

The Bright Side™

Volume 33 No 3

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

MAR 2024



3RD ANNUAL GEORGIA FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL

The Georgia Food + Wine Festival, presented by Georgia Grown, will celebrate the best of Georgia and the South, from its culinary superstars and beverage experts, to farmers, artisans, live musicians and more.

The Georgia Food + Wine Festival is thrilled to partner with Georgia Grown in our third year. Georgia Grown will be featuring their members in a variety of ways, including: The Georgia Grown Member Village and The Georgia Grown Culinary Demo Stage

The variety of events for all taste buds include the legendary barbecue event, “Fired-Up” an all-inclusive food and drink tasting event. Saturday’s main event, “Savor” offers hundreds of beer, wine and spirits tastings, a Georgia Celebrity Chef Stage, VIP Lounge, artisans, shopping, and live music. “Sunday/Funday” is the budget friendly and family-friendly day, with free Kids Zone, VIP Lounge Oyster Roast, live music, Georgia’s Best Whiskey Cocktail Challenge, and more.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL EVENTS ARE FOR AGES 21 AND OLDER, EXCEPT SUNDAY/FUNDAY (SEE BELOW)

Friday, March 22 ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm - “Fired-Up” \$85 March/Gate An evening celebrating everything grilled, smoked, barbecued and more. A wide variety of the best barbecue in the South: beef, pork, chicken, seafood and vegetarian dishes will be available to taste from some of Georgia and the South’s most renowned Pitmasters and chefs. Highlights for this event include a whole hog pickin’, featuring Rodney Scott’s BBQ, and an interactive demo on the Georgia Grown Celebrity Chef Stage. Enjoy live music, wine, beer and spirits tastings in a souvenir glass. This event will also feature a silent auction with all proceeds benefitting SafePath Children’s Advocacy Center. This is an all-inclusive event, with food and drink included with admission ticket. 21 & OLDER ONLY.

Saturday, March 23 ~ 1 - 4pm “Savor, Georgia Food + Wine Festival \$99 March/Gate. An unbelievable afternoon of sumptuous food and drink, with some of Georgia’s best chefs, restaurants and more offering a variety of delicious bites. Over 300 varieties of beverages for tasting, with a souvenir wine glass – including wine, beer and spirits. Tickets include unlimited beverage tastings. Several live music stages will be located throughout the festival. Gourmet bites and plates from a variety of restaurants, and specialty food companies will offer tastings available for purchase. An artisan market and Georgia Grown Member Village will feature an assortment of unique items, from food products to artwork, and more. This event will also feature Bubbles & Brews Alley, presented by Cobb Travel and Tourism and a silent auction with all proceeds benefitting SafePath Children’s Advocacy Center. 21 & OLDER ONLY

Saturday, March 23 ~ 12 - 4pm “VIP Lounge, at Savor” \$165 March/Gate presented by Publix. An exclusive, fully catered VIP Lounge experience with special SWAG bags, restrooms, live music, open bars, early admission, and more. Each VIP Lounge ticket includes \$10 in Culinary Credits. 21 & OLDER ONLY

Sunday, March 24 ~ 12:00 - 5:00pm “Sunday/Funday” Presented by Atlanta News First. \$25 March/Gate A Family Friendly fantastic festival finale with live music, shopping, a variety of delectable restaurants, food trucks, a Georgia Grown Member Village, with a variety of beverages for purchase. Also catch Georgia’s Best Whiskey Cocktail Challenge, with bartenders competing live for cash prizes. This event will also feature a silent auction with all proceeds benefitting SafePath Children’s Advocacy Center. This is a family friendly event with something for everybody, including a free Kid’s Zone. **FAMILY FRIENDLY**

Sunday, March 24 12:00 - 3:00pm “Oyster Roast, VIP Lounge” Spend the afternoon listening to live music, shopping, enjoying unlimited wine, beer and spirits tasting stations, Bloody Mary Bar and oysters. Each adult ticket includes \$10 in Culinary Credits. VIP Lounge tickets include admission to Sunday/Funday 12 - 5pm. **FAMILY FRIENDLY**

The Georgia Food and Wine Festival is held at Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road S.W., Marietta, Georgia 30008 Tickets may be purchased by visiting our website at www.georgiafoodandwinefestival.com. Need more information: Please call (770) 423-1330 or visit www.georgiafoodandwinefestival.com.

ACWORTH EGG HUNT



The City of Acworth and Freedom Church would like to invite your family to experience an egg hunt like you’ve never seen before! The event will take place on Friday, March 22nd at the Acworth Sports Complex (4000 South Main St.) on the baseball fields. We will have concessions, family fun activities and photo opportunities before the hunt so make sure you arrive early.

Each year the Acworth Egg Hunt consists of 50,000 eggs with 10,000 eggs per age group! You won’t want to miss out on the fun or the Easter Bunny’s amazing arrival.

The Acworth Egg Hunt is broken down into five age groups and the start times will alternate between fields. The Easter bunny arrives at 7:00 pm and the hunts start 7:30 and every ten minutes after til all have hunted. Gates open and concessions and activities are available starting at 6:00 pm. Please call us at 770-917-1234 for additional information.



NORTHEAST COBB COMMUNITY EGG DROP

The community is invited to join us for the 15th Annual Northeast Cobb Community Egg Drop on Saturday March 30, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. There will be fun, food, games, DJ, activities, and of course egg hunts for everyone. Kids will marvel as a helicopter drops thousands of eggs onto the Sprayberry High School football field to kick-off the hunt. There will be more than 90,000 eggs and candy for the various hunts. The funds raised from the Egg Drop go to support multiple organizations in our community. Last year more than \$14,000.00 went right back into the community from the event.

This event is hosted by Piedmont Church and the Cobb County School District at the Sprayberry High School football field. A big thank you to our Presenting Sponsors Superior Plumbing and C&S Paving.

The helicopter will drop eggs for three and under Egg Hunt at 11:30 and again at 1:30 for ages four to seven. A third hunt will be held for ages eight to ten at 3:30 pm.

Plenty of parking at the school. Parking and admission are free. For more information visit www.communityeggdrop.org.

2024 MARIETTA COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

Plan to join us for the Marietta Community Egg Hunt on Friday, March 29 at 5:00 pm. There will fun, food, games, music, activities, and of course egg hunts for everyone. The event will take place at Life University. There will be more than 50,000 eggs and candy for the various hunts. The funds raised from the Egg Hunt go to support Marietta City Schools via the Marietta Business Association Education Programs.

Meet us at Life University Athletic Complex(Upper field/track): 1269 Barclay Circle ~ Marietta, Ga. 30060. Admission and parking are free. Food vendors will be on hand to feed you between Egg Hunts.

