

TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA
QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS
AND/OR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY
OCTOBER 1, 2012 – DECEMBER 31, 2012

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW ARE PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, AND
ARE LOCALLY PRODUCED. WE ALSO CARRY ABC NETWORK AND SYNDICATED PUBLIC
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 430am-7am; 12-1:00pm; 4-7pm; 11-11:35pm; 1:35-2:05am (repeat). On Saturdays, Action News is aired from 6-9am; 12-12:30pm; 6-6:30pm (through August 25); and 11-11:35pm. Sundays: 7:00-11am; 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 fourth quarter, 2012)

QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

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

Clayton State University Officer Makes Controversial Political Statement

Date: 11/20/12 11pm

duration :37

Justin Farmer

Tonight, Clayton State University tells us it's investigating a controversial comment posted on Facebook by a campus police officer. Two days after the Presidential election, Captain Rex Duke switched his profile picture to the confederate flag. His caption: 'It's time for the second revolution.' "And with the profession that he has that's very unprofessional to do. Especially the fact that he's a police officer that people look up to." Duke told us he wants politicians voted out. A school spokesman says CSU does not have an employee policy covering social media.

Atlanta Teachers New Pay System Will Be Burden for Some

Date: 12/20/12 5am

duration :33

Carol Sbarge

An Atlanta Public School teacher is upset about a pay controversy that will impact their paychecks this month. A letter sent out in March warned staff that they will not receive three paychecks in December like in past years. A teacher who contacted us asked us to conceal his identity and alter his voice. Teacher: "You know the school doesn't make the child, it's the people in the school that make the child." An Atlanta school district spokesperson said employees will receive that missed pay when they leave the school district. APS said this was necessary to adjust the payroll process.

Atlanta Superintendent Weighs in on North Atlanta Controversy

Date: 10/17/12 4:30am

Duration :35

Fred Blankenship

We spoke one-on-one with Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Erroll Davis amid a controversy at North Atlanta High School. Former North Atlanta High School principal Mark Mygrant says he was abruptly fired after being accused of hiring two racist employees. He's trying to clear his name now. For the first time, Superintendent Erroll Davis is speaking one-on-one and standing by his original reason – he let Mygrant go – because of the schools poor performance. Davis: "I am definitely happy with my decision to ask Mr. Mygrant to step aside at the time that he did."

Atlanta School Board Considers Renewal of Superintendents Contract

Date: 10/22/12 6pm

duration :37

Justin Farmer

Atlanta Public School Board members are meeting behind closed doors working to decide whether to offer Superintendent Erroll Davis another contract. The board went into executive session around 3 o'clock this afternoon. They're talking about whether they believe Davis is an effective leader and is meeting the district's goals. Last week, board member Nancy Meister called on the board to delay taking any action until it investigates the controversy surrounding Davis' sudden firing of North Atlanta High School's Interim Principal earlier this month.

North Atlanta High School Principal's Sudden Firing Sparks Controversy

Date: 10/15/12 6pm

duration: 26

Justin Farmer

Controversy over the sudden firing of a popular principal now has a teacher calling it quits. We got our hands on a letter North Atlanta High's Amy Durham sent Atlanta Public School officials. She was the target of a racial complaint. Former Interim Principal Mark Mygrant offered Durham a teaching job, but the school board never approved her contract. Durham filed an open records request with the Board, but says she did not receive a response about the accusation.

Date: 10/18/12 5pm

duration :36

Justin Farmer

A state legislator says he wants to see a change in the law after the recent controversy at North Atlanta High School. He's calling it the "Parent Trigger Bill." Edward Lindsey: "What it will do is simply give parents a greater say so in the operation of schools by allowing them to petition to convert a traditional public school into a charter school." Representative Lindsey says the recent firing of interim principal Mark Mygrant at North Atlanta highlights the need for parents to have a greater voice in how schools operate. He says his proposal would require a majority of student households to petition for a school to convert.

Unemployment Numbers in Georgia are Down; Signs of Economic Recovery

Date: 11/22/12 5pm

duration 1:38

Dave Huddleston

Janelle Colon has worked in customer service at this Cobb County K-Mart for only two months. Even though she's working on a holiday, she says she feels blessed. "It's a wonderful thing, I think. Employment is important for all people especially people who have families, you're able to spend money, make money, save money, and pay bills which is the mandatory thing." And according to the State Labor Department, a lot more Atlantans will be able to pay bills. In one year the October unemployment number dropped more than a 0.8% to a 0.2% That's 19,500 new jobs. The retail industry alone saw a jump of almost 6,000 jobs. The Georgia Labor commissioner says retail isn't the only place we've seen an increase in jobs, he says we've seen a spike across the board. "Pretty much all the major categories saw job gains, even all the way down to construction which has been struggling in this economy." But even though Georgia is showing positive growth, Commissioner Mark Butler says problems in Washington DC – primarily that looming fiscal cliff – could destroy any of our forward momentum by raising taxes and killing jobs. Butler: "That would have devastating effects on Georgia's economy. Also, we have to keep our eye on Europe on the financial markets over there because that also effects Georgia's economy. Lets face it, Georgia has an international economy now." But right now it's a growing economy, one that Janelle Colon is happy to be a part of.

