

The Bright SideTM

Volume 30 No 12

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

DEC 2021



TIA AMLETT 2021 ACWORTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Tia Amlett, Principal of Barber Middle School, is a servant leader who is both humble and kind. Amlett is in tune to the needs, struggles, and challenges that her staff and school families face, and she finds ways to keep those individuals uplifted. During the challenges of the past two years, Amlett has remained a strong and steadfast advocate for teachers, students, and parents. She continues to work tirelessly to ensure that the needs of all stakeholders are met.

Amlett makes the intentional effort to greet each student by name as they climb off the bus in the morning. She knows every student in her school and makes sure they know that they are important and cared for. It is nearly impossible to know the full impact of her service. She does it all to support and lead others, without desire for anything in return. While students, parents, and the community may not remember the specific details of their interactions with her, they will always remember how valued she made them feel.

Under Amlett's leadership, Barber Middle School was named a Title 1 Reward School, a distinction that is earned by those schools that are ranked in the top 5 percent of Title 1 Schools in the state. In addition, during that time, Barber Middle School was also awarded STEM School Certification by the Cobb County School District. What others might view as a challenge, Amlett sees as an opportunity for success time and time again.

Pictured above (l to r) Sharon Mason, CEO of the Cobb Chamber; Tommy Allegood, Mayor of Acworth; Tia Amlett, 2021 Acworth Citizen of the Year; John Loud, 2021 Cobb Chamber Chairman



JEFF DROBNEY- 2021 KENNESAW CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Jeff Drobney, City Manager of Kennesaw, is a man of action that finds ways to make everything work to benefit those involved. Under his leadership, Drobney has taken the City of Kennesaw to the next level in operations, staffing, technology and economic growth. He has built an all-star team of professionals and created a succession plan to ensure the city is able to maintain exceptional professional services and continued strong economic growth.

An active member of the International City/County Management Association, Drobney has completed and maintained certification of ICMA, the world's leading association of professional city and county managers who serve local governments. Drobney has continued his professional learning by completing advanced leadership courses and graduating from the Leadership Cobb program. Over the course of 15 years, he has served as past president of the Kennesaw Business Association, executive director of the Southern Museum, agency director for Recreation and Culture, and past board member for Cobb Travel and Tourism.

Drobney has been described by others as Iron Man – literally and figuratively. He recently completed his sixth Iron Man competition and finished in the top half of an international field of competitors. Involved in several areas within the city, Drobney has dedicated much of his career to serve and help improve the quality of Kennesaw and the wellbeing of its citizens.

Pictured above (l to r) Derek Easterling (Mayor of Kennesaw); Sharon Mason, CEO of the Cobb Chamber; Jeff Drobney, 2021 Kennesaw Citizen of the Year; John Loud, 2021 Cobb Chamber Chairman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Bright Side Newspaper maintains a calendar of events online in their Digital Newspaper at www.brightsidenewspapernews.com. Check this site out - many stories and a great way to keep up with our local events

HOG'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Join Santa and Helping one Guy on Saturday, December 4 from 7:30 - 10:00 am at the Cowan Historic Mill, 4271 Southside Drive, Acworth. Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, courtesy of Chick-Fil-A and a chat with Santa. It is free to our community. Donations will be appreciated as this is our Christmas fundraiser for The Horizon League for Special Needs Children & Young Adults Acworth Parks and Recreation Dept. Pictures with Santa will be taken and sent to you by email on Monday. Children must be accompanied by parents.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IN KENNESAW

Kennesaw-Acworth-Optimists is hosting an "all-you-care-to-eat" pancake breakfast with Santa at the Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, on Saturday, December 4. Attendees are encouraged to bring a camera. Two seating options are available: 8 to 9:15 a.m.; and 10 to 11:15 a.m. The "all you care to eat" breakfast comes complete with pancakes, sausage juice, coffee and table to table visits with the jolly old Elf himself. Tickets are only \$6 per person and may be purchased online at kennesawparksandrec.com or at the door based on availability.



BILLY RICHARDSON HONORED

At the November 12, Cobb EMC Horizon Ability Gala. The Special Needs Development Group honored Billy Richardson with the inaugural Billy Richardson Award. The Billy Richardson Award will be awarded to an individual for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to the Horizon League. Billy's dedication to serving others is not only seen when working with the Horizon League but it goes beyond our program and into the community. He has been an instrumental part in helping the Horizon League become what it is today. Even before the Horizon Field was built, he was a catalyst in helping create an inclusive environment on their campus for special needs students. Since the conception of the field, he has been at the forefront, providing leadership and service that has been instrumental to our growth. The love and support he has for our Horizon Athletes and the community is immeasurable.

Billy Richardson is a vice principal at KMHS, where he is an amazing influence on the students. He encourages them give back to the community by volunteering to help with community events. In addition he spear headed the popular Valentine Dance and celebration for our special needs children. Each year, Kennesaw Mountain High School hosts "The Dance". Special needs students from all over Cobb County are invited to dance, sing, and have an amazing experience. KMHS students and volunteers work year round to make the dance a truly special event for all the Cobb students who may not otherwise be able to attend their own school's homecoming dance or prom. Pictured above, Lauren Ham, Acworth's Special Populations Coordinator presents Billy with his award.

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DEADLINE FOR JAN 2022 ISSUE
MON DEC 27 2021
PUBLISHED JAN 3 2022

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THIS AND THAT



ALISON BOYER

Happy 30th Birthday Alison! (Her birthday
is December 7) We love you and are proud
you!! Love, Mom, Dad, Kailey & Brandon.

YMCA COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Join the Northwest Family YMCA for
a special community connection event at
the North Cobb Regional Library, Saturday
December 11th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. This
event will be FREE and available to all. Group
fitness classes (bilingual), food trucks, music
and family friendly games will be available. If
you are new to the Y and want to experience
what we have to offer, don't miss out on this
special event. Participants will receive a FREE
7-day guest pass to try the Y after the event
and are encouraged to visit our branch. For
questions, contact JoseG@ymcaatlanta.org



GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR BRAVES FANS

MAJOR LEAGUE DEAL: How the
Braves came to Cobb" is a hardcover, 100-page
coffee-table style book that tells the story in
words and photographs of the move of the MLB
franchise from downtown Atlanta to suburban
Cobb County. The book is published by the
Marietta Daily Journal. Profits from the sale
of the book go to The Boys & Girls Clubs
of Lanier - The Tim Lee Club in Habersham
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\$40 plus tax. Save the delivery charge,
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Call Jill at 678-386-5816 or email Jill at
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FREE GIFT CARD

Sardis Missionary Baptist Church is
giving Gift Cards to help provide Christmas
Dinner for families in need during the Holiday
Season. We thank God for our Neighboring
Church, Walmart and Gifters' like you that help
make this event stronger. Our goal this year is
to help provide for "25" families..

