

# The Bright Side™

VOLUME 34 No 9

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

SEPT 2025



## SUPERIOR PLUMBING PRESENTS 2025 NORTH GEORGIA STATE FAIR

As the largest fair in metro Atlanta, the Superior Plumbing Presents North Georgia State Fair attracts over 300,000 people every year from north Georgia and neighboring states. The Fair features not one, but two petting barns featuring barnyard and exotic animals, flower shows; blue ribbon competitions for handmade goods and items, fruits, vegetables and artwork of all kinds; local entertainment, and delicious fair foods including all of the traditional fare, as well as lots of unexpected culinary delights. The price of admission also covers numerous world class ground acts, including the Carriage Kia Grand Stand Series featuring the 406 FMX High Air Tour, Demolition Derby, Full Throttle Monster Trucks, and the American Bull Riders Tour. The family owned and operated Great James H. Drew Exposition Midway, one of the largest carnival midways in the United States, features a wide assortment of carnival games, entertainment, and exciting rides for thrill-seekers of all ages, including the Wildcat Rollercoaster, the Georgia Mountain Lift and the Mega Slide.

The 93rd Annual Superior Plumbing Presents North Georgia State Fair will take place on Thursday, September 18 through Sunday, September 28, 2025 Jim R. Miller Park, 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta, Georgia 30008. The fair grounds will be open Monday through Thursday 4 to 11pm, Fridays 4pm to midnight Saturdays 10am to midnight, and Sundays 12:30 to 10:00pm.

**Free Carriage Kia Grandstand Events:** The covered arena will feature a variety of amazing, family-friendly events including the 406 FMX High Air Tour September 18-22, Demolition Derby September 24, Full Throttle Monster Trucks September 25, and The American Bull Riders Tour September 26-28. All Carriage Kia Grandstand events are FREE with fair admission. General admission seating. New Grandstand Event: As part of the Carriage Kia of Woodstock Grandstand Entertainment Lineup, this elite Freestyle Motocross team features top riders from across the country performing insane FMX stunts including snowmobiles and a UTV backflip as the grand finale of each night's final show.

### A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025

**The Zerbin Family Circus** is a spectacular showcase of acrobatics, aerialists hilarious clowns, balancing acts, jugglers, and jaw dropping performances under the 1,200 seat Big Top. Perfect for all ages, this family-run circus brings a blend of tradition and excitement that will leave you amazed.

**The Wall of Death** is a vintage live action thrill show featuring a silo-shaped wooden cylinder 30 feet in diameter. Inside the drome, motorcycle daredevils travel along the vertical wall performing fancy, trick, and acrobatic riding.

**RODEO EVENT FOR KIDS** A popular rodeo event where young children ride sheep. A fun crowd pleasing activity where kids ages 4-7, weighing under 55 pounds, compete to see who can stay on the sheep the longest. Mutton Bustin will be one hour before bull riding each night, September 26-28

**NEW RIDE ALERT!! Flying COWS:** A whimsical, family friendly ride for the young, and the young at heart. "Steer" your own bovine buddy up and down, and around and around

### ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE

Online advance Pay-One-Price Ride Tickets: Advance Pay-One Price Tickets can be purchased for \$23.95 per person and are good for any one day of the fair. Price does NOT include admission. Height restrictions apply. Online Advance Admission Tickets will also be available for just \$10. All online tickets will only be available for purchase Friday, August 1 - Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Visit our website at [www.northgeorgiastatefair.com](http://www.northgeorgiastatefair.com)

### PARKING, SHUTTLES, RIDESHARES

**Parking:** Parking is FREE.

**Traffic/Shuttles:** All fair traffic will be directed to County Services Parkway. Daily shuttles will operate from 6:00pm to closing from the Cobb Safety Village located at 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30008

**Uber/Lyft Pickup:** All rideshare pick-up and drop off services will be located at the Cobb Safety Village as well. 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30008



## SMITH-GILBERT GARDENS IS NOW OPEN

Smith-Gilbert Gardens is now re-opened to the public, with regular hours resuming as follows: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Friday, September 5, at 10 a.m.

The Gardens have undergone extensive renovations designed to improve visitor experience and accessibility. Upgrades include the addition of accessible restrooms, nearly a mile of paved walking paths, enhanced parking accessibility, improvements to the bonsai and butterfly exhibits, and new garden beds and interactive features designed for children in the Living Laboratory garden area. A new covered pavilion will also provide a versatile space for events and educational programming. Following the reopening, the historic Hiram Butler House will receive further enhancements funded by the State of Georgia. These improvements support Smith-Gilbert Gardens' mission to be a resource for conservation, education and the enjoyment of horticulture, fine arts and historic preservation.

A highlight of the reopening is the expanded Garden with Wings Butterfly Exhibit. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., until September 27, 2025, and offers an immersive experience showcasing native butterflies and their full life cycles. Visitors will explore host and nectar plants essential to butterfly survival, including tulip poplar and passionflower vine.

Timed-entry tickets are required for all visitors to the Butterfly House, including members, and may be purchased online or at the Gardens Gift Shop for \$3 per person. Due to limited capacity, advanced ticket purchase is strongly encouraged. Members enjoy complimentary access but are asked to reserve tickets in advance. All guests will check in at the Hiram Butler House, where wristbands and timed entry cards will be distributed.

Please note that the Butterfly House is not fully ADA-accessible due to narrow pathways, and strollers are not permitted. However, wheelchairs are allowed and accommodation for guests with mobility needs will be provided whenever possible.

Returning this season is the popular Adopt a Butterfly campaign. For a donation of \$20 or more, supporters receive a waterproof vinyl sticker set featuring custom artwork of a monarch butterfly and eastern tiger swallowtail. Adoptions are available online and at the Gardens Gift Shop. Proceeds benefit the Smith-Gilbert Gardens Foundation and support the Butterfly Exhibit.

For more information about Smith-Gilbert Gardens, the Garden with Wings Butterfly Exhibit, or to reserve tickets, visit [www.smithgilbertgardens.com](http://www.smithgilbertgardens.com)

Pictured above, Kennesaw's elected officials and staff, celebrate the ribbon cutting.

## THE HARD AND THE BEAUTIFUL



Roger Hines, well known Cobb County English Teacher and columnist has written a book - about being one of 17 children growing up in Mississippi. Named the Hard and the Beautiful, the book is available from Amazon.com. Search for it under Roger Hines.

The Hard and the Beautiful chronicles the lives of a Mississippi tenant farmer, his wife, and their seventeen children. Woven through seven decades from the farmer's birth to his youngest child's nineteenth birthday, these chronicles provide a picture of familial stability that prevailed in spite of poverty. Roger Hines, the sixteenth of the seventeen children, celebrates his parents, his ten sisters, and six brothers. He traces the distinct historical time periods in which his parents and all of his siblings were born and grew up.

