

# The Bright Side™

Volume 33 No 4

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

APR 2024



## 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](mailto:missy@jrmmanagement.com). See you there! Pictured above: The crowds enjoying a beautiful day at last year's festival.

### we love a parade - JOIN US

The Big Shanty Festival PARADE – will start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 20. The Parade features fabulous floats and proud marchers – plus winners of many pageants along with Allatoona, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain and North Cobb High School Bands. So grab your sister, brother, neighbors, friends, round up your church group, scout group, bring your business vehicles and let's all parade down Main Street. It is an exciting way to start the Festival. You know you will see everyone you know in Kennesaw that weekend! To participate in the parade - download application form at [kennesawbusiness.org/bsf](http://kennesawbusiness.org/bsf) fill out and email to [Missy@JRMManagement.com](mailto:Missy@JRMManagement.com)

### BIG SHANTY FESTIVAL HISTORY

In 1975, merchants in the downtown area of Kennesaw created a business organization that would promote and preserve the historical heritage of the downtown area of Kennesaw and encourage people to patronize their businesses. Thus the Kennesaw Business Association was chartered. The General at the Big Shanty Museum (original name) was the focal point of the City's heritage.

Town Center wasn't even a gleam in anyone's eye then — the area was still being farmed. I-75 stopped in Marietta and resumed in Cartersville, and Highway 41 (now Cobb Parkway) was dotted with Stuckey's, quilts, and boiled peanuts.

The idea started with Gayle DeSpain, Lynda Spence, Carol Thompson and Jean Guess, all local business women and members of the KBA. In discussing ways to bring new people and business into Kennesaw, they planned a spring outdoor sale in an open area between their shops on Main Street, with the hopes of attracting customers with a colorful display of antiques and craft items."

Dr. Frank Boone, President in 1975, suggested that their plans be sponsored on a larger scale by the business association and supported by the City of Kennesaw (he was a Councilman too). Thus the first Festival was born. Originally known as Trade Days, that first Spring, 36 booth spaces were set up. In 1977, Festival Chairman, the late Dent Myers, added a civil war battle reenactment and over 10,000 people attended the Spring event.

The rest is history, with the sponsorship of the KBA and the active support of the City of Kennesaw, the Festival has spread from the front lawn of By-Gone Treasures to encompass the lawn of the Museum, the Depot Parking lot, line the streets of J. O. Stephenson Ave and Main St., and fill the parking areas at City Hall. Over 250 booths have been sold for this year's festival — I don't think any of us who were involved in the planning of the first event ever envisioned how large and successful it would grow..



## KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION BOOTH

As a reminder the city allows Main Street to be closed for the Festival. This provides a much safer environment for folks to get back and forth between city hall and the depot/museum area. The Kennesaw Business Association will host an information tent, right in the middle of Main St., So if you are looking for a particular booth, someone at the Information tent will be able to tell you which section they are in.

If you have questions, stop by and see the KBA booth. Parents you might want to suggest to your kids, that if you get separated during the festival to meet each other at the Information booth. Let your child have your cell phone number, and someone from the booth can call and tell you that your child is there.

For forty-eight years the Kennesaw Business Association and the City of Kennesaw have worked together to make this Festival a success and fun for everyone. The Kennesaw Business Association takes this time to publicly thank everyone at the City, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, the Police Department, the elected officials for their support and their help.

### STREET CLOSINGS

The following streets will be closed starting Friday, April 19 at 6:00 pm until Sunday April 21 at 8:00pm. J O Stephenson Ave. (runs in front of city hall and Cherokee Street in front of the museum. Big Shanty Drive; Watts Drive from Dallas St. to Main St.; Lewis St. from Dallas St. to Main St. Starting Saturday morning at 6:00 am until Sunday at 8:00pm. Main Street will be closed from Summer St. to Moon Station Rd.



## LIFE ROLLS ON

The City of Kennesaw is partnering with the Life Rolls On Foundation (LRO), Atlanta Chapter, to host an Inclusive Wheelchair Motocross (WCMX) Clinic, "They Will Skate Again," for athletes of all abilities and ages. The event will return to Swift-Cantrell Park, 3140 Old 41 Hwy NW, on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Founded in 2001, by world champion quadriplegic surfer Jesse Billauer, LRO Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to improving quality of life for young people affected by spinal cord injury and beyond.

"We are excited to continue our partnership with Life Rolls On to provide the life-changing and skills-enhancing "They Will Skate Again" event to the Cobb County community," stated Bill McNair, Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Director. "Thank you to our volunteers who are helping bring this event to the East Coast."

Adaptive skaters are encouraged to bring a helmet, knee and elbow pads, and, of course, their fastest wheels. Breakfast snacks and lunch will be served for registered athletes and volunteers, and water will be available. While this is a free event, athletes and volunteers are required to register at [www.LifeRollsOn.org/Atlanta](http://www.LifeRollsOn.org/Atlanta).

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

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DEADLINE FOR MAY 2024 ISSUE  
WEDNESDAY, APR 24, 2024  
PUBLISHED MAY 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 to [Brightnews@aol.com](mailto:Brightnews@aol.com) (Photos are welcome too) Call 770-851-5469 for more information on submitting stories.

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## THIS AND THAT



### MARIETTA TREE KEEPERS CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Calling for volunteers of all ages to come out and assist Marietta Tree Keepers as we maintain Hill Park on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Meet at Hill Pocket Park, 144 Lemon Street, Marietta, GA 30060 at 8:30 am to sign-in and refreshments - (corner of Lemon Street and Waddell St. behind the Bank of America on Cherokee St.)

Hill Park is a pretty little pocket park that was transformed from a once vacant lot just a few blocks off the northeast corner of Historic Marietta Square. The park was dedicated to the memory of Willie Hill, deacon of Zion Baptist Church. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Rho Zeta Omega Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Omicron Mu Lambda Chapter and Youth to Men will also be volunteering alongside of Marietta Tree Keepers for this event. All volunteers are welcome.

Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:30am to enjoy donuts and beverages before digging in to work. All ages are welcome to the family-friendly event. Dress appropriately for the weather. Tools will be provided although volunteers are welcome to bring their favorite outdoor gloves and tools if they like. Large groups please contact us with your number of volunteers that will be in attendance.



### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to 1st Lt Jacob and Avery Rice Drobney on their marriage on March 9, 2024. The couple is pictured here with Jacob's sister, Eva (on left) and his parents Jeff and Lisa Drobney (on right)

### EMAIL YOUR STORIES, PHOTOS OR QUESTIONS

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### REGIONAL JOB FAIR

The City of Kennesaw, in partnership with the City of Marietta, will host a Regional Job Fair on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Kennesaw Recreation Center from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Businesses within the Greater Kennesaw and Marietta, as well as job seekers, are invited to attend this event at no cost. Businesses are required to register for free using the form at [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/kennesaw-event/2024-kennesaw-marietta-regional-job-fair/](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/kennesaw-event/2024-kennesaw-marietta-regional-job-fair/).

Participating industries include administration, manufacturing, food service, education, trade, government, medical and retail.

The City of Kennesaw and the City of Marietta would like to thank our sponsors Adam's Maintenance Services Inc., Preferred Personnel Solutions and Walton Communities for your support of the event.

### THIS N THAT ADS

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### ANDREW BRAMLETT'S LOCAL HISTORY STORIES

Last month, I wrote about the 1930s efforts to return the locomotive General to Kennesaw. At the time, it was on display at Chattanooga's Union Station. Efforts began again in 1959 to bring the historic engine back to Georgia. In that year, the idea was floated that the train be moved to Stone Mountain, prompting Kennesaw residents to push for its return to our area. The Governor even promised to order its return on the condition that Kennesaw build a museum. City leaders planned to utilize Monument Park, at the corner of Main and Cherokee Streets, for the new building. However, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad was still resistant. Later that year, the state attorney general sided with the railroad.



In preparation for the Civil War Centennial, the railroad restored the General to operating condition and sent it on a tour across the country. In April 1962, it returned to Kennesaw to much fanfare. The entire downtown was decorated to look like a Civil War community, and the local citizens made period clothing. The return was only temporary, and the General soon left town under its own steam. After the end of its tour, it made its way back to Chattanooga.

In the late 1960s, a legal battle began again. The railroad agreed to return the engine to Kennesaw in 1968, but the City of Chattanooga sued for custody. As the train made its way south, it was stopped by Chattanooga sheriffs. After a year of court battles, which eventually reached the US Supreme Court, the railroad was granted rights to the engine. In April 1972, the General returned to Kennesaw again, this time permanently. A museum, first called the Big Shanty Museum, was created inside of the old Frey Cotton Gin. The museum has been renovated and expanded many times and is now the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History and is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institutions.

### COBB GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEED SOME HELP? ASK AN EXPERT

Join us on Tuesday, April 23 @ 7:00pm. Feeling stuck in your genealogy? Don't know where to look for information or how to apply a method to your family? Think you are at a dead end? Join CCGS at our general meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd and get some help as we hold our annual "brick wall" program. General topics will include: Getting started & Genealogy Do Over; Vital records & related sources; Court, federal, & state records; and Online resources. Bring your questions and visit any or all of our topic stations for some assistance. This is a IN PERSON meeting only. Visit [www.cobbgagensoc.org](http://www.cobbgagensoc.org) for more information.

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**GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, the City of Kennesaw held a Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the new Community Development Offices at the Dale Burrell Government Complex.

The City of Kennesaw is committed to improving accessibility and convenience for our residents and business owners. On Monday, March 18, the Departments of Building Services/Code Enforcement, Business License, Economic Development, GIS and Planning & Zoning officially opened in their new, strategically chosen location. This move enhances the City's ability to create a "one-stop shop", ensuring a seamless experience. The Dale Burrell Government Complex is located at 3080 Moon Station Road.



**DECORATION DAY**

On May 4, 2024, the Cemetery Preservation Commission will host the 18th annual Decoration Day at the Kennesaw City Cemetery. To honor those who reside in the cemetery, we will work together as a community to clean headstones, gravesites and grounds. This is also a great opportunity for families to refresh any wilted or faded flowers on gravesites. The Kennesaw City Cemetery is eight acres of burial grounds that provide a beautiful and peaceful setting for visitors to remember loved ones. Please join us Saturday,

May 4, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM for Decoration Day! Limited cleaning supplies will be provided. Please bring your own gloves.



**ART BLOOMS AT SMITH GILBERT GARDENS**

The Art Blooms exhibit returns this year at Smith-Gilbert Gardens! Art Blooms is a two-month-long, outdoor sculpture exhibit featuring local artists alongside the Gardens' permanent collection. This year, explore the Gardens to find 12 specially painted wooden eggs by Cobb County high school seniors! During April and May, enjoy artists' demonstrations and workshops on select Saturdays. Visit [www.smithgilbertgardens.com/events](http://www.smithgilbertgardens.com/events) to learn more about events and classes offered during April and May.



**FARMERS MARKET**

The Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority is excited to present the Kennesaw Farmers Market as it returns to Downtown Kennesaw. This year's market will take place on Mondays, with hours of operation from 3:30-7:00 p.m., and will be located at the corner of Main Street and Moon Station Road. The market season is set to open on Monday, May 6, and run

through Monday, August 26. The market will close on May 27 (Memorial Day).

The Market will feature farmers and makers, as well as local food trucks based on availability. On a typical Market day in summer, over 20 vendors will be set up offering their best vegetables, fruits, baked goods and specialty items.

Interested vendors may contact [kennesawfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:kennesawfarmersmarket@gmail.com) for more information on vendor applications and scheduling or apply online at <https://forms.gle/eV4shFqbQR3FHoxg7>. Vendors are encouraged but not required to accept electronic payments; market attendees should be aware that some vendors might accept cash only.

Connect with Downtown Kennesaw on Facebook or Instagram or the Kennesaw Farmers Market on Facebook for vendor lists, weather updates and other information.

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**OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES**

**DREAMWORKS ANIMATION: "SHREK" TO KICK-OFF KENNESAW PARKS & REC'S OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES**

The City of Kennesaw's free Outdoor Movie Series will kick off on Friday, May 17, at Swift-Cantrell Park with a showing of DreamWorks Animation: "Shrek" (PG) projected onto a giant inflatable screen after sundown. Swift-Cantrell Park is located at 3140 Old 41 Highway.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets, chairs, etc. for their own comfort. No high-backed chairs, umbrellas, tents, pop-up canopies, etc. that could block the view of the movie for others. Food vendors and family-friendly activities will be available beginning at 6 p.m.

VIP Tents are available for rental at each movie. The VIP Tent rental includes a 10'x10' tent installed by Parks & Recreation staff, a 6' table and 6 chairs. Tents will be placed towards the back of the viewing area as to not block the view of other attendees. Tent rentals are \$50. VIP tent renters can check in early beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the tents will remain up until the end of the movie. VIP tents can be purchased at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/outdoormovieseries/#vip>

Activities before the movie include pay-to-play inflatables and free games in front of the screen including hula-hoop contests, tug of war, relay races and sack races where attendees can win prizes.