Early Voters Say the Economy is Number One Issue in Presidential Election

Date: 10/15/12 4pm

duration 1:30

Rachel Stockman

The line stretched out the door at a voting location on Memorial Drive in DeKalb County on the first day of early voting. Voter Raymond Stewart: "[I am] surprised at the turnout. I was expecting to luck out with no lines, but it turns out there is a lot of people here." Early voters can head to any polling location in their county until November 2nd. Maxine Daniels, DeKalb County Elections Director: "They should bring their ID – one of six forms including Georgia drivers license, passport. The state opened up early voting to everyone in 2008 – about 53% of voters who voted in the 2008 Presidential election voted early. Election officials expect a similar turnout – some voters who came early say they made up their mind early. Voters in DeKalb have a special feature this year – this section is especially reserved for voters over 70, and disabled voters. This is new this year and we are the only county doing it. The DeKalb county election director hopes the new voting area will help those voters and speed up the main line. Huff: "I was shocked I didn't know it, I thought with all of these cars , I thought we were going to way a long time, but we didn't." As for what's on voters minds in 2012? The economy.

Smyrna Residents Hope for Area Improvements

Date: **10/16/12 5pm**

duration **1:45**

Diana Davis

Smyrna's Belmont Hills Shopping Center has sat deserted for several years. Before it was demolished in 2009 only a few bargain shops remained. Most of the shopping center had grown shabby – a far cry from when it was a 1950's showplace. When I first reported on redevelopment plans in 2008, city leaders had high hopes. After the economy crashed, nothing happened. Now the zoning for the first phase of redevelopment has gotten the OK. Luxury apartments similar to these are planned for the back corner of the fifty acre lot. They would go up adjacent to "Smyrna's new elementary school now under construction. Smyrna City Councilwoman Teri Anulewicz told me initial hopes for condos and townhomes have been shelved for now since the economy struggles to recover. Anulewicz: "I think things we talked about in 2008 are obviously very different than what the reality is in 2012." She says the higher end apartments are a start, and an untapped market in Smyrna for twenty-somethings who aren't interested in buying. They've seen what has happened to the folks in Gen X and the boomers with the housing market so they're much more interested in leasing so there is a need for this kind of a project in Smyrna. Once the apartments get started, developers may begin construction on shops, restaurants, and offices. Anulewicz: I think the hope is the retail will be going up simultaneously with the residential, since really they need to complement each other. The developer hopes to break ground on the apartments in the first quarter of next year. They think building the apartments will take about a year.

New Construction to Inject Tax Dollars into Atlanta Economy

Date: **10/18/12 5pm**

duration **1:21**

John Bachman

Midtown Atlanta's skyline is growing again. Skyhouse Apartments on 12th Street will have 320 units, plus shops and restaurants in this \$56 million dollar building. And the \$44 million dollar Hilton Garden Inn is just about finished on 10th Street. According to Invest Atlanta, the two projects created 300 construction jobs and will eventually mean 150 permanent jobs. Over the next ten years, the city estimates both projects will bring in nearly \$15 million dollars in taxes. So what's the cost? The city will give both developers a total of \$4.7 million dollars in tax breaks over those ten years. Reporter: "Do you think these projects would've happened without these incentives? Brian McGowan, Invest Atlanta CEO : "No, I don't. These sites were very difficult to develop. That's why they hadn't been developed in so long. Even when things were booming in Atlanta." So, instead of empty lots generating no jobs and little in taxes, the properties are doing both – thanks to help from the city. Taxpayer Adia Williams: "If that's what it took to get it done, then I'm glad people are able to work and put food on the table for their families." Taxpayer Scott Lewis: "With how the economy is right now, definitely. Why not?" Taxpayer Misun Pak: "Because it's a private builder, absolutely not taking taxes...but then again, on the flip side creating jobs, and that's what our city needs to help build are economy and get people back to working."

Government Overwhelmed with Student Loan Complaints

Date: **10/18/12 4:30am**

duration **:31**

Fred Blankenship

Federal officials say they've gotten *thousands* of complaints from students having problems repaying their loans. One Georgia student says her payments are nearly \$600 a month. Hers is just one of 3,000 complaints that have reached the governments Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Rohit Chopra, CFPB: "Some of the practices sound extremely familiar so it's important to make sure this does not bleed into the broader economy." According to the Pew Research Center, 19% of American households owed student loan debt as of 2010. That was a record.

New Jobs in Cobb County

Date: **10/07/12 6am**

duration **1:17**

Eric Phillips

Eric Allen: "Got up this morning – they said they had about 600 positions available." Allen tells me he's been searching for a job for a year and when he heard Alorica had hundreds of temporary call center jobs available – he went through the process. The jobs are to handle calls about federal government benefits, and the open enrollment period underway. Unemployment numbers may be falling, but Alorica's HR Administrator says the calls and resumes are still flooding in. The jobs start at \$9.00 dollars an hour, but the temp positions could become permanent and workers could climb the ladder quickly. Alorica has already hired more than 300, mostly managers and will hire more than 600 more thru the end of November. They won't have trouble finding applications, but compared to year's past they do see signs the economy is slowly healing. Waleska: "I do see its improved a little bit." Which is echoed by Eric Allen, who in the past year has established quite a network among the job seekers – many of whom aren't seeking any more. Allen: "If you're looking for jobs, you meet people looking for jobs. So just through that base of people you start hearing them get jobs, so your hear things."

