

The Bright Side™

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SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

AUG 2025



2025 PIGS & PEACHES BBQ FESTIVAL

This year's Pigs and Peaches BBQ Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, August 15 and 16 at the United Bankshares Amphitheater. Moving from Adams Park to the Amphitheater creates more space and will upgrade the live music experience for the attendees.

The City of Kennesaw and Kennesaw Parks & Recreation are bringing big energy to the 2025 Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival with a weekend packed with country favorites. Grammy-nominated artist Mark Wills will headline Saturday, Aug. 16, with bold, authentic singer-songwriter HunterGirl opening the show. On Friday, Aug. 15, emerging country rocker George Pippen will open for chart-climbing performer Hayden Coffman.

Mark Wills, a Grand Ole Opry member, rose to fame in the late 1990s with a string of Billboard-charting hits. Known for songs like "Jacob's Ladder," "I Do (Cherish You)," "Places I've Never Been," "Don't Laugh at Me" and "Wish You Were Here," his RIAA Gold-certified hit "19 Somethin'" spent six weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart. He has also completed more than a dozen overseas tours to perform for U.S. troops.

HunterGirl, runner-up on Season 20 of "American Idol," brings powerful vocals and heartfelt songwriting to the stage. Her debut EP, Tennessee Girl, blends country grit and personal storytelling, reflecting both strength and vulnerability. The Winchester, Tenn., native has toured with Luke Bryan, Kane Brown and Lainey Wilson and recently made her Grand Ole Opry debut.

Hayden Coffman, a Knoxville, Tenn., native, continues to connect with audiences through his smooth vocals and modern country style. With momentum building on streaming platforms and a reputation for charismatic live shows, Coffman blends tradition with a fresh, current edge.

George Pippen, a country rock artist from Indiana, opens Friday's show. His debut album, Growing Pains, draws from small-town roots and big-city dreams, delivering gritty, hook-driven storytelling. With a background in tour management and a voice full of heart, Pippen is quickly establishing himself on Nashville's country scene.

TASTING EXPERIENCE

New this year is the Tasting Experience, where attendees can sample signature bites from local restaurants on Saturday, Aug. 16, from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$21 and available at www.pigsandpeaches.com.

Now celebrating its 25th year, the Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival has become a signature summer tradition for food lovers, music fans and craft beer enthusiasts. With dozens of vendors, exhibitors and barbecue teams, the event delivers two full days of live entertainment, cool drinks and big flavor.

At the heart of the festival is a Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned competition, officially recognized as part of the Georgia BBQ Championship series. Additional contests include the Backyard cook-off, the Anything Butt competition and the Peach Dessert challenge. More than \$16,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

The 2025 Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival is presented by Williams Elleby Howard & Easter.

For more information, visit www.pigsandpeaches.com or call Kennesaw Parks & Recreation at 770-422-9714.



DEADLINE FOR SEPT 2025 ISSUE
IS WED, AUG 27 . PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 4 2025



ART IN THE PARK

Now in its 39th year, Marietta Art in the Park celebrates Labor Day weekend once again with a juried artist market, live music and fun hands-on activities for children. It all takes place in historic Marietta Square surrounded by the many small businesses and local eateries that make the downtown neighborhood a community.

The only fine art festival in Cobb County, Art in the Park has consistently been acknowledged by Sunshine Artist Magazine, in recognition of its ability to attract top artists from throughout the country and successfully welcome 55,000+ visitors each year. A portion of the proceeds from Art in the Park benefits the Marietta Business Association.

FINE ART & FINE ARTISTS

More than 200 fine artists from throughout the country have been chosen to be part of the juried Art in the Park Artist Market. Showcasing work in numerous mediums, genres and styles, these artists are present and ready to discuss their work and creative process with festival attendees.

The Artist Market gives visitors the chance to view and purchase works in acrylic, oil and mixed media, as well as jewelry, pottery, glass, photography, metal, wood and digital media. There are styles and price points to appeal to every art lover on site.

STREET PAINTING WITH CHALK

Once again, Art in the Park has teamed up with the Marietta High School Visual Arts Program to host the Chalk Spot street art experience. Taking place Saturday, Aug. 30, Chalk Spot offers participants the chance to make their mark on a 3-ft. square space on a closed street. Using chalk, young artists will draw unique masterpieces, which will remain on display throughout festival weekend (weather permitting). The fee to participate is \$10, and pre-registration is not required. Participating children will receive a box of sidewalk chalk and two tickets to the North Georgia State Fair (while supplies last).

(cont on page 2).



SYNCLAIR SAVAGE, ACWORTH RESIDENT WINS NATIONAL TITLE IN WOMEN'S LONG JUMP

University of Louisville women's track & field redshirt senior Synclair Savage captured the national title in the women's long jump as the Cardinals capped off the second of four days of competition at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field National Championships on June 13, 2025.

With the victory, she becomes the fifth outdoor NCAA champion in program history and the first since 2022, while also becoming the first in program history to win the national championship in the women's long jump.

Seeded eighth entering the competition, Savage leapt from fourth place to the top of the leaderboard on her final attempt with an incredible mark of 6.72m (22-0.75) that broke the previous program record of 6.64m (21-9.5) that she set two weeks ago at the NCAA East Regional.

Synclair is from Acworth Ga and attended North Cobb Christian School. She is a graduate student at the University of Louisville. *Photo courtesy of Mallory Peck, Louisville Athletics*

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THIS AND THAT



TEHYA PARKER

Congratulations Tehya Parker on your
graduation from the University of Kentucky
this Spring. Tehya received her BS Education
in Health Promotion in a “small” ceremony
with 15,000 of her closest friends. She is
back in Marietta and looking into grad school.
She is one of five siblings and the daughter
of Todd and Dawn Parker.



**BRANDON AND
CASON BARFIELD**

What a great night out for Brandon
Barfield and his son, Cason. The pair were
seen recently at the All Stars Home Run
Derby at Truist Park. Cal Raleigh proved
how much a family supports a winner. Cal
won the home run derby, first catcher to do
so - but wait, his dad was pitching to him and
his younger brother was the catcher. Same
can be said for Brandon and his family. He
is the Business Manager at Day’s Chevrolet,
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ART IN THE PARK (CONTD)
CHILDREN’S ART ALLEY PRESENTED BY GPB



There are plenty of possibilities
for younger kids to enjoy themselves
at Art in the Park too, and the
emphasis is on creativity! Families
can head to Children’s Art Alley
to find activities, games and crafts
for kids, many of which offer free
participation. Activities like face
painting and sand art require a
small fee.

