

North Fulton Extra

**NORTHSIDE NOTES Rumbblings and scuttlebutt in our community. What's in a name? These say it all**

STAFF

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Would that be Alphawell? Or maybe Rosaretta?

Fulton County Fire Chief R.T. Strong, whose department is pondering several intergovernmental agreements like one with Alpharetta for a fire station at the city's Cogburn Park, is among many who believe that one day in the not-too-distant future all of the county north of the Chattahoochee will be one municipality, known by a hybrid of the names Alpharetta and Roswell.

New harassment policy Alpharetta has updated its sexual harassment policy, a year after Councilman R.J. Kurey supposedly made comments that some employees deemed inappropriate. No formal accusation of harassment was made against the councilman and no formal charges were lodged.

But the much-publicized matter gave the city a black eye, and consequently officials hired an outside attorney to tune up the policy. The new policy, unanimously adopted, defines prohibited behavior as, among other things, "unwelcome sexual remarks or compliments, sexual jokes, sexual innuendo or propositions, sexually suggestive gestures or facial expressions, sexual remarks about a person's clothing or body, exhibiting sexually explicit publications or materials, kissing, touching and sexual contact."

The policy also sets up a formal investigation process, after which discipline can range from an apology to dismissal. Employee training on the new policy will begin this summer, said City Administrator J. Michael Wilkes.

Forming the new policy took a year, he said, because of the issue's sensitive nature and the many officials, attorneys and staff who offered input.

"The city of Alpharetta prohibits, and will not tolerate, harassing or offensive behavior by or towards any employee or officials," said the policy. "Any employee or official of the city of Alpharetta who engages in such behavior is subject to consequences." Artists for autumn Talk about the power of a single word. Roswell's City Council plans to update its 3-year-old ordinance regulating art shows in town with a word change --- aiming to to keep things more flexible.

The council is expected to make a decision next week whether to replace the word "November" with the word "autumn" so art shows can be held on weekends throughout the fall.

The idea behind it, said council member Steve Dorvee, is that the dates for other art festivals and shows in metro Atlanta are being moved and local artists need flexibility so there won't be any conflicts.

A decision is expected Monday. Begrudging best wishes When Alpharetta Councilwoman Barbara Hurt-Simmons recently announced her resignation, council members weighed in with their good wishes for the woman who's moving to Birmingham, where her husband got a new job.

Councilwoman Sandra Johnson, stressing her feeling that the city would be losing a good leader, said, "I'm very, very sorry that you've had this wonderful opportunity." Sandy Springs flag corps If you see a woman putting little plastic flags in the ground in front of her neighbors' homes in Sandy Springs, don't despair; she's not marking a runway or a future construction site. Cindy Blum, a real estate agent, has been celebrating Fourth of July the past four years by decorating the area with flags.

This year, she plans to blanket several neighborhoods --- a total of 2,000 homes --- with flags.

"It makes the neighborhoods look nice," she said.

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