

The Bright Side TM

Volume 29 No 12

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992 DECEMBER 2020



14TH ANNUAL SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Great Gig Dance Co. in Kennesaw presents Sights and Sounds of the Season, a musical Christmas variety show on Sunday, December 13 at NorthStar Church in Kennesaw. Shows are at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Sights and Sounds of the Season will feature the talented dancers of Great Gig Dance Ensemble, and promises to get you and your family in the Christmas mood!

Tickets are \$15 in advance, and may be purchased by calling Great Gig Dance Co. at 770-218-2112, or visit their website at www.greatgigdance.com or you can find them on Facebook.

NorthStar Church is located at 3413 Blue Springs Road in Kennesaw. This is a family Christmas event you won't want to miss!

Great Gig Dance Co. offers dance classes for everyone, ages 3 to 103! Classes are available in Hip-Hop, Jazz, Tap, Ballet, and Contemporary Dance. The studio is located in Kennesaw at 4200 Wade Green Road--in the Wade Green Crossing center, near Big Lots and LA Fitness. For more information, please visit www.greatgigdance.com.

LISA CROSSMAN NAMED 2020 MARIETTA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



The Cobb Chamber's Marietta Area Council has selected community and public health advocate Lisa Crossman as its 2020 Citizen of the Year. Citizen of the Year Awards are given to honor an individual whose impact through the years will be recognized and regarded with pride as a role model throughout the area. These outstanding citizens are chosen for their definable, exceptional deeds, with which he or she has made their community a better place to live. Awards are given to deserving individuals based on local area nominations. The 2020 Marietta Citizen of the Year was presented at the Marietta Area Council luncheon at the Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center this afternoon.

"Lisa Crossman is extremely deserving of this recognition. She not only has a long history of service and leadership in our community in many areas, but she also has been a champion for fighting COVID-19 and working with local leaders to help us through the pandemic challenges this year," said Sharon Mason, President and CEO of the Cobb Chamber. "Many organizations like ours sought constant guidance from her especially in reopening safely. Our community is extremely blessed to have such an outstanding citizen like Lisa who is a role model for others to follow."

Lisa Crossman has personally served on the public health front lines, fighting COVID-19 from the very start of the pandemic. Through long hours and stressful circumstances, she has remained dedicated to slowing the spread of the virus and keeping her community safe and healthy. At a time when so many have hoarded resources and centered their attention on themselves, Lisa has shown a particular interest in serving the homeless and medically fragile populations of the community.

Whenever an agency, organization or community member has called on her for support, she has responded quickly, effectively and calmly--a calm voice in the midst of chaos. She has been an advocate, protector, provider and cheerleader when her community has needed it most.



PICTURED: NCHS SHOPPERS CHECKING OUT AT WALMART.

SHOP WITH MUSTANG AND SHOP WITH WARRIOR PROGRAMS NEED A LITTLE HELP

Calling all alumni of North Cobb High School and Kennesaw Mountain High School. Each year since 2004, high students at KMHS have been taking students from their elementary feeder schools shopping for Christmas. The first year was so successful that KMHS helped NCHS start their own version of shopping in 2005.

The students at both high schools raise the money for this Christmas adventure - usually starting in August, this year's fund-raising needs a little help as in person schooling didn't start until November 5, thus putting a crimp in the fund-raiser.

Yes, there are restrictions that will be met, for safety reasons. NCHS will host 60 students at their school on Saturday December 12 while KMHS students will meet at their individual feeder schools instead as a large group at KMHS.

Each high school needs to raise about \$3,000 to cover their costs of buses, t-shirts, sweatshirts for the little shoppers, a take home goodie bag for each youngster and to make sure each little shopper has at least \$100 to spend on gifts.

In order to successfully host Shop With a Mustang and Shop With A Warrior, both Kennesaw Mountain and North Cobb High Schools are relying on donations from our community and alumni of these two schools

Won't you join KMHS and NCHS in their fight to save this meaningful tradition. Donations will allow SHOP WITH A MUSTANG and SHOP WITH A WARRIOR to continue while creating life long memories for both high school students and their little shoppers.

To donate to Kennesaw Mountain High School, simply mail a check to Kennesaw Mountain High School addressed as follows: "Shop with a Mustang", Kennesaw Mountain High School, 1898 Kennesaw Due West Rd., NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152. Be sure to write "Shop With a Mustang" on the memo line of your check. To arrange other types of donations, email Billy Richardson at William.Richardson@cobbk12.org.

Checks can be made out and mailed to North Cobb High School as follows: "Shop With A Warrior", North Cobb High School, 3400 Old 41 Hwy NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Be sure to write "Shop With a Warrior" on the memo line of your check. To arrange other types of donations, email Kennedy Reese at Kennedy.Reese@cobbk12.org.

Both High Schools will accept donations of all sizes. All donations will allow 2020 to end on a positive note for all participating in this year's Shop with a Mustang and Shop With A Warrior programs.

Many thanks from Amber Roldan and Carol Thompson along with the students at KMHS and NCHS!



PICTURED: KMHS SHOPPERS RETURNING FROM A SUCCESSFUL TRIP.

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DEADLINE FOR JAN 2021 ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, DEC 30 2020
ONLINE TUES. JAN 5 2020

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THIS AND THAT



THANK YOU FIELDING LEWIS CHAPTER

Children's Healthcare is very grateful to the generous members of the Fielding Lewis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Words cannot adequately describe the appreciation for needs that were met by caring chapter members. Our amazing staff at Children's takes care of these young survivors in a kind and loving way to prepare them to move forward into a better future. Thank you, Fielding Lewis Chapter, for helping provide a better future for these precious children.

HILL PARK FUNDRAISER

The Acworth's new Doyal Hill Park is now under construction. Located adjacent to the Rosenwald School and Acworth Community Center, this park will serve as an outdoor interpretive history area featuring public art honoring Acworth's rich African American History. To help raise funds for this public art installation, prints of the historic Rosenwald School Community Center by artist Ron Huffman are now available for purchase. Only 100 editions of this print will be produced. Prints are 11" x 14" (16" x 20" matted). Each print comes matted white with a black interior with a backing board. These numbered pieces are hand signed by the artist. Frame not included. Prints are priced at \$100. These prints are available for purchase at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org or at the Acworth Community Center.



Patty Dawson shares a cute photo of
her neighbors dogs, pugs named Simpson
and Charles. Here they are dressed up for
Halloween as cuddly bears.

EMAIL YOUR STORIES,
PHOTOS OR QUESTIONS
Brightnews@aol.com

COBB COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Did your ancestors arrive by riverboat,
wagon train, horseback, or perhaps the
railroad?

Want to learn more? Join the Cobb County
Genealogical Society General Meetings are
held at 7 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the
every month, except December. For now The
meetings are virtual. Visit the CCGS website
to register – www.cobbgagensoc.org.