FOOD & BEVERAGES

The historic square features a
variety of local eateries that will be open during Art in the Park. Beer, wine, soft drinks and
water are sold throughout the festival.

LIVE MUSIC

The gazebo in the center of Marietta Square comes alive throughout the three-day festival
with complimentary performances from local singer/songwriters. Visitors are encouraged
to bring blankets and chairs to sit back, relax and enjoy the tunes. Sponsored by the North
Georgia State Fair.

PARKING

There are many options for Art in the Park parking. The Marietta City Hall Parking Deck
(205 Lawrence Street) has free weekend and weekday evening parking, and free on-street
parking is available around Marietta Square. Additional free and paid parking is available
in nearby lots. Parking information is available here: <https://www.mariettaga.gov/1462/Downtown-Parking>

FEES

Attendance at Marietta Art in the Park is free! Chalk Spot registration \$10 on-site
(supplies are limited).

**LOCAL
HISTORY
STORIES**

**ANDREW J.
BRAMLETT**



The Big Shanty
Eating House was built
in 1859 on land owned
by Lemuel Kendrick
and G. T. Carrie. The
site was in today’s Depot Park. It was owned
by the state of Georgia and leased to a series of
managers, ending with George Lacy. Because
of this, it has often been referred to as the Lacy
Hotel. Lacy managed the establishment until
1864, when it was burned by the Union Army.

After the Civil War, the Western &
Atlantic Railroad built an eating house and
hotel on the same site. The new building was
built in 1870 and was originally managed by
Gaspard T. Carrie. The hotel was two stories
tall, had ten rooms with plastered walls, and
was completely painted. The entire building
cost around \$3000 to build.

The hotel was open by the next year,
and the Atlanta Constitution called it a “No.
1 eating house.” In the mid-1870s, George
Lacy returned to Big Shanty to manage the
hotel. He was described by the Marietta
Journal as the “best Epicurean caterer in the
state.” Lacy backed a political candidate the
railroad’s president did not like, and was
forced to give up the hotel. He was replaced
by Gaspard Carrie, whose family managed
the hotel until its closing in 1893. The citizens
of Kennesaw were disappointed when it was
torn down that year.

**COBB’S 4H
PROGRAM**

Learn more about 4-H programming and
specialty clubs at its open house 4:30 - 7:30
p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at the UGA Extension
Office in Marietta. Subjects include archery,
Cooking Club, Cultured Ag Club, Cloverbuds,
County Council, Horse and Pony Club,
Shotgun Club, Project Achievement, summer
camps, conferences, and more.

While at the open house, kids can enroll
in 4-H and learn how to register for 4-H
clubs/activities for the year, ask questions,
and meet 4-H staff and volunteers. For more
information visit extension.uga.edu/cobb or
call 770-528-4070.

**BE A BRIGHT SIDE
REPORTER**

It’s easy to be a Bright Side Reporter — if
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family, your neighborhood, your civic group,
school, church activities, community events,
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BEAT THE HEAT AT THE SPLASH PAD

The splash pad at Swift-Cantrell Park is open for the summer season! This family-friendly attraction features interactive water elements such as fountain sprays, ground geysers and jet streams, perfect for all ages.

Located in Swift Cantrell Park on North Main Street, the splash pad is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed on Wednesdays for maintenance. Thursdays and Sundays are reserved for private rentals.

Admission is \$3 per person. Children under 2 are free. Only credit and debit cards are accepted; cash is not accepted. For details and rental information, visit www.kennesawparksandrec.org.



**FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT -
SEPT 5**

On September 5, the First Friday Concert Series continues with a performance by the Groove Daddies at Main Street Plaza. Blending blues, rock, and classic hits, the Groove Daddies bring a high-energy set featuring favorites from Stevie Ray Vaughan, the Stray Cats, and Eric Clapton. Led by vocalist Chris Wiggins and featuring guitarist Matt Alexander, the band delivers a dynamic live music experience that keeps audiences engaged from start to finish. The concert runs from 7 to 9 p.m. and is free to attend. Guests can enjoy local food and drinks while taking in the show. VIP seating is available for purchase at kennesaw-downtown-merchants-association.square.site.

**TEE OFF FOR A
CAUSE**

The Kennesaw Public Safety Foundation will host its annual charity golf tournament, “Bunkers Back the Blue,” on Monday, Aug. 11, at Pinetree Country Club.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with tee time at 10 a.m. Participants may register as players or hole sponsors. Proceeds support police wellness, outreach and training.

For info, contact generalcontact@kennesawpublicsafety.org.

**MAIN STREET
CRUISE-**

Join us on Saturday, August 9 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Kennesaw First Baptist Church (2958 N Main Street) for the rescheduled Main Street Cruise-In, supporting Special Olympics Georgia. Enjoy a morning filled with classic and custom vehicles, great music, and delicious food—all for a meaningful cause. There’s no entry fee or registration required. Just cruise in, show off your ride, and help us support these incredible athletes. Let’s fill the lot and make it a morning to remember! Enjoy classic cars, food, music and community in support of Special Olympics Georgia. No registration or fee required. Just drive in to show support.

FALL SENIOR LUNCHEON SERIES

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation will host a monthly Adults 50+ luncheon on the first Wednesday September, October and November. The event includes a social hour, plated lunch, a brief discussion and bingo with prizes. The schedule is 10 a.m. for social hour, 11 a.m. for lunch, and noon for bingo. Cost is \$6 per luncheon or \$15 for the full three-event series. Pre-registration is required. The program aims to build connection and fun for active adults. Space is limited; register early at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog?Select=Seniors+and+Luncheon+Series>. This event is presented by Cobb EMC.

**TOWN HALL
MEETING**

Final Meeting on Accessory Dwelling Units Ordinance Set for Aug. 13

The city invites residents to share input on a proposed ordinance allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in residential zones. ADUs are smaller secondary homes on the same lot as the primary residence.

A final public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive.

The meeting will include an ordinance overview, live polling and Q&A.

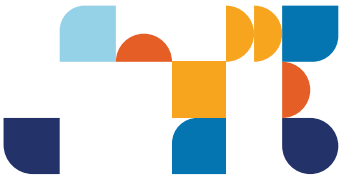
Residents can also complete an online survey located on the city’s website.

For questions, contact Planning and Zoning at 770-590-8268 or zoningdept@kennesaw-ga.gov.