5A SEPTEMBER REVENUE GA VO

Date: **10/12/12 5am**

duration **:21**

Fred Blankenship

The state of Georgia is seeing an increase in revenue for the ninth consecutive quarter. The Governor announced Thursday that September tax collections increased \$59 million dollars. That's nearly 4%. Georgia has collected \$175 million more dollars this year than it expected. Governor Deal said this indicates the state's economy is moving in the right direction.

Illegal Immigration Numbers Down with Economic Downturn

Date: **12/06/12 6pm** duration :21 **Justin Farmer**

The number of illegal immigrants in the US is dropping, according to information from the US census bureau. Data shows 11.1 million people in the country as of last year. Researchers say that's down from the peak in 2007 when the number was 12 million. They say the weak economy and stronger law enforcement is contributing to the decrease.

Immigrants Await Protection Under Obama's New Plan

Date: **11/20/12 5am** duration :27 **Carol Sbarge**

This morning, thousands of illegal immigrants in Georgia are waiting to find out if they'll get temporary protection under an Obama administration plan. More than 10,000 illegal immigrants in Georgia have requested temporary protection from deportation. The program allows certain immigrants to apply for deportation protection, but does not provide legal status. Nationwide, the government has granted 53,000 requests since August. Georgia ranks 9th in the number of applications.

Hispanic Community Reacts to Obama Re-Election

Date: **11/07/12 16:22:28** duration 1:51 **Erica Byfield**

We did some checking and according to GALEO or the Georgia association of Latino elected officials, there are about 150-170 thousand Hispanic voters here in Georgia. So, to get some answers about what happened yesterday we traveled to DeKalb, Gwinnett and then here to Cobb. Just one day after America reelected President Barack Obama, hosts of Atlanta's only Spanish talk radio station fielded call after call about why some metro Hispanic voters checked his name instead of Mitt Romney's on the ballot. Teodoro Maus: "Everyone is really excited with the results of the election." Maus says his callers who typically are steadfast in their conservative social beliefs, decided in this election to vote with one issue in mind – immigration. He told me voters believe the President's claim that he'll fight for immigration reform. Not everyone believes that is what happened. DA King: "Ronald Reagan promised amnesty in 1984 and he got less than 40 percent of the vote. They are voting for Democrats because of the entitlements promised to them." We stopped by Telemundo, a Spanish TV station in Gwinnett County to get more reaction. There, we met a group of people brought in to discuss the election results. Joe Mariscal: It was a very nice race that we saw last night." Pedro Enrueguez Valdiosera lives in north Fulton County and only speaks limited English. He believes Obama understands the concerns of Hispanics. Back in Cobb County, King thinks conservatives need to stay strong. "The final death blow to the Republicans here in Georgia or nationwide would be if they become so desperate that they try to become Democrats." Since several voters told us that immigration was their number one issue, they say it's now time to see some action behind the President's promise.

New Immigration Laws Bring Licensing Complications to Medical Professionals

Date: **11/22/12 5pm** duration :32 **Erin Coleman**

Doctors and nurses in Georgia are scrambling to renew their licenses so they can keep treating you. Georgia's new immigration law requires anyone with a professional license to prove their citizenship when they have to renew. The change has caused a backlog. Some medical professionals have had to briefly stop seeing patients. Donald Palmisano: "We've received a number of complaints from our physician

members that they've had a number of licensing delays." We've learned the problem may get much worse in the coming months.

Date: **11/25/12 6am** **duration 1:45** **Tony Thomas**

When lawmakers tightened the state's immigration laws, one provision was to require all licensed professionals – to prove citizenship at renewal time. Some medical professionals have had to briefly stop seeing patients because of the delays. One the 39th floor of a downtown building, a small staff at the Medical Composite Board struggles to keep up with the renewals for Georgia's 41,000 doctors and most other medical professionals. Bob Jeffrey: "At this point we are kind of hunkered down." The change in Georgia's immigration law has created chaos here. The same is true for nurses and others licensed through the Secretary of State's office. Doctors licensing must be renewed every two years. Previously, a quick form on the state website, along with a payment, and confirmation came immediately. Now, applicants must submit a notarized affidavit and an ID proving they are citizens. The state says nearly a third of doctors are seeing a ten day or more delay. Jeffrey: "I can tell you we have not found one yet, and so far we have processed about 28,000 pieces and so far everyone's legal." The Medical Association of Georgia says it's been barraged with calls from frantic doctors. Donald Palmisano: "We've received a number of complaints from our physician members discussing they've had a number of licensing delays." And these delays may be nothing compared to the tidal wave that is coming. Jeffrey: "Next year is the big crunch." Eighty percent of Georgia's medical licenses will come due in 2013. Palmisano: "It's added another administrative burden to physicians, so its taken away some time from their focus on patient care, and that's where a real concern is." Many groups are pushing lawmakers to make adjustments during their next session.

Atlanta Archbishop Weighs in on Immigration

Date: **12/04/12 6pm** **duration :23** **Jovita Moore**

Atlanta's Archbishop is calling for comprehensive immigration reform. Archbishop Wilton Gregory emphasized the importance of a path to citizenship for undocumented residents in the US during a speech yesterday. Gregory stressed the importance of keeping families together, and he also talked about the importance of religious freedom, which the Archbishop says many immigrants and refugees seek in this country.

