

# The Bright Side™

VOLUME 35 No 4

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

APRIL 2026



## SMITH-GILBERT GARDENS PRESENTS ART BLOOMS

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.



On April 17, 18, 24, 25: at Smith Gilbert Gardens, KSU Theatre and Performance Studies Department presents The Beauty Project: Through the Looking Glass. This spring celebration of the arts brings Art Blooms to life with live music, theater performances by Kennesaw State University, visual and performing artist demonstrations, arts and crafts, and a scavenger hunt throughout the Gardens. Guests are invited to create their own artwork while enjoying a vibrant festival atmosphere designed for all ages. For the extensive list of events planned at the Gardens - VISIT [smithgilbertgardens.com/artblooms](https://smithgilbertgardens.com/artblooms) for the entire information for this two month celebration



## 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.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Don't Miss: 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. The show features world champion Frisbee dogs and the highest box jump dog in the world. Shows are Saturday: 12 PM, 2 PM, & 4 PM and Sunday: 12 PM, 2 PM, & 4 PM.

Music will ring out from the Stage at Depot Park Saturday afternoon during the Big Shanty Festival as the Jazz Bands from Allatoona and North Cobb High Schools take the stage. They will be joined by the Praise bands from Freedom Church, Acworth, and North Star Church, Kennesaw. The afternoon will close with Ollie Patterson and the Weekend Getaway Band. Amazing music.

Acoustic sounds for your listening pleasure: Scott Thompson will be performing all the songs you know and love in the 1885 Grill food court on Saturday from 10-2 while Lance and Wes Duo will take the stage from 2-6. Scott will perform on Sunday from 12-5. Grab a beverage, sing-along, relax and enjoy great music with the family.

Local performance/dance groups, school choirs, & acoustic music will perform on the big local entertainment stage at the end of Main Street throughout the weekend, Visit <https://www.kennesawbigshantyfestival.com/entertainment> for a list of schools, churches, dance studios and marshal arts studios that are performing.

**Street Closings:** The following streets will be closed starting Friday, April 17 at 6:00 pm until Sunday April 19 at 8:00pm. JO Stephenson Ave. (runs in front of city hall and Cherokee Street in front of the museum. Big Shanty Drive; Watts Drive from Dallas St. to Main St. Starting Saturday morning at 5:00 am until Sunday at 8:00pm, Main Street will be closed from Summer St. to Moon Station Rd.



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**THIS AND THAT**



**SLADE BAILEY WITH WIFE, JESSICA, AND GRANDSON NASH TAYLOR**

**HELPING ONE GUY IS HONORING SLADE BAILEY.**

Slade Bailey, a dedicated husband, father, and small business owner, is currently undergoing treatment for Grade 4 Glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer diagnosed in January 2026.

Slade Bailey is a man whose world has revolved around the family he has built over the last 32 years. He is husband to Jessica, dad to Madison, Sawyer and Harper, father-in-law to Zack, and Pops to nine month old, Nash Taylor.

Since Slade's diagnosis, life has been very scary and very uncertain for him and his family. Not only have they been navigating what this horrible disease means for Slade's health, but they have faced the unfortunate effect the diagnosis has had on his career. Because of their extraordinary friends seeing the need, stepping in, and creating opportunities for people to support them... resources have been provided that have allowed Slade's number one priority for now, to be fighting this horrible disease.

The future for the Bailey family is very unclear, but they have seen how the Lord has gone before them, and they have faith that He will continue to direct them down the path He has created for them.

On Monday, April 13th, please join Helping One Guy as we honor Slade Bailey and his family. HOG is hosting a dinner in Slade's honor from 6:00-8:00PM at NorthStar Church, 3413 Blue Springs Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144. The dinner is provided at no charge to attendees, and HOG will be raising money to help Slade and his family.

VISIT <https://www.helpingoneguy.org/> to register for the dinner, donate and help spread the news!

Tickets to this dinner are provided at no charge, with a donation.



**ANTOINE PETTWAY NAME THIS YEAR'S BEN JOBE NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR**

BY: MARK WASIK,  
DIRECTOR OF KSU'S BASKETBALL COMMUNICATIONS

After a historic championship season, Kennesaw State head coach Antoine Pettway has been named this year's recipient of the Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year Award, CollegeInsider.com announced Thursday. The Ben Jobe Award is presented annually to the top minority head coach at the Division I level.

Pettway guided the Owls through a season that saw adversity at times, including losing a pair of starters in January, to a 7-2 run at the end of the regular season and the conference tournament. The Owls became the only team in the nation to knock off three top-four seeds in their conference tournament, taking down No. 3 seed Western Kentucky, No. 2 Sam Houston, and then No. 4 Louisiana Tech in the Conference USA championship game. The win gave KSU its first-ever CUSA title in just its second year in the league.

KSU earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in four years. As the No. 14 seed in the West, it gave No. 3 seed Gonzaga a battle all game long, leading for most of the opening half before eventually falling 75-66 in the NCAA First Round in Portland.

Pettway is the first coach in Kennesaw State men's basketball history (Division I era) to lead the Owls to consecutive winning seasons after the Owls finished 21-14 overall. The 21 wins are the second-most in school history, and he holds the second, third and fourth-best win totals in a season as a coach at KSU.

The Ben Jobe Award is named in honor of one of the top coaches in the history of HBCU basketball. Ben Jobe was best known as the head coach of Southern University, who he led to four NCAA Tournament appearances in his 12 years at the school. Jobe was also the head coach at Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Talladega, Tuskegee and South Carolina State.

**AMERICA 250**

**ANDREW J. BRAMLETT**

In honor of America 250, for the remainder of the year, I will be focusing in this column on the American Revolution. In particular, I would like to focus on a sometimes-unrecognized aspect of the war: the Revolution in Georgia.



Georgia's Royal Governor at the start of the Revolution was Sir James Wright, who had been in office since 1760. Wright was a firm ally of the British crown, and notably under his leadership, Georgia was the only colony to collect taxes under the Stamp Act. Because Georgia was much younger than the other thirteen colonies, it was seen by many as being more closely allied with England.

