ACWORTH BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Acworth Business Association selected Chick-Fil-A owner, Andy Duncan and his team as business of the year. Andy Duncan is the Operator of two Chick-Fil-A restaurants: Chick-fil-A Acworth and Chick-fil-A Brookstone. Andy is well respected in the community and instills his passion for community in his team. Chick-fil-A has a consistent presence in our schools, events, and programs. Andy attends Northstar church and resides in Acworth. He credits his success to his amazing team at both locations. Andy is pictured above.

KENNESAW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Elder Law Firm, with an office in Kennesaw, was recognized as the Business of the Year for their tremendous contribution to the Cobb County community. Pictured l-r are BOY Committee Member David Perrson, Attorney Stephen Crane, Attorney Shelley Elder, 2018 KBA President Carel Bekker.

ACWORTH MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Malinda Bailey Howe, Anchor Realty, was recognized as Member of the Year. Malinda has marketed and sold over 100 homes in our city of Acworth, with 100% Buyer satisfaction. As Acworth Mayor Allegood says, “Her reputation for honesty and kindness is more important than making a sale and a getting a commission.” Malinda is pictured here with her daughter, Kara and her mother Shirley who attended the awards ceremony.

KENNESAW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Sue Picardi, of Active Financial Group, was named KBA Member of the Year. Sue worked tirelessly as Chair of the Membership Committee including cooking breakfast for the committee members before their meetings. Their efforts paid off as the KBA has 478 members - the most ever. Pictured l-r Big Shanty Chair, Marlon Longacre; Member of the Year, Sue Picardi; Chair of the BOY and MOY Committee, Greg Carter.

DECEMBER AWARDS

In December, the ABA and KBA recognizes the Business of the Year and the Member of the Year, from their respective organizations. These awards are based on what the Business and the Member have contributed to the community throughout 2018.

ACWORTH MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Malinda Bailey Howe, Anchor Realty, was recognized as Member of the Year.

There are Blessings every day. Find them. Create them. Treasure them.

TASTE OF KENNESAW RESTAURANT WINNERS

Awards were given to Taste of Kennesaw Winners. Pictured with Taste of Kennesaw Chair Michael Everhart and 2018 KBA President, Carel Bekker, are l-r are Caspian Grill (Best Presentation), Tom & Chee (Best Dessert), Jim and Nicks BBQ (Best Decorated Tent), Carrabba’s Italian Grill (Best Entree) Chueys (Best Appetizer).
SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS

Share your good news with us -- baby births, birthdays, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, no charge, just get your information to us by the next deadline and include your zip code. Email a brief announcement and photo to brightnews@aol.com. These announcements are published at NO CHARGE.

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WHY WE SAY WHAT WE SAY...

For this month’s article I will be sharing a random assortment of word origins. The first one is QUARANTINE. During the black plague, a port city in Italy, the Venetians controlled by the Venetians from Italy. They imposed a 40-day quarantine, meaning 40 days. All the ports adopted the Quaranta Giorni and the name evolved into QUARANTINE.

LUKEWARM comes from Old English. The Old English word Lewk means warm, so lukewarm actually means “warm.”

MORTGAGE has a very strange origin. Mortgage is French for “Death Pledge.” As horrifying as this may sound, the reason for this has to do with the fact that when a mortgage is paid off or foreclosed the deed (or pledge) dies.

Another interesting one is HOODLUM. According to the book “Why Do We Say It?”, a reporter in San Francisco was trying to find a name for a gang so he reversed the ring leaders name and got Noodlum. Someone else who was typing out the article couldn’t read the reporters handwriting, and instead typed HOODLUM.

These words all show how unique our language can be!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

Join us as historian Michael Shaffer will present “In Memory of Self and Comrades” on Saturday, January 12 at 2pm at the Kennesaw Branch of the Cobb County Library system.

Shaffer will share fascinating stories from his new book about Thomas W. Colley who served in one of the most active and famous units of the Civil War. A book signing and light refreshments will be follow the presentation.

Event sponsors: Save Acworth History Foundation, Kennesaw Historical Society and Kennesaw Branch of the Cobb County Library

For further information contact: Lynne Brown – 239-292-0613

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David Grant, Agent
KPD DEPUTY CHIEF BARBARA TOLBERT RETIRES

On October 2, 1984, Deputy Chief Tolbert began her career with the Kennesaw Police Department as a dispatcher. Over the years Deputy Chief Tolbert served in all areas of the department, rising in rank along the way. In 2008, she was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police under Chief William Westenberger. Deputy Chief Tolbert has played a significant role in the achievements of the department, receiving numerous professional and community awards in recognition of her service. For instance, she served with oversight of the annual Jerry Wortham Christmas Fund program and as Law Enforcement Co-chair for SafePath Advocacy Center.

A 1983 graduate of North Cobb High School; she was born and raised in Kennesaw where her family still resides. Deputy Chief Tolbert and her husband John are looking forward to the rewards of retirement. Deputy Chiefs last day was December 31, 2018; she will leave emptiness not only in her office, but also in the hearts of all the employees and citizens of the City of Kennesaw who have had the pleasure of working with her. We wish you the very best and much happiness in your retirement!

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

Smith-Gilbert Gardens seeks volunteers to join its team of docents. These highly-trained volunteers will lead interactive tours of the collections at the Gardens. Docents enhance the visitor experience through facilitating discussion and acting as a vital link between our plant and art collection and the visitor.

