, escorted people out. Officers kicked people out who they considered loud and disruptive. Parents said they went too far. Parent: "Out of all the things you really could have been doing – crime – I saw more officers at a graduation than I've seen in some of the neighborhoods." Atlanta school officials tell us the guests were asked to hold their applause until all the graduates names were read and that the officers acted appropriately.

## **DROPOUT CRISIS IN GEORGIA**

Date: **05/05/09 6PM** duration :22 Jovita Moore

Georgia educators have a dropout crisis on their hands. A report today shows more than one in five 16-to-24 year olds in Georgia have dropped out of high school. That's the highest percentage in the country! The report recommends re-enrolling older dropouts and adopting a \$2 billion dollar incentive program that provides matching federal money for dropouts who go back to school.

## **PRE-K FUNDING CHEROKEE**

Date: **06/29/09 11PM** duration :36 Monica Pearson

Some Cherokee County parents are not happy with the state formula in funding Georgia's Pre-K program. The lottery pays for tuition for four-year-olds attending a certain list of schools. Parents here complain the popular Goddard School is not allowed to join the program. It means dozens of current students will have to go to another school. Treva Rhodes, school owner: "Our parents want to stay here at the Goddard School. They've had experience with the local competitors, and they want to take advantage of the product and the quality curriculum we have here." Administrators say they spend \$350 million dollars statewide and their formula best serves most children.

## **SCHOOL OPT OUT GWINNETT**

Date: **06/25/09 6AM**

duration :41

Carol Sbarge

A new school choice law that goes into effect next month is already causing some controversy. Gwinnett and Forsyth County schools will \*not\* be required to follow all of the statewide rules under school choice and transfer. The new law falls under House Bill 251. It's meant to give parents the option to switch schools within a district. The bills sponsor, Representative Alisha Morgan, says it was intended to be about space, but many people have faced several roadblocks. Kathy Cox: "I think the parent has a choice on where their child goes..if they pay taxes in Gwinnett county they should be able to go to whatever school they want to." Gwinnett officials say they will meet or exceed many of the mandates under the school choice law.

## **12V TEACHER SALARIES COBB**

Date: **05/29/09 12PM**

duration :36

Fred Blankenship

Cobb County school leaders are getting some opposition to a plan to cut salaries. Several people spoke out at a school board meeting last night. Board members are considering cutting teacher and staff salaries by 2%, and eliminating some school nurse positions. One school employee fears it will prevent quality teachers from coming to Cobb. Grandparent: "I am concerned for my 2-year-old granddaughter, who will be a product of Cobb County education system and I don't want our quality of education to decrease because we cannot get the best teachers because we are decreasing our salaries." The school board is scheduled to vote on the plan next month.

## **STATE BUDGET GA**

Date: **05/29/09 5PM**

duration 1:23

Lori Geary

Stoya Kostova: "I'm definitely very worried about tuition." As a Georgia State University student, Stoya Kostova has reason to worry. "I'm just scared it's going to go up and I already have to pay \$400 dollars for books." Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue has just ordered major budget cuts across the board. Georgia's university system must cut another \$34 million dollars in June, on top of the \$275 million dollars in cuts already this year. The University System has 1300 vacant positions that are not being filled and has laid off more than 100 employees. Millsaps: "Our big challenge is to serve the students and maintain the academic quality. These are challenging times for all state agencies. About 1/3 of the state's 100,000 employees are taking unpaid furlough days. All state agencies are getting their June budgets cut by 25%. The exception is education K-12 because the Governor will use federal stimulus money that he set aside for 2011. Bert Brantley: "By pulling that stimulus money forward, we'll hold education at the level it's at now." The Governor's office tells me this latest round of cuts prepares state agencies for the new budget year which starts July 1. Brantley: "The recovery is coming, it's just how quickly does it come to Atlanta and Georgia." For students like Kostova, it can't come soon enough. Kostova: "I have to work two jobs just to keep up with all my fees and paying for an apartment. We have a lot to worry about – especially the way the economy is."

## **CRCT INVESTIGATION ATLANTA**

Date: **06/12/09 6PM**

duration 1:28

Lori Geary

Steve Cramer: "In this building, there are copies of the high school graduation tests." The Georgia Assessment Center is a secured building where workers scan close to a million test documents a year. I was the only reporter to gain access into the lab that found evidence of possible cheating at three elementary schools in metro Atlanta. When state education leaders were concerned that bubble sheets

on 5<sup>th</sup> grade standardized math tests may have been changed, they sent them here for an erasure analysis. Steve Cramer showed me the machines that were used to scan the questionable bubble sheets. Cramer: "The machines generate the data to identify the papers that need special scrutiny." Kathleen Mathers: "This was not a visual inspection, this was a professional analysis." State education leaders say the investigation showed answers were changed up to 30 times on some answer sheets. Mathers: "An erasure analysis is effective because it's done in complete privacy and no one would know anything about it." Cramer: "When I do any kind of analysis, I double check, do it again to make sure those results are consistent." State leaders will more than likely be calling on the Georgia Assessment Center again. The tell me this time they focused on 5<sup>th</sup> grade math tests, but they'll also be looking at answer sheets from other grades.

Date: **06/15/09 6PM** duration :23 Justin Farmer

A state senator wants a new law in the aftermath of the CRCT cheating scandal. Senator Dan Weber is calling for a law that would levy criminal charges against educators who change answers on standardized tests. Weber is the head of the state's senate education committee. An audit released last week revealed cheating on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade CRCT at four elementary schools. Three of the schools are in metro Atlanta.

### **DRIVERS EDUCATION GA**

Date: **06/18/09 6PM** duration 1:09 Jeff Dore

One tool to cut down on accidents involving teen drivers is drivers education – on a simulator, on the road, in the classroom. At 15, Timaiya Timothy thinks it's a great idea as she gets her learner's permit. Timothy: "It'd be very beneficial to all the kids who don't know anything about driving and are just starting out." Georgia created 'Joshua's Law' after teen driver Johsua Brown hydroplaned, crashed and later died. It collects extra money tacked on to moving violation fines to pay for driver's education administered by the Georgia Driver Education commission. Bob Dallas, Commission Vice Chairman: "The law does identify what the money is for." But once the money hits the state's general fund, the legislature doles out a fraction of it for driver education and spends the rest elsewhere. Bob Dallas says it's not that they're callous ... Dallas: "I think there's not a legislator I know that's not an advocate for improving our teen drivers." But other programs need money. Van Flanigan sells driving simulators – and has a 16-year-old. Flanigan: It's just heartbreaking that all this money is being collected and it's not getting where it's supposed to go." Timaiya Timothy: "I don't think it's fair. Somebody should be making sure the money is actually going to that purpose and not anything else."

Date: **06/19/09 12PM** duration :33 Carol Sbarge

Georgia's courts are raising millions of dollars to pay for driver's education, but only spending a fraction of that amount on the programs. We're told courts collect \$9 million dollars a year through moving violation fines, but only spend \$3 million a year on driver's ed. Officials say most of the money goes into a general fund. Parents say that's a shame. Van Flanigan: "As a parent, I'd like for it to get where its supposed to go...and where the law intended it to go...which is to the schools." The courts collect money through 'Joshua's Law' named for teenager Joshua Brown, killed in a crash.

### **SCHOOL CHOICE GA**

Date: **06/23/09 11PM** duration :33 Monica Pearson

Tomorrow, the state board of education will look at the new school choice law. The board is expected to decide if schools in Gwinnett and Forsyth counties can opt out of the program. Starting next week, the new law allows parents to transfer their children to any school within their district if there's space available. Parents we talked to like the idea of more choice. "They have such a great opportunity to do more with their lives than [to] stay in their one little community. It's just so much better for the child." School districts must publish a list of schools that have room for new students.

## **PRE-K FUNDING CHEROKEE COUNTY**

Date: **06/29/09 6PM** duration :33 Justin Farmer

Parents complain they're being forced to pull their children out of a popular metro pre-school. State administrators are denying the school the chance to offer free Pre-K. Lottery dollars fund the program, but the school complains the decisions on who gets funding are unfair and wasteful. Parents say they're forced to choose between a school they love and alternative that's free. Christina Cankoppen, parent: "are you going to pull your daughter out? i don't want to but it comes down to, can we afford it." State administrators say they spread \$350 million dollars statewide using a formula that serves the most children.

## **12v PRE-K REGISTRATION ATLANTA**

Date: **04/18/09 12PM** duration :30 Amanda Rosseter

Some metro Atlanta parents are getting a head start on their children's early education. Dozens of people spent their morning at Inman Middle School in northeast Atlanta to sign up for the Georgia's pre-kindergarten lottery. Atlanta Public School officials are hoping to avoid problems like last year. Mary Lin elementary registered first come, first serve and dozens of parents camped out on Candler Park Drive. This year's lottery drawing is scheduled on April 27<sup>th</sup>. There are 800 slots. Registration runs until 7:00 today and again next Saturday.