However, some men strongly favored independence. As early as 1774, the "Sons of Liberty" in Savannah began to work against the British Government. Georgia did not send delegates to the First Continental Congress in 1774, though it did send three representatives to the Second Continental Congress. These men (Button Gwinnett, George Walton, and Lyman Hall) all signed the Declaration of Independence.

Georgia's first major battle of the war was the Battle of the Rice Boats, which led to the British abandoning Savannah in March 1776. Wright fled Georgia, and a new Patriot government was created. The British recaptured Savannah at the end of 1778, and the Royal Government was reestablished under Wright. Even the failed Siege of Savannah in 1779 could not dislodge the British. Despite their success on the coast, the British could not initially secure the backcountry, especially after the Battle of Kettle Creek near Augusta in February 1779. Augusta itself would not be recaptured by the Americans until 1781, and Savannah was recaptured in 1782.

Over the next few months, I will be diving into some of the battles, along with sharing the stories of major individuals who played a role in the Revolution in Georgia.

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It's easy to be a Bright Side Reporter — if you have a positive, upbeat story about your family, your neighborhood, your civic group, school, church activities, community events, happening in Kennesaw or Acworth, send it to us.

Simply write us a short note of the facts — we will rewrite it as a story. Email to [Brightnews@aol.com](mailto:Brightnews@aol.com) (Photos are welcome too) Call 770-851-5469 for more information on submitting stories.

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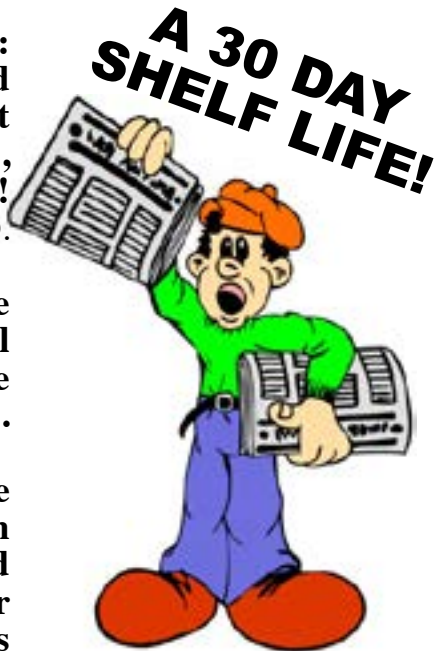
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### ART BLOOMS

Discover Art Blooms, a two-month celebration of creativity taking place in April and May, featuring hands-on workshops, live performances, temporary sculptures, and an art scavenger hunt throughout the City of Kennesaw! This year's theme is Inherent Resilience: Healing through Art and Nature.

For the duration of Art Blooms, the permanent sculpture 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.

Additional painted eggs will appear in Downtown Kennesaw, at Swift-Cantrell Park, and along portions of the Noonday Creek Trail, extending the exhibit throughout the community. Pick up a scavenger hunt card from a participating Downtown business for a chance to win prizes!

A gallery exhibit will be on display at the Ben Robertson Community Center for visitors to enjoy during Art Blooms.

Upcoming programs at Smith Gilbert Gardens includes:

April 11, Creative Photography: Learn or refresh your photography skills while capturing the beauty of the gardens, blooms, and art.

April 11, Garden Learning Series - Edible Elegance: Discover how to design and maintain beautiful, edible container gardens in this hands-on workshop.

April 15, Spring Plein Air Paint Out with Jeff Surace: Join us for inspiring mornings as artists of all levels paint, sketch, and connect among the blooming Gardens.

Sign up for an Art Blooms program for a chance to win a limited edition Art Blooms shirt! One winner will be chose at random at each program. There will be limited adult sizes available.

Art Blooms 2026, Inherent Resilience: Healing Through Art and Nature is sponsored by Georgia Council for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Smith-Gilbert Gardens Foundation, City of Kennesaw, Downtown Kennesaw, SA White Oil, Marietta Arts Council, Town Center Community Improvement District, and Cobb County Fine Arts.

### ABOUT THE ART HATCH EGGS

In collaboration with Smith-Gilbert Gardens, Town Center Community has installed 10 egg-shaped wooden displays along the scenic Noonday Creek Trail on as part of the Art Bloom's Art Hatch event.

The "Art Hatch" eggs, designed and painted by students from Cobb County schools, measure 36 inches by 24 inches. With the theme "Inherent Resilience: Healing through Art and Nature" guiding artistic vision, students employed a diverse array of art movement styles to breathe life into each egg. These artful displays will serve as waypoints in an engaging self-guided hunt, with clues leading adventurers through the lush landscapes of Smith-Gilbert Gardens and the scenic Noonday Creek Trail.

Find all the eggs along the Noonday Creek Trail—Each egg is labeled with the artist name and it has a red bunny icon Eggs will be on display through May 31, 2026.



### DECORATIVE CROSSWALK INSTALLED

Town Center Community has installed its first decorative crosswalk at the intersection of George Busbee Parkway and Town Center Drive, near Town Center at Cobb, marking a new chapter in trail connectivity, pedestrian safety and placemaking within the district. The decorative crosswalk is part of a pilot project fully funded by the Town Center Community and is designed to reflect the district's commitment to strengthening trail connectivity and creating a stronger sense of place throughout Town Center.

This enhancement improves crosswalk visibility for motorists and creates a safer, more engaging experience for pedestrians and cyclists



## 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.

### May 2 – Boy Band Review

Boy Band Review brings the ultimate throwback party, celebrating the biggest boy band hits of the '90s and early 2000s. With a full live band, polished choreography, and nonstop crowd interaction, the group recreates the excitement of \*NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, New Kids on the Block, and more, delivering a fun, sing-along experience that spans generations.

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. Concert Season Seats are available for \$100 per seat for the full season and are located on the second level of the tiered turf lawn. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Full-season seat sales are available until sold out or 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026. For concert details or to purchase seating, visit [www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com](http://www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com).

