

The Bright Side™

VOLUME 35 No 3

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

MAR 2026

KENNESAW PARKS & RECREATION TO HOST TOUCH-A-TRUCK MARCH 7

The City of Kennesaw's Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and Police departments will bring back Touch-A-Truck, the annual hands-on community event, on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Adams Park.



Children and families can explore trucks, heavy construction and public safety equipment, specialty vehicles, and cool cars. Attendees can meet vehicle owners and operators and have the chance to touch, climb on, and explore the vehicles. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

The Department of Parks & Recreation is seeking unique vehicles for display. Interested parties can complete an online application at www.kennesawparksandrec.org. Volunteers are also needed to help run the event. To sign up for a volunteer shift, visit Kennesaw at <https://secure.recl.com/GA/Kennesaw-ga/catalog>

and select "Volunteer Opportunities."

Food and beverage vendors are invited to participate. Vendor applications are available at www.kennesawparksandrec.org. For more information, call Kennesaw Parks & Recreation at (770) 422-9714.



ART BLOOMS 2026 A TWO MONTH CELEBRATION

Smith-Gilbert Gardens and the City of Kennesaw invite the community to experience Art Blooms 2026 – Inherent Resilience: Healing Through Art and Nature, a two-month, citywide celebration of creativity, connection, and renewal. Taking place throughout April and May, Art Blooms transforms gardens, parks, trails, and public spaces into immersive art experiences that explore how art and nature inspire healing and growth.

For the duration of Art Blooms, the permanent collection will be complemented by a temporary outdoor sculpture exhibit showcasing regional artists, along with specially painted wooden eggs created by students from Cobb County high schools, highlighting student creativity and artistic expression.

Members of the community may participate in the Art Blooms scavenger hunt. Beginning April 1, participants can pick up scavenger hunt cards at City Hall, Smith-Gilbert Gardens, the Southern Museum, and several participating locations throughout Downtown Kennesaw. Each location will stamp the card once.

Once the card is filled with stamps, participants should drop it off at City Hall, 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, by Friday, May 29, by 4 p.m. for a chance to win prizes. Prizes, donated by local businesses, can be redeemed at Smith-Gilbert Gardens.

New for 2026, the City of Kennesaw is partnering with the Marietta Arts Council to present a Sculpture Tour, with an installation featured in Depot Park and various locations throughout the City of Marietta, expanding Art Blooms' regional impact.

This program is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency – the National Endowment for the Arts.

Art Blooms is supported in part by the Town Center Community, Cobb County School Visual Arts Department, SA White Oil, and the Marietta Arts Council, with additional support provided by the City of Kennesaw, Smith-Gilbert Gardens Foundation, and Kennesaw State University.



GEORGIA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL UNVEILS "THE CHEF'S TABLE EXPERIENCE" — A NEW VIP CULINARY CENTERPIECE

The Georgia Food & Wine Festival proudly announces the launch of The Chef's Table Experience, an exclusive, chef-driven dining event debuting at the 2026 festival. Designed for discerning food and wine enthusiasts, this VIP offering delivers an intimate, five-course, immersive dining journey where food, culture, lifestyle, and storytelling converge.

Unlike traditional tasting tents, The Chef's Table Experience is a thoughtfully curated, sit-down culinary theater. Guests are guided through a multi-course menu crafted by acclaimed chefs, each dish highlighting the finest Georgia-sourced ingredients and thoughtfully paired wines. Every course is presented with intention, offering insight into the inspiration, techniques, and regional influences behind the cuisine.

Set within the festival grounds, the experience features an elegant long-table dinner designed to foster connection and conversation. Guests share a communal dining atmosphere that celebrates hospitality, craftsmanship, and the vibrant culinary identity of Georgia.

"The Chef's Table Experience is about more than exceptional food and wine," said contributing chef Jernard Wells. "It's about slowing down, engaging the senses, and creating meaningful moments around the table. This experience represents the elevated, immersive direction of the Georgia Food & Wine Festival."

With limited seating and a refined ambiance, The Chef's Table Experience is positioned as one of the festival's most exclusive offerings, appealing to culinary travelers, lifestyle enthusiasts, and industry tastemakers alike. This new event will take place on Thursday, March 25 | 6:30pm | Jim R. Miller Park. Tickets: \$150.

Chef Lineup will include: Chef Jernard Wells, Chef Nick Leahy, Chef Alejandro Valdivia, Chef Richard Ingraham, Chef Tregaye Wright, with wine pairings from the following Georgia Grown Vineyards: Dogwood Hills, Three Strands, Big Door, and Chateau Elan.

For more information about the 2026 Georgia Food & Wine Festival and The Chef's Table Experience, visit www.georgiafoodandwinefestival.com.



KENNESAW'S SPLOST INFORMATION

Cobb County and its cities are beginning the process of developing the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) project list, and the City of Kennesaw invites residents to participate in two upcoming community meetings. The preliminary project list

was approved by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on January 13 and will help guide future investments in critical capital needs across the county and within Kennesaw.

For more than 30 years, SPLOST has funded major capital projects such as transportation improvements, parks and recreation facilities, public safety buildings, libraries, and other essential infrastructure. The 2028 SPLOST proposal would build on the current program, continuing to support projects that maintain and improve facilities and services important to the community.

Residents are encouraged to attend one or both meetings to learn more about the proposed SPLOST project list, ask questions, and share feedback.

Joint City of Kennesaw and Cobb County Open House, March 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw

City of Kennesaw SPLOST Community Meeting, March 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw

Community input plays an important role in shaping the SPLOST program. Residents may also share feedback through the SPLOST Renewal Public Feedback Survey.

View the Cobb County 2028 SPLOST information and proposed project list on the County's website at <https://www.cobbcounty.gov/board/splost/2028-splost-proposal>.

Review the City of Kennesaw's proposed 2028 SPLOST project list. at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/download/splost-2028-projects-draft/>

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THIS AND THAT



CONGRATULATION COACH DONTE SAWYER

Donte Sawyer, a NCHS football coach, was recently inducted in the Morehead State Athletics Hall of Fame.

Coach Donte Sawyer attended Morehead State from 2008-12. Donte was one of the most electrifying and standout wide receivers and kick returners to ever wear the Eagle uniform.