TODDLER TUESDAYS

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation invites families to Toddler Tuesdays at the Ben Robertson Community Center from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This program is designed for children ages 1-5 and their caregivers, providing a safe space for little ones to socialize through open play with age-appropriate equipment.

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ART OF THE COCKTAIL

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025

6:00-8:00PM

EXHIBITIONS:

Metro Montage XXV:
MCMA Annual Juried Exhibition

Play Ball!

The Art of Mike Schacht

ENTERTAINMENT:

Michael Price



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MARIETTA COBB ART MUSEUM Metro Montage XXV ON EXHIBITION JUNE 28 - AUGUST 31

Metro Montage XXV is the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art's 25th annual juried exhibition featuring all types of genre, medium, style, subject matter, concept, and technique in art. Metro Montage XXV will feature over 100 works of fine art by contemporary artists from across the country, showcasing the diversity and skill within our nation's culture.

Art of the Cocktail FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH | 6-8PM

Guests can enjoy a specialty cocktail, presented by The Rolling Pour and Tito's Handmade Vodka, and the full bar offerings in the MCMA galleries while listening to great live music by Michael Price. Admission is \$10 and is purchased at the door; MCMA Members get in free.

Chalktoberfest 2025 - SAVE THE DATE! CHALKTOBERFEST 2025 | OCTOBER 11TH-12TH

The Marietta Cobb Museum of Art is proud to present Chalktoberfest 2025, a unique Chalk Art Festival and Craft Beer Festival. Enjoy your afternoon sampling craft beers, live music from local artists, watching professional Chalk Artists chalk the streets and eating great food at the beautiful downtown square of Marietta. A great day out for all the family, the Chalk Fest is free to attend. All proceeds benefit the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art and its mission of building community through art.

VISIT <https://mariettabartmuseum.org/> for more information. The museum is located 30 Atlanta Street, SE Marietta, GA 30060

THIS AND THAT ADS
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SMITH GILBERT GARDENS RECEIVES GRANT

Smith-Gilbert Gardens has been awarded a Project Grant from Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA), a strategic arm of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, for fiscal year 2026. This funding will support the continued growth of Art Blooms, the Gardens' signature spring exhibit celebrating the intersection of art and nature.

Launched in 2021, Art Blooms showcases temporary outdoor art installations and performances from regional artists, expanding public access to the arts and enhancing the visitor experience. With support from GCA, the 2026 exhibit will continue to feature new and emerging artists while strengthening the City of Kennesaw's Art in Public Places program by bringing sculpture, immersive theatre and visual art beyond the Garden gates and into the heart of the community.

"We are grateful to Georgia Council for the Arts for supporting Art Blooms through the Project Grant program," said Education & Exhibits Manager Vanita Keswani. "This grant allows us to build on the exhibit's success and continue offering meaningful, accessible arts experiences for the public."

Smith-Gilbert Gardens is one of 45 organizations in 22 counties across Georgia to receive funding through the 2026 Project Grant cycle. The program supports a wide range of artistic efforts including exhibits, performances, artist residencies and capacity-building initiatives.

Funding is provided by the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant applications are reviewed by peer panels made up of GCA Council members and professionals with expertise in the arts and public engagement.

To learn more about Smith-Gilbert Gardens and the Art Blooms exhibit, visit www.smithgilbertgardens.com.

KENNESAW'S FARMERS MARKET

The Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority sponsors the Kennesaw Farmers Market in downtown Kennesaw. The market operates Mondays from 3:30 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Main Street and Moon Station Road, running Now through Aug. 26. Each week, the market will feature farmers, makers and local food trucks (based on availability). More than 20 vendors are expected to participate, offering vegetables, fruits, baked goods and specialty items.

NORTH COBB ROTARY

North Cobb Rotary meets at Copelands New Orleans every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., feel free to stop by in the coming weeks for great food, great fellowship. The meeting is held at Copeland's Restaurant 1142 Ernest W Barrett Pkwy NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Visit their website to learn more about this dynamic group. <https://northcobbrotary.org>.

GLOBAL ONLINE FASHION

SHEIN hosts a Pop-Up. Global online fashion and lifestyle retailer SHEIN is returning to Atlanta to host a Pop-Up from Thursday, August 6 – Sunday, August 10. The Pop-Up will take place at Perimeter Mall (4400 Ashford Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA 30346 - located next to Macy's) and will be open to customers Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Onsite, customers can shop their online favorites in person, including this summer's must-haves from categories like women's and men's fashion, everyday essentials, beauty, shoes, handbags, accessories, and more

ACWORTH FARMERS MARKET

The 2025 Historic Downtown Acworth Farmer's Market takes place on Friday mornings now through October 31 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The market is located in the Logan Farm Park Expansion, at 4405 Cherokee Street in Acworth.

Market customers 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 proudly sponsored by the Acworth Downtown Development Authority. www.visitacworth.com

TO STREAMLINE NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE REQUESTS

CITY OF KENNESAW LAUNCHES “KENNESAW 311”

The City of Kennesaw is excited to introduce Kennesaw 311, a new digital tool that simplifies how residents report non-emergency issues and request city services. The platform launches July 15 and will be available through both the city’s website and the City of Kennesaw mobile app.

Powered by the CivicPlus 311 CRM solution, also known as SeeClickFix, Kennesaw 311 allows users to submit service requests for concerns such as potholes, litter, damaged street signs, clogged storm drains and park maintenance. It includes real-time status updates, automated routing and two-way communication, helping city staff respond efficiently while keeping residents informed.

Residents must create an account to submit a request. The system accepts reports for issues handled by Public Works and Parks & Recreation. Code Enforcement matters involving private property remain outside the scope of Kennesaw 311 and should continue to be reported to the Code Enforcement Division of Building Services.

By managing all submissions through one system, regardless of whether they come through the website, app or by phone, Kennesaw 311 helps streamline operations and strengthen communication between the city and its residents.

For more information, or to begin using the platform starting July 15, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov or download the City of Kennesaw mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

CITY OF KENNESAW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR KENNESAW 101: CITIZENS’ LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The City Manager’s Office is now accepting applications for the next class of Kennesaw 101: Citizens’ Leadership Academy, a multi-week course designed to offer residents and local workers a behind-the-scenes look at how the City of Kennesaw operates.

The program will run from Sept. 11 through Nov. 17, 2025, with classes held every Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants will hear directly from department heads, tour City facilities and engage in interactive sessions focused on the structure, services and decision-making processes of local government.

Open to individuals 18 and older who live or work within Kennesaw city limits, the course aims to build knowledge, foster engagement and inspire leadership. The experience concludes with a graduation ceremony during the Nov. 17 Mayor and Council meeting.