- The first egg hunt begins at 5:30 pm for Ages three and under and then as follows
- s • 6:00pm ~ Special Needs Hunt
 - 7:00pm ~ Ages four to seven Egg Hunt
 - 8:00pm ~ Special Needs Hunt
 - 8:30pm ~ Ages eight to ten Egg Hunt

This event is Hosted by Life University and made possible by Presenting Sponsors: Superior Plumbing, and the Marietta Business Association

For more information email Billwatson@jrmmanagement.com or missy@jrmmanagement.com.

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DEADLINE FOR APR 2024 ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, MAR 27, 2024
PUBLISHED APR 3, 2024

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, community
events, happening in Kennesaw or Acworth,
send it to us.

Simply write us a short note of the
facts — we will craft it as a story. Email
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THIS AND THAT



CONGRATULATIONS EXTRAORDINARY ENGINEER: JALEN EDUSEI

Jalen Edusei graduated from Allatoona
HS two years early, and was recognized last
week by UGA's Engineering program as
“epitomizing UGA culture”.

Jalen is from Acworth, GA, and is
majoring in Computer Systems Engineering
with a Minor in Mathematics. He expects to
graduate in 2026.

Jalen was asked “What is your favorite
thing about being a student at UGA?” My favorite thing about being a student at UGA is the
amazing culture here. UGA emphasizes academic excellence while providing many opportunities
for social interaction and building new connections.

Jalen was then asked “Why did you choose engineering?” I chose engineering because
it is a versatile career field. With a focus in computer systems engineering, I can engage with
both the software and hardware aspects of technology, which means I can do anything from
building satellites to working on bioinformatics research to enhancing cyber-security and
beyond.

MARIETTA TREE KEEPERS MARCH EVENT

Marietta Tree Keepers invites volunteers of all ages to help plant and maintain trees at the
Marietta City Cemetery on Saturday, Saturday, March 9, at 9:00am. Tools and refreshments
provided. Dress for outdoor weather.

Please join us as we plant trees to reforest our community. Grab a friend or a family
member and donate your Saturday morning to help Marietta Tree Keepers put more trees in the
ground. Dress for the weather, which is expected to be cold. Tools and gloves included. Donuts,
hot chocolate and hot coffee provided. In case of bad weather please call 770-424-4664 for
weather updates and rescheduled date.

This event is open to the public of all ages and is free. Meet us at Marietta City Cemetery
Park at Brown Park or the middle of the cemetery, 358 West Atlanta St., Marietta, 30064

Members of the Marietta Tree Keepers have been promoting the value of trees to the
community since it was founded in 2002.

COBB GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting March 26 @ 7:00 -
8:30pm is a Zoom meeting. Topic: Researching
Women: Community Cookbooks and
What They Tell Us About Our Ancestors
Speaker: Gena Philibert-Ortega Description:
Community cookbooks, commonly known as
fundraising cookbooks with the plastic comb
binding, have been around since the Civil War.
They serve as a “city directory” of women
with everything from names, residences, and
in some cases familial relationships and photos.
Learn more about community cookbooks and
using them for your family history.

This is a zoom meeting. Register on
line at cobbgagensoc.org click on General
Meeting to register.

EMAIL YOUR STORIES, PHOTOS OR QUESTIONS

TO: Brightnews@aol.com

Ad rates start at \$75 a month



CONGRATULATIONS ADAM ROBINSON

Adam Robinson a Junior at Harrison High
School recently won a prestigious award for an
organization called the Young Marines which
he has been in since he was 8 years old. He
is also a member of the Harrison/North Cobb
NJROTC. The Young Marines is not a part of
the NJROTC but is military based and focuses
on drug prevention. The award he received was
for Division Young Marine of the Year. He was
one of only 6 in the entire country to receive
the award (there are 6 divisions). He will go
to Washington in March to be recognized at
the Nations Capital.

ANDREW BRAMLETT'S LOCAL HISTORY STORIES

The locomotive
General returned to
Kennesaw in April
1972, almost fifty-
one years ago. Efforts
to return the engine
to Georgia had long
been underway by
the time it finally
happened. In March
1939, around the
same time the locomotive was at the World's
Fair in New York City, the Georgia General
Assembly passed a joint resolution calling for
the return of the General. James V. Carmichael
of Marietta proposed the resolution.



The plan was to place the engine at
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield
Park, which had recently been established. The
resolution also mentioned that it could return
to Kennesaw if the option at the mountain did
not work out. The son of William Fuller, the
train's conductor during the chase, said he
would write “the railroad officials and the state
administration in protest.” He felt the railroad
would take better care of the train and more
people could visit it in Chattanooga.

According to meeting minutes, in April,
the men who served on the Kennesaw City
Council were “instructed to do anything in
his power to help get the ‘General’ brought
back to Kennesaw.” It is not known why these
1939 efforts failed.

Similar efforts were made in the years
leading up to the centennial of the Great
Locomotive Chase in 1962. The most notable
came in 1962 when the General returned to
Kennesaw temporarily. It would take ten
years after this event for the engine to return
permanently.

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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 CITY OF Acworth seniors and
\$10.00 for non residents. 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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KENNESAW PARKS & REC’S ANNUAL BUNNY BREAKFAST

The Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department is excited to continue the tradition of the annual Bunny Breakfast at the Ben Robertson Community Center on Saturday, March 23, with two seatings available from 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. or 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Attendees will be treated to a buffet including hot and ready pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage, as well as a medley of fresh fruit and delicious breakfast sweets. Everyone’s favorite cottontail will be making his way from table to table to say hello to all the boys and girls. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own camera to capture photos with the Easter Bunny!

Tickets are \$8 per person and can be purchased online or at the Ben Robertson Community Center. Advance purchase is required. Tickets are non-refundable after March 16. Children ages two and under do not need a ticket if they will not be occupying a seat.

Tickets are available at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog?Click on Special Events, scroll down to Bunny breakfast and select the time you wish to attend>. Big shout out to Kennesaw/Acworth Optimists for cooking and serving the breakfast.



ART HATCH AT SMITH GILBERT GARDENS

Join Smith-Gilbert Gardens on Saturday, March 23, as they kick off Art Blooms with a new event: Art Hatch! Enjoy new art installations by Cobb County High Schools throughout the Gardens, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Explore the Gardens and find specially painted large wooden eggs for clues in a scavenger hunt. Other activities will be available such as games, music by Cobb County students and creating your own art. Come dressed in your spring best-butterfly wings, antennae headbands and more.

After March 23, more installations by KSU’s Master Craftsman program, Fabric and Textiles and performances by the Theatre department can be enjoyed through May 31. Explore more eggs and clues with our sponsor, Town Center CID. Additional clues and eggs can be found on the Noonday Creek Trail. See our website for dates and details.