To receive a FREE! \$25.00 Gift Card call
the Church at (770)428-4031, reference "free
Christmas Dinner Gift Card" and leave your
Name and Phone Number before December
16th; we will return your call.

Pick up is Sunday December 19, 2021
at 12:00 pm Our Sunday Service is at 11:00
am

Sardis Missionary Baptist Church is
located at 2741 S. Main Street Kennesaw,
GA 30144.

DONATION SITE FOR MUST MINISTRIES FOOD DRIVE

Horned Owl is MUST Ministries newest
donation site for the month of December.
Starting November 26, we will be accepting
canned goods inside our Taproom. We also
will be donating 25% of Bier Der Eule sales
from the month of December to MUST
Ministries. Items needed CANNED potatoes,
beans, soups, beef stew, pasta carrots, fruit,
tomato products, spaghetti, bag of pasta, mac
& cheese, rice, ramen noodles,

In addition the Horned Owl will be
donating 25% of Bier Der Eule sales during
December to MUST Ministries.

MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

MEET HISTORY FACE TO FACE VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Join the Meet History Face to Face Virtual
Book Club on December 16, 2021, from 8:00-
9:00 p.m. We will discuss Address Unknown
by Kathrine Kressmann Taylor! If you have
never participated in our book club, December
is the perfect month to join.

First published in 1938, this story in letters
examines the downfall of a friendship between
a Jewish art dealer in San Francisco and his
former business partner who moves back to
Germany as the Nazis rise to power.

Questions? Contact us at 470-578-2083 or
mhhe@kennesaw.edu. Ask how to register.

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

ANDREW BRAMLETT'S RESIDENTS OF THE KENNESAW CEMETERY

Susie Stegall

Susie Cox was
born on October
26, 1896, in the
Kennesaw area. Her
parents were Albert
and Susan Cox and
she had three brothers
and four sisters. Susie
was married to E.C.



Stegall on July 17, 1919. She was a music
teacher for about fifty years and would have
as many as 25 individual students at a time.

Susie was a member of the First Baptist
Church of Kennesaw and played the piano at
the church for many years. For at least forty
years she arranged to have the flowers placed
on the alter each week. Most of the flowers
were grown in her own yard.

Susie always took the time to grow
vegetables in her garden. She kept a few
for herself and then shared the rest with
people in the community. Susie was also a
correspondent for the Marietta Daily Journal
for about 40 years. She would write about the
local happenings in Kennesaw.

According to the October 21st, 1964
Marietta Daily Journal, Susie was very
modest. She once said, "I have never done
anything outstanding in my life." The people
of Kennesaw disagreed and considered her a
very important part of the town. On October
25, 1964, they held "Susie Stegall Appreciation
Day" in the Council Room at City Hall. Susie
passed away on May 26, 1974.

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 SOUTHERN MUSEUM INVITES OUR COMMUNITY TO “ALL ABOARD FOR HOLIDAY FUN”

On Saturday, December 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History will be hosting a holiday event featuring activities for kids young and old, all of which are free with regular Museum admission. The highlight of the event will be a screening of the Christmas classic *The Polar Express* (2004). The film will be shown twice throughout the day, once at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. Prior to the afternoon screening, the popular children's book upon which the movie is based will be read aloud at 1:00 p.m., concluding with the grand arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus who will be onsite until 5:00 p.m. Craft and educational tables will be set up throughout the Museum for the day. Kids are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas or winter clothing.

The Museum's store, the General Emporium, will also be hosting a holiday sale with 10% off all gift shop purchases, complimentary gift wrapping with purchase, and a free pint glass with a \$50 purchase. Museum members receive 25% off all gift shop purchases. The General Emporium features a variety of exclusive Civil War and railroad objects, from clothing and collectibles to toys and model trains. They also have their own signature line of Lacy House jams, jellies, and sauces. Created and stocked for children and adults alike, all visitors will find something special at the General Emporium, where all purchases benefit the educational mission of the Southern Museum. For more information, visit www.southernmuseum.org.



SMITH-GILBERT GARDENS INTRODUCES NEW LOGO

On Friday, November 5, with board members, elected officials, staff and the community present, Smith-Gilbert Gardens unveiled a new logo. “Our new logo helps us tell the SGG story through symbols and represents our focus on conservation,” says Ann Parsons, Executive Director. A huge thank you goes out to Clementine Creative Agency for helping us translate our story into this beautiful new logo.

The new logo is comprised of four symbols, representing Smith-Gilbert Gardens' core values. The hummingbird represents hummingbird and wild bird conservation, the butterfly represents the Gardens' pollinator friendly mission, the tulip represents the 15 beautiful themed garden areas, and the leaf represents the important plant collections. Smith-Gilbert Gardens, located at 2382 Pine Mountain Road, houses thousands of plants on 17 acres in Kennesaw, GA. United by woodland paths, the Gardens consist of separate groupings with individual elements of fascination. The gardens are open Tuesdays through Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit www.smithgilbertgardens.com.

HOLIDAY WRAP-UP

The Kennesaw Parks & Rec “elves” will be hosting a Holiday Wrap-Up from Tuesday, December 14, through Thursday, December 16, from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The community is invited to drop off unwrapped and labeled presents at the Ben Robertson Community Center, located at 2753 Watts Drive, and the Kennesaw Parks & Rec staff, along with volunteers, will handle the wrapping!

Participants will need to provide their gifts, wrapping paper, boxes, bows and gift tags, etc.

For more information, visit kennesaw-ga.gov/parks-and-recreation or call Kennesaw Parks & Recreation at 770-422-9714.