MSU career records for catches - 199; yards 2,555. Two-time First Team All-Pioneer League selection. Donte graduated with a BA in Sport Management in 2012. On the field at NCHS Coach Sawyer is in charge of the wide-receivers.

Pictured with Coach Sawyer is Marlon Longacre, also a graduate of Morehead State University. Coach Sawyer and his family live in Acworth



MEET LUKE YARBROUGH

My name is Luke Yarbrough, and I'm a 19-year-old Pro Late Model race car driver from Alpharetta, Georgia, currently racing for Dawsonville headquartered FR8 Racing. I wanted to reach out because I believe my story captures something unique for your readers, the blend of homegrown racing culture, innovation, and perseverance that defines so many of the area's local success stories.

I fell in love with driving before I could even walk. I got my first Power Wheels car for Christmas, and that moment set me on a path that has taken me from neighborhood backyards to professional short tracks across the Southeast. Today, I'm part of FR8 Racing, a Georgia based team that's given me the opportunity to work alongside NASCAR Cup Series champion Chase Elliott and compete against other NASCAR stars at some of the most competitive events in the country.

I am a 2024 graduate of River's Academy in Alpharetta and currently a full time student at Kennesaw State University, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Balancing the precision of engineering with the adrenaline of racing has given me a unique perspective on both, learning the science behind speed while living it every weekend. While most college students spend their free time at football games or fraternity parties, I unwind by driving my simulator that is set up in my dorm room! This allows me continued practice even when I am away from the track.

This season, I've been racing at Five Flags Speedway and Cordele Motor Speedway, representing FR8 Racing and the next generation of Georgia drivers aiming for NASCAR's national ranks. My story is one of focus, faith, and a relentless drive to prove that world class talent can come from right here in North Fulton, not from a factory program or corporate pipeline, but from passion, persistence and hard work.

I am honored that your publication is sharing my story, not just as a racer, but as a young local resident chasing excellence in a sport that is part of our state's DNA.

Bright Side page 2

LOCAL HISTORY STORIES

ANDREW J. BRAMLETT

The locomotive The General is easily our town's most historic artifact, but for decades it was on display in Chattanooga. Efforts to return the engine to Georgia began in the late 1930s. In March 1939, around the same time the locomotive was at the 1939-1940

New York World's Fair, the Georgia General Assembly passed a joint resolution calling for the return of the General. The resolution was proposed by James V. Carmichael of Marietta.

The plan was to place the engine at Kennesaw Mountain NBP, which had recently been established. The resolution also mentioned it could return to Kennesaw. The son of William Fuller, the train's conductor during the chase, said he would write "the railroad officials and the state administration in protest." He felt the railroad would take better care of the train, and that more people could visit it in Chattanooga.

According to council meeting minutes, in April, the men who served on the Kennesaw City Council were "instructed to do anything in their power to help get the 'General' brought back to Kennesaw." It is not known why these efforts failed. Similar efforts began again in the 1950s, and after several false starts, the historic train was moved to Kennesaw in 1972.

CONGRATULATIONS ANDREW BRAMLETT

On February 21, I attended the 2026 Georgia Collegiate Honors Council conference at Kennesaw State and presented two research projects I have been working on. One of them, on the commercialization of William McKinley's death, received the First Prize for Outstanding Essay in the Humanities and Arts Category!

It was great to meet students from across Georgia and hear about their research projects. The oral presentations I attended covered topics ranging from African Americans' response to Italy's invasion of Ethiopia, the process of adapting stage musicals for the screen, the history of the Blues and the genre's use in the movie Sinners, and more. The conference also included a fascinating keynote on civility by Dr. Sonia Toson.

Thank you to the Kennesaw State University Journey Honors College for hosting this event!

If anyone is interested in reading it, I have uploaded a copy of my McKinley research at this link: https://ajbramlett.com/.../georgia-collegiate-honors...

I hope to someday expand the research into a larger project on presidential canvassing books and marketing McKinley's death.



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2026 KENNESAW CONCERT SERIES BRINGS LEGENDARY SOUNDS TO DEPOT PARK

The City of Kennesaw is turning up the volume in 2026 with the return of the Kennesaw Concert Series, presented by Wellstar Health System, with premier sponsorship from Hester Dental, Williams Elleby Howard & Easter, and Woodstock Chiropractic. Now in its third year, the series brings a powerhouse mix of a legendary rock act and fan-favorite tribute bands to the United Bankshares Amphitheater at Depot Park, delivering free, unforgettable live music experiences all season long. From classic rock icons to throwback pop and timeless tributes, the 2026 lineup is packed with shows music fans will not want to miss

March 28 – Night Ranger

Night Ranger takes the stage with four decades of chart-topping hits, electrifying live performances, and a legacy that helped define American rock. With more than 17 million albums sold worldwide and over 4,000 shows performed, the band continues to deliver arena-sized anthems and top-tier musicianship. Fans can expect classics like “Sister Christian,” “(You Can Still) Rock in America,” and “Don’t Tell Me You Love Me,” along with the energy and precision that have kept Night Ranger touring strong for 40 years.

The Kennesaw Concert Series offers free concerts in the heart of Downtown Kennesaw. Guests are encouraged to bring collapsible lawn chairs or camping chairs and enjoy food and beverages available for purchase from a variety of vendors.

For concert details or to purchase seating, visit www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com.



KENNESAW’S BUNNY BREAKFAST MARCH 21

The Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department, in partnership with the Kennesaw-Acworth Optimist Club, will host the annual Bunny Breakfast presented by iThink Financial on Saturday, March 21, at the Ben Robertson Community Center. Two seatings are available from 8 to 9:15 a.m. and 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Guests will enjoy a buffet of pancakes and sausage. The Easter Bunny will visit tables for photos, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own cameras.

Tickets are \$12 per person and must be purchased in advance online at www.kennesawparksandrec.org or at the Ben Robertson Community Center. Tickets are nonrefundable after March 13. Children 2 and younger do not need a ticket if seated in a lap.

SPRING BREAK GARDEN ADVENTURES SET FOR APRIL 7-10

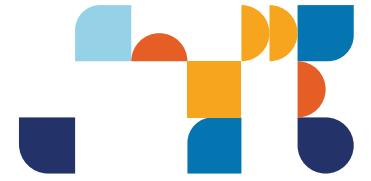
Spring Break Garden Adventures will take place April 7-10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring daily hands-on activities and take-home crafts at the Carriage House. Activities are included with garden admission.