Date: **04/19/09 7AM** duration :21 Amanda Rosseter

Hundreds of Atlantans lined up for a shot at winning the 'lottery' for their children. Atlanta Public School officials let parents register for the free pre-k program for 4-year-olds. School officials say they wanted to avoid the problems of last year. Parents camped out days in advance for the first come, first serve free pre-k program. Registration will continue next weekend.

## **Parents Ejected from Graduation Ceremony**

Date: **05/31/09 11PM** duration :19 John Pruitt

It is supposed to be one of those days you never forget: high school graduation. But some Atlanta parents say they'll remember it for all the wrong reasons. Police kicked them out! And they say all they did was applaud. Channel 2's Linda Stouffer talked with some family members. She's live at Maynard Jackson High school in Southeast Atlanta.

**WHOOPIING COUGH COBB VO**Date: **04/14/09 6PM**

duration :22

Jovita Moore

Cobb County health officials are reporting more cases of whooping cough at schools in east Cobb. They say Kehely and Shallowford Falls elementaries each confirmed a case yesterday. Officials at Addison elementary also recently confirmed a case. Whooping cough is easily transmitted and can be serious for children. Experts say immunizations can wear off and leave children susceptible.

**OMILAMI HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM**Date: **06/25/09 5PM**

duration :38

Jovita Moore

Today thousands of people including dozens of Georgia Union workers descended on Capitol Hill. They were rallying for changes in our health care system. It included unions, doctors groups and the reform group ACORN. They all support President Obama's plan to provide a public health insurance option. We caught up with one Atlanta worker who survived breast cancer. Rita Scott: "I know that personally I needed to be cared for twice a day by a nurse and my nurses made me aware of other patients that didn't have the level of care that I had and would ask to borrow some of my supplies." Today's rally comes as the President's plan is facing some tough resistance from Republicans.

**ET VACCINES ATL**Date: **05/19/09 5PM**

duration 2:41

Fred Blankenship

They're loving and they're loyal, but are we harming our pets by getting them vaccinated every year? You ask a veterinarian, you'll get several different answers. Dr. Hamilton: "There's a lot of controversy right now." Dr. Hirsh: "it all depends on who's guidelines you're talking about." Dr. Pinsky: ""This is a very individualized thing" It's all because of cats like Tardy, who lives with veterinarian technician Leanne Smith. Smith: "Back in December i noticed a big lump on the back of her neck. It came back as a sarcoma - likely due to an injection of a vaccine she had had." Sarcoma is cancer. Tardy had radiation, which turned some of her hair gray. And she had surgery to remove the tumor. Smith: "She's doing just fine." Vets say about one in every 3000 cats are developing tumors from vaccine injections. "So lots of research was done and it seems to be more due to the irritation the vaccine causes. So not so much the vaccine, but the injection." And they also discovered the vaccines for both dogs and cats are more potent than once thought. That led to new guidelines from the American Animal Hospital Association. The recommendations are an annual booster at the first year and then every third year thereafter. That's every \*three\* years, not every year. But every year, you'll still get a card telling you it's time for vaccinations. Veterinarian Lance Hirsh: "the most important thing on that reminder is that you come in for an annual exam." Vets say it depends on your dog or cat's lifestyle. If they go outside alot and are in the grass - they could be exposed to deadly viruses, and would need vaccines more frequently. A cat that never goes outside - or a dog that lives in a high rise, say in Midtown Atlanta, would have less exposure, and may need fewer vaccines..vets say. And when it comes to older pets, it gets more complicated. Hirsh: "if a dog is geriatric but healthy that dog may actually need to be vaccinated because their immune system may be waning in later years." Animal oncologist Terrance Hamilton says each animal is different. The decision whether or not to vaccinate and how often should be made after a discussion between owner and vet. Dr. Hamilton: "either way there's risk. so do you go with the risk of sarcoma. or do you go with the risk of the virus. it's a tough question." Leanne Smith knows her decision. "I won't be doing any vaccinations next year, no."

## **GRADY RESULTS ATL**

Date: **06/05/09 6PM** duration 1:34 Diana Davis

The transition changing Grady from a public to a private, not-for-profit hospital was often marked by controversy. Now, a year later, Pete Correll, chair of the new Grady Corporation says it's a new day. Correll: "Number one the quality of care has gone up dramatically. Number two, the service has gone up dramatically. Grady is simply a better hospital." Grady still faces a \$60 million dollar shortfall. It's dealing not only with past budget problems but new ones few foresaw a year ago. Correll: "The thing we did not plan on was our volumes have gone up dramatically. They've gone up with the people who cannot pay due to this recession we're in. We have seen some 60,000 new patients in the past year who don't have any insurance." This ad touting Grady's improvements in local papers cost more than \$50,000 dollars. The expense paid for out of Correll's own pocket – not a dime, he says, from the Grady budget. Correll: "I felt it was really important the community knew we were making progress. That we are honoring their trust and that they ought to feel good." But he admits Grady faces continuing problems including the possible closing of the hospital's dialysis center. Correll says the hospital will not betray the public trust or Grady's historic mission to the poor and uninsured. Correll: "Atlanta can't live without Grady. We have proven that all of us are concerned about one thing: the success of Grady Hospital."

## **SWINE FLU ATL**

Date: **05/04/09 5PM** duration 1:32 Lori Geary

Dr. Elizabeth Ford: "It is the first Georgia resident to be confirmed by the CDC but more importantly this is the first pediatric case in Georgia." Georgia public health officials say they're not surprised the CDC has confirmed another case of the H1N1 virus in Georgia. The second one, that 14-year-old at the Henry County private school. Public Health Director Dr. Elizabeth Ford says the CDC is also testing three more Georgia cases that are 99% probable to come back with a positive result. They include a three-year-old boy from Cobb County who had contact with someone who traveled to Mexico. Also, a 36-year-old pregnant woman from DeKalb who has no history of travel or contact with anyone who visited other countries. Lastley, an eight year old girl who just returned from Mexico where she was attending school. The good news is all of them are recovering at home. Dr. Ford: "They're feeling fine, none of them are at a place where they need to be hospitalized." Gov Perdue: "At this current time there seems to be no current pandemic, epidemic of flu systems over the state." Governor Sonny Perdue reiterated his call for people to be aware of the issue, but not to panic. He confirmed today that Georgia just received its own test kits, cutting down on the 48 hour window to get results back from the CDC. Dr. Ford: "My message is the same as it would be for seasonal flu. You still need to protect yourself as you would in any event from fever, cough." Public health officials say they continue to monitor family members and close contacts of the Georgians infected.

## **6Pv HEALTH CARE RALLY DC**

Date: **06/25/09 6PM** duration :32 MOInca Pearson

Healthcare was front and center today in the nation's capital. Some Georgians who work in the field were there. Thousands of doctors and union groups turned out on Capitol Hill to support the administration's plan. They support, providing a public health insurance option. Rita Scott, Atlanta Communications Union: "We have a hospital in Atlanta that's in danger of being closed, the Grady healthcare system and the indigent and those that simply don't have the level they need would be without healthcare." Today's rally comes as the President's plan faces some tough resistance from GOP lawmakers.

## **SWINE FLU HITS GEORGIA**

Date: **04/30/09 6PM**      duration 1:15      Jovita Moore

Confirmation early Thursday that so-called swine flu has hit Georgia. The patient: a 30-year-old woman now in intensive care at West Georgia Medical Hospital in LaGrange. State leaders and health officials in Atlanta today said communities there are on alert. State Senator Seth Harp: "The communities are involved and they are triggering their public health networks in their surrounding areas." The patient is actually from Kentucky – and had traveled to Cancun, Mexico for vacation on April 17. Just one day later, she became ill and was still sick when she flew back to Kentucky on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Two days later, she drove to Atlanta and on to LaGrange to attend a wedding, and spent the next three days driving back and forth to Atlanta to shop. Dr. Ford: "If her family members are not infected it is unlikely that anyone she encountered shopping in Atlanta would be at risk." Now they are tracking down the passengers on the flight – as well as the attendees at the wedding to warn them of possible exposure. Health officials say they have collected 48 specimens from across the state that meet the criteria to be tested for swine flu – 23 tested negative, the one tested positive, and another 24 are still pending.

**HOUSING CREDIT**

Date: **05/12/09 5AM** duration :25 Carol Sbarge

If you're in the market for a new home, now may be a good time to buy. Governor Sonny Perdue is hoping a new tax credit will help jump start the state's housing market. Governor signed a new bill into law Monday. It provides an \$1,800 dollar tax credit for home purchases made within the next six months. The state will spread the credit out over three years. For first-time homebuyers, the state credit would be in addition to the federal tax credit.