DECEMBER ALL-STAR SCHOOL BREAK CAMP

The City of Kennesaw's Parks & Recreation Department has built a reputation of offering quality day camps that provide engaging life experiences in a safe, caring and accepting environment; where creativity and curiosity is encouraged, and the emphasis is on having fun! Kennesaw Parks & Rec will maintain this tradition by offering youth ages 6-12 the opportunity to improve their self-confidence, build self-esteem, and make new friends at the December School Break All-Star Day Camp, from Monday, December 20, through Wednesday, December 22.

This week of camp is based on the seasonal theme of winter, which is incorporated into scheduled activities whenever possible. Activities include organized games, arts & crafts, outdoor play, large group games, academic based activities, themed experiences, and connecting with new and old friends!

Registration Link: <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog?>. Click on Youth Camps and select the camp you are interested in.

For more information, visit kennesaw-ga.gov/parks-and-recreation or call Kennesaw Parks & Recreation at 770-422-9714.

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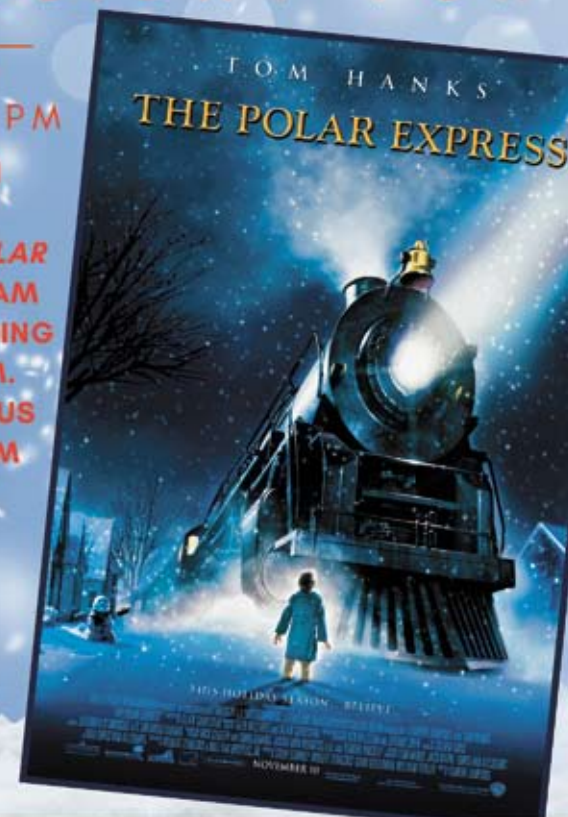
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All Aboard FOR HOLIDAY FUN

DECEMBER 11
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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CALL FOR ARTISTS

Wednesday, December 15 at midnight is the submission deadline for our "It's a New Year" Exhibit. Submissions are open to artists who can hand deliver their works. This exhibit will run from January 8 thru February 26, 2022. Receptions are planned for Saturday, January 8 and February 5, from 4-7PM. Please email acworthartsalliance@gmail.com for your submission form. Images of your submissions should be emailed to: acworthartsalliance@gmail.com.

Coming in November/December - "Small Works Exhibit". We will have an Open House on Saturday, December 4, from 4-7pm. These events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available.

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

COBB SENIOR SERVICES CHICK-FIL-A

Chick-fil-A is selling breakfast & lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Cobb Senior Services (1150 Powder Springs St). Breakfast is available 7:30am until 9am and lunch is available 11:30am until 1pm. Limited menu items.

AUDITIONS

Acworth Cultural Arts announces auditions for its next production, "Seven Keys to Baldpate Inn," by Paul Thain. This mystery/melodrama/farce offers roles for 7 men and 5 women.

As a community theatre, auditions are open to anyone with the urge to try something new or to hone their acting chops.

Auditions will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 26, 27, 28 at the ACA office at 4367 Center St. Acworth, GA 30101.

Performances will be the final weekend of March 2022, and the first weekend of April.

For more information contact the director, Suzanne Husting, at suzannehusting@acworthculturalarts.org.

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WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

The Bright Side welcomes Matt Wolf, owner of Ga Mattress Brokers located at 3655 Cherokee St., Kennesaw. Matt carries luxury mattresses at affordable prices and has seventeen years experience answering questions about mattresses. Like he says "not one size fits all. Go see him. See his ad on page 5.

The Bright Side welcomes back Joe Mayes of Kaiser Permanente. Joe is a Medicare specialist. Have questions about Medicare or Kaiser Permanente Healthcare health plan? Call Joe at 470-512-7661. See his ad on page 7.

REMEMBER, EVERYDAY THAT YOU WAKE UP IS A DAY TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

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Trilogy Massage, is looking for an experienced massage therapist for a medical/clinical massage office in the Acworth area. We work with clients having pain issues, knowledge of trigger point therapy and stretching is helpful. Contact Trilogy Massage by email at mary@trilogymassage.com titled RESUME with a copy of your resume and a short note about anything you want to add.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Are you a parent or grandparent looking for work but need to be off when your children or grand-children are off of school? Are you retired or an entrepreneur and need to find a solution for the rising cost of healthcare? Are you a college student looking for a job that pays more than flipping burgers? Consider joining us. We are looking for responsible, caring, kid-friendly, fun-loving people to drive the school bus for Cobb County School District. All you need is a clean driving record, a regular driver's license, and to be up for a great adventure. We have great kids here in Cobb County who need you --- you hold the keys to their future. There are more than 70,000 students who ride our buses every day, many of whom have no other way to get to and from school. We will provide all the training you need and within a few short weeks you could be the hero for countless young lives. For more information go to www.ccsdbusdrivers.com.

NORTH COBB ROTARY

North Cobb Rotary meets at Copelands New Orleans every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., feel free to stop by in the coming weeks for great food, great fellowship

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.

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PICTURED ABOVE - L-R CLAUDE JOHNSON, NANCY MAXWELL, WILLIE MAE JOHNSON

2021 NANCY MAXWELL AWARD WINNERS:
CLAUDE AND WILLIE MAE JOHNSON

The Nancy Maxwell Award was created by the Save Acworth History Foundation to honor persons who have made a significant contribution to preserving the proud heritage and rich history of the Acworth community. The first recipient of the award in 2020 was Nancy Smith Maxwell.

Willie Mae Brown Johnson was born February 27, 1938 in Marietta, the daughter of John Emory Brown, Sr. and Annie Lou Furr Brown. After the loss of her parents Willie Mae moved to Acworth at the age of eight and was raised by her grandparents, William Cicero “Uncle Bud” Furr and Lizzie Furr. At the age of thirteen, she joined Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. She completed the Acworth Rosenwald Elementary School and continued her education at Lemon Street High School in Marietta. She later did domestic work as well as working at the Rothschild Mill and Coats & Clark Thread Mill.