Beginning Monday, January 28th, prospective docents will participate in a docent training course designed to prepare individuals to lead tours and assist with programs designed for children and adult groups. Classes will be conducted weekly at the Gardens, located at 2382 Pine Mountain Road in Kennesaw, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm for five consecutive weeks. Docents will learn about the variety of plants, flowers, and sculptures in the 16 acre Gardens as well as the story of the property and its historic Hiram Butler House. In addition, they will become familiar with techniques for presenting educational programs to children.

Docents are called upon to lead or assist with groups touring the Gardens. Weekday morning availability is imperative for this position. Besides leading tours, docents can become involved in programs such as our Homeschool Series, Garden Stories, and more! This a great position for retired and future teachers, volunteers who enjoy working with children, and those who love to share their passions with others. No background in horticulture, botany, or gardening is required. We will teach you all you need to know!

For more information, please contact Anna Bell King at 770-919-0248 or via e-mail at aking@kennesaw-ga.gov.

“TRAINS! TRAINS! TRAINS!”

A FUN FAMILY EVENT

The Southern Museum, located in downtown Kennesaw, will host the ninth annual installment of its’ popular “Trains! Trains! Trains!” event on Saturday and Sunday, January 26 - 27, from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm. This year’s event will include new and expanded layouts that offer attendees the opportunity to interact with and operate a variety of trains. Layout enthusiasts from Georgia and the Carolinas will make their way to the Museum to set up and operate layouts of various scales and sizes for the enjoyment of visitors young and old alike. Athens Bend Track returns this year to create a massive N-Scale layout in the Cobb Energy Gallery. Other participants include the Chattanooga Modular Modelers, Georgia Tinplate Trackers, Georgia Garden Railway Society, and the Eastern Carolina Railroaders to name a few. An expanded General Emporium gift shop will offer a wide range of new train and railroad-themed items, available exclusively January 26 - 27.

“Trains! Trains! Trains!” is our most popular annual event and we are gearing up for what is sure to be our best experience yet,” said Dr. Richard Banz, Executive Director of the Museum. “We are proud to host an event where families can share in the nostalgia and appeal of model trains and make memories that will last a lifetime.”

Dixie Precast is the title sponsor of this year’s event. Museum admission is $7.50 for adults, $6.50 for seniors, and $5.50 for children ages 4 – 12. Museum members enter free. The Museum will not accept general pass coupons, guest passes, and other discounts on the day of the event. For more information, please visit SouthernMuseum.org.

St. John The Baptist Hybrid School

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

St. John the Baptist Hybrid School is a 2 day a week hybrid homeschool program offering full-day and half-day packages. Classes for Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our goal is to assist parents in providing a strong academic foundation in the Catholic tradition.

Call 770-710-8226
www.stjohnthebaptisthybrid.org

Classes held at Christ Episcopal Church, Kennesaw, GA

The Southern Museum

Trains! Trains! Trains!

January 26-27 • 9:30 am - 5 pm

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A Train Gift Store Extravaganza
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Different Scales & Sizes
Kid’s Activity and Craft

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JUNK REMOVAL

Unwanted items in your home? Think it’s going to be too expensive or a hassle? Just text a picture of your items to 404-456-4716 and I’ll text you back a quote. That simple. Get your cheap quote today! A. D. McCord will be glad to help.

TOASTMASTERS AT KUMC

North Metro Toastmasters invites you to attend their International and Table Topics Speech Contests at 7:00 pm, on January 28, at Kennesaw United Methodist Church, 1801 Ben King Road, Kennesaw, 30144. This event is FREE. Come out and be inspired by some great speakers. Call Ann on 404 630-3852 with questions.

MARIETTA TREE KEEPERS

Marietta Tree Keepers invites volunteers of all ages to help plant trees in Marietta meeting at the City of Marietta Maintenance Building (near Lewis Park) on Saturday, January 12. Sign in is 9:00am and planting will run from 9:30-11:30 am. This planting will be a scavenger hunt where the volunteers will be given clues to find the trees that they will plant. Tools and refreshments provided. Dress for outdoor weather.

Dress for the weather. Tools and gloves are provided. Don’t forget chocolate and hot coffee provided. In case of bad weather please call 770-424-4664 for weather updates and rescheduled date.

POWDER SPRINGS TOASTMASTERS

A new Toastmasters club is forming in Powder Springs. Develop the communication and leadership skills to effectively express yourself in any situation. Whether you are a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the most efficient, enjoyable and affordable way of gaining great communication skills. For more information contact lynncumby@gmail.com.

ADULT SPELLING BEE

Friday, March 1, 2019 will be a night of laughs, some really unusual on-stage antics, and truly funny attempts at spelling difficult words—that’s the “Bee,” a once a year event hosted by Communities In Schools Georgia in Marietta/Cobb County. All proceeds benefit our drop out prevention program.

Remember when you were a kid and you participated in a spelling bee at school? Well, this is nothing like that! It’s all adults, on stage, in costume working together to spell words. The event is hosted by Mark Owens, in game host for the Braves and our judges are Jen Carlungo and Dr. Greg Postel from The Weather Channel.

Students $15, Adults $20 and VIP Reception tickets are also available.

BIG SHANTY BASSMASTERS

The Big Shanty Bassmasters, a B.A.S.S. affiliated club, is accepting applications for membership. If you love bass fishing and want to hone your skills or learn, in a friendly club environment, be our guest. Please check us out. You do not need a boat to join and we have memberships for both Boater and Co-anglers open. We meet the first Monday of the month, currently at Cherokee Cattle Company restaurant on Canton Highway in Marietta. Meeting’s start about 7PM and usually last about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. For more information please email us at bigshantybass@gmail.com.
TIME TO REPRIORITIZE MUSIC INSTRUCTION IN YOUR CHILD’S LIFE

January is a month for re-evaluating priorities, and it’s a good time to prioritize the role of music instruction in your child’s life. According to Parents magazine, music lessons can improve academic, physical, and social skills and refine discipline and patience.