Though his family's circumstances were often difficult, Hines differentiates between material poverty and poverty of the soul and argues that material poverty is not the worst kind. He raises such questions as: what exactly are the forces that have weakened America's families the last fifty years? How did his own family escape fracture and enjoy being a family with deep, loving relationships?

The Hard and the Beautiful explores fatherhood and challenges readers to acknowledge our current need for faithful dads. It describes a family blessed by humble parents who modeled character and consistency and taught their children to do the same.



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Roving Photographer

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## THIS AND THAT



### CONGRATULATIONS EAGLE SCOUTS TRIPP FORBES AND CARSON POPE

On Saturday, August 30, 2025, Troop 24, Cartersville, held a ceremony in honor of Tripp Forbes and Carson Pope completing the requirements to become Eagle Scouts. In addition to the requirement of achieving serval badges, the Scouts were required to complete a project that would benefit their community.. Tripp's project involved the cleaning out of flowerbeds and installing new landscaping at the city offices in White, Georgia. Carson held a blood drive with the Red Cross, in honor of his mother, who is fighting a blood cancer. The event collected 81 pints of blood, which equates to 243 lives saved. In addition Carson held a food drive, collecting 800 lbs of food that went to the Food Pantry at New Life Community Church. Both young men's troop members were on hand to help with their projects.

### DECORATE DOWNTOWN KENNESAW



The City of Kennesaw invites residents, families, businesses, schools, local organizations and community groups to help decorate downtown through two popular seasonal programs: Scarecrows on Main and Holiday Extravaganza at Depot Park.

#### Scarecrows on Main

Participants are invited to design and display a freestanding scarecrow along Main Street. Scarecrows will be installed between Thursday, Sept. 25, and Sunday, Sept. 28. Assigned locations will be provided by Thursday, Sept. 18. Displays must be removed between Thursday, Nov. 6, and Sunday, Nov. 9.

Scarecrows must fit within a 4-by-4-foot space and be stable, weather-resistant and family-friendly. Real pumpkins and ground stakes are not permitted. All materials must be provided by the participant, and

all displays must comply with event rules and guidelines.

The application deadline is Sunday, Sept. 14. The participation fee is \$25, payable to the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority. Space is limited to 75 scarecrow spots. All proceeds benefit downtown beautification projects and events.

#### Holiday Extravaganza

Participants in the Holiday Extravaganza will receive a 6-foot artificial, unlit tree and a metal stake for display in Depot Park. All other decorations must be supplied by the participant. Solar-powered lights are allowed; electricity will not be provided.

Trees will be decorated between Saturday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Nov. 30, and must be removed by Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026. Trees will remain City property and should not be removed.

All decorations must be securely attached and suitable for public display. Participants are responsible for regularly maintaining their tree. The application deadline is Sunday, Nov. 16. The participation fee is \$25. Space is limited to 75 trees.

#### NEW THIS YEAR

Participants may register for both Scarecrows on Main and Holiday Extravaganza at a discounted combined rate of \$35. Space is limited for both events, and early registration is encouraged. For more details, rules, and to register, visit [www.kennesaw-ga.gov](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov).

## LOCAL HISTORY STORIES

Andrew J. Bramlett

The City of Kennesaw's birthday is coming up on Monday, September 21, 2025. Exactly 138 years before, the Georgia General Assembly passed the act officially incorporating Kennesaw. Within a few months, a mayor was elected for the young community.



The earliest discussions about Kennesaw's incorporation were in September 1886, when the Marietta Journal's Kennesaw correspondent noted there had been "some talk" of the idea. Local citizens chose the name Kennesaw to honor the nearby mountain, even though the community had traditionally been called Big Shanty. Since the Civil War, Kennesaw had become a popular alternative name for the community, partly because it sounded more refined than Big Shanty.

A bill was presented in the Georgia House in July of the following year by A. S. Clay, a future Senator. The General Assembly approved it on September 21, 1887. The town limits were set at "one-half mile from the depot," and there would be a mayor and four councilmembers. According to the Articles, no fine could exceed \$30 or thirty days, and no alcohol licenses could be granted. Both of these provisions would eventually be removed.

The citizens of Kennesaw were excited to create their own government, with the Marietta Journal saying they were "well pleased."

EMAIL YOUR  
STORIES, PHOTOS  
OR QUESTIONS to  
[Brightnews@aol.com](mailto:Brightnews@aol.com)

### KENNESAW'S FALL SENIOR LUNCHEON

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation will host a monthly Adults 50+ luncheon on the first Wednesday 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.recl.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog?> Select Seniors and Luncheon Series. This event is presented by Cobb EMC.



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### KENNESAW POLICE CHIEF BILL WESTENBERGER HONORED!

Chief Westenberg has been honored with the Egon Bittner Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®). This prestigious award is presented to Chief Executive Officers who have led a CALEA-accredited agency for 15 or more continuous years, recognizing their lasting contributions to public safety and the profession.

The City of Kennesaw is proud to celebrate Chief Westenberg's accomplishment and to recognize his guidance, dedication, and the care he continues to show for our community.



### KENNESAW CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS WHO'S BAD – THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE BAND ON SAT OCT 4

We're excited to announce the new date for the postponed Kennesaw Concert Series performance featuring Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute. Join us on Saturday, October 4, for an electric night of live music in Downtown Kennesaw: At 7:00 PM – Bonafide Soul opens followed by 8:15 PM – Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute

Known as the longest-running Michael Jackson tribute, Who's Bad delivers high-energy performances with classic choreography and legendary hits. Who's Bad is a tribute to Michael Jackson that showcases the music with an unrivaled live performance. This spectacular celebration of Michael Jackson's expansive song catalog has excited crowds on every continent. More details and seating options available at [www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com](http://www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com).

### COBB'S BOND RATING

The nation's top three bond rating agencies recently announced that Cobb has continued its elite financial standing for the 28th consecutive year — one of the longest streaks in the nation. The New York-based agencies each graded the county with "Triple A" ratings. Maintaining an AAA rating provides significant benefits for Cobb County residents, including:

- Lower borrowing costs: The county can finance roads, parks, and infrastructure at the lowest possible interest rates, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.
- Investor confidence: With one of the safest credit profiles in the nation, Cobb County bonds attract a broad pool of buyers, ensuring reliable access to funding for community needs.

- Strong governance: The rating affirms the county's commitment to responsible budgeting, strategic reserves, and long-term financial planning.

Only a select number of local governments nationwide maintain AAA ratings — and even fewer have achieved a streak as long as Cobb's. The county's continued position in this elite group underscores its fiscal discipline and its commitment to serving residents with efficiency and accountability.