## FIRST FRIDAY CONCERTS

The Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority and the Kennesaw Downtown Merchants Association are bringing back the First Friday Concert Series for 2026, a community favorite now in its sixth year. From April through October, excluding July, Downtown Kennesaw comes alive on the first Friday of each month with live music, local brews and food from 7 to 9 p.m. Set against the backdrop of the Main Street Plaza, each concert offers a way to unwind, connect and kick off the weekend in the heart of the city.

The May 1 Concert is Kränberries. Atlanta-based trio Kränberries delivers a high-energy mix of alternative rock, pop and classic rock covers. Known for its lively, dance-ready sets, the band performs hits spanning multiple decades, creating an engaging experience for a wide range of audience. VIP seating is available for purchase at [kennesaw-downtown-merchants-association.square.site](http://kennesaw-downtown-merchants-association.square.site).

## SPRING SENIOR LUNCHEON SERIES

The 2026 Spring Senior Luncheon Series at the Kennesaw Recreation Center runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$6 per luncheon. The last luncheon of the series is the first Wednesday in May - May 6. The event includes a social hour, lunch with a presentation, and bingo. Registration is available at 770-422-9714 or <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog>, click on senior catagory on far right of screen.

## DECORATION DAY

The Cemetery Preservation Commission will hold the 20th Annual Decoration Day Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Kennesaw City Cemetery. Volunteers will help preserve this historic site by cleaning headstones, gravesites, and surrounding grounds. Cleaning supplies will be provided, though volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves. A guided history tour will follow at 11 a.m., highlighting notable individuals buried at the cemetery.

## KENNESAW'S FARMERS MARKET OPENS MAY 7

The City of Kennesaw is excited to announce the return of the Kennesaw Farmers Market, opening this spring in the heart of Downtown Kennesaw. The market will showcase fresh food, handcrafted goods, and the local farmers and makers behind them.

The market will run Thursdays from 3:00 – 7:00 PM, May 7 through August 27, 2026, at Depot Park. The market will be located in the parking lot on the Sardis Street side of the park, with additional booths extending into the adjacent trail area. Limited on-site parking will remain available near the Community House.

Shoppers can expect locally sourced fruits and vegetables, baked goods, pantry staples, and handcrafted items from area farmers, makers, and artisans.

The 2026 season marks a new partnership with the Cobb County Farm Bureau, strengthening support for local agriculture and providing resources for participating farmers and vendors.

Local farmers and makers interested in participating are encouraged to contact the Cobb County Farm Bureau directly at 770-943-3531 for vendor information and availability. Space is limited, and opportunities may vary throughout the season.

## SPRING PLANT & PRINT SALE

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop shrubs, trees, perennials, vegetables, and botanical prints. Members shop 9–10 a.m. Admission is free. Plants available while supplies last. Card payments only. Free SGG-branded plant pots available with plant purchases, while supplies last. This event takes place at Smith Gilbert Gardens, 2382 Pine Mountain Road, Kennesaw, GA. A list of plants is available at: <https://smithgilbertgardens.com/event/spring-plant-print-sale/>

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# MARIETTA POPS ORCHESTRA

## Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7:00

Join us as we kick off the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our great country with patriotic music fit for such a celebration, including a reading of the Declaration of Independence accompanied by our full orchestra. Also enjoy a mixture of other music--and all this in a concert under 90 minutes!

**~ Tickets are still only \$20! ~**  
(Students 16 and under are always free)

Tickets can be purchased [online](https://mariettapops.org) or [at the door](#)

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## THIS AND THAT

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### 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>.

### 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.

### COMPANIONS NEEDED

Job is for 5 Days a Week - 5 Hours per Day - Salary is \$30 per Hour. clean record, good recommendations, mobile, with many skills for more details about the position. email me ([thomasnowak0147@gmail.com](mailto:thomasnowak0147@gmail.com)).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Southern Museum is in need of volunteers for our Railroad Rendezvous event on Saturday July 25, 2026. You must be over 18 years of age to volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Moirin Cody, Tour and Volunteer Coordinator. EMAIL Moirin at [mcody@kennesaw-ga.gov](mailto:mcody@kennesaw-ga.gov).

### COBB COUNTY ANNUAL PLANT SALE

The 26th Annual Plant Sale and Expo will be hosted on Friday, April 17th, and Saturday, April 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Jim R. Miller Park Covered Arena (2245 Callaway Rd SW, Marietta, GA, 30008).

The 26th Annual Plant Sale & Expo will feature a wide selection of plants in every price range. Perennials, herbs, ferns, native plants, ornamental trees, shrubs, and more will be for sale from knowledgeable vendors and from the home gardens of the Master Gardeners. There will be something for everyone, including unusual and unique plants, gardening supplies and accessories, yard art, bird and bee products, furniture, wood/glass crafts, and more from 79 specialty vendors and artisans from around the Southeast. Children are welcome and special activities are being planned at a children's corner. Free admission and parking.

### 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/>

### TREE REMOVAL, STORM DEBRIS CLEAN UP, LAND CLEARING SERVICES.

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### 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](http://cobbmastergardeners.com/calendar/plant-sale).

### COBB EMC RECYCLE DAY

Every year, Cobb EMC hosts a metal and paper recycling event that is free to members. Join us on April 25, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1000 EMC Parkway, Marietta, GA, 30060, to dispose of your accepted unwanted materials. You may bring your old phones, computer equipment, cameras, metal items, small appliances, and refrigerators for proper, eco-friendly disposal. We also offer on-site shredding for secure document destruction, as well as information on ways you can help make a positive impact on our environment.

Cardboard boxes and medicine are not accepted at the event. A cash-only fee applies to TVs (\$20) and computer monitors (\$10). Attendees are responsible for bringing all items to be recycled to the event. We are not able to pick up items.

### DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

The City of Kennesaw will host a document shredding event Saturday, May 9, at Swift-Cantrell Park, 3140 Old 41 Highway, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Only personal and private documents will be accepted; glass, metal, and electronics are not allowed. Each household or business is limited to 10 boxes. The event is free and open to all.

### COBB COUNTY MASTER GARDEN TOUR

The 23rd Annual Garden Tour will be hosted on Saturday, May 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Marietta and will feature three private home gardens of Cobb County Master Gardener volunteers and one Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Project.