The Outdoor Movie Series will continue with Disney's "Lilo and Stitch" (PG) on June 21 and "Top Gun: Maverick" (PG-13) on July 19.

The 2024 Outdoor Movie Series is presented by Cobb EMC and Wellstar Health System.

**BACKYARD CAMPOUT RETURNS**

In conjunction with the Outdoor Movie Series kicking off on May 17, the Backyard Campout presented by REI is returning to Swift-Cantrell Park on Friday, May 17! Attendees will enjoy camping under the night sky, along with backyard games, field activities, campfire demonstrations by REI and entertainment featuring stargazing and s'mores.

The registration fee for participants to bring their own tent is \$30 or participants can purchase a preset up campsite sponsored by REI for \$50. The campsites are 10'x10'. Registration fees include dinner and breakfast. A limited number of campsites are available. Advance registration is required at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog>.

REI is hosting a Kennesaw Backyard Campout: Basic Camping Workshop at the Kennesaw REI on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. The Basic Camping Workshop is free to attend but spots are limited! Register here: <https://www.rei.com/events/101337/kennesaw-backyard-campout-basic-camping-workshop>.

**HISTORIC KENNESAW WALKING TOUR**

The Kennesaw Historic Preservation Commission, in partnership with the Atlanta Preservation Center, presents the Historic Kennesaw Walking Tour. The tour will take place on April 13 at 10:00 AM. This walking tour of the downtown area will start behind City Hall. The tour covers Kennesaw's history from the Native Americans to today. Attendees will learn about Kennesaw's railroad past, lost buildings downtown and more from the heart of the community. For tickets visit [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/kennesaw-event](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/kennesaw-event) and scroll to April 13 for link to purchase tickets.

**Marietta Pops Orchestra**  
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**THE ACWORTH'S MAYOR'S DESK**

Spring is a season of excitement, and with all of the spring events going on, we're reminded of our community partners who work hard to give back and of our city team that strives to provide extraordinary experiences to all they serve.

In March, Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Department and Freedom Church hosted the annual Acworth Egg Hunt. It was set to take place at the Acworth Sports Complex as it does every year, but as the weather forecast drew nearer, the team had to make the always difficult decision of moving the event indoors. We are so thankful for a versatile space like the Acworth Community Center to help us with flexibility during these occasions. The turnout was great, and families had a wonderful time at this annual tradition! We couldn't be more grateful for the hard work, dedication, and sheer determination of our Freedom Church partners and City Team to bring these quality of life moments to our community. Thank you to everyone who came out, and thank you to an amazing team of people who put so much heart into all they do to serve others!



Now that the weather has warmed up, we're getting ready for Live at Logan Farm Park on Saturday, April 20. This fun evening event is the Acworth Arts Alliance's annual fundraiser, and the Art House is looking forward to welcoming back the Weekend Getaway Band for a free concert to enjoy in Acworth's Parkside District.

Finally, make sure to mark your calendars for Acworth's Spring Town Hall where you'll learn about upcoming and ongoing city projects and be able to engage with our city's department leaders who will be onsite to discuss the roles their departments play within the city team. The Spring Town Hall takes place on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Acworth Community Center. We'll see you there! you there!

As always, for the latest information on any of our events and projects, you can visit [www.acworth-ga.gov](http://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

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen invite you to an upcoming Public Information Open House on Monday, April 8 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn about the proposed overlay district map included in the zoning ordinance map amendments.

The overlay is a tool that provides certain review criteria for defined areas of the community to assist in maintaining the character of the areas included within the overlay boundary.

The event will take place at Acworth City Hall.

**LIVE AT LOGAN**

Live at Logan Farm Park returns on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The Acworth Arts Alliance will be partnering with the City of Acworth to bring you Live at Logan Farm Park featuring a free concert. Live at Logan Farm Park is the annual Acworth Arts Alliance and the Acworth Art House fundraiser. Event proceeds from sponsor tables support the Acworth Arts Alliance, specifically to fund a scholarship for students pursuing a degree in art as well as to fund arts initiatives in underfunded programs and among the underserved in our community. The concert is free and open to the public! For more information on this event or to purchase a table, please visit [www.acworthartsalliance.org](http://www.acworthartsalliance.org).

**ACWORTH FARMERS MARKET**

The 2024 Historic Downtown Acworth Farmer's Market will take place on Friday mornings between April 5 and October 25 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The market is located in the Logan Farm Park Expansion, located at 4405 Cherokee Street in Acworth.

Market customers will have a wide variety of garden ripe Georgia grown vegetables, eggs, cheese, bedding plants, fresh-baked bread, pies, cakes, honey, and jams to choose from each week. This year's market will be bigger and better than previous years and shoppers won't believe the selection of homegrown goodies!

The Acworth Farmer's Market is sponsored by the Acworth Downtown Development Authority.

**CITY OF ACWORTH EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

For the latest updates on changes to our events and programs, please check our website at [www.acworthparksandrecreation.org](http://www.acworthparksandrecreation.org) or follow us on Facebook @acworthparksandrec

**PICKLEBALL LESSONS**

Learn to play America's fastest growing game with a one hour lesson here at the Acworth Community Center! Times and prices vary so check out [www.acworthparksandrec.org](http://www.acworthparksandrec.org) to schedule your time! All levels are welcome!

**ACWORTH SPRING ITTY BITTY BALLERS**

Itty Bitty Ballers 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, and basketball. Spring camp is held every Monday and Wednesday starting Monday, April 22 and running through Wednesday, May 15 from at the Acworth Community Center. Classes will take place late afternoon. Registration is \$50 for City of Acworth residents and \$65 for non-residents. The deadline to register for this program is April 3. Registration and additional information is available at [www.acworthparksandrecreation.org](http://www.acworthparksandrecreation.org).

**ACWORTH SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**

Registration for Acworth's annual Summer Camp Sports Series begins April 1 for residents and April 8 for non-residents. Each camp focuses on fundamentals and skills of a different sport. Each camp is \$45 for City of Acworth residents and \$55 for non-residents. All participants will receive an official Acworth Sports Camp swag item. Camp schedules, locations, and age groups are still being finalized but will take place in the evenings in June. Sports will include volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer & speed & agility.