### BIG GAME DAY

The United Bankshares Amphitheater at Depot Park will host Big Game Day on Sept. 27, showing SEC football on the big screen. Fans can catch the 3:30 p.m. showcase games and 7:30 p.m. primetime matchups. Admission is free, and attendees are encouraged to bring chairs, food and drinks to enjoy the games in a fun atmosphere.

### OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

The First Friday Concert Series closes Oct. 3 with G Clef and the Playlist at Main Street Plaza. The band's set spans Motown, pop, rock, R&B and hip-hop, featuring hits from Prince, Earth, Wind & Fire, Hall & Oates and Metallica. The free show runs 7–9 p.m., with food and drinks available. VIP seating can be purchased at [www.kennesawdowntown.com](http://www.kennesawdowntown.com).

### COMMUNITY PARTY

The Goldfish Swim School - Acworth is hosting a FREE Community Parking Lot Party on Sunday, Sept 28 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The school is located at 3513 Baker Road #STE 500 Acworth, GA 30101. All are welcome to come and learn about our brand new state-of-the-art learn to swim facility, and pre-register for swim lessons. Come and enjoy complimentary snacks and treats. We can't wait to meet you. Email [swimacworth@goldfishss.com](mailto:swimacworth@goldfishss.com) with questions.

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### MARIETTA COBB ART MUSEUM 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://mariettacobbartmuseum.org/> for more information. The museum is located 30 Atlanta Street, SE Marietta, GA 30060

### KENNESAW CONCERT SERIES

Yacht Rock Schooner will headline the 2025 Kennesaw Concert Series on Sept. 20 at the United Bankshares Amphitheater at Depot Park. Known for faithful renditions of hits from Hall & Oates, Steely Dan, Kenny Loggins and Michael McDonald, the band delivers a high-energy show celebrating the smooth sounds of the late '70s and early '80s. The free concert begins at 7 p.m., with food and beverages available for purchase. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. More information is at [amphitheateratdepotpark.com](http://amphitheateratdepotpark.com).

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

The Kennesaw Police Citizens Advisory Board will host a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration Sept. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ben Robertson Community Center. The family-friendly event will feature authentic foods from several countries, live music and dance performances showcasing the diversity of Hispanic traditions. Admission is free, and guests are encouraged to bring friends and family to enjoy an evening of culture, flavor and community. More information is available at [kennesaw-ga.gov](http://kennesaw-ga.gov).

### NEWCOMERS CLUB

The Newcomers Club of Cobb County meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of most months and has other activities thought the month. [www.newcomersofcobbcounty.com](http://www.newcomersofcobbcounty.com) for the location of the next meeting or activity. Those NEW to Cobb or just looking for NEW friends and activities are invited to join us.

### MEET MY DIGITAL MEDIA TEAM

It doesn't take long to amass 100's of photographs and documents scattered throughout several electronic devices. Adam Alexander, founder of My Digital Media Team has found a way to simplify your digital life. His Team will install equipment, consolidate your files, sync your devices and teach you how to use your new cloud-based data storage system. And there are no data storage fees or subscriptions. You will have your own personal cloud system at your fingertips. Call 470-968-8360 or visit [www.MyDigitalMediaTeam.com](http://www.MyDigitalMediaTeam.com) for more information.

### OCTOBER DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

### The 20th ANNUAL SUPERIOR PLUMBING TASTE OF ACWORTH

Title sponsor Superior Plumbing and Acworth Business Association in cooperation with the Acworth Downtown Development Authority and City of Acworth presents the Taste of Acworth on Saturday October 11 11:00 a.m. til 6:00 pm. on Main Street, downtown Acworth

The Taste of Acworth 2025 will satisfy your palates, quench your thirst, fulfill your family's need for music & entertainment!!! You will be able to sample many Acworth restaurants on the beautiful Main Street in downtown Acworth. There will be more than 150 booths featuring local restaurants and businesses from around the greater-Acworth area. Look for the entertainment stage, inflatables for the kids, lots of food, and more! Plan to bring your family to experience a true "Taste" of Acworth!

Admission is Free! Come hungry as there will be an array of diverse restaurants that will be offering food samples from \$1.00 to \$10.00.

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### THE CRAZY BOOK LADY INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE

The Crazy Book Lady buys, sells, and trades books and media. They offer a large selection of old and new books. They have been committed to servicing the Acworth, Cartersville, Kennesaw, and Marietta area since 2017.

In addition this bookstore hosts several book clubs, book signings, and RPG Groups. The store is located at 5058 Allatoona Gateway, Acworth, GA. Look for them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrazyBookLadyGA/>

### BE PREPARED STOCK YOUR FIRST AID KIT!

In an emergency, seconds matter—and having a properly stocked first aid kit can make all the difference. Whether you're dealing with cuts, sprains, or more serious injuries while waiting for help to arrive, your kit is your first line of defense. Take time this week to check your first aid supplies at home, at work, and in your vehicle.

**Your kit should include:**

Assorted bandages and sterile gauze; Antiseptic wipes, hand sanitizer, and gloves; Tweezers, scissors, and medical tape; Over-the-counter pain relievers and allergy meds; A CPR face shield and emergency blanket; Any personal medications or medical instructions

**Pro Tip:** Keep your kit in a waterproof container and review it every 6 months to replace expired items.

Preparedness isn't just about major disasters—it's about being ready for the everyday emergencies too. Stay ready. Stay safe.

**EDITORS NOTE:** Thanks Acworth Police Dept for this information.



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## ACWORTH NEWS

### CONCERT ON THE GREEN: CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE PRESENTED BY PUBLIX

Concert on the Green: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Presented by Publix returns to Logan Farm Park on Saturday, September 20, 2025! Come out for great food and fantastic music while dancing the night away. The gates will open at 5 p.m. and the concert will begin at 6 p.m. Bring your family, friends and neighbors as Acworth celebrates its community and culture at Logan Farm Park. For more information on this event, please visit [www.acworthparksandrec.org](http://www.acworthparksandrec.org) or call 770-917-1234. If you would like to be a Sponsor or Vendor, please email Daulton Hill: [dhill@acworth-ga.gov](mailto:dhill@acworth-ga.gov)

¡Concert on the Green: Celebrando el Mes de la Herencia Hispana regresa a Logan Farm Park el sábado 20 de septiembre de 2025. Sal de 5 a 10 p.m. para disfrutar de una excelente comida y música fantástica mientras bailas toda la noche. Habrá música y actuaciones a partir de las 6 p.m. Traiga a su familia, amigos y vecinos mientras Acworth celebra su comunidad y cultura en Logan Farm Park. Para obtener más información sobre este evento, visite [www.acworthparksandrec.org](http://www.acworthparksandrec.org) o llame al 770-917-1234.