The 23rd Annual Garden Tour is designed to inspire and help homeowners learn from the gardens designed and maintained by Cobb Master Gardeners who love to garden and follow research-based horticulture practices. Enjoy a day of self-guided discovery at four gardens, located in East Cobb, in any order on May 9th, 2026, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, and learn from the homeowners and Master Gardener volunteers who will be on site to answer questions. Tickets (\$15 per person) will be available to purchase online starting April 17th. Children 17 and under are free. This is a rain-or-shine event. More info: <https://www.cobbmastergardeners.com/calendar/garden-tour/>

50th Annual

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# ACWORTH NEWS



## CELEBRATION OF LAKE ACWORTH PHASE 1

Mayor Allegood, Alderman Steve Prather, Alderman Brett North, Alderwoman Kimberly Haase, and the City team were thrilled to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of the Lake Acworth Master Plan with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, March 5! This event marked an important milestone in the 20-year plan, with Cauble Park renovations that included all new pavilions and picnic areas, an expanded 12-foot trail, and more.

The City is grateful to speakers Doug Evans of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Ken Hammon of American Engineers Inc., and Dennis Barnett of the Acworth Lake Authority, for their partnership and dedication to this project, as well as Alderman Steve Prather for his continued support beginning with his years on the Acworth Lake Authority. This project would not have been possible without the care and collaboration of so many.

Representatives from the Army Corp of Engineers also highlighted the significant effort that has gone into bringing the Lake Acworth Master Plan to life over the last 25 years, ensuring this public land will be used and enjoyed by the entire community for generations to come.

## LIVE AT LOGAN FARM PARK

Live at Logan Farm Park returns this year Saturday, April 25, 2026 beginning at 5:00 pm. The Acworth Arts Alliance will be partnering with the City of Acworth to bring you Live at Logan Farm Park featuring a free concert. Live at Logan Farm Park is the annual Acworth Arts Alliance and the Acworth Art House fundraiser. Event proceeds from sponsor tables support the Acworth Arts Alliance, specifically to fund a scholarship for students pursuing a degree in art as well as to fund arts initiatives in underfunded programs and among the underserved in our community. The concert is free and open to the public! For more information on this event or to purchase a table, please visit [www.acworthartsalliance.org](http://www.acworthartsalliance.org).

## ARTS ALLIANCE ACCEPTING ART SUBMISSIONS - DEADLINE APRIL 15

“Juried Exhibit” - “Through the Artists Eye” will run from May 2- July 4:

Submissions open to local artists who can hand deliver their work to the Art House. (Submissions accepted until Wednesday, April 15) The theme for this exhibit is: “Through the Artists Eye”. A Juror will make the selections for this exhibit, and will judge the works accepted once they are hanging in the Art House. Our 2026 Juror is Kathy Rennell Forbes. <https://www.rennellforbes.com> A submission fee is associated with this exhibit. Non-Members: \$35 for up to 3 entries. Members: \$25 for up to 3 entries. Entry fees are non-refundable, and are used for the prizes for this exhibit.

More information is available at [www.acworthartsalliance.org/](http://www.acworthartsalliance.org/). Scroll down front page



## RIBBON CUTTING OF THE EXPANDING HORIZONS AND ACWORTH ACHIEVERS

Mayor Allegood, Alderman Tim Houston, Alderwoman Kimberly Haase, and the City Team were thrilled to host a ribbon cutting on Thursday, March 19 in honor of the newly renovated North Cobb Rotary Club Learning & Leadership Center for the Acworth Expanding Horizons Program! This space, which had not been renovated since 2013, serves as a home-base for the Expanding Horizons and Acworth Achievers, and will continue to offer a positive and supportive environment to students for years to come.

Youth Programming Coordinator and Expanding Horizons Program Leader Jordon Gonzalez, and Assistant Recreation Coordinator Trey Tidwell honored Alderman Tim Houston for his incredible legacy in creating what the program has become today. They also thanked their board members and partners, especially the North Cobb Rotary Club, for all of the incredible work that was put in to making this update a reality for current and future students.

The Acworth Expanding Horizons Program was created in 2006 to provide unique learning opportunities and mentorship through educational field trips, recreational activities and servant-leadership for Acworth’s local youth. The program is funded entirely from grants and donations through the generosity and support of others and is provided free of charge to participating students.

**HISTORY OF BROOKWOOD'S TEA**

**BROOKWOOD'S SPRING TEA & AUCTION**

The annual Tea and Silent Auction at Brookwood Christian School has blossomed into a ten year tradition that bridges the gap between the classroom and the local community. You could call it a "Communi-tea."



It is not just a fundraiser, it's a time honored and loved tradition that brings the whole community together to support students with Dyslexia. Families from the school, local businesses, and ladies in the community work together to donate time and money as they promote, decorate, set up, and of course, buy tickets and shop the auction.

It is always fun to see what everyone is wearing, what is up for auction, and what is on the tea trays. Participants dress up with hats and gloves while sipping their tea from china teacups and nibbling on tea sandwiches from tea trays on the elegantly set tables. China, glassware, tablecloths, and cloth napkins are standard for this event. Tea sandwiches, scones, and other bite size tidbits make the event feel special. Most of our silent auction items come from local shops and reflect the local charm of our community. Beyond the social charm, the tea brings together community-driven support of the school and

awareness of Dyslexia.

This year the Tea and Silent Auction will be held in the auditorium at Brookwood Christian on Thursday, April 23 from 11:30 -1:00. Whether you are looking for a fun afternoon out or a chance to network and market your own business, this is the event for you. And yes, men are welcome. Text "TEA" to 404-491-7724 to buy tickets and sponsorships. Email office@brookwoodchristian.com with any questions.

**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>



**DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**

Dragon Boat Atlanta and The City of Acworth are excited to bring back the Acworth Dragon Boat Festival! This event will be held at Dallas Landing Park on Saturday, May 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dragon Boating is an up-and-coming sport, soon to be an Olympic sport. Many communities hold dragon boat races as different means to benefit charitable organizations within the community.

