



# LRSCA Legislators Town Hall Q&A 2023

Thursday, March 2nd, 7:00-8:30pm at Druid Hills Middle School

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## Introduction by Carol Hayes, LRSCA President

- You can join Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association by clicking here: <http://laurelridgeshamrock.weebly.com/>
- Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association needs a representative on the Community Council. This is a group of citizens who reviews zoning plans before they go to the Planning Commission. Please let Carol know if you'd be willing to serve on the Community Council: [cehayes@bellsouth.net](mailto:cehayes@bellsouth.net)

## New Precinct Commander

- New Dekalb Police Department North-Central Precinct Commander: Major Brian DeLoach. 25 years with Dekalb PD. (770) 724-7600

## Mall Development Update

- Debra Robinson lives in Laurel Ridge and works with the Dekalb Cross-Neighborhoods Council (<http://www.medlockpark.org/2016/06/what-dekalb-cross-neighborhoods-council.html>). She gave an update to the North Dekalb Mall development (<https://edens.com/property/north-dekalb/>) as well as other nearby areas. The North Dekalb Mall developer, Edens, hopes to start development this fall; they have filed a "Land Disturbance Permit." Cliff Parking will continue to be at the mall long term. At Blackmon and Scott Blvd, there will be 15 townhomes (the rezoning was approved).

## Senators Elena Parent and Kim Jackson (via Zoom):

- Bill to create a city of Buckhead did not pass.
- Bill on legalizing horse racing did not pass.
- Bill for tort reform bill did not pass.
- Will there be any accountability for elected officials who were fake electors? Lt Gov Burt Jones was a fake elector. The GOP senate is in fraction due to some supporting him, and some not. Last session, they passed a referendum to stop pay for elected officials who are indicted.

## Representative Mary Margaret Oliver

- House has finished 27 of 40 days; crossover day is on Monday (any bill must have passed one chamber in order to be considered by the other chamber. If not, the bill will sit dormant until next year).

- House has a new speaker: Jon Burn  
(<https://www.house.ga.gov/Representatives/en-US/member.aspx?Member=73&Member=73>)
- House passed the mental health bill. HB 520  
(<https://www.wabe.org/mental-health-reform-package-clears-georgia-house-heads-to-senate/>) It now goes to the Senate. There are conspiracy theories circling in regards to this bill; and this will make it difficult for the bill to pass the senate.
- You can watch House of Representative events: <https://www.gpb.org/lawmakers/house>
- You can sign up for Mary Margaret Oliver's newsletter: <https://www.marymargaretoliver.org/newsletters>
- Will HB 71 (<https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20232024/212765>) pass? The bills would address requests for permitting to mine on the edge of Okefenokee Swamp. Despite a republican sponsor from the area , and large bipartisan support, they can't get the committee chair to hold a hearing on it.
- How about a bill restricting gender-affirming treatment? Those issues are in the senate right now, not in the house.
- Spaceport in Camden county near Cumberland Island had an overwhelming referendum by the citizens who oppose it. Mary Margaret Oliver is opposed to it.
- Will the legislature do anything to help with teacher pay? Probably not.
- Will any gun safety bills pass? No.
- Mary Margaret Oliver encourages you to come to the capital to discuss issues.
- Have any election bills come up? One bill proposes to not allow drop boxes. There's a bill to lower the age to 60 for those allowed to be ushered to the front of the line, as well as women with children under that age of 5.

## Closing

- Ann Finley has stepped down from the board just recently. She was head of the Neighborhood Watch. John Wierwille has agreed to take her place.