### TIM RICHARDSON ANNOUNCES RUN FOR REELECTION AS ACWORTH ALDERMAN



ACWORTH – Longtime Acworth leader Tim Richardson has announced his candidacy for reelection to the Post 4 seat on the Acworth Board of Aldermen. A 45-year resident of the city, Richardson is completing his 28th year of service on the city's leadership team.

A native of Cobb County, Richardson retired from a successful career as a field engineer with Bell and Howell in the mail processing industry. The non-partisan election will take place on November 4, 2025.

Richardson's campaign will center on Quality of Life—a vision built on safe streets, smart growth, quality city services, and a strong sense of community. Over the past 25 years, he has helped foster partnerships that have strengthened Acworth's economy while preserving its small-town charm.

"I've always focused on what matters most—making Acworth a great place to live, raise a family, and retire," Richardson said. "That means smart growth, safe streets, a strong community, and responsive leadership. I'm ready to continue working for the citizens of Acworth for another four years."

### UNDERSTANDING COBB'S PROPERTY TAXES

By Steve Prather, Acworth City Alderman

I would like to take a moment to share information on your local property taxes to enlighten you on how it works in Cobb County and local municipalities (the 7 cities in Cobb). I wanted to share for a couple reasons. First, last year was the first year I did not pay a "school tax" which means my annual property tax bill dropped by 80%. You heard me right, if you are 64 AND HAVE FILED FOR THIS EXEMPTION an annual Cobb property tax bill dropped from \$2,500 in the past, to closer to \$500. It is imperative that you do your research and file for the senior school tax exemption because it is not automatic and I have met a few folks who paid the extra tax for several years. That can be an expensive oversight and you do not get it back once it has been paid. Secondly, it's that time of year when some of us receive our new home assessment and we all start to hear the news about raising our taxes if the millage rate is not lowered. However, I have a secret – that is not exactly accurate. Your Cobb and city property taxes for the general fund do not go up when your home value increases. How could that be possible, you ask? In the county and our cities we have a magic button called "Floating Homestead" which means your homestead exemption changes up and down to match property value changes for all homesteaded properties (meaning your main residence that you own and live in full time). In essence your taxes are frozen (up or down) unless the millage rate is changed. That is the opposite of what gets reported and I agree it is a "head scratcher" why they have to get us all worked up telling us our taxes are going up. This is a requirement dictated by laws established by our Georgia Assembly and they almost seem to take pleasure in confusing us at least once a year.

We, of course, are not completely off the hook for increased taxes. There are a couple of gotchas in there that I also feel you should be alerted to. A key one is floating homestead does not apply to the school tax (remember the 80% part of your property taxes if not 64 or older). Therefore it is still critical to watch your assessments and act if they do not reflect the true value of your home. It is also important to note that "non-homestead" properties (commercial and residential rentals, for example) also do not have floating homestead exemptions so when their value goes up so do their taxes. Of course, the landlord passes it on to the tenant and the tenant passes it on you, the consumer, so at the end of the day it is an additional consumption tax we do pay.

### 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 September luncheon is Wednesday Sept 17. Register online at [www.acworthparksandrecreation.org](http://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](http://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. .

## BREAKING THE STIGMA OF DYSLEXIA

BY KIM WIGINGTON, BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

When most people hear the word "dyslexia," they think of letters moving around on a page or appearing backwards. Brookwood Christian, a small private 1st-12th grade school in Acworth is on a mission to break the stigma.

Dyslexia is a unique way of learning and seeing the world. Dyslexic people usually have higher than average IQs, but they've been misunderstood and labeled as lazy or impaired.

According to the International Dyslexia Association, as many as 1 in 5 people have dyslexia to some degree. Dyslexia doesn't go away. However, with the right support, our students can achieve anything. With the correct instruction and a nurturing environment, students can catch up academically and thrive.

By breaking the stigma, schools like Brookwood are helping to ensure those students are seen for their strengths rather than defined by their differences.

If art is the  
answer,  
what is the  
question?

## THE ART HOUSE

Join us for our Opening Reception of our "Juried Exhibit" Saturday, September 13, 4-7pm. "The Little Shanty Stringtangle" will play American String Music during this event. Light Refreshments will be available. Weather permitting, we will utilize the deck for socializing.

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

All artwork is for sale. Stop in soon for the best selection of art to choose from. The Art House is located at 4425 Cherokee St, Acworth. Across from 1885. Open Tues - Sat. 12-6.

## WELCOME NEW ACWORTH BUSINESSES

Mayor Tommy Allegeood have been busy hosting Ribbon Cuttings for new businesses in Acworth. Take a look at three that were opened.



### BRICKMONT

Mayor Allegeood, Alderman Richardson, and the City team were excited to host a ribbon cutting on Thursday, August 21, in celebration of Brickmont Assisted Living. Brickmont Assisted Living Facility is located at 3114 Cobb Pkwy NW, Acworth, GA, 30101.

### CASA AMIGOS

Mayor Allegeood and the City team were excited to host a ribbon cutting on Friday, August 15, in celebration of Casa Amigos Mexican Restaurant! Congratulations to the entire Casa Amigos team and thank you for investing in the city. Casa Amigos Mexican Restaurant is located at 3365 Acworth Oaks Dr NW, Acworth, GA, 30101.



### FORE SEASONS GOLF CLUB

Fore Seasons Golf Club is a locally owned and community inspired indoor golf facility. Golfers of all skill levels looking to improve their game or have fun with family and friends are welcome. Come and experience the latest Trackman technology in a warm social environment. Located in downtown Acworth at 4731 Main

Street, go online to become a member, learn more about this innovative company or to book a bay. If you are an avid golfer, like some folks I know, you may decide to buy a membership. All the information is online at <https://foreseasonsgc.com>. The Owners are pictured here.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to our roving photographer, Sandra Glenn, who attends these city ribbon cuttings, takes pictures and lets us know about each business.

VIEW THE FULL LIST OF ACWORTH'S CLASSES AND  
ACTIVITIES AT  
<https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog>

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# Charity Night at 3 Amigos!

**Benefiting: Loving Arms Cancer Outreach**

20% Will Be Donated to LACO!  
PLEASE PLACE RECEIPTS IN BUCKETS AT EXIT

## Upcoming Dates:

- August 28th, 2025
- September 25th, 2025
- October 30th, 2025
- November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

1000 Whitlock Ave NW Suite 400  
Marietta, GA 30064

EARL AND RACHEL SMITH

# STRAND THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE BLUEGRASS BROADWAY MUSICAL

# BRIGHT STAR

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

MUSIC, BOOK & STORY BY

**STEVE MARTIN**


MUSIC, LYRICS & STORY BY

**EDIE BRICKELL**

BRIGHT STAR is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640 New York, NY 10036 www.theatricalrights.com

## SEPT 5-21, 2025

EARL AND RACHEL SMITH **STRAND THEATRE**  
770.293.0080 // [strandmarietta.org](http://strandmarietta.org) // Historic Marietta Square



**The Center for Family Resources Launches 39TH ANNUAL THANKS FOR GIVING CAMPAIGN PROVIDING FOOD, DIGNITY, AND HOPE TO COBB COUNTY FAMILIES THIS THANKSGIVING**

This November, The Center for Family Resources (CFR) marks its 39th year of bringing comfort and connection to families in need through its annual Thanks for Giving campaign. Presented by Lockheed Martin, the program runs from November 14–21 and provides Cobb County families with everything needed for a traditional Thanksgiving meal plus enough food to support children while schools are closed for the holiday week.