**BIOTECH CONVENTION ATL**

Date: **05/20/09 6PM** duration 1:08 Jeff Dore

Dr. William Frist, Republican: "It really comes down to a fundamental political belief in many ways." Their fundamental political beliefs are far apart – Republicans Carl Rove and Bill Frist, and former Democratic leaders Howard Dean and Tom Daschle. They agree on one thing about the growing debate in Washington on health care reform. Rove: "Something's gonna pass in the end. What it's gonna be, no one here can say." The challenge they agreed needs addressing is the millions of Americans who have little or no health care. Their audience: 3,000 conventioners in the Biotech industry. The great debate is between public plan and private industry? Rove: "Look, this is a legitimate question: how are we gonna pay for it?" Democrat Daschle followed by Republican Rove. Daschle: "A poll just came out last week. Sixty-eight percent of the Republicans, \*Republicans\* supported public plans. Seventy eight percent of Independents and 73% of Democrats." Rove: "Not when we get finished educating them about it." We found two conventioners as different as Rove and Daschle. Kiva Kolstein, New Yorker: "My colleague and I disagree on almost everything that was said up there today." ...and asked if they heard anything in the debate to make them think Washington could agree on a plan? Kiva: "I think they can." Jacquelyn Nicholson, New Yorker: "Yeah, I think there's some agreement."

**FILM COMMISSION ATL**

Date: **04/20/09 11PM** duration 1:11 John Bachman

The crew for "Drop Dead Diva" took up more than a block around the Biltmore. They'll be filming the Lifetime comedy series in metro Atlanta through August. Sending 175 crew members into Atlanta's hotels and restaurants ... and employing locals – like this security guard (on video). Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall: "That's huge. It may be for only 3 or 4 months, but that's good work for people in a down economy." And expect to see more of these scenes play out in the city and state. This year, at least 7 major motion pictures are set to film in Georgia and Atlanta. Hall: "And they bring 40 million a pop. In terms of economic impact, plus over 150 to 200 people being employed locally." Councilman Hall sponsored a proclamation Monday that pledges to streamline the permitting process, making Atlanta film-friendly in a state that is attracting movie makers with a 30% tax break. Hall: "We just try to be creative and supportive. We want them to feel like this is their home. And if people feel welcome, they come back." And here's another draw – the Atlanta Film Festival this week is expected to attract 20,000 people, many of them up and coming movie makers from all over the world. Gabe Wardell, Atlanta Film Festival: "We showcase the city to them, they all go to other places...LA, NY, Canada where there's filmmakers working and say I want to shoot in GA."

## **UNEMPLOYMENT DROP METRO ATLANTA**

Date: **04/23/09 5AM** duration :53 Fred Blannkenship

Thousands of metro Atlantans are doing what they can to stay afloat in our tough economy. Though the unemployment drop is minor, the Georgia Department of Labor's news comes at a time when the job market is struggling to regain its footing. But some businesses, like Bed Bath and Beyond, are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Janet Gibson: "We have been consistently hiring..we just opened a brand new store in canton. From March of 2008 to this March, the jobless rate was up more than 3.5%. Payroll jobs decreased nearly 186,000. But despite the year-over-year loss of jobs, the state still managed to add 3,000 new jobs last month, the first monthly increase since October. With another step in the right direction, the work for Georgia's economy is far from over – the state's unemployment remains about the national rate of 8.5%.

## **GA BANKERS ATL**

Date: **04/27/09 6PM** duration :30 Monica Pearson

Since late August, Georgia banks are failing at a rate greater than one per month. The latest is American Southern Bank in Kennesaw. It reopened today as a branch of Alpharetta-based Bank of North Georgia. Officials blame a slew of bad real estate and construction loans for the problems in the state's banking industry. Joe Brannen: "Georgia's economy is not as robust as we would like and the banks are a reflection of that." Consultant and former banking regulator John Kline told us today that eight more Georgia banks are likely to fail this year.

## **STATE REVENUE GA**

Date: **05/11/09 6PM** duration 1:27 Lori Geary

It was a question the Governor could not avoid ... Gov Perdue: "Unfortunately, I have looked at the April numbers." After having to cut the state budget almost \$2 Billion dollars, April's revenue numbers paint an even darker picture – down 21% compared to a year ago. A loss of more than \$360 million dollars! Perdue: "puts us in a category where we have to be very careful going forward." Sales tax collections were down \$130 million – individual income tax another \$160 million. Alan Essig is the Executive Director of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute and says he's not surprised because the state's unemployment rate is about the national average at 9.2%. Essig: "With that many people out of work, you lose the income tax revenue, you lost the sales tax revenue, this is something that is not at all surprising." Essig says he's relieved Governor Perdue's first veto was the so-called 'jobs/oppourtunity/success act.' It would have cost Georga at least \$340 million dollars a year by giving employers who hire unemployed workers a \$2400 dollar income tax credit. It would have also cut capital gains taxes by 25% the first year, 50% in the future. Essig: "the choice between the policy and the politics he chose the policy. Perdue: "While I believe many of the provisions in 481 would stimulate job growth and the economy, it has to be affordable or it's not possible.

## **RECOVERY RESTAURANT**

Date: **05/27/09 5PM** duration 1:17 Carol Sbarge

It's going to be South American food cooked on a Woodfire grill. Fuego Mundo is opening on June 5th at The Prado in Sandy Springs. It's the first business in Georgia to get a loan from the small business

administration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Masha Help Hershkovitz: "For me personally in our business they eliminated the closing cost fees which was a very big barrier." Under the Recovery Act, which started in March, the SBA can waive fees and it can guarantee more of the loan for lenders. Terri Denison: "That means less exposure, therefore encouraging them to make loans in this environment." This check is a symbol of loans new small businesses are getting. About 171 new businesses will be getting the help in Georgia. That means new jobs. This new restaurant expects to employ about 20 people. Despite the trouble with the economy, the Kaufman Foundation just released a study ranking Georgia as the #1 state for new business start-ups. The owners of Fuego Mundo have big dreams. They hope to eventually create more restaurants like this one. They got the loan from a local bank called Signature and are thrilled to be the first in the state to get the SBA backed loan.

### **NCR MOVE DULUTH**

Date: **06/03/09 12PM** duration :35 Fred Blankenship

There's optimism that the relocation of Fortune 500 Company, NCR and 1,200 jobs will immediately jump start Georgia's economy. Governor Perdue offered \$60 million dollars in tax incentives to lure the company's headquarters from Dayton, Ohio to Duluth. Company officials insist the tax break isn't the only incentive to move. They also considered our workforce and airport. Michael Thurmond: "ncr coming to Georgia not only is that a positive, but the fact that they relocated here also gives other impetus to lure other corporations to Atlanta." The head of NCR says the new hires will have an average salary of \$60,000-70,000 dollars a year.

### **NCR BACKLASH ATL**

Date: **06/05/09 5AM** duration :24 Fred Blankenship

As Georgia prepares for NCR's new headquarters in Duluth, some Ohio lawmakers are protesting the possible use of federal stimulus money to move the company here. The ATM manufacturer announced this week it would move headquarters from Dayton Ohio to Gwinnett County. There are also talks of a separate plant in Columbus, Georgia. Ohio officials say stimulus money should not help one local economy at the expense of another.

### **SIX FLAGS COBB**

Date: **06/15/09 5PM** duration 1:24 Jim Strickland

Don Loftis and his family, visiting from Kansas, prepared for thrills in the park, but unshocked at the news. Loftis: "with the economy the way it is it does not surprise me in the least, we laid 700 off at my job so, i can understand it." Six Flags over Georgia and sister park White Water will remain open. Ironically the filing comes at the end of what Six Flags considers a successful 3-year turn-around plan. Adjusted earnings were up 45% last year. And the company took in more than it spent for the first time ever. Local officials won't break out numbers for Six Flags Over Georgia or White Water, but they do break out the positives. Melinda Ashcraft: Six Flags Over Georgia is strong, we're open, we're having a great season, we opened on February 28th and we had a great spring we're seeing great attendance every day." The company is Georgia's number one seasonal employer for teenagers – 3500 of them. Chris Bailey was hoping to join them. We told him about the filing. "Are they gonna close down, or is employee wages gonna get cut, hours gonna get cut...laid off. i brings a whole bunch of worries since I'm just now learning that here." For the record, the CEO says jobs are safe. "I started out as a 16-year-old and 42 years later, I'm still here."

### **3% STATE BUDGET CUTS**

Date: **06/24/09 6PM** duration 1:09 Lori Geary

Bert Brantley: "For July, it's really a cut and survive kind of thing." You'll find that message in this letter I obtained a copy of that the Governor's Budget Director sent to all state agency heads. After slashing the state budget by \$2.8 billion dollars this past year. The Governor's office says Georgia continues to weather the challenges of this economic downturn. For the month of July, we will approve 100% of your allotment request. However, we encourage you to reduce expenditures by at least 3% for the month of July. Brantley: "Another that we've seen indicates that there's going to be any fast, rapid turnaround." In this weak economy, state tax collections have been hit hard as consumers hold on to their money; businesses are forced to layoff and there's no letup in the housing downturn. In May alone, state tax collections were down \$212 million dollars compared to the same month last year. Georgia is set to start a new fiscal year next week, but the Governor's office says even more cuts may be on the way. Brantley: "As it looks right now, revenues will probably not ... meet our 2010 estimate."