At The Harmony House, Kennesaw’s home of the arts, we offer private music lessons for children and adults in piano, guitar, voice, and many other instruments. We also sell, rent, and repair instruments, and we sell printed music and music accessories.

We also have some free offerings that are a great way to try us out. We have Free Tuesdays every week from 5:30 to 6:30 for piano, guitar, woodwind, and brass students. Students learn a song together and then perform it in Chapel on a Sunday morning. We also offer Free Fridays from 5:00 to 6:00 where you can try out your theater chops by reenacting a Scripture passage or rehearse with the worship band as they prepare for Sunday’s Chapel.

We also have Friday Night Kickback the first Friday of each month, 6:30-8:30, with free food, games, and music for high school and middle school students. And everyone is invited to come worship with us at Chapel each Sunday morning at 10:30.

Start the new year off right by taking advantage of one of our free offerings or signing up for a free trial lesson at The Harmony House. Stop by at 3610 Kennesaw N. Industrial Pkwy., Acworth, GA 30144, or call us at 770-422-0022, or check us out at theharmonyhouse.net. Happy New Year!

MONTHLY EVENTS

OAK Sanctuary is a healing place—a place where you learn new ways to relax, let go of your stresses, and grow. One Sunday a month, OAK Sanctuary offers an event to introduce you to new ideas and experiences.

Visit us at www.theoaksancuary.com or call 404-903-4104

Currently hosted at Core Bodyworks Yoga & Pilates Studio
4358A Southside Drive, Acworth, GA 30101

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISER

St John The Baptist Hybrid School is now accepting registration. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday at Christ Episcopal Church.

Our goal is to assist the parents in providing a strong academic foundation in the Catholic tradition. We have classes for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our website is www.stjohnthebaptisthybrid.org. Call 770-710-8226.

GIRL AND BOY SCOUT SHABBAT

Congregation Nertamid is hosting a Girl and Boy Scout Shabbat on Feb 1 7:30-8:30. RSVP required to ensure enough patches and if boy or girl scout. All welcome. More details at www.mybertamid.org or call 678 264-8575. Nertamid is located at 1349 Old Hwy 41, Suite 220, Marietta, GA 30060

YOU ARE INVITED!

Start your new year off with an organized house! Learn tips on organizing your kitchen, closets, and cabinets by Holbrook’s newest partner The Moving Station. Join us for a delicious lunch and a short presentation about The Holbrook, on Tuesday, January 15th 2019 at 11:30-1pm. This event will be held at the Logan Farm House, 4756 Logan Rd. Acworth, GA. Please RSVP to 404-909-5625 or holbrookacworth@wespeaklife.life.

ACWORTH BASEBALL

Acworth Baseball registration for the Spring 2019 season is now underway! The association provides a safe, challenging, and fun instructional and competitive baseball experience for boys and girls ages 4 to 14. The goal is to instill in the children of this community the ideas of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty and a sense of teamwork so that they may become strong, healthy, well-adjusted members of the community. Register today at www.acworthbaseball.org.

HORIZON BASEBALL

Registration for the Spring Horizon League will open on February 4. The Horizon League is a non-competitive baseball league for athletes ages 5 years and older with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. Games will be played on the Horizon Field at the Acworth Sports Complex. The cost of the league is $15 per player. The deadline to register without a late fee is March 27. Games for the youth and teen league begin on February 4. The Horizon League is a non-competitive baseball league for athletes ages 5 years and older with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. Games will be played on the Horizon Field at the Acworth Sports Complex. The cost of the league is $15 per player. The deadline to register without a late fee is March 27. Games for the youth and teen league begin on February 4. The Horizon League will open on February 4. The Horizon League is a non-competitive baseball league for athletes ages 5 years and older with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. 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BRIGHT SIDE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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KBA 2019 President Cariel Bekker (r) handed the reins over to incoming 2019 President, Ollie Patterson.

KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY OLLIE PATTERTON, PRESIDENT

If you own a business in Kennesaw, GA (or surrounding areas), you should consider a membership with the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA). The mission of the KBA is several-fold:

• Help each member to grow their business.
  • Increase the brand awareness of each member through well-planned networking events, expos, festivals, and sponsoring opportunities.
  • Cultivate a healthy and thriving community who seeks to do business with its member base.

Most of the magic occurs on Tuesday’s for the KBA. Every 2nd Tuesday is the monthly luncheon from 11:30A – 1:00P. This is where 150-200 members come together for networking, fun, food, and good ‘ole fashioned belly to belly conversations to expand their business or develop new lead opportunities. The cost for the luncheon is $15.00 for members with advance registration. The cost for guests and members who pay at the door is only $20.00 for the luncheon.

Every 4th Tuesday is Wake Up KBA from 8:00A – 9A. This also is hosted each month at a different member site and accompanied with light breakfast foods & beverage. Attendance is free.

Every 5th Tuesday (when applicable) is our Lunch & Learn. This is where we bring in guest speakers to discuss topics relevant to our members (i.e. cyber security, etc.). The cost for members/guests is $15.00/$20.00 respectively.

There are a host of other events & festivals that allow our members to increase their brand awareness within the KBA membership base and within the community. For more information, please visit: www.KennesawBusiness.org

As the 2019 president for the KBA, I invite you to come to one of our functions and experience first-hand how we can help you achieve your objectives.

Ollie Patterson, KBA President – 2019.

KBA LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 12 11:30-1:00 pm at KSU Continuing Ed Bldg. Kennesaw, 30114. Learn more and RSVP at www.kennesawbusiness.org.