MARTA CEO Reflects on Time with the Transit AuthorityDate: **12/07/12 6pm**duration **1:25****John Bachman**

Marta CEO Dr. Beverly Scott: "I'll tell you this in a nutshell, I never ask anybody to do anything that I don't do and have not done myself." Beverly Scott's train is leaving. After five years leading MARTA, Scott is taking the head job for Boston's transit system. Scott is spending her last day with MARTA at Five Points station downtown. She led MARTA through a tough time. She took over when the system was operating with nearly a \$120 million dollar yearly deficit. "When you're talking about a 120 million dollar gap, that's not something you can play around, you can't make everybody happy or whatever, you need to take actions that need to take place." Scott cut jobs, cut bus service, froze pay, and increased employee contributions to healthcare. Tough decisions that caused some controversy two years ago, prompting MARTA to spend nearly \$150,000 dollars to study Scott's management. Scott: "I put my big girl pants on. At the end of the day I say you be you, I'll be me and I'm going to try to do it the best way I can." Scott says she's leaving MARTA better than she found it, that \$120 million dollar yearly deficit will be \$30 million dollars this year. She says customers now pay a larger percentage of operating costs, but as far as critics saying MARTA can't support itself ... "Quite candidly, I smile when people say privatization because if the private sector could run them and make a profit on them, you would not find them being public, ok!"

Elaborate Christmas Display Snarls TrafficDate: **12/19/12 6pm**duration **:18****Jovita Moore**

Neighbors say it's causing serious traffic congestion in the area. The display is along Peachtree Dunwoody Road, and Winall Down Road in Brookhaven. We first showed you the display on Channel 2 Action News at 4pm. Now the display is all lit up

Dunwoody Residents Question Fiscal Wisdom of Proposed Traffic CircleDate: **11/12/12 5pm**duration **:38****Jovita Moore**

A controversial million dollar traffic circle is back on the table in Dunwoody. Opponents thought they defeated a plan to put the roundabout at the intersection of Vermack and Womack Roads. The council spent \$68,000 dollars for a study, and pulled the plug before the study was finished. Dunwoody Mayor Mike Davis: "It's fiscal irresponsibility to spend 68,000 dollars and have nothing to show for it." Neighbor Joe Hirsch: "They're just trying to put lipstick on a pig. The whole study stinks and they're wasting our time by spending more money on this." Tonight, council members will decide if they want to spend an additional \$60,000 dollars to finish the study and get a report on the intersection.

Progress on the Atlanta Beltline's Eastside TrailDate: **10/15/12 4pm**duration **:33****Fred Blankenship**

The Eastside trail of the Atlanta Beltline project is set to open today. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed will cut the ribbon at 10:00 this morning. The trail covers 2.2 miles from 10th Street and Monroe Drive to Irwin Avenue. People who live by the trail say it opens up the community and cuts down on traffic. Zack Gruczkowski: "Oh, it's great! It's my favorite part of the city right now. It's opened up huge transportation and it's just fun to get out and walk around." Project leaders say two private donors paid nearly half of the \$11 million dollar price tag. It took 15 months to build the trail.

Overhaul of City's Traffic Light Timing System Aimed to Ease Gridlock

Date: **10/10/12 6pm**

duration **1:21**

Erin Coleman

Drivers say they are desperate for a change. And the Georgia DOT says it's coming. It just earmarked \$8 million dollars to upgrade traffic signal timing all over the metro area – a major overhaul to synchronize lights using new technology, hardware and software to ease the commute. Commuter: "When you do stop, it may be 10 or 15 seconds less time than you stopped the last time. All of that adds up to a lot of savings." The corridors that could be next for a traffic signal upgrade? Stone Mountain Freeway, Cobb Parkway, Camp Creek Parkway, Fulton Industrial Boulevard and Alpharetta Highway. "We're seeing that it works so it's a low cost alternative to building new lanes." In Dunwoody, timing crews are already out – part of a separate plan that will ultimately tie in with GDOT's help, the Perimeter Community Improvement District is using up to \$3 million over three years to synch 96 traffic lights in this area. The idea is to get everything more uniform – to get traffic moving.

Gwinnett Intersection to Undergo Improvements

Date: **11/16/12 6pm**

duration **1:24**

Kerry Kavanaugh

Tanya Ingles: "People get frustrated and it backs up a lot." Peter Saunders: "It is a bit dangerous." Tens of thousands of drivers criss cross the intersection of Buford Highway at Jimmy Carter Boulevard every day. The major surface roads connect people to I-85, Georgia 400 and Atlanta. It's also the intersection that has racked up the most crashes in the county. Ingles: "Because when it gets full here it's horrible to get out that way and this way. So if it would flow better it would be much better." Pedestrian Tim Williams: "It's like playing Frogger - that old game on Atari." The Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District has a plan on the table they say will cut congestion in half and improve pedestrian safety. John McHenry: "We had looked at doing an interchange here and that was going to be a \$45 million dollar project – at least. This is something more like \$8 million dollars." McHenry says a cheaper plan is a continuous flow intersection. "When you get your green light, you move forward." This is a shot of Buford Highway at Jimmy Carter from News Chopper 2. The continuous flow design would back up the signal for the left turn lanes on Buford Highway to give them a clear path to Jimmy Carter. It keeps all left-turning traffic out of the intersection. McHenry: "We want to take a look at these innovate traffic designs and once we see if they can work we go out and pull down the funding." He says the funding isn't there yet. The CID will look

Georgia 400 Improvements Unveiled

Date: **12/03/12 5pm**

duration **1:16**

Mike Petchenik

Ernestine Townes is one of more than 120,000 people who commute to and from the Perimeter area daily, using this ramp off Georgia 400 to Abernathy Road. "Companies aren't interested in renting properties in this area due to the congestion, so hopefully once that clears up, we'll get more tenants in these buildings." This weekend, GDOT wrapped up a project that could relieve the congestion, widening the Abernathy Road northbound ramp to add an extra lane for exiting traffic. "We are the corporate center of the southeast United States and transportation matters." The state Road and Tollway authority funded the \$2 million dollar project with money collected from the Ga 400 tolls. It's one of several projects slated to benefit from the toll before it closes next year. "SRTA has committed more than \$60 million dollars in the Georgia 400 corridor for major infrastructure improvements. UPS's vice president is also on the Perimeter Community Improvement district. He called the improvement necessary to keep business moving.