### **GOVERNOR BUDGET GA**

Date: **06/30/09 5PM** duration 1:15 Lori Geary

Governor Perdue: "Bottoming out is one thing – recovery is another." Governor Sonny Perdue announced the first Georgia project paid for with federal stimulus funds at a time when the state desperately needs the money. Resurfacing is set to begin on 1941 in Hapeville on Monday. Perdue: "I'm concerned about what will happen when stimulus funds disappear in all areas of state government. We're hoping and praying that state revenues, including transportation funds, move upward very quickly." Governor Perdue warned, though, that when Georgia's economy starts to recover it will be slow. Just last week, I obtained a copy of a letter his office sent to all state agency heads asking they cut their July budgets another three percent. That's on top of slashing the state budget by \$2.8 billion dollars this past year. Geary: "You had mentioned in May that you thought we had bottomed out – do you see any indications that Georgia has bottomed out?" Perdue: "We've had some manufacturing numbers that look that way, but I also caution at the same time this won't be a 'V' bottom – we won't bounce back up." By executive order, the Governor can hold back funds from state agencies, but state lawmakers may want a say when it comes to more cuts. Perdue: "I'm going to meet with legislative leadership and determine if we want to take that route or come back for a special session where we re-adjust the budget."

**CARPET CHEMICALS DALTON**Date: **05/11/09 6PM** duration 3:02 Richard Belcher

It's home to the carpet industry, but it's also home to the Conasauga River, and the relationship between the two is causing ripples. "I personally wouldn't eat the fish out of that system." Aaron Fisk took samples from the Conasauga when he was a professor at the University of Georgia in 2006. He was looking for a specific chemical – perflouronated compounds (or PFOA) which was used to make carpets stain resistant. Fisk: "We did find high levels of these chemicals and the levels were really - you know, orders of magnitude maybe 1000 times higher than what you might expect to find in a river in the southern united states. There is so much concern about PFOA's because the Environmental Protection Agency labeled it a possible carcinogen. EPA asked companies to stop using it by 2010. "If they're already in the environment and if they are as persistent as we think, then this may be an issue that we're dealing with for some time." If Dr. Randall Manning of the Georgia EPA division says he learned about the PFOA issue from the UGA study. Now the state is testing samples of it's own. But the testing for PFOA is very new and has to be contracted out. "Those are slow in coming and being done. But we are getting information on these chemicals." What makes PFOA so durable in products is what makes it so hard to what makes PFOA so durable in products is what makes it hard to break down in the environment. Nothing sticks to it, which is why it was used to make no-stick pots and pans, microwave popcorn bags and stain resistant carpets. This is where the waste from the carpet industry goes – to Dalton's wastewater treatment facility on the banks of the Conasauga. Workers treat the waste her, then spray it onto the land using these sprinklers. Scientists have concerns that on most days, the PFOA in the waste doesn't break down and seeps into the soil. On a rainy day like today the concern is the PFOA will run off from the Dalton wastewater plant into the Conasauga river. Now the dalton water intake is up stream from there and thus safe. But the Conasauga downstream flows into the oostenala, which is the main drinking source for the cities of Rome and Calhoun. Braun: "We don't want to see any pollution from the carpet industry going into the environment." Werner Braun is the president of the Rug and Carpet Institute. He told us the industry stoopped using PFOA's earlier this year – and started using a product scientists believe will break down more easily in the environment. Braun: "I have six children. 3 grandchildren. If I had a personal concern about the water safety of this community, I'd be out of here in a heartbeat." The President and CEO of Dalton Utilities, which runs the wastewater treatment plant, isn't as sure. Cope: "I don't want to do anything that harms anybody or any living creature." Cope says until the federal or state government sets limits or requirements for PFOAs, his hands are tied. If somebody shows me what to do and it's the right thing to do, I'll do it immediately."

**GA POWER BREACH ATL**Date: **04/24/09 6PM** duration 2:56 Tom Regan

With its massive cooling towers, Plant Bowen is a dominant landmark. The facility is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for electricity production, and is directly linked to the power grid of the entire southeastern United States. On the outside it appears to be a tightly guarded facility as we found out ourselves. But on the inside, we're told, workers hired by subcontractors repeatedly gained entry into the plant using fake identification. Senator Chip Rodgers: "This is serious and significant security threat." Georgia Senate majority leader Chip Rogers expressed deep concerns over allegations of undocumented workers inside the plant. This lawsuit obtained by Action News stems from the death of Bob Podorsky. The soil engineer was killed after this giant grader backed over him at Plant Bowen. At the wheel of the \$40,000 dollar machine? An illegal immigrant who stated in his job application s having no valid drivers license. Other workers questioned under oath in the lawsuit also admitted to having no licenses nor valid social security

numbers. And this plant worker told me there are many more illegal workers. Because he fears he could be fired if he talked publicly, this plant worker asked us to disguise his voice and conceal his identity. He told me he has seen workers with fake papers and even talked with them about the documents which they bought off the street. Worker: "They can get licenses from another state, they can get social security cards, they can get green cards." Regan: "And they're all fake?" Worker: "Yes sir." Senator Rogers: "It's scary because you have stolen identification, false identification but all of it in the context of what is supposed to be a secure environment." Senator Rogers examined what we uncovered. He says action must be taken to make sure people entering and working in critical sites like power plants are legal and have the identification to prove it. Rogers: "This is a major security threat if your allowing people into a secure area and you have knowledge as to who they truly are." Gus Mitsis, former plant worker: "I feel if Georgia Power knew about it, Georgia Power would stop it in a heartbeat." Union carpenter Gus Mintis worked at Plant Bowen as recently as December. He blames sub-contractors for hiring illegals to work at the plant when a record number of tradesmen are desperate for jobs. Anonymous worker: "I would say there was more than 100 illegal workers, easy." A Georgia Power spokesman told me in a prepared statement, the company has a zero tolerance policy for undocumented workers. Tal Wright, Ga Power: "We have removed undocumented workers from our worksites and we removed entire contractor management teams from our worksites who did not handle this issue properly." The state agency that regulates utility companies told us it doesn't oversee plant security. Senator Rogers says that also needs to change. Rogers: "We have got to have some regulation in place to make that doesn't allow this to happen again. A major power generating plant like Plant Bowen, is clearly an area we have got to take extra steps to prevent something bad from happening."

#### **PIEDMONT CONSERVANCY ATL VO**

Date: **05/13/09 6PM** duration :33 John Pruitt

Today the Piedmont Park Conservancy honored three Atlantans for their work to expand the city's green space. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Landmark Lunch raised money for the restoration and 53-acre expansion of Piedmont Park. The non-profit honored Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen, Mayor Shirley Franklin, and Ted Turner. Mayor Franklin: "This is also a wonderful time for us to thank one of the great corporate leaders in Atlanta of all time – Ted Turner, who's been leading the way on the environment." After the awards ceremony, Channel 2's Monica Pearson interviewed Ted Turner about his philanthropic work

#### **RECYCLING HENRY COUNTY**

Date: **06/01/09 6PM** duration :22 John Pruitt

This is "Greening Henry County" week. The county is kicking off its curbside recycling program for the 73,000 homes in the unincorporated area. Residential haulers are required to offer curbside recycling. It helps the environment, and the county says there is limited space in the landfill. This program is part of the county's new solid waste management plan adopted in February.

#### **SOUTHWEST ATLANTA NEIGHBORHOOD MTG**

Date: **06/18/09 11PM** duration :37 Richard Elliot

Angry neighbors let Mayor Shirley Franklin know just how upset they are about pollution in southwest Atlanta. The vented their anger at a community meeting. They're worried that nearby junkyards are destroying their neighborhoods. Bert Langley of the state Environmental Protection Division says they are taking action against those yards. Langley: "We're investigating some other allegations brought forward frankly by the homeowners here and have begun that process." But Langley says the green chemical found in a nearby creek was nothing more than harmless dye. Mayor Franklin listened to the complaints but said she could not comment on those junkyards.

## **COBB COUNTY COAL DUMP**

Date: **05/08/09 11PM** duration :26

Monica Pearson

A new report is raising concerns about the cancer risk for people who live near local coal-fired power plants. An environmental group says the risk from chemicals from those plants is higher than previously thought. Georgia Power operates 11 ash ponds, including one at Plant McDonough in Cobb County. Kimberly Lawrence: "It's a concern. We have thought about moving because we are so close." Georgia Power calls the report "preliminary" and insists its ash ponds are safe.

## **POLLUTED CITIES ATL VO**

Date: **04/29/09 11PM** duration :23

John Pruitt

If a new report is correct, several metro Atlanta counties have a lot of work to do when it comes to air pollution. In its latest report card, the American Lung Association is giving Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties failing grades for ozone pollution. The group says metro Atlanta has about 24 unhealthy ozone days a year. But that's much better than in 1998, when there were 73 unhealthy air days.