Programs include interactive story time in the Living Laboratory at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. on April 7; a family Garden Habitat walk at 11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. on April 8; Garden Animal story time at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. in the Little Theater in the Woods on April 9; and a family art walk exploring sculptures at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. on April 10.

SPRING BREAK PROGRAMMING PLANNED AT SOUTHERN MUSEUM

Spring Break at the Southern Museum: A Look into Preservation will be held April 7-10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program focuses on protecting and preserving resources through interactive and educational activities designed for families.

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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 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.

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>.

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March is Cobb Craft Beverage Month and your chance to support local breweries, wineries, and distilleries while earning sweet prizes from Cobb Travel & Tourism. Grab a BrewPass (it's free) online or at participating Hop Spots to start attending special events, sampling new brews, and collecting stamps! VISIT <https://www.bubblesandbrews.com/>

THE KEY TO ADJUSTING IS A SENSE OF HUMOR.

Marlon Longacre

COBB LIBRARY SPRING 2026 BOOK SALE

The moment you've been waiting for is almost here! Join us at the Cobb Civic Center located at 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE from March 13-15, 2026, to shop thousands of books, DVDs, and puzzles priced from 10 cents to \$4.00.

We'll be open Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm, featuring plenty of free parking and a special "Bring Your Own Box" flat-rate sale on Sunday. All proceeds directly support the Cobb County Public Library's 15 branches and bookmobile!



LAST DAY TO VOTE IS TUES, MARCH 10

Visit <https://www.cobbcounty.gov/elections>, Click on voting, select the ballot under the graphic and see the list of 22 candidates running for Georgia Congressional District #14.

SEVEN SPRINGS CHURCH SPRING FESTIVAL AND EGG HUNT.

Calling all kids ages 3-12! FREE Community Egg Hunt and everyone is invited!

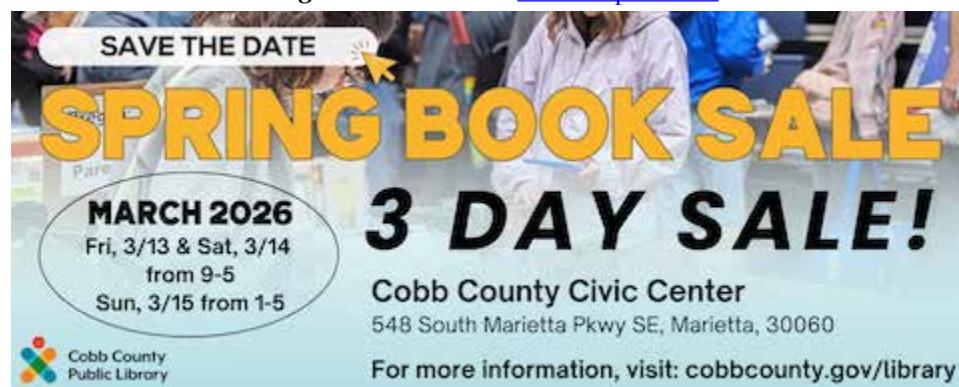
Age-grouped hunts, Tons of eggs and candy, Special prize eggs, Family-friendly fun

The event is March 29, 12:00PM-2:00PM at Durham Middle School, 2891 Mars Hill Rd NW, Acworth, GA 30101

Bring your baskets and invite your friends, we can't wait to see you there!! Open to the Community

THE 26TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE & EXPO

Join us in celebrating Spring with the Cobb Master Gardeners! Pick up plants homegrown by local Master Gardeners, visit our free Kids Corner to play and learn, and check out our Yard Sale for some interesting finds! In addition, shop for plants from all over the Southeast, locally sourced honey/herbs/sauces, bird accessories, wood/glass crafts, yard art, and more. April 17th-18th, 2026, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Jim R. Miller Park. Admission and parking are free. Learn more at cobbmastergardeners.com/calendar/plant-sale.





Pictured Chef Jernard Wells, an acclaimed Southern chef, television personality, and culinary storyteller known for blending soulful tradition with modern creativity.

2026 GEORGIA FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE BEST OF GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH

The 2026 Georgia Food + Wine Festival will celebrate the best of Georgia and the South, from its culinary superstars and beverage experts, to farmers, artisans, live musicians and more.

A variety of events for all taste buds begins with a new signature to mark 5 years: The Georgia Food & Wine Festival proudly announces the launch of The Chef's Table Experience, an exclusive, chef-driven dining event debuting at the 2026 festival. Designed for discerning food and wine enthusiasts, this VIP offering delivers an intimate, five-course, immersive dining journey where food, culture, lifestyle, and storytelling converge.

Introducing a brand new event in recognition of our 5th Anniversary: The Chef's Table | Wednesday, March 25 | 6:30pm | Jim R. Miller Park The Chef's Table is for discerning food and wine enthusiasts. This intimate, chef-driven experience delivers a refined, five-course, immersive dining journey where food, culture, lifestyle, and storytelling converge.

The Best of Cobb celebration is Thursday, March 26th. Cobb's best and brightest from a variety of categories will be recognized. Best of Cobb is hosted by Cobb Life Magazine and the Marietta Daily Journal. Visit mdjonline.com/cobblife/ for ticket information.

The legendary barbecue event, "Fired-Up" starts your weekend off right on Friday night. This is an all-inclusive, food and drink tasting event. Saturday's main event, "Savor" offers hundreds of unlimited beer, wine and spirits tastings, the Georgia Celebrity Chef Stage, 15+ restaurants sampling food, VIP Lounge, artisans, Georgia Grown Chef Stage, and live music. "Sunday/Funday" is the budget friendly and family-friendly day, with Kids Zone, VIP Lounge, chef demos, shopping, Georgia's Best Cocktail Challenge, live music and more. Savor the Flavors!

To purchase tickets, visit www.georgiafoodandwinefestival.com. Jim R Miller Park is located at 2245 Callaway Rd SW, Marietta, GA 30008.



DRIVE-THRU COURT SERVICE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Cobb County Government opened the state's first drive-thru court service last week, offering the public a faster, more convenient way to pay fines.

The State and Magistrate Court Clerk's Office Express operates from 122 Waddell Street, Marietta. Individuals can pay for traffic citations, school bus arm violations, probation fees, fines and restitution for cases that do not require a court appearance.