Registration is free and limited to the first 15 participants. The application deadline is Friday, Aug. 1, 2025.

“We’re excited to connect residents and stakeholders more directly with the work of their local government,” said City Manager, Dr. Jeff Drobney. “This program helps build understanding and empowers participants to play an active role in shaping their community.”

Applications can be downloaded from the “Document Center” section of the City website at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/download/kennesaw-101-application/>.

For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at 770-424-8274.

PIGS AND PEACHES HISTORY

From its humble beginnings, Pigs & Peaches has grown into one of the region’s most beloved festivals, attracting an estimated 60,000 attendees annually.

The festival traces its roots back to 2000, when the City of Kennesaw’s Parks & Recreation Department hosted a blues concert and barbecue cook-off for a handful of amateur grillers at the Historic Train Depot in Downtown Kennesaw.

The backyard-only tradition continued until 2007 when organizers chose to elevate the experience for competitive cook teams by sanctioning the event.

In 2008, to make room for more cook teams and vendors eager to join the festivities, the festival was moved to Adams Park.

Now, after nearly two decades at Adams Park, the festival is returning to where it all began in Downtown Kennesaw, with events taking place at the United Bankshares Amphitheater at Depot Park and along Main Street.

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of barbecue, music and community.

FUN FACTS FOR VISITING PIGS AND PEACHES

Moving the wonderful concert line up to United Bank Amphitheater has opened up more space for vendors, sponsors and the Tasting Experience. In addition to several concerts scheduled at the Amphitheater, line dancing lessons are planned.

NEW THIS YEAR - THE TASTING EXPERIENCE

The Tasting Experience is new to this year’s Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival, serving up peach and BBQ-inspired bites on Saturday, August 16, from 12 to 4 PM at the Main Street Plaza.

Sample your way through local flavor from Honeysuckle Biscuits and Bakery, Alcohol Heroes, All That Jazz BBQ & Soul Food, Big Shanty Smokehouse, CC’s BBQ Lounge, Dawgs Smokin’ Hawgs BBQ, Gaston Street Eats, Ironhead Barbeque, Pisano’s Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen and With Gritz. Each vendor will offer a 1 oz. sample with a creative twist.

Tickets are \$21 in advance and spots are limited. Get yours now at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog?> Select Special Events and scroll down to Pigs and Peaches to purchase your ticket.

LINE DANCE WITH RED BOOTS ON THE DANCE FLOOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 5:00 PM AT THE AMPHITHEATER

Celina Meador, founder of Red Boots on the Dance Floor, is a nationally recognized line dance and country swing instructor based in Georgia. With over 30 years of dance experience and 25 years of teaching, She has brought her passion to the country dance scene—where she now teaches, choreographs, DJs, and emcees events nationwide. Known for her high-energy classes and inclusive approach, Celina is NTA-certified and the 2024 Line Dance Champion at Forever Country Dance Fest. Whether you’re new or returning to the floor, Celina brings the fun and invites everyone to dance.

Take a stroll down Kennesaw’s Main Street as vendors and sponsors will be lined along there between Lewis and Summer Street, up Cherokee to Big Shanty and in the Depot Parking lot.

For all the information about this year’s Pigs and Peaches visit <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pigsandpeaches>.



PIGS & PEACHES
BBQ FESTIVAL
KENNESAW, GA

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CLIENT AWARDS NIGHT AT THE CENTER FOR FAMILY RESOURCES

In early July, The Center for Family Resources proudly hosted its bi-annual Client Achievement Awards Night, honoring the remarkable journeys of the families it serves. For 65 years, the organization has empowered clients who face homelessness and food insecurity to change the trajectory of their lives through comprehensive wraparound programs. This celebratory evening brought together clients, staff, partners, and community members to spotlight stories of resilience, transformation, and unwavering strength.

According to The CFR's 2024 Annual Impact Report, the organization has made measurable strides for families:

32 households secured employment; 481 individuals obtained stable housing; 2,275 people served through our choice pantry; 8,860 people received vital services through our programs

These outcomes reflect The CFR's ongoing commitment to helping families overcome crisis and move toward long-term stability. The focus remains on equipping individuals with the tools, skills, and guidance they need to take charge of their future with programs that teach financial literacy, savings, and employment skills.

A highlight of the evening was a heartfelt speech from Kelley Scott, who shared her story "not as a statistic, but as a testimony." After facing profound loss and relocating to Georgia with her young son, she found herself struggling, until connecting with The CFR. Through their short-term housing program, she gained stability, found meaningful work, and began writing again.

In February, she and her son moved into permanent housing. By April, she had published her first book, titled *It Doesn't End Here*.

"I went from homeless and heartbroken to published and purpose-filled," she said. "Your pain is real, but your purpose is far greater."

Her journey, and those of many others, served as an inspiring reminder of the transformative impact of compassion, community, and support. To learn more about how The CFR helps to keep children housed one family at a time, visit TheCFR.org. To help ensure that The CFR's wrap-around programs that foster long-term stability can continue, visit TheCFR.org/ways-to-give/.

Pictured: Staff from The CFR & Cobb County Magistrate's Court

COBB COUNTY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Cobb County is excited to bring back the International Festival on Saturday, August 23rd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase and highlight the vibrant cultural diversity that shape and enrich our community.




Cobb County's International Festival is a celebration of global cuisine, music, visual and performing arts represented in our own backyard.

This family-friendly event provides an engaging experience for all ages, offering exploration of various heritages through shared activities and creative expression.

Parking is FREE and available in the Main parking lot at the venue site, with overflow parking available at our North Lot (located north of the venue, on Al Bishop Drive-marked

with signage.)


Shuttles to the event center will be available traveling from the North Lot for ADA guests and those needing assistance. A shuttle will also be available once inside the venue leading to the event center, for those ADA guests and any others needing assistance from the Main lot ticket gate. Entry to the event is FREE



GREAT SOUTHEAST

Pollinator Census

"How To" Webinar




The Great Southeast Pollinator Census - Citizen Science at Work!


presented by Becky Griffin, national and state GSEPC Coordinator

Register for the August 12 "How To" webinar at <https://bit.ly/2025GSEPC-Webinar>.


For more details about how to participate, visit <https://gsepc.org> or www.cobbmastergardeners.com.



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WHATABURGER IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mayor Allegood and the City team were excited to host a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of Whataburger on Monday, July 21. Thank you to the entire Whataburger team for investing in the City! The Acworth location of Whataburger is located at 3558 Cobb Parkway Northwest, Acworth, Georgia 30101. To check out Whataburger's menu visit <https://whataburgermenuprices.com>. Photo by Sandra Glenn, roving photographer for the Bright Side..