Innovative “Diverging Diamond” in Dunwoody Gets High Marks

Date: 11/21/12 5pm

duration 1:18

Erin Coleman

On an average day, 50,000 cars move through this intersection. On Black Friday, there will be many many more. Jim Goldberg: “Fortunately, that new design is just perfect for this situation and it will be the first big test of it, but we think it’s ready.” Goldberg, from the DOT, talked to us from inside the traffic management center where employees will be keeping tabs on all traffic – including the diverging diamond – and unlike in past years, they’ll be able to remotely alter the traffic, adding longer green lights, if necessary, with the click of a button. Goldberg: “We can control traffic signals and the timing of them and keep the flow of traffic moving better now that we have some of that new technology in there. Dunwoody police will be watching closely as well. St. Mike Carlson says they’re stepping up patrols Thanksgiving weekend and so far, the diverging diamond is a win. Carlson: “It doesn’t back up like it used to, so it is making the traffic flow a little better and its safer because our accidents are down right now. Drivers who like the interchange say Black Friday will be the true test. Driver: “It’s a disastrous time to be driving and be out near the mall from A to Z so anything that can help it is always great.” Carlson: “We’re going to learn a lot of stuff over this weekend with the traffic and traffic patterns.

Audit Reveals Significant Problems Within Department of Driver ServicesDate: **12/27/12 5pm**duration **1:17****Aaron Diamant**

Gwinnett County Police Sgt Jack Smith: "We need to have the most up to date information. Traffic stops in particular are some of the most dangerous circumstances police officers are in." A new state audit of the Georgia Department of Driver Services found its driver records system plagued with problems. Department of Driver Services' Susan Sports: "We most definitely are going to take it very seriously." Auditors say DDS isn't doing enough to update incorrect addresses for thousands and thousands of Georgians – data that's used to send out fine and license suspension notifications and auditors found "correspondence is returned to DDS as undeliverable when the address information is incorrect, and DDS does not take any further action to notify the driver." It means millions of dollars in fees go uncollected and thousands of drivers with suspended licenses may continue to drive. In the auditors words, it is "creating a public safety concern." Sports: "There are some things identified in the report that we definitely are going to study and there is a lot of opportunity for growth." Auditors also found missing blood alcohol levels for DUI convictions and courts slow to report DUI and other convictions to DDS. Critical information used to charge and prosecute the people police catch. Smith: "We'll do what we can on our end, but hopefully from the other end things are being taken care of administratively to help us out keeping the roads safe."

Atlanta Police Chief Defends High Number of Young OfficersDate: **12/03/12 5pm**duration **2:45****Richard Belcher**

This is where it starts for recruits – 21 weeks in the Atlanta Police Academy. The hours are long, and demanding. But police know better than anyone there are limits to what an officer learns here. Street experience and the improved judgment that comes with time are essential. Atlanta's good news is there are lots of new officers. So you have that double-edged sword of filling your ranks, but you also have what I refer to as a brain-drain. Andrew Scott has 30 years in law enforcement, including as Chief in Boca Raton, Florida. Andrew Scott: "The unfortunate thing about officers that have maybe two to four years is that they think they are starting to get it, which they probably are, but they haven't seen enough." A Channel 2 review found that Atlanta has substantially more inexperienced officers and fewer with veteran experience. Over six years, the number of officers with under one year on the force is up 85%. The number with 0-10 years experience is down 25%. Not a problem, says Atlanta's Chief: "We are fortunate to be able to be adding to our department, where other departments around the country are cutting back." Chief George Turner says the median age of Atlanta's hundreds of new officers is 28. "They're mature and often have police experience elsewhere." Belcher: "What about the loss of so many veterans in mid-career?" Turner: "When you look at the technology advancement that we're doing in law enforcement, bringing new people on that embrace those changes are huge opportunities in law enforcement." But it's widely accepted that more younger officers means more vehicle accidents and often more complaints of undue force. A 31-year-old rookie was fired in July – days after he was involved in a collision that killed a 59 year old woman. He'd been on the street about 6 weeks. Belcher: "Should you be braced for more automobile accidents, more citizen complaints because you have more young officers out there?" Turner: "Well, that's a fair question. We look at numbers to drive our decisions." But veterans aren't immune to bad judgment. Look at the botched drug raid of Kathryn Johnston in 2006 and the 2009 raid on the Eagle Bar that infuriated the city's gay community. Turner: "We've fired a number of officers that have been out of line of what our SOP's have been." They weren't necessarily young officers. They were veteran officers.

