

The Bright Side TM

Volume 32 No 2

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

FEB 2023



POLAR PLUNGE - FEBRUARY 25

The Special Olympics Polar Plunge, hosted by the Law Enforcement Torch Run For Georgia, will take place again at Acworth Beach at Cauble Park on February 25, 2023.

The purpose behind the Polar Plunge is to support and spread awareness for the 27,115 Special Olympics Georgia athletes. The Polar Plunge is the largest fundraising effort benefiting Special Olympics. Many states across the nation participate in this annual event through the efforts of their Law Enforcement Torch Run program. The Polar Plunge is an official Law Enforcement Torch Run event.

Anyone with a little guts and a warm heart wanting to support the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia is welcome to participate! Participants collect pledges from friends and family in exchange for the opportunity to jump into icy waters in the middle of winter. All proceeds collected by "plungers" will benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including best costume, highest individual fundraiser, highest team fundraiser, and many more.

Special Olympics Georgia will also be bringing back Tug-A-War this year at Polar Plunge! Get your ticket while registering for Polar Plunge. Team sizes have to be either 6 person minimum or 8 person maximum.

Visit www.specialolympicsga.org/events/ and click on TAKE THE PLUNGE to purchase tickets or donate.



AMPHITHEATER GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

The City of Kennesaw and Kennesaw Parks & Recreation celebrated the commencement of construction on phase eight of the Depot Park Master Plan with a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, January 19.

Phase eight of the Master Plan includes the amphitheater and festival area. Upon completion, the amphitheater will feature a 50 x 42 ft. stage, with back of house. The amphitheater will hold up to 2,000 people on the turf lawn. In addition to the stage, construction includes a restroom, storage facility and renovation of the Community House to serve as the green room for performers. The amphitheater will be host to City events & concerts.

In 2015, the City of Kennesaw began planning for updates and improvements to the original Depot Park Master Plan (which had been adopted in 2008). The master plan was updated to include multiple program changes. Depot Park, located in historic downtown, is located in front of the City's Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History, and adjacent to the City's recently completed Gateway Park. Depot Park is planned to host ample green space, an amphitheater and additional amenities to promote active living.

Pictured: From left, David Carl, President of Gay Construction; Holly Quinlan, CEO of Cobb Travel and Tourism; Councilmember Lynette Burnette; Councilmember Tracey Viars; Mike Everhart, amphitheater committee member; Councilmember Pat Ferris; City Manager Dr. Jeff Drobney; Mayor Derek Easterling; Parks and Recreation Director Steve Roberts

HORIZON GALA

The Special Needs Development Group is in the process of planning the 2023 Horizon Ability Gala, and we would love for you to join us. The Gala will be held on Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Tanyard Creek Overlook (Acworth Community Center) and includes a unique fine dining experience, silent auction, live auction, and jazz ensemble. Proceeds from the Gala go directly to the Horizon League and will help us continue to keep registration costs down and offer quality programs. Within the last several years, businesses and residents of Acworth have donated over \$300,000 to this cause.

Since 2007, the Special Needs Development Group has provided children and adults with physical, social, and cognitive disabilities the opportunity to participate in athletic, social, and cultural programs. Throughout the years, we've served more than 500 participants and continue to grow.

Please consider attending the event or donating to the auction. For more information or to buy tickets visit www.horizonabilitygala.org or please call Lauren Ham at 770-917-1234 or lham@acworth.org. The Horizon Ability Gala not only raises funds to advance its mission (to strive for a better quality of life for children and adults with special needs) but also raises awareness for our cause. On behalf of the athletes, parents, and the Special Needs Development Group, we would like to thank the community for helping improve the quality of life for our children and adults with special needs.

For more information about the Horizon League please contact Lauren Ham, at lham@acworth.org or (770) 917-1234.

See less



KENNESAW'S TOUCH-A-TRUCK ~ MARCH 4

Touch-A-Truck, the exciting and educational annual community event hosted by the City of Kennesaw's Parks & Recreation, Public Works and Police Departments, will return to Adams Park on Saturday, March 4, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Children can get up-close and personal with larger-than-life trucks, heavy construction and public safety equipment, cool cars and specialty vehicles. Attendees can meet vehicle owners and operators while touching, climbing on and interacting with this awesome exhibition of transportation. There will be numerous vehicles on display, along with a variety of children's activities. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission is free

The Department of Parks & Recreation is still seeking unique vehicles for display! Interested parties are encouraged to call (770) 422-9714 or complete the interest form at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/touchatruck/>.

To sign up for a volunteer shift, visit <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog> and view the Volunteer Opportunities under the "Special Events" tab.



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DEADLINE FOR MAR 2023 ISSUE
TUES FEB 22 2022
PUBLISHED FEB 28 2023

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THIS AND THAT



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



CHRISTINE SMITH

Christine Smith is turning 85 on February 9th. She's having her 1st ever birthday party. Happy Birthday! If our readers would like to send her birthday wishes, please do so. Email her friend at langley1017@gmail.com

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Emery Austin, a student a Hayes Elementary went all out in her outfit for celebrating 100 days of school. Even down to the hair rollers. This event is celebrated through our area and probably in a lot of other schools.

The 100th day of school is literally the 100th day of the school year. More importantly, it is a great way for elementary school teachers to celebrate the various mathematical concepts that can be taught using the number 100. From the very first day of school, classes begin keeping track of the number of days they've been in school



JACQUE CULLINS RECOGNIZED

At the January meeting of the Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Foundation, Jacque Cullins was recognized for her over ten year commitment to the Kennesaw City Cemetery. Councilman Pat Ferris presented a certificate of recognition from Mayor Derek Easterling that read:

"The City of Kennesaw, Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Foundation and Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Commission recognizes Jacque Cullins for her dedicated and committed service in support of the Kennesaw City Cemetery. Jacque has played an integral role as Secretary on the Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Foundation for many years. We thank her for her legacy of service and its positive impact in working to enhance and preserve our historic cemetery."

Pictured left to right is Stephen King, President of the Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Foundation, Jacque Cullins, Mary Helyn Hagin, Chair of the Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Commission, and Councilman Pat Ferris.

ANDREW BRAMLETT'S RESIDENTS OF THE KENNESAW CEMETERY

Benjamin Harris Carrie, who went by Ben, was born April 15, 1857, in Big Shanty. His father was Gaspard T. Carrie, a prominent early citizen of the town. In 1886, Ben married Tallulah Brintle.



Carrie built a house on Cherokee Street around 1890. Today painted yellow, it is now owned by the City of Kennesaw. Carrie served as mayor of Kennesaw for two terms, serving from 1896 to 1897. By 1901, he held the office of Justice of the Peace and officiated the weddings of many Kennesaw couples. By 1904, Carrie had become involved with the local Meyerhardt Masonic Lodge, and at one point he served as secretary. He later served as city clerk and treasurer for the City of Kennesaw. In 1908, Carrie became a founder of the Kennesaw State Bank, which served the community for over 50 years. Carrie also served as county registrar.

During World War I, Carrie served on the board that sold Liberty Bonds in Kennesaw. When local mailman Frank Burt went to France to fight, Carrie served as a mail carrier.