## **ILLEGAL DUMPING ATL**

Date: **05/24/09 6PM** duration 3:30

Tom Regan

The many people who use this southwest Atlanta park are worried their dogs may get sick from this water. It's been contaminated before but never this bad. Resident 1: "It looks like something out of a horror movie, really. It really didn't look good it looked like a dangerous situation." Resident 2: "I really have never seen anything like it. It freaked me out. I called 9-1-1." Homeowners walking their dogs through this southwest Atlanta park say Perkinson Creek looked more like a toxic waste site last week. A glowing neon color. Their first reaction? Someone dumped anti-freeze into the water. Mark Batterson: "It was green, it had the same consistency of anti-freeze." And with children and pets all around, they worried someone could get terribly sick or worse. Monica McCaffey: "To me it comes down to human life, a child playing in gasoline and oil and possibly anti-freeze.?" Tests revealed the green chemical had traces of three caustic chemicals used to clean metal and traces of anti-freeze. It dissolved in a few hours. But when we returned to the creek days later we found many blooms of what appeared to be oil or gas in the water. McCaffey: "This happens consistently in this creek and it's infuriating.." The residents are concerned about nearby auto salvage yards, including this one – Perkins Recycling. It's been on the radar of the state EPA for years. An agency director showed me Perkins' file. It includes this consent order in which a \$25,000 dollar fine was imposed for environmental violations. It also requires the salvage yard to take major steps to control storm water pollution runoff. Claud Perkins, owner: "This water this water here, is totally clean water wouldn't say it's totally clean. But there's no oil." Mr. Perkins told me he no longer drains fluids from junked cars. The recycling plant that takes the cars does the job. He also expressed frustration about polluted storm water runoff from other lots over which he has no control. Perkins: "All the water out of this general area comes straight here to this sewer. So that's not right to blame you? It's not it's really not." Mr. Perkins isn't the only business getting scrutiny from environmental officials. Pictures show workers at another junked car lot nearby, hoisting a rusty leaking oil storage tank. It's one of three dug out of the ground last fall. Pictures show sludge leaking from one of the tanks onto the open ground. Regan: "Was this an environmental violation?" Langley: "They did not appear to follow procedure. From what I saw, they should have much more carefully contained the liquids. They should have pumped first. We are continuing to investigate. Based on what I have seen today, we will be looking at the other site also. Residents near the park say they suspect the green contamination came from businesses in the area. But Claude Perkins told me flat out, it's not from his place. Perkins: "I'm environmentally conscious myself. Why would I accidentally or deliberately pour anti-freeze in the sewer. It's totally ludicrous." Monica McAfee: "This would not happen in Alpharetta. This would not be happening

in Vinings. It's happening because people don't care about certain parts of town, and it's about time they did." At this time the state EPA says it cannot determine the cause of that recent toxic spill into the park creek. We will be following up on their investigation and be sure to bring you any new developments.

### **EARTH DAY ATL**

Date: **04/22/09 5PM** duration :37 John Pruitt

Today is "Earth Day" and Atlantic Station hosted one of the many events across the metro area. "Captain Clean Stream" was one of the favorites at this event to educate the public about going green. Even though "earth day" has been around for decades, organizers say something as simple as recycling is more important today than ever. Bryan Holloway, Ga Tech grad student: "I think we have a responsibility to our environment we are throwing away wasting out materials and it's unproductive in terms of our economy and wasteful in terms of our environment." There were recycling demonstrations using a bin of worms and tips for water conservation from Atlanta Watershed Management officials.

### **CASH 4 CLUNKERS**

Date: **06/10/09 6PM** duration :38 John Pruitt

Congress is getting into the used car business. It wants to buy your gas guzzler. It's called the 'cash for clunkers' program and is not in the Senate after passing the House. Here's how it works: the car cannot be older than a 1984 model and newer than a 2000. You'll get a \$3,500 dollar voucher toward a new car if its mileage is 4 miles per gallon better than the old car. That voucher is \$4,500 if the mileage is ten miles per gallon better.

### **ENDANGERED FLINT RIVER**

Date: **04/11/09 6AM** duration :17 Anissa Centers

An environmental group is claiming Flint River is the second most endangered in the United States. The Flint starts just south of Hartsfield Jackson airport and runs 200 miles to South Georgia. As Diana Davis reports, a proposed dam is sparking controversy.

### **5PV MULCH CITATION ATL VO**

Date: **04/28/09 18:16:54** duration :21 Jovita Moore

The Atlanta Public Works department has decided \*not\* to comment on a controversy over mulch! Members of the historic Brookhaven neighborhood association maintain Mayson Ravine Park. But an inspector cited them for \*not\* having a permit for mulch on a right-of-way. The City Parks commissioner says if the residents told the city in advance the inspector would not have cited them.

**GA DOT COMMISSION**Date: **06/18/09 6PM**

duration 1:28

Amanda Rosseter

Flanked by what amounts to a power shift in Georgia transportation, Governor Sonny Perdue introduced Todd Long as the new director of planning for DOT. Perdue: "we're looking forward to a new era of transportation in Georgia." An engineer with years of experience at DOT and the Regional Transportation Authority, Long steps into a new position created this Spring by Senate Bill 200. The Governor and lawmakers created the job after months of controversy about the decisions of the DOT Board and the use of funding. The Governor today addressed what some call "stripping power" – he likened it to adding a layer of oversight. Perdue: "My goal in implementing SB 200 is no way meant to micromanage DOT efforts in the state and not to direct activity on specific projects." He then congratulated State Representative Vance Smith, announced today as the new commissioner of the DOT. He is stepping into what was, until today, one of the more powerful positions in the state. It was most recently held by Gena Evans, who the board ousted after the Governor announced the new directors position. Commissioner Smith now will handle bidding and implementation of projects – already chosen by Long, and approved by the legislature. Todd Long: "Commissioner Vance Smith and I have worked well together in the past -- will work even better together in the future." That begins almost immediately. The board asked Smith to start no later than June 25<sup>th</sup>. The Governor said both men know the challenges ahead – to find a solution to congestion. Perdue: "we don't have time to waste and we don't have time to figure it out."

**ATLANTA BELTLINE MONEY**Date: **04/19/09 7AM**

duration :36

Amanda Rosseter

The Atlanta Beltline is paying a price for hard times. The Atlanta Public School System says it needs to hold onto some of the money it was going to give to the beltline. The schools are in need of money for construction and repairs. Now \$12 million dollars hang in the balance. Lisa Borders, Atlanta City Council President: "The school board finds themselves in same place as city...with decreasing revenues because of economic environment." The Atlanta Board of Education is exercising its legal right to re-negotiate the amount of money it had agreed to give the beltline project. It would combine greenspace trails and transit along 22 miles.

**RECESSION EASES TRAFFIC**Date: **04/30/09 5PM**

duration 1:24

Mark Winne

Atlanta commuters can pretty much expect that highways will become parking lots during rush hour. But lately, congestion is down by a whopping 36%. Xanthe Neal, a healthcare administrator, has noticed. "When I actually drive to work, it's probably ten to fifteen minutes less than it used to be." State Trooper Carlos Searcy says he saw the roads open up when the economy went south. Searcy: "I think the cause is the economy and more people working from home." And Atlanta isn't alone. Since last year traffic congestion is down 16% in Houston; 24% in Los Angeles and down 25% in New York. Some cities have even seen it drop off by 50% or more. The new figures came from a company in Washington State that studies traffic. They found 600,000 drivers with GPS units and tracked their stops and starts for more than 800,000 miles of road. The results ... dramatic. A third fewer cars on the road since summer of last year. "Also part of it is commercial traffic with the deteriorating economy there are less (sic) vehicles on the road delivering freight, products, etc" And he believes the congestion will continue to ease for some time.

## **ATLANTA ONE OF WORST CITIES FOR ROAD RAGE**

Date: **06/16/09 6PM** duration :20 Jovita Moore

We rank high for many things, and now Atlanta drivers are some of the angriest in America. A national auto club survey shows Atlanta is the fourth worst city in the nation for road rage. The survey checked 25 major metro areas and interviewed people about driving habits. New York is the national leader for road rage; Dallas-Ft Worth is second.

## **METEOROLGY CUTS SPUR AIR SAFETY CONCERNS**

Date: **06/05/09** duration :22 Jovita Moore

Tonight, the FAA is considering a plan that would cut meteorologists from air traffic control towers at Hartsfield Jackson. They would instead work from call centers in Kansas and Maryland, no where near the traffic controllers who rely on their information to keep you safe. Some workers are furious, while the FAA says it's about efficiency.

Date: **06/05/09 11PM** duration 1:40

When Monique Miller flies from Atlanta to Miami, she's not thinking about weather experts. But when we told her about the FAA's proposed plan to take meteorologists personally out of this Hampton, Georgia facility, she shook her head. "Yeah, person to person...back up at least local in the same state and city as opposed to the mid west to where if phone lines went down, you wouldn't have access to." The FAA says new technology could allow removing air traffic controllers from near Hartsfield Jackson, the world's busiest airport, and 18 other areas for what they call consolidation and efficiency. "Air traffic, weather technology and on-board weather information has grown light years and this will enable us to provide better more efficient weather service." The Air Traffic Controllers union representative is angry. Rep: "The FAA is putting cost savings over safety." He says, as a controller himself, he relies on the person-to-person contact. "I don't have weather on my radar scope – all I see is rain, just precipitation." Georgia Congressman Lynn Westmoreland has joined New York Congressman Chuck Schumer and others saying this plan, moving weather experts away from Atlanta – is no good. "There are many legislators in this area, Congressman Westmoreland is frustrated every time he tries to deal with FAA management and everyone we talked to today says they would like as much brain power as possible around Atlanta when it comes to flying."