Thanks for Giving helps families by:

- Ensuring children who rely on school meals don’t go hungry during the break
- Providing a full Thanksgiving dinner for families facing financial hardship
- Offering a week’s worth of groceries to reduce stress and restore dignity
- Making healthy food accessible when it’s often out of reach

In 2024, the campaign distributed more than 1,000 food boxes and stocked nearly 18,000 pounds of pantry staples for year-round support. A new kickoff day for food drop off this year on Friday, November 14 will help streamline packing and delivery to local schools.

The CFR invites businesses, organizations, and individuals to get involved. Whether through sponsorship, donations, or hosting a food drive, every contribution helps turn a week of worry into a season of joy.

To join us, visit <http://bit.ly/477q45A>.



**BE THE REASON FOR A THANKSGIVING SMILE!**

*thanks for giving*

PRESENTED BY  
**LOCKHEED MARTIN**



**DONATE TO FEED 1,000 COBB COUNTY FAMILIES IN NEED**

[THECFR.ORG/EVENTS/#THANKS](http://THECFR.ORG/EVENTS/#THANKS)

EARL AND RACHEL SMITH

# STRAND THEATRE

**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](http://www.strandmarietta.org) or by calling the box office at (770) 293-0080.



Page 9 Bright Side

25 SEPT NC

# BEAUTY PAGEANT TO KICK-OFF THE NGSF FAIR ON SEPT. 18



Applications and further information may be obtained by contacting Gene Phillips, 770-545-1351, Steve Duncan, 678-793-2007, or misscobbcounty@yahoo.com. Pictured: 2024 Junior winner, Annabelle Tidmore,

Six titles for young ladies 3 years-old through 24 years-old will be awarded in the annual beauty pageant highlighting the opening night of the North Georgia State Fair, 2245 Callaway Rd., Marietta, Sept. 18.

The 2025 fair ambassadors will be named for the following titles and ages: Tiny Miss NGSF (3-4 yrs.), Petite NGSF (5-6 yrs.), Little NGSF (7-9 yrs.), Junior NGSF (10-12 yrs.), Teen NGSF (13-16 yrs.) and Miss NGSF (17-24 yrs.)

Winners will be invited to ride in area parades during the coming year. Each will receive a crown, trophy, title sash and passes to the fair. The early registration fee is seventy dollars through Sept. 17 when there will be an optional rehearsal. Full registration of eighty dollars will be accepted one hour prior to each pageant on Sept. 18.

Judging will kick-off at 6:00 p.m. with the Tiny Division and winners are announced after each age group. The pageant features young ladies in their favorite dresses, and they are judged on poise, beauty, stage presence and personality on a scale of 1 to 10.



## FREE CARRIAGE KIA GRANDSTAND EVENTS

The covered arena will feature a variety of amazing, family-friendly events including the 406 FMX High Air Tour September 18-22, Demolition Derby September 24, Full Throttle Monster Trucks September 25, and The American Bull Riders Tour September 26-28. All Carriage Kia Grandstand events are FREE with fair admission. General admission seating.

As part of the Carriage Kia of Woodstock Grandstand Entertainment Lineup, this elite Freestyle Motocross team features top riders from across the country performing insane FMX stunts including snowmobiles and a UTV backflip as the grand finale of each night's final show. Motocross Team pictured above.

**The Zerbini Family Circus** is a spectacular showcase of acrobatics, aerialists hilarious clowns, balancing acts, jugglers, and jaw dropping performances under the 1,200 seat Big Top. Perfect for all ages, this family-run circus brings a blend of tradition and excitement that will leave you amazed. Show days and times: Seating Capacity: 1,200 People Monday - Friday: 6:30 & 8:30 PM Saturday/Sunday: 2:30, 5:30, & 8:30 PM

**A sophisticated, robotic people magnet.** Oscar entertains crowds with is wonderful wit, outgoing personality, and antics wherever he appears. Roaming the grounds daily. Show times: Monday - Friday: 5:00 & 8:00 PM Saturday/Sunday: 2:00, 5:00, & 8:00 PM. Strolling 90 minutes per show



**Lady Houdini**, aka Kristen Johnson is no "lovely" magician's assistant. She's an escape artist who has performed thousands of death defying feats, broken Harry Houdini's record for the most water escapes ever, and is currently the ONLY woman in the world attempting the water torture cell. Show times: Monday - Friday: 6:30 & 8:30 PM; Saturday/Sunday: 2:30, 5:30, & 8:30 PM

**Lew-E's comedy Circus** Each performance of Lew-E's comedy Circus will include empowering audience participation, silly comedy magic, high energy juggling, toe tapping music and so much more! A fun show for the whole family. Show times: Monday - Friday: 5:30, 7:30, & 9:00 PM Saturday/Sunday: 3:30, 5:30, & 7:30 PM

**Mutton Bustin** A popular rodeo event where young children ride sheep. A fun crowd pleasing activity where kids ages 4-7, weighing under 55 pounds, compete to see who can stay on the sheep the longest. Mutton Bustin will be one hour before bull riding each night, September 26-28

**Power Wheels** A fun, safe event for kids to compete in their electric power wheels vehicles. It is designed to be a light-hearted competition where children can enjoy the fun and thrill of a demolition derby, without the destruction! Balloons are attached to all sides of the vehicles and the last competitor with a balloon still inflated is crowned the winner. Power Wheels will take place Wednesday, September 24 at 7:00pm, before the Demolition Derby.



## BUY FAIR TICKETS ONLINE

### ADMISSION TICKETS

**SAVE \$5.00**

Save \$5 per person by Purchasing your ADMISSION TICKET online in advance BY SEPTEMBER 17, 2025.\*

### RIDE TICKETS

Pay-One-Price Ride Tickets are also available for online purchase. This ticket is \$23.95 per person online (+taxes & fees). Good for any one day of the fair. Must be 36" to ride.

\*Tickets available now through September 17th.

## DAILY ADMISSION & RIDE SPECIALS:

Thursday, September 18th ~  
Free Admission.