BRIGHT SIDE PAGE 2

ANDREW BRAMLETT'S WHY WE SAY WHAT WE SAY.

For this month's
article, I will be
sharing how some
classic Christmas
characters got their
names.



Despite his long
history, Santa has
not always been
associated with his
8 reindeer. So where
did they come from? The names were first
coined in 1823 in the poem "Twas the Night
Before Christmas", written by Clement Clarke
Moore. DASHER, DANCER and PRANCER
come from a tradition of naming animals after
characteristics, while COMET and CUPID
both are named after things that fly.

DONNER and BLITZEN both come
from Dutch words. In the original poem they
are spelled Donder and Bliksem, Dutch for
Thunder and Lightning. Interestingly enough,
when the poem was written in 1823 the
phrase "Donder and Bliksem" was the Dutch
equivalent of saying "good grief". VIXEN
means "Female Fox" and was chosen because
it rhymes with Blitzen.

Of course, I can not talk about Santa's
reindeer without talking about RUDOLPH.
Rudolph first appeared in a 1939 book
written by Robert May for department
store Montgomery Ward. While writing the
book, May had trouble choosing a name.
He considered Rollo, Romeo, Rodney, and
Reginald before settling on RUDOLPH.

It is not known how EBENEZER
SCROOGE got his name. Ebenezer is a biblical
name meaning "Stone of Help". Scrooge
possibly comes from the word "scrouging",
meaning squeezing. Charles Dickens describes
Scrooge as "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping,
scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!".

It is not known how Theodore Giesel,
better known as Dr. Seuss, came up with the
name GRINCH, but he always used the name
for mean characters. Suess first used the name
in his 1953 book "Scrambled Eggs Super!" The
Grinch, in his most famous form, appeared
in the 1957 book "How the Grinch Stole
Christmas". According to Giesel, he based the
holiday-hating character on himself.

ANDREW BRAMLETT VIDEO SERIES

For the past 3 years Andrew Bramlett has
written articles for the Bright Side on the origins of
Words and Phrases. Now Andrew also is producing
videos! His first series cover his Bright Side
Articles. His next series covers the history and
highlights of each Georgia State Park His third series
covers former State Parks in Georgia. Andrew's
current series is called "Overlooked History" where
he shares interesting stories from history that have
been largely forgotten. All of these videos can be
found under the "Video Series" tab of his website,
ajbramlett.com.

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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY THANK YOU FROM DOC AND PAM EATON

You go about your daily life, you do this, you do that and you take a lot for granted. You



help out whenever you can and do what ever you can for whoever is in need, friend or stranger. It's just the way you are and so is the way of the community in which you live.

And then you find yourself in a tight spot and a family crisis. The death of a family member, let alone a son, is a devastating blow. The myriad of emotions, feelings of sorrow and grief and even denial weigh down on you like the weight of the world, and that's just for starters. The minister, Mike Linch, offers comfort, counseling and planning involving the whole family, especially the children and teenagers who have not been through

this before.

Then you begin to find out about the entire behind the scenes stuff that is going on of which you are only vaguely aware. The support system of your community is working behind the scenes to lift you up and help with the weight of the burden. There are phone calls, meals being delivered to the house, cards arriving in the mail. Friends show their concern and ask the ubiquitous, "How are you doing?" We soon learned it was OK to not be OK.

We oft take our society for granted. But here, in Kennesaw, the spirit of the people steps up in the time of crisis. It is that spirit that wraps its proverbial arms around you and helps guide you through the present trials. Such is the mettle of our community, our friends and acquaintances. This character is shown in the way we embrace each other and share the trials of friends and neighbors.

Thank You Kennesaw. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

KENNESAW FESTIVITIES PLANNED

KENNESAW'S

CONTACTLESS PHOTOS WITH SANTA

FREE Contactless photos with Santa will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the Ben Robertson Community Center on Saturday, December 5, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Parents will be asked to remain in their cars, unless their child is very young. A professional photographer will take the photo and upload to the internet for parents to access. There will be no charge for the photos. The Ben Robertson Community Center is located at Adams Park at 2753 Watts Dr.



KENNESAW'S VIRTUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

On Saturday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m. the City of Kennesaw will instead host a virtual tree lighting on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw. The community is encouraged to tune in for Holiday carols from Bach to Rock, a message from Mayor Derek Easterling and the lighting of the 30 ft. tall Christmas tree on Main Street in Historic Downtown Kennesaw.

KENNESAW'S VIRTUAL MENORAH LIGHTING

The City of Kennesaw will host a virtual Menorah Lighting on Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. The Menorah Lighting will also be broadcast to the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw.

SOME FESTIVITIES CANCELLED

As always, the health and safety of our community, including visitors, vendors and staff, is our first priority. Based on this concern the City of Kennesaw & Kennesaw Parks & Recreation have decided to cancel both the A Day with Santa event and the Reverse Parade. A Day with Santa was scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 5, and the Reverse Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 12.

JERRY WORTHAN CHRISTMAS FUND

Kennesaw Police Department and the Jerry Worthan Christmas Fund is asking for the community's support for the 2020 holidays. The fund provides assistance for less fortunate families in the Kennesaw area.



Donations of money, food, and new toys would be greatly appreciated. The drop off location for toys and food is the Kennesaw Police Department, 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Monetary donations can be mailed to Kennesaw Police Department, Attn: Officer Scott Luther, 2539 J.O. Stephenson Ave., Kennesaw GA. 30144. Please make checks payable to the Kennesaw Police Foundation. The deadline for all donations will be December 18th.

Additional drop-off locations will be at Conner Dental, located at 1200 Barrett Pkwy, Suite 200-204, Kennesaw, GA. 30144, Desktop Coworking Community

located at 3070 North Main Street, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Turquoise Otter located at 2237 Whitfield Pl NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144 and Eaton Chiropractic, 2847 Main Street, Kennesaw GA 30144. Additional drop off locations will be announced as soon as possible.

If you or someone you know, needs assistance for the Christmas Holidays, please contact, the department's records division at (770) 429-4532.

The board members for this year are Chief Bill Westenberger, Melanie Gable, Officer Scott Luther, Lateefah Conner and honorary members Dianne Worthan (Jerry Worthan's widow) and Wendy Worthan (Jerry Worthan's daughter).

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Jerry Bohus

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Richard M Rosenberger, MD is retiring from his Acworth Family Medicine practice effective March 15, 2021. Doctor Rosenberger will continue to see patients through March 12, 2021.



Season's Greetings
During this holiday season,
we wish you all the best.



Jim Nance, CFP*, AAMS*
Financial Advisor

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THIS 'N THAT

OPEN HOUSE

Success Gateway Academy is holding their Open House Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 11am-1pm in the youth center on campus. Success Gateway Academy was established in 2018 as a hybrid homeschool program and serves children in middle and high school who struggle with sensory, social, academic, and attention challenges as well as children transitioning from a homeschool environment. SGA provides an educational opportunity for children who have difficulty mainstreaming in the upper grades because of their challenges.