During his lifetime, Carrie had many interests. He went to auto races in Atlanta, and he was on a local amateur checkers team. Benjamin Carrie passed away on September 8, 1936. He was buried in his family's plot in the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Last month, work began on Depot Park's new amphitheater. The house B.H. Carrie built in 1890 will be refurbished as the greenroom for the new stage.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Kenneaw Police department announces the next Citizens Police Academy. The course will be held on Tuesday nights from 6-8 PM at the police department. The first class is on April 11th and graduation is on June 20th. Topics covered include traffic/DUI enforcement, drug interdiction, K9, firearms training, active shooter training, criminal investigations, court system, the role of a uniform patrol officer, a visit to the medical examiner's office, and crime analysis.

Anyone interested can contact Officer Buchanan at dbuchanan@kennesaw-ga.gov

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INCLUSIVE SWING AT SWIFT CANTRELL PARK

The City of Kennesaw and Kennesaw Parks & Recreation celebrated the opening of the Inclusive Swing at the Inclusive Playground with a Ribbon Cutting celebration on afternoon January 4.

Part of the Inclusive Playground, The We-Go-Swing is a no-transfer inclusive swing that is integrated into the playground setting at Swift-Cantrell Park that invites kids of all abilities to get in on the fun. The 60" x 72" entry deck is connected to the ramp for easy roll on access. There is no need to transfer from a mobility device to take part in the fun and there is plenty of room for the children and the caregivers to sit and/or stand together and enjoy the ride.

Funding for the swing was provided by T-Mobile, as the City of Kennesaw was named one of their Hometown Grant recipients.

The Inclusive Playground has 40 feet of shade, wheelchair accessible ramps that lead to a ropes tower, sensory stations, an eight (8) person wheelchair sway fun, a slide, and now, an inclusive swing. The ramp system also leads to pod climbers, a tunnel system and climbing apparatuses.

The 18,500 square foot space is lined with turf making it accessible to everyone. This is one of the largest Inclusive Playgrounds in the state.

FLEX GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority is sponsoring the Main Street on the Move Flex Grant. KDDA will award grants ranging from \$500 – \$2500 to small businesses in Downtown Kennesaw for projects that will enhance productivity, expand or improve business processes, improve service delivery, support business expansion, or improve business facilities/ infrastructure. Grant amounts are discretionary and will be awarded based on need and potential impact. Grant applications are available and will be due no later than 5 p.m. on March 31, 2023. The information packet & application are available at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/download/kdda-flex-grant/>.

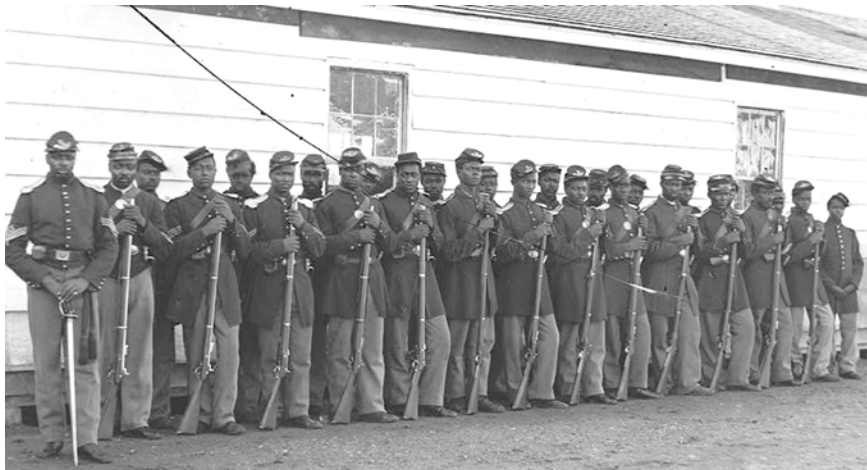
SOLE KIDZ REGISTRATION

This program is a fun, flexible running program designed to get kids in the community active! The mission of Kennesaw Sole KIDZ is to promote a healthy, active lifestyle to the Kennesaw youth through a running based program. Meeting location is the at the picnic pavilions at Swift-Cantrell Park.

Registration includes all sessions, 2 - 5K registrations from the Kennesaw Grand Prix Series (May 13 & June 10) and a T-shirt.. Parent Meeting: Tuesday, March 14 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM at the Ben Robertson Community Center (2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144)

Pace Night: Thursday, March 16 from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM. Run Nights at Swift-Cantrell Park: March 21 - June 9 Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:30 - 7:30 PM Required - Sole KIDZ Shirts and running shoes with socks and bring a water bottle.

Register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog>, click on Youth-Sports and scroll down to Sole KIDZ running program.



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

The Southern Museum, located in Downtown Kennesaw, will celebrate the contributions of African Americans throughout history with an African American History Month event on Saturday, February 25.

The event will feature reenactors, education tables with hands-on activities focusing on African Americans in WWII, the railroad industry, and an electrical activity and a special reading nook highlighting African American story books. A United States Colored Troops (USCT) soldier encampment will be setup on the front lawn with musketry demonstrations taking place every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The February 25 program is free with purchase of regular museum admission. For further information, please www.SouthernMuseum.org.

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WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF**

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COBB GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Join the Cobb County Genealogical Society on Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m., for their next meeting. Topic: The speaker is David E. Rencher, the Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. He will speak on how to research Irish Church Records. The meeting is free but prior registration is required. Meet at First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, 189 Church Street, Marietta, 30060. For more information, visit our website, <https://cobbgenegensoc.org/>

ARTS ALLIANCE NEWS

Join us as we present our Member Exhibit now through February 24. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

The Art House is located at 4425 Cherokee Street, Acworth. OPEN Tuesday-Saturday, 12-6 P.M. Call 678-543-5777

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

The Bright Side welcomes J Bobby Hawkins, owner of Hawkins Insurance. See his ad on page 4. We also welcome Due West Animal Hospital - their ad is on page 7. And don't overlook Varenita West Cobb on page 8. A 5-Star Boutique Assisted Living & Memory Care facility.

HOME FOR RENT

Charming 2-bedroom 2-bath home in Quiet, gated community located close to I-75, Downtown Acworth Immaculate, 1588 sq. ft. home with 2-car garage and private garden patio. Includes kitchen appliances. Maintenance of the front yard, water, and trash pickup are included in the monthly rent. No pets allowed. \$1850. per month.

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ACCEPTING APPOINTMENTS

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.

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SOUTHERN SPIRITS

The Kennesaw Museum Foundation and the Southern Museum will host a Southern Spirits evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, February 10.

Southern Spirits will feature entry to the museum, hors d'oeuvres, live music and adult beverages. Non-alcoholic drinks will also be provided.

Southern Spirits will highlight bourbon and the Kentucky Mule as the featured cocktail. Downtown Kennesaw's Pisano's Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen will provide attendees with selections of its highly-rated fare.

Tickets are \$30 for museum members and \$40 for non-members. Attendees must be at least 21 years old. [https://www.eventbrite.com/#search,type,in southern spirits.](https://www.eventbrite.com/#search,type,in%20southern%20spirits)

Atlanta Bonded Warehouse, North Georgia Staffing, Burnt Hickory Brewery and Savannah Distributing are sponsoring the event.

YOU ARE INVITED

BBQ! FUN! PRAISE! Bethel Acworth AME Youth want to feed YOU! Come join us, February 25th, 2023 for a FREE hot meal and a smile. We are located at 4826 School St., Acworth Ga, 30101 and will be there from 12pm-3pm or until all gone. See you soon!

