

Anne Bartoletti

From: Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 6:45 AM
To: anne@vayasol.com
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State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

September 18, 2009

Dear Anne,

Fall and football season have begun and I hope that you are enjoying autumn in Atlanta. In addition to the state issues on the forefront, local elections will be taking place soon. As a member of the Buckhead Council and the Justice Advocacy and Public Policy Committee at Trinity Presbyterian Church, I would like to invite you to attend Tuesday's Mayoral Candidates Forum at the church. See details below. Please forward this email to anyone that you feel may wish to attend.

As always, please do not forget to [contact me](#) with your views on any issue that needs to be addressed or whenever I can be of service to you.



Elly Dobbs

Buckhead Council sponsors mayoral candidates' forum

Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Trinity Presbyterian Church

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods and Trinity Presbyterian Church, along with other neighboring houses of worship including St. Anne's Episcopal Church and Ahavath Achim Synagogue, will jointly sponsor an Atlanta Mayoral Forum at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3003 Howell Mill Road, on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 7 PM.

Confirmed participants include Atlanta mayoral candidates **Lisa Borders, Mary Norwood, Kasim Reed** and **Jesse Spikes**. The event is free and open to the public, and local political commentators **Bill Nigut**, formerly with WSB-TV and current Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, and **Dick Williams**, host of Fox 5's Georgia Gang, have agreed to moderate the forum.

The sponsoring groups are extremely pleased that the top four mayoral candidates will appear to address residents' questions and concerns on such key issues as public safety, taxes, finance, parks, schools and transportation. The evening will encourage both the candidates and the audience to focus on issues that are specific to the Buckhead area as well as issues important to all Atlanta.

Questions are being submitted in advance by neighborhoods and the faith community. In addition, residents will be able to submit questions on the night of the event on provided index cards. Moderators Nigut and Williams will pose questions to the candidates throughout the evening, which is expected to last two hours.

Jim King, chairman of the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods and president of Chastain Park Civic Association, said "The upcoming mayoral race is extremely

important to the future of the areas represented by the BCN. In November, we will have a chance to make our voices heard. We hope that the Atlanta Mayoral Forum will generate a lot of interest, excitement and debate about the upcoming election and contribute to greater turnout at the polls."

Trinity Presbyterian Church Acting Senior Pastor David Burns adds, "We are excited about the opportunity to host this important forum and to allow voters the chance to hear directly from the candidates. We are especially grateful that Trinity can play a role helping voters understand more about the candidates' positions on the important issues/future decisions that will face the next mayor of Atlanta."

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Moyers, communications chair for The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods, 404-934-8330, Jennifer@buckheadcouncil.org or Bede Campbell, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 404.495.8428, bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org.

2009 Energy and Water Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday October 1-4

Legislation adopted during the 2009 legislative session, [House Bill 120](#), provides for an exemption from both state and local sales and use taxes for specific energy efficient products. These exemptions apply to sales occurring Oct.1-4. The exemptions are limited to products with a purchase price of \$1,500 or less that have been designated as meeting requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy "Energy Star" programs.

The energy efficient products eligible for the exemption are as follows: air conditioners, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, clothes washers, dishwashers, windows (including skylights), refrigerators, programmable thermostats, dehumidifiers and doors.

The water efficient products eligible for the exemption are as follows: bathroom sink faucets or aerators, high-efficiency toilets and flushing urinals.

The exemptions are intended for items purchased for non-commercial home or personal use. The exemptions do not apply to: products not specifically listed above; products with a purchase price over \$1,500; products purchased for use in a trade or business; products that are rented or leased; or sales by or to a contractor or retail dealer performing a real property construction contract as a contractor.

If you need additional information, see the answers to [frequently asked questions](#) and [Regulation 560-12-2-.112](#). You may also contact the Taxpayer Services Division at 404-417- 6601 or via [e-mail](#) for assistance.



Georgians encouraged to prepare and plan for fall flu season

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) encourages everyone to take action and be prepared to fight the seasonal flu and novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses this fall. September is National Preparedness month and an opportunity for individuals, families and businesses to learn how to slow the spread of the disease in their communities.

"Knowing where to find reliable and timely information is a key component to ensuring that you and your family are prepared," said DCH Commissioner and Acting Public Health Director Dr. Rhonda Medows. "Make contingency plans now for your home and work place needs in the event that you or your family members become ill."

Georgians should prepare this fall and winter for higher than normal absenteeism because more than one flu virus is circulating. Current data indicates that the severity of the novel H1N1 virus has not increased but since individuals are not immune to this new virus more will be affected.

"Prepare, plan and stay informed are the keys to emergency preparedness. Prepare for an increase in the number of individuals affected by the novel H1N1 virus in

schools and across businesses; plan what to do if you, your loved ones or co-workers get sick and have to stay home; and stay connected with a trusted source for up-to-date information on seasonal flu and novel H1N1," said Dr. Patrick O'Neal, director of DCH's Division of Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR).

DCH launched the Roll Up Your Sleeve campaign in August in conjunction with the 18 health districts to educate Georgians about the importance of individuals within high-risk categories obtaining a seasonal flu and/or novel H1N1 vaccination. The campaign addresses how everyone can prevent the spread of the flu viruses, and points out the steps to take if they have symptoms.

"We cannot stop an influenza pandemic, but we may limit spread of the disease through early detection and a well-planned response," added O'Neal. "If you are not feeling well, stay home; if necessary contact your medical provider. If you are a business owner identify critical roles and cross-train employees."

[More information...](#)

Governor announces August revenue figures

Gov. Sonny Perdue has announced that net revenue collections for the month of August 2009 (FY10) totaled \$1,052,466,000 compared to \$1,259,631,000 for August 2008 (FY09), a decrease of \$207,165,000 or 16.4 percent.

The percentage decrease year-to-date for FY10 compared to FY09 is 13.1 percent.

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Representative Elly Dobbs

Representative Elly Dobbs represents the 53rd District (Fulton County) in the Georgia House of Representatives. Contact her at 512 Coverdell Office Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30334; by phone at 404-656-7859; or by e-mail at elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov. For more information, visit her web site at www.ellydobbs.com.

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