JANUARY KBA ALIVE AFTER 5

Will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 5:30-7:30 at Trackside Grill on Main St., downtown Kennesaw. networking in a relaxed atmosphere for members, drink ticket and food provided. Free for members.

KBA 2019 President Cariel Bekker (r) handed the reins over to incoming 2019 President, Ollie Patterson.

ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

A SHINY NEW BRIDGE IN 2019

Happy New Year! I trust you have enjoyed the season of cooler weather, traditions and gatherings. The ABA Leadership Team wishes well for you, your family and your business in 2019. Last year, you continued, created and planned for economic growth and prosperity in our community. This is exactly what makes Acworth and the Acworth Business Association the place to be for successful ventures.

The ABA continues to sail in the right direction! We have expanded our circle of influence and are on our journey toward 400 Members. Collectively we have contributed over $31,000 to community resources.

Let’s schedule for success together on our 2019 calendars. We want to invite you to:

• Connect and share: at our monthly luncheons, Morning Jolts, Alive After 5’s and events every month.
  • Promote and Grow: with Presidential Sponsorship and package opportunities that include Taste of Acworth, our Love the Lake events and our Annual Golf Tournament.
  • Commit and Contribute: through our Member Spotlights, donations opportunities and Ambassador Program!
  • Show Appreciation: as an ABA Member, you will contribute greatly to our partnerships with schools, teachers, law enforcement, local government and support our community through countless Gifts of Love.

You may have heard this before, but it is never any less true. You are still the most valuable piece of the puzzle. Our business is YOUR business and we would love to hear from you. Reach out to us through our events, our staff, our Ambassadors and Leadership Team. None of us are as smart as all of us.

Consider if you will the new Acworth Bridge. Bridges are amazing things. Bridges connect people and places. Bridges span gaps. They require planning, construction and maintenance. But before all that there was something even more important: a reason. A reason to utilize a bridge.

And at the end of the day it is to get us from one place to another. To connect us.

The place is the Acworth Business Association. The time is now. Become an amazing new partner or renew your current valued membership. Review the opportunities at AcworthBusiness.org. Do good and do well.

Jim Hilber, ABA President 2019

ABA LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 7 11:30-1:00 pm at NorthStar Church 3414 Blue Springs Rd. Kennesaw, GA 30144. Learn more and RSVP at www.acworthbusiness.org.

MORNING JOLT

Join us the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at 7-8:15 for our morning Wake-Up, hosted by The American Legion in Downtown Acworth. Grab a cup of coffee and network with some of your favorite ABA Members and meet some new ABA Members! Address: 4220 S Main St, Acworth, GA 30101.
FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT
The Acworth Cultural Arts Council and the North Cobb High School Foundation is pleased to announce the presentation of a world-class concert, at no charge, for our community.

The Lopez-Tabor Concert Duo will perform at 4:00pm on Saturday, January 12, 2019, at Acworth United Methodist Church.

The Lopez Tabor Duo community concert will take place at Acworth United Methodist Church located at 4340 Collins Circle, Acworth, on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 4:00 pm – 5:30. Following the concert, there will be a coffee, tea, and cookie reception. In lieu of admission, donations will be accepted to North Cobb Foundation 501 (c)(3) for the benefit of North Cobb High School.

GREG CARTER LOVES FOOD!
BIG MACS AND LOBSTER TAILS BY GREG CARTER
I really enjoy a well-prepared lobster tail with drawn butter. I also really like a fresh Big Mac, provided it has no pickles. The lobster costs around $30.00. The Big Mac? $4.29. Considering my budget, the lobster is something I might order if it’s your turn to pick up the check. But I really do enjoy those $4.29 Big Macs, too.

You see, I came up eating food that was prepared everyday by the loving hands of my Mama. She knew how to put tasty food on the table while managing a very tight budget. She knew how to shop for groceries, she knew how to cook, and she knew how to make use of perishable ingredients. We very rarely ate fast food, and I was a grown man before I ever experienced my first lobster.

To this day, I enjoy the “poor people” food that Mama used to prepare as much as I do the fancy stuff. (And I do enjoy the fancy stuff!) She baked biscuits nearly every single day, from scratch. Better than that was what we called “biscuit toast”, made by taking the butter was melted well and the biscuit had stuff! She baked biscuits nearly every single day, from scratch. Better than that was what we called “biscuit toast”, made by taking the butter was melted well and the biscuit had

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Navigating the Medicare Maze
Whether you are “ageing in” (turning 65), leaving your group plan or entering open enrollment, I can help! I cut through the clutter and guide you through the Medicare Maze.

Review your options for FREE from the many Medicare plans I offer. Remember, there is no best plan, only the best plan for you!

I’m certain you will come away from our meeting knowing you made the right decision about your Medicare health plan, so you can relax and enjoy some of the best years of your life!

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HEALTHY END TO NEW YEAR:=a

April 14th-18th is National Physical Activity Week.  This week is designated for the promotion of activity and living a healthy lifestyle.  The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department will be offering a variety of activities revolving around physical activity.  These activities are designed to be fun and engaging for the entire community.  Whether you are a professional athlete or someone looking for a little extra activity, there is something for everyone.

For more information, visit www.acworthparksandrec.org.