## **POWER OUTAGES/AIRPORT DELAY**

Date: **04/23/09 11PM** duration :30 Monica Pearson

Right now there are power outages across metro Atlanta, including at Hartsfield Jackson airport. Georgia Power tells us about 11,000 of its customers are without power. A spokesperson at the airport tells us lightning struck a tower at 8:45 this evening. Air Traffic Controllers left the tower as a precaution, but returned to work about 15 minutes later. Two north runways are out of service because they have no lights. The airport is open and operating, but travelers should call ahead to check on their flights.

## **RED LIGHT CAMERAS ATL IN QUESTION**

Date: **05/06/09 16:37:32** duration 2:48 John Bachman

"I felt like my rights were being violated. They wanted \$70 dollars. That's what it amounted to." King Rushnell didn't think he deserved the red light ticket he got at the intersection of Indian Trail and

Lawrenceville Highway . So he went to court to fight it. His defense? The sun. King: "At that hour of the morning, which is 9:00, the sun comes up from the Snellville side and its facing toward the camera. now when you take a picture you usually have the sun behind you." Rushnell argued the sunlight distorted the picture, and his ticket should be dismissed. But the judge had the final say, and he sided with Rushnell. Judge: "There appears to be a haze or some sort of an impediment in the photograph itself which prevents me seeing the light clearly. I'm going to find that the city has failed to meet its burden of proof in this matter." Just like that the judge dismissed Rushnell's red light ticket. The city of Lilburn may be one of many cities dismissing red light cameras. It all has to do with a new state law that began January 1. Among other things, it requires cities to add one second to the yellow light at intersections with red light cameras. What the cities are seeing is – with a longer yellow – there are fewer tickets, which means less money. Lauder milk: "The results - we weren't surprised at - the speed at which the cities were willing to get rid of the cameras was a little surprising." Georgia Representative Barry lauder milk pushed for the new law. He said studies show adding time to the yellow light increased safety. So if improving safety was the goal for getting the cameras in the first place, why get rid of them now? Lauder milk: "I don't see any other deduction you can make other than it was truly about the revenue. If it wasn't about the revenue, they would still operate the cameras, even at a loss. The city of Lilburn estimates it costs \$553,000 dollars to operate its three cameras, with expected revenue at over \$1 million dollars. But at the rate the city is currently handing out citations, it would get only about \$650,000. Lilburn will decide on its cameras in June, but Suwannee and Norcross already are getting rid of theirs. And if it were up to Representative Lauder milk, they wouldn't be alone. At this recent legislative hearing, he pushed for an all-out ban. Lauder milk: "I believe the way red light cameras are operated in the state of Georgia violates the 5th and the 14th amendments of the constitution." He'll lay out his case in a series of hearings over the next year, but he is facing opposition. First from the state .. Bob Dallas: "I've got studies that show you when you add a second there is an improvement. but if you add a red light camera with it, there is a substantial improvement." And from many members of local law enforcement. Turner: "If we need to revisit the laws, make sure that the laws that we have on the books are constitutionally based, then let's do that. Doing away with this program is not the answer."

Date: **05/10/09 6PM** duration :13 John Pruitt

The future of red light cameras in Georgia is in question. Many cities are considering getting rid of them, and there's a new push for an all out ban. We went to court with one man, who fought his red light ticket – and won.

## **BELTLINE MONEY WORRIES IN TOUGH ECONOMY**

Date: **04/19/09 7AM** duration :36 Amanda Rosseter

The Atlanta beltline is paying a price for hard times. The Atlanta Public School system says it needs to hold onto some of the money it was going to give to the beltline. The schools are in need of money for construction and repairs. Now, \$12 million dollars hangs in the balance. Atlanta City Council President Lisa Borders: "The school board finds themselves in same place as city...with decreasing revenues because of economic environment." The board of education is exercising its legal right to re-negotiate the amount of money it had agreed to give the beltline project. It would combine greenspace, trails and transit along 22 miles.

## **CRASH LAWTON ATLANTA**

Date: **06/16/09 5am** dutation 1:25 Ryan Young

"I never thought I saw police do that it was just.. I'm just overwhelmed by that.." From the moment we arrived on Fair Street, neighbors were talking about what happened. Rudolph Balentino says he saw the accident. Balentino: "I witness that vehicle off the road and then they took an came back it and it was a male and female officer the same two that did it came right back on scene and turned their blue lights

road.” Most of the other neighbors are expressing their disgust with the Atlanta Police Department, saying they showed no concern for saving the two boys’ lives. Two teens died in this crumpled car. Another man made it to Grady in critical condition. Off camera, an Atlanta supervisor told me that an officer spotted this car with its lights off and tried to smash the car when it took off. That supervisor goes on to say that they lost sight of the stolen vehicle before it crashed, but those here are telling a much different story. Witness 1: “That car was smashed like they never had a chance. They ran through the fence, then through the trees.” Witness2: “People were holding flash lights and bringing yard tools. We couldn’t do anything.” Witness 3: “I never thought I [would] see police do that. It was just ... I’m just overwhelmed by that.”

### **HOV SIGNS IMPROVED ON NORTHSIDE DRIVE**

Date: **04/24/09 5am** duration :27 Carol Sbarge

A traffic alert as another phase in a project to clear some confusion on I-75 gets underway. Beginning at 9:00 tonight, crews will install new H-O-V signs. This is video from workers changing some signs last week. Here’s what you need to know – from tonight until 5:00am Monday, they’ll close HOV lanes from just south of Moores Mill Road to Northside Drive. Workers will also shut down the HOV exit ramp to Northside Drive as well as the Northside Drive HOV ramp to I-75 north.

### **SUMMER TRAVEL OUTLOOK**

Date: **05/20/09 6PM** duration :27 Monica Pearson

Atlanta’s Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International airport is gearing up right now for the start of the summer travel season. Ben DeCosta, Hartsfield GM: “We’re preparing for a busy travel season despite the fact we hear from our airlines that overall traffic throughout the u-s will be down six or seven percent.” As for the \*unofficial\* start of summer – DeCosta estimates 1.5 million travelers will go through the airport over the long Memorial Day weekend. That’s up 5% over a year ago.

### **DRIVER WARNS OF EXPENSIVE TICKET**

Date: **06/14/09 6PM** duration :30 Linda Stouffer

An expensive speeding ticket has one metro Atlanta driver sharing her story with Channel 2 so others can avoid the headache. Amanda Nicolazzi: “I was just in shock it was that much.” Amanda Nicolazzi was stopped by a city of Atlanta officer on the downtown connector. She was driving 81 miles per hour in a 55 zone, and it cost her \$778 dollars! I did some checking and learned in Georgia, local courts set fines for traffic violations. So \*where\* you get a ticket can make a big difference in how much you have to pay.

### **TRAFFIC STUDY ATL VO**

Date: **04/30/09 5AM** duration :26 Fred Blankenship

The tough economy is leading to a smoother commute in the metro area. A new study shows traffic congestion is down 36% in Atlanta. Researchers say fewer people are heading to work because they’ve lost their jobs. Local drivers have noticed the difference. In all, the study finds there are a third fewer drivers on the road across the nation since summer of last year.

## **NAACP CONCERNS OVER MARTA CUTS**

Date: **04/14/09 18:57:02**

duration :30

John Pruitt

More fallout over MARTA's funding crisis. Tonight, Georgia's NAACP is asking Governor Sonny Perdue to call a special session on the controversy. Darryl: "We simply cannot stand here and allow this resource to our city and to our region and our state to go under because of politics. MARTA is facing a \$24 million dollar shortfall. It has \$65 million dollars in reserve capital, but state law forbids the transit authority from using that money for operating expenses. MARTA is now warning of higher fares, service cuts and furloughs.

## **VAN POOL SYSTEM COULD BE CUT**

Date: **05/15/09 11:11:18**

duration :36

Fred Blankenship

This morning, van-pool rides could be nearing an end for more than 500 metro area commuters. The Georgia Regional Transportation authority notified riders it's dropping its dedicated van-pool by this summer, if the board follows staff recommendations. Some commuters we spoke with are concerned they won't be able to find a better alternative and they vanpool because they feel it's the right thing to do. JD Smith, vanpooler: "We save ourselves money, but were also environmental initiatives cutting down on traffic in Atlanta." GRTA officials tell us the van pool pays for itself. Canceling the service is not a budget decision but a business decision.