Claude Johnson was born June 15, 1936 in the Mars Hill community, the son of Joe Johnson and Frances Hardin Johnson. He joined Bethel AME Church at an early age. He attended the Acworth Rosenwald Elementary School, walking to school each day from Mars Hill. He completed the course of study in Acworth and went to work on the farm at the age of fifteen. Claude went to work for ARA Food Service at Lockheed from 1953 to 1971 and then at Hewlett-Packard until his retirement in 2000.

Claude and Willie Mae were married in 1954 and have one son Claude Johnson, Jr. After their marriage Claude joined the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Both have been very active in the community and their church and are affectionately known as the Mayor and First Lady of Logan Farm Park. Scores of Acworth residents traverse Taylor Street just to have the opportunity to share a friendly wave with Claude and Willie Mae.

Willie Mae served as vice-president of the PTA at Robert’s Elementary School. She was the Event Coordinator for the Carrie Dyer Woman’s Club and a Hostess at the Governor’s Mansion during Gov. Perdue’s administration. At Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church she has taught Sunday School, served as President of the Youth Choir and been a member of the Adult Choir and Senior Choir. She serves on the Mother Board at Zion Hill. She has coordinated flowers for special occasions and funerals at the church and prepared the Communion Table for services.

Claude organized and coached the first African-American youth baseball team in the early 1960s. With the aide of his wife, they transported team members to and from Coats and Clark Field to surrounding cities for games and practices, supplied the uniforms and covered team expenses. Along with Willie Mae, he cleaned Zion Hill church inside and out for many years. He drove the church van every Sunday to pick up members for services. He has been a member of the Adult and Senior Choirs and has been a member of the Trustee Board and Deacon Board for over 30 years.

Thank you to Beverly Patton for her contributions to this article.



Sparkle and Shine

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THE ACWORTH'S MAYOR'S DESK

It's hard to believe we've already made it to the end of another great year in Acworth, and what a year 2021 has been! We've seen the opening of new businesses, the return of events downtown, and our community coming back together to celebrate each other. Our teamwork has brought new partnerships, steady growth, and great amenities for residents and businesses alike here in Acworth. We couldn't have done it without each other.

The holiday season is upon us, and I invite our community to experience all that this festive time has to offer in our city. Santa has arrived in Acworth! He will be at Depot Park on Saturday, December 11 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Make sure to bring your own camera to this event as there won't be a photographer on site. Then, come line the streets for the first annual Acworth Christmas Golf Cart Parade on Saturday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m! The parade will start and end at Cauble Park with a route that zooms through the Lakeside and Parkside districts including Historic Downtown Main Street and Logan Farm Park. For more information, check out www.acworthparksandrec.org.



Last month saw the return of the Horizon Ability Gala to Tanyard Creek Overlook. This fantastic event raised a phenomenal amount of money to assist with the Horizon League's programming for participants with cognitive and physical disabilities. We are so proud of this program and all the opportunities it offers to families in Acworth. Thank you to all who donate, contribute, and work as a part of our team to bring fun experiences to participants of the Horizon League!

Did you hear? Our Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Department won the 5th District Class A Agency of the Year from the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association. We are proud of this team and all they do to serve our city! Speaking of awards, the City of Acworth is very excited to announce that in 2021, we were again recognized as one of the healthiest employers in America! We ranked #29 in the top 100 of all the country. A special thank you to our Human Resources Director Rachelle Ballard and her team for their hard work.

As always, for more information on any of these projects you can visit www.acworth.org, sign up for our e-news blasts on our home page, "like" Visit Acworth on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram at @VisitAcworth.

God Bless, Tommy



BREAKFAST WITH THE GRINCH

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department is excited to host Breakfast with the Grinch at the Acworth Community Center on Saturday, December 11 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Enjoy breakfast while the Grinch visits with each table for photo opportunities and to share Christmas wishes. After breakfast, the Grinch will join us as we create Grinch themed ornaments and crafts.

Seats are \$10 per person or you can reserve a table of 8 for your family and friends! (Infants age 1 year old or younger will eat free but will need to be seated on a lap. High chairs will not be provided)

Space is limited, must register each family member attending breakfast. For registration, please visit www.acworthparksandrec.org.

ACWORTH CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADE

Join Acworth on Saturday, December 18 for its first ever Christmas Golf Cart Parade! The parade begins at Cauble Park at 2:00 p.m. The parade has a wonderful downtown route zooming through neighborhoods to spread holiday cheer! Tell your friends and neighbors to line the streets. This one is going to be a good one! For more information call the Parks and Recreation office at 770-917-1234. Acworth residents who have registered their golf carts with the Acworth Police Department are welcome to participate in the parade by registering for free at www.acworthparksandrec.org.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Parents and caregivers can save the postage and bring their children's letters to Santa at the Acworth Community Center beginning now through Dec. 16. 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.

HORIZON YOGA

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department is offering Yoga Classes for individuals with special needs. All levels of ability are welcome. This four-week class focuses on teaching modified yoga postures and breathing techniques and is open to students ages 13 and up. Classes will meet at the Acworth Community Center from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays on January 19 through February 9. It is \$8 to participate. Registration and additional information are available at www.acworthparksandrec.org.

ACWORTH ADULT WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department will soon enter its 3rd 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 6, with a single elimination tournament being held on Sunday, March 20. The fee for this league is \$375 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 Sunday, January 9 at the Acworth Community Center at 2:00 p.m. Free Agent registration is \$40 for both City residents and non-residents.