Success Gateway Academy is enrolling now for the 2021-2022 school year. Visit [www.sgacademy.org](#) or call 770.626.2558 for more information or to schedule and individual tour.

ACWORTH ART HOUSE

Looking for that special gift this year. Visit the Art House. This is the place for art and gifts in downtown Acworth.

Their "Small Artworks & Gift Exhibit runs now through December 23.

Join them for a reception from 4-7pm on December 5. (they will have tents outside for refreshments and socializing-weather permitting)

This is the place for art and gifts in downtown Acworth. The Art House is open Tuesday-Saturday Noon-6:00 pm. It is located at 4425 Cherokee Street, Acworth (at the end of Logan Farm Park

FOR SALE ACREAGE IN ACWORTH

Malinda Howe, Anchor Realty Partners, has 4.34 acres listed at 5195 N Main St in Historic Downtown Acworth. The price is \$615,000 and the property is Zoned C1. Great place for a business to locate. Call Malinda at Cell 404-444-0225 or Ofc : 770-917-0322

THIS N THAT ADS

\$15 FOR 50 WORDS,

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BE A BRIGHT SIDE REPORTER

It's easy to be a Bright Side Reporter — if you have a positive, upbeat story about your family, your neighborhood, your civic group, school, church activities, happening in Kennesaw or Acworth, send it to us.

Simply write us a short note of the facts — we will rewrite it as a story. Email to Brightnews@aol.com (Photos are welcome too) Call 770-851-5469 for more information on submitting stories.

GOOD RASCAL DOG TRAINING

Certified Dog Trainer offers Private Dog Training in your home or other mutually convenient location. Positive, gentle methods make training fun for dog and owner. Licensed, Bonded and Insured. For details, see our Website: [www.mygoodrascal.com](#) To set up a consultation, Email: gary@mygoodrascal.com or call 770-401-7945.

FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS

Due to the on going pandemic, Sardis Missionary Baptist Church will provide FREE \$50 Gift Cards for your Christmas Dinner. First come first served while supply last! Just call leave your name and number at (770) 428-4031 for more info. Deadline for calls December 15, 2020. The church would like to help as many families as possible and is accepting monetary donations in any amount. Please call the same number.

HORSE BARN FOR RENT

Horse barn with 2 stalls for rent! Off Schillings Chase in Kennesaw-404-408-4223.

CALUMET WEST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

With over 50,000 lights the spectacular Calumet West Christmas House will be lit December 4. The house and lawn are completely covered with lights, ornaments and some of your favorite Christmas Characters. It also features West Cobb's Tallest Christmas Tree, the Traditional Gingerbread House, and the Biggest Chicken west of The Big Chicken! A must see for children of all ages!

Each year the Calumet West Subdivision features the Christmas House as a way to raise money for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Last year the neighborhood raised over \$6,000 for the hospital and hopes to top that number this year. Visitors can drop a donation in the collection box in front of the house, or choose the online option at [www.choa.org/cwlights](#) to conveniently make a donation directly to CHOA.

The Christmas House is located in the Calumet West Subdivision, 1010 Token Way, Kennesaw, GA 30152. Please use the West Mill Drive entrance into the subdivision, turn right on Peace Drive and then left on Token Way to view the lights.

Visitors are encouraged to make the suggested donation of \$10 per car, but of course any amount is much appreciated. The lights are privately funded so 100% of your donation goes directly to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The lights will be in operation from December 4 through January 3, from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

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POSITIVE CHANGES IN KENNESAW

BY TRACEY VIARS, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AGENT

Writing to a potential client this morning, I was reminded of things I hadn't actually wrapped my head around yet (or at least not all at one time). As for Kennesaw: While I sit here and work enjoying my beautiful Main Street view, the fire alarms are sounding due to testing for a new restaurant that's set to open in December (or so) Gus' Fried Chicken.

There's an Authentic Italian Restaurant in the works on N Main Street near Big Shanty Barber Shop (leased signed in the Pandemic). The Senior housing at Sardis and Main that began leasing in July is 100% leased up. The townhouses at Terraces at Depot Park sold at a record pace. The townhouses at Fuller's Chase are completely sold out and Prichard's Park is in full swing on Moon Station.

The Lewis House Apartments will begin getting new residents in early 2021 and a new brewery opened (the Horned Owl) to the warmest reception a new business could expect to get (even in a pandemic).

KSU has become the 2nd largest University in the state with this fall's incoming class at 41,000 students - and the largest ever freshman class at KSU (though the University isn't in city limits, we do enjoy economic prosperity due to spending by staff and students).

The clearing for the East Park Mixed Used Development on Cherokee is underway. Piedmont Injury law firm has begun buildout in the top floor of the building where the Horned Owls on Main Street. Lazy Guy distillery doubled their space with a new leased space down the street. And finally we're very excited to welcome Eatin Fresh to 3032 Cemetery St., right next to the new Horned Owl. She will be providing individual at home meal delivery inside the Kennesaw city limits from her brand new state of the art commercial kitchen. Order online at Eatinfreshkennesaw.com starting December 15, 2020.

2020 has been a weird year to put it mildly. Very unfortunate for many (I was sick with COVID and COVID aftereffects for 7 months and many lost loved ones and businesses to the virus). For others, there have been new beginnings and growth. Life is odd that way. I've learned this year more than ever how to live with expecting the unexpected....both good and bad.

There is a new word emerging in the Commercial Real Estate Industry. It's being used as a verb - to "rightsized" Aren't we all having to "rightsized" in our lives right now? After rain, there is sun. After darkness, there is light. You want a piece of this Kennesaw action, I'm being transparent....I'm a commercial realtor. Enjoy this day and let me know how I may be of service in your "rightsizing" process - whether there's real estate involved or not.

Contact Tracey at tracey@kennesawbroker.com.

Pictured above: Kennesaw Mayor, Derek Easterling cuts the ribbon for Kennesaw's newest business, the Horned Owl, located on Main Street in downtown Kennesaw.

IT'S 25 MILES AN HOUR ON MAIN STREET IN BOTH KENNESAW AND ACWORTH!

While drivers in Acworth seem to pay attention to the speed limit going through their town, not so much in Kennesaw. Yes the road through downtown Kennesaw is wide, however, the speed limit is still 25 miles an hour. Kennesaw police are actively patrolling for speed demons, portable signs have been posted and pedestrian images are painted on the asphalt. Let's keep our town safe for every one. Below is a refresher on the state of Georgia pedestrian laws.

GEORGIA PEDESTRIAN LAWS: When pedestrians are in crosswalks, they have the right-of-way. Crosswalks exist on all four corners of intersections even when they are not marked by painted lines.