BETHEL SHREDS

SAVE THE DATE TO JOIN US...Sat., March 25, 2023, 10A-2P at Logan Farm Park - 4405 Cherokee Street, Acworth, GA 30101 (upper parking lot)

Donations Accepted. Protect yourself from identity theft. Come out and "shred" sensitive personal and financial information to help minimize your risk!

Contact R-J for more details: 770-765-1308.

Allatoona High School presents
The Addams Family
Allatoona High School Theater
February 8, 9, 10, 11 at 7pm
Matinee February 11 at 2pm
Tickets are available at the door or
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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

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**GEORGIA FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY GEORGIA GROWN**

ANNOUNCES NEW EVENT DETAILS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Georgia Food + Wine Festival is a culinary and beverage celebration of all things Georgia, so it is only fitting that we partner with an organization that supports and celebrates Georgia on a multitude of levels. That is why we are so pleased to announce that Georgia Grown has come aboard as our PRESENTING SPONSOR.

Georgia Grown will be spotlighting and supporting their members in a variety of ways, including The Georgia Grown Wine Trail, Member Village, Flavors of Georgia, and their own Demo Stage. More new exciting partnerships this year include: Georgia Grown Member, Chatel Farms – Official Beef, Audi Marietta – Official Automotive Partner, and Superior Plumbing – Official Music sponsor.

We are also proud to welcome back the Beam/Suntory family of beverages (Maker's Mark, Knob Creek, Basil Hayden, Jim Beam, Hornitos, Haku, & On the Rocks) as our Master Spirits partner.

The festival offers a wide variety of events for all tastebuds and budgets, including "Savor": the main event on Saturday with over 400 varieties of wine, beer and spirits tastings, cooking demonstrations on the "Georgia Celebrity Chef Stage", and 50+ restaurants and artisans from around the south; and Sunday/Funday: a family friendly event featuring food trucks and free children's activities.

The VIP Lounge Saturday and Sunday, presented by Publix, will offer a fully catered experience with open bars, the Bellissima Beverage Cart with craft cocktails on tap, early access, live music, more. Advance ticket discount savings on the Georgia Food + Wine Festival Winter Advance Ticket Packages are available now through March 1, 2023 at georgiafoodandwinefestival.com. The festival takes place, March 23 - 26, 2023 at Jim R. Miller Park, Marietta, GA (see page 9 for list of daily events)

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MARCH 23 - 26, 2023

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The Georgia Food + Wine Festival presented by Georgia Grown celebrates the best of Georgia and the South, from its culinary superstars and beverage experts to its farmers, artisans, live musicians and more. A variety of events for all taste buds starting with Cobb Life Magazine's "Best of Cobb" event and the legendary barbecue event, "Fired-Up" an all-inclusive, food and drink tasting event. Saturday's main event, "Savor" offers hundreds of unlimited beer, wine and spirits tastings, a Georgia Celebrity Chef Stage, VIP Lounge, artisans, and live music. "Sunday/Funday" is the budget friendly and family-friendly day, with Kids Zone, VIP Lounge Oyster Roast, live music and more. Savor the Flavors!

Buy Early & Save!

<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">FRIDAY MARCH 24TH FIRED-UP</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$75 MARCH/GATE \$85</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">SATURDAY MARCH 25TH SAVOR</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$79 MARCH/GATE \$99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">SATURDAY MARCH 25TH VIP LOUNGE AT SAVOR</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$150 MARCH/GATE \$165</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">SUNDAY/ FUNDAY MARCH 26TH FAMILY FRIENDLY</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$20 MARCH/GATE \$25</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">SUNDAY MARCH 26TH OYSTER ROAST VIP LOUNGE</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$65 MARCH/GATE \$75</p>
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THE ACWORTH'S MAYOR'S DESK

As we move into February, we look forward to all this year will bring. Right now, the city team, with our community partners, is planning a year of amazing experiences with unforgettable events and programs as well as improvements to our services for residents and businesses. One of those improvements includes the current renovations at City Hall that will help the team better serve our great community. City Hall will remain open during this time and renovations are expected to conclude mid-summer. With that in mind, this year we are embracing the great quality of life we have here in our home of Acworth.

In 2023, we're excited to celebrate Acworth as the place we call home. We are an award-winning city and the best city to live and do business in! Because of our great quality of life, we're ranked as one of the safest places to live in Georgia. Our friends and family are here, and we have some great partners in our community and faith-based organizations that give so much back to the city with programs and volunteering. We have a wonderful parks and recreation department overseeing our many green spaces, including four beaches on two lakes and ten miles of walking trails. Our strong local economy is supported by the fastest growing business association in the region, and we value and support our businesses' investment in the city. Our dedicated city team delivers great services to both our residents and businesses. Acworth is a restaurant and shopping destination with a great reputation. We hope you enjoy calling Acworth home as much as we do and we're glad you're here, because home is where the heart is!

As always, for the latest information on any of our events and projects, you can visit www.acworth.org, sign up for our e-news blasts on our home page, "like" City of Acworth on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram at @cityofacworthga.

May God Bless You and Your Families, Tommy



ART EXPLOSION WINTER BREAK CAMP

It's time to get those creative juices flowing! Our Art Explosion Camp has a full week of non-stop art projects and activities. Throughout this fun week of camp, we will work with different art styles like fabrics and dyes, watercolors, paper making, paint, clay and more! We will also go on a fun, art-themed field trip included in your costs! Prepare to roll up your sleeves and create your next masterpiece. Campers are encouraged to dress in clothing ready to get painted, stained and splattered! Camp will take place Monday February 20 through Friday, February 24. Camp hours are 9:00am - 4:00pm and early drop off and late pick up are included in the costs. This camp is open to children ages 6-13. The cost of this camp is \$125 for City of Acworth residents and \$150 for non-residents. Registration and additional information are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

HORIZON SPRING BASEBALL

The Horizon League provides children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities the opportunity to participate in athletic events, develop lasting relationships among their peers, coaches and parents and demonstrate to them that they are an important part of their community by creating an environment of inclusion for both the participants and their families. The League is open to youth and adult's ages five and up. Teams are broken up by age groups. Games are non-competitive and each player on the roster gets on base before the opposing team gets to bat. Every effort is made to return players to their prior team. However, teams will have a player limit and team placement is based on first come, first serve. Special requests can only be considered based on available space on a team prior to Wednesday, March 23. Cost is \$15 until March 23. For more information contact Lauren Ham at laham@acworth.org or call 770.917.1234.

ATHLETICS

"THE LEAGUE AT LOGAN": ADULT GRASS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Coed 4's (2 Males 2 Females, 18+) \$200/team or \$50 for individual "free agent"

Join the City of Acworth as we kick off The League at Logan with our inaugural grass volleyball league! Teams will compete for eight weeks on Wednesday evenings at Logan Farm Park with an additional two weeks of playoffs! We hope to provide a laid back, fun environment while competing and growing the volleyball community. The League will run from March - May!