DOWNTOWN KENNESAW ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF ONLINE BRAND STORE

Exclusively online, the Downtown Kennesaw Brand Store features 12 different products adorned with the artisan-inspired Downtown Kennesaw logo. Hoodies, tee Shirts, baseball caps, a tote bag and sticker are just a few of the items you can find on the Brand Store.

To shop the Downtown Kennesaw Brand Store, visit <https://shop.kennesawdowntown.com>.

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 11 and June 8) and a T-shirt.. Parent Meeting: Tuesday, March 12 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM at the Ben Robertson Community Center (2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144) Pace night is March 14 and

Run Nights at Swift-Cantrell Park: March 19 - June 8 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 and scroll down to Sole KIDZ running program.

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THIS 'N THAT

FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

SHARED BY ISAAC SMITH

When considering a healthy and clean home, often times tasks such as disinfecting surfaces, regular sweeping, mopping, and tidying up are the first items that come to mind. However, one crucial aspect that is frequently overlooked is the annual cleaning of dryer vents. This seemingly minor task can have significant implications for both health and safety. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that nearly 15,000 fires are caused each year by dryers. This results in approximately \$200 million in property damage. The NFPA states that dryer exhaust vents should be cleaned on an annual basis for fire prevention. When further considering fire safety in a home, the kitchen is the most hazardous in terms of fire hazards. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2021 fire departments in the United States responded to an estimated 170,000 home cooking fires. These fires caused an estimated 135 deaths, 3,000 injuries and over \$494 million in property loss. Being readily prepared for cooking fires and being able to prevent further spread of the fire can be a matter of life and death. Be sure to practice these preventative measures when cooking:

- Watch what you are cooking. Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.

- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so that no one can bump them or pull them over.

- Keep a Class ABC extinguisher in an easily accessible location; such as under the kitchen sink, above the fridge, or in a cabinet near the stove.

Protecting your home and loved ones from tragedy is of utmost importance, so keep in mind these tips, and visit <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/> to learn more information on fire safety. For more information contact Isaac at 678-579-2444 and see his ad on Page 8.

KENNESAW ACWORTH 911 INTRODUCES NEW TECHNOLOGY

Kennesaw Acworth 911 is excited to announce the launch of what3words and Prepared Live in the dispatch center.

what3words' goal is to become a global standard for communicating location. It gives everyone and everywhere a simple, accurate and reliable address. Three-word addresses are easier to remember than a postal address and can be shared more accurately than any other location reference system. what3words can be used in emergencies by giving dispatchers the exact location of the emergency in three words. what3words can be used for free by individuals via mobile app for iOS and Android.

Prepared Live enables the 9-1-1 dispatch center to receive texts from mobile callers in real-time. Two-way text empowers the dispatcher to communicate with the caller when they can't speak or don't know what to say. Dispatchers can effectively communicate with callers by sending outbound text messages, guiding them to the appropriate numbers, obtaining copies of police reports, and even sending text messages to follow up on abandoned 911 calls. This addition to the center's technology suite will significantly improve dispatcher's ability to respond to emergencies effectively and efficiently in the community.

This launch follows weeks of preparation and training to ensure that the Kennesaw Acworth 911 dispatchers and team are able to properly utilize the software.

To learn more about Prepared and Prepared Live, visit www.Prepared911.com. To learn more about what3words, visit www.what3words.com/about.

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

SENIOR SERVICES' 2024 EXPO & MARKETPLACE

Vendor registration is full for Senior Services' 2024 Expo & Marketplace. The 2024 Expo & Marketplace will be held on Wednesday, April 24. 10:00am-2:30 pm at the Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy.

This event is open to the public with Free admission and parking. Come visit and meet vendors representing Senior Living, Medicare, Safety, Hearing, Wellness, Food, Skin Care, Travel and more. Free screenings will be provided by Northside Hospital.

COBB COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES REGISTRATION

Cobb County Senior Services is gearing up for a winter quarter bursting with exciting possibilities, and we want YOU to join us! We have something for everyone. Exercise? Art? Dance? We have you covered.

Spring registration opens Monday, March 18, at 9 am. Mark your calendars! There are two ways to get started:

Register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/cobb-county-ga/catalog> OR

Visit any of our senior centers. Find locations and program details at cobbseiors.org

Spots fill up quickly so make sure to join us March 18 to secure you space. We can't wait to welcome you!

Don't forget to follow us on social media. We're on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn – pick your platform and join the fun!

LET US SHARE ART WITH YOU!

We're featuring our "Art that Sings" Exhibit from now until April 27.

All works are available for sale...they can go home with you that night if you wish!

In addition to our featured exhibit, we have original art, prints, notecards, glass, pottery, jewelry, wood, resin, fabric work... created by our Member Artists also available! As always, we offer a broad variety of art styles and mediums.

All Artwork at the Art House is for sale!

For more informtion, visit www.acworthartsalliance.org. The Art House is in the green building across from 1885.

THIS N THAT ADS

\$15 FOR 50 WORDS,

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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.



48TH ANNUAL SUPERIOR PLUMBING KENNESAW/BIG SHANTY FESTIVAL

The Kennesaw Business Association in cooperation with the City of Kennesaw along with the Title Sponsor: Superior Plumbing and Presenting Sponsors: LGE Community Credit Union, Georgia Grown and Window World will host the 48th Annual Superior Plumbing Kennesaw/Big Shanty Festival on Saturday April 20 and Sunday April 21 in downtown Kennesaw.

The Superior Plumbing Kennesaw/Big Shanty Festival features over 250 Arts & Crafts booths, 25 food booths, two entertainment stage, kids activities, as well as live acoustic music in the Food Court throughout the weekend. Something for the entire family!

The festival is providing a FREE SHUTTLE to and from the downtown area. One 40 passenger bus will be running from Swift-Cantrell Park to festival grounds during event hours – both Saturday & Sunday. Parking: Available at Adams Park, Kennesaw First Baptist Church & Swift-Cantrell Park. Admission is free to the festival.

The Festival is sponsored by the Kennesaw Business Association in cooperation with the City of Kennesaw. Superior Plumbing is the title sponsor and LGE Community Credit Union, Georgia Grown and Window World are the presenting sponsors. For more information call 770-423-1330 or email missy@jrmmanagement.com. See you there! Pictured above: The crowds enjoying a beautiful day at last year's festival.

EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE.

A parade will kick-off the festival at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday April 20. Crowds line the streets of downtown Kennesaw to cheer on the more than 2,000 kids that participate. These kids represent every sports association and school in the area. Local businesses, the winners of various beauty pageants, and Allatoona, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, Harrison and North Cobb High School marching bands also add to the festivities. Festival management is now taking applications for the parade? Email missy@jrmmanagement.com. Schools, churches, scouts, friends and neighbors are all welcome to march.