These festivals are fun filled days for all ages featuring corporate and community teams racing in 46-foot-long ornamental dragon boats. Race day combines various cultural activities with food and fun for spectators and participants. People love the thrill, the teamwork, the adrenaline, and positive interaction in the boat. People who never thought of themselves as athletes can thrive in a dragon boat and discover a challenging alternative to other sports, which is why this is currently the fastest growing water sport!

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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



### 2026 KENNESAW GRAND PRIX 5K SERIES SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The City of Kennesaw announces the schedule for the 2026 Kennesaw Grand Prix 5K series. The series, the premier 5K race series in north Georgia, is run on a mostly flat and fast asphalt course, professionally timed and USAT&F Certified, through Downtown Kennesaw and Swift-Cantrell Park. The course is perfect for competitive runners seeking a qualifying time for the Peachtree Road Race. But the festival-like atmosphere and food and drinks make these races perfect for beginner runners/walkers, as well as families.

Registration can be done online at [www.kennesawgrandprix.com](http://www.kennesawgrandprix.com). The entry fee is \$35 per race, which includes a race t-shirt for those registered before the shirt cutoff date. Early registration is encouraged as the price goes up on race day. The first race for this year is April 11 – Fit City 5K

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

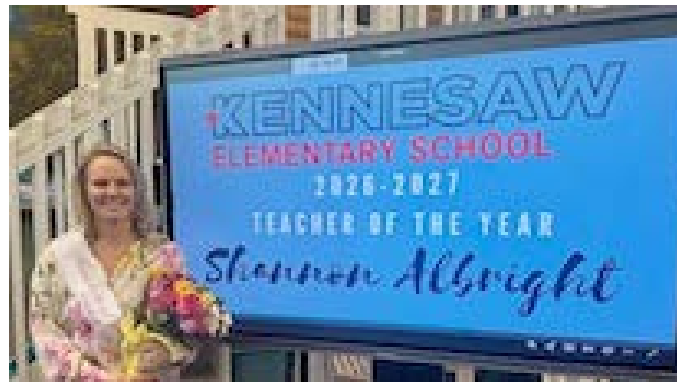
All races are electronically timed by Orion Racing powered by Start2Finish and awards are presented to the overall Male and Female winners, Male and Female Masters Winners, and the top three finishers in 12 age groups.

The 2026 Kennesaw Grand Prix 5K series is presented by Wellstar Health Systems with support from Williams Elleby Howard & Easter, Cobb Sport Alliance and Big Peach Running Company.

### TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

#### SHANNON ALBRIGHT TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Well deserved, proud of @shannon\_albright31! She teaches with all her heart and soul and is a difference maker in young people's lives. All while being an incredible daughter, mother, and wife!



### CONGRATULATIONS DAWN PARKER

Dawn is Teacher of the Year for KMHS. She is pictured here with her husband and three of her five children. Dawn is Director of Theater at KMHS. Dawn says: What a special day! So thankful for my students and colleagues and having a job I truly love

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**APRIL 11**

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**NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT BRANTE BLOOMS FLOWER SHOPPE**

BY LORELLE LOCURTO

Students from North Cobb High School’s Transition Program and Greenhouse Gang recently participated in a meaningful Community-Based Instruction (CBI) experience at Brante Blooms Flower Shoppe, a newly-opened floral business in Acworth. The visit provided students with valuable, real-world learning opportunities in a supportive and engaging environment.

During their time at the shop, students explored multiple aspects of the floral industry, including flower processing, design techniques, and delivery preparation. They also had the opportunity to assist with daily shop responsibilities, giving them a true sense of what it means to work in a small business setting.

A highlight of the visit was a hands-on floral design session led by co-owner Helena Brante Williams. Students created their own arrangements while learning foundational design skills, creativity, and attention to detail. The experience not only built vocational skills but also boosted student confidence and independence.

Brante Blooms Flower Shoppe is owned and operated by a dedicated mother-daughter team with strong ties to the local community. Helena Brante Williams, a graduate of Allatoona High School and Mississippi State University, works alongside her mother, Sheri Brante, a retired Cobb County School District Foundation Director and Speech-Language Pathologist. Together, they continue to give back to Cobb County Schools by investing their time and expertise into student learning experiences.

“This partnership provided our students with an authentic look into the floral business while allowing them to practice real workplace skills,” said Independent Living Transition classroom teacher Murphy Corley. “We are incredibly grateful to Brante Blooms for opening their doors and hearts to our students.”

The experience aligns with North Cobb High School’s Transition Program’s mission to prepare students for life beyond high school through hands-on, community-based learning opportunities.

**ACWORTH FARMER’S MARKET! FARM FRESH FUN IN DOWNTOWN ACWORTH... YUM! TO OPEN ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS**

The 2026 Historic Downtown Acworth Farmer’s Market will take place on Friday mornings between April 10 and October 30, and Saturday mornings between May 16 and November 14 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The market is located in the Logan Farm Park Expansion, located at 4405 Cherokee Street in Acworth.

There will be no farmers market on the following Saturdays: July 25, October 17, and October 24.

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

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

If you have questions about the market, please contact Jeff Chase at [jchase@acworth-ga.gov](mailto:jchase@acworth-ga.gov).



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**PIEDMONT CHURCH'S LOVE DOES PROGRAM  
 INSTALLS THE #53 SENSORY ROOM.**

Compton Sensory Room Install: On March 24 at 9:00 a.m. Members of Piedmont Church created Sensory room #53. Compton Elementary school has over 40 children enrolled with special needs. The majority of them are Autistic. When things get to hectic in their world, the children can go to a quiet place at the school known as the Sensory room to chill out. The members of Piedmont Church raise the money to create these rooms. The cost of furnishing one of these rooms is about \$2500.00.

**DELEGATION: INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR MINISTRY  
 BY MARLON LONGACRE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF PIEDMONT CHURCH**

God has called us to ministry, but He has not called us to do it alone. In fact, Lone Ranger ministers burn out. They do not last. Do not try to do it all yourself.