ACWORTH ADULT SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Mark your Calendars! The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department has the most premiere adult flag football league around. Game play is 7 on 7 and teams may have a roster of up to 17 players. The league will be held on Tuesdays and located at the football fields at the Acworth Sports Complex. Games will run with start times beginning at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. Games will begin on March 15 with a single elimination tournament being held on Tuesday, May 23 and Thursday May 25. The fee for this league is \$500 per team for both City residents and non-residents. Those without a team are invited to in Free Agent Day on Tuesday, February 28 at the Acworth Sports Complex Football Fields at 6:00 p.m. Free Agent registration is \$50 for both City residents and non-residents. This program is open to over the age of eighteen. The deadline to register for the Acworth Adult Spring Flag Football League is Wednesday, March 9. Registration and additional information are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

ACWORTH SPRING PRESCHOOL SPORTS CAMP

Preschool Sports Camp is a non-competitive program to help three and four year-olds develop basic skills for sports programs in the future. The program gives children a chance to explore a variety of different sports all in one program such as soccer, T-ball, basketball and more! Spring camp is held every Monday and Wednesday starting Monday, April 10 and running through Wednesday, May 3. There will be two different sessions. The first will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. and the second session will be from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the Acworth Community Center. Registration is \$50 for City of Acworth residents and \$65 for non-residents. The deadline to register for this program is Wednesday, March 29. Registration and additional information is available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

ACWORTH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON

Join us every third Wednesday of the month for lunch and bingo at the City of Acworth's Senior Luncheon. This program is FREE to all seniors but you must RSVP to attend. Reservations will be accepted the week prior to the event. The event is the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at the Acworth Community Center (4361 Cherokee Street Acworth, Ga 30101) RSVP: (770) 917-1234

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“MARRY THE HOUSE; DATE THE RATE.”

BY BOB BROOKS, AMERICAN EAGLE MORTGAGE
POWERED BY CROSS COUNTRY MORTGAGE.

2020 and 2021 definitely was a whirlwind for different industries. I had the pleasure of helping people in this community find their new home or their first home or even refinance their forever homes at record low interest rates working for American Eagle Mortgage powered by CrossCountry Mortgage.



Last year, 2022 brought a new Era of scared buyers since the interest rates rose. Housing prices were still up. This brought a new roll to what we provided with the loans that we do, education. In 1982 the interest rate high was 18.625%. The answer has always been yeah but house prices were less. My answer, so was the income levels. Unfortunately as income rates rise so does everything we buy. It's called inflation. It happens if we like or not. However, interest rates always fluctuate. My new motto for anyone looking for a new house is “Marry the house; date the rate.”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

It means buy the house you want. But committing to the house doesn't mean you have to commit to the financing available now forever. Homeowners always look for a better financing opportunity, and make the move when the time is right. You can always change your financing to more favorable terms later, should better rates and products become available. And if rates only get worse, then you'll be glad you married the house when you did.

For more information call Bob Brooks at 770.572.4173 or email him at bob.brooks@ccm.com.

HONORING MIKE

HOG's February 8th Dinner is honoring Mike Bernowski and is sponsored by One Atlanta Wealth Group. Mike and Mindy go to NorthStar Church and volunteer in the coffee shop. Mike fell off his roof putting up Christmas lights. He suffered a major spinal cord injury and is now paralyzed from the neck down. He is currently at the Shepard Center and wheelchair bound. All this after his wife, Mindy, recovered from cancer a little while back.

You can make a serious difference for a man and his family that is currently praying for an answer to prayer. Please donate now and sign up for the dinner being held on February 8, 6:30-8:00 pm at NorthStar Church. Register at helpingoneguy.org.



BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brookwood Christian School is gearing up for an eventful spring. We will be hosting two community events in addition to several exciting on campus events. So, make sure to mark your calendars!

The annual fundraiser, Rock2Read is a silent auction and benefit concert that will be held on March 5th, 2023 from 2:00-7:00 pm at Center Street Tavern. Admission into the event will be free this year. However, V.I.P seating and bar-fare will be available for purchase. You may also purchase a table for four for \$25.00. This event is hosted by Center Street Tavern in the heart of downtown Acworth. All profits from the night will go directly towards Brookwood Christian School's specialized Dyslexic reading programs.

Brookwood Christian School has another silent auction in April. Join us for this community favorite event on April 27th, 2023 from 12:30-2:00 pm. The high tea and silent auction is held on campus in our beautiful event space. This event costs \$30 a ticket and can be purchased by texting “Tea” to 404-491-7724. If you are planning to attend, make sure to get your tickets in advance. Tickets are limited to 50 attendees.

This is also a bustling time of year for Brookwood Christian School's student body. Earlier this month we held their first Alumni event on campus. Students from the past two decades came to visit campus for networking and homecomings. Later in the month, the lower school building students will host a Valentine's Day pancake breakfast fundraiser. Brookwood Christian students have also started rehearsing for an Easter play that will be held in April. Written by their resident drama teacher, the play will cover the death and resurrection of Christ.

Brookwood Christian School hopes that you can join their upcoming community events. With the proceeds from these events, the school will be able to continue to provide the best specialized materials and keep class sizes small. Thanks to donors like you, they can give their students the opportunity to grow in confidence and ability.

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GEORGIA FOOD AND WINE EVENTS

Schedule of Events: *Schedule and talent subject to change



THURSDAY MARCH 23

Thursday, March 23 - "Best of Cobb", presented by Cobb Life Magazine and the Marietta Daily Journal, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Jim R. Miller Park

The "Best of Cobb" is a showcase of Cobb County, Georgia's best. More than 1,000 people gather to eat, drink and recognize the county's favorite businesses and service providers. The Best of Cobb is a partnership event with the festival, tickets are sold directly by the event and will be on sale soon.

FRIDAY MARCH 23

Friday, March 24, 7:30 - 9:30 pm - "Fired-Up" Jim R. Miller Park, Marietta, GA

This BBQ Extravaganza is an all-inclusive culinary and beverage tasting ticket, showcasing some of the South's most celebrated Pitmasters and grill masters with wine, beer and spirits and a live music stage featuring J. Scott Thompson. Enjoy unlimited beverage tastings in a souvenir glass, along with delicious grilled, smoked and roasted gourmet BBQ bites, including TWO WHOLE PIGS roasted onsite from Rodney Scott's Whole Hog BBQ. Also included in the evening is "Meat & Greet" - a Chatel Farms Beef/Maker's Mark bourbon pairing and cooking demo. *FREE parking, 21 & older only event, no pets allowed.

SATURDAY MARCH 25

Saturday, March 25, 1 - 4 pm, "Savor, Georgia Food + Wine Festival" Jim R. Miller Park

A fun afternoon of culinary and beverage tastings, with live music, celebrity chef demonstrations, interactive stations from several world-renowned beverage experts, and shopping. Tickets include a souvenir glass for unlimited beverage tastings from hundreds of wines, beer and spirits exhibitors, and each guest will receive \$10 in tokens for food purchases. Additional tokens will be available for purchase throughout the festival. Savor will also feature over 20+ restaurants from around Georgia and the South with a variety of culinary options, along with artisans from all over the region.

Guests will enjoy the Georgia Celebrity Chef Stage AND a Georgia Grown Demo Stage, featuring cooking demonstrations from Jernard Wells, chef/author and award-winning television host appearing on CLEO TV, the Food Network, the Cooking Channel and the Oprah Winfrey Network; and Chef Henry Chandler of Henry's Louisiana Grill, and Publix Aprons Cooking School. *Stage tastings limited to the first 50 people in attendance for each stage session.

Cobb Travel & Tourism's "Bubbles & Brews Alley" will feature Cobb County's most popular breweries and distilleries. The Superior Plumbing Music Stages will showcase Scott Thompson & The Lowdown Band and Les & Wes Duo. The festival's official charity partner, SafePath Children's Advocacy Center will hold a Silent Auction featuring a variety of items and services, from luxury and beauty, to travel and one-of-a-kind entertainment and dining opportunities. *FREE parking, 21 & older only event, no pets allowed.