Park Atlanta Complaints Continue

Date: 11/19/12 11pm

duration :37

Jovita Moore

Drivers say they want Atlanta's parking meters a little more user-friendly. Late this afternoon, the city council approved parking enforcement changes. The council wants Park Atlanta to have visible and uniform signs – and better customer service. Drivers say the parking machines have too many choices and too many buttons. Vadim Katsenovich: "They're clear but it took me some time to figure out and I know how to figure out computer stuff." The council also wants Park Atlanta to establish an online process for filing complaints – and to stop issuing tickets where meters aren't working. The council will vote on the changes after "Park Atlanta" answers its questions.

New Gun Control Debate in Wake of Connecticut Shooting

Date: 12/17/12 6pm

duration 2:17

Tom Regan

The school shooting in Connecticut has re-ignited the debate over stricter gun control laws, both federally and here in Georgia. And there are strong feelings on both sides. At the Sandy Springs gun club Monday, owner Robyn Marzullo told me she joins in mourning the victims of the shooting rampage. Marzullo: "As a parent myself of two young girls, I can only imagine what they're feeling.." She also said enacting tougher gun laws here, or nationally, will not prevent another mass shooting. "In this situation you had someone who was very ill. Clearly wasn't thinking, those guns were obtained legally. Whether it's gun control that needs to be looked at or not, it's not going to be a quick fix in these situations." Georgia doesn't require permits or registration for adults purchasing handguns and rifles – although you do need a license to carry a handgun in public. And while stores run background checks on buyers, that's not necessarily the case at gun shows or private sales, including those conducted online. State Senator Nan Orrock: "I think our federal gun laws and our state gun laws are on in the best interest of gun safety." Democratic State Senator Nan Orrock is an outspoken proponent of stricter gun laws. She says she hopes Congress takes action to re-enact the federal ban on assault rifles that expired in 2004. Orrock: "When the Constitution, Bill of Rights and second amendment were all put in place, we were not contemplating the kind of weapons available today." A recent poll by ABC News showed most Americans favor stricter gun control laws, including a ban on high capacity ammunition clips. They also want stricter enforcement of existing laws. Some people we spoke to said someone driven to explosive violence won't be deterred by laws. Emma Borge: "I think they're going to find guns no matter what law you put in. They're going to find them." But others believe high capacity weapons are too easy to get a hold of. Andrea Irvin: I think they are too easily accessible." Gun rights supporters say stricter gun laws are not foolproof. They cite Connecticut, which has some of the strongest laws in the country.

Date: 12/17/12 11pm

duration 1:15

Amy Napier Viteri

Business is good at Wild West Traders in Marietta. Firearms instructor Billy Sullivan says the store is selling much more than usual for this time of year. As fear of an assault weapons ban grows, these semi-automatic guns make up the bulk of business right now. They're also one of the biggest points of disagreement in the debate over gun control. One city where guns are not going away – at least for now – is Kennesaw. Since 1982 an ordinance has required each head of household own and maintain a gun. Lieutenant Craig Graydon says it's purely symbolic but breeds many misconceptions. Graydon: "That everybody in Kennesaw wears and carries guns all over the place and it's like a wild west town." In fact, Graydon estimates less than half the Kennesaw population owns a gun and there are no plans to repeal the ordinance after Friday's school shooting. Meanwhile at Wild West Traders, Billy Sullivan is already sold out of certain ammunition. Graydon: "Because people just come in they panic buy. They grab it. They feel like they have to have it or it's all gonna go away."

Date: 12/28/12 6pm

duration :33

Erin Coleman

We checked in with one of Georgia's Senators on the prospects for gun control, now a little more than a week after the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. Senator Johnny Isakson: "President Clinton passed an assault weapons ban in 1994. Columbine happened in '99. Banning things doesn't necessarily prohibit bad guys from doing bad things. We've got to do a comprehensive reform of our mental health records." Senator Isakson told us lawmakers need to expand on the mental health parity act passed four years ago. It required insurance companies to cover both mental and physical health – equally.

Date: 12/28/12 5pm

duration 1:05

Lori Geary

Sen Isakson: "If you run off and just start banning things, you're not solving the problem." As the debate heats up over gun control, Senator Isakson told me an assault weapons ban would not prevent similar shootings. "You're maybe making yourself feel good but the real problem that we've got is to figure out how we get to the mental health status of people who are trying to buy weapons and make sure we have that information." Isakson told me even if it takes time to perfect that system, he still would not vote for an assault weapons ban. Many of his Senate colleagues disagree. Feinstein: "I'm going to introduce in the Senate and the the same bill will be introduced in the house, a bill to ban the assault weapons." Sen Joe Manchin: "I don't know anyone in the sporting or hunting arena that goes out with an assault rifle. I don't know anyone that needs 30 rounds in a clip to go hunting." Although the school shooting may be the tipping point for new gun regulations, Isakson maintains a knee-jerk reaction is a dangerous way to legislate.

Watchdog Group Raises Concern Over New Falcons Stadium Proposed

Date: 11/05/12 4pm duration :23 John Bachman

The watchdog group "Common Cause" is calling for greater public input. The group says it is neither for, nor against a new domed stadium. But, it says the negotiations have brought in public money – without public involvement or comment. Common Cause spells out its views on a blog – you can find a link at wsbtv.com

DeKalb Community Protests Postal Changes

Date: 12/03/12 5am duration :22 Carol Sbarge

A delivery controversy is heating up between one DeKalb County city and the post office. For nearly 40 years, Avondale Estates has banned roadside mailboxes because they didn't like the look of them for their historic district. But the postal service says it cannot afford to continue door-to-door delivery. Lawyers for the city wrote a letter to the postal service, protesting the change.

