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Tellus event to showcase alternative fuel

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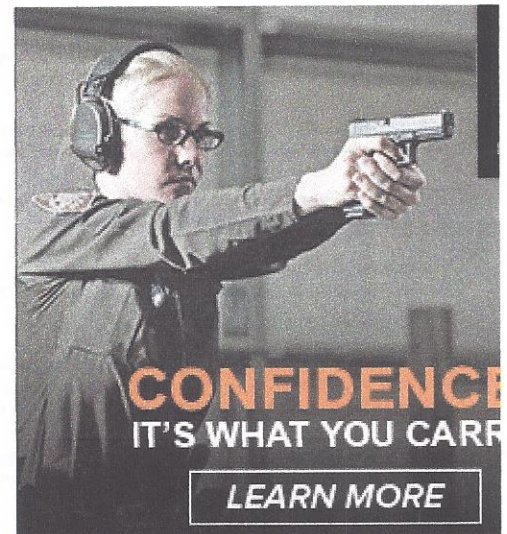
The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Roadshow will be held at Tellus Science Museum on Tuesday.

The event, which takes place in eight different Georgia cities over the course of 12 days, is put on by the Georgia Public Service Commission and headed by Commissioner Tim Echols. 2015 marks its fifth year and the first that it will be coming to Cartersville. The purpose of the event, Echols said, is to provide an educational resource to any entity using a fleet of vehicles that may be interested in a departure from the use of traditional fossil fuels.

"The goal of the roadshow for the last five years, in fact, has been to educate municipal governments, small business fleets, corporations and commuters of the value of alternative fuel and to help them see if alternative fuel will really work for them in their particular situation," he

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stated. "The roadshow is an educational program because there are a lot of myths about alternative fuel vehicles and there's a lot of misconceptions, and we put people on the panels who are actually using these fuels to be able to explain how they work, issues that they've had in implementing it and needs for the future."

GPSC Public Information Officer Bill Edge affirmed Echols' sentiment and added that the event will be hands-on, allowing fleet managers and other attendees to see alternative fuel vehicles in person.

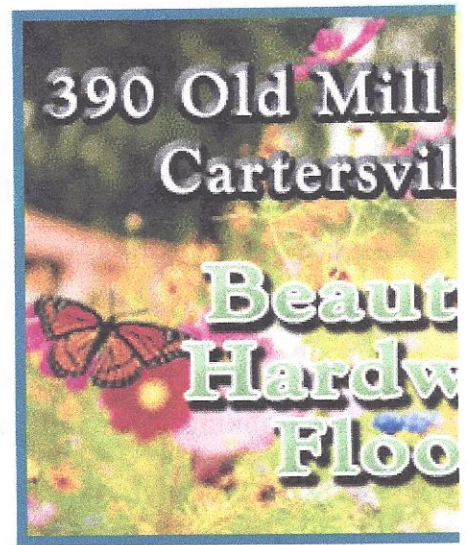
"It's educational," said Bill Edge. "The first hour is, basically, folks can look at the vehicles that will be parked outside the venue. There will be natural gas, propane, hybrid vehicles parked out there, some electric (vehicles). The overall purpose is education. But there are fleets of cities and counties that are using these vehicles right now."

Indeed, many public and private organizations have made the switch to alternative fuels. Edge pointed out that the Coca-Cola Company has begun using electric-diesel hybrid trucks in its fleet. According to a press release for the roadshow, the cities of Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Covington, Douglas, Thomasville and Toccoa are now operating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) refuse trucks, pickup trucks, sedans and other CNG vehicles in their fleet. DeKalb County is transitioning their sanitation vehicles over to renewable biomethane from landfill gas. And for others looking to make the switch, there are many options available. The press release stated that the roadshow will include information about propane, biofuels, natural gas, electric (EV) and CNG as fuel sources.

Tellus Executive Director Jose Santamaria said hosting the event is rather suitable for the museum because it features exhibits on alternative energy sources.

"It kind of makes sense because there's a whole lot of science involved in alternative. I mean, we have exhibits here on solar energy, on wind power, and so it kind of makes sense to host something like that over here."

Santamaria said the event is expected to draw about 100 people. The public is welcome at a charge of \$29 per person, though Echols said



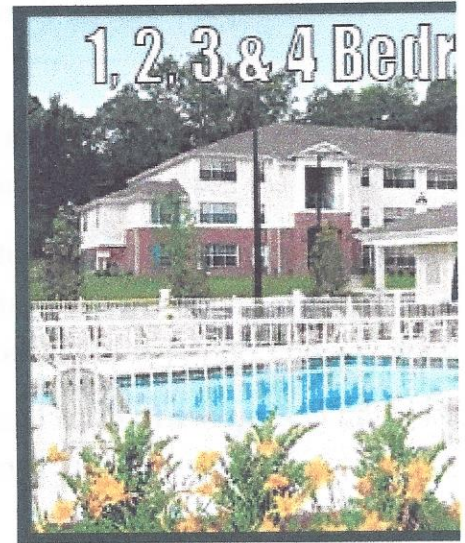
the event is primarily targeting fleet managers.

“Part of this year’s theme is to pass along some of what the fleets have learned to consumers and to fleet managers,” he said. “It’s more aimed at the fleet managers (during) this year’s (event) than it has in the past.”

Since Echols was elected in 2010, he said Georgia has grown to become the No. 2 market in the country for electric vehicles. This is likely due at least in part to the Low Emission Vehicle/Zero Emission Vehicle (LEV/ZEV) tax credit available to residents of the state who purchase environmentally friendly vehicles. Echols added that the tax credit will be eliminated soon, so it could be a good time for those who have considered going electric to do so now.

“We certainly want people to know that the state tax credit for the electric vehicles will be ending on June 30, and the people that live in Bartow, Cherokee County area can really benefit from these cars, especially if they commute into Atlanta,” he said.

The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Roadshow is free to fleets and government officials. Registration is required and can be accessed at www.afvroadshow.com. Tellus Science Museum is located at 100 Tellus Drive in Cartersville.



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