If a pedestrian is entering a crosswalk and is on the driver's half of the roadway or within one lane of the driver's half of the roadway then the driver must stop.

When pulling out on to the road, a driver must stop before they cross a sidewalk, even if there are no pedestrians.

CURRENT CRIME TRENDS: THEFTS FROM VEHICLES A.K.A. ENTERING AUTOS

Cobb County's Police Precinct 1 area has experienced an increase in Entering Autos during the past month. Organized groups or gangs from other jurisdictions have been active in the North Cobb County area. Their preferred method of operation is to canvass a neighborhood during the overnight hours, checking the door handles of the cars parked in the driveways. When they find one unlocked, they enter and take any valuables found. Next, they head back to neighborhoods in other jurisdictions where the stolen items are sold on the street.

A reminder everyone to lock their cars both when parked at your home and when you are out in public. Remove all your valuables from the car. Taking these two steps can go a long way in preventing these crimes.

Being vigilant not only applies at home but at work and leisure, too. We have had numerous thefts from office parks and shopping centers where the victims left their purses, wallets, cell phones, electronics, and other valuables inside their cars unattended. Take all personal belongings with you when you go into your place of employment or other establishments. If you see persons loitering or wandering around the parking lot please call 911.

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20 DEC NC

BRIGHT SIDE PAGE 6

THE ACWORTH'S MAYOR'S DESK

Christmas may look a little different this year, but the spirit of Christmas is in our hearts. When we see all the good our friends, residents, and partners are doing this holiday season, it reminds us all that the City of Acworth is a city like no other.

On November 5th, the Save Acworth History Foundation and the City of Acworth recognized Mrs. Nancy Maxwell for her many contributions in preserving Acworth's history. Mrs. Maxwell's family moved to Acworth in 1911. She grew up on Dallas Street and still lives across from the location her childhood home. With her wealth of historical knowledge, Mrs. Maxwell is a treasured resident of our City and has devoted so much to the Acworth community. In honor of her many gifts and in celebration of her 90th birthday, Mrs. Nancy Maxwell is the first recipient of the Save Acworth History Foundation's Award for Achievement in Preserving Acworth History, an award that will forever bear her name.



Our exceptional Main Street is home to some truly outstanding retailers. Recently, like many businesses, they have been faced with challenges resulting from the pandemic. As you explore downtown this holiday season, we ask that you support these small businesses. By shopping local, you will find special gifts for your loved ones and invest in your community.

As we come to the end of a year like no other, we have been overwhelmed by the support from our community. Our City team has worked tirelessly to adapt to a set of challenges no one could have predicted. Our community partners have contributed through donations, food drives, and words of encouragement when they were most needed. Our residents have shown patience and kindness as we have navigated and continue to navigate through an extreme set of circumstances. These gifts and prayers, given with love and compassion, for this past year have meant so much to us. Christmas is a special time in Acworth, but the season of giving lasts the entire year. We would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. We look forward to serving you and celebrating with you in the year to come.

God Bless, Tommy

CHRISTMAS IN ACWORTH

SANTA PHOTOS AND CARRIAGE RIDES

On Saturday, December 5, and Saturday, December 12, we will celebrate Christmas in Acworth. Santa will visit downtown Acworth from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to take socially distanced pictures with families. Pictures are free of charge, but families must pre-register for appointment times. Appointments may be made by calling 770-917-1234. Make sure to bring your camera to capture this special moment, as no photographer will be on-site. In addition to pictures, there will also be free horse and carriage rides available from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on December 5 departing from Center Street. We hope to see you this holiday season for Christmas in Acworth!



DRIVE-IN MENORAH LIGHTING

The City of Acworth will hold a Menorah Lighting Ceremony on the first night of Chanukah, Thursday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. This year's ceremony will be held at Logan Farm Park, 4405 Cherokee Street. To maintain social distance, the City of Acworth asks that all attendees stay in or next to their vehicle during the ceremony.

THE GRINCH SAVES CHRISTMAS

Help the Grinch's heart grow three sizes at the Grinch Saves Christmas Toy Drive. The Grinch is back in Acworth and this time he is collecting toys to support the Acworth Police Department's Shop with a Cop program. Whos of all ages are invited to visit the Grinch for socially distant photos and fun at Frana Brown Park (4901 North Main Street) in downtown Acworth on December 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To enter the event, we are asking families to show the Grinch what Christmas is all about by donating a toy at the gate. These donations will help spread joy to local elementary school students. For further information, please visit www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.



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MEET BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S ENTREPRENEURS

KELLY NAGEL, MENTOR AND PARENT

There are 9 students in the entrepreneurship class at Brookwood Christian School, the school for dyslexia in Acworth. They range from 8th grade to 12th grade in the class. At the beginning of the year, we began planning and researching the opening of a coffee cart at the school. These students research the market, the cost analysis and wrote a business plan for opening the cart.

They chose the menu, practiced making the drinks and have even created some of the goodies that are sold at the cart. They did a soft opening two weeks ago in order to work out all the kinks. They have been proactive and creative in salving problems and challenges. We were thrilled to have an official ribbon cutting today and see so many people from the community come and support us. One of the students, an 8th grader has emerged as an exceptional leader and is now the manager of the coffee cart.

The cart is called 'Owl's Coffee and Bagels' after our school mascot. The cart is open for business to everyone, including the public from 8 – 9 a.m. anytime the school is in session. We will be open again beginning Nov. 30 until Christmas Break. All the proceeds from the cart go to the Brookwood Scholarship Fund.

I am so proud of these kids and all they have accomplished. We have 9 true leaders and entrepreneurs and they haven't even graduated high school yet. I look forward to seeing the amazing impact they will have on our community.



YEAH BABY!

Twenty years ago Henry and Claudia Chandler took a chance and opened a down-home restaurant with the best Southern inspired Louisiana dishes you've ever had. With that the then sleepy downtown Acworth has grown and blossomed to what we have today and Henry's is still the go to place to eat.

What an exciting surprise to find that Henry's is now bottling their famous sauces and dressings for sale to our residents. These amazing products range from \$6.95 to \$12.95 (for his famous Ooh La La sauce). Also included are Chef Henry's Remoulade, Red Jalapeño Pepper Jelly, Ginger Citrus Vinaigrette, and more. Because they are not made with any long term stabilizers yet, the shelf life is 14-45 days in the fridge depending on the product. Of course, the 'best by' date is marked on all bottles and Henry's is working on providing a longer shelf life as soon as possible.

Henry says if you are looking for gifts for the Holidays – there are two standard baskets you can give as is or add a gift card. If you prefer a customized basket, just call 770.635.9585 and they will create a basket for you. Visit the restaurant at 4835 N. Main St., Acworth GA 30101 (reservations can be made from their website: chefhenrys.com).