Georgia Congressman Makes Controversial Remarks About Evolution

Date: 10/08/12 6pm duration 1:45 Richard Elliot

Paul Broun: "All that stuff I was taught about evolution: embryology, the big bang theory, all of that is lies straight from the pit of hell." This is the now viral video of Congressman Paul Broun speaking before a Hartwell Georgia church. In it, the House Science, Space & Technology committee member explains his deep belief in creationism, not evolution. Broun: "This is really a young earth. I don't believe the earth is but about 9,000 years old. I believe it was created in six days as we know them. That's what the Bible says." We did come by Congressman Broun's Athens office, but as you can see, it's closed because of Columbus Day. I did also try his Washington office and his Press Secretary by phone, by text, and by email, but so far we haven't heard back from them. So we went by the Congressman's Oconee County home, to see if he wanted to comment about the controversy, but no one was there. "He would have to be a straight up fella to make that comment, yeah." Wayne Watkins is a constituent and fully supports Broun's beliefs, but others – like USA scientist Pam Knox – do not. Knox: "I'm also a Christian and I appreciate the fact that he stands up for his faith, but I don't think he should be making rash statements about the lack of scientific proof." Charles Bullock: "This is a conservative district." We went to UGA Political Science Professor Charles Bullock to find out if the comments will impact Broun, who is running unopposed for re-election in November. Bullock says, with the exception of more liberal Athens-Clarke county, the Congressman's comments probably play very well in his district. Bullock: "The things we said wouldn't play well with the university community, but the university community doesn't even come close to dominating the electorate in his district. Most of his constituents seem to be quite pleased with the job he's doing and whatever he's saying.

Sudden Resignation of Influential Legislator

Date: 12/04/12 5pm duration 1:31 Lori Geary

It was clear Republican State Senator Chip Rogers and his staff went to great lengths to not answer our questions – about why he abruptly announced he's leaving office – one month after winning reelection. Rogers staff tried to block us from exiting the State Capitol, as Rogers literally ran out aside door. Earlier,

his staff locked his office door inside the state capitol as we tried to go in and ask “our” questions about his sudden departure to a newly created position at Georgia Public Broadcasting. Rogers was once one of the most powerful state lawmakers in Georgia, but just weeks ago he announced he would not run again as Senate Majority leader. Earlier this year, the head of the Christian Coalition called on him to resign after we reported on his connection to gambling. Rogers admitted to appearing on this program that predicted the outcomes of sporting events, but he denied participating in gaming. Two years ago, we also reported how a Bartow County bank sued Rogers for his part in a \$2 million dollar unpaid loan for this motel in Gordon County. As a Republican leader, Rogers has successfully sponsored and passed numerous bills, including Georgia’s recent Charter School amendment, immigration reform and a crackdown on dog fighting. The man who campaigned on getting government out of people’s lives will now be working for the government. When we finally caught up with him, Rogers had this to say: “Gotta get to my son’s basketball practice. I am the coach. Thanks.”

Clayton Residents on Early Voting

Date: **10/18/12 5pm** **duration 1:13** **Diana Davis**

The sentiment among those in line for early Clayton voting is the same: Voter Claude Sandiford: “I want to get it out of the way.” No matter their candidate, all told me going to the ballot box critical more than ever this year. Andrea Davidson: “I’m hopeful that with the new election there going to be a little more focus towards the economy, and bringing forth more jobs. Catherine McDaniel says she voted for President Obama in 2008. This time she’s supporting Romney. McDaniel: “I think Obama has had his chance.” The President’s supporters told me they believe the country is on the right track. Edna Rogers: “Because when President Obama took office he had a lot to deal with. It won’t get straightened out in eight years but hopefully it *will* get straightened out.” Some here lay the blame for the slow recovery on Congress. Sibongile Montgomery: “All the ins and outs of the fighting – that’s why I feel that things could have progressed a lot better than they are now. Most say they watched at least two debates – they didn’t seem to change many minds. Sandiford: “No, I was always going to vote for President Obama.” Ted Davidson: “I’ve already made my decision who I’m voting for that’s what I’m looking forward to doing.

Lottery Appoints New CEO

Date: **10/26/12 5am** **duration :33** **Fred Blankenship**

Channel 2 Action News spoke exclusively with Georgia’s new Lottery CEO. She acknowledged the role her job will play in funding the Hope Scholarship. Debbie Dlugolenski Alford: “My passion is to impact the bottom line on revenues so that we can fully fund Hope. I’m going to go to bed thinking about it; I’m going to get up thinking about it!” We first told you that Debbie Dlugolenski Alford was the Governor’s only public finalist. There was controversy because she also was Governor Deal’s Chief Financial Officer. She will make about \$300,000 dollars a year, which is less than the outgoing CEO.

Strict Bumper Sticker Policy at Polling Site

Date: **11/05/12 5am** **duration :29** **Fred Blankenship**

Stickers are stirring up a controversy at a polling location. Pickens County election workers made voters tape paper over their campaign stickers on their cars when they voted. The workers said they were enforcing the rule that no one can have campaign signs or stickers within 150 feet of a polling site. Voter: “I really was surprised. I think you can go just a little bit overboard on things, you know.” We contacted state officials who say it’s up to the polling manager to decide if people have to cover up their bumper stickers.