GREAT GIG PRESENTS 15TH ANNUAL SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Great Gig Dance Co. in Kennesaw presents Sights & Sounds of the Season, a musical Christmas variety show on Friday, December 10th at NorthStar Church in Kennesaw at 7:30pm. 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, Contemporary Dance and Tumbling. 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.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT KENNESAW UMC

Kennesaw United Methodist Church has an assortment of options for you to partake in and get in the Christmas spirit. We will be hosting a float in the City of Kennesaw's Christmas Parade, Sat Dec 4 at 2 pm. We kickoff the season with some Christmas concerts on Sunday December 5 at 7pm and on Tuesday December 7 at 7:30 pm. and then we will bring some Christmas cheer to our community by having an outdoor caroling and hot cocoa gathering on December 19 at 5:30 pm. Kennesaw UMC is located at 1801 Ben King Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144. You can visit www.kennesawumc.org/christmas to view all the great opportunities that Kennesaw UMC has to offer and keep up to date with any changes. Please see our ad on this page for the times of our Christmas Eve Services. And join us on Sundays for our regular services. Our Traditional service is held at 10:00 am and our Modern service is held at 11:00 am. Both are also available online

COBB EMC DRIVE THROUGH LIGHT DISPLAY

Cobb EMC is getting in the holiday spirit with a drive-through light display at their own Solar Flower Garden from 6-10 p.m. nightly from Dec. 1-Jan 5. Cobb EMC's Solar Flower Garden, 1000 EMC Parkway, Marietta GA 30060, TIME: 6-10 p.m. nightly

STAY IN TOUCH

The Bright Side Newspapers has created several communication tools for our readers. We want to share your news and want you to enjoy our community events.

• **FACEBOOK:** Find us on Facebook- search for Bright Side Community Newspapers.

• **TWITTER:** Follow us on twitter: [twitter: twitter.com/@brightsidenews1](https://twitter.com/brightsidenews1).

• **BRIGHT SIDE NEWSPAPER APP** Available for both iPhones and Androids. For those on the go and need to know!

• **WEB PAGE:** - visit www.brightsidenews.com for ad rates

AND be sure to send us your news TO brightnews@aol.com.

GOOD MORNING GOOD NEWS WITH JOE

Get your weekend started with a dose of positivity: Friday mornings December 3, 10 and 17 at 10am --on Zoom. The Good Morning Good News Show is an interactive morning show and a place to discuss positive news in the world around us and in our own lives. If you'd like to attend, please contact Joe Mayes with Kaiser Permanente -- joseph.w.mayes@kp.org. This online event is open to all local seniors.

These events are only for educational purposes and no plan-specific benefits or details will be shared.

AVOIDING CERTAIN FOLKS TO PROTECT YOUR EMOTIONAL HEALTH IS NOT WEAKNESS. IT'S WISDOM

KAISER PERMANENTE VIRTUAL BINGO

Join us for an online for Bingo on December 14, 2:00 pm. for a fun time, lively conversation, and more! This online event is open to all local seniors.

Contact Joe Mayes with Kaiser Permanente at joseph.w.mayes@kp.org to register at least 1 day prior to the game. After registering watch your email for more information and instructions shortly before the event.

This event is only for educational purposes and no plan-specific benefits or details will be shared.

THIS AND THAT

Selling your home, Renting a house, need an employee, have a home based business, tutoring, teaching, in home childcare provider?

We accept short paragraphs (up to 50 words) for a fee of \$25.00. The ads (with check) may be mailed to P O Box 935, Kennesaw, 30156. Email is acceptable if a check is mailed. We do take Mastercard and Visa.

PS Home-based business ads are accepted only if they do not conflict with our display advertisers. House sales accepted if only by owner.

Call us at 770-851-5469 if you have more questions. Thanks.

Kennesaw United Methodist Church



ALL ARE WELCOME
to join us in celebrating Jesus' birth!
Friday, December 24 5-6 pm in the
sanctuary and online
www.kennesawumc.org/live

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December 24 8-9 pm Front lawn

Sunday Service December 26, 2021
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**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF MARIETTA GOLDEN K PRESENTS
\$12,000.00 IN CHECKS TO LOCAL CHARITIES**

On November 18th, 2021 The Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K presented \$12000.00 to sixteen local charity group leader representatives. Recipients of the awarded checks and the groups they represent are pictured above. Along with the representatives on the far left side of the photo are Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K members Mike Kaplan and Amiee Mendel (Club President).



BOB KELLY STEPPING DOWN
BY JOSH WEBB

On Wednesday November 17, 2021, Bob Kelly did something that must have been so hard. He handed over the keys to an organization he founded and has been stewarding for 10 years. Helping One Guy is a dinner honoring men and their families going through times of crises.

This year I had a brain tumor and was going through one of the most challenging times of my life. I remember sitting on my back porch thinking my time of ministry was done. Then I remembered my pastor Mike Lynch saying that "You're not done till you stop breathing." I prayed that God would reveal what I was to do next and if He would use me again. Careful what you pray for. I texted Bob so I could volunteer. He took me out to lunch and asked if I would take over running Helping One Guy.

This every other month dinner is one of the closest things I have been apart of where the Church can be the Church to its community. It gives that man something he doesn't deserve and cannot repay. Thanks to everyone that has helped over the last 10 years. Thanks to Bob for listening when God said to do something and being faithful. Thank you to God for opportunity to be used again. You can learn more and donate to HelpingOneGuy at www.helpingoneguy.org

SAVE THE DATE
DEBUT OF THE NOONDAY SHANTY 5K/10K

The Town Center Community Alliance has announced the debut of the Noonday Shanty 5K/10K for those looking to make strides along Noonday Creek Trail. Participants will have the opportunity to compete with runners, walkers and families at the inaugural event on March 26, 2022.

Managed by Orion Racing, the Noonday Shanty 5K/10K will offer two race lengths and will be the first USA Track and Field-certified race to take place on the Noonday Creek Trail. Participants of all skill levels are welcome to join. To register, visit <https://www.towncentercid.com/alliance/noonday-shanty/>.

Come back home this holiday season to a concert of fun, traditional holiday music for the whole family. Choose from two concerts in one day.

Marietta Pops Orchestra
Saturday, December 11
5:00 pm or 7:30 pm

Both Performances at First Baptist Church Marietta
For more information: MariettaPopsOrchestra@gmail.com

Tickets \$20.00
Children under 10 are FREE
Buy tickets online or at the door
MARIETTAPOPS.ORG



SCAN ME



2021 CHRISTMAS AT PIEDMONT CHURCH
PRESENTED BY: SUPERIOR PLUMBING

Join us for a festive celebration; Christmas at Piedmont Church Arts & Craft Show will be buzzing with activity on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11. We have a wide variety of unique arts and crafts exhibitors from all over the southeast that have created, arranged, painted, or built all the products themselves. A sample of products to be sold is jewelry, pottery, paintings, ornaments, apparel, and unique one of a kind gift items. A perfect time to enjoy good family fun and finish up your Christmas shopping!!