Saturday, March 25, 12 - 4 pm, "VIP Lounge, at Savor" presented by Publix. VIP Lounge tickets include early access to the festival, VIP Parking and crystal souvenir tasting wine glass. The VIP Lounge, presented by Publix and is an exclusive, fully catered VIP Lounge experience with special SWAG bags, restrooms, open bars with cocktails, the Bellissima Beverage Cart serving craft cocktails on tap, live music from the Atmosphere Quintet, presented by Superior Plumbing, and more. Limited number of tickets available. The VIP Lounge ticket also includes full access to the general admission area of Savor. Each ticket includes \$10 in tokens for food purchases. Additional tokens can be purchased throughout the festival.

SUNDAY MARCH 26

Sunday, March 26, 12:00 - 5:00 pm, "Sunday/Funday" (Family-friendly event)

An affordable (\$25 admission ticket, with children 12 and under free) fantastic festival finale with live music and a variety of delectable restaurants, farmers, artisans, and food trucks, and a variety of beverages for purchase. A family friendly event with something for everybody in the family, including a free Kids Zone, with free inflatables and kids activities. There will be a variety of official festival beverages available for purchase for 21 and older - including beer, wine and cocktails. The Sunday/Funday Lounge will feature specialty drink stations for purchase: Mimosas, Sparkling Wines, Bloody Mary Bar and Frose' (Frozen Rose') with a souvenir cup. The "Georgia Celebrity Chef Stage" will feature cooking demonstrations from Georgia's best loved chefs including Chef Z from Red Top Brewhouse, as well as the Georgia Grown Demo Stage. Don't miss "Georgia's Best Whiskey Cocktail" challenge with some of the area's best bartenders and mixologists competing for the title and \$1,500 grand prize. The Superior Plumbing live music stage features J. Scott Thompson. Each ticket includes \$10 in tokens for food purchases. Children 12 & under are FREE. FREE parking, no pets allowed.

Sunday, March 26, 12:00 - 3:00 pm, "Oyster Roast, VIP Lounge" (Family-friendly event) Enjoy sipping and shucking the afternoon away while listening to live music and enjoying unlimited wine, beer and spirits tasting stations, the Bellissima Beverage Cart serving craft cocktails on tap, with unlimited roasted oysters and Publix catering. VIP Lounge tickets include admission to Sunday/Funday from 12 - 5pm. Each ticket includes \$10 in tokens for food purchases. Children 12 & under are FREE. FREE parking, no pets allowed.

ADVANCE TICKET DISCOUNT SAVINGS

Advance ticket discount savings on the Georgia Food + Wine Festival Winter Advance Ticket Packages are available now through March 1, 2023. The most up to date festival information is available on the Georgia Food + Wine Festival website and the festival's social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, Please contact Missy Miller, missy@georgiafoodandwinefestival.com for additional festival information, festival photography and assets.

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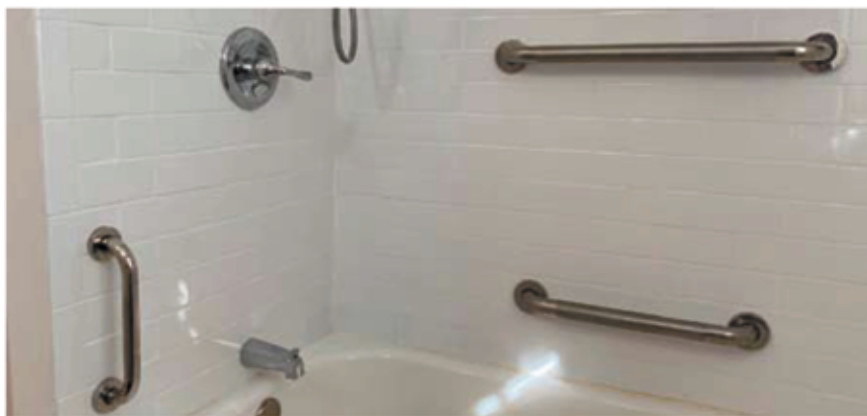
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SETTING AND REACHING GOALS PART 2

BY MARLON LONGACRE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR PIEDMONT CHURCH

So many of us have set new goals for 2023. The hardest things about setting goals are thinking bigger than you ever have before and getting started. That is why I have been using the past few EPICS to study Genesis 24 the success chapter in the Bible. In January's Bright Side I shared how to achieve the first five steps. We will finish with the next five steps

6. YOU MUST DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEMS.

You must identify the roadblocks, the obstacles, the things that are holding you back..

1 Peter 1:6-7 reads "So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So, when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

THIS VERSE REVEALS 6 TRUTHS ABOUT PROBLEMS:

Problems are temporary. They will not last forever. Problems are varied. They come in all shapes and sizes. Problems are necessary. They are an indispensable part of preparing you for heaven. Problems test your faith. You build muscles by testing them. In the same way, when your faith is tested, your faith grows stronger.

Problems purify your motives. God is far more interested in your character than in your comfort. You will face trials to refine your character. Problems prepare you for rewards. The problems we face now do not compare to the rewards in heaven.

The problems we face in 2023 will not be fun. Some problems hurt deeply but the Bible makes it clear that they WILL make our faith stronger and WILL produce perseverance and that is why we can have hope no matter what we face.

7. YOU MUST DESIGN A PLAN.

You must design a plan to overcome the problems in reaching your goal. Plan out a specific course of action. Write it out. Write it down on paper. Set some deadlines. Schedule it on your calendar. Ask yourself two questions: How do I intend to get there? Specifically, step by step. How long will it take? You must have a plan. You must know where you are going. Write out some specific action steps.

8. YOU MUST DISCIPLINE YOUR PERSONALITY

Nothing significant has ever been accomplished without discipline. It takes discipline and doing things you do not necessarily want to do.

The question you want to ask yourself here is: How do I need to grow personally? While you are working on the goal, God is working on you. God is much more interested in your character than in your project. He is interested in that too, but He's interested in you. So, you ask yourself, "Where do I need to grow to reach my goal? Are there things I need to learn? Are there skills I need to develop? Are there attitudes I need to work on? Are there changes I need to make? Are there unhealthy habits I need to let go of? What kind of person will I need to be to reach the goal?" You develop and you discipline your personality. You work on self-development.

What is the principle? Whenever you are trying to reach your goal, sometimes you must defer personal pleasure. You defer personal pleasure to reach your goal and after you reach your goal, then you reap the fruit of your rewards. Then you sit down and enjoy it.

9. YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE

This is where the truth of the matter comes out. The fact is, in any goal there is always a price tag to be paid. Everything worthwhile costs something. Even salvation. Salvation wasn't free. It cost Jesus Christ His life. It's a gift. But it sure wasn't free. Christ paid for it.

There's a price tag always to be paid in reaching a goal. A price in terms of time, money, energy, reputation. There are many different prices that we pay to reach our goals. Great goals require sacrifice. That's always a level of commitment. Some people only want to reach their goals if they're convenient. To achieve God's goal for your life, you will have to let go of some security.

In your goal setting you must ask yourself at this stage three vital questions: 1. What will it cost me? In terms of time, money, energy. 2. What am I willing to give? 3 Is it worth it? That's the bottom line. Is it a wise investment?