One of the things that happens, why people burn out in ministry, is they start tending to feel that it all depends on them. I used to feel that way particularly in the first couple years of my ministry, that I was holding all the strings and if I let go of the strings, everything would fly away. Jesus Himself who was perfect, enlisted and trained twelve people.

That shows the need for relationships. He needed association. He needed community. We need each other, to get to know each other, to build each other up, encourage each other. When you start to get discouraged, you know there are other people out there who are praying for you and praying with you. You are not alone.

If you look up 2 Timothy 4: 10-21 you will see that not only did Jesus have people with Him all the time, but so did Paul. Vs. ten "Demus, because he loved the world, has deserted me. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia, Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas." V. 19 "Greet Priscila and Aquila in the house of Onesiphorus, Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you and so do Linus, Claudia and all the brothers."

Who are all these people? They are ministry associates of Paul. If you study the book of Acts, everywhere that Paul went, he took people with him. He never went anywhere alone. He never ministered alone. He took other people.

Two reasons: One, support. Two, training. That they might be with him and that he might send them out. Where did he get that idea? Jesus. That they might be with him and that he might send them out.

Piedmont's Love Does program outgrew me years ago. If I tried to control everything and hang on to all the strings, Piedmont would be all tangled up. Sensory room #1 items would still be in their boxes waiting on me to put them together. Love Does needs to outgrow me to reach this community. Yesterday we had a great showing of volunteers at Sawyer Road Elementary to help with the sensory room installment. They gave me the magnetic drapes to put over the lights in the room. What does that tell you? Basically, they said "Marlon we know your clueless. We got this!"

As soon as I got back to my desk at the church office I got a call from a local high school asking if Piedmont would sponsor and help purchase cap and gowns for forty homeless high school students who will be graduating this May. I was able to answer that first call for help because of the commitment of the Piedmont Church family working together to meet the deepest needs of our community. That request got me.

I love all of you dearly and thank all of you for all you do to help Piedmont reach this community for Jesus. Marlon

*Love is a choice. Love pays attention. Love Does!*

**COBB DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
 INAUGURAL STUDENT ART CONTEST 2026**

The pursuit of justice is at the heart of every strong and thriving community. It shapes how we treat one another, how we uphold fairness, and how we respond to wrongdoing. The Office of

Cobb District Attorney Sonya F. Allen is proud to present the "What Justice Means to Me" Art Contest—an opportunity for students in kindergarten through 12th grade to explore, express, and reflect on the meaning of justice through creativity.

Justice can be seen in many ways: in fairness, accountability, equality, compassion, and truth. Through this contest, participants are encouraged to share their personal perspectives and experiences, using art as a powerful voice to inspire thought and conversation. Each piece submitted represents not only artistic talent, but also a unique vision of what justice looks like in our world today. Deadline for entries is May 1, 2026.

We believe that art has the power to educate, unite, and spark meaningful dialogue. By engaging in this creative process, you can help strengthen our shared commitment to justice and the values that support it.

Original artwork must be submitted for this contest. Only two-dimensional artwork (drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, printmaking, or original photography) will be accepted.

The selected winning pieces will be recognized for their originality and creativity, with first, second, and third place entries earning the opportunity to be featured within the District Attorney's Office. All submissions must adhere to the guidelines, which may be obtained by emailing [CobbDACommunications@cobbcounty.gov](mailto:CobbDACommunications@cobbcounty.gov).

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**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN Acworth FARMERS MARKET**

**BEGINNING FRIDAY, APRIL 10**  
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**LOGAN FARM PARK**

## MARIETTA NEWS



### 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING. -THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

For two and a half centuries, Marietta has been the heart of connection and community in Northwest Atlanta. Marietta 250 invites you to celebrate our nation's anniversary in a way only our city can, through signature events, engaging exhibits, patriotic performances, and gatherings for all ages. Together, these moments showcase the stories, spirit, and Southern hospitality that continue to define Marietta. Consider this your hub for joining the celebration

as we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look ahead to a bright future together. VISIT <https://visitmarietta.com/marietta-250/> for all the events planned.

### TASTE OF MARIETTA- SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

The Taste of Marietta is an annual food festival always held the last Sunday in April that showcases Marietta and Cobb County restaurants. There will be more than fifty area restaurants showcasing their best dishes. We will have musical entertainment all day on stages throughout the festival, fun and games in the kids' zone. As well as a food judging competition, local chef spotlights on stage, and unique shopping opportunities. Don't miss the Publix VIP Lounge at Boxwood Social and the Georgia Grown Member Village.

The Taste of Marietta will be held on Sunday, April 26th, 2026 – 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM on The Historic Marietta Square

FREE Admission. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend the 2026 event. Come visit the array of diverse restaurants that will be offering "tastes" from \$2.00 to \$10.00. Prices will vary for drinks and some activities in the kids zone.

Parking: The Cobb County Parking Deck, all county court lots and the Mill Street lot will be available for parking. Please note, parking is not allowed at church parking lots around the square. <https://www.marietta.gov/1462/Downtown-Parking>

Taste of Marietta is Cobb County's largest and longest running food festival, celebrating 31 years in 2026. Proceeds from the event benefit Visit Marietta, a non-profit organization in conjunction with the City of Marietta that promotes the culture and heritage of Marietta, Georgia. For more information visit: <https://www.tasteofmarietta.com/>



and museum admission are FREE all day

### APRIL POP-IN FOR FAMILY FUN: MOUNTAIN TO MARIETTA

Discover the outdoors and how history and nature connect during Pop-In for Family Fun on Saturday, April 18th, 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.

"Mountain to Marietta: How Nature and History Meet" connects families to regional geography like Kennesaw Mountain, and how nature and history connect!

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Cauthorn, Sanders & Schmidt, Pop-In programming

### CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

#### GLOVER PARK CONCERT SERIES ANNOUNCED

The Downtown Marietta Development Authority and the City of Marietta are proud to announce the 2026 Glover Park Concert Series, presented by Wellstar Health System. These free concerts take place monthly in Glover Park on the Marietta Square from April through September.