\$25.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Friday, September 19th ~

Free Admission for all Seniors 55+ and older. Free Admission for all Active, Reserve or Retired Military Personnel, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, First Responders, and Healthcare Workers. (Valid ID Required)

\$30.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Saturday, September 20th ~

10 AM - 11 AM Free Admission & Rides

11 AM - 5PM: \$35.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person - Good Till Close)

Sunday, September 21st ~

Receive \$1.00 off Admission w/Church Bulletin.

·School Special - 12:30 - 2:00 PM Free Admission & Rides for Students (18 & Under - Must have ticket distributed at school)

·\$30.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Monday, September 22nd ~

\$25.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Tuesday, September 23rd ~

Teacher Tuesday - All teachers & district employees admitted FREE with staff ID

·\$25.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Wednesday, September 24th ~ \$25.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Thursday, September 25th ~

College Night - All college students receive free admission with valid ID.

·\$25.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Friday, September 26th ~

Must Ministries Admission Special - Bring 5 Non-Perishable canned goods and receive one free admission.

(MUST NOT BE EXPIRED)

·\$30.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person)

Saturday, September 27th ~

Must Ministries Admission Special - Bring 5 Non-Perishable canned goods and receive one free admission.

(MUST NOT BE EXPIRED)

·10 AM - 11 AM Free Admission & Rides

·11 AM - 5PM \$35.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides (Per Person - Good Till Close)

Sunday, September 28th ~

Must Ministries Admission Special - Bring 5 Non-Perishable canned goods and receive one free admission.

(CANS MUST NOT BE EXPIRED)

School Special - 12:30 - 2:00 PM Free Admission & Rides for Students (18 & Under - Must have ticket distributed at school)

LAST BLAST! - \$30.00 Pay-One-Price Unlimited Rides PER Person)

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THE EYE IS THE LAMP OF THE BODY.

MARLON LONGACRE, ASSISTANT PASTOR, PIEDMONT CHURCH

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.” Matthew 6:22-23.

I got a text and an email from Marietta Eye Clinic last week. It is time for my yearly eye exam. One more year to be reminded that I am blind as a bat. I cannot see squat without my glasses or contacts on.

So many times, I hear these phrases concerning sight. “I just do not see how I ever going to change.” “I do not see my marriage getting any better.” “I do not see any hope for the future.” “I just do not see a way out of this hopeless situation.”

When people say, “I just do not see,” they are using a phrase of hopelessness. How you see life determines your strength, it determines everything in your life. How you see your life. How you see God. How you see your past, present, and how you see your future. I could go on and on here because everything in your life is affected by your perspective.

Jesus in Matthew 6:22-23 is talking about more than just physical sight. He is talking about vision. He is talking about perspective. He is talking about seeing with spiritual eyes. What He is saying here is that perspective is everything. It is so important for us to see life clearly, that we see life correctly, that we see life comprehensively and completely, that we learn to see life from God’s viewpoint.

Learning to see life from God’s viewpoint in the Bible is called wisdom.

One of the goals of the staff of Piedmont is to help you become a wiser person. Everything we do at Piedmont is to help you learn to see everything in your life from God’s point of view. Why? Because He always sees it correctly and typically, we do not see it correctly. We have a limited perspective. We see it with cloudy vision. I see it through coke bottle thick glasses. So much of the time we do not know where we are headed and have no idea what is going to happen next. We lack focus, clarity, and direction.

Over the next few EPIC emails, I want us to examine Mark 8. Jesus does three things with His disciples. He uses a misunderstanding, a miracle, and a critical questions to help people get a better vision and handle on what we are supposed to be doing in life. The lessons He teaches in this passage will help us when we cannot see our way clearly. To subscribe to Marlon’s EPIC emails visit <https://piedmontchurch.tv/serve/> and scroll to bottom of page to sign up for these epics.

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Saturday,

September 27, 2025

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**LACE UP FOR THE 2025 HARVEST HUSTLE 5K**  
Join the City of Kennesaw on Saturday, September 27, for the Harvest Hustle 5K, a fast, flat, and fun race through Downtown Kennesaw and Swift-Cantrell Park. Whether you’re chasing a Peachtree Road Race qualifying time or enjoying a morning walk with friends and family, this event is the perfect way to kick off your summer.  
Registration is \$35 and includes: Professionally timed, USATF Certified 5K course, Race t-shirt, and awards for top finishers in multiple categories  
Race Day Schedule: • 7:30 AM – One Mile Fun Run; • 8:00 AM – 5K Start; • 8:55 AM – Tot Trot • 9:15 AM – Awards Ceremony  
Runners meet at the Kennesaw First Baptist Church, Main Street, Downtown Kennesaw (Plenty of parking, restrooms, and warm-up space available)

COBB’S SECOND CAREER ACADEMY AT ALLATOONA OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY

District leaders and staff celebrated the official groundbreaking for the second Cobb Innovation and Technology Academy (CITA) last week. The newest career academy will be located on the Allatoona High School campus and is scheduled to be ready for operation next year (SY 2026-27).  
“After our first year, we grew from 300 applications to 669,”

said CITA Director Dr. Tiffany Barney about the skyrocketing interest in the first CITA located at Osborne HS. “That shows the immediate need we have for this secondary facility here at Allatoona.”

“We prepared for 500 at the first CITA, and we are now exceeding those numbers,” explained Cobb Schools Superintendent Chris Ragsdale. “It is incumbent upon us to provide as many paths to student success as possible. More and more students are beginning to recognize that going to college isn’t required to find an awesome career and make great money.”

Superintendent Ragsdale also mentioned how one teacher told him that CITA and Cobb’s commitment to CTAE is causing surrounding metro districts to “catch up to us.”

“We are competitive, and we want to be the best. I am very happy that we are setting the standard. With historic programs like Georgia’s BEST and CITA, we want everyone to copy us because we are the best place to teach, lead, and learn!” he said with a smile.

Pictured above: District leaders and staff celebrated the official groundbreaking

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James, Zack, Sarah

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



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ACWORTH cultural arts | acworth theatre company

## The Glass Menagerie

By Tennessee Williams

Directed By Suzanne Husting

**Performance Dates/Times:**

- September 12-13 at 8p
- September 14 at 3p
- September 19-20 at 8p
- September 21 at 3p

at the  
Roberts School | 4681 School St. | Acworth, GA 30101

**Tickets:**

- ~General Admission \$20
- ~Senior, Military, Student \$18


The Glass Menagerie is presented by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc. and on behalf of The University of the South, Seawee, Tennessee.

## MARIETTA NEWS

Marietta

### Coffee, Campfires, and Cryptids

VENDORS - S'MORES - SCREENING - CRAFTS - ACTIVITIES



SEPT 12th | Atherton Square

### COFFEE, CAMPFIRE, AND CRYPTIDS

The award-winning and fan-favorite event, Coffee, Campfires, and Cryptids, is back and more mysterious than ever! Join the City of Marietta's Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department for an evening of myths, legends, and cryptic creatures on Friday, September 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in Atherton Square Park (4 Depot Street, Marietta, GA 30060).

