

# CHAPTER 14: NOISE REGULATION

Section

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**Section 14-001 Title**

This Ordinance shall be entitled the "Noise Ordinance of Newton County, Georgia."

**Section 14-002 Noises Prohibited**

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud, unnecessary or unusual sound or noise which unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others in the county, and which is audible to a person of normal hearing ability more than seventy-five (75) feet from the point of origin of this sound or noise.

**Section 14-003 Noises Enumeration**

The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing and unnecessary sounds or noises in violation of this section, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive:

- 1. Horns, Signaling Devices.** The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any automobile, motorcycle or other vehicle on any street or public place in the county for an excessive period of time, the creation of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound by means of this signaling device and the sounding of this device for an excessive period of time.
- 2. Radios, Phonographs, Similar Devices.** The use, operation or play, of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such manner as to unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is reasonably necessary for convenient hearing for the person who is in the room, vehicle or chamber in which this machine or device is operated and who is a voluntary listener thereto. The operation of the set, instrument, phonograph machine or device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of seventy-five (75) feet from the room, building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.
- 3. Loudspeakers, Amplifiers for Advertising.** The use, operation or play, of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, loudspeaker, sound amplifier or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound which is cast upon the public streets for the purpose of commercial advertising or attracting the attention of the public to any building or structure. Announcements over loudspeakers shall only be made by the announcer in person and without the aid of any mechanical device. See Section 14-104(3).
- 4. Noisy Animals or Birds.** Anyone who keeps or maintains an animal or bird that unreasonably disturbs the comfort or repose of any person, because the animal or bird is emitting frequent or long continued sound or noise, and who continues to keep, maintain or allow any animal or bird to so disturb the comfort or repose of any person or persons shall be deemed in violation of this section, provided that the person keeping or maintaining the animal or bird has been first notified in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, by the complaining party that this animal or bird being kept by the addressee is unreasonably disturbing his or her comfort or repose. This section shall be liberally construed to accomplish the objective of the section, and the person making this written notification need not use the exact words of this section to the addressee so long as the notification sufficiently informs the addressee of the nature of the disturbing noise emitted by the animal or bird. Upon receipt of a certified letter

notifying the person keeping or maintaining such animal or bird, such person shall be required to immediately comply with this section. This section shall not apply to horses, livestock, poultry or other farm animals, provided they are maintained in accordance with other ordinances and the Newton County Zoning Ordinance.

5. **Construction or Repair of Buildings.** The erection, excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of any building between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. which causes unreasonably loud noises or which unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet, except that the building inspector may grant a permit for a period not to exceed ten (10) days for this work to be done between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. when the building inspector determines that the loss or inconvenience that would result to any party in interest is of such a nature as to warrant special consideration. Such activity shall be allowed during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. notwithstanding the amount or level of noise created thereby.
6. **Blowers and Motors.** The operation of any noise-creating blower or power fan or any internal combustion engine, the operation of which causes noises due to the explosion of operating gases or fluids, unless the noise from this blower or fan is muffled and the engine is equipped with a muffler device reasonably sufficient to deaden the noise. The operation of such non-muffled equipment shall be allowed during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. notwithstanding the amount or level of noise created thereby.
7. **Sound Trucks.** The use of mechanical loudspeakers or amplifiers on trucks or other moving or standing vehicles for advertising or other commercial purposes. The use of sound trucks for noncommercial purposes during such hours, and with such unreasonable volume as would constitute a public nuisance.
8. **Loading, Unloading, Opening Boxes.** The creation of unreasonably loud and excessive noise in a residential area during the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in connection with loading or unloading any vehicle or the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates and containers.
9. **Schools, Courts, Churches, Hospitals.** The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church or court while the same are in use, or adjacent to any hospital, which unreasonably interferes with the normal operation of the institution, or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in the hospitals, provided that conspicuous signs are displayed in the streets indicating that it is a school, hospital or court street.
10. **Hawkers, Peddlers, Vendors.** The shouting and crying of peddlers, hawkers and vendors which disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.

#### **Section 14-004            Exceptions**

The provisions of this section shall not apply to or be enforced against:

1. Any vehicle of the county while engaged in necessary public business.
2. Excavations or repairs of streets by or on behalf of the county or state at night when public welfare and convenience render it impossible to perform this work during the day.
3. The reasonable use of amplifiers or loudspeakers in the course of public addresses which are noncommercial.