ABA LUNCHEON

Thursday, Dec 3 11:30-1:00 pm at Acworth Community Center, 4361 Cherokee Street, Acworth, GA, 30101. This is our Final luncheon of 2020! Enjoy a special holiday program on Celebrating Giving and hear from our outgoing President! This will be catered by 1886 Grille and sponsored by Acworth Animal Hospital. Please RSVP at www.acworthbusiness.org.

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ACWORTH'S HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Acworth has planned several festive events planned to celebrate the Holidays, from Santa arriving virtually, to a drive-in Menorah Lighting Celebration and of course the Grinch will be here to help collect toys for the Acworth Police (See page 5).



SANTA'S ARRIVAL - A VIRTUAL EVENT

Although Santa will not make his usual big arrival to downtown this year, he knows that Christmas is alive in Acworth. Join Mayor Tommy Allegood and special guests for some holiday traditions in Acworth's Virtual Santa's Arrival. The City of Acworth has partnered with their friends at NorthStar Church to capture the Christmas spirit. This holiday video will be released on December 4 at 6:30 p.m. on the Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Department Facebook page and www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Parents and caregivers can save the postage and bring their children's letters to Santa to the Acworth Community Center beginning November 30! The Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Department Team has the honor of hosting one of Santa's very own mailboxes at their facility. The City delivers these letters to jolly old Saint Nick personally! Children will then receive a handwritten letter back from Santa! Although Santa's eyes twinkle, he will not admit he needs reading glasses. Parents, please provide some notation to children with creative handwriting. This free program will be available to the public through December 16.



SANTA CLAUS IS CALLING THE TOWN

Santa and his elves will be making phone calls to all the children of Acworth on December 15 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and December 16 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Participating is easy! Please request a form from Jessy Patterson at jpatterson@acworth.org and return by Monday, December 14. Calls will be made on the night you request on the form.



FESTIVAL OF TREES

While enjoying Acworth's downtown holiday shopping, visitors will not want to miss the eighth annual Festival of Trees. This year, trees decorated by local families, businesses, and other organizations will be on display at Cherokee Plaza, located at 4358 Southside Drive. This is a great opportunity to get some holiday photos with twenty unique trees and Acworth's Coca-Cola mural.

ACWORTH'S PROGRAMS

For the latest updates on changes to our events and programs, please monitor our website at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org or follow us on Facebook @acworthparksandrec. Classes are back in session

DANCE FITNESS

This is an exhilarating 60-minute cardio dance class incorporating hits from all over the world. Students will be shown modifications for low and high impact methods so they can choose their own style! Bring your towel and water and get ready to sweat! Classes meet on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. More information and registration are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

LINE DANCING

Learn how to line dance with knowledge, technique, and style all while staying fit! Join Leslie in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no experience is needed and all you need is a smile and your own two feet. Classes meet on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Additional information and registration are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

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MARIETTA'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



2020 SANTA BLITZ

In lieu of the Annual Tree Lighting event, the City of Marietta will officially open the holiday season with a Santa Blitz! During December 3rd through 5th, Santa Claus himself will be "Blitzen" his way through City of Marietta neighborhoods spreading some cheer and smiles. Residents along the routes will be able to catch a glimpse of Santa from outside their homes as he rides on a Marietta fire truck escorted by Marietta police. While he will not be stopping as he travels slowly on the route, be sure to step outside your door or along your sidewalk to waive and hear a jolly "Ho-ho-ho". To help you with timing to see Santa pass by, we recommend following the City of Marietta's Facebook page for live tracking and being ready 15-20 minutes prior to the estimated times listed on the directions. Santa's schedules and maps are listed below. Information to visit with Santa on the Marietta Square during the month of December is also below. *Santa has many streets to visit and limited time before heading back to the North Pole. Please understand Santa will not be able to visit every street in the City, but wishes everyone joy, laughter and peace this holiday season.

Santa Blitz Schedule: • Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 6:30 p.m.; • Friday, December 4th, 2020 6:30 p.m.; • Saturday, December 5th, 2020 8:30 a.m.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2020

Streamed performance - Tickets \$25 (currently on sale)

Cobb County's biggest holiday event is returning for its 15th anniversary. Through the magic of film making, editing, and social-distancing, we're excited to bring you a brand new live show while also taking a look back at our favorite performances from the past 14 years.

When you register, you are purchasing your ticket in advance. With this ticket purchase, you'll be treated to two holiday specials: the streamed version of our new 'Home for the Holidays' production with the Atlanta Lyric Theatre and a compilation link to the virtual performance will be emailed to you on Dec. 11, the first day the streaming performance is available to patrons. The performance will remain accessible until 11 p.m., Dec. 13.

Thank you for supporting the arts! For tickets, see <https://www.andersontheatre.org/upcoming-shows> or call the box office at 770-528-8490.

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MEET THE TALENTED PEARSON FENDLEY



Ask anyone who has seen her work and they'll tell you, she is talented beyond her years.

Sketch pads, charcoal, scratch boards, blades, acrylic paints, a variety of brushes, easels and canvases of all sizes adorn the space in which make up Pearson's sacred work space.

To the average person the space where she creates, is messy chaos. To her, it's beautiful and her own personal playground of expression & creativity. With her favorite vinyl records like the Eagles, Joplin & CCR spinning on her turn table, her creative spirit shines through her hands & in her work.

Dreams of creating unique pieces of art, traveling the world to places like NYC, Montana, Colorado and Alaska in a bus she renovates herself, Pearson's goal of displaying & selling her art in coffee shops, bistro's and restaurant's is no longer a dream, especially now.

Chris Kehn, owner of Kehn Hospitality Group & Bistro 153 Restaurant perfectly nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of Pine Mountain, Georgia is now the launch pad for this young artist to introduce some of her most unique pieces to the world.

As an Honors student in the Academy of the Arts Program at North Cobb Christian School, under the instruction of her favorite teacher, Mr. Nate Rupp - Pearson's eye for design, visual arts and ability to bring her art to life through her talented & young 16 year old hands, is truly extraordinary.

Pearson's dream has come to fruition as far as her art adorning the walls of an establishment and she hopes that those who gather around her canvases will appreciate, love and enjoy her pieces as much as she did creating them.

"You can't put creativity in a box. First stop: Pine Mountain, Ga. After that, my steps are designed & God will show me." ~Pearson Elise Fendley

STUDENTS RETURN TO TRADITIONAL FACE-TO-FACE SETTING

The dangers surrounding COVID-19 forced CCSD schools and facilities to shut their doors for 206 days. This forced 111,854 Cobb County students to tackle the challenges rooted in the realm of virtual learning. March 13, 2020 marks an infamous day in history for CCSD students across the county. It represents the last day students and teachers alike sat in classrooms learning in a face-to-face setting. CCSD students and staff jumped through innumerable hoops to accommodate the "new normal" imposed by the grueling pandemic. On September 3rd, CCSD superintendent, Chris Ragsdale, announced that students and families would receive the opportunity to return to face-to-face learning beginning on October 5th.