Set against the cozy backdrop of a glowing campfire, this unique event invites attendees to dive into the strange and unexplained—from Bigfoot sightings in North Georgia to tales of sea monsters lurking near Savannah. Bring your curiosity, your favorite tall tales, and a warm drink as we explore local lore, swap stories, and celebrate the mysterious side of Georgia folklore.

This is a free, family-friendly event, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and a sense of adventure.

For more information, visit [www.MariettaParks.com](http://www.MariettaParks.com).

YTIH-HH HISTORY CENTER

## Spy Kids

SECRETS of the SQUARE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH



POP-IN FOR FAMILY FUN!  
FREE Museum Entry 10am-4pm  
Crafts & Activities 11am-2pm

### SPY KIDS - SECRETS OF THE SQUARE

The Marietta History Center invites families to join them for their monthly Pop-In event on Saturday, September 20th from 10 am to 4 pm. Held on the 3rd Saturday of every month, Pop-Ins offer an exciting opportunity for children and their families to engage with the museum through themed activities and crafts. For "Spy Kids: Secrets of the Square," we're connecting kids and families to Marietta's past by letting kids step into the shoes of some Spies that really existed here in the Square!

Thank you to the generous sponsorship of Cauthorn, Owen, and Sanders, Pop-In for Family Fun programming & museum admission are completely FREE for all to enjoy.

Make-A-Wish  
GEORGIA

We have 47 wishes waiting in Cobb County!

- 3 Hawaii wishes!
- 5 celebrity wishes!
- 7 wishes to have something special!
- 8 Disney wishes!
- 10 travel wishes!
- 14 still imagining their wish!

**We Need Your Help!**

YOU CAN HELP US GRANT LOCAL WISHES!

### MAKE A WISH 5K

A bit of effort on your part can make dreams come true for local kids. Cobb County will host this year's Make-A-Wish 5K on Saturday, Oct. 4, in downtown Marietta. Proceeds from the event are donated to Make-A-Wish Georgia so it can grant requests for Cobb County children with critical illnesses.

The Make-A-Wish 5K is a Peachtree Road Race qualifying event. Participants assemble on the Marietta Square, and the race begins at 8 a.m. Walk-up registration begins at 7 a.m.

Visit <https://www.cobbcounty.gov/public-safety/make-wish-5k>



### MOVIE NIGHT ON THE SQUARE

Christmas is coming early as the City of Marietta partners with The Elf on the Shelf for their 20th anniversary. A fun family event will be held on Friday, September 19 at 7:00 pm. Meets us in Glover Park at Marietta Square. You do know that Marietta is where The Elf on the Shelf all began. Join in the Celebration with An Elf's Story and Elf Pets movie screenings. Meet & Greet with The Elf on the Shelf mascot and much more is planned. A festive fun event for the whole family.

### GLOVER PARK CONCERT PLAYS

#### SEPTEMBER 26 DAVIS AND THE LOVE - VARIETY POP HITS

The Downtown Marietta Development The last concert of the season presented by Wellstar Health System. These free concerts take place monthly in Glover Park on the Marietta Square from April through September.

Attendees can bring a picnic or dine in one of the many fine restaurants located on the square. All concerts begin at 8:00. 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](http://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.



DR CAMILLIA HARRIS’S MEET, TREAT AND  
CREATE HELD AT PEACHCOBBLER



Meet, Treat, & Create event was hosted by The Peach Cobbler Factory Marietta with local author and mental health advocate, Dr. Camillia Harris. The event took place out of The Peach Cobbler Factory Marietta’s cozy sweetshop located at 3625

Dallas Hwy. SW Suite 850, Marietta, GA 30064 at Avenue West Cobb. Families and children were invited to meet Dr. Camillia Harris and pick up a signed copy of her newly released book entitled I Am: A Coloring Adventure of Affirmations! while indulging in some of their yummy sweet treats.

Dr. Harris was created this joyful and impactful coloring book in order promote healthy mental health among young children. Her enchanting coloring book is crafted especially for kids, blending the joy of creativity with the power of encouraging affirmations. Each page provides a world of delightful illustrations, designed to inspire confidence, self-love, and mindfulness in young hearts. As a sought after keynote speaker and panelist on topics related to mental health and wellness, Dr. Harris began her journey into advocacy after loosing her father to suicide 5 years ago. He was in his 60s at the time and no one had any knowledge of his private battle with mental health until it was too late. Determined to prevent others from loosing a loved one to suicide, she founded the Justus Mental Health foundation 3 years ago. The organization partners with organizations and clinicians to host mental health conferences throughout the US. They also partner with schools, businesses, and organizations to hold book-signings and other activities geared toward promoting positive self talk and consequently healthy mental health among children and youth.

Dee & Derrick Titley, owners of Peach Cobbler Factory Marietta, welcomed the idea of hosting and event geared toward promoting early literacy, creativity, and positive mental health in children and youth. For more information on Dr. Camillia Harris, to inquire about her public speaking, or to purchase copies of her coloring book, visit <https://camilliaharris.com/>

GREAT NEWS FROM  
ANIMAL SERVICES

Cobb County Animal Services recently received additional funds to restart the spay/neuter voucher program.

The program allows residents to get pets spayed/neutered for free at select veterinary offices around the area. The vouchers are for Cobb County residents only. Participants can obtain two vouchers a year, per household, by coming to the shelter 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday at 1060 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta. Offer good only while funds available.

The Cobb County Animal Shelter will continue its popular \$25 “Adopt a Friend” special through September. Customers can adopt a dog or cat for just \$25 or donate cat or dog food and the shelter will waive the \$25 fee.

Learn more at [CobbCounty.gov/pets](https://CobbCounty.gov/pets).

NEW ECHOTA  
CELEBRATES GIRL  
SCOUTS LOVES STATE  
PARKS DAY

New Echota-Cherokee Capital State Historic will be hosting Girl Scouts Loves State Parks Day on Saturday, September 13th, 2025. This event will take place all day with special tours at 10a.m. and 1p.m. with the Cherokee Phoenix Print shop open from 10 AM- 2:30 PM.

This event is an annual statewide effort to celebrate the long history between the Girl Scouts of America and the Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites. Girl Scouts coming to the site will enjoy a day of history and adventure with a chance to learn more about the Cherokee history and the Trail of Tears. Self-guided tours are also available throughout the day with Rangers on site to answer questions.

Regular admission fee required: \$6-\$8. New Echota is located one mile east of Interstate 75(Exit 317) on GA HWY 225 N., near Calhoun, Georgia. Call 706.624.1321 or visit [GaStateParks.org/newechota](https://GaStateParks.org/newechota) for further information.