BEN DAY DECLARES INTENTION TO RUN FOR KENNESAW CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL ELECTION ON MAY 21

Ben Day, a respected figure in the Kennesaw community and the Rector (Senior Pastor) of Christ Episcopal Church, as well as a Chaplain with the Kennesaw Police Department, has officially announced his candidacy for the Kennesaw City Council's Post 5 seat. The special election, prompted by the vacancy left by Trey Sinclair's departure in January, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st.



With a proven track record of service and dedication to the residents of Kennesaw, Ben Day brings a wealth of experience and a heartfelt commitment to his candidacy. Serving as the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church since 2016, Ben has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep understanding of the values and needs of the community. Furthermore, his role as Chaplain with the Kennesaw Police Department since 2018 has provided him with invaluable insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement professionals and residents alike.

In declaring his candidacy, Ben Day expressed his eagerness to continue meeting and serving the people of Kennesaw in this new capacity. He emphasized his steadfast dedication to advocating for the officers and support staff of the Kennesaw Police Department, city employees, vendors, business owners, and all the residents of our community alike.

He has stated that he is committed to fostering a hospitable and safe community, maintaining a business-friendly atmosphere, enhancing opportunities for recreation and green spaces, and caring for those living on the margins of our community.

"As a member of the City Council, I will be dedicated to prioritizing the needs and concerns of all Kennesaw residents," Ben Day stated. "I believe in the importance of fostering a community where families can thrive, businesses can prosper, and everyone feels valued and supported."

Ben Day's decision to run for City Council underscores his deep-rooted belief in the power of community engagement and collaborative leadership. He looks forward to the opportunity to work closely with fellow residents, community leaders, and city officials to continue building a vibrant and inclusive Kennesaw for all. For more information on Ben Day's campaign and to get involved, please visit votebenday.com or reach out to Ben directly at ben@votebenday.com.

CITY OF KENNESAW TO HOLD SPECIAL ELECTION

Due to the fact that a Kennesaw City Council member has stepped down from his position, the City is holding one more council election to fill the spot. In addition to Benjamin Day at this writing, the following candidates have stepped up to run: Jason Acree, Anthony Gutierrez, Beatrice Torralba Shakal, Sara Torres. We encourage Kennesaw voters to meet these candidates and learn more about them.

APRIL 20 & 21

Saturday : 10 a.m. -6 p.m.
Sunday : Noon - 5 p.m.

Historic Downtown Kennesaw

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THE ACWORTH'S MAYOR'S DESK

March has arrived with the promise of spring. This season of new beginnings and growth reminds us of the gratitude we have for our blessings and the care we have for each other.

On March 1, the City of Acworth came together as a community built on love and generosity at the annual Horizon Ability Gala supporting the Special Needs Development Group. This non-profit funds the programming for the Horizon League which provides recreational opportunities for children and adults in our community with physical, social, and cognitive disabilities. The Gala raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Horizon athletes, and we would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all of those who came out and supported this fantastic event. Your contributions go a long way and showcase a community that values love and inclusivity while creating a wonderful quality of life that we all can share.



Speaking of caring for the community, did you know that the Acworth Public Safety Cadets have again joined forces with the Acworth Power and Public Works team for the Acworth City Clean-Up Challenge? Check out the events page at www.acworth-ga.gov for more information on how to get involved. The first quarter clean-up will take place on March 16 this spring. This event is a true testament of how our city departments collaborate to work together with each other and the community to keep our beautiful city at its best!

And of course, don't forget to come out to the 2024 Acworth Egg Hunt on Friday, March 22 at the Acworth Sports Complex! We're looking forward to another great year celebrating the spring season with our great partners, Freedom Church, alongside our community at this fun, annual event. The Bunny will make its grand entrance skydiving into the baseball fields again this year, so bring the whole family out and enjoy the fun! And, from our family to yours, we wish you a Happy Easter and a beautiful spring season!

As always, for the latest information on any of our events and projects, you can visit www.acworth-ga.gov, 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

ACWORTH CLEAN UP CHALLENGE – FIRST QUARTER 2024

Let's come together as a community to beautify our city and make a positive impact on our environment. Partner with the Acworth Public Safety Cadets - Unit 4440 and the Acworth Power and Public Works for the 2024 City Clean Up Challenge!

FOR Questions or link to register: Email Corporal Mistretta at emistretta@acworth.org.

HORIZON THERAPEUTICS PROGRAMS

Register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog/index> and click on Special Needs under Category on left.

HORIZON POP-UP GAMES

Come out and enjoy the nice weather on the Horizon Field! We will play a different game each week
 11 a.m – 12 p.m. Fridays April 5- May 10

ADAPTIVE YOGA (13+)

Join us as we focus on teaching modified yoga poses and breathing techniques.
 1:30pm-2:15pm, Wednesdays, Mar 6- April 17

HORIZON BASEBALL

Provides children and young adults the opportunity to participate in athletic events and develop lasting friendships!

YOUTH/TEEN LEAGUE

Saturday, April 13 - Saturday, May 18
 9 am - 4 pm

ADULT LEAGUE

Thursday, April 11 - Thursday, May 16
 6 pm - 9 pm.

Be sure to register online or call Lauren Ham at 770-917-1234 or email her at lham@acworth-ga.gov.

**I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE ME LAUGH
 A LITTLE HARDER, SMILE A LITTLE BRIGHTER, AND LOVE A LITTLE DEEPER.**

ADULT SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department is happy to announce another season of the Acworth Adult Spring Flag Football League! Game play is 7 on 7 and teams may have a roster of up to 17 players. The league will be held on Tuesday nights and located at the football fields at the Acworth Sports Complex. Games will run with start times beginning between 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM. Games will begin on March 12 with a single elimination tournament being held on Tuesday, May 14 and Tuesday May 21. The fee for this league is \$575 per team for both City residents and non-residents. This program is open to anyone over the age of sixteen. The deadline to register for the Acworth Adult Spring Flag Football League is Wednesday, March 6. To register, or for more information, please visit acworthparksandrecreation.org.

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

DEERCREEK GUN SHOP



Deercreek Gunshop is your premier one stop shop for all your gun needs. We specialize in muzzle loaders, antiques, sell real Black powder and Muzzle loading Supplies. We carry new and used guns as well as military surplus weapons. We buy, sell, trade and have been serving Muzzle loading enthusiasts, reenactors and hunters for over 40 years. Deercreek also has a full-time Gunsmith for any of your firearms needs.

This business is a family affair. This business is family run since 1982. We are dedicated to bringing our customers a great experience. Over 100 years of firearms knowledge in one place. Come and see us!