**The Bright Side Newspaper is online**  
[WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF](http://WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF)



**THE DRAGON'S ARE COMING!!**

Have you heard the Dragon Boat Festival is coming back to Dallas Landing Park, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9 am-3pm. What a fun filled race day this will be as the community raised funds for the local cancer community. In the past the event has raised over \$50,000. There will be competitive dragon boat races between community and local city teams. Food vendors, vendors, kid activity tent, a DJ with music and a lovely beach help to make a not to miss event. There will be games, best dressed drummer contest and auction items. The City of Acworth hopes to take the Mayor's trophy from the City of Austell, three time winner.

If you are interested in entering the dragon boat race with your team made up of family/friends or co-workers contact us at [acworthobdbfestival@gmail.com](mailto:acworthobdbfestival@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.acworthdragonboatfest.org](http://www.acworthdragonboatfest.org). No skills necessary you will receive instruction.

Also, if you are interested in learning to paddle and join a new year around town, come out to Lake Acworth at Cauble Park on Saturdays at 8:30am. Join us on meet up at AcworthCobb Dragon Boat Club

**MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE**

**RIISING 6TH-12TH GRADERS**

Come to Allatoona Creek Park, 5690 Old Stilesboro Road, Acworth, on April 14 from 2pm to 4 pm to meet the team and go on a fun ride! A parent/guardian must accompany the athlete to sign our waiver, if the athlete will be riding with us for the event. This event is Rain or Shine!

The Allatoona Creek Mountain Bike Teams serves rising 6th-12th graders. Student athletes may attend any of the high schools in our area including Allatoona, Marietta, Harrison, North Cobb and Hillgrove. If your child is in middle school, the team they would be on would be the high school they plan to attend. We also welcome home-schooled students.

Visit <https://allatoonacreekmtb.weebly.com> for more information about the teams.

**MOTHER-SON CAMPOUT**

The Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Department is excited to now host our annual Mother-Son Camp Out at Proctor in May just one week before Mother's Day Weekend. Its the perfect opportunity for moms and sons to spend quality time together before the special holiday. Mother-Son Camp Out takes place at Proctor Landing Park, located at 5260 Proctor Landing Rd Acworth, GA 30101. Check in begins at 12:00 p.m. On Saturday, May 4. All participants must depart Proctor Landing Park by 10:00 am on Sunday, May 5.

In the event of rain, activities will still be held throughout the day and camping will be optional that evening. This event may be cancelled if lightning/thunderstorms are forecasted for the whole weekend.

**BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SPRING TEA**

Brookwood Christian School invites you to their annual Spring Tea & Silent Auction on Thursday, April 25, 2024, now with a new location at The Cedars in Historic Downtown Acworth. This year's event will be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm and will feature a fashion show and pop-up shops by local boutiques. Browse through our silent auction, which will feature a diverse array of items including small gift baskets, local experiences, and even vacations. Your participation not only allows you to take home wonderful treasures but also supports our cause of enhancing literacy programs for students with dyslexia and other language processing disorders.

Your attendance helps fund our specialized curriculum and maintain our small class sizes, essential components in empowering our students to overcome literacy challenges. Tickets for this event are \$40 per person and can be purchased by texting TEA to 404-491-7724 before April 19, 2024. Seating is limited to 120 people, so be sure to secure your spot early.

Join us at The Cedars and make a difference—one cup of tea at a time. Your support not only enriches the lives of our students but also strengthens the foundation of our community. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**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  
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## CHATT TECH BRINGS HOME THE MEDALS

Seven Chattahoochee Tech students were strong competitors at the 2024 SkillsUSA Georgia competition held recently in Atlanta, with four of them earning gold medals.

Bringing home the gold were students Darin Swagerty and Spencer Hachem, in Additive Manufacturing, along with Maria Luiza Rocha, in Electrical Computer Engineering Technology. Dual Enrollment student Stephen Garcia earned a gold medal for the HVAC portion of the state competition. Garcia is a Chattahoochee Tech Dual Enrollment student at the Cobb Innovation and Technology Academy (CITA). These gold-medal winners, Corbin Head, Maria Luiza Rocha, and Mohamadreza Rashad are pictured above with Instructor Joe Kazemian. They will advance to the SkillsUSA National Championship, which will be held this summer in Atlanta.

The 2024 SkillsUSA Georgia competition was held Feb. 22-24 at the Georgia World Congress Center. It featured 156 career competition events for over 3,400 student competitor

## HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES

BY KIMBERLY HAASE

People needing assistance is an ageless need, but using technology assistance is sometimes looked upon as a younger person's tool. iLoveKare CEO, Kimberly Haase won the Innovator award for All-In Cobb County in 2023.

An assistance that American seniors have been late to adopt is AI technology. In iLoveKare's 10 years of service we have found a gradual universal need for senior citizens to adopt AI technology service into their lifestyle. iLoveKare is a concierge based service servicing active adults who may need assistance in living an active life.

In April of 2014, Pew Research Center released data between Americans age 65 or older and the rest of the population, a unique exploration on how the different age groups are connected to digital tools and services. There are two different groups of seniors that were highlighted in Pew's report.

The first group of seniors that uses technology lean toward being younger and have substantial technology assets, and have positive views toward the benefits of online platforms. The second group are older seniors usually aged 75-79 and less affluent.

Get your phone's AI assistant to actually assist you and how to apply technology to your daily regiment. We have seen our clients have the latest smartphones, tablets, smart watches, and conversational AI without using artificially intelligent assistants to its benefits. Here are a few tips on how to open your AI assistant for actual assistance.

AI assistants are: Siri (ios) - iPhones; Google Assistant - Android; Bixby- Samsung

This guide will focus on how to use these features with Siri, Google, and Bixby. For Siri, press and hold the home button, or on the iPhone X, press and hold the side button (the one on the right). For Google, bring up the Google assistant on your Android by pressing and holding the home button. You are ready to use your phone's AI. For a samsung phone you use the same application to open your AI on an Android. If you had a real-life person it would help with social isolation but for now, your phone's AI will help you stay on task and keep you organized.

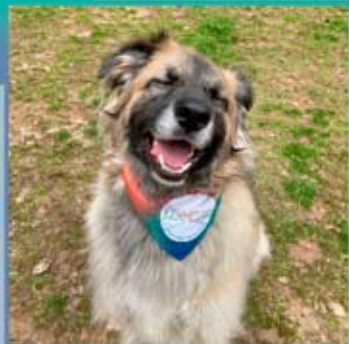
iLoveKare is here to serve the community. With being in business for ten years we come with a wealth of knowledge to serve the active adult community. We can offer personal assistance, travel companionship, hospital or rehab transition, home management, meal prep, and more.