HELPING ONE GUY SUPPORTING HORIZON FIELD

At a recent City of Acworth council meeting, Bob Kelly and Dave Zivic (members from Helping One Guy) presented the Special Needs Development Group a check for $4,000.00 for the Horizon League.  Lauren Ham Acworth Parks and Recreation, accepted the check.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION

The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department will host the 6th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration and 8th Annual Day of Service on Monday, January 21, 2019.  Festivities will begin with a unity walk from the Rosenwald School to Zion Hill Baptist Church, where the ceremony will be held.  The walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Immediately following the ceremony, the Acworth Achievers Mentoring and After School Program will host their Annual Day of Service.  They will be working on a service project at Roberts School Community Center and welcome other volunteers from the community to join them!  The Acworth Achievers are currently hosting a drive to collect items for an organization called Foster-Love and their Birthday Box Program.  This program is designed to benefit foster children, who need our help making their birthday feel special.  Donations are currently being accepted at the Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department.  This drive is in preparation for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration and Day of Service taking place on Monday, January 21, 2019.  For more information on this event, please visit www.acworthparksandrec.org.

As always, for more information on any of these projects, events and programs you can visit www.acworth.org, sign up for our e-news blasts on our home page, “like” Visit Acworth on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter at @VisitAcworth.

God Bless, Tommy.

ACTIVE ADULT LUNCH

Join us on the third Wednesday, January 16, for the City of Acworth Parks and Recreation Departments Senior Luncheon.  Come join us for lunch, bingo, and other special activities.  The luncheon is held at Roberts School Community and Education Center (4681 School Street) in Acworth.  Lunch is served at noon.  After lunch we will have several rounds of bingo with prizes.  This program is free to all seniors!

ACTIVE ADULT FEBRUARY DAY TRIP

On Friday, February 22, our active adults will be taking a trip to the Antiquity Center for a Bible History Center Tour and Biblical Meal.

Registration is now open!  Cost for City of Acworth residents is $45.00 and cost for non-residents is $50.00.  You can register online at www.acworthparksandrec.org or come into the Acworth Parks and Recreation offices located at 4762 Logan Rd.
ELDER LAW FIRM

Elder Law Firm, PLLC specializes in estate planning, probate, and real estate. We are known for our gentle and patient approach, as we understand the difficulty of these decisions. Our firm dedicates time and funds into the local community to enrich and build strong relationships with Cobb County residents. Both our clients and community hold inestimable value to us, and we do all that we can to ensure we provide an accessible, compelling, and reassuring environment in both our office and in our community.

You will be confident knowing that whether you are facing probate in Marietta, buying a home in or establishing a trust you have a lawyer who will protect your interests and achieve the best results for you. Most of our business comes from word-of-mouth and we like what that says about us. Thank you to all who have helped us along the way.

The office is located at 1300 Ridenour Blvd, Suite 100 Kennesaw, GA 30152. For an appointment call 404-783-2244. To learn more above Elder Law Firm: Visit www.shelleyelder.com

Shelley Elder has a strong commitment to our community. Elder gives of her time, talents and resources to ensure that she makes a positive impact on her community. As a result she was named both the Cobb Chamber Kennesaw Citizen of the Year and the Kennesaw Business Association Business of the Year in 2018.

Elder is a board member of the Senior Resource Foundation, the Kennesaw Teen Center, the Kennesaw Business Association and the Kennesaw Public Safety Foundation, which she co-founded. She is also charitably involved with programs and organizations assisting seniors, children and impoverished groups, such as the Special Olympics of Georgia, Power of Peace Program, 10 Women of Hope, Through Our Hearts and the Kennesaw Life Church with ForeverFed, among others. Elder certainly has a passion for impacting her community and those around her positively. Pictured above are Attorneys Shelley Elder and Stephen Crane.
ABA GIFTS OF LOVE:
Each year the Acworth Business Association gifts the following non-profits with a cash donation so they may continue the work they do within our community. Recipients were Acworth Football and Cheerleading Association, Acworth Baseball Association, Expanding Horizons, Horizon Field, Shop with a Buc, Shop with a Mustang, Shop with a Warrior, PTSD Dog Program - American Legion Post 304. Emcee: Marlon Longacre.

NCHS LETTERS OF INTENT

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
North Cobb football standout, Anthony Rodriguez, signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. SEATED: sister Janett, mother Isabel, Anthony, and father Antonio. STANDING: North Cobb Principal Matt Moody, head football coach Shane Queen, and Athletic Director Matthew Williams. CONGRATULATIONS

CHRISTIAN SINGLETON
North Cobb High School football standout, Christian Singleton, signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. SEATED: brother Malachi, mother Margaret, sister Courtlyn, Christian, father Carlo, brother Marcus, and brother Cobe. STANDING: North Cobb Principal Matt Moody, head football coach Shane Queen, and Athletic Director Matthew Williams. CONGRATULATIONS

KEVIN HESTER
North Cobb High School football standout, Kevin Hester, signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. SEATED: girlfriend Da’niaja, mother Fatima, Kevin, father Kevin. STANDING: North Cobb Principal Matt Moody, head football coach Shane Queen, and Athletic Director Matthew Williams. CONGRATULATIONS

NOAH MCKOUE
North Cobb High School lacrosse standout, Noah McKouen, signed a National Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida. SEATED: brother Jonah, mother Sara, Noah, father Thomas, and sister Bria. STANDING: North Cobb Principal Matt Moody, head boys lacrosse coach John Alny, and Athletic Director Matthew Williams. CONGRATULATIONS

ROARY CHURCH
North Cobb tennis standout, Rory Church, signed a National Letter of Intent to play tennis at Tusculum University in Greeneville, Tennessee. SEATED: left to right, mother Lucy, Rory, and head girls tennis coach Andrea Drake. STANDING: North Cobb Principal Matt Moody, Stephen Diaz from the Stephen Diaz Tennis Academy, and Athletic Director Matthew Williams. CONGRATULATIONS!