ART HOUSE

Join us for the Opening Reception of our "SIMA Exhibit"

Saturday, August 9, 4-7pm. This exhibit features works from our students, instructors and member artists. The exhibit will run from August 9 to September 6.

Also featured~ artwork by our Member Artists. We feature a wide variety of art from over 100 local artists.

All artwork is for sale.

The Art House is located at 4425 Cherokee St. Acworth and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12-6 pm.

FALL DOWNTOWN CLASSIC CAR CRUISE

On Saturday, August 30, Acworth will host a Classic Car Cruise in Downtown Acworth. The event will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Logan Farm Park (4405 Cherokee Street). The Lake City Cruisers partner with the City and the downtown Acworth merchants to hold these Classic Car Cruises.

The event is free to the public. A \$5 entry fee is requested for all vehicles in the cruise. All proceeds go to the Horizon Field, an all-inclusive special needs sports facility in Acworth. www.visitacworth.com

CALL FOR ARTISTS- IF ART IS THE ANSWER, WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

Submissions open to local artists who can hand deliver their work to the Art House. (Submissions accepted: Thursday, July 17 until Friday, August 15) "If Art is the Answer, What is the Question?" is the theme for this exhibit. A subjective topic for all. Our Juror for this exhibit is Kent Mullinax. <https://kentmullinax.com/> Kent will make the selections for this exhibit, and will judge the works accepted once they are hanging in the Art House.

Submission Fees: Member Artists- \$25, Non-Member Artists- \$35

Submission Form: <https://www.acworthartsalliance.org/submission>

Submission Fee: <https://www.acworthartsalliance.org/submission-fee/submission-fee>

All Submission Fees go toward cash awards...

Two and Three Dimensional Works in any medium will be considered for this exhibit. Please submit up to three 2-dimensional pieces or up to six 3-dimensional pieces. Maximum size (inclusive of frame, if framed) to be considered is 20x30. All works submitted must be available for sale.

Delivery of works: Tuesday & Wednesday, September 9 & 10, Noon-6pm.

Pick-up of works at the end of the exhibit: Tuesday & Wednesday, November 4 & 5, Noon-6pm.

Receptions: Saturday, September 13, 4-7pm and Awards Ceremony Saturday, October 11, 4-7pm.

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<https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog>



Downtown Cartersville GA at the Friendship Plaza.



FREE FESTIVAL TACOS AND JARRITOS CARTERSVILLE, GA

You are invited to Experience a vibrant celebration of diversity at the FREE FESTIVAL Heritage Month “Tacos & Jarritos” Fiestas Patrias presented by Intercultural Fest. Join us on September 7 2025 at 12:00 PM in Friendship Plaza Cartersville GA for a cultural extravaganza that combines the flavors music and traditions of Latin America.

Immerse yourself in a day filled with Diversidad entretenimiento Gastronomía and Música as we come together to honor our multicultural heritage. Renowned Key Speaker Constanza Sweeney will grace the event with her insights and expertise adding a touch of inspiration to the festivities.

Indulge in a culinary journey through the rich tapestry of Latinoamericana cuisine witness captivating Folclore dancers in action and partake in engaging Family Activities that celebrate our vibrant community. This 9th annual event organized by Intercultural Fest Foundation and Constanza Sweeney promises to be a joyous gathering that showcases the spirit of unity and cultural pride.

Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to connect with the #Latino #Cultural community and be part of a memorable experience that highlights the essence of Anual heritage celebrations. Tickets for this not-to-be-missed event are available on AllEvents. Come together in the heart of Downtown Cartersville GA and join us at Friendship Plaza for a day of festivities that embrace the beauty of diversity.

ACWORTH BOOK AND STORY TELLING FESTIVAL

On Saturday, August 23, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm join us for a day celebrating the power of words! This event will be held at The Roberts School, 4681 School St, Acworth, GA.

This year's festival brings together an exciting mix of local and regional authors across a variety of genres, professional storytellers, vendors, and a dynamic panel discussion — all centered around the 2025 theme: “Ink & Echo: Writing the stories. Speaking the truth.”

Highlights include: Appearances & Book Signings by Diverse Authors; Captivating Stories by Professional Storytellers, An Engaging Panel Discussion on Truth in Writing & Storytelling Local Vendors and More.

Be sure to attend and listen to our Keynote Speaker: Bren McClain (ONE GOOD MAMA BONE). She begins speaking at 10:00.

Whether you're a reader, writer, or lover of stories in all forms, the Acworth Book & Storytelling Festival offers something for everyone. Come be inspired, meet fellow book lovers, and explore the art of storytelling in its many voices.

Admission is FREE and open to all ages.

REGISTER NOW FOR WITCHES AND FRIENDS PADDLE.

Gearing up for Halloween, the Lake Acworth Dragons play host to a whimsical spectacle — witches, warlocks, and their friends gliding across the water on standup paddleboards, kayaks, and canoes. Participants (ages 14 and up) should dress in spooky attire and decorate their boards with skeletons, spiders, and eerie props. Even pets can join in the aquatic mischief, making this a truly spellbinding community gathering.

The event will feature food trucks and local vendor booths. There will be raffles, as well as prizes for the best costumes and best decorated crafts. Paid registration is required and will open August 2: <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/lakeacworthdbc>. Link to register is under upcoming events. Registration includes a branded dry bag, coffee mug, and pin. Additional branded merch (caps, shirts, and more) can be purchased here: <https://shop.printyourcause.com/.../lake-acworth-dragons...>

This event takes place Sat October 18 at 9:00 am at Cauble Park, Acworth. 4483 Beach St. NW, Acworth, GA 30101.

CITY OF ACWORTH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON

Senior luncheons are held at Acworth Community Center. The August luncheon is Wednesday August 20. Register online at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.

Join us every third Wednesday of the month for the City of Acworth's Senior Luncheon. Come join us for lunch and Bingo. This program is free to City Residents 55 and up, but you must register to attend. Registration closes 1 week before the luncheon.

Visit www.acworthparksandrecreation.org, navigate to the menu on left, click on register or reserve now. Select Senior from Age Group and then click on Senior Luncheon under Active Adult Programs. Presently taking reservations for Wednesday, August 20, 2025.