Community Finds New Mural Offensive

Date: 11/12/12 12pm

duration :34

Fred Blankenship

Within the next hour, two Atlanta City Council members plan to discuss a controversial mural. Some residents in the Pittsburgh neighborhood along University Avenue say the painting of a fish and snakes was offensive so they painted over it. Neighbors who liked the artwork said they were disappointed at what others had done. "It's something we've watched develop. We watched the painter step by step to create this piece of art and to see it being defaced that way." The Georgia Department of Transportation owns the building and says it will likely cover the mural because it did not issue a permit.

Date: 11/19/12 4:30am

duration :28

Fred Blankenship

An art group that paints murals around Atlanta, says they plan to work with communities differently in the future, after some recent controversy. The debate was over a mural the 'Living Walls' group painted on University Avenue. Some people thought the art looked evil and wanted it covered. Another mural that upset the residents in southeast Atlanta was removed. The group plans to discuss future ideas with the community before the art goes up.

Dunwoody Man Turned Down on Proposed Message on "Adopt a Highway" Sign

Date: 12/13/12 5pm

duration :32

Justin Farmer

A controversy over an adopt-a-highway type sign is costing taxpayers. Dunwoody has a program that gives people a sign like this one if they agree to keep an area clean. A local man joined the program but the city did *not* like the message he wanted to put on his sign. The message had some harsh words for a city leader. Joe Hirsch: "They went out of their way to try and silence me." The man sued over free speech, and now we've learned the city is paying him off with taxpayer money.

Ansley Park Neighbors Have Concerns About Proposed Convenience Store

Date: 11/21/12 5pm

duration :33

Jovita Moore

People living in two midtown neighborhoods are fighting to stop a convenience store from being built with 24 hour alcohol sales. Ansley Park and Sherwood Forest neighbors say the proposed station on Peachtree Street and Peachtree Circle would violate Atlanta's zoning law. The law says there must be a 300-foot buffer between a residence and where alcohol can be sold. They also say the gas station would create loitering problems

Date: 12/19/12 6am

duration :25

Carol Sbarge

We're working to find out whether a controversial gas station will get its liquor license to operate in midtown Atlanta. A developer wants to open the new gas station and convenience store where an old Shell station sits on Peachtree Street. A license review board considered whether to grant a liquor license for that new store Tuesday night. Ansley Park neighbors worry that a 24-hour store that sells alcohol will attract crime and loiterers.

Neighbors Upset with Lack of Progress on Code Violations

Date: **10/18/12 5pm**

duration **1:23**

Jim Strickland

“Step off the property, no problem ... I wanted to ask , no problem.” Two men working inside 2730 Riverfront Drive wanted me gone. They even took the time to place sheets of plywood over the windows so I couldn't see inside. It's the outside that's the issue. “This house needs to be demolished. It needs to be condemned and demolished. Anything short of that is not going to make me happy. But, it's in the court's hands so what am I gonna do?” The house has looked like this for five years. At least the weeds are down since we first reported the controversy in 2010. Now a judge is telling the Los Angeles man who owns the property to get it street legal in less than two months. Quality of life will go out closer to the compliance date and make sure that these issues are being taken care of. The owners' attorney tried to assure the judge work would no longer lag. He also has a project manager, who is also local, who will be making sure that the work is being done as well. Neighbors say the two young men in the SUV are the only workers they ever see. They didn't want me to see them. The driver sped off with his face hooded. Neighbors are not all that satisfied with another two months of waiting. “Has enough been done? In six years? I think it speaks for itself.”

Georgia Supreme Court Will Consider Gwinnett Trash Collection Dispute

Date: **11/05/12 12pm**

duration **:25**

Fred Blankenship

Today the Georgia Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a Gwinnett County man's claim. It says the county illegally charges residents for trash collection. Robert Mesteller's attorney argues in order to charge a fee for waste collection – you have to operate the business. He says the county does not – because it hires private companies. Channel 2 Action News has been following the trash collecting controversy in Gwinnett since 2010.

New Boundaries Bring Strip Clubs Into Doraville City Limits

Date: **11/19/12 5pm**

duration **1:26**

John Bachman

Starting January 1, Doraville city limits will expand along Tilly Mill to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to include this strip mall ... and the strip club across the street. It's the strip club causing the controversy. Resident Diane Griffith: “I own a home here. I don't want it.” Resident Adam McDougal: “It doesn't bring the right crowd, but at the same time it does bring profit to the city.” This will be the first strip club in the city limits. There are a couple of clubs on Buford Highway in unincorporated DeKalb, but this would be the first in Doraville. As a result, the city is taking a closer look at its sex oriented business laws. Including a current license fee of \$5,000 dollars. Tonight the city council is scheduled to lower that fee to \$350 dollars. Griffith: “Wow. Can't believe that. That would just mean more in the area which we certainly don't want.” McDougal: “You're getting 5,000, now you're only getting 350. Doraville's already in enough problems moneywise so why are they wanting to lower it.” I spoke by phone to a special attorney hired by Doraville for this case. He says \$5,000 dollars in licensing fees is just too high. And this move to lower those fees is a move to avoid future lawsuits. The fee is supposed to be revenue neutral – and several nearby cities charge \$350 dollars or less. Still, some people don't like one strip club, and worry it could encourage more to open in the city. Griffith: “I just like to keep a little of the country in the city – that's the way it's always been.”