In addition, we will have delicious festival food to warm your insides, local entertainment, FREE rides on the 50-foot Snow Tube ride on Friday and Saturday and a FREE Petting Zoo on Saturday. All weekend there will be FREE photos with Santa, FREE children's activities, roasting marshmallows & smores.

FREE Snow Tubing Slide presented by C&S Paving on Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m. You and your family can ride on more than 50 feet of a state-of-the-art snow tube slide that uses more than 8,000 pounds of ice and snow to create an awesome winter experience ...the best part is it's FREE!!!

FREE Petting Zoo on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The whole gang can see more than 20 of your favorite petting zoo animals right there on the lawn at Piedmont Church, again this is FREE to everyone!

Visit with Santa on Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday from noon - 3:00 p.m., don't miss your opportunity to tell the big guy what you want for Christmas! P.S. Bring your own camera.

Local Entertainment will be set on the LGE Community Credit Union Stage featuring 34 local school chorus groups filling the air with joy. Five local dance groups, including Great Gig Dance from Kennesaw, will also be there to get you in the Christmas Spirit!

Children's Activities will be in abundance featuring a giant slide, Euro-Quad Bungy, obstacle course, bounces, and more. There will be fun activities for children throughout the event – roasting marshmallows, seeing Santa, and much, much more!

Hours will be Friday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. FREE Admission and FREE Parking. There will be FREE parking and a free courtesy shuttle from JJ Danniell Middle School and the Old Time Pottery Parking lots. For more information call 770-423-1330 or www.piedmonthchurch.tv.

SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

North Cobb High School is beginning to plan for their 18th annual Shop with a Warrior (SWAW). The Bright Side is happy to share the following information. The event is Saturday, December 11th and they are looking for donations of snacks for 105 little shoppers, new warm blankets for 105 little shoppers, wrapping supplies such as tape, bows, and gift bags (no wrapping paper needed) and water for all our participants (roughly 550 people). Alternatively we would gladly accept cash donations to be used to purchase the snacks, blankets, wrapping supplies, and water.

North Cobb will feature the sponsors for the month of December on their marquee out front. All we'll need from them is the artwork. Your level of sponsorship will determine the frequency your name appears. For further information contact Kennedy Reese at Kennedy.Reese@cobbk12.org.

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ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION

BY MARLON LONGACRE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT PIEDMONT CHURCH

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2-6-7 (NKJV)

I am still struggling with the innkeeper. How did he miss it? I mean what a blown opportunity. The Son of God could have been born in one of his rooms. How did he miss the star in the sky? How do you turn away a pregnant woman about to deliver? Why did he not give up his room?

He just was not paying attention.

When Jesus shows up in our lives, we often do the same. We are unaware of it. It is hard to not miss Jesus during December. Christmas specials are promoted constantly on TV. There are nativity scenes everywhere. The city of Acworth puts their nativity scene right in front of their gateway into downtown. Life University decorates their whole campus for their Lights of Life show. At Piedmont we are all decorated with lights, and we have an amazing Nativity Scene in the East Hall.

In Bethlehem there was an inn there. Inns are created for the purpose of taking care of travelers obviously. So, there was a place for the travelers to go. It is designed for that purpose. It is already there. The problem was not that there was not an inn. The problem is it was already booked. There was no vacancy. Other guests had occupied it. The spaces had been filled. It was there but it was not available.

This is a parallel to our hearts. Our hearts were made to hold God. We were created to have God inside us. We were made by God and for God. Until we understand that, life is not going to make sense. What happens is we fill our lives with other things, we invite other guests in, we rent our heart out to other things and there is no room for Jesus. The heart is there but it is filled with other ideas, other interests, other values, other loves, other commitments.

Please do not be like the inn keeper this Christmas. Do not get too busy and have your heart all rented out that you do not have room for Jesus. Do not miss out on the opportunities that are all around you.

LOVE DOES PROVIDES THANKSGIVING

We have set a record of over 500 Love Does grocery bags for the schools with families in need. The bags contained all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner, plus extra staples and a gift card to be used for a turkey. In addition I have been told that 162 Christmas Shoes boxes have been brought back for Samaritan's Purse. That is well over the goal of 150.

Because of your financial support of Love Does during partnership month. We were able to sponsor tables for both the Special Needs Development Group and Davis Direction Foundation's big fundraising events. They both set records raising over \$130k for people with disabilities and who are in recovery and fighting addictions.

Your financial support of Love Does this month is going to help provide buses and shuttles for people to be able to attend Christmas at Piedmont. We are expecting a huge crowd and some how we are going to make room this Christmas for everyone to attend. Piedmont will not be like the innkeeper and miss this opportunity to show God's love to so many! We will find room!

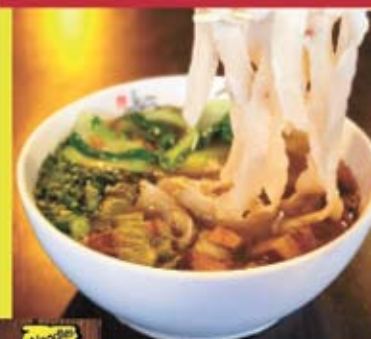


Three-13 Salon Spa & Boutique helping Piedmont spread some Love Does by providing over 60 Love Does grocery bags to families in need in the South Cobb school district. So grateful for this partnership!

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ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY KIM WIGINGTON, PRESIDENT



This past year (as Lee Ann Womack puts it), "When you got the choice to sit it out or dance..."

I hope you connected with people and encouraged them. It has not been easy to break out of the little bubbles we had to live in during the pandemic.

I hope you took a look at yourself, your thoughts, and your actions. If you found anything you didn't like, I hope you made changes.

I hope you found strength in your local community and collaborated with people you can trust. None of us is as strong as all of us.

I hope you made your place in this world a little better.

I hope you danced.

We are Acworth, moving forward, united and strong. December Events: Our monthly sponsor is Acworth and Lake City Animal Hospitals

ABA DEC AA5

Will be held Thursday, Dec 9, 5:30-7:30 at The Fountain, Located at 4843 S Main St. Acworth, GA 30101 RSVP www.acworthbusiness.org.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS NETWORK

Will be held on December 16th, at 11:30 at The Holbrook, S. Main, Acworth. Kelly Nagel says: Wear your UGLY SWEATER Please RSVP at acworthbusiness.org.