AWARD-WINNING  
HOYAS MARCH ON!

September is traditionally the beginning for all of the autumn looks and feels, including High School Football season. One of the main elements of “Friday night lights” across the country is the school band, helping to cheer on the football team from the stands, playing dance music for the cheerleaders, and providing the half-time entertainment. Band and color guard members spend countless hours of practice time, not just to prepare for game-nights, but also for marching band competitions throughout the fall season.

The 160 marchers in the award-winning Harrison High School Marching Band and Color Guard in Kennesaw have been putting in the hours all summer long, after school, and on weekends to prepare their nationally competitive field show entitled “Variations on a Daydream.” The show features music across genres from pop, to rock, to classical, including “Pure Imagination” from the movie Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, “Imagine” by John Lennon, “Midsummer Nights Deam” by Mendelssohn, and “Once Upon a Dream” from Tchaikovsky’s “Sleeping Beauty.” Band parents and supporters have also been working hard on all of the behind the scenes activities, like uniform fittings, building props, maintaining equipment, and providing food and transportation.

In addition to performing at football games, pep rallies, and their regular concerts, the Hoya Marching Band and Color Guard will travel to compete against other regionally and nationally known groups in Bands of America Competitions in Chattanooga, TN on October 4, Indianapolis, IN on October 25, and locally at Cass High School in White, GA on November 1. They will also be featured at the Cobb Marching Band Exhibition at Lassiter High School on October 13, 2025. The Hoyas invite the community to come enjoy the show and support the marching arts! For more information about these events and the Harrison High Marching Band, please visit their website at [harrisonbands.org](https://harrisonbands.org).

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OCTOBER 25, 2025

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Cobb's Community Newspapers

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• **FREE:** The Bright Side Newspaper is FREE to all readers. Published online the first week of each month.

• **JOIN US!:** The Bright Side Newspaper is filled with positive LOCAL news and events about people in our community. Check what's going on, where ever you are.



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Advertising in The Bright Side Community Newspaper is the most cost effective way for your business to reach your target market and let your customers know you are very much a part of this community. Join our advertising program and enjoy a feature article in the Bright Side. Plus you will boost your social media awareness with an ad in **The Bright Side!**

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 CNP GRADUATES

On July 14, six Cobb County nonprofit professionals completed the Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) program, earning a nationally recognized credential in nonprofit management — and a total of \$30,000 in unrestricted funding for their organizations. Each graduate's organization received a \$5,000 unrestricted grant to support its mission.

Now in its third year, the CNP Credential & Incentive Grant is a collaborative initiative between Cobb Community Foundation (CCF), United Way of Greater Atlanta, and Kennesaw State University (KSU). The program aims to strengthen the leadership pipeline across local nonprofits and enhance their long-term sustainability.

Congratulations: Janet Graham, *Loving Arms Cancer Outreach*. Tyler Bowser, *Cobb Collaborative*, Alexandra Thompson, Cumberland Counseling Center. William Perry, Kate's Club. Natalie Rutledge, Communities In Schools of Georgia (Marietta/Cobb), Brad Hawkins, Aviation History & Technology Center

## 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.

## ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION BY PRESIDENT KIM WIGINTON



### FALL IN LOVE WITH THE ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Acworth Business Association (ABA) is entering the fall season with so much to love, such as networking, educational, and community events.

On Tuesday, September 9 our Small Business Development Center workshops continue with Human Resources Solutions.

On Thursday, September 11, join us for networking and social connections at Caribbean Vibes Restaurant at 5:30.

Calling all ladies, join us for our Women's Networking Lunch at Cornerstone Preparatory School at 11:30 on September 18.

On October 11, the ABA will host its signature Taste of Acworth festival in historic downtown, where visitors can sample food from local restaurants, enjoy

live music, and support area businesses.

For details on events and membership, visit [acworthbusiness.org](http://acworthbusiness.org). And as always, be sure to RSVP!

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS UPCOMING EVENTS ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**THUR SEPT. 11 ACWORTH ALIVE AFTER 5** Join the ABA for after hours food, fun and networking at Carribean Vibes, 4843 N Main Street, Acworth. This event is free for ABA Members, \$5 for Guests RSVP at [www.acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org).

**THUR SEPT 18 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON** - 11:30-1:00 @CornerStonePrep. 4756 Logan Road, Acworth, 30101, Please RSVP at [www.acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org). Member is \$20.00.

**THUR OCT 2 ABA LUNCHEON** - 11:30-1:00 ACWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER. Sponsored by Reliable Paper, catered by Carrabba's Italian Grill Please visit [acworthbusiness.org](http://acworthbusiness.org) for more information and to RSVP

### KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**TUES SEPT 9 KBA LUNCHEON** - 11:00-1:00 GOVERNOR'S GUN CLUB, 1005 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw Guest Speaker: Tracey Stif, Executive Director, Town Center CID. Sponsors:North Georgia State Fair & PCT Clean. Caterer: Carrabba's Italian Grill. RSVP [www.kennesawbusiness.org](http://www.kennesawbusiness.org). Please note: If you choose not to register in advance, you will pay an additional \$10 at the door.

**WED SEPT 17 - NET WORKING EVENT** at the North Georgia State Fair Grounds. Starts at 5:30. RSVP at [kennesawbusiness.org](http://kennesawbusiness.org).

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[WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWSPAPERNEWS.COM](http://WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWSPAPERNEWS.COM)



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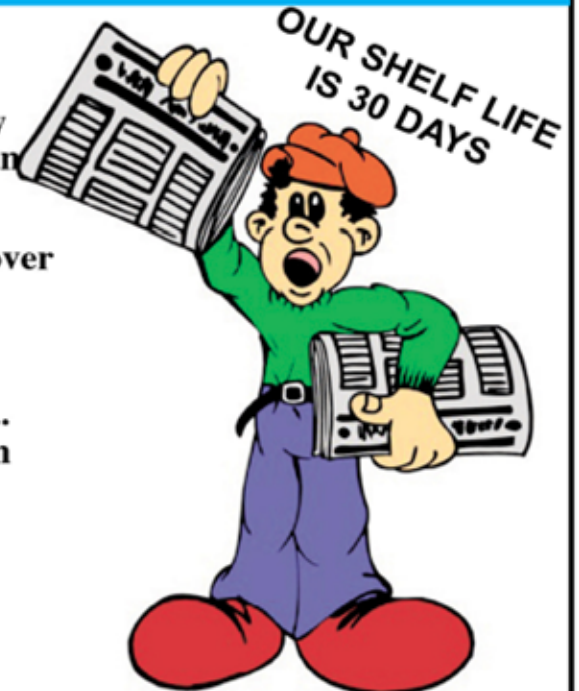
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