Meet Zack: President & Master Gunsmith. Zack went to the Colorado School of trades to become a certified Gunsmith and upon his return opened up Deercreek Gunshop with his father Pat. He's worked

as a gunsmith since 1982.

James (Zack's son) Gunsmith & Sales. James began working at Deercreek in 2006 as an apprentice gunsmith. He is now the current CEO of Deercreek Gunshop Inc. and looks forward to continuing the Family Business well into the future.

Sarah (Zack's daughter) CFO & Gunsmith. Sarah started working at Deercreek in 2009 as a manager. She is now CFO and co owner with her Dad and brother. Sarah also cerakotes, does gun appraisals and sells on Ebay.

DeerCreek Gun Shop is celebrating their first anniversary at their new location at 2875 N. Main St., Kennesaw. They are open Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 - 4:00. Call them at 770-425-5060 or email them at deercreekgunshop@gmail.com. Pat Rabun, founder, is pictured with his son Zack and grandchildren James and Sarah.



JOIN US FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

Acworth-Cobb Dragon Boat Festival Inc., invites you to be part of a fun filled family event featuring Dragon Boat races with local cities, companies, and individuals. This exciting daylong celebration will support cancer patients and survivors in our community. The festival is Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:00am-4:00pm at Dallas Landing Park, Acworth, Ga.

If you are interested in participate in the festival as a individual paddler, a team or a sponsor of the event please contact us at acworthcobbdragonboatfestival@gmail.com or visit our website www.acworthdragonboatfest.org

WHAT'S A DRAGON BOAT RACE?

Imagine colorful 40 foot long boats with the head and tail of a dragon on each end, filled with 20 paddlers, a drummer, and steers person competing in a high energy race on the water. This athletic and cultural phenomenon originated over 2,000 years ago in Ancient China, and is presently the fastest growing sport in the world

BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SPRING TEA

Brookwood Christian School invites the community to mark their calendars for their Annual Spring Tea & Silent Auction, on April 25, 2024. Hosted at the picturesque Cedars Weddings & Events from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, this event not only promises an elegant affair but also aims to make a lasting impact on the lives of students facing language processing challenges. This event is a fund-raiser for their school's reading programs, specifically tailored for students grappling with dyslexia and other language processing disorders.

Invite for neighbors, your family and friends to an elegant event at Cedars Weddings and Events. Tickets are available at \$40 each, and interested attendees can secure their spots by texting TEA to 404-491-7724.

Brookwood Christian School is actively seeking auction items. Those interested in contributing can reach out directly to office@brookwoodchristian.com.

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James, Zack, Sarah

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2875 N. Main St., Kennesaw.

Open Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 - 4:00.

Call 770-425-5060 or email at deercreekgunshop@gmail.com.

Deercreek Gun Shop is celebrating their first anniversary at their new location in Kennesaw!

Brookwood Christian School Ladies Tea and Silent Auction



Thursday: April 25, 2024 - 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Tea will be held at The Cedars Weddings and Events
4610 Northside Dr. Acworth.
Catered by Adrienne's Delectables
Tickets \$40
To purchase tickets, text TEA to 404-491-7724



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BUSINESS IS BLOOMING

Stormi Kenney, KBA Membership Chair was hopping last week as she not only attended ribbon cuttings and grand openings in Kennesaw, but also in Acworth. We appreciate her hard work sharing photos and write ups. She admitted Friday afternoon she was a bit tired!



URBAN AIR ADVENTURE

Kennesaw Business Association Hospitality Committee had the pleasure of attending the ribbon cutting for Urban Air Adventure last week. An awesome place for family fun and entertainment. Indoor zip-lining, go carting, trampoline and much more!! Welcome to Kennesaw! We love new businesses!



LM DRY BAR

Kennesaw Business Association attended the ribbon cutting for LM Dry Bar! LM Dry Bar provides various services such as hair treatment and blowouts for special occasions or just to pamper yourself. Such a beautiful space to relax and enjoy some pampering. Welcome to Kennesaw!



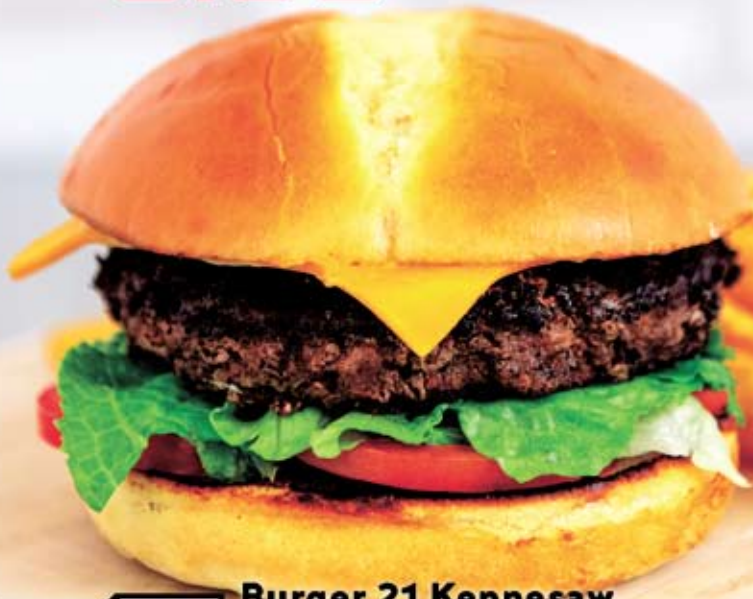
ANGRY CRAB SHACK

Welcome to Acworth, Angry Crab Shack! Mayor Allegood, alongside the Acworth Business Association and the City Team, was pleased to welcome this delicious new restaurant to the city this week with a ribbon cutting celebrating their grand opening! Mayor Allegood congratulated the new owners and employees and thanked them for their investment in the city. Check them out at 3150 Cobb Parkway NW Building 200, Kennesaw, GA!

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BUSINESS IS BLOOMING



HOME & SEASONS GA

It's a celebration week! This Friday, March 1, Mayor Allegood and the City Team, with the Acworth Business Association, held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Home & Seasons GA! With 40 merchant boutiques all under one roof, this fun, new curated shop is a wonderful addition to the Acworth Crossing Plaza at 3335 Cobb Parkway. Congratulations and welcome to the City!



BOWS AND TIES CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

Welcome to Main Street, Bows and Ties Children's Boutique! Mayor Allegood, the City Team, and the Acworth Business Association were excited to hold a ribbon cutting for this adorable new shop in Acworth's Historic Downtown District on Thursday, February 15. The City would like to congratulate business owner, Kwanza Zimmerman, on her new venture, and thank her for her investment in the city.