ABA JAN LUNCHEON

Will be held on Thursday, January 6, at the Acworth Community Center. Luncheon begins 11:30. Please RSVP at acworthbusiness.org.

KBA DEC LUNCHEON

Join us on Tuesday, Dec 14 at 11:30 at the Governor's Gun Club, as we present our Member and Business of the Year awards. Sponsored by Crane Elder Law Firm Please RSVP at kennesawbusiness.org.

KBA DEC AA5

Will be held Tuesday, Dec. 21, 5:30-7:30 at DeskTop, N. Main St. Kennesaw. RSVP www.kennesawbusiness.org.

This is a great event to network at as business owners from other area organizations will be attending. Please RSVP at Kennesawbusiness.org



MILITARY TOY DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE THINK MELISSA TEAM

My family and our team are collecting toys and gift cards (gift cards for the older children) to support our local military families (Georgia National Guard, etc.).

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

Thanks so much for your support and for spreading the word.

Cash Donations are needed by 12/10/21. The collection donation deadline is 12/14/21.

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, have recently returned from overseas, are classified as a wounded warrior or are a traditional National Guardsman.

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

The School Box in Kennesaw, Aqua Tots Swim School, Kennesaw and Our office in Marietta. Or please contact me if you are not local to make a financial donation or to coordinate a delivery / pick up: Melissa@ThinkMelissa.com.

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LAST YEAR FOR CALUMET WEST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

This year's Christmas House light display in Calumet West will be bittersweet, as it will be the last year. "We have had so much fun over the years putting up and displaying the lights, but at our age we can't continue beyond this year. We are officially retiring!" said Dick and Loretta Austin. The Austin's have decorated the house since 2006, and this will be the 15th year.

With over 50,000 lights the spectacular Calumet West Christmas House will be lit December 1.

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 \$8,000 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 good news is the light display is not going away, rather moving. The Austin's will be donating the majority of the lights to Due West United Methodist Church. The church will display the lights on their soccer field, with a huge walking path.

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 1-31, from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM.

MARIETTA POPS ORCHESTRA

Marietta Pops Orchestra is back in business after having to pause during our recent pandemic and is ready to present their popular holiday concert on Saturday, December 11th. This year's concert is held in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church Marietta. The sanctuary seats eight hundred, allowing listeners to spread out as they feel necessary. There are two concerts on that date to choose from, one at 5:00 and the other one at 7:30. The concerts last a little over an hour and include an intermission. Along with singalongs of popular holiday songs and carols, there are traditional holiday pieces including Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bells Forever, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting), I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, and many more including a surprise bonus piece.

The Orchestra's Founding Conductor and Music Director, Dr. Paul Hill, has been serving as the Director/Music Minister at First Baptist Church Marietta for over twenty-two years. His purpose in starting this orchestra eleven years ago was to re-engage musicians who otherwise would have no place to continue performing their instrument. Ranging from forty-five to sixty players, this orchestra has delighted audiences at every concert. The concert tickets are only \$20 and children under ten years old are free. Performing about twenty songs results in just a dollar a song! You can purchase tickets online at www.mariettapops.org or purchase tickets at the door. For more information, visit their website or contact them at mariettapopsorchestra@gmail.com.

We are holding the door open for you to come and celebrate the music of the holidays with us on Saturday, December 11 at either 5:00pm or 7:30pm. Tickets are only \$20 (that's less than \$1 a song!) and children under 10 are always free.

Come on back! The concert is just a little over an hour and that's with an intermission. Come at 5:00 and go out to eat afterward--or go out to eat before and cap off your night with a fun holiday concert.

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NOT YOUR TYPICAL THANKSGIVING PARADE

NORTH COBB CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE A STEAM PARADE!
North Cobb Christian School celebrated Thanksgiving with a STEAM Parade for K3 through 4th grade students, but this was not your typical Thanksgiving parade. Rather than professional floats and posh balloons, this parade was entirely student-generated with props and decorations made from recycled materials and sheer ingenuity.
The NCCS Thanksgiving STEAM Parade, which was inaugurated in 2020 in an effort to move the school’s traditional indoor Thanksgiving feasts outdoors as a COVID modification, was back by popular demand for 2021, with hundreds of parents and campus guests in attendance.
Inspired by the award-winning book, *Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy’s Parade* by Melissa Sweet, students were encouraged to harness creativity to create a one-of-a-kind parade experience!
Students spent weeks in class brainstorming and creating unique contraptions to share during the parade. Every element of the parade -- from floats to costumes -- was student designed and crafted utilizing the STEAM principles of science, technology, engineering, art and math. Each grade level was given a different STEAM challenge to complete, from building a “turkey trampoline,” to creating their own musical instruments for a Spanish song performance along the parade route.
There was also an environmental aspect to this project. Students were challenged to construct everything using only recycled materials.

IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS DURING THE HOLIDAYS
ERIKA ORCUTT, ORCUTT LAW

It may be a long time since you have spent time with your family and friends in person. As you enjoy those times together, here are some areas to think about and discuss with your loved ones, especially the elderly, during the holiday season.
Physical or mental changes: Do your loved ones seem more forgetful or distant? Are there mobility challenges? Have dietary preferences changed? Are they struggling with daily living activities or living at home?
If you notice such changes, discuss them with your loved ones. It may be time for frank discussions about lifestyle changes so they can continue living independently, or perhaps they would like to make living changes but fear the unknown. There are many resources available to assist, ranging from geriatric specialists, senior services, financial assistance, care management, living placement services, and elder care lawyers.
Legal documents: Do your loved ones have estate planning done? Do you know where their documents are? Have you seen them? Have they been updated or reviewed recently? Who is the person(s) nominated to be in charge? What are their end of life wishes? Do they want to be buried or cremated? What kind of legacy to they want to leave?
Regrettably, many people believe they have everything “taken care of” but really do not. Life changes such as death, disability, or divorce may render designated agents unavailable or leave unintended beneficiaries; documents get lost, destroyed, or outdated; memories fade and verbal statements of wishes are generally not enforceable. Seek the advice of an estate planning attorney to review, revise, or prepare their estate plans and related documents.
Access to information: If there was an emergency and someone needed to take over management of your loved one’s affairs today, would that person have the information available to do so? Information needed ranges from medical to financial; paper to digital; unsecured to secured. Encourage your loved ones to have all of their essential information in one place, know where that is and how to access it.
Having a plan for how one’s health, finances, assets, and living situation should be handled upon incapacity or death makes handling these situations so much easier. Use the holidays to assess the situation and have discussions with your loved ones.
Contact Orcutt Law Offices at 678-383-7857. Her ad is on page 3 of this paper.