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KMHS LETTERS OF INTENT

ADDIE ROSE BULLOCK
Congratulations Addie Rose Bullock who has signed to swim at Harvard.
SEATED: Nina Bullock, Addie Rose Bullock, Willard Bullock, Will Bullock
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Doug Michalke, Coach Chelsea Sexton, Ian Goss and Pike Hightower from Stingrays Swimming, KMHS Head Swim Coach David Reason

GABBY AUERBACH
Congratulations Gabby Auerbach – Swimming – Air Force
SEATED: Jeffrey Auerbach, Gabby Auerbach, Michelle Auerbach
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Doug Michalke, Coach Chelsea Sexton, Ian Goss and Pike Hightower from Stingrays Swimming, KMHS Head Swim Coach David Reason

JARRETT GUEST
Congratulations Jarrett Guest – Football – Coastal Carolina
SEATED: Alexandra Guest, Jason Guest, Jarrett Guest, Katie Guest, Jake Guest
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Kefla Hare, Coach Jared Parker, Head Football Coach Caleb Carmean, Coach Chris Walker, Coach Mike Hamilton, Coach Kevin Pena, Coach Muhammad Abdellatif, Coach Jonathan Henslee

RYLAND GOEDE
Congratulations Ryland Goede – Football – University of Georgia
SEATED: Chris Goede, Ryland Goede, Sara Goede, Addie Goede
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Jonathan Henslee, Coach Muhammad Abdellatif, Coach Dennis Stanley, Coach Michael Hamilton, KMHS Head Football Coach Caleb Carmean, Coach Chris Walker, Coach Kevin Pena, Coach Kefla Hare, Coach Jared Parker

GAVIN THOMAS
Congratulations Gavin Thomas – Tennis – Point University
SEATED: Justin Thomas, Quinn Thomas, Gavin Thomas, Dana Dunlap, Julia Thomas
STANDING: Coach Muhammad Abdellatif, KMHS Head Boys Tennis Coach Jackie Collier, KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker

KEYON BROOKS
Congratulations Keyon Brooks – Football – Vanderbilt University
SEATED: Carey Henry, Keyon Brooks, Kiara Brooks, Cael Brooks
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Muhammad Abdellatif, Coach Kevin Pena, Coach Dennis Stanley, KMHS Head Football Coach Caleb Carmean, Coach Michael Hamilton, Coach Jonathan Henslee, Coach Kefla Hare, Coach Chris Walker, Coach Jared Parker

TRENT TOWNSEND
Congratulations Trent Townsend – Football – Auburn
SEATED: Stevey Townsend, Kaedyn Townsend, Lemarcus Townsend, Trent Townsend, Chantel Townsend, Raeya Townsend
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Kevin Pena, Coach Muhammad Abdellatif, KMHS Head Football Coach Caleb Carmean, Coach Mike Hamilton, Coach Chris Walker, Coach Jonathan Henslee

CAITLYN YAP
Congratulations Caitlyn Yap – Triathlete – Daemen College
SEATED: Erwin Yap, Caitlyn Yap, Myrtle Yap
STANDING: KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker, Coach Doug Michalke, KMHS Head Swim Coach David Reason, Coach Chelsea Sexton, Head Cross Country Coach Jackie Collier, KMHS Athletic Director Don Baker
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MAGNIFICENCE ON MAIN:
OLD BUILDING GETS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

It’s been a bit since a structure on Main Street in downtown Kennesaw has seen such a transformation as the previous TLE Christian Academy building is going through now. Purchased in November, the building which has housed many businesses throughout the years including a dance studio and an auto parts store prior to it’s last use as a private Christian academy, is actually divided into two separate buildings though you wouldn’t know it from the outside. With the interior and exterior facelifts in progress, it has been renamed the Long Leaf Building and will be leased as executive office suites on the left side and a new restaurant space on the right side. The office suites will offer private and convenient working spaces right on Main Street walkable to restaurants, shopping and other services in the downtown area with onsite parking. The restaurant is expected to add a lively environment with a large patio for outdoor dining and will give more choices to Kennesaw’s already growing culinary landscape.

The downstairs offices, perfect for professional and service businesses range in size from 140 square feet to 260 square feet and have been totally renovated and are ready to be occupied. In addition to the ground floor spaces, there is a 2,100 square foot studio space on the second floor which would work spectacularly as an entertainment venue, a yoga studio or even a great open office environment for a creative business such as an architectural firm or design studio.

As Tracey Viars notes, “It’s exciting to see the possibility of new businesses coming to Main Street and calling Kennesaw home. I love that the new owner has found a way to repurpose this building for a great new work space and gathering place for the community.” Once a lease on the restaurant has been signed, the exterior transformation will begin and is expected to align with the theme of the restaurant. The pictures show how the building appears now and an architect’s rendering of a possible concept. To find out more information on 2695 South Main Street, contact Tracey Viars at 678-467-1326 or Tracey@KennesawBroker.com.
************

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Jude Thibodeaux’ services include a wide variety of home repairs:
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**THE BENEFITS OF A WINTER FACIAL**

**BY TRACILLA LORENS, NATURAL BEAUTY BY TRACILLA**

Cold air outside and central heating indoors can strip moisture leaving your skin dry, irritated, scaly and sallow. What you do for skin care in your teens, to your 90’s should be changed up a bit. The basics are the same: Exfoliating, Cleansing, and Moisturizing. It’s a good idea to have a professional analyze your skin type. Keep in mind the four seasons make small changes in your skin also. Have a facial to decompress the stress and relax. Your products can only do so much, but the personal touch helps to bring circulation, which brings oxygen to the upper layers of the skin. A $40.00 facial can help to counteract the effects of winter in three ways: by exfoliating, by providing deep cleansing, and by restoring moisture and hydration. Drink half your weight in ounces in purified water. Taking care of your skin doesn’t have to be expensive. I recommend a cleanser for your age and skin type. You should be exfoliating. Exfoliating will stimulate your skin’s natural renewal process as well as remove the dead cells. How many times a week will depend on age. Deep cleansing will remove dead cells that accumulate and clog pores leading to blemishes. Your last step is to moisturize. Some come with SPF. My personal favorite is organic coconut oil. The oil will form a protective barrier that helps to retain your skin’s natural moisture. It’s not uncommon for challenges to wills in probate court revolving around perceived unfairness as to who was named executor, who gets to live in the family home, or even who receives the great-grandmother’s wedding ring.