While online payment options remain available, the drive-through service removes barriers such as transportation, parking, and long wait times. Individuals should bring their citation or case number, a photo ID, and a debit or credit card to make payments. The Clerk's Office Express will operate 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

More information is available at <https://www.cobbcounty.gov/courts/state-court/state-court-clerk>

WHAT KAITLYN FINDS IN THE LAKE: DISCOVERING JOY AND BEAUTY IN NATURE
by Author Jennifer Bonn

Parents and young readers have something to celebrate with the release of What Kaitlyn Finds in The Lake, a charming new children's book by Jennifer Bonn. Aimed at readers ages 5-8, this beautifully illustrated story follows Kaitlyn as she discovers the wonders of nature, and enjoys the precious time spent with her mom.

Filled with vibrant illustrations by Bijan Samaader, What Kaitlyn Finds in The Lake encourages children to explore nature while also respecting it. Kaitlyn learns about the natural world around with the help of her mom.

Kaitlyn loves exploring the lake near her mom's school. She quietly watches turtles, fish, birds, and even gets surprised by a giant splash she later learns might be a huge catfish. By staying still and quiet, she sees a deer and a beautiful blue heron up close. Kaitlyn also enjoys picnics and visiting a nearby flower field where butterflies dance. At the end of the day, she goes home excited to share all the creatures she discovered and looks forward to returning to the lake again.

Jennifer Bonn has written four books for her grandson, and she decided it was time to write a book for each of her three children. The book is now available in hardcover and paperback online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Thrift Books, Books a Million, and Abe Books.



MARCH 27-29, 2026

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ACWORTH NEWS

ACWORTH EGG HUNT

The City of Acworth and Freedom Church would like to invite your family to experience an egg hunt like you've never seen before! The event will take place on Friday, March 27th at the Acworth Sports Complex Baseball Fields (4000 South Main St.) We will have concessions, family fun activities and photo opportunities before the hunt so make sure you arrive early.

This event will take place from 6:00 pm until 8:15 pm. It is for folks of all ages and is a FREE Community Event. The Acworth Egg Hunt is broken down into five age groups and the start times will alternate between fields. Check the fields and times at www.Visitacworth.com.



ACWORTH - TREE CITY USA SINCE 1998



At the Thursday, February 19 regular city council meeting, Mayor Allegood presented the annual Georgia Arbor Day Proclamation to Lori Perkins, Chair of the Acworth Tree Commission and the Acworth Community Garden Manager! She was accompanied by our Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Department Business Manager Ash Jordan Fox and Director Kim Watt. The City of Acworth has received its Tree City USA designation since 1998 by the National Arbor Day Foundation,

and will continue its tree-planting practices through the commission, and with the help of our amazing Parks Operations staff, well into the future. Georgia Arbor Day is held annually throughout the state to recognize the important effects of a healthy tree canopy and the environmental, economic, and social benefits of community trees and forests. The Acworth community is invited to celebrate and support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands today and every day!

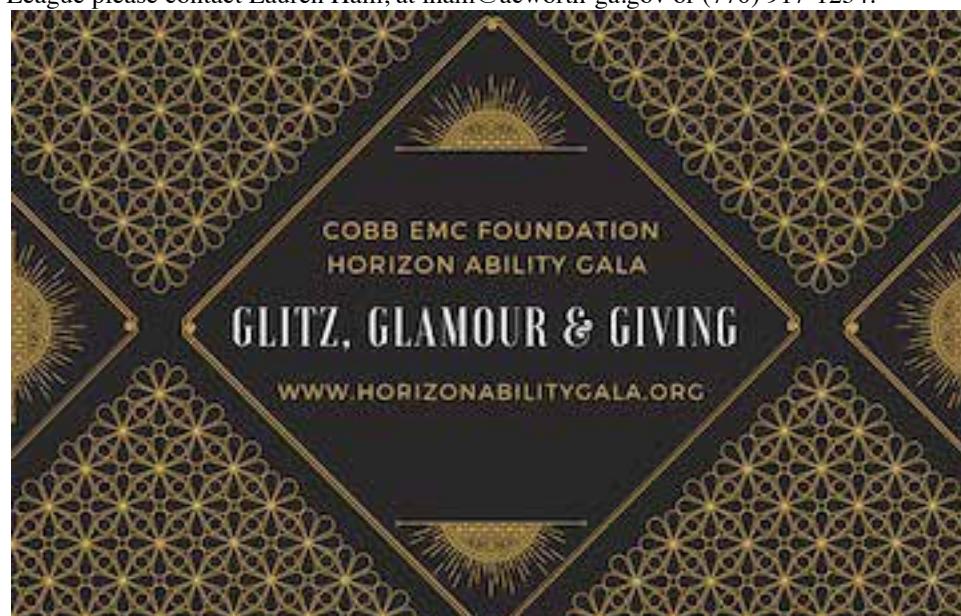
CITY OF ACWORTH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON

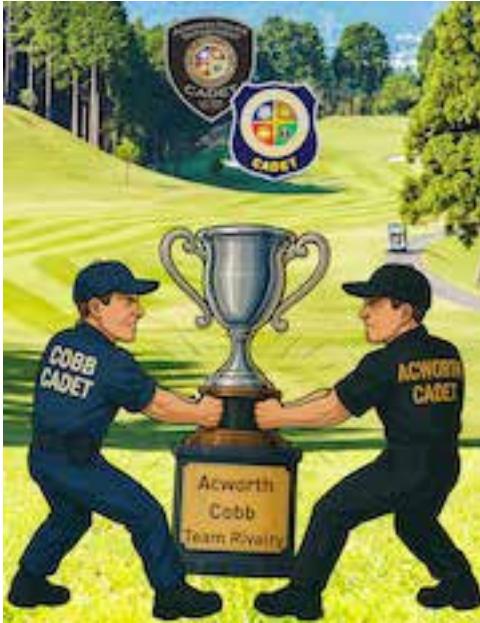
Join us Wednesday March 18 at Acworth Community Center, 11:00 am for the City of Acworth's Senior Luncheon, catered by Papa Johns. Come join us for lunch and Bingo. This program is for folks 55 and up, but you must register to attend. Registration closes March 11, 1 week before the luncheon. Time: 11:00 AM. Cost: Free-Resident/\$10- Non-Resident. Register online at acworthparksandrep.org.