Ragsdale's 3 phase plan introduced students back into a classroom environment over the course of a month. Phase one allowed elementary school students, alongside special education low incidence students, to return to school and participate in full-day instruction resembling learning that took place preceding March 13th.

Phase two invited middle school students to return to their beloved school buildings on October 19th for the first time in over 7 months. Finally, phase 3 welcomed high schoolers across the county to return back to the halls of their cherished high schools where they once shared laughs with classmates and conversed with teachers.

While all the county provided all students with the opportunity to return back to school, CCSD did not mandate returning to face-to-face learning. Although many students opted to return to face-to-face learning, inevitably, multiple students experienced a change of heart and decided to stay home in an effort to protect their families from COVID-19.

Returning to school sparked controversy among Cobb County's residents. Although the news of returning to face-to-face learning overjoyed numerous teachers and students, others feared that returning to in-person learning constituted a risky course of action that would endanger the health of teachers and students alike. Students and families that displayed these beliefs chose to continue participating in CCSD's virtual learning through CTLs.

Opposed to navigating a traditional 5-day schedule when returning to school this Fall, CCSD chose to introduce a 4-day schedule broken into 2-day intervals. Students attend classes Monday and Tuesday and receive a day out of school buildings on Wednesday. While students spend Wednesday's completing independent classwork the CCSD's janitorial staff spends the day diligently cleaning and sanitizing each school building to prevent the spread of COVID-19. After school buildings have received a mid-week sanitation, students return to school on Thursdays to finish the week before another deep cleaning takes place over the weekend.

Returning to school in CCSD this semester prevailed, teachers and students cherished the opportunity to attend school in person more than ever after exasperated months of quarantine and remote learning.

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2020 ANNUAL MILITARY TOY DRIVE

Think Melissa and her staff are collecting toys and gift cards (gift cards for the older children) to support our local military families (Georgia National Guard, etc.).

Please join them in their gratitude mission by giving our nation's youngest heroes the most amazing Christmas they could imagine!

The collection donation deadline is Tuesday, 12/15/2020.

The Georgia National Guard Christmas Assistance Program is designed to be a supplemental program for service members that are struggling financially and are not able to provide for their children. Those in need may be deployed, may have recently returned from overseas, are classified as a wounded warrior or are a traditional National Guardsman.

Please deliver your donations (UNWRAPPED PLEASE) or gift cards to the below (Please contact the below organizations to schedule your drop off.):

Aqua-Tots Swim Schools in Kennesaw, The School Box, Inc. in Kennesaw

OR please contact me for a delivery or a pick up at Melissa@ThinkMelissa.com at 770-310-3269 (please text). Thank you so much in advance for your consideration!



BOUNTIFUL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES

A great big thank you to our community for helping make Think Melissa's Real Estate Team collection of items for our military a roaring success.

Each year the Think Melissa's Sales Team collects donations for their Christmas Care Package event. Volunteers (children and adults) were needed to organize the donations and assemble the packages. The packing party was held on 10/28 and over 40 members of our community were on hand to help send these packages on their way.

BACH FLOWER REMEDIES: ANXIETY AND UNKNOWN FEARS

How many of us suffer from anxiety or fear of things that we can't really give a name to? These can keep us up at night or in a constant state of worry that does not solve anything. Having panic or anxiety attacks are pretty common but how does one really deal with these and treat them more naturally?

The Bach remedy for this is Aspen, made from the trees that seem to shake in the forest in the wind. They represent the inner fears and terrors that one has but helps to gently transform that fear or anxiety into more confidence and peace. As this remedy gently works to restore your peace of mind and remove the fears that haunt you, you will find your own balance and release the fears that keep you up at night.

This is one of many remedies that are part of Bach Flower Remedies and each is able to work on a different mental and emotional level of an individual. Each remedy bottle is custom made to address your personal concerns and issues.

OAK Sanctuary is open for appointments either online or in-person. Bach flower remedies are wonderful for times of stress and anxiety and are a gentle and safe way to assist with your emotional and mental well-being. A sound session, using Tibetan bowls, is the perfect way to escape, relax, regain focus, and regroup during these stressful times. Full descriptions of our services can be found at www.theoaksanctuary.com under the Consultations tab or call 404-903-4104. We are offering a special of \$15 off any service that is booked during the month December.

On Sunday, December 6, from 4pm to 5pm is Unicorn Sunday. The allure and magic of the mystical unicorn is not just for kids. These amazing creatures are for adults too! Come unlock your inner magic and join us for the history, legend, and mythology behind unicorns. Learn how unicorns play a role in spirituality. We will do a guided meditation to help you find your unicorn guide. To find out more or to purchase a ticket, please go to www.theoaksanctuary.com under the Events tab or call 404-903-4104. Cost for the class is \$10.

The logo for OAK Sanctuary features the words "Relax", "Renew", and "Restore at" in a green, cursive script font, stacked vertically on the left. To the right of this text is a stylized oak leaf graphic, split vertically with the left half in dark green and the right half in a golden-brown color. Further right, the word "OAK" is written in a large, bold, dark green sans-serif font, with "sanctuary" in a smaller, dark green sans-serif font below it. A thin, curved golden-brown line arches over the word "sanctuary".

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CONGRATULATIONS TO SSA 05G SOCCER TEAM

Claire Smith, goalie writes, "So beyond proud of my team. This was our first year playing together and we ended up winning the league. Claire had 6 shutouts to finish the season (not counting tournaments). The team is coached by Bob Greenwald and other members of the team include Ashley Walker, Piper Sheetz, Vanessa Worrall, Natalie Rogers, Charlee Hunt, Brecklyn Claybrooks, Tynleigh Moddy, Sara Peacock, Tatum Fowler, Mia Leathers, Taylor Justice, Rachel Zimmer, Katie Justice, Kendall Zenus, Meredith Lusk, Olivia Cowen. Several of these young ladies will play soccer for Allatoona High School.

CHRISTMAS LIST SUGGESTIONS FROM US

Looking for a special gift, not too expensive and not mass produced. Check with Henry's Louisiana Grill and see about their Christmas gift baskets featuring their new sauces. (story on page 7) Or stop by Apotheos Roastery for their new spicy Java Holiday Blend (ad on page 9). If that doesn't tickle your fancy think about a gift card to Kennesaw's newest Authentic Chinese Restaurant (they make traditional hand-pulled noodles right before your eyes). See their ad on this page. The Smith Gilbert Gift Shop & Art Gallery has also become the perfect destination to visit this year! Shop small and unique for gifts you won't find anywhere else. From jewelry to paint kits and planters, you will be sure to find items that will be a big hit with friends and family. And for train lovers, don't forget the Southern Museum Gift Shop on Cherokee Street. Who needs online shopping when we have some unique offerings right here in our own community.

ACWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER OFFERINGS

ACTIVE ADULT PROGRAMS

SENIOR WARRIORS GENTLE MOVEMENTS

Senior Warriors is designed for Acworth's amazing Active Adult (55+) Population. Join our instructor, Omar Welch, as we use traditional Korean movements to increase balance, mental focus, and movement. The goal is to help students continue to be the best they can be in all things! This class is instructed by Omar Welch who is a third-degree black belt and instructor certified by the United States Taekwon-Do Federation. Classes will meet on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Registration is available online at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

GENTLE YOGA WITH MARY

Mary's Gentle Yoga is designed for Active Adults aged 55+, but ages 18+ are welcome. This class is conducted on a mat with gentle movements that concentrates on relaxation and strengthening muscles. Classes are held on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information and registration, please visit www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

ACWORTH ADULT SPRING VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department is now offering a Co-ed Adult Volleyball League! The league will be held in the Acworth Community Center on Mondays and will offer two divisions: Competitive and Recreational. Both divisions will run simultaneously with start times beginning at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. The league will begin on Monday, February 22, with a single-elimination tournament being held on Saturday, March 27. The fee for this league is \$350 per team for both City residents and non-residents. Don't have a team? No worries! Come out and participate in our Free Agent Day on Monday, February 8 at the Acworth Community Center at 6:30 p.m. Free Agent registration is \$35 for both City residents and non-residents. Registration and additional information regarding schedules and guidelines are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

ADULT ATHLETICS ACWORTH ADULT CHRISTMAS PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department is pleased to announce that it will have its first-ever Christmas Themed Pickleball Tournament! Players will be able to play against others of similar skill levels and play is guaranteed! The tournament will be held on Friday, December 18 with the following times for groups:

- Women's Doubles: 8 AM- 9:45 AM
- Men's Doubles: 10:15 AM- 12:00 PM
- Mixed Doubles: 12:30 PM- 2:15 PM

The fee for the tournament is \$25 for both City residents and non-residents. Each participant will receive a custom Acworth take home. Winners will receive a t-shirt and department credit for a future pickleball program! Registration and additional information regarding schedules and guidelines are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

ACWORTH ADULT WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department will soon begin its second season of the Acworth Adult Winter Basketball League! The league will be held in the Acworth Community Center on Sundays and will offer two divisions: Competitive and Recreational. Both divisions will run simultaneously with start times beginning at 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. The league will begin on Sunday, February 14, with a single-elimination tournament being held on Sunday, March 21. The fee for this league is \$375 per team for both City residents and non-residents.

Those without a team are invited to participate in a free agent day on Sunday, January 10 at the Acworth Community Center at 2:00 p.m. Free Agent registration is \$40 for both City residents and non-residents. Registration and additional information regarding schedules and guidelines are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

DO YOU HAVE PANDEMIC FATIGUE?

BY: MARCEL GEMME

Are you tired of being on lockdown? Most of us have grown weary of living life in a state of semi-panic and cautious concern. The COVID 19 pandemic had grown old, and we'd all just like it to kindly get lost.

Holidays are approaching, and most of us didn't picture this back in March. We knew that it could go on for a while, but seriously? We can almost taste the one-year anniversary of this whole thing. But even if we didn't think it would be over by now, most people didn't believe that we'd be in as bad of shape as we are now.

According to John Hopkins University, more than 10 million confirmed cases of the virus to date in the U.S., and more than 240,000 have died, which is more than any other nation. And in one day, November 13th, there were more than 184,000 new confirmed cases and 1,400 deaths.

At this point, we cannot blame a lack of knowledge or unclear instructions about how to stop the spread of COVID 19 for this rise.

Instead, many experts, including the U.S. Surgeon General, are blaming a new phenomenon called "pandemic fatigue." Essentially, "pandemic fatigue" is a term used to mean that people are starting to loosen up on precautions because they're tired of dealing with the pandemic. They are willing to take greater risks for improved mental health and feelings of normalcy. This is especially true of seniors, who are at the highest risk age group.

Before we get carried away and start diagnosing people with a "new illness," keep in mind that this is not a psychiatric condition. It is a normal human response to feeling restricted. No one is ill for wanting freedom. But we must remain vigilant if we're going to experience it for longer than the moment.

Marcel Gemme has dedicated his life to helping others find help. He focuses his attention on helping individuals find long-term Senior Care, he does this through his journalism, community outreach, and his website, ECDOL.org.



MUST MINISTRIES' ANNOUNCES NEIGHBORHOOD MOBILE PANTRY

An innovative Neighborhood Mobile Pantry will bring food within reach to families who have limited mobility and transportation in Cobb, Cherokee and surrounding counties. The mobile bus will take fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, breads, canned goods and even dairy, when available, to people living in 'food deserts' where groceries are not within walking distance.

MUST has seen the dramatic growth of suburban poverty in recent years. According to the Brookings Institute, 88 percent of Atlanta's poverty is now found in the metro area's suburbs. "That number surprises people," said Dr. Ike Reighard, President and CEO of MUST Ministries. "For every dollar given to fight poverty in the suburbs, \$7 are given in urban areas, so the largest poverty areas receive the least financial support."

Food insecurity – not knowing where the next meal will come from – is a symptom of suburban poverty that affects 755,400 in metro Atlanta and north Georgia (Feeding America). MUST experience shows the greatest challenge clients have in receiving food pantry assistance is transportation. Many low-income families do not have vehicles and public transportation in the suburbs is very limited and not affordable.

"For example, MUST has 100 partner school pantries but only approximately 65 percent of enrolled families are picking up food on a regular basis, mainly due to a lack of transportation," said Reighard. "The Neighborhood Mobile Pantry will help meet that need as MUST expands with a mobile unit. Providing nutritious food to local families will also free up grocery money that can then be used toward other essential items such as shelter and utilities."