TRG VINO MARKET

On Friday, February 16, Mayor Allegood and the City Team celebrated the grand opening of TRG VINO Market with a ribbon cutting! TRG VINO Market is a specialty market located at 4823 S Main Street in Historic Downtown Acworth and offers hand-selected wines, artisan cheeses, charcuterie boards, local honey, and more. Congratulations to Dr. Toby Carmichael on this new venture, and thank you for your investment in the Acworth community!

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05.4.2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024
9 AM - 4 PM



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2024 - "THE YEAR OF THE SUPER HERCULES"

MARY LOU CAGLE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

As the author of this document, I am proud to say that I retired from Lockheed after 37 years' service. I started my career in Procurement the same year the C-130 made its first flight, 1954. I worked in Procurement all those years retiring in December, 1990 as Purchasing Agent responsible for the procurement of Standard Parts and Electrical Standard Parts for the C-130 and all the other aircraft built by Lockheed. It was with great joy that I had the opportunity to fly on the C-130.

On January 17, 2024, the United States Georgia General Assembly approved a resolution commemorating the 70th anniversary of the first flight of the Lockheed C-130 manufactured at the company's Marietta, Georgia facility. The resolution designates 2024 as "the Year of the Super Hercules" and was introduced by five State Senators, acknowledging the significant impact of the C-130 on Georgia's aerospace sector. For the past seven (7) decades the Lockheed Marietta facility has been the exclusive birthplace of every Hercules aircraft earning it the title of "Georgia's aerospace ambassador to the world." On July 2, 1951, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, California, won the competition and was contracted to produce two prototype YC-130 aircraft. The first flight of the YC-130 took place on August 23, 1954, at the Burbank plant; it has been in uninterrupted production ever since. Its four turboprop engines enabled the YC-130 to take off in only 800 feet. In addition to its tremendous lift capability, the aircraft also proved to be far more maneuverable than expected while meeting or exceeding all of the other U.S. Airforce performance requirements. This success of the prototype led to a production contract; however, the Burbank facility was at capacity. The entire C-130 program was moved to Lockheed's facility in Marietta Georgia - known then as Lockheed Georgia Company. The first production C-130A, which was nearly identical to the prototypes, was flown for the first time at Marietta Georgia on April 7, 1955. The C-130A featured four powerful Allison turboprop engines, each delivering 3,750 horsepower.

Since the first flight 70 years ago, more than 2,500 C-130s have been ordered and/or delivered to 63 nations around the world. Seventy countries operate the C-130's which have been produced in more than 70 different variations. From the highest of air strips in the Himalayas, to landing on an aircraft carrier runway in the middle of the ocean or the ski-equipped C-130 landing in the Arctic and Antarctic, the C-130 always and proudly defies expectations. The Hercules is known for its ability to tackle any mission, anywhere at any time.

The C-130J Super Hercules is the latest version of the C-130 flying its first mission April 5, 1996. It is powered by four turbo prop Rolls-Royce engines. It offers superior performance and new capabilities, with the range and flexibility for every theater of operations and evolving requirements. The C-130J has set 54 world aviation records.

The C-130 Hercules operates worldwide; its mission of flying in combat, humanitarian missions, special operations, aerial refueling, firefighting and search and rescue missions around the world, the C-130 stands ready for its next missions for whatever the future holds. The C-130 is the longest-running military aircraft production program in history.

No matter the mission, no matter the location, Hercules has gone there, is going there and will go back thanks to its constant state of innovation. Today's Hercules is ready for tomorrow's missions.

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CHRISTMAS AT PIEDMONT SPONSOR LUNCHEON

February 13, 2024 was a big day at Piedmont Church. We had close to 200 people come to the Christmas at Piedmont Sponsor Luncheon. Over \$24,600 was given out to 43 schools, 3 dance teams, and to front line ministries such as Special Needs Cobb, Special Needs Development Group, Kennesaw Mt. High School for the Special Needs Dance, Life University, Acworth Horizon League and KSU Cares. Eric and Laura Hart, owners of Gaston's Street Eats catered the luncheon - and it was delicious!

ACWORTH HORIZON LEAGUE

For over 10 years, the city of Acworth has provided our special needs population a place to play, socialize and learn. Alison Boyer along with her mom, Robin, was on hand to accept a check from the Piedmont Sponsor luncheon. Alison has been a dedicated member of Acworth's Horizon League since its inception. She plays baseball, kickball and participates in the adult special needs programs. She has an awesome sense of humor and is a joy to spend time with. Alison is pictured here with her mom, Robin Boyer, and Piedmont's community pastor, Marlon Longacre.



PIEDMONT'S LOVE DOES INSTALLS 33RD SENSORY ROOM AT BIG SHANTY ELEMENTARY

Thank you to all of Piedmont's volunteers and those that gave to February's Love Does to make this happen.



BUS DRIVERS SERVED LUNCH

Behind the scenes of the KMHS Special Needs Dance for all of Cobb's special students, North Star Church fed the bus drivers that brought all these young folks to KMHS for their party on Tuesday, March 5. A big thank you to all that make this event happen. Ziegler's BBQ was enjoyed by all, sponsored by North Star Church and served by Church volunteers. It takes our whole community to throw a party this large. At least 800 students from throughout Cobb County attended. Photo by Robin Boyer.

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TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY


Noonday Shanty

5&10K

March 23, 2024

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Learn more at
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noonday-shanty





ANNUAL NOONDAY SHANTY 5&10K

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 features two USA Track & Field certified race lengths and a paved course on the trail and roadway. Runners, walkers, and families are all encouraged to participate. Make strides along the Noonday Creek Trail at the third annual Noonday Shanty 5 & 10k races.

T-shirt included with Registration (pick up at packet pick-up); Team Registrations Available; Medals Awarded to Top Runners in Race Brackets; Supports Greenspace & Trail Projects in Town Center; Paved Course with Scenic Views; Two USA Track & Field Certified Courses; Peachtree Road Race Official Qualifying Event

5K Actual: \$30.00 til Mar 20; **10K Actual** \$35 til Mar 20: Runners, walkers, and families are all encouraged to participate. Walkers are encouraged to register for the 5k distance.

Virtual 5K 25.00 & 10K \$35: Not running on race day, but at your place of choice. Not eligible for awards. Includes shirt that can be picked up at packet pick-up location.

Ghost runner: Not running, but supporting. Not eligible for awards. Includes shirt that can be picked up at packet pick-up location. **Fee Ghost runner \$25.00** til Mar 21.

For more information and to register visit <https://www.towncentercid.com/noonday-shanty>.