GLITZ, GLAMOUR & GIVING HORIZON ABILITY GALA

The Special Needs Development Group invites you to the 2026 Cobb EMC Foundation Horizon Ability Gala. The Gala will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Tanyard Creek Overlook (Acworth Community Center) and includes a night of culinary delights, live entertainment, dancing and a silent auction—all for a remarkable cause. Proceeds from the Gala go directly to the Horizon League and will help to continue to keep registration costs down and offer quality programs. Within the last several years, businesses and residents of Acworth have donated over \$300,000 to this cause. Since 2007, the Special Needs Development Group has provided children and adults with physical, social, and cognitive disabilities the opportunity to participate in athletic, social, and cultural programs. Throughout the years, we've served more than 500 participants and continue to grow.

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





FAIRWAYS FOR THE FUTURE: PUBLIC SAFETY CADET GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Acworth and Cobb Public Safety Cadets have partnered to host their first annual golf tournament on . Proceeds will support both cadet units as they prepare for an upcoming national competition and help fund uniforms, equipment, and training needs. A portion of all proceeds will also be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in honor of an Acworth resident.

The tournament will be held at Cobblestone Golf Course with checkin at 7:45 and shotgun start at 9:00 am. The date of the event is Monday, March 16.

Readers may register to sponsor, volunteer, or play: <https://charitygolftoday.com/event?e=20476&ce=9fc8c8>

BROOKWOOD'S SPRING TEA & AUCTION

Join us for a delightful afternoon on Brookwood Christian School's beautiful campus (4728 Wood St, Acworth, GA 30101) on April 23th from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Enjoy a delicious catered lunch, sip on refreshments, and bid on incredible auction items ranging from gift baskets to luxury vacations. Tickets are \$40 per person, which includes a catered lunch and access to the silent auction.

Our Spring Tea & Auction supports Brookwood Christian's scholarship fund, providing students with dyslexia the opportunity to succeed in a supportive learning environment. With a specialized curriculum and small class sizes, we help reduce literacy-related challenges that can lead to limited career opportunities and financial insecurity.

\$40/per ticket (includes a catered lunch & access to the silent auction) For tickets, text TEA to 404-491-7724.



WELCOME BACK - ACWORTH ANTIQUES

Acworth Antiques is now back open. Mayor Tommy Allegeood gives a warm welcome to Lisa Mack at the recent ribbon cutting Acworth Antiques.

Acworth Antiques, a multi-dealer antique shop on Main Street in downtown Acworth is home to a treasure trove of vintage finds and unique collectibles. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm and on Sunday from 12:00 pm til 6:00 pm. Be sure to visit — you will probably see one or two things you can't live without. Acworth Antiques is located at 4713 S. Main Street, Acworth..

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Brookwood Christian School Ladies Tea and Silent Auction

Thursday: April 23, 2026 - 11:30 am-1:30 pm
 Tea will be held at Brookwood Christian School
 4728 Wood St. Acworth.
 Tickets \$40
 To purchase tickets, text TEA to 404-491-7724

DFOUR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Menopause The Musical 2

Cruising Through 'The Change'

MARCH 24-29, 2026

EARL AND RACHEL SMITH **STRAND THEATRE**
770.293.0080 // strandmarietta.org // Historic Marietta Square

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2

The Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre is thrilled to announce the return of the national tour of Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through 'The Change'®, running on The Strand stage from March 24 to March 29, 2026. This hysterical sequel to the beloved Menopause The Musical® promises to deliver more laughter, camaraderie, and musical magic as audiences are taken on a memorable journey. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at strandmarietta.org or by calling the box office at 770.293.0080.

Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through 'The Change'® is the sequel to long-running, international hit show Menopause The Musical®, a groundbreaking celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived "The Change." In its second year on tour, Menopause The Musical 2® continues to empower women dealing with life adjustments after 40 by embracing each other and the road ahead.

Five years after their chance encounter in a department store, we set sail with our beloved ladies for more high jinks on the high seas. Menopause The Musical 2® is a hilarious and heartfelt look at the joys of menopause and friendship — plus hot flashes, mood swings, and memory lapses! Join us on a trip of self-discovery, backed by a new soundtrack of toe-tapping parodied hits from the 70s, 80s and 90s. For these four ladies, menopause was not the end, but the beginning of a beautiful friendship where love conquers all, and friendships never fail.



2026 KENNESAW GRAND PRIX 5K SERIES SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The City of Kennesaw has announced the 2026 Kennesaw Grand Prix 5K series schedule. The series features four professionally timed, USATF-certified races on a mostly flat asphalt course through downtown Kennesaw and Swift-Cantrell Park. The course is suitable for competitive runners seeking a Peachtree Road Race qualifying time, as well as beginner runners, walkers and families.

Each race begins at Kennesaw First Baptist Church on Main Street and includes a one-mile fun run at 7:30 a.m., the 5K at 8 a.m., and a Tot Trot at 8:55 a.m., followed by awards at 9:15 a.m.

The schedule includes the Fit City 5K on April 11, the Summer Sun Run 5K on June 6, the Harvest Hustle 5K on Sept. 19, and the Nightmare on Main 5K on Oct. 31. Registration is \$35 per race and includes a race T-shirt for participants who register before the designated cutoff dates. Registration is available at www.kennesawgrandprix.com.

All races are electronically timed by Orion Racing powered by Start2Finish. Awards are presented to overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners, and the top three finishers in 12 age groups. The 2026 series is presented by Wellstar Health System with support from Williams Elleby Howard & Easter, Cobb Sport Alliance and Big Peach Running Co.



CONGRATULATIONS GRANT ALBRIGHT

This Allatoona wrestler took second place for 132 lbs in the State Wrestling Championships.

GATHER & BLOOM WORKSHOPS

Join Gather & Bloom with Cait, of A La Cait for a beautifully botanical experience at Gather & Bloom in Downtown Acworth! In this hands-on class, you'll create your own one-of-a-kind pressed flower art in a hanging 6" round glass frame — perfect for gifting or brightening up your space.

They'll provide a curated selection of pressed blooms, expert guidance, and all the materials you need to design a piece that's uniquely yours. No experience necessary — just bring your creativity and love for flowers!