MALLORY'S SMITH LEGACY CONTINUES



At age 17, Mallory Smith told her mom that she didn't feel quite right, that was a Monday. By the following Monday she received a life-saving liver transplant after being diagnosed with Wilson's disease, this was the summer before her senior year of high school.

Mallory's donor liver helped her enjoy her senior year at KMHS and graduate in 2007. Mallory was in and out of the hospital and would need a second liver transplant during her first year in college.

Mallory did not let her health issues hold her back and continued as a student at KSU with plans of becoming a nurse. Sadly, a series of infections that she couldn't fight off, took her life in 2011 at age 22.

The Smiths are very grateful for organ donation and two very selfless families. This gave them 4 1/2 additional years that they had with their daughter.

Mallory was more than a young woman, she was a beacon of hope, a symbol of resilience, and a testament to the power of the human spirit.

In her memory, Mallory's parents alongside Georgia Transplant Foundation started a scholarship fund called the GTF Mallory Smith Scholarship Fund. Each year, they work to raise \$4,000 to provide a scholarship to a young student in the state of Georgia.

Scholarship recipients must be an organ recipient or somehow related to the transplant world. To date the Smiths have raised over \$140,000 for Georgia Transplant Foundation.

They also undertake a silly sock drive to benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The sock drive is held in September (her birthday month) each year. Mallory was known for her love of silly socks. For children in the hospital, a package of silly new socks brightens their day and their feet. To date, Team Mal has donated close to 18,000 pair of socks!

Mallory's journey on earth may have ended, but her legacy continues, providing hope and support to so many people.

If you'd like to learn more about Mallory and her parents' work in their daughter's memory, visit their Facebook page: Pay It Forward 17 where you can find more details and a link to purchase socks to be sent directly to the Smith's should you want to donate. Feel free to send an email to teammal717@gmail.com for any questions of more information.

VISIT: <https://www.facebook.com/PayItForward17>

The Strand Theatre Brings Steve Martin & Edie Brickell's BRIGHT STAR TO THE MARIETTA SQUARE

The Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre is thrilled to present Bright Star, the sweeping bluegrass musical from comedy legend Steve Martin and Grammy Award-winning musician Edie Brickell. Performances will run September 5–21, 2025 on the historic Marietta Square, bringing this heartwarming tale of love, loss, and redemption to life for local audiences.

Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Bright Star follows literary editor Alice Murphy as a young soldier's return home ignites a journey into her past. Inspired by a true story, this Tony-nominated musical blends rousing bluegrass, Americana, and folk melodies with a deeply moving narrative about family, fate, and second chances.

Directed by Dawn Parker with musical direction by Kevin Sanders, The Strand's production will feature a live onstage band and an intimate staging that showcases the raw emotion and energy of the music. The cast will feature some of metro Atlanta's finest performers, with casting to be announced soon.

"Bringing Bright Star to The Strand is a way for us to celebrate what we love about theatre, storytelling that moves people and music that stirs the soul," said Manda Costoulas, Operations Director at The Strand. "This show is a perfect fit for our 2025 season, and we can't wait for audiences to experience it in our historic space."

Bright Star premiered on Broadway in 2016 and earned five Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical. Written by Steve Martin (Father of the Bride, Only Murders in the Building) and Edie Brickell ("What I Am"), the musical was praised for its "gentle spirit, generous heart and rousing bluegrass score" (The New York Times).

Bright Star is the fourth show in The Strand's 2025 Theatrical Season, which has already featured The Last Five Years, Grease, and Jukebox Giants: Motown & More. The season continues with holiday favorites Sanders Family Christmas in November and A Christmas Tradition in December.

Performances of Bright Star will run September 5–21, 2025 at The Strand, located at 117 North Park Square in downtown Marietta. Tickets range from \$38–\$54, with group discounts available. Tickets can be purchased at www.strandmarietta.org or by calling the box office at (770) 293-0080.

MEET THE DIRECTOR AND MUSIC DIRECTOR



Dawn Parker has been teaching dance and theatre in the Cobb community for over 35 years. She is a graduate of North Cobb High School with a BS in Dance Education from UGA and a MAT in Theatre Education from Brenau University. She is on the production team for Georgia All-State Theatre as well as the Performing Arts Advisory Council for Cobb County School District as well as the Performing Arts Resource and Support Team. She was named the first ever recipient of the CCSD Theatre/Dance Teacher of the Year for 2020-21 and is a member of the national Connected Arts Network professional learning group sponsored by the New York Department of Education. She is a proud mom to Steven, Brennan, Tehya, Ashlyn and Serena and wife to her high school sweetheart, Todd.

Kevin Sanders is a pianist, composer and music director and educator who has been playing professionally since the age of 18. His background encompasses jazz, rock and country music styles and he maintains a continuous schedule of performances in concerts, worship, theatre productions and corporate events.

Dawn and Kevin grew up down the street together and attended 1st-12th grades together at Due West Elementary, Pine Mountain Middle and North Cobb High School. They are proudly rooted in Cobb County and are enjoying working on this production together with this amazing cast and crew! You do not want to miss this show!

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**A VISION BECOMES REALTY -
A PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ADULTS**

In 2008 the City of Acworth and community leaders began the process of fundraising for a Special Needs Sports Facility that was inclusive to all athletes. The original fundraising goal was \$1.2 Million. Through donations as small as \$1, to anonymous contributions of \$250,000 to public funding reaching \$500,000, to several hundreds of thousands of dollars in in-kind services, to the community walking the bases for 24 hours straight to raise the funds, the facility officially opened its doors on April 16, 2009.

Once our special needs population transition out of school the majority of the families must provide 24-7 care for these individuals - until now. Piedmont Church, located at 570 Piedmont Rd, Marietta has kindly opened its doors and arms to house Exceptional Futures. The mission of Exceptional Futures, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is to provide vibrant, empowering programs for adults with special needs, while supporting parents in their journey of caregiving. Their vision is to provide adults with special needs in our community the opportunity to have meaningful lives. It's not easy being "exceptional"... and it only gets harder as those with special needs get older. To put it mildly, the opportunities for individuals with special needs who have graduated out of their local school system are embarrassingly inadequate. Exceptional Futures seeks to provide a solution to this serious and growing problem by creating an inclusive community built around social, recreational, and volunteer activities.

At Exceptional Futures, they foster lifelong learning, emphasizing active, hands-on, age-appropriate learning with real life applications. When people work with individuals with special needs, they often focus on weaknesses. We focus on developing strengths. A happy person has purpose, the opportunity for growth, and exposure to new experiences.