Our promise is to provide senior care with superior customer service and effective planning in serving our aging community.

If you are a senior citizen and would like to contact iLoveKare for assistance, they may be reached by calling 404-692-0539, on Facebook at iLoveKare and Instagram at iLoveKar

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**GSO JAZZ BAND CONCERT**

**GSO JAZZ! BIG-BAND COMBO BRINGS MUSIC OF NYC'S FAMED VANGUARD JAZZ ORCHESTRA TO THE STRAND**

The ever-versatile Georgia Symphony's GSO Jazz! ensemble will present an unforgettable evening of big-band hits produced by the iconic Vanguard Jazz Orchestra at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2024. The performance will take place at the historic Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theater in Marietta, Ga.

In late 1965, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra was created by its namesakes: renowned trumpeter/cornetist Thad Jones and drummer Mel Lewis. For nearly six decades since, the ever-evolving band has performed weekly at New York City's famed Village Vanguard jazz club. Their critically acclaimed recorded works have received numerous Grammy award nominations and a pair of wins in the big-band category.

GSO Jazz! Music Director Sam Skelton will lead a big-band combo of talented local musicians as they put their unique spin on Vanguard's hits. Ticket prices are \$29-\$45 for adults, \$26.10-\$40.50 for seniors, military or first responders and \$15 for students. For more information, and to purchase tickets online, visit [georgiasymphony.org/all-events](https://georgiasymphony.org/all-events).

**TASTE OF MARIETTA - APRIL 28 11AM-7PM**

The annual Taste of Marietta food festival takes place on Sunday, April 28th, 2024 on the Marietta Square. 50+ different restaurants, caterers, and food trucks showcase their best dishes at Taste of Marietta each year. The family-friendly festival has a Kids Alley for the little ones to play in. The event also features live musical entertainment from the Main Bandstand and the Cobb Life Stage and a cooking stage with celebrity chefs' demonstrations.

Admission to the festival is FREE. The only costs are the cost of food – 'tastes' ranging from \$2.00 to \$9.00, drinks and some activities in the Kids Alley.

The Taste of Marietta happens rain or shine. Learn more at <https://www.tasteofmarietta.com>.

**TOMMY NOBIS CENTER TO HOST GALAXY OF STARS LUNCHEON**

Tommy Nobis Center (TNC), a Marietta-based nonprofit that helps individuals with disabilities enter or return to employment, will host its 26th Annual Galaxy of Stars Luncheon on Friday, May 3 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM at the Georgia Aquarium.

Galaxy of Stars is Tommy Nobis Center's premier fundraising event and awards ceremony honoring the incredible accomplishments of the people they serve and the community champions who pave the way for people with disabilities to find purpose and independence. This year's theme "Building Brighter Futures" reflects the intent of TNC's mission of empowering people through employment and the efforts to help them pursue their dreams and achieve their goals.

"Year after year, we are so inspired by the outpouring of support from our community for people with disabilities," said President & CEO Dave Ward. "We look forward to another meaningful event." Honorees include Alan Moak for Lifetime Achievement, Community Champion Karen Dernavich, Family Member Advocates Katherine and Jay Wolf, and Tommy Nobis Rising Star Niarchos Wright. Cobb EMC Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor.

There will be an online auction accompanying this event starting April 5. For more information, go to <https://tommynobiscenter.org/galaxy>. Funds raised through the event and auction directly support programs and services for youth and adults with disabilities.

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**MEET MISS COBB AND MISS COBB TEEN**

Miss Cobb County 2024, Audrey Kittila, and Miss Cobb County's Teen 2024, Carrington Manous, were recognized for their community service work with House and Senate resolutions at the State Capitol recently. Ms. Kittila, 21, is working to reduce the rate of school dropouts through her program, "Education for All."

The next Miss Cobb County and Miss Cobb County's Teen will be named in the 66<sup>th</sup> annual competition set for the Jennie T. Anderson Theater in Marietta, Aug. 3. Contestants for Miss Cobb must have a birth year of 1998 through 2008, while the teen division is open for birth year 2008 through 2012. Judging is based on private interview, talent, fitness, evening gown and on-stage conversation. For more information on becoming a contestant, a sponsor or volunteer, contact Gene Phillips, [misscobbcounty@yahoo.com](mailto:misscobbcounty@yahoo.com) or 770-545-1351. The Miss Cobb County Competition is sponsored by the Miss Cobb County Scholarship Program, Corp., composed entity of community volunteers.

These two young ladies will ride in the Big Shanty Festival Parade on April 20.

**JUST THE FACTS: A TAX BY ANY OTHER NAME**

**RANDY SCAMIRHORN,**

**COBB COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR**

Dear parents and taxpayers of Cobb County, during today's time together, "Just the Facts" sheds light on an issue that impacts every property owner, and apparently school, in the county.

Before we dive in, a word to those who regularly attack one of the best school systems in the country and tell this grandfather to "stay in my lane," if anything takes one dollar from your children's education, it is my lane.

It's no secret that some of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners recently proposed a stormwater "fee," which is a creative way to describe what amounts to a rainfall tax.

To recap recent events, the majority of the Commissioners' latest "fee" proposal would charge property owners every month based on the amount of paved surface area on their property. Your driveways and your child's school have a lot of paved property, as I recall.

In the past, all property owners paid a stormwater fee based on the amount of water they consumed. The Commissioners who proposed this "fee" now say they need to add a "fee" since water usage is not connected to stormwater impact. If you're not following the logic, you're not the only one trying to comprehend this tomfoolery.

The concept of taxpayers and schools paying a "fee" based on the amount of rain that falls on their property is "interesting," to say the least. Well, that's a polite phrase for it, anyway. Moms, dads, business owners, and principals can't control the weather, but we're being asked to foot the bill for nature's whims. This rainfall "fee," if passed, will add to the monthly bills of hardworking parents and, again, apparently, schools across our county.

For our families who already live on a tight budget, this additional "fee" on their already strained finances is grossly unfair. I've raised the impact this fee would have on our schools a number of times with district leaders. Unfortunately, our staff does not have enough information from the Commissioners to know how much money would be taken from classrooms, but they know it would mean fewer dollars for teachers and students. We also know our schools could have been made legally exempt, but they weren't.

After consulting with our legal team, we believe this bizarre 'stormwater fee' will be imposed upon schools, as well as the thousands of acres on which your schools are built.