The next workshop is March 12. The cost is \$95.00. To learn more and register for Gather & Bloom Acworth Workshops, please visit <https://bit.ly/4pgqfBP>.

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FIT CITY 5K

APRIL 11

WWW.KENNESAWGRANDPRIX.COM



APRIL 4 AT SPRAYBERRY HIGH SCHOOL
 Hosted by: Piedmont Church and Cobb County School District
 @Sprayberry High School.

Presenting Sponsors: Superior Plumbing & C&S Paving

Grab your kids, your grand kids, Easter Baskets and head over to Sprayberry High School Football field for the 17th Annual Northeast Cobb Community Egg Drop. There will be fun, food, games, DJ, activities, and of course egg hunts for everyone. Kids will marvel as a helicopter drops thousands of eggs onto the Sprayberry High School football field to kick off the hunt. There will be more than 90,000 eggs and candy for the various hunts. The funds raised from the Egg Drop go to support multiple organizations in our community. Last year more than \$18,000.00 went right back into the community from the event.

The event will be held from 10:00 am til 4:00 pm at the Football field/stadium area.

FREE photos with the Easter Bunny will be taken from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

FREE PARKING AND FREE ADMISSION. The ad at the right of this page has all the information about the several hunts planned. More info call Bill Watson at 770-423-1330

MARIETTA'S BUNNY BRUNCH

The City of Marietta's Parks & Recreation Department invites families to register for the annual Bunny Brunch, a fun-filled Easter event at Custer Park Sports & Fitness Center on Saturday, March 21, 2016. The fun begins at 10:00 am at Custer Park Sports & Fitness Center, 545 Kenneth E. Marcus Way, Marietta, GA 30060

Bring your little ones and enjoy a memorable morning full of Easter cheer, egg hunt, arts, crafts, games and the opportunity for photos with the Easter Bunny. Whether you're a Cobb County resident or from surrounding areas, this event is one your family won't want to miss!

Fees: Ages 3 and under: \$4; Ages 4-12: \$8; Ages 13 and up: \$10 Note: These prices listed are for Cobb County residents. Non-Cobb County residents will incur an additional \$2 per person. For more information, call Custer Park Sports and Fitness Center, 770-794-5630 or visit mariettparks.com. Registration is required for all children and adults in attendance. Online registration is available at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/city-of-marietta/catalog/index> type in bunny brunch in the search bar to the left..



secure.rec1.com/GA/city-of-marietta/catalog/index type in bunny brunch in the search bar to the left..

Northeast Cobb Community Egg Drop
April 4, 2026 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Hosted by: Piedmont Church and Cobb County School District
at Sprayberry High School, Football Field.

Football Field Egg Hunts

sponsored by Cobb EMC

Helicopter Egg Drop

11:00 am - Ages Five and up egg hunt

12:00 pm - Ages five and up egg drop

Helicopter Egg Drop

1:00 pm - Ages five and up egg hunt

2:00 pm - Ages five and up egg hunt

3:00 pm - Ages five and up egg hunt

Special Needs Egg Hunt

sponsored by C&S Paving

In the end zone closest to the score board

12:00 pm and 2:00 pm

Toddler Egg Hunt - Ages 4/Under

11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm

In the end zone closest to the score board

FREE Photos with Easter Bunny - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

KIDS ZONE - Unlimited rides for \$10 per child.

FOOD COURT

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Sprayberry High School
1710 Piedmont Rd NE, Marietta, 30066

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Thursday 5 pm to 8 pm / Friday 5 pm to 9 pm / Saturday 2 pm to 9 pm
 2950 Moon Station Road - Walkable Downtown Kennesaw



50TH ANNUAL SUPERIOR PLUMBING KENNESAW/BIG SHANTY FESTIVAL

The Kennesaw Business Association in cooperation with the City of Kennesaw along with the Title Sponsor: Superior Plumbing and Presenting Sponsors: Emerson Home Services, Georgia Grown, LGE Community Credit Union, Jim Ellis KIA, and Window World will host the 50th Annual Superior Plumbing Kennesaw/Big Shanty Festival on Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19 in downtown Kennesaw.

The Superior Plumbing Kennesaw/Big Shanty Festival features over 250 Arts & Crafts booths, food booths, an entertainment stage, kids activities, as well as live acoustic music in the Food Court throughout the weekend. Something for the entire family! Returning this year is the Georgia Grown Member Village highlighting goods and products from all over the state of Georgia.

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

The Festival is sponsored by the Kennesaw Business Association in cooperation with the City of Kennesaw. Superior Plumbing is the title sponsor and LGE Community Credit Union, Georgia Grown and Window World are the presenting sponsors. For more information call 770-423-1330 or email missy@jrmmanagement.com

Entertainment

Ready Go Dog Show: Grab the family and head to the United Bankshares Amphitheater to check out these world champion high-flying, high-jumping, frisbee catching pups. Then stay after the show to get up close and personal with these amazing athletes.

Acoustic sounds for your listening pleasure:

Scott Thompson of Brother Mojo will be performing all the songs you know and love in the 1885 Grill food court. The 2025 Big Shanty Festival will also have additional music at the Piedmont Bank Amphitheater. Grab a beverage, sing-along, relax and enjoy great music with the family.

Local performance/dance groups, school choirs, & acoustic music on the big local entertainment stage at the south end of Main Street and the Depot Stage throughout the weekend
For more Information: Call 770-423-1330 or e-mail: missy@jrmmanagement.com

MARIETTA NEWS

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

This year's parade holds special significance as it coincides with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Local school bands, military units, civic organizations, scouting groups, pageant titleholders, area businesses, and other community organizations are encouraged to participate in this celebratory event. The Let Freedom Ring Parade is a longstanding Marietta tradition and a meaningful way to be part of this once-in-a-generation commemoration.

Community members and organizations are encouraged to register early and join Marietta in commemorating America's 250th anniversary. Be part of history—Let Freedom Ring in Marietta on July 4, 2026. All applications must be submitted by May 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Visit www.mariettaparks.com to register. Click on Parade graphic to connect.

MARCH POP-IN FOR FAMILY FUN: WOMEN WHO WRITE

Families are invited to celebrate storytelling and creativity at the Marietta History Center's Pop-In for Family Fun on Saturday, March 21st, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Pop-Ins offer an exciting opportunity for children and their families to engage with the museum through themed activities and crafts.