A well-drafted estate plan should make things easier for your loved ones. A DIY internet will may have the opposite result. The cheap price for an online estate plan can end up being much more expensive. The probate process can cost between 3%-6% of the estate, which is a valid will. Probate without a will, can cost upwards 10% or more of the estate. If a will is contested in probate court, it can easily cost 20%-40% of the estate. No one wants their grieving family to have the burden of expensive and avoidable court costs and deal with the hassle of court proceedings unnecessarily.

Ultimately, the internet is only as good as you are. A DIY internet will could be outdated, have invalid or incorrect provisions, omit needed information, or unintentionally disinherit someone. Wouldn’t you trust someone who wasNumec Medical Center

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**Elliott Skinner, LMT**

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1 Hour

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**8 TIPS TO RELIEVE WINTER DRY EYES**

**BY DR. DYLAN REACH**

Whether you live in a climate with cold winter weather or you are planning a ski trip up north, winter can be a challenge if you suffer from dry eyes. Dry, cool air, cold winds and even drier indoor heating can cause eye irritation, burning, itchiness and redness, and sometimes even excessively watery eyes as more tears are produced to compensate for the dryness. Many people have a chronic feeling that they have something in their eye and some even experience blurred vision. These symptoms can be debilitating.

Here some tips on how to relieve dry eye discomfort, and how to know when your condition is serious enough to come in for an evaluation.

**Tips to Relieve Winter Dry Eyes:**

- Keep eyes moist using artificial tears.
- If over-the-counter drops don’t help or if you have chronic dry eyes, speak to your ophthalmist.
- Use a humidifier to counteract the drying effects of indoor heaters or generally dry air.
- Point car vents or indoor heaters away from your face when the heat is on.
- Drink a lot! Hydrating your body will also hydrate your eyes.
- Protect your eyes outdoors with sunglasses or goggles – the bigger the better!
- Soothe dry eyes using a warm compress and never rub them!
- Give your eyes a digital break. People blink less during screen time which is why excessive computer use can lead to dry eyes.
- Follow the 20/20/20 rule by taking a break every 20 minutes to look 20 feet away for 20 seconds and make sure you blink!
- For contact lens wearers: If you wear contact lenses, dry eyes can be particularly debilitating. Not all eye drops are appropriate for use with contact lenses, so ask your optometrist which is compatible with your contacts and solution, and which brand of contact lenses are better for dry eyes, preferably daily disposable lenses.
- If you find that the tips above do not alleviate your discomfort or symptoms, it may be time to see an ophthalmologist to see if dry eye disease requires more effective medical treatment. For an appointment with Dr. Reach, call 770-974-3153.

**INTERSTATE OR ATTORNEY?**

**BY ERIKA ORCUTT, ORCUTT LAW**

With the internet at your fingertips, it can be difficult to see the value in hiring an attorney to draft your will. Unlike the internet, an estate planning lawyer counsels you through the process. They explain complex legal terms, guide you in decision-making, discuss the consequences of your choices, and help you protect your assets and familial relationships.

An attorney will have a conversation with you, listen to your goals and concerns, and then develop a plan customized for you. The documents you receive are a product of that time investment to understand your needs and reflect your wishes.

Although the internet can be a cheap source for documents, there are risks involved. The internet only provides you with generic fill-in-the-blank documents. It may ask about who should receive your family heirlooms, like the collection of family quilts, but the internet doesn’t help you avoid potential family conflict or estate challenges. It is not uncommon for challenges to wills in probate court revolving around perceived unfairness as to who was named executor, who gets to live in the family home, or even who receives the great-grandmother’s wedding ring.

A well-drafted estate plan should make things easier for your loved ones. A DIY internet will may have the opposite result. The cheap price for an online estate plan can end up being much more expensive. The probate process can cost between 3%-6% of the estate, which is a valid will. Probate without a will, can cost upwards 10% or more of the estate. If a will is contested in probate court, it can easily cost 20%-40% of the estate. No one wants their grieving family to have the burden of expensive and avoidable court costs and deal with the hassle of court proceedings unnecessarily.

Ultimately, the internet is only as good as you are. A DIY internet will could be outdated, have invalid or incorrect provisions, omit needed information, or unintentionally disinherit someone. Wouldn’t you trust yourself to be your own medical doctor and prescribe the correct medications? If not, then you shouldn’t trust yourself to be your own lawyer. Estate planning is an investment and you and your family deserve better than the internet can offer.

For an appointment with Attorney Erika Orcutt, call (678) 383-7857.

**METAL TOY DRIVE**

The love shown by our community certainly got everyone into the Christmas spirit! Melissa Krudwig and her team are so very humbled by everyone’s generosity. With your help and donations, they were able to deliver this trailer full of bikes, toys and gift cards to the Georgia National Guard. It was an amazing team effort and the results will be a blessing to our local military families.

A very special thanks to everyone who donated.