KENNESAW GRAND PRIX 5K RACE SCHEDULE

The City of Kennesaw announces the schedule for the 2024 Kennesaw Grand Prix 5K series. The series, the premier 5K race series in north Georgia, is run on a mostly flat and fast asphalt course, professionally timed and USAT&F Certified, through Downtown Kennesaw and Swift-Cantrell Park. The course is perfect for competitive runners seeking a qualifying time for the Peachtree Road Race. But the festival-like atmosphere and plentiful food and drink make these races perfect for beginner runners/walkers, as well as families.

The four 5K runs are part of the Fit City Kennesaw initiative which encourages residents to become more active and engage in wellness-related activities. Registration is online at www.kennesawgrandprix.com. The entry fee of \$35 includes a race t-shirt. Early bird registration is now open for \$30 per race or \$105 for the series!

This year's lineup is as follows: May 11: Fit City 5K; June 8: Summer Sun Run 5K; September 28: Harvest Hustle 5K; October 26: Nightmare on Main 5K

The Kennesaw Grand Prix makes a great race experience simple and easy. Each race begins at the Kennesaw First Baptist Church on Main Street in Downtown Kennesaw. With plentiful parking, restrooms, room to spread out and warm-up, the registration and start area helps to get racers ready for a PR race. Each race program includes a one-mile fun run at 7:30 a.m.; the 5K at 8 a.m.; and a Tot Trot at 8:55 a.m. Awards are presented at 9:15 a.m.

T-shirts and Packet pickup is the Thursday before each race day at Big Peach Running Company, Kennesaw, GA

All races are electronically timed by Orion Racing powered by Start2Finish and awards are presented to the overall Male and Female winners, Male and Female Masters Winners, and the top three finishers in 12 age groups.

The 2024 Kennesaw Grand Prix 5K series is presented by CROY Engineering and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta with support from Cobb Sports Alliance, Williams Elleby Law Firm, Viva Chicken, Kennesaw First Baptist Church and Dream Vacations. Visit www.kennesawgrandprix.com for complete details.

POP-IN FOR FAMILY FUN AT THE MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER: COOL TOOLS

The Marietta History Center is delighted to announce its upcoming monthly Pop-In for Family Fun event, scheduled for Saturday, March 16th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This March, the Marietta History Center invites families to join us for a day of crafts and activities centered around Cool Tools! From exhibits to hands-on crafting stations, visitors of all ages will have the chance to explore and learn about some cool tools.

Pop-In for Family Fun is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Cauthorn, Nohr, and Sanders.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Bach 2 Rock- Free Music Class – 12:15pm & Performance 1pm

Where: Marietta History Center, 1 Depot Street, Marietta, GA 30060

Admission: FREE (thanks to the sponsorship of Cauthorn, Nohr, and Sanders)

REGISTER TODAY!

MAY 11: FIT CITY 5K

JUNE 8: SUMMER SUN RUN 5K

SEPT 28: HARVEST HUSTLE 5K

OCT 26: NIGHTMARE ON MAIN 5K



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BROOKE FRENCH STATE CHAMPION
Congratulations to Brooke French on winning the GHSA 110-pound wrestling championship! She had a record of 35-0 and won her state finals match by pin in the 2nd period! She is the first ever girls state champion at Allatoona HS and the 6th ever Allatoona wrestler to win state! She is pictured here on the top of the podium with Izzy West, Richmond Hill and Bella Mingledorf, North Oconee.



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK AT FIRST BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The week of February 26 – March 1 is Read Across America Week, and schools across the country are celebrating the importance of reading. First Baptist Christian School in Kennesaw had the great honor of welcoming Chief Bill Westenberger as a Celebrity Reader for intermediary grade students. He shared “life lessons” with the students, including the importance of perseverance and resilience in facing life’s challenges, and answered questions from the students. Other celebrity readers included KPD officers, Cobb Sheriff’s deputies, Pastoral staff from Kennesaw First Baptist Church including Lead Pastor Perry Fowler and Executive Pastor Marc Amason, Coach Trey Fowler from KSU, and two published authors! The students, parents, and staff of First Baptist Christian School really appreciate everyone from our community who participated in this event by sharing their love of reading with our students. Pictured above Marc Amason entertains this class of youngsters.



NCHS ATHLETIC SCHOLARS

Congratulations to the NCHS students who signed letters of commitment to attend college. Pictured above: **Front row (l-r)** Samantha Mathews (Softball) – Brewton-Parker College, Mt Vernon, GA; Soleil Smith (Softball) – College of Staten Island, New York, NY; Erinne Giles (Basketball) – Bryant and Stratton College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Back row (l-r) Zion Bryan (Football) – Georgia Military College, Stone Mountain, Ga, Zach Addison (Football) – Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA., Kale Mullins (Swimming) – Emmanuel University, Franklin Springs, GA. We wish your well in the next chapter of your life.



ACWORTH COBB DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

at Dallas Landing

05.4.2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024
9 AM - 4 PM

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CONGRATULATIONS DEANNE BONNER MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**ARTICLE REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF PUBLISHER,
OTIS BRUMBY III, MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL. - MANY THANKS**

The Marietta Daily Journal presented Deane Bonner, Cobb County NAACP president emerita, with the Citizen of the Year Award. MDJ Publisher Otis Brumby III surprised Bonner with the award during the Cobb Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner at the Cobb Galleria Centre before an audience of 1,100.

"Mrs. Bonner has done so much for so many in this community," Brumby said. "Cobb County is a better place because of her decades of tireless efforts and leadership."

Initially overcome with emotion when her name was announced, Bonner received a standing ovation as she took the stage.

Bonner said this had been a difficult week with the deaths of such friends as David Hankerson and former Marietta City Councilman Van Pearlberg.

"I have had a hard week because my heart was hurting from some of the people that were near and dear to me, but when (Cobb Chamber CEO) Sharon Mason said you're going to be sitting at the Braves table, I was real happy about that," Bonner said with her trademark humor.

Bonner, who is 88, spoke of growing up as "a little Black girl" in the segregated town of Weirton, West Virginia, thinking the only job she could ever have was that of a maid, as that was the job of her mother.

"And tonight to be standing here to see this Citizen of the Year Award, do you know how much that means?" she asked, as the audience roared with applause.

Bonner called for her husband, retired Air Force veteran Jesse Bonner, to join her on stage. She spoke of knowing him since he was 15, of the life they have shared together, and that while they both have health issues, they have each other.

Bonner also noted her daughter, Jeriene Bonner Willis, who succeeded her as Cobb NAACP president, was in attendance with her husband, Gus Willis.

"Thank each and every one of you for being here tonight and sharing this night with me, and thank you for indulging me," Bonner said. "I'm humbled and rarely without words, but thank you, thank you for this great honor."