To learn more visit <https://efatl.org/>. The closest facility for our special needs adults is housed at Piedmont Church, 570 Piedmont Road, Marietta, 30066. For more information call 770-504-6053. Pictured above Mathew Longacre, cuts the ribbon for Exceptional Futures at Piedmont Church. On left is BJ Benton, Chairman of the Board of Exceptional Futures, on right is Dr. Ike Reighard is Senior Pastor of Piedmont Church

ADVANCE FAIR TICKETS ON SALE NOW

The Superior Plumbing presents North Georgia State Fair is returning with the \$23.95 Advance Pay One Price ride ticket. The ticket is good for any one day of the fair and does not include admission. This is not only a significant savings but will hopefully provide a more efficient experience for fairgoers as well. The ticket is only available to purchase online before opening day, September 18. The Fair will also sell advance online admission tickets for \$10.00 versus \$15.00 at the gate during the fair. New this year, seniors 55 and older will receive discounted admission at \$10.00 during the fair. In addition, the fair will now offer FREE parking, and Pay One Price Ride specials every single day of the fair, as follows:

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MARIETTA NEWS

EROSION VS RESILIENCE: BUCKTOWN'S INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR HURRICANE READY HILLSIDES

BY WADE SELLERS, OWNER, BUCKTOWN GRADING AND CONSTRUCTION

Hurricane Helene's 100 mph winds and record rainfall in September 2024 devastated Cherokee County. But six months later, an innovative approach to hillside construction is transforming how North Georgia communities prepare for extreme weather.

The storm became a catalyst for engineering solutions that go far beyond traditional retaining walls. New integrated systems combine concrete terraces with subsurface drainage pipes, creating "cascade drainage" that channels water away from vulnerable soil.

These engineered slopes feature reinforced concrete blocks with geogrid reinforcement extending 8-12 feet below grade. The geogrid distributes load forces like a three-dimensional spiderweb across wider areas than conventional methods.

What makes this approach unique is its integration of bioengineering with heavy construction. Native species like river birch and switchgrass get planted in engineered soil mixtures that promote rapid root establishment while maintaining proper drainage.

Spring 2025 brought the real test when near-record rainfall hit the region. Properties with these new systems showed zero erosion or structural movement, while nearby untreated slopes continued washing out.

"During the April storm we saw water pass cleanly through the new drainage channels on every site we'd stabilized," reports the Bucktown field crew. "Meanwhile, multiple nearby properties - still using traditional slopes - logged mudslides and washouts, according to county service calls."

The economic impact is measurable. Property values in protected areas have increased 12% on average, according to Cherokee County assessor records. Insurance companies now offer premium discounts for properties with certified erosion control systems.

Environmental benefits are equally significant. The Etowah River Conservancy estimates these projects have prevented over 500 tons of soil from entering local watersheds.

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission has taken notice, featuring this methodology in updated state guidelines for hillside development. Several municipalities now require similar integrated approaches for new construction permits.

FEMA officials recently toured projects as potential models for disaster resilience funding programs. This pioneering approach offers hope that communities can build back better and stronger than before, creating landscapes designed to survive whatever nature delivers.

Bucktown Grading and Construction is proud to be at the forefront of these hillside innovations. Our team designs and installs these advanced systems for properties across North Georgia — helping homeowners protect their land, increase value, and build lasting resilience. If your property faces erosion risk, we're here to help.

For more information contact Wade Sellers, Owner of Bucktown Grading and Construction at +1 706-813-3736 or visit <https://www.bucktowngradingandconstruction.com/>

RUMMAGE AND BOOK SALE!

The Marietta History Center is excited to announce the return of its highly anticipated annual Rummage and Book Sale! This year's event will take place over three days, starting on Thursday, August 14th, at 10:00 AM and ending on Saturday August 16th. The sale will be held at the Marietta History Center, located in the heart of Marietta, located at 1 Depot Street, Marietta.

There is no admission charge to enter the sale, however if you want to visit the Museum, regular admission will be charged on Thursday and Friday, and free on Saturday.

The Rummage and Book Sale is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and support the Marietta History Center while finding great deals on a wide variety of items. This year's sale promises to be bigger and better than ever, featuring an extensive collection of books, militaria, toys, vintage items, home décor, and much more. Everything is

priced to sell, ensuring that there is something for everyone.

All proceeds from the sale will directly benefit the preservation and care of the Marietta History Center's permanent collection of over 50,000 artifacts. The support from this event is crucial in allowing the History Center to continue its mission of igniting curiosity in Marietta's history by connecting people through compelling stories and engaging experiences. For more information, please go to www.MariettaHistory.org.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COBB-MARIETTA AWARDS \$9,500+ IN GRANTS,

The Junior League of Cobb-Marietta (JLCM) has announced the results of its 2024-2025 League year, including \$9,500 awarded in community grants, 360 hours of volunteer service, and a strategic shift in focus toward supporting families and children in Cobb County.

Building on over 90 years of community leadership, JLCM reintroduced a formal grantmaking process this year, distributing funds to five nonprofit partners: Cobb Collaborative, Waymark, Kidz2Leaders, LiveSafe Resources, and Heartbeats and Hands 540. Each organization received up to \$2,000 to support critical local programs, with impact reporting scheduled for next year.

JLCM members also gave their time and energy directly to the community, assembling hygiene kits, collecting over 100 pounds of food for local resource centers, and volunteering more than 360 hours. In addition, JLCM returned to the Georgia State Capitol for State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) Day, advocating for community needs in direct conversation with legislators.

To support funding the League's grant program, JLCM introduced two new fundraisers during the 2024-2025 League year: a bingo night held in October 2024, and the Serve Up Some Good pickleball tournament in March 2025, hosted at the Old Towne Athletic Club. Together, these events raised over \$16,800 to help fund grants awarded to this year's community partners.

The League welcomed 11 new members and 10 transfers in the 2024-2025 League year, while prioritizing member engagement through 48 community-building events. JLCM's signature blend of service, advocacy, and leadership development continues to attract women seeking meaningful impact through collective action.

SAINT JOSEPH FUN NIGHT! A DISABILITIES MINISTRY

Fun Night's participants rocked away the night this month celebrating their NINTH ANNIVERSARY! A fantastic time was had by all!!

Fun Night! is held in Marist Hall at Saint Joseph Catholic Church and meets on the third Friday of the month.

We have pizza, arts & crafts and celebrate birthdays!

This month we celebrated our 9th Anniversary rocking the night away with inflatable instruments & dancing.