**THE BENEFITS OF A WINTER FACIAL**

**BY TRACILLA LORENS, NATURAL BEAUTY BY TRACILLA**

Cold air outside and central heating indoors can strip moisture leaving your skin dry, irritated, scaly and sallow. What you do for skin care in your teens, to your 90’s should be changed up a bit. The basics are the same: Exfoliate, Cleansing, and Moisturizing. It’s a good idea to have a professional analyze your skin type. Keep in mind the four seasons make small changes in your skin also. Have a facial to decompress the stress and relax. Your products can only do so much, but the personal touch helps to bring circulation, which brings oxygen to the upper layers of the skin. A $40.00 facial can help to counteract the effects of winter in three ways: by exfoliating, by providing deep cleansing, and by restoring moisture and hydration. Drink half your weight in ounces in purified water. Taking care of your skin doesn’t have to be expensive. I recommend a cleanser for your age and skin type. You should be exfoliating. Exfoliating will stimulate your skin’s natural renewal process as well as remove the dead cells. How many times a week will depend on age. Deep cleansing will remove dead cells that accumulate and clog pores leading to blemishes. Your last step is to moisturize. Some come with SPF. My personal favorite is organic coconut oil. The oil will form a protective barrier that helps to retain your skin’s natural moisture. It’s worth taking this opportunity to get some advice from a specialist about a daily moisturizer that’s suitable for both your skin and the colder months ahead. I would love the opportunity to serve you at Natural Beauty by Tracilla 404-771-2555.
All major ad change requests will have to be done in the next issue you advertise in. This ad was created based on information you have provided us. Due to corrections to spelling, incorrect numbers, and expiration dates at this time.

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Over the phone ESTIMATES

Kennesaw Girls Softball Association
Online Registration Now Open for Spring Season!

We are a recreational girls softball league that plays out of Adams Park in Downtown Kennesaw and welcome all girls that desire to participate regardless of experience.

SPRING REGISTRATION FEES

6U Kennesaw City Resident: FREE*
*This is an introductory offer to encourage young girls to play.

8U Kennesaw City Resident: $55.00

10U- Kennesaw City Resident: $75.00

12U- Kennesaw City Resident: $75.00

13U+ Kennesaw City Resident: $75.00

An additional fee of $32.00 is added if you reside outside the city limits of Kennesaw. Fees include: player registration, insurance, jersey, and end of season trophy party.

Register Online at www.KennesawSoftball.com

Skills Evaluation Date: February 2, 2019
6U 9:00am; 8U 11:00am; 10U 1:00pm
12U 2:30pm; 13+ 3:30 pm

DOUG TAYLOR, KENNESAW PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR RETIRES

After 18 years of being in charge of the Kennesaw Parks and Recreation Department, Doug Taylor has decided it is time to retire. He was a familiar face at a labor day event at the Ben Roberts Community Center, and with his family, favorite menu - Mexican. Under his tutelage, the department has grown, and become famous for their Pigs and Peaches BBQ Event, Fourth of July Celebrations on the 3rd, Touch a Truck, a Day with Santa and an explained class offering, plus providing space for our local sports programs. Doug is pictured above with one of his fun gifts (made by the fellows at Public Works). Congratulations Doug and Enjoy.

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Register Online at www.KennesawSoftball.com

Skills Evaluation Date: February 2, 2019
6U 9:00am; 8U 11:00am; 10U 1:00pm
12U 2:30pm; 13+ 3:30 pm

Players may register in person at the Skills Evaluation.

LOUIE WATTS’ FAMILY VISIT HIS KENNESAW HOME

Louie Watts lived in the big white house across from the First Baptist Church in Kennesaw for many years, where he and his wife raised six children. He was the Mayor of Kennesaw during the ‘60s and early 70’s. On Sunday, December 23, over 31 descendants of the Watts’ family gathered to visit the family home which is now Simmertime Cafe and Art Gallery. Louie and his wife had 14 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. It was a delight to meet this family, and find that a couple of them went to school at NCHS with my children. Many thanks to Simmertime Cafe and Art Gallery owner, Nancy Booth and daughter Danielle, for making this possible for the family.

THE NORTHWEST FAMILY YMCA HAS PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

At the Y, we strive to empower people in all life-stages and abilities to have the know-how and resources to improve their health, well-being and social connectedness.

Living healthy is about spirit, mind and body at every age and stage. In addition to health assessments, personal coaching, and weight loss management, Ys also offer classes and programs for those dealing with chronic disease.

Older adults can take advantage of exercise programs designed especially for them, benefit from fun social events, attend educational workshops, and participate in group outings/community service opportunities. This is the best time of the year to join as the $100 joining fee is waived.

KENNESAW GIRLS SOFTBALL

Teams are forming and Kennesaw Girl’s Softball is accepting registration for the Spring Season. The construction is finished and the coaches are ready. Skills evaluation will be held on February 2 (see ad on this page). As a special offer and to encourage young girls to play, the 6U Kennesaw City Residents play for free, while those 6U outside the city limits will pay only $32.00. Sign up now at www.kennesawsoftball.com.

POLAR PLUNGE TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

For the third year, Plungers will “bear” the cold waters at Acworth Beach on February 23 to support the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia in the tenth annual Polar Plunge fundraiser.

The Polar Plunge is one of the “coolest” fundraisers where participants raise money and plunge into the chilly waters of Acworth Beach. The plungers bring quite the excitement to the fundraiser by dressing up in crazy costumes and celebrating the success of their fundraising in which all of the proceeds benefit Special Olympics Georgia athletes.

Participants/Teams of all ages are welcome and must raise a minimum of $50 to plunge. All plungers will receive a commemorative Plunge long sleeve t-