**11PS POLICE PARKING ATL SOTVO**Date: **05/29/09 22:42:13**

duration :39

Mark Winne

Today the president of the Atlanta Police Foundation spoke out against a city plan to charge officers for parking at the new public safety headquarters. Wilkinson: "The police foundation's position is that its bad idea to have the officers pay for their parking. just like any other decision that might be made for a minor budgetary gain that could cause more of a major morale impact." Dave Wilkinson says Mayor Shirley Franklin has dramatically improved the police force and deserves major credit for the new headquarters. But he fears things like this on top of furloughs may drive officers away. A city spokesperson said furloughed employees from most city agencies are required to pay a parking fee.

**6P POLICE PARKING ATL INTRO**Date: **05/29/09 18:29:32**

duration :20

Monica Pearson

More fallout about police parking. The CEO of an influential group with strong ties to the business community says making police pay to park at their new headquarters is a bad idea! We first told you this week, how upset some officers are about a monthly charge. Investigative reporter Mark Winne has new developments.

**6P OFFICER INV SHOOTING ATL VO**Date: **05/18/09 18:42:44**

duration :35

Monica Pearson

Community activists are taking their concerns about a police-involved shooting right to the top. Family members and residents are demanding action, after the recent shooting of Tramaine Miller in southwest Atlanta. An off-duty officer shot Miller in the face. The officer says after Miller made a threatening move. Miller's family says the shooting was not justified. Today activists presented a letter to Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington and addressed the city council. Reverend Derrick Rice: "We need to push so that at first, the officer who was responsible for the shooting is fired so the community knows that the city cares." Miller is recovering. The officer is on administrative leave pending an internal investigation.

**6P TAX ABATEMENT FUL INT**Date: **04/14/09 18:56:45**

duration :15

John Pruitt

A large-scale development in DeKalb County is once again building controversy as the developer prepares to ask for a 20-year tax break. The Sembler corporation says its Brookhaven development on Peachtree Rd has felt the impact of the economic downturn and needs more help from the county. Jodie Fleischer has details.

**12sv CITY MONEY DOUGLASVILLE SOTVO**Date: **06/19/09 13:00:41**

duration :29

Carol Sbarge

A local banker is upset this afternoon after the city of Douglasville pulled more than \$9 million dollars in cd's out of the bank. Mayor Mickey Thompson: "There could potentially be some problems and we wanted to make sure we were 100% protected." The FDIC hit Douglas County bank with a cease-and-desist order. But bank president Billy Mayhew says the bank had \$10 million dollars in U.S. treasuries to back up the city's money – and would have said so if the city had asked. Douglasville still uses Douglas County bank for its main spending account.

**6PP MUNY JUDGE JONESBORO PKG**Date: **05/25/09 17:54:41**

duration 1:38

Mark Winne

The judges of the municipal courts should be free from interference from the mayor and any of the city council members. "At no time did I direct Judge West how to do his job." Judge: "Of course if you don't handle matters the way the feel like it should be handled you don't get reappointed." William West said during a meeting with Jonesboro Mayor Luther Maddox, two city councilmen and another official Isat July – he judged it was time – to resign as Municipal Court Judge on the spot. Judge: "I began writing out my resignation." West says the mayor and one of the councilmen strongly suggested he start placing all defendants who couldn't pay their fines on the spot ... on probation. Mayor: "No. that was never said. what was said by me, i was asking judge west to look at ways he could streamline the process." West indicated while it didn't come up in the conversation, the alleged probation directive would've meant income for the city from a \$39 probation fee per defendant per month. The mayor says increased expense would've prefented a major financial gain. Judge: "I think Mayor Maddox wants the city to succeed. I think he is being guided by some bad advice." The mayor says he's his own man. Another criminal justice controversy came to a head last week with the firing of Jonesboro Police Chief Brad Johnson. And while he denies anything improper in either case, the mayor says making sure both the municipal court judge and police chief operate in the city's best interest is part of the job. Mayor: "If anything happens, these shoulders are the ones that takes the blame."

## **12v MUNY JUDGE JONESBORO VO**

Date: **05/26/09 13:05:06** duration :39 Fred Blankenship

The fired police chief from Jonesboro is planning to ask for an appeal hearing before the city council. Meantime, Ch 2 has learned the chief is the second criminal justice official to leave amid a controversy involving the mayor and council in recent months. William West resigned as municipal court judge last summer, after a meeting with the mayor and two council members. West said it all stemmed from a suggestion to put all defendants who couldn't pay fines immediately on probation. West: "Of course if you don't handle matters the way they feel like it should be handled you don't get reappointed." Mayor Luther Maddox disputes West and says he just asked him to streamline the process.

## **6P NATHAN DEAL ATL INTRO**

Date: **05/26/09 19:02:36** duration :19 Lori Geary

One of Georgia's candidates for governor is stirring up controversy over illegal immigration by trying to change US law. Republican congressman Nathan Deal says babies born to illegal immigrants should not gain automatic citizenship. MORE...

## **11P STEELE REPUBLICANS GA**

Date: **05/16/09 23:19:46** duration :20 John Pruitt

Today, Republican Party Chairman Michael Steele made some controversial comments about gay marriage. Steele told a meeting of Georgia delegates in Savannah – gay marriages are costing taxpayers money and placing a burden on small businesses with health care costs. Steele says using that approach against gay marriages will help Republicans reach a broader base.

## **5P CRONY CASH TOWNS PKG**

Date: **05/07/09 16:27:02** duration 2:40 Richard Belcher

A local newspaper was baffled. "I didn't even know, honestly, what a supplement was." A former county commissioner knew about supplements, but nothing about any being paid. And I was surprised – obviously – because there was no record. And current county commissioner Bill Kendell didn't want to talk about his decision to quit paying them. Becky Landress of the Towns Sentinel says getting any information was hard. Landress: "It was over, done with and he had fixed it. That was his way of thinking." But what had happened in Towns County, near the North Carolina line – was so rare, the county attorney says he can find no other such incident anywhere in Georgia. And for a county with a lot of poor people, this was a lot of money, an estimated \$20,000 dollars a year extra – for three county officials. In a town like this, you have families of four and sometimes five living off just that supplement amount. If you take twenty years, at which it appear to have been in existence with the four people involved, then you, even that would add up to 1.6 million. The payments went to long-time Sheriff Rudy Eller who's now in prison for a case unrelated to the supplements. To long-time court clerk Cecil Dye: "You see anything wrong with what happened? No, it was perfectly legal, according to the law. But then a new commissioner came in and took a look at it and said, I'm not doing this. Well, that's his prerogative." And to long time Probate Judge Wayne Garrett, who lost his re-election bid last year. Judge: "Did he do it

legally?" "I guess. He was the commissioner." "The current commissioner doesn't think he did it legally?" "Well, now that's between them. He's dead." And therein lies the mystery. The old commissioner – Jack Dayton – died in 2005 after 17 years in office. While he ran Towns County, there was no public announcement of any pay supplements. There's not a word in the official minutes at the courthouse in Hiawassee. "Not a problem," says the clerk. "He can adjust the pay from time to time." Reporter: "But you can't explain why there's no reference to it in the minutes?" Clerk: "I wouldn't have any idea about that." There's no evidence that Commissioner Dayton did what makes it legal. The part where someone reads the proposal in public – twice – before spending the taxpayers money of towns or any other county. Former Commissioner Truman Barrett: "If it's not written down in the minutes, it doesn't legally exist? Well, that's the way I would interpret it." Becky Landress says people ask her how long it went on. Landress: "And I feel like my hands are tied there on answering that for them because I have no way of knowing how long these were paid. I just don't." Politics, says Truman Barrett. It doesn't stop just with Chicago or Washington. It comes all the way down to places like Towns County.

### **5AV COMMISSIONER OUTRAGE FAYE VO**

Date: **06/29/09 07:13:04** duration :34 Linda Stouffer

This morning, a Fayette County Commissioner is standing by his decision to stay in office, even though a local citizen's group wants him to resign. Deputies recently arrested Robert Horgan. They say they recently found marijuana in his car. The police report says Horgan admitted to smoking it while driving. The "Citizens for Open Government" group says his actions are a violation of the public trust. Horgan told us by phone that it was simply a mistake, and other elected officials make mistakes too.

### **5PSV JUVY JUSTICE ANNOUNCE ATL SOTVO**

Date: **05/18/09 18:10:35** duration :25 Jovita Moore

The federal government announced today it will no longer monitor Georgia's juvenile justice facilities. Albert Murray, Dept. of Juvenile Justice: "Georgia juvenile facilities are considered among the best in the country and this was echoed by the federal monitoring team that conducted the final inspection of the six facilities that were involved." The Department of Justice began overseeing detention centers 11 years ago because of overcrowding, insufficient training and inmate abuse.

### **5ASV COURT FUNDING ATL SOTVO**

Date: **06/04/09 08:23:38** duration :30 Carol Sbarge

A group of Georgia judges is threatening to sue the state over a budget battle with Governor Sonny Perdue. Judge Melvin Westmoreland: >>"To be told in the last month of the fiscal year that we're going to lose 25 percent of our funding, was a shock." The Governor is ordering state agencies to cut 25% from their June budgets. Superior Court judges say that could force them to shut down for two weeks. The Governor is insisting the courts can find ways to make the cuts without shutting down. Judges will meet tomorrow to decide whether to file the lawsuit.