The reality is that every school dollar taken for stormwater management is a dollar taken away from our children's futures. As your Cobb Schools Board Chair, I stand in staunch opposition to additional "fees" on our schools and on the taxpayer. Our students and teachers deserve better than to have their learning compromised by yet another threat to dollars that belong in the classroom. I know I speak for the majority of the Board when I point out that the latest proposal being brought forward by Cobb Commission Chair Lisa Cupid is fraught with problems for our schools and our parents.

I'm not telling you how to vote; I'm telling you what is and isn't good for our schools and Cobb's children.

As Cobb County has always fought for a better life for the next generation, I urge every resident of Cobb County to join me in supporting children, education, and wise use of your dollars, even when a tax is called a "fee." To those who will support this ill-conceived "fee" on our schools and the entire county, it is worth repeating: protecting our children's future is my, and the majority of the Board's, lane.



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**ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR LIFE?**

BY MARLON LONGACRE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, PIEDMONT CHURCH

“People ought to enjoy every day of their lives, no matter how long they live.” Eccl 11:8

Kids need celebration. Families ought to have fun. Homes should be a place to play. This is a major fault in many homes where the parents are good parents and watch out for their kids, but they do not have fun. They are too busy. They come home with a “to do” list after work is over. All that stuff must be done, and they do not have time for fun.

Do you endure your kids, or do you enjoy them? Kids need celebration.

This week is “Opening Day” for the Major league baseball season. I grew up in Louisville KY. The state of Kentucky only has only had one professional sports team and that was the Kentucky Colonels that played in the old American Basketball Association. The closest professional baseball team to Louisville was the Cincinnati Reds. Cincinnati is only 100 miles from Louisville. The Reds are the oldest major league baseball team and for the longest time the first game of the baseball season was played in Cincinnati. Opening Day is a big day in Cincinnati.

My dad was one of 12 kids and never had the funds to go to a major league baseball game. He was so excited to have tickets to take his family to a major league baseball game. So much for school. So much for work. He took his boys to Riverfront Stadium.

I remember in 1978 when the University of Kentucky Wildcats were ranked #1 and played in Louisville vs Notre Dame. UK always held open practice on Friday morning at Freedom Hall in Louisville. So much for school. So much for work. Dad took us to Freedom Hall to see the Kentucky Wildcats practice.

Have fun with your kids. No single day out of routine is going to make or break their lives. Both my brother and I graduated from college. A single special event that is crazy and fun will make a memory your kids will never forget.

It has been 50 years since that day we went to Riverfront Stadium. I still remember it to this day. It has been close to 46 years since we went to watch UK practice. I still remember watching the soon to be 78 National Champions practice.

Libby, Matthew, and I went to watch Morehead State play in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament two weeks ago. Yesterday when I got home from church there was Matthew on his computer watching the replay of Morehead State winning the championship game vs Little Rock. He had a blast watching the replay of him and Libby on ESPN.

If you are not celebrating and having fun with your kids at home, do not be surprised when they decide to spend less time there later in life. If you do not have fun with your kids and really enjoy them, do not be surprised when they grow up and move out and do not want to come back very often.



**CONGRATULATIONS**

Ashley Dinkel and Jacob Longacre are two examples of why Cobb is the best place to Teach, Lead, and Learn. Congratulations to both of these exceptional teachers for being recognized for their selfless work and for making sure that everyone is achieving student success.

Special Education teachers around the District work with students with many different needs and disabilities. These teachers are a unique blend of educator, mentor, and friend. They work hard every day to help their special needs students succeed in and out of the classroom.

Two such teachers were recently recognized by representatives from Cobb Schools’ Special Education Department: Director George Morgan and Assistant Director Lisa Briley. Mr. Morgan and Ms. Briley showed up at Allatoona High School early to surprise Ashley Dinkel and Jacob Longacre for their tireless dedication and the impact that they are having on their students.

“We wanted to show up for these teachers because they show up for their students day after day,” said Mr. Morgan. “This can be a challenging job, but these two are doing wonderful work and doing it in exciting and unique ways.”

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**FIT CITY 5K**

**MAY 11**

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## THIS 'N THAT

### 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.

### MEET THE KENNESAW COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Third election in little more than a year, but the City of Kennesaw is holding another Council election. Want to meet these five candidates. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 9 at 6 pm as Mark Allen, owner of Lazy Guy holds a Meet and Greet event. This event is open to the public and the intent is to allow the citizens of Kennesaw to learn about the agendas of each candidate. Lazy Guy is located at 2950 Moon Station Rd., Kennesaw.

### KENNESAW'S SUMMER PROGRAMS

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation's Summer Program registration is currently open! You can now enroll in a fitness class or summer camp. This year, Kennesaw Parks & Recreation offers summer camps for Teens, which include sports camps and cooking camps. Visit [www.kennesawparksandrec.org](http://www.kennesawparksandrec.org) to learn more about how you can have an unforgettable summer.

### START YOUR ENGINES

And head on over to the Kennesaw Police Main Street Cruise in Car Show. All vehicle types welcome. Monies raised will be used to support the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. This event will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm at the First Baptist Church on Main Street in Kennesaw. Check out the Kennesaw Police Department FB page for more information.

### THIS AND THAT

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

We accept short paragraphs (up to 50 words) for a fee of \$15.00. The ads (with check) may be mailed to P O Box 935, Kennesaw, 30156. Email is acceptable if a check is mailed. We do take Mastercard and Visa.

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

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

### SMITH GILBERT GARDENS RECEIVES SUPPORT

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) and American Public Gardens Association (Association) are awarding support to 26 public gardens and their community partners engaging in urban agriculture, food-growing, and related education work. The 26 awards total \$445,600 in support for public garden partnerships across the United States that will foster public engagement and education in urban food growing and build capacity in urban agriculture programs. The Urban Agriculture Resilience Program aims to strengthen collaborations, promote resilience and gather best practices from across the U.S.

Smith-Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, GA is one of the 2024 recipients.

"We are excited to be partnering with Our Giving Garden in Mableton to help us establish our food growing to enhance our community engagement and educational programming," says Dave Simpson, Executive Director. "Our new garden area, called Living Laboratory, will expand our capacity to grow fresh fruits and vegetables, with produce donated to local communities in need, and enable our efforts to engage and educate new communities."

For more information about Smith-Gilbert Gardens, visit [www.smithgilbertgardens.com](http://www.smithgilbertgardens.com).