The theme "Women Who Write" highlights female authors and storytellers, encouraging children to explore the power of words through writing-inspired crafts and literacy-based activities. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Cauthorn Sanders & Schmidt, Pop-In programming and museum admission are FREE all day.

RAD KIDS SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

The Marietta Police Department is dedicated to protecting its citizens in every way possible. While our primary focus is on finding ways to fight and prevent crime, we are also dedicated to finding ways that will educate and protect our youth. To that end, the Marietta Police Department is involved in protecting children through a program called Rad Kids.

Rad Kids is a safety education program that emphasizes personal empowerment. The class is a 10-hour course designed for children between the ages of 5 and 7 and 8-12 years of age. Topics covered include how to prevent bullying, and how to stay safe while on the internet, at home, at school, in a vehicle, and outdoors. In addition to these issues, we will discuss the many tricks used by child predators and the physical resistance strategies that kids can use to thwart these possible child abduction attempts.

The Marietta Police Department currently has two classes scheduled for this summer. Openings are still available for this class, so reserve your spot now! The cost for this class is \$10. Please sign up your own kids or refer us to parents with young children.

5-7 year olds: May 25-29 / 9am-11am. The classes will be held in the gym at Park St. Elem (105 Park St. Marietta GA 30060). Parents interested in signing up their children should visit: <https://5-7-year-old-class2026.eventbrite.com>

8-12 year olds: June 1-5 / 9am-11am The classes will be held in the gym at Park St. Elem (105 Park St. Marietta GA 30060). Parents interested in signing up their children should visit: <https://8-12SummeCamp2026.eventbrite.com>

If you have any questions regarding Rad Kids, please contact Officer Paul Hill via email at: phill@marietta.gov. Additional info available at <http://www.radkids.org>.

50th Annual

APRIL 18 & 19

Saturday : 10 a.m. -6 p.m.
Sunday : Noon - 5 p.m.
 Historic Downtown Kennesaw
 770-423-1330
kennesawbigshantynfestival.com

Family Fun is Back!

Arts & Crafts - Festival Food - Family Fun
 FREE Admission -FREE Entertainment

REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL NOONDAY SHANTY 5&10K

Make strides along the Noonday Creek Trail at the Annual Noonday Shanty 5&10K Kick off your spring running season and enjoy the scenic views along Noonday Creek Trail while supporting future greenspace and trail projects in the Town Center area. This event features two USA Track & Field certified race lengths and a paved course on the trail and roadway. Runners, walkers, and families are all encouraged to participate. Participants will experience scenic views, greenspaces, and attractions along Noonday Creek Trail and Town Center such as Noonday Creek, Aviation Park, Cobb International Airport, Fifth Third Bank Stadium, and wetlands and bird habitats including the Chimney Swift Tower. TO REGISTER AND learn more visit: <https://www.towncentercid.com/noonday-shanty>



CONGRATULATIONS NCHS WRESTLERS

Congratulations to the North Cobb boys and girls wrestling teams! The boys team finished 7th place in 6A- it was the highest finish in the school history, with Ronan An as 215lb- State champion ! They had 2 other placers: Jacob Funes 157lb -5th place, and Madden Fredenburg 285lb - 5th place The girls team had their first state placers in school history! Kate Martinez 140lb - 4th place, Quinlan Bryant 145lb - 5th place. So proud of these athletes who are pictured above. A lot of hours practice and commitment.



CONGRATULATIONS LEAH BYRD

The coaches of Cobb County softball have selected Leah Byrd as their Player of the Year! Her numerous successes behind the plate, at shortstop, and in the batter's box, along with her love for her team and the sport, make her the obvious choice. Leah Byrd, a standout middle infielder, pitcher, and utility player, has officially committed to Auburn University. Her journey from early recruitment to securing a spot with the Tigers is a story of perseverance, faith, and determination. As a student at North Cobb High School in Kennesaw, Leah has a 4.3 GPA and is taking all honors and AP courses. Leah is interested in the health sciences and wants to become a nurse practitioner or physical therapist. North Cobb High School is SO proud of Leah and wish her the very best! GO WARRIORS!



CONGRATULATIONS KALEB CASTRO, NCHS

Kaleb Castro, graduating student from NCHS, has signed to play football with Muskingum University. Kaleb is pictured at the table with his parents and proud coaches.

ACWORTH POLICE COMMUNITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Acworth Police Department is hosting its second annual golf tournament on Monday April 13 at Cobblestone Golf Course. Check in at 8:00 am, Shotgun Start at 9:00 am. Individual Golfer \$150.00; Foursome \$575.00. Registration includes breakfast, lunch and 18 holes of golf with a cart. Funds raised will support the Acworth Police Community Foundation and directly benefit initiatives such as the Annual Toy Drive, Victim Advocate support, and other community outreach efforts. Register to sponsor or play:<https://charitygolftoday.com/event?e=22097&ce=54c123>

VISIT THE DOWNTOWN KENNESAW BRAND STORE

Noonday Shanty 5&10K 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Register for the race or explore sponsorship opportunities today!

Learn more at TownCenterCID.com/Noonday-Shanty

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FROM UNDERDOG TO WONDERDOG

By: T.P. Harner

Most days, you can find Alice Harner at her family's martial arts school in Smyrna, GA, greeting customers, and making people smile. Not an unusual life per se, but unusual because Alice is a dog. A 55 lb rescue mutt.



Alice had a hard start in life. She came from a world of neglect and abandonment. At 2 years old, the people who were supposed to care for her moved away and left her behind, alone, tethered in the back yard. After days of barking, neighbors finally realized something was not right and called animal control. This is when Lifeline Animal Project stepped in. Based in Atlanta, LifeLine Animal Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission of ending the shelter euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals. They are the largest animal welfare organization in Georgia.

With her sweet demeanor, they knew that she was a prime candidate for an adoption to a good family. But first, they would have to get her healthy again. Her life of neglect left her with several health issues that took months to recover from. Once she was placed at Best Friends Animal Society, it wasn't long before she found her forever home with Greg & Tara Harner, both Marine Corps Veterans, who (along with their son Michael) own Yongsa Martial Arts in Smyrna, GA.