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MARIETTA NEWS



TAKING A BREAK IN DECEMBER

Marietta Tree Keepers will be taking a break for the month of December planting trees. But please join us January 8, 2022 to inventory trees at the Marietta City Cemetery as we invite volunteers of all ages to help with this project. Tools and refreshments provided. Dress for outdoor weather. Have a wonderful Holiday season and we hope to see you in 2022. Thanks for helping us plant this season we really appreciate all of our volunteers. Check our answering machine for updates incase the location changes or in case of bad weather please call 770-424-4664 for updates and more information.

Members of the Marietta Tree Keepers have been promoting the value of trees to the community since it was founded in 2002. MTK has over 100 members and has planted over 5,500 trees around the city. The 501(C)3 non-profit organization works closely with the City of Marietta to plant trees along public right-of-ways, parks and schools. Those wishing to become a member or make a donation can learn more by visiting MTK's website at www.marietta.ga.gov/committees/treekeepers. For more information, please call 770.424.4664.



8 TONS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED 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 8 tons of food in over 210 Thanksgiving food boxes complete with 2 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 16,000 pounds of food and meat which was enough for a complete dinner for over 210 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.

PICTURE ABOVE: Volunteers ready to load boxes

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT THE STRAND

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION

A Christmas Tradition will return to The Strand stage for another unforgettable year of sharing the holiday spirit through sparkling song and dance! This hometown favorite holiday revue features costumed singers and dancers performing both traditional and funky Christmas favorites. FRIDAY DEC 10 - Thursday Dec 23.

STRAND OLE OPRY

Join us for a special Strand Ole Opry this holiday season for your favorite Christmas hits with an extra dose of banjo and fiddle! Following in the footsteps of great southern tradition, Opry's backporch style sing features a live band, local singers, and storytelling. The performance is Thursday, December 16 2021, 8:00 PM Keep the good times going with a post-show hootenanny in the Lumiere Lounge! Join performers for a toast, a drink, and sing-alongs after the show.

Tickets for either or both shows are available online at earlsmithstrand.org

Check out the website for more Christmas Festivities, movies, and concerts.

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OUR THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR AMERICA

BY JACK WATTS, AUTHOR

Heavenly Father,
From the very beginning of America's foundation,
From the time the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock,
And the Puritans established Massachusetts Bay Colony,
You put into their hearts the idea that America was destined
To become a mighty nation—a diverse and unique people.
The original settlers believed they were creating a City on a Hill—
A unique nation for the entire world to behold and emulate.
This was their purpose and
The corporate dream of our founders.
For all of those who sailed from Europe to the New Land,
Enduring hardship in the wilderness and extreme deprivation,
They founded a new nation,
Forged out of beautiful but barren land.
They did so joyfully, with a willing heart,
Because of their love for You.

They counted it all joy to suffer adversity and deprivation,
Simply to be able to worship You as they saw fit,
Without restraint.
This goal was so important that
They risked their lives to achieve it.
Indeed, our forefathers were mighty men and women of God.
Based on their original intent and
What burned deep within their hearts,
Praiseworthy values emerged that
Drove them relentlessly forward.
Over time, their foundational beliefs became
Our Puritan Work Ethic.

For more than two centuries
This was the bedrock upon which we thrived
But many no longer hold these values in high esteem.
Instead, we now live in an era where godless Progressivism
Dominates our schools, universities, entertainment, and the media.
Rather than acknowledge You and give thanks,
Like our forefathers did,
This generation arrogantly mocks Your name,
Your Word, and Your Son,
While proudly denouncing the great cloud of witnesses
Which built this nation before them.
These arrogant men and women repudiate the contributions
Of all the past generations that made America
A beacon of light.

Now, we face a crisis, as the perils of Deep State corruption
Threaten our very existence—but the self-important Progressives,
Who continue to dominate most areas of our government,
Refuse to acknowledge that our only hope is to return to You.
As Your redeemed children, the faithful remnant who continue
To make a conscious choice to honor You and to seek Your will,
We humbly bow our knees before You today, and ask
For Your forgiveness for all that we have done as a nation
To act willfully and to behave disrespectfully toward You.
Having drifted so far from our foundational roots and values,
We are without excuse. Nevertheless, we do ask for Your mercy.
Help us return to our faith and to the eternal values
That once made us strong.
Let us once again be a City on a Hill
For the entire world to follow. We ask this humbly, in the name
Of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Redeemer, and our Savior,
Amen

Jack Watts is an author of several books available on Amazon.com. He is a resident of Atlanta, GA. Follow him on Facebook.

Excerpt from Jack's book "Retaking the USA,," "If we choose to do nothing, evil will surely triumph, and the nation we love so dearly will cease to be what it has always been. It will be replaced by a global state that is antithetical to what our founding fathers intended. We must not allow this to happen. Our battle is for the hearts and minds of millions of badly deceived Americans—people who have come to call wrong right, and right wrong.



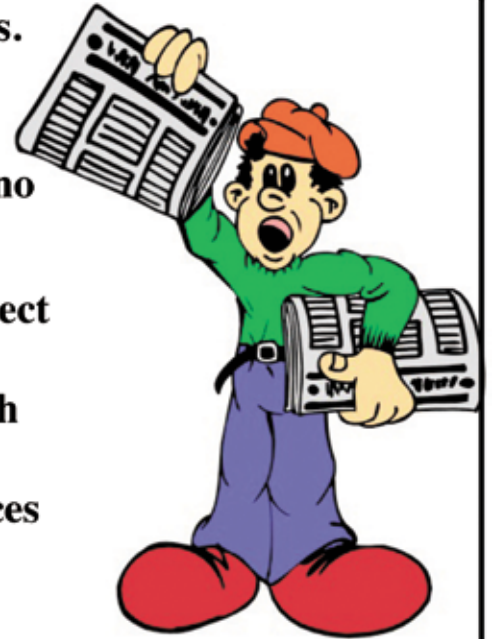
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