The official 40th anniversary celebration takes place on May 29th. Pre-concert activities are planned so come early and join in the fun. Check the concert series Facebook page for other pre-concert activities-the celebration will continue all summer long.

A limited number of stage-adjacent tables can be reserved for a fee on the first working day of each month beginning at 8:00 a.m. Attendees can bring a picnic or dine in one of the many fine restaurants located on the square. Blankets and lawn chairs may be set up in the park anytime on Friday. No plastic ground covering, ropes, tape, stakes, etc. used to section off areas are permitted inside the park as they will be removed. All personal tables must be set up in the street after 6:00 p.m., not in the park.

The concert series is part of America's 250th Celebration in Marietta. Stop by their information table to learn about the many events and programs happening across the city in celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary.

#### THE CONCERT LINEUP:

April 24	Yacht Rock Schooner	70's Smooth Rock
May 29	A1A	Jimmy Buffet Tribute band
June 26	Guardians of the Jukebox	Soundtrack of the 80's
July 31	Seven Bridges	Eagles Tribute Band
August 28	Kasper and The 911 Band	R&B and Pop
Sept 25	Nashville Nation	Modern Country Hits

All concerts begin at 8:00 on the last Friday of each month, April – September, at Glover Park on the Historic Marietta Square Free street parking, City Hall parking deck, 205 Lawrence St and the Care Here of Marietta parking lot, 268 Lawrence St. <https://www.marietta.gov/1462/Downtown-Parking>



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# The Bright Side

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Chattahoochee Technical College is proud to announce a generous donation of advanced HVAC training equipment from YORK®, enhancing hands-on learning opportunities for students enrolled in the college's Air Conditioning Technology program. YORK® donated two state-of-the-art systems designed to reflect current industry standards and support real-world training:

These systems will allow students to gain experience with modern, energy-efficient HVAC technology as they prepare for careers in residential and commercial heating and cooling.

John Griffin, Sales Account Manager for York Factory Direct, emphasized the company's commitment to supporting technical education and workforce development. Chattahoochee Tech's Air Conditioning Technology program provides students with a comprehensive foundation in HVAC theory, diagnostics, installation, and repair. Through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on lab work, students develop the technical skills and industry knowledge needed to enter a high-demand field with strong career pathways.

By donating their equipment to Chattahoochee Tech, York/Bosch HVAC gives future HVAC leaders the opportunity to work directly with their systems while still in trade school.

The college also extends its sincere appreciation to the Cobb chapter of the Conditioned Air Association of Georgia for helping facilitate this donation and for its ongoing support of the Chattahoochee Tech program.

This donation reflects the college's ongoing commitment to building strong, forward-thinking partnerships that empower students, strengthen workforce readiness, and ensure that Georgia's HVAC industry continues to grow with well-trained, highly capable professionals.

**DEA DRUG TAKE BACK**

Safely dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired medications during National DEA Prescription Drug Takeback Day on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10 AM to 2 PM outside Kennesaw City Hall. This event provides a safe, convenient, and anonymous way for residents to properly discard prescription medications and help prevent drug misuse in the community.

Improperly stored medications can pose serious risks, especially to children, pets, and others who may accidentally access them. Flushing medications or throwing them in the trash can also harm the environment. By participating in this initiative, community members can help reduce the risk of prescription drug abuse while ensuring medications are disposed of responsibly.

Simply bring your unused or expired prescription medications, and trained personnel will handle the disposal process. Take a few minutes to check your medicine cabinets and help protect the health and safety of our community.

**SPRING PLANT & PRINT SALE AT SMITH GILBERT GARDEN**

This event will be held on Saturday, April 18 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Shop a wide variety of plants, including shrubs, trees, perennials, and vegetables!

Botanical printmaking featuring nature-inspired designs will also be available for purchase.

Get a free SGG-branded plant pot with your plant purchase, while supplies last.

Members will be able to shop 9-10AM. Please note that the plant sale is card only.

Whether you're planting something new or browsing for inspiration, no admission is required to shop, and plants will be available while supplies last.

**Plant Options Include:** **Bonsai:** Japanese Maple (Bonsai Forest) **Edible:** Strawberry (Hanging Basket), Chocolate Mint, Raspberry, Brightwell Rabbiteye Blueberry, Premier Rabbiteye Blueberry, Tomato Starters, Bell Pepper Starters, and Jalapeno Starters **Grass:** Northern Sea Oats

**House Plants:** (Assorted) Philodendron, (Assorted) Pothos, (Assorted) Succulents, Cat Lawn without Catnip, Prayer Plant, Assorted Houseplant Ceramic Planters, and Cat Lawn with Catnip

**Perennials:** Yarrow, Garlic Chives, Elephant Ear, Windflower, Italian arum, Wild Ginger, Cast Iron Plant, Willow Aster Miss Bessie, Eastern Red Columbine, Hellebore, Daylily, Spring Star Flower, Hosta, Yellow Flag Iris, Bearded Iris, Kadsura Vine, Silver Dollar, Lemon Balm, Bee Balm, False Shamrock/Lucky Clover, Kansas Peony, Variegated Solomon's seal, Mountain Mint, Cutleaf Coneflower, Rose Campion, Cup Plant, Lamb's Ear, Purple Toadshade, and Walking Iris

**Trees & Shrubs:** Japanese Maple, American beautyberry, Tokyo Tower Chinese fringetree, Appalachian Spring dogwood, Cherokee Brave dogwood, Cherokee Princess dogwood, Variegated Rockspray, Yaupon Holly, Doghobble, Corkscrew Willow, Prague Viburnum, and Japanese Zelkova

Please note availability subject to change.

**BOTTOM LINE**  
 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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**[WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF](http://WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF)**



**293 BAND TO PLAY AT SMOKE ON THE LAKE**

293 BAND will perform classic and contemporary dance, pop, and rock hits on Friday, May 8, 2026 at 8:00 PM.

Named after the Georgia State Route, 293 is a group of seasoned professional musicians who have been playing together for many years in live venues around Atlanta and the East Coast. Most of these players went to NCHS

To better enjoy the concert, we recommend reserving a table for your group. Dinner tables are arranged with the narrow end facing the bandstand on the grassy lawn. There are six chairs at each table. Tablecloths are included.