This is an evening of fun and socialization for children and adults with disabilities. It builds community by gathering volunteers with children and adults with disabilities so they have the opportunity to participate together in fellowship. The evening provides an opportunity for respite for parents and/or caregivers.

Fun Night! is open to any child or adult with a disability, regardless of religious affiliation.

For more information contact Charlie Mullaney by email at spgalore@aol.com.



GLOVER PARK CONCERT PLAYS AUGUST 22 -SOUL CARTEL - FUNK & SOUL (*the Fourth Friday of the month)

The Downtown Marietta Development Authority and the City of Marietta are proud to announce the 2025 Glover Park Concert Series, presented by Wellstar Health System. These free concerts take place monthly in Glover Park on the Marietta Square from April through September.

THE CONCERT LINEUP:

August 22*Soul Cartel - Funk & Soul (*the Fourth Friday of the month)

September 26 Davis and the Love - Variety Pop Hits

Attendees can bring a picnic or dine in one of the many fine restaurants located on the square.

All concerts begin at 8:00 on the last Friday of each month, April – September. *Exception, August date is the 4th Friday. The concerts are held at Glover Park on the Historic Marietta Square 50 N. Park Square, Marietta GA 30060. Free street parking, City Hall parking deck, 205 Lawrence St and the Care Here of Marietta parking lot, 268 Lawrence St. <https://www.mariettaga.gov/1462/Downtown-Parking>

More information online at www.facebook.com/GloverParkConcertSeries. Produced by the Downtown Marietta Development Authority and supported by the City of Marietta and Marietta Parks, Recreation and Facilities. A litter free event: Keep Marietta Beautiful.

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THE NCHS TEACHERS ARE PUMPED FOR SCHOOL TO BEGIN



The Back to School bash for our NCHS teachers was thriving with energy as members of the Kennesaw Business Association celebrated the 235 teachers and more with a lunch served by Copeland's of New Orleans. As the teachers walked to the cafeteria they passed through the hall lined with over 60 sponsors who shared coupons and swag with the teachers. This is the 35th year that the KBA has honored the teachers at a school with a Back to School Bash. The event was first started when David Grant, State Farm was president in 1990, with a cookout grilled in the back of Kennesaw Elementary School. This year members of the KBA donated \$10,000 towards the Bash. This money was used to purchase gift cards from our local restaurants who participate in the Chop Shop during football games and in the Taste of Kennesaw. Each teacher received a gift bag containing \$40 worth of gift cards, along with several other offers by the KBA members. The smiles on these teachers faces as they voiced their appreciation for the luncheon was all the thanks that was needed. Thanks to Marlon Longacre, Chair of Education, for a successful Back to School Bash!

**ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
BY PRESIDENT KIM WIGINTON**



The Acworth Business Association is back to school! In August our education committee is hitting the road touring our local public schools and feeding our teachers during pre-planning. Our first Thursday luncheon on August 7 continues our back to school celebration with a panel discussion of our local high school football coaches. There is something for everyone this month whether you are back to school or back to businesses. Be sure to RSVP for all events. The Morning Jolt offers early morning coffee and one minute introductions at The Cowan on August 12 and 26 at 8:00. Young Professionals meet Wednesday, August 13 at Main Street Events by 1885 at 5:30. Check out Acworth's brand new golf simulator venue, Fore Seasons, on August 14 at 5:30.

The Women's Network Lunch will be Thursday, August 21 at 11:30 at the Logan Farm House. The ABA offers something for all businesses. See how you can plug in by visiting our website www.AcworthBusiness.org and registering under the EVENTS tab.

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS UPCOMING EVENTS
ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

THUR AUGUST 7 ABA LUNCHEON - 11:30-1:00 ACWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER August is our Pigskin Preview where you can meet the local high school football coaches Please visit acworthbusiness.org for more information and to RSVP

THU AUGUST 14 ACWORTH ALIVE AFTER 5 Join the ABA for after hours food, fun and networking at Fore Seasons, 4731 S Main Street, Acworth. This event is free for ABA Members, \$5 for Guests RSVP at www.acworthbusiness.org.

THUR AUG 21 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON - 11:30-1:00 @Logan Farm House, 4756 Logan Road, Acworth, 30101, Guest Speaker: Melissa Hergert, CEO & visionary of BrainTrain Centers. Caterer JD's Bar-B-Que Please RSVP at www.acworthbusiness.org. Member is \$20.00.

KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

TUES AUGUST 12 KBA LUNCHEON - 11:00-1:00 GOVERNOR'S GUN CLUB, 1005 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw Guest Speaker: Mike Plant, President and CEO Braves Development Company. Sponsor 22One Realty & Credit Union of GA. Caterer: Governor's Gun Club. RSVP www.kennesawbusiness.org. Please note: If you choose not to register in advance, you will pay an additional \$10 at the door.

TUE AUG 19 - KBA ALIVE AFTER FIVE sponsored by Piedmont Injury Law at Pisano's Italian Kitchen, downtown Kennesaw: 5:30-7:30 pm. Join the KBA for after hours food, fun, and networking This event is free for KBA members, \$5 for guests. 5:30-7:30. Register at kennesawbusiness.org.

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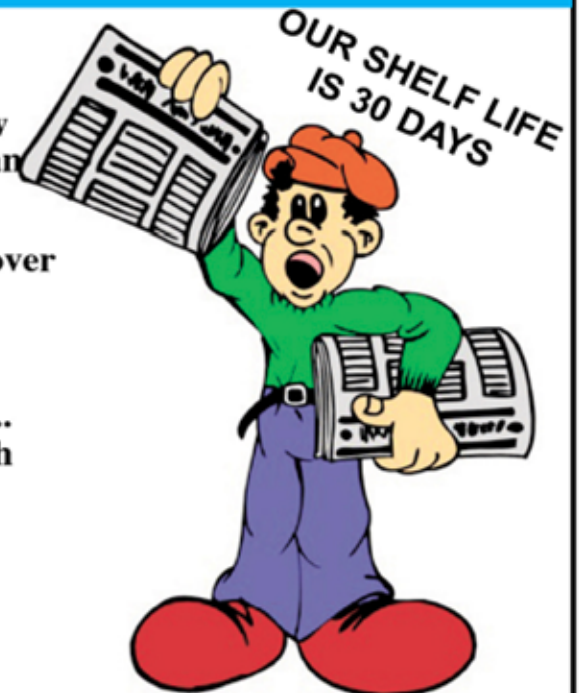
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3/8 Page 5" x 9.50" or 7.5" x 6.25"	1/4 Page 5" x 6.25"	1/8 Page 5" x 3.25"

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