The Bible says, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet loses his soul?" What does it profit a man if he makes a million dollars and loses his family? You must balance it out. What is it worth it? Is the cause worth the cost? Is the prize worth the price?

10. YOU MUST DEPEND ON PEOPLE

God chooses to work through people. Aren't we supposed to depend on the Lord? Yes. But God uses people, and if people are not available it does not get done.

You will never achieve very much in life until you learn to get along with others. Success is never a one man show. It takes cooperation, teamwork, people working together.

The question you must ask yourself is: Am I a cooperative person? Which is more important? My pride or the project. My way or the goal. Sometimes there's some compromising to be done.

MEET GEORGE LAWTON, ATLANTA GRAB BAR

One of our friends and advertisers is George Lawton, owner of Atlanta Grab Bar in Marietta.

George Lawton is a retired tile contractor who installs grab bars in bathrooms and other parts of the house where they may be necessary. He also has a wealth of knowledge and contacts in regards to making your home safe. He calls this "other things."

It's the issue of the "other things" that he is offering his expertise. He will share his wealth of knowledge with our readers because of his wide exposure to many products and services. Most of these, Atlanta Grab Bar has no involvement in other than recommending people that he trusts.

For instance, George has access to stair rail providers & installers, stair lifts, elevators. Plus smaller helpful DIY items like door wheelchair thresholds, stander poles, armrest caddies and items usually seen catalogs. George is more than willing to provide this information as a good will service to his customers and friends in need of these health aids.

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The Bright Side Newspaper is online
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KENNESAW POLICE PROMOTED

Congratulations to Sergeant Zachary Bihari and Lieutenant Joseph Morgan, They were recently promoted with their immediate families and coworkers present. Sgt. Bihari has been with the department for 10 years, working on patrol, as a detective, and now a supervisor. Lt. Morgan has been with the department for 16 years, working on patrol, as a detective, a supervisor over detectives and patrol, and now the day shift patrol commander.

Pictured above l-r: Chief Westenberger, Lieutenant Morgan, Sergeant Bihari, Captain Mitchell



EXPERIENCE ART AT AVIATION PARK

As part of its mission to invest in projects that enhance the quality of life in the Town Center area, the Town Center Community Alliance is bringing the M2R Fence Art Gallery back to Aviation Park on Feb. 11.

“The Alliance is focused on community, collaboration, and creativity,” says Jennifer Hogan, Director, Community. “The M2R Fence Art Gallery is a perfect example of how we are engaging our community in different and inspiring ways.”

The M2R Fence Art Gallery is a traveling art exhibit featuring images of artwork from artists of all ages. Produced by the Marietta Arts Council, the yearly gallery debuts at M2R Trailfest and stays in Marietta for a 60-day exhibition before traveling to different locations throughout Cobb County.

The 2022-2023 gallery installation at Aviation Park will run from February 11 to March 11. Afterward, the gallery will travel to its last stop in the City of Smyrna.

For more information or to view the online catalog of all works selected for the 2022-2023 M2R Fence Art Gallery, visit M2rfence.com.

The Town Center Community Improvement District and the Town Center Alliance work together to make the district a vibrant place to grow a business, raise a family, earn a degree, and enjoy the outdoors.

NOONDAY SHANTY 5 AND 10 K

Kick off your spring running season and enjoy the scenic views along Noonday Creek Trail while supporting future greenspace and trail projects in the Town Center area. This event will feature two USA Track & Field certified race lengths, a paved course on the trail and roadway. Runners, walkers, and families are all encouraged to participate.

Mark your calendar for March 25, 2023, 10K Start: 7:45 am; 5K start: 8:00 am. Register for 5K is \$30 until March 21, for 10K is \$35 until March 21. <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/59555/noonday-shanty-5k10k>. Brought to you by Town Center Community Alliance.

Large red and black graphic for the Noonday Shanty 5 & 10K race. Text includes: "Noonday Shanty 5 & 10K", "March 25, 2023", "Register today!", and "Learn more at TownCenterCID.com/noonday-shanty".

Advertisement for Eye Contact optometry. Features the text: "Are you ready to fall in love with New Glasses?", "Schedule an appointment with us today!", "EYE CONTACT (770) 529-1925", "www.eyecontactacworth.com", a QR code, and "1720 Mars Hill Road Ste 160 Acworth, GA". The background is light blue with pink hearts.

Advertisement for DayBreak Village Senior Living. Features the logo "DayBreak Village - SENIOR LIVING -", address "3056 Cherokee Street NW Kennesaw Ga 30144", and a tagline "Locally, Family owned and operated for 18 years and counting!". It also includes the text "The Bed & Breakfast of Senior Care" and a list of services: "Three Delicious Meals, Snacks & Room-Service, Medication Management - Secure Memory Care, Call Systems in Every Apartment, Studio & 1-Bedroom Suites, Personal Laundry Services, Housekeeping. Social and Recreational Activities and Community Outings. Music, Arts, Ceramics, Canvas Painting, Local Travel... & Much More!". Includes an illustration of Lumiere the candelabra and the text "BE OUR Guest".

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KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

KEVIAN JABBARI, PRESIDENT

I want to invite our business community to participate in our upcoming KBA Business Expo. This is an excellent way to learn about businesses in our area. We hope you will join us and help make the annual KBA Business Expo a success!



The 2023 KBA Business Expo has been set for TUESDAY, February 28, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the KSU Center. The Business Expo is a free event and provides patrons a unique opportunity to see some of the local business leaders in a comfortable setting and is viewed as a way a busy professional can achieve greater productivity and efficiency while growing their potential customer base. Visitors will find lots of free giveaways and coupons as Cobb businesses show off new products, deals and upcoming releases of future products or promotions and delicious food from member restaurants. The Vendor Fee is \$75 for Current KBA Members & \$175 for non-members (Includes Membership).

You can submit and pay for your space on-line at 2023 Business Expo (kennesawbusiness.org). or download the application (available under events/business expo) and mail it in. See you there.

While I have your attention I would like to share KBA's Young Professionals with you.

The Young Professionals of the KBA mission is to attract and encourage young professionals by forming connections with our peers, while providing a valuable source of networking, mentorship, and community service.

KBA'S Young Professionals Membership Includes: One free KBA monthly luncheon a year (\$15 to attend additional luncheons); Free monthly YP Happy Hours (2 drink tickets included) Direct connect with a KBA mentor in your industry/field of interest; Access to all KBA networking events. Individual MEMBERSHIP is \$50/YEAR.

KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY DANA DORRIS, 2010 AND 2022 PRESIDENT

LOVE LIKE A LEADER



It is February and love is in the air! In business we have many reasons to spread kindness and love. We love our business, we love our clients and employees, and mostly we must love to lead and serve others. With great intensity, the best leaders lead with their heart. They do a deep dive with their priorities and discover what matters most to them. This defines their purpose and their motto in which they lead others. I often wonder what their inner voice says to help direct their path and develop the confidence to go out into the world and create change.

Great leaders have a keen interest in others with a heart to inspire, serve, and energize those around them. Most times providing coaching, mentoring, and development to their teams when it seems like casual conversation. They have a strong work ethic that is imparted by their willingness to jump right into their work without waiting for approval. It is their authenticity that wins strong admiration amongst their peers.

These strong characteristics all emulate love. As we look to be great leaders of our family, our business or a community leader, it is important to look within ourselves to understand our own purpose and how we can use that to impact those around us. Let's strive to leave a legacy, big or small, by teaching others how to love like a leader.

ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

KELLY NAGEL, PRESIDENT

CONNECTIONS

Real Connections, not digital – It's harder, takes more time, but there is power in being slower and methodical. Despite popular demand, being hurried and busy is not a virtue. When you are in a conversation with someone and you sense that they are itching to leave because they are late for the next meeting, do you feel heard? Do you feel a connection? Probably not.



The same is true for potential new customers or as we say at Nagel's Bagels, our guests. Guests who feel connected, seen and heard go from being customers to being lifelong fans. The kind of fans that brave the cold, the rain, the snow and all the losses, like the Buffalo Bills Mafia (and we are all praying for Damar Hamlin). How does that kind of loyalty happen? Connection. To put it in simple terms, you get out what you put in.

The same is true with the Acworth Business Association. If you are willing to take the time to make some real, honest, authentic connections with people in this community, it won't be long before you are seeing positive results in your business. The key here is authentic connection. Get to know people, take the time to listen to their stories and ask questions. Don't rush to your next meeting and miss where the real magic of a group like this happens.

This comes naturally to me. I am often told that I can't seem to leave a room without learning at least one new person's life story or deepest darkest secret, (which is also why I am late to my next meeting A LOT) but I know this doesn't come naturally to everyone. So let me help. We have several committees that you can join this year that will get you connected and most likely help you grow personally and professionally this year. Come to the next ABA event and ask someone about joining a committee. I promise, you won't regret it. Who knows, you may even make a new friend.

ABA NETWORKING EVENTS

Luncheon - 1st Thursday – 11:30am @ the Acworth Community Center
Morning JOLT - 2nd and 4th Tuesday – 7:45am @ the Cowan Historic Mill
Alive After Five - 2nd Thursday – 5:30pm @ (check the ABA calendar online for rotating venues)

Women's Business Luncheon - 3rd Thursday – 11:30am (check the ABA calendar online for rotating venues)

Visit www.acworthbusiness.org

KBA NETWORKING EVENTS

Luncheon - 2nd Tuesday - 11:00-1:00 @ Kennesaw Rec Center, 2737 Watts Drive. K Alive After Five, 3rd Tuesday - 5:30 pm. (check the kba calendar online for rotating venues).

Wake Up KBA, 4th Tuesday of every month, 8:00 to 9:00 am. (check the kba calendar online for rotating venues)

Visit www.kennesawbusiness.org



NCHS WARRIOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS COMMIT

Over the Christmas holidays, seven of North Cobb's football players signed letters of commitment as follows:

Robert Grigsby Jr, will attend University of North Carolina; Quentin Ajerio will attend Duke University, Malachi Singleton will attend University of Arkansas, Marselle Felton will attend Western Carolina University, Blake Ellsworth will attend Western Carolina University, Charles McArtherens will attend University of Buffalo. All are pictured above except for Ben Hall who is already attending University of Michigan. Congratulations players - you played your hearts out for North Cobb Warriors.

HARRISON'S JACK LAKES GOING TO DC



Congratulations to Jack Lakes for being selected as one of Georgia's delegates to the 61st class of the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Each year, the State Departments of Education around the country engage young leaders in a highly competitive, merit-based selection process for this honor. Ultimately, only 2 students from each state are chosen as delegates.

Jack will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and will have the privilege of participating in Washington Week. Co-Sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and the United States Senate, Washington Week allows students to observe the Federal Government and learn from our nation's policy makers. The excursion will be held from March 4th - March 11th and includes meetings with all members of the Senate, a Supreme Court Justice, the President of the United States, and leaders from

several executive agencies.

Jack is the first Cobb County student in over a decade to be selected as a delegate. As well as, he is the first ever student from Harrison High School to be selected..



JACOB CRUZ



GABE FORTSON

NORTH COBB CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SIGNINGS

North Cobb Christian School hosted an official Football Signing Day ceremony on Wednesday, December 21, for Jacob Cruz and Gabe Fortson, who announced their D1 commitments at that time.

It is the first time in school history that two football players have been this heavily recruited. Fortson received football offers from Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Appalachian State, Memphis, Georgia Tech, Middle Tennessee, Georgia Southern, Tulane and others. Cruz received offers from Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, Army, Airforce, Navy, Georgia Southern, Wofford and more. Both young men committed to Georgia Tech



PLAY OF THE YEAR

The North Cobb Christian School Eagles' five-lateral-pass touchdown was named the 2022 Play of the Year by SBLive Sports. Bob Cramer with SBLive Sports visited the school's campus this week to present a \$1,000 Academy Sports award to Coach Matt Jones and players Skyler Parker, Brayden Williby, Jadin Coates, Jacob Cruz, Matty Go, and Trey Priester.

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MARIETTA NEWS



MARIETTA TREE KEEPERS "FREE TREES"

COME MEET ASHLEY FRASCA

Join us Saturday, February 11th for our "Free Trees" event. This event is a celebration of Georgia's Arbor Day which is in February

This event is free to the public. Tree bareroot seedlings will be given away on the Marietta Square during the Farmers Market until we run out. The variety of trees are Swamp Chestnut Oaks, Redbud, Red Cedar & Bald Cypress. Radio show host, Ashley Frasca, of Green & Growing, will be there to answer gardening questions. Look for the Marietta Tree Keeper tent and banner. Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 9-12noon at the Farmers Market, Marietta Square, Marietta, GA (outdoors-weather permitting).

MARIETTA SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

The Marietta Police Athletic League (PAL) invites you, your family, friends or your company to create a team and register today for the Lucky 7th Annual Marietta Shamrock Shuffle 5K Walk/Run! This Peachtree Road Race Qualifier will take place Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 8:00am (welcome & warm-up at 7:30am) at the Marietta Square, 75 East Park Square, Marietta, GA.

Registration fee is \$40. Onsite registration will be available starting at 7:00am on race day and at Packet Pick-up on Friday, March 17th from 3-7pm at the Hugh L. Grogan Jr. Community Center, 510 Lawrence Street, Marietta. Proceeds will support Marietta PAL's youth academic, sports and recreation programs. To register, donate or sponsor please visit: www.MariettaShamrockShuffle.com

PARKING ON THE SQUARE

The City of Marietta is pleased to announce that it has made it easier to locate both free and paid parking lots on and around the Marietta Square.

This parking map information will benefit everyone and make parking hassle-free. Please visit mariettaga.gov, type downtown parking in the search box as you head to the Square to find the best parking spot for your visit.



ART OF THE COCKTAIL

Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art invites the public to attend Art of the Cocktail on Friday February 10, 6-8 pm

The Art of the Cocktail will feature two specialty drinks, "Lady in Red" and "Get Figgy With It," which will be created and presented by Hamp & Harry's.

Additionally, guest will enjoy current exhibitions: Selections from the MCMA Permanent Collection and Michael Heffernan's Wayfinding: The Synthesis of Poetic and Visual Language.

Rob Tharpe, born and raised in Cobb County, will be providing entertainment. Rob plays acoustic shows around the metro Atlanta area, specializing in classic rock and alternative covers.

Admission is \$10 and members get in free; admission purchased at the door.

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. The museum is located at 30 Atlanta Street, SE, Marietta, 30060.

CONGRATULATIONS CHRISTA MCCAY

The Marietta History Center is proud to announce, Christa McCay, MHC's Collections Manager, has been awarded Museum Professional of the Year from the Georgia Association of Museums.