### GOOD RASCAL DOG TRAINING

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

### THANK YOU KROGER

Our advertiser, Jason Bobby Hawkins, owner of Hawkins Insurance Agency, advises that Kroger is helping the community and seniors by facilitating trained licensed Medicare insurance agents to help customers understand the very confusing world of Medicare. The intent is to give information and choice, not to sell any one company or product but to educate on all options. It is alarming to hear how confused people are about this very important issue. Kroger should be commended for this effort.

### 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 information, visit [www.acworthartsalliance.org](http://www.acworthartsalliance.org). The Art House is in the green building across from 1885.

**THIS N THAT ADS**  
\$15 FOR 50 WORDS,  
\$25 FOR 100 WORDS.  
Email: [Brightnews@aol.com](mailto:Brightnews@aol.com)

**The Bright Side Newspaper is online**  
[WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF](http://WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF)

## MARIETTA NEWS

City of Marietta's  
**4th Win the Park 2024**  
**PARADE APPLICATIONS OPEN!**  
www.marietta.ga.gov/special-events  
Presented by Superior Plumbing Marietta

### FOURTH OF JULY PARADE REGISTRATION

Marietta Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce the application is now available for the 2024 Let Freedom Ring July 4th Parade held on Thursday, July 4, 2024. School bands, military units, civic organizations, beauty queens, local Boys and Girl Scout clubs, area businesses and others can sign up online to be a part of this year's parade.

Parade applicants should apply online. The deadline to apply is May 31st at 5 pm.

More info: Call Marietta Parks and Recreation, 770-794-5601 or visit <http://www.marietta.ga.gov/194/Fourth-of-July-Celebration>

\*The City of Marietta reserves the ability to cancel any events at any time due to an Executive Order issued by Governor Brian Kemp due to COVID-19 or any other outside factors.

### MAY-RETTA DAZE

MAY-RETTA DAZE is an annual arts crafts and music festival that takes place the first weekend in May at Glover Park in historic Marietta Square. The festival features exhibitors and artists showcasing handmade goods including painting, pottery, woodwork, metal, glass, fabric, soap, candles and more. The event will also feature the always popular Georgia Grown Member Village featuring a wide variety of items from throughout the state. This fun, family friendly event draws over 10,000 people annually. There is something for everyone with delicious festival food, kid's zone and live music. Bring the entire family to shop, relax and soak up the sounds on the Marietta Square.

This FREE event will be held Saturday May 4, 2024 10:00am - 6:00pm and Sunday May 5, 2024 11:00am - 5:00pm in Glover Park at Historic Marietta Square. Laura McLaughlin 770-423-1330 [laura@jrmmanagement.com](mailto:laura@jrmmanagement.com)

Historic Marietta Square  
May 4: 10AM to 7PM &  
May 5: 11AM to 5PM  
**May-retta Daze**  
Arts, Crafts, & Music Festival  
Presented by Superior Plumbing  
2-DAYS of...  
Craft Vendors,  
Acoustic Musicians,  
Kid Zone,  
and More!  
Vendor Applications go to: [www.jrmmanagement.com](http://www.jrmmanagement.com)

### MCMA EXHIBIT THE MAGIC OF MODERN ART APRIL 6-JUNE 16

Based on artist and author Robyn Jamison's book of the same name, The Magic of Modern Art is a group exhibition of artists from across the United States. To answer the question of "How does one learn to experience Modern and Contemporary Art?," this exhibition offers everyone the opportunity to become knowledgeable and passionate about the less-traditional side of fine art. Featuring artists from Jamison's book and beyond, this exhibition seeks to instill the understanding that the ability to appreciate any type of art is innate to all human beings.

Featuring artwork by In Kyoung Chun, Cynthia Cooper, Craig Drennen, Robyn Jamison, Joshua Kight, Aloma Marquis, Lawrence W. Oliverson, Rohitash Rao, Anthony Schmitt, Corrina Sephora, and Jamele Wright, Sr., as well as a selection of work by artists in the MCMA Permanent Collection.

### GLOVER PARK CONCERT SERIES

The Downtown Marietta Development Authority and the City of Marietta are proud to announce the 2024 Glover Park Concert Series. These free concerts take place monthly in Glover Park on the Marietta Square from April through September.

The concert lineup: April 26-Guardians of the Jukebox - Tribute to the 80's; May 31-Ladies of Soul - Soul, Funk & Motown; June 28-Her Majesty's Request - British Invasion; July 26-G Clef and The Playlist - Variety Party Band; August 23\*- Troubadour Project - 70's Rock Revival ; September 27-The Bourbon Brothers - Rat Pack Tribute

A limited number of stage-adjacent tables can be reserved for a fee on the first working day of each month beginning at 8:00 a.m. Attendees can bring a picnic or dine in one of the many fine restaurants located on the square.

Blankets and lawn chairs may be set up in the park anytime on Friday. No plastic ground covering, ropes, tape, stakes, etc. used to section off areas are permitted inside the park as they will be removed and all personal tables must be set up in the street after 6:00 p.m., not in the park.

All concerts begin at 8:00 on the last Friday of each month, April - September. \*Exception, August date is the 4th Friday. Glover Park on the Historic Marietta Square

Free street parking, City Hall parking deck, 205 Lawrence St and the Care Here of Marietta parking lot, 268 Lawrence St. Admission Free. Table reservations can be made online at [www.marietta.ga.gov/concerts](http://www.marietta.ga.gov/concerts).

### FREE DAY!

#### POP-IN FOR FAMILY FUN: ROCKETS & ROBOTS!

The Marietta History Center is delighted to announce its upcoming monthly Pop-In for Family Fun event, scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. As a recurring highlight on the Center's calendar, Pop-In events occur on the 3rd Saturday of every month, offering families a unique opportunity to engage with the museum through themed activities and crafts. The Marietta History Center is located at 1 Depot St, Marietta, 30060.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

The Marietta History Center has been honored with being named Best of Cobb's Museum in 2024.