### **5PP JUDGES BUDGET ATL PKG**

Date: **06/05/09 17:01:41** duration 1:14 Amanda Rosseter

In an emergency session, Georgia's Chief Justice met with the state's judges to discuss a last-minute compromise with Governor Perdue's demand for 11<sup>th</sup> hour budget cuts. Judge Leah Ward Sears: "In our view it was an unconstitutional abuse of power -- so are glad Perdue avoided that." Facing a massive drop in revenue, the Governor this week required a 25% cut from the judicial branch for the month of June – something the judges said would shut down the courts for two weeks. In a letter to the Superior Courts Thursday, the Governor said 'the clock continues to tick, and any controversy will likely be moot by the month's end.' But today – from an out-of-town trip – he agreed to \*request\* instead of require the cuts. And that ended discussion of a lawsuit against him. It was the crux of what the Chief Justice called 'a constitutional dilemma.' Sears: ""we need to make sure one branch of government in a power grab does not dictate to the other branches of government." She said all lawsuits and court shutdowns are off the table. Now the courts will simply defer some of their debts to July, which begins the next fiscal year. "We're going to deal with this fiscal crisis day by day."

### **5P BURRELL ELLIS NEWSER DEK TOSS**

Date: **06/23/09 18:09:04** duration :14 Eric Phillips  
Officials in DeKalb County have made a broad-reaching announcement this afternoon. Within the last couple of hours, DeKalb announced a plan to combat waste, fraud and abuse in local government.

### **S6Ap POOL LAWS GA PKG**

Date: **05/16/09 04:40:28** duration 1:30 Lori Geary

Loretta Shaw: "I've lived on this street just about all my life. I was born next door." Loretta Shaw can now claim she's outlived the Old Milstead swimming pool. It may not look like much, but for 75 years this was a nice escape from the summer heat. Shaw: "My child enjoyed it and my granddaughter and I really hate to see it go." A new federal law requires an upgrade in the drainage system of all public pools. Because Milstead Pool is so old, the upgrade could have cost Rockdale County taxpayers up to \$100,000 dollars! Chip McGinley, Rec Asst. Director: "It was a tough decision." The Virginia Graeme Baker pool and spa safety act was named for the seven year old granddaughter of former secretary of state James Baker. She died seven years ago. Mom: "I am certain that her last moments alive were spent in terror and panic because she became entrapped or pinned on the hot tub drain unable to free herself or come up for air." McGinley: "If their hair was in her it wouldn't get caught or tangled." This is one of the new drains that meets federal standards. Johnson Park is the only other public pool in Rockdale County. Crews in scuba gear just installed four new drains at a cost to taxpayers of \$6,000 dollars. McGinley: "It's a tough act to come into compliance within a short amount of time, the public is starting to see that. It's very costly but I think it's heading in the right direction." Carol Houchell: "They don't ever do anything with Milstead. People here pay taxes, too." Shaw: "It just made me feel sick because that's about the last thing we had left out here. I think we deserve something out here."

### **5AV BURRELL ELLIS NEWSER DEK VO**

Date: **06/24/09 05:44:33** duration :35 Carol Sbarge

This morning there are plans for a new oversight committee in DeKalb county to combat government waste, abuse and fraud. Seven board members will oversee complaints surrounding those issues. The committee will be called The Office of Transparency and Accountability. County CEO Burrell Ellis says complaints have gotten out of hand. Ellis: "Since becoming CEO, we've had a number of concerns that have come to our attention some we're investigating..some we've looked into that's been made known to

the public but i can tell you they come in at a rapid pace" Ellis says the oversight committee is being created at little to no cost to taxpayers.

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:**

**Community / Neighborhoods**

**S6Av WACHOVIA GARDEN FORS VO**

Date: **05/16/09 07:05:51** duration :36 Amanda Rosseter

Some Cumming residents are being told their community vegetable garden has to go. The garden is tucked away at the back of the Vickery Village subdivision. Construction stalled when the real estate market collapsed. Without permission, residents used what originally was intended as a common area for five small vegetable p lots. Now the bank that's taken over wants the garden pulled up. Jackie Grote: "We have tried to work with Wachovia. We have made suggestions asked for places where we could move the garden to a different location, but the answer has always been no, absolutely not." Wachovia told us it's trying to work out a solution with the residents.

**12v BKUP KROGER PROTEST GWIN VO**

Date: **05/08/09 13:00:37** duration :39 Richard Elliot

Opponents of a controversial grocery store complex are planning to fight after the development is given the green light. The Dacula city council voted to rezone a piece of property along Fence Road giving developers the go-ahead to build a 118-thousand square foot complex featuri9ng a Kroger store and 15 retail shops. Opponents say they will fight the development in court. Greg Grossman: "if it takes us businessmen in this community to take money out of our wallets to hire an attorney to fight this in court, in a state or federal court, that's what we'll do to have our will heard. Developers say the shopping center will bring hundreds of new jobs and generate millions in tax revenue for Dacula.

**11 ADULT STORE COWETA**

Date: **05/18/09 05:54:12** duration :20 Linda Stouffer

The owner of an adult novelty store will fight back this week. He lost his license to do business in Coweta County. The prospect of a Starship adult store on Thomas Crossroads has sparked controversy in Coweta from the start. The county denied a business license in February, but an appeals committee is set to meet and make a recommendation on the license Wednesday.

**6P STARSHIP RULING COW VO**

Date: **05/20/09 18:46:00** duration :19 John Pruitt

The owner of an adult novelty store \*may\* get a license to open in Coweta County after all. The owner of the Starship appealed the denial of his business license. A committee voted today 4 to 1 to reverse that decision. The full county commission will vote June 16<sup>th</sup>. The proposed store is at Thomas Crossroads in unincorporated Newnan.

**5PV HOME DEPOT PROTEST COBB VO**

Date: **05/31/09 06:51:46** duration :32 Amanda Rosseter

A proposed dam in Chile is igniting controversy here in Atlanta. Home Depot is the largest buyer of wood products from a company that has plans to build several dams in southern Chile. These protesters say they want the Atlanta based company to cut ties with the Chilean company. But Home Depot says it's not taking sides ... and is not directly. Ron Jarvis: "we really dont think it's home depots place to become an expert on what energy sources is best for a foreign company" Officials say less than 5% of wood bought by Home Depot comes from Chile.

### **POT HOUSE GWIN PKG**

Date: **06/30/09 18:06:41** duration 1:19 Manuel Bojorguez

City inspectors who came to review the structural integrity of this home on whitehead road after a fire, got more than they expected. Bob Hail: "He said, 'Bob, you need to see this house.'" Bob Hail is the city manager of Sugar Hill. He also couldn't believe what he saw inside. Hail: "I went inside and the bedrooms were just full of little plastic pots – like you'd find at the store – with plants in them all lined up with water hoses, pebbles and other stuff; and it was a pot-growing operation." We obtained these photographs of the inside of the home, which also show there was no furniture. It seems whoever was growing these plants did only that inside the home – and may have been there recently. Hail: "All the plants had been snipped off, about an inch and a half from the vertical growth. They'd either snipped them all off or taken what they could salvage and got out." Neighbors we spoke with knew about the fire, but not the pot. Amy Naddra: "We have three kids here. It's something that would be a concern of mine. It's kind of shocking." Shocking – even though she is aware that drug dealers and cartels are looking at quiet suburban Gwinnett County neighborhoods and rental properties as places to hide. Naddra: "I heard from a neighbor that there was some traffic going through – that there was a drug dealer in this neighborhood, so – and I just got word of that."

### **6Pv CHICKEN YARD ROSWELL VO**

Date: **05/28/09 18:54:02** duration :20 John Pruitt

A Roswell Municipal Court judge has ruled that a Roswell man can keep his chickens in his back yard. Andrew Wordes ran "a-fowl" of the city's code enforcement after a former employee of the city urred im into animal control. He and the city's mayor both believe that the fowl are pets, not livestock. Wordes says he has had no complaints from neighbors.

### **57A REALITY SHOW COBB TOSS**

Date: **06/21/09 08:39:03** duration :16 Amanda Rosseter

A new reality show that's turned part of a Kennesaw neighborhood into a giant stage is drawing complaints from some angry neighbors. Workers put up huge walls to isolate eight homes for a show called 'Block Party.' But not everyone is in a party mood.

### **11PV REALITY SHOW COBB VO**

Date: **06/19/09 22:51:07** duration :34 Monica Pearson

Some residents of a Cobb county subdivision are complaining about a new reality show. It's being filmed in their neighborhood. A production crew is shooting a new show called "Block Party" in the Legacy Park subdivision in Kennesaw. There are 30-foot walls enclosing eight homes – as the families compete for prizes. Mike Altman: "I'm very upset about it. Generates a lot of noise and it's a safety hazard, it's a security hazard. There are a lot of people around that we don't know." Other homeowners told us they're excited their neighborhood will be on national TV. Production is supposed to wrap up in a couple of weeks.