Described as "the moral conscience of the community," Bonner served as president of the Cobb NAACP for 20 years, where she was at the forefront of civil rights activism in Cobb County and Georgia. Under her leadership, the Cobb NAACP developed many community-based programs, including voter registration drives, education forums, partnering with the county to host the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance, and hosting the Juneteenth celebration on Marietta Square long before President Joe Biden recognized it as a national holiday.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID.

Former Georgia Attorney General and Cobb County Chairman Sam Olens has quipped how he used to be a lot taller until he met Bonner.

The nice thing about her from the get go, Olens has said, is that while Bonner had requests of him, they were appropriate and needed requests.

"And she would cajole you to improve the community. And when people are polite, and friendly and right, your obligation is to do what they say, and improve the community. And I think when you see Cobb County now, it's very different than it was, say, in 1980. And the improvement has been very, very positive to our county, and a large part of that improvement is due to Deane," Olens has said.

While serving as Cobb's district attorney, Vic Reynolds, now a Superior Court judge, said it was through conversations with Bonner that he came to consider the importance of alternative ways of sentencing nonviolent first offenders through accountability courts.

And at her 86th birthday party, newly elected Cobb County Sheriff Craig Owens, the first African-American sheriff to serve Cobb County, said Bonner had been a mother to him ever since he started at the Cobb police department more than three decades ago.

Every year, beginning in 1963, the MDJ has presented the Citizen of the Year Award to a distinguished and deserving individual who has made Cobb County a better place to live. The award has previously gone to such luminaries as the late U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, the late former Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel, former Gov. Roy Barnes; former Lockheed Chief Lee Rhyant, and the late Cobb County Manager David Hankerson.

ACWORTH UPDATES ZONING AND SIGN ORDINANCE

BY ALDERMAN STEVE PRATHER

As a recently elected alderman in Acworth it is important to keep my campaign promises and one of the biggest asks of my now constituents is "sunshine" as we manage the people's business. I am doing my best to update activity of importance via social media but sometimes it's best to use the tried and true method of your local newspaper. Therefore, I will try and submit relative information here in the Brightside from time to time.

This month I would like to inform our citizens that we have updated our zoning and sign ordinances. These new ordinances took effect upon being approved in February of this year. I will not wander too deep in the weeds but would like to highlight at a high level what was driving the need for the update and touch on some of the more critical changes in our code. First, it has been several decades since our zoning ordinance was updated so it was time to be sure we can address current needs and trends in commercial and residential development. Another reason for the update is our desire to preserve our historical districts within the city. As undeveloped land becomes more and more rare, the city has moved to a logical next step for new residential development which is what we call "in-fill". In-fill is when new real estate is being built within current neighborhoods. This happens several ways but a few examples are building on vacant lots that were historically cost prohibitive to develop, demolition of existing homes on a lot, and dividing large lots to add new houses adjacent to the original home on the lot. Using one of the preceding examples, many of the homes in the historic downtown area of Acworth are built on large lots. It is possible to subdivide these lots and add adjacent homes within the historic neighborhood. It is up to the city leaders to protect the look and feel of our historic areas through the zoning and variance ordinance which give clearly defined guidelines for building within these confines. The last critical change I would like to highlight is around our variances and the tightening of requirements in order to request and get variances. As mentioned earlier, as undeveloped land becomes scarce, it is the mayor and board of aldermen's responsibility to our citizens to grow carefully and not allow development to be squeezed into a space where it does not fit either physically or aesthetically.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY CAROL RAU

Mary Carol Rau, age 85 from Kennesaw passed away on February 28, 2024. Born December 19, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois, to the late George and Saraphina "Sally" Zastrow.

Mary is survived by her brother George Robert Zastrow, her daughters, Cheri Rau, Mary Rau, Karen Grantham and Carra Rau, her daughter-in-law, Marcia Rau, son-in-laws, Rick Howard and Jeffrey Grantham, her grandchildren, Jason Bourassa, Jeffrey Bourassa, Troy Rau, Raphael Rau, Andrew Howard, Tyler Howard, Daniel Grantham, Benjamin Grantham, Victoria Grantham, Bernadette Grantham, Anastasia Grantham, Seraphina Grantham, Veronica Grantham, her great grandchildren, Jacob Bourassa, Joshua Bourassa, Issac Bourassa, Oliver Bourassa, Lucas Bourassa, her great-great grandson Jax Bourassa, and her adopted son, Samba Diallo.

Mary is proceeded in death by her husband, Curran Rau, son Scott Rau, daughter Leisa Howard, grandson Gabriel Rau, and brother Irvin Zastrow.

As a believer in community, Mary started the Summer Concert Series at the train station in downtown, Kennesaw, was a member of the Kennesaw Business Association, hosted a student in the foreign student exchange program, participated in Cobb Leadership, the Friendship Freedom Force and received the Citizen of the Year Award.

Faith played a big part in Mary's life. She was one of the original members of St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church founded in 1981. Mary participated in the women organization and taught CCD.

Combining her love for music, dance and sewing, Mary opened the Cobb Dance Academy and started the Kennesaw Dance Troupe, a non-profit dance group that performed in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Olympics, the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Paralympics, Festival of Trees, Eggleston's Childrens Hospital, North GA State Fair, as well as many festivals and nursing homes.

As a Navy Wife, Mary was very proud and supportive of her career military husband and the US Navy, which sparked her love for travel.

A visitation for Mary will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 from 6 pm to 9 pm at Winkenhof Pine Ridge Funeral Home, 2950 North Cobb Parkway, Kennesaw, GA 30152. A funeral mass will occur Tuesday, March the 12th, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, 1618 Ben King Road, NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. A graveside service will occur Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at GA National Cemetery, 1080 Scott Hudgens Drive, Canton, GA 30114.

If you wish to donate in Mary's honor, please consider St. Vincent De Paul.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS DECEMBER CALENDARS

KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

TUES MAR 12 KBA MONTHLY LUNCHEON - 11:00 Join us for our program: A Panel discussion with KBA's own Jay Cunningham, Superior Plumbing and John Loud, Loud Security. Moderated by R. J. Patel. Building Your Business from the Ground Up! at The KSU Professional Education Building at 3333 George Busbee Dr. Kennesaw. Caterer: Carrabba's Italian Grill. Sponsor Floor Coverings. RSVP at kennesawbusiness.org.

TUES. MARCH 19, 5:30 PM. KBA Alive After Five hosted by Ace Handyman Services and sponsored by Realty One Group. Catered by Viva Chicken. 5150 Stilesboro Rd., #510, Kennesaw, GA 30152 RSVP at kennesawbusiness.org.

ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

THU MAR 28 ABA WOMEN'S LUNCHEON. Hosted by THE COWAN, 4271 SOUTHSIDE Drive, Acworth. Begins at 11:30. Fee is \$20.00. RSVP at acworthbusiness.org.

BRIGHT SIDE 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

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