The Neighborhood Mobile Pantry will be 40 ft. x 8.5 ft. and will include a 3-panel freezer and a 3-panel refrigerator. As part of Georgia Gives Day on December 1, MUST Ministries is asking Georgians to donate to purchase a used bus and convert it to the Neighborhood Mobile Pantry. To donate, please visit www.mustministries.org. #foodwithinreach #mustgoesmobile

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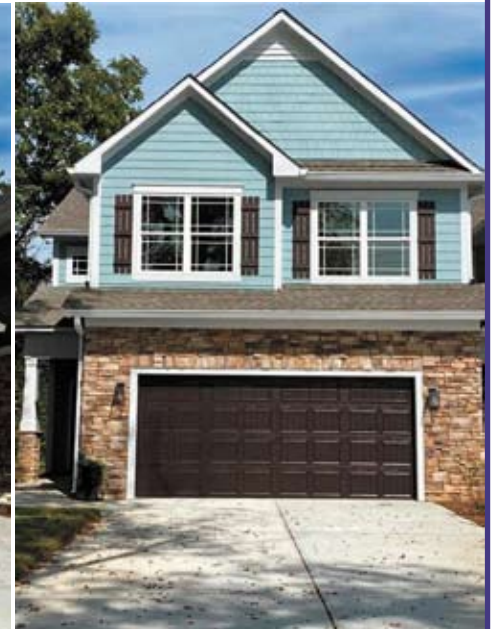
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MARIETTA NEWS

JIMMY GISI NAMED DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER

Dr. Jackie McMorris, Cobb's county manager, has named James (Jimmy) Gisi as the county's deputy county manager. Gisi is filling the position after the Board of Commissioners appointed McMorris county manager last April. He will step into the new position on November 15.



Gisi has served as the director of Cobb's PARKS department since December 2016. He previously held the P.A.R.K.S. director position for 10 years before serving as the executive director of the Georgia Recreation and Park Association. In addition to his more than 33 years of government expertise, Gisi holds a Bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies from the University of Georgia and a Master's degree in public administration from Valdosta State University.

"Jimmy has worked for the county in various capacities and always stands ready and willing to help anytime we need his assistance,"

said McMorris. "His experience working in parks and recreation, as well as government services and legislation, is going to be a great asset to help move the county forward for generations to come."

"It is truly an honor to be selected as Cobb County's next deputy county manager. I appreciate the confidence and trust the county manager has placed in me and I look forward to joining her management team," Gisi said. "Cobb County is truly a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family. Our employees are the best at what they do and we should always strive to maintain our high standards while also seeking to raise the bar of service delivery."

A longtime resident of Cobb County, Gisi resides in Powder Springs with Angela, his wife of 36 years. He is an ardent college football fan, avid hunter and spoils his three (soon to be four) grandsons anyway he can.

BBB RESEARCH SHOWS SPIKE IN ONLINE PURCHASE SCAMS SINCE COVID STARTED

Scams related to online purchases, already on the rise in 2019, spiked further following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to new research by the Better Business Bureau (BBB). A staggering 80.5 percent of consumers reporting online purchase scams in 2020 lost money. That figure has been creeping up from 71.2 percent in 2015, when BBB began collecting data.

Online purchase scams ranked among the top three riskiest scams for the last three years, according to the 2019 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report that was published in March 2020. Shortly after the report was released, COVID-19 shut down businesses, forcing people to socially distance and increase their online presence.

The 2020 Online Purchase Scams Report examines findings from an August 2020 survey of 1,549 U.S. and Canadian consumers reporting online purchase scams to BBB Scam Tracker. The top reason people lost money to this type of scam was the enticement of a sales price. Scammers offered high demand products at a significantly reduced dollar amount, which then increased the desire to purchase the item.

Following the coronavirus outbreak, the second biggest motivating factor to search and purchase items online was availability. Early in the pandemic, supplies such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, cleaning products, and masks were in short supply. According to the survey, more than half (53 percent) of the respondents said they weren't aware they were a target of a scam until they didn't receive the product they ordered.

Consumers who lost money to online purchase scams reported the following platforms as the place where they saw the product: Facebook, Google, a direct merchant website, Instagram, or pop up ads on social media when they were actively shopping. According to survey respondents, out of the 57 percent who did not research the website or business via an independent source before making a purchase, more than four out of five lost money.

The report highlights those who are most at risk for online purchase scams. Individuals ages 35-44 were more susceptible and likely to be victimized, while younger consumers are more susceptible than older adults. However, older adults tend to lose more money than younger adults for online purchase scams. This falls in line with findings across all scam types. In addition, service members, military spouses, and veterans were more likely to fall victim than non-military consumers, and reported losing significantly more money to online purchase scams.

"These critical findings can help guide our scam prevention outreach to those most vulnerable to these scam types," Trumppower said. "Online purchase scams don't just affect those who lose money. For every victim who lost money, that meant less income to buy groceries, pay the utility bill, and for some the loss of personal information that could lead to identity theft."

Survey results reinforced that consumer education in relation to online shopping is a critical component of fighting back against these scammers. Those who were aware of online purchase scams prior to being targeted were less likely to lose money (77 percent) than those who were not aware (82 percent).

For tips on how to avoid online shopping scams, visit [BBB.org/OnlinePurchaseScams](https://www.bbb.org/OnlinePurchaseScams).

MARIETTA NEWS



“THE NUTCRACKER” A DRIVE-IN EXPERIENCE

This year The Georgia Ballet’s annual production of the traditional Nutcracker will look a little different as it pivots its way on the big screen instead of the stage for a new Drive-In Experience.

Guest can enjoy “The Nutcracker” A Drive-In Experience for three different shows, December 11th – 13th at The Aviation History and Technology Center. A radio frequency channel will be given once ticket holders arrive and after parked in their designated space guests will have an option to stay inside of their vehicle or bring lawn chairs if they desire to view the performance outside of the vehicle. The Georgia Ballet also plans to host a Christmas merchandise store for holiday shopping and tasty concessions on site for guests to partake in before the showing begins. Lastly, a Q&A with select cast members will kick off the evening each night of the drive-in.

“The traditional ballet, ‘The Nutcracker’ comes to life every year through music, colors, and dance. This ballet has become one of the great classics and a Christmas tradition. Our production presents a new aspect every year for both the dancers and the audience”. Daet Rodriguez Artistic Director The Georgia Ballet

The Georgia Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” Drive-In Experience will take place at The Aviation History and Technology Center in Marietta, December 11th – 13th this holiday season. Each show will begin at 7:00 pm and guests are asked to arrive by 6:00 pm to secure their parking space and visit the GAB Christmas Shop and concessions. To purchase tickets and receive more detailed information about The Georgia Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” Drive-In Experience please visit www.georgiaballet.org/drive-in-experience or call 770-528-0881.

SAINT JOSEPH’S SVDP & K OF C 4599 DISTRIBUTED OVER 7 TONS OF FOOD TO FAMILIES IN NEED FOR THANKSGIVING

Volunteers from Saint Joseph’s Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus



Council 4599 distributed over 7 tons of food in over 185 Thanksgiving food boxes complete with turkeys and 60+ pounds of food to local Cobb County families in need this past weekend. This is an annual event for the outreach ministries of Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church. Through generous contributions from the church parishioners, SVdP and the Knights were able to collect over 14,000 pounds of food and meat which was enough for a complete dinner for over 185 families with plenty of leftovers.

St Joseph’s SVdP & Knights of Columbus Council 4599 would like to thank all those that contributed and volunteered to make this year’s event another huge success. Pictured above: An awesome assembly line.

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