Alice immediately found her place among the students and parents at their family business and, for the past 8 years, she has become an integral part of the surrounding community. You can find her at the local fairs, the outdoor concerts, and browsing among the booths at the downtown farmers market, greeting the many Smyrna residents who know her by name.

Recently, Alice was in a contest to be "America's Favorite Pet" and earn a coveted place on the cover of Modern Dog Magazine. She advanced all the way to the Quarter Finals, and was able to raise over \$1,000 for PAWS, an organization dedicated to helping cats, dogs, and wild animals thrive in happy, healthy homes or in their natural habitats. So, Alice didn't LOSE anything. As a matter of fact, she is the biggest winner of all. She has a loving family, a community of friends, and a story that is so inspiring, it's earned a spot on Cobb County's favorite feel-good news source. She is no longer an underdog. She's Alice the Wonder Dog!



MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER SPONSOR HONORED

Over 200 museum professionals recently descended upon Cobb County, Georgia, for the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Museums (GAM). Several Cobb County museums and cultural institutions opened their doors for special tours and events throughout the week.

A highlight of the conference was the annual GAM Awards Luncheon, where outstanding individuals and organizations were recognized for excellence in Georgia's museum community. This year, the Patron of the Year Award was presented to Cauthorn, Owen, and Sanders, now known as Cauthorn, Sanders & Schmidt, in recognition of their generous and ongoing support of the Marietta History Center's Pop-In for Family Fun program.

"We want to make sure that museums are seen as exciting and educational spaces for everyone, especially children," said Museum Director Amy Reed. "By hosting these events, we hope to ignite a lifelong love of museums in the next generation and create memorable experiences for families to enjoy together."

ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

THUR MAR 5 ACWORTH ABA LUNCHEON - 11:30-1:00 ACWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER. SPONSORED by Ace Handyman Services and Catered by Southern Events. Please visit acworth's website for more information and to RSVP acworthbusiness.org

THUR MAR 12 ACWORTH ALIVE AFTER 5 Join the ABA for after hours food, fun and networking at CENTER STREET TAVERN. 5:30-7:30 PM. This event is free for ABA Members, \$5 for Guests RSVP at www.acworthbusiness.org for more information.

TUES MAR 17 COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR - 8:00-9:00 AM Acworth City Hall

THUR MAR 19 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON LUNCHEON - 11:30-1:00 at Keegans. Guest Speaker: Emer Coughlin, Celtic Hearts Travel Please RSVP at www.acworthbusiness.org. Member is \$20.00.

KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

TUES MAR 10 KBA LUNCHEON - 11:00-1:00 GOVERNOR'S GUN CLUB, 1005 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw Guest Speaker: Melissa Cantrell CDH Architecture Partners CEO If you choose not to register in advance, you will pay an additional \$10 at the door. SPONSOR Horrace Mann, Caterer Carrabbas Italian Grill. RSVP at www.kennesawbusiness.org.

TUES MAR 17 ALIVE AFTER FIVE 5:30-7:30 ACE Handyman Services Address: 5150 Stilesboro Rd #515, Kennesaw, GA, 30152. This event is free for KBA members and \$5 for guests.

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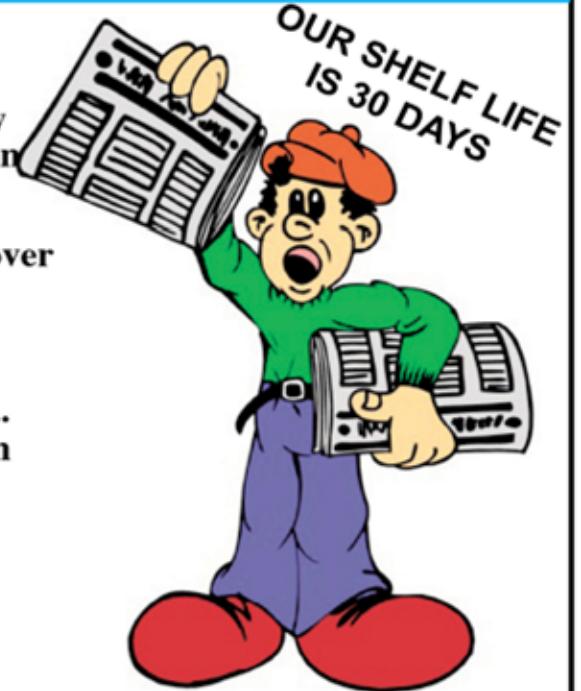
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for ad rates and more information about our publications.
Ad rates start at \$75.00, see OnLine rates below



Call... 770-851-5469

The Bright Side

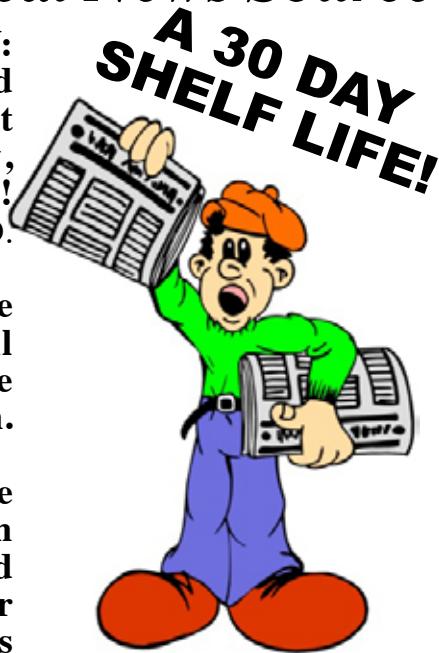
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We Are Your Local News Source

• **SHARE YOUR STORY:** Advertise with us and reach your target market in Acworth, Kennesaw, Marietta and beyond! NO CONTRACTS REQUIRED.

• **FREE:** The Bright Side Newspaper is FREE to all readers. Published online the first Tuesday 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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all ads are created in color

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<p>Introductory Offer</p> <p>\$220.00</p> <p>3/8 PAGE</p> <p>3/8 Page 5" x 9.50" or 7.5" x 6.25"</p>	<p>Introductory Offer</p> <p>\$150.00</p> <p>1/4 PAGE</p> <p>1/4 Page 5" x 6.25"</p>	<p>Introductory Offer</p> <p>\$75.00</p> <p>1/8 PAGE</p> <p>1/8 Page 5" x 3.25"</p>

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