**SOMEBODY DIDN'T WAKE UP TODAY, BUT YOU DID. THAT'S REASON ENOUGH TO BE THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE. NEVER LET YOUR TROUBLES BLIND YOU TO YOUR DAILY BLESSINGS.**

ACWORTH COBB  
DRAGON BOAT  
FESTIVAL  
at Dallas Landing  
**05.4.2024**  
Saturday, May 4, 2024  
9 AM - 4 PM  
NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL  
CANCER INSTITUTE  
BUILT TO BEAT CANCER  
FUN FOR ALL  
The dragons are coming to Dallas Landing Park! Join teams of friends, families, and coworkers for an exciting day of dragon boat racing while supporting local cancer outreach programs. Fun for all ages!  
FREE PARKING  
Dallas Landing Park  
5120 Allatoona Dr.  
Acworth, GA 30101

### 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

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
**FIT CITY 5K**  
**MAY 11**  
**KENNESAW**  
**FIT CITY**  
[WWW.KENNESAWGRANDPRIX.COM](http://WWW.KENNESAWGRANDPRIX.COM)  
 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
 CROY

**Marietta Pops Orchestra**  
**Spring Concert**  
 Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
 Buy tickets online or at the door  
[www.MariettaPops.org](http://www.MariettaPops.org)  
 The Strand Theatre  
 Marietta, Georgia  
**MPO** Tickets \$20  
 Students \$10  
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-24/48 is a locally Firefighter Owned/Operated business, specializing in fire safety packages to help protect what matters most.

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Call Isaac Smith @ (678) 579-2444 for scheduling and details!



**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](http://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](http://www.kennesawgrandprix.com) for complete details.



**KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NAMED BEST OF COBB**

Excitement was high as the above KBA members were present when the Kennesaw Business Association was named Best of Cobb at the Marietta Daily Journals event held on March 21 at Jim R. Miller Park, Marietta.

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS APRIL CALENDARS**

**KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**TUES APRIL 9 KBA MONTHLY LUNCHEON** - 11:00 at The KSU Professional Education Building at 3333 George Busbee Dr. Kennesaw. Join us for the most feel good luncheon of the year when the KBA awards more than 20 scholarships to deserving students of area high schools. Caterer: Adriane's Delectables. Sponsors: NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL, RealtyOneGroup. RSVP at [kennesawbusiness.org](http://kennesawbusiness.org).

**THUR. APRIL 18, 5:30 PM. KBA Alive After Five** Join the KBA to kick off Big Shanty weekend with a low country boil provided by Bernie's and live music, Downtown Kennesaw ~ in the parking lot by the plaza. FREE to members, \$5.00 for Guests RSVP to [kennesawbusiness.org](http://kennesawbusiness.org).

**ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**THUR. APRIL 11 ABA LUNCHEON 11:30-** Acworth Community Center, Guest speaker Sara Branch. Sharing some skills, techniques and resources need to get the right connections and build a profitable network. RSVP at [acworthbusiness.org](http://acworthbusiness.org).

**THURS APRIL 11, ABA ALIVE AFTER 5:30** AT Guston's Grille, 3330 Cobb Parkway (at the other end of Kroger shopping center. Love their food. Members FREE, Guests \$5.00. RSVP at [Acworthbusiness.org](http://Acworthbusiness.org).

**THURS APRIL 25 WOMEN'S NETWORKING EVENT**, 5:30 at TRG Vino Market, 4823 S. Main St. RSVP [acworthbusiness.org](http://acworthbusiness.org). Fee \$20.00.

**BRIGHT SIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

## AWTREY AND BARBER MIDDLE SCHOOLS PRESENTED AN INTERNATIONAL EXTRAVAGANZA

A rush of excitement as 8th grade students filled the Cafeteria at North Cobb High School. Students from both Awtrey and Barber Middle Schools were sharing their knowledge of the country they had selected to represent. Colorful posters, costumes and traditional cuisine representing their selected country told the stories of 32 countries.



We had the opportunity to meet Abigail Nichols and Yasmin Brown, Awtrey 8th graders who had selected Italy as their country. While at their table we learned that Italy has Europe's three active volcanoes, that the smallest country in the world resides inside Italy, (the Vatican), and a fun food fact. There is an actual term for using bread to sop up the left over sauce after eating pasta: La

Scarpetta is the name of this wonderful Italian custom.

A lovely surprise awaited us when we met Reman Gothany, adorned in the elaborate traditional dress of Libya. In talking with her we met her brother, her cousin, her mother and several other members of her family - all in traditional dress. They were all there to help, even though Reman was in the 8th grade.

Students from the 6th and 7th grades performed traditional dances and played music representing various countries.



## 4TH ANNUAL BUB'S RUN

Don't miss this AMAZING run in Kennesaw. Bub's Run is a Charity 5K, 1-mile Fun Run + Tot Trot to benefit CURE Childhood Cancer, which will be held Saturday, May 4, 2024 with a 7:30 a.m. start

The run begins and ends at North Cobb Christian School Football Field (start + finish). The course goes along Main Street / Old 41 towards NorthStar Church. (It's a GREAT run!) To register and for more information visit [addedstrength.org/get-involved/bubs-run/](http://addedstrength.org/get-involved/bubs-run/)

We are honoring Cobb County special education student Kelson Loveland, who earned his wings on May 5, 2020. This run is a high-energy community event celebrating Kelson's life and creating joy through inclusion for exceptional individuals and the families who love them. Follow Bub's Run on Facebook and Instagram for more details.



## NORTHWEST CLASSICAL ACADEMY HOSTS ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Northwest Classical Academy (NCA) will hold its third annual Heritage Festival this Saturday, March 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The festival will take place on NCA's campus, located at 3010 Cobb Parkway Northwest, Kennesaw, GA 30152.

Host families and volunteers from the school represent cultures and heritages from around the world, including India, Serbia, Ukraine, Poland, Scotland, China, Nepal, Canada, Philippines, Japan, Nigeria, Mexico, Italy, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico.

Attendees can enjoy music, art, games, food, and more. Marka 2-1, a local band, will perform at the festival. A student gallery will feature work from NCA students showcasing their culture through art. A scavenger hunt will be available for students to complete while learning about the countries represented by this year's host families.

Last year, over 400 students, parents, and other community members attended the event.

Northwest Classical Academy, located in Kennesaw, is a public charter school serving over 700 students in grades K-9. NCA will continue to expand until they reach a K-12 configuration. For more information, visit [nwclassical.org](http://nwclassical.org).

**Ed: Note:** Pictured above this young lady is teaching other students how to pick up M and M's with chopsticks - something I have never mastered.

# The Bright Side

Cobb's Community Newspapers

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The 48th Annual  
**Big Shanty Festival**  
**April 20 & 21, 2024**  
 Historic Downtown Kennesaw



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For More Information Call 770-423-1330

[www.kennesawbusiness.org](http://www.kennesawbusiness.org)

The Kennesaw Big Shanty Festival is co-produced by the Kennesaw Business Association and the City of Kennesaw