Christa McCay holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Masters' Degree in Heritage Preservation with an emphasis in Public History from Georgia State University. Over the past 18 years, Christa's role has been to maintain, preserve and provide information on over 75,000 artifacts pertaining to the history of Marietta and Cobb County. She also serves as the historian for the Marietta City Cemetery.

Christa has served as a board member for the Georgia Association of Museums. She currently serves as the Georgia representative for the Southeastern Registrars Association and as Georgia's representative for the Awards committee of the American Association of State and Local History. She recently has been selected to serve on the Programs committee of the Southeastern Museums Conference.

The Georgia Association of Museums is a statewide organization dedicated to serving a diverse membership in a way that establishes a responsive network, provides a resource base, and promotes professionalism so that Georgia's museum community is strong, effective, and proactive. This year's conference was held in Cartersville, Georgia with over 200 attendees from across the state.

At the Marietta History Center, we ignite curiosity in Marietta's history by connecting people through compelling stories and engaging experiences. www.MariettaHistory.org

The Bright Side Newspaper is online
WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF

HEART MURMERS IN CHILDREN

BY DANA DORRIS, AT RISK INSURANCE



“Your child needs open-heart surgery.” My husband and I have heard these words twice, once with each of our daughters. As young parents, we never dreamed we would hear these words once, much less two times. We learned the hard way that 1 in every 100 babies are born with a congenital heart defect. While not all of defects require a surgical repair, it is something that all parents should be aware of. Congenital heart defects are conditions present at birth that can affect the way the heart works. They are the most common birth defect, affecting more than 40,000 births in the United States each year.

A congenital heart defect can be discovered through an ultrasound during pregnancy, a physical examination at birth, or by a baby that is symptomatic. Some are not discovered until adulthood once the body puts greater demands on the heart. For us, a pediatrician heard a murmur in our 22 month old daughter that made her suspicious enough to send us to a pediatric cardiologist as a precaution. It was at that initial visit that we learned that she was born with an atrial septal defect requiring a surgical closure. The second diagnosis came from our baby being diagnosed as “failure to thrive” and although initial testing showed her heart was fine, persistence by her pediatrician and more testing revealed that she too had an atrial septal defect and a ventricular septal defect that had to be surgically repaired. Our second child had her surgery at 12 weeks and weighing only 10 pounds.

Twenty-five and twenty years post-op, I’m still very interested in learning about heart defects and sharing our story with others. I feel that murmurs and some other symptoms are very easily overlooked and those babies born with less severe defects can grow into their teenage years or even adulthood undiagnosed. How many times have we heard of the athlete going into sudden cardiac arrest or even death only to find out there was an underlying heart problem that the family didn’t know about? I believe all parents should learn the warning signs and all babies should be tested at birth.

Our story has a happy ending. We have two healthy daughters who are now 27 and 20 years old. Excellent care from their pediatricians and cardiologists have led them to a healthy, happy, and active lifestyle.

As we now transition to adult care, the importance to remember (for us) is that congenital heart disease requires lifelong care and that will continue to ensure a long and happy life. As a parent, my one piece of advice to any other parent caring for a child who has been impacted by a congenital heart defect is not to treat them differently than any other child. A wise mother once shared with me, “even though we want to clip their wings, the hardest and best thing to do is to let them fly”.

Editor’s Note: February is American Heart Month – a time when the nation spotlights heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Americans. President Lyndon B. Johnson, among the millions of people in the country who’d had heart attacks, issued the first proclamation in 1964.

10TH ANNUAL SCOUT SHABBAT

The community is invited to join Congregation Ner Tamid for our 10th Annual Scout Shabbat on Friday, March 10 at 7:30 pm.

Scouts will perform a flag ceremony and recite the scout oaths and laws. Rabbi Prass will lead a Shabbat evening prayer service. Attendees will have the opportunity to see a Torah scroll handwritten by a Hebrew scribe, and guest speakers will deliver words in honor of scouting.

A Scout-themed “Oneg” reception (literally, the “sweetness” of Shabbat) will follow with treats and fellowship for all. Scout Shabbat welcomes scouts of all faiths.

The Congregation will provide BSA and Girl Scout Shabbat patches for the first 25 scouts/uniformed adults to register at scoutshabbat@mynertamid.org. Scouts should arrive 30 minutes early for check in, patch distribution and setup of Flag Ceremonies.

Register and reserve your patch at scoutshabbat@mynertamid.org. For more information contact Matt Berenson at amberenson@gmail.com.

SUSAN SPRADLEY STEPHENS OBITUARY

It is with great sadness to share that Susan Spradley Stephens, 74, of Cartersville, Georgia, passed away Friday, January 27, 2023. Susan was born in Cartersville, Georgia, on July 2, 1948.

She was the daughter of the late Mildred and Charles Spradley of Cartersville, Georgia. She was one of five children. She is preceded in death by two of her brothers Jim Spradley and Barry Spradley (Brenda).

She is survived by her sister, Vivian Alexander, her brother, Steve Spradley (Debi), daughter Allison Stephens Nelson, her sons Michael Stephens (Lisa), Matthew Stephens (Heather), Shannan Mahnken (William), Robin Seabolt (Keith), Charie Martin (Roy), and her husband Ronald Mehl, and her ten grandchildren (Davis, Elizabeth, William, Trey, Bella, Hallie, Easton, Tanner, Ryan and Alex).

Her career spanned 31 years. She spent her years working in the Technical College system at former Coosa Valley Tech (Rome) and North Metro Tech (Acworth) in various positions. Most recently she volunteered on the Chattahoochee Tech Foundation Board as a trustee. She was voted Volunteer of the Year for the State of Georgia Technical College Foundations in 2019.

After retiring, she started her own business, Susan Stephens Designs, specializing in window treatments, staging, and floral design.

She was very involved in the community. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi International. She was a member for 50 years. She was part of the Chi Masters chapter. She was also a member of the Magnolia Garden Club and was the Laurel District Director.

A Celebration of Life Service was conducted at two o’clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, the 1st of February, 2023 in the chapel of Owen Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations made in Mrs. Stephens’ honor to Chattahoochee Technical School Foundation at www.chattahoocheetech.edu.

Please visit www.owenfunerals.com to post tributes and sign the on-line register book. Owen Funeral Home, 12 Collins Dr., Cartersville, GA 30120 is honored to serve Mrs. Stephens’ family.

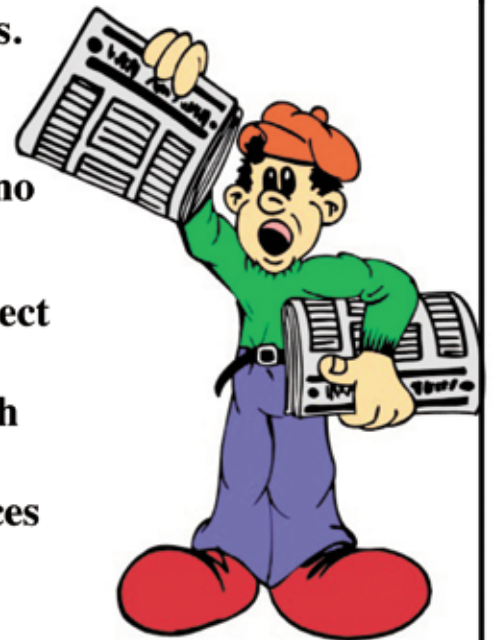


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