Multiple table orders are common and staff will make every effort to group them conveniently.

**SMOKE ON THE LAKE BBQ FESTIVAL**

The North Cobb Rotary Club, City of Acworth, and the Georgia Barbecue Association partner each year to host the Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival. The event will take place on Friday, May 8, 5-10 pm, and Saturday, May 9, 11-4 pm at Logan Farm Park. All proceeds are distributed to over 35 local charities. Come out and help make a difference in your community! Gates open at 5:00 p.m. and festivities will last until 10:00 p.m.

Saturday will have some of the best BBQ around! Teams from all over the Southeast will compete in professional and amateur divisions to see who will take home the title. For a small fee, you can taste your way through some of the best BBQ in the Southeast! The event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information on this event, please visit [www.smokeonthelake.org](http://www.smokeonthelake.org).

**BUILDING A LEGACY: WHY GIVING BACK IS GOOD BUSINESS**

**ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ALICIA TODISCO**

As a local small business owner and President of the Acworth Business Association, I believe our community is "Better Together." Success isn't just sales; it's about how we use our time, talent, and finances to serve others.



When a company sponsors a local team or volunteers at an event, they do more than just get their name on a banner. They build goodwill through service. Doing the right thing for the right reasons shows neighbors that you care about the place you call home. For me, giving back is how I gain fulfillment. We are all building our legacy today by the way we support one another.

One great way to see service in action is ABA Cares. An arm of the Acworth Business Association that partners with local organizations to serve their members locally in Acworth. This summer for example we will be offering a special needs

respite movie day. Another great way to see this in action is the upcoming Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival! May 8 & 9th, you will see the team effort between the North Cobb Rotary, the City of Acworth, and the Acworth Business Association as we come together for good.

The best part? Our profits are poured right back into our community to help those in need. It is a huge service project that tastes great, too!

I invite you to come out as a guest, enjoy some delicious BBQ, and shake the hand of a Rotarian, a city employee, or a business association member. Let's celebrate the good work being done. When we come together in community, we create a more welcoming place for everyone. Let's build a legacy we can be proud of!

**ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**THUR APR 16 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON LUNCHEON** - 11:30-1:00 at Fore Seasons Golf Club. Come play. Please RSVP at [www.acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org). Member is \$20.00.

**THUR MAY 7 ACWORTH ABA LUNCHEON** - 11:30-1:00 ACWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER. SPONSORED by Northside Hospital, and Catered by Copelands. Please visit [acworthbusiness.org](http://acworthbusiness.org) for more information and to RSVP

**THUR MAY 14 ACWORTH ALIVE AFTER 5** Join the ABA for after hours food, fun and networking at 5:30-7:30 PM. This event is free for ABA Members, \$5 for Guests For more information and to RSVP visit [www.acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org)

**KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**TUES APRIL 14 KBA LUNCHEON** - 11:00-1:00 GOVERNOR'S GUN CLUB, 1005 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw Join us as we honor our graduating seniors with scholarships. MC is Mike Linch, Pastor of NorthStar Church. Sponsors: Cobb County School District and Emerson Home Services; Caterer: Adriene's Delectables. Please RSVP at [www.kennesawbusiness.org](http://www.kennesawbusiness.org).

**THUR APR 16 ALIVE AFTER FIVE** 5:30-7:30 ALIVE AFTER 5/Big Shanty Kickoff will be held at 1885 Grill Kennesaw, 2840 S/ Main St., Kennesaw. This event is free for KBA members and \$5 for guests.

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The 50th Anniversary  
**Big Shanty Festival**  
**April 18 & 19, 2026**  
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For More Information Call 770-423-1330  
[www.kennesawbusiness.org](http://www.kennesawbusiness.org)

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

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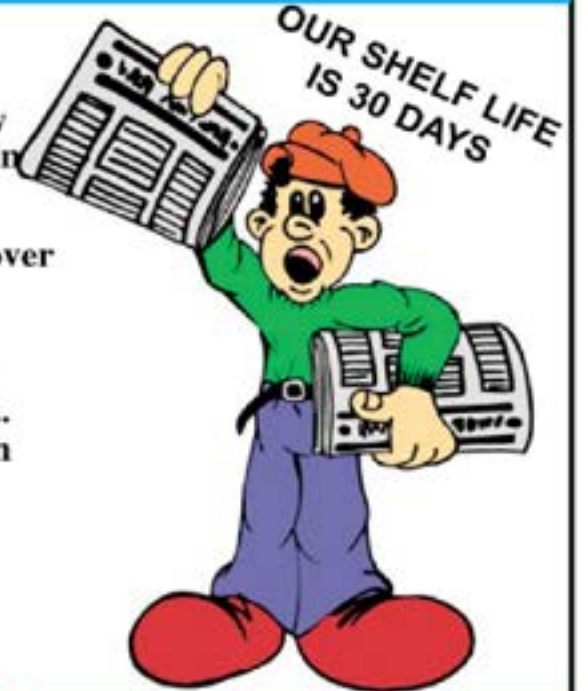
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# The Bright Side

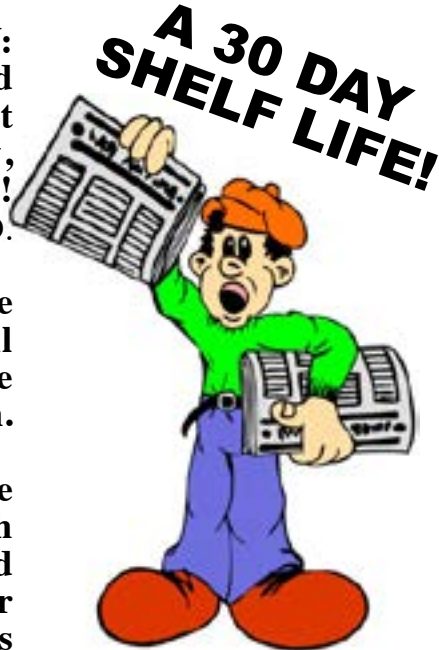
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