#### **Section 14-005            Penalty**

The penalty for violating this ordinance shall not exceed a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or sixty (60) days imprisonment or both.

*(Adopted and effective 9/16/97)*

of receiving a legal briefing from its attorneys concerning personnel matters. The meeting will open, then board members will go into closed session which is not open to the public.

## WEATHER

Expect partly cloudy skies Saturday. The high temperature will be 90. The low temperature will be 66. On Sunday, expect showers and thunderstorms. The high will be 79, the low 58. On Monday, expect partly sunny skies and cooler temperatures. The high will be 70, the low 54.

## QUOTED

'It is not enough to do good; one must do it the right way.'

— Ernst Mach

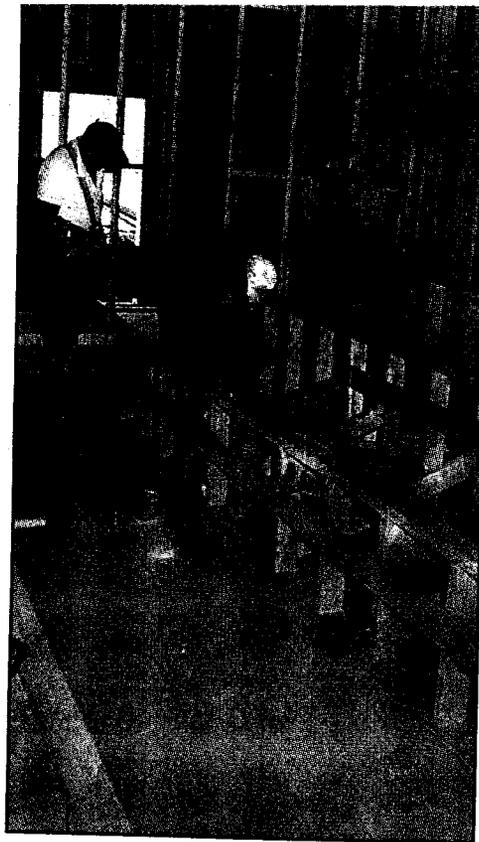
## FAST FACT

Fifteen nations gave women the right to vote before the U.S. granted the right in 1920. The earliest was New Zealand, in 1893.

Source: "Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts," by Isaac Asimov

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Above (from left) Joe Reynolds of Baxley, Doug Todd of Blackshear, David Reynolds of Baxley, and Sonny Bridges of Moultrie pause at the construction site of Gateway Community Church on Friday.

The men on the roof (from left) are Yancey Peter of Conyers, Lamar Davis of Covington, and Bruce Stewart of Conyers. The Covington church is being built with almost all volunteer labor, except for one contractor.

At right, Gregg Derosier of Conyers uses a ladder to work on a roof section. At left, Lincolnton residents (from left) Chubby Earnest Ray Grubb and Cecil Ishee stay busy inside.

The group hopes to be done by Thanksgiving.  
Staff photos by Ron Manson

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# County passes noise ordinance

## Street solicitation issue tabled

By Eric Williamson  
News Editor

Residents can rest easy now that a noise ordinance is in place in Newton County. However, the passing of a ban on street solicitations during morning and afternoon rush hours has been tabled until next month.

The noise ordinance, proposed by Dist. 2 Commissioner LeAnne Long at Tuesday night's meeting of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, will give the sheriff's office something official to go by when enforcing peace and quiet from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Particular noises which will be prohibited include the unnecessary use of car horns, loud radios, excessively barking dogs and

most types of late-night construction. Certain exceptions will be made for "emergency" construction work.

The ordinance was intentionally tailored, at Dist. 5 Commissioner Danny Stone's request, to keep neighbors who may have pre-existing disputes from using the ordinance as an easy excuse to call authorities.

Long and Stone met last week to iron out last-minute concerns they had.

"I appreciate Commissioner Long's willingness to sit down on this thing and compromise to a point that's acceptable," said Stone.

Following the vote on the noise ordinance, Long's second, more controversial proposed ordinance, was discussed.

Many local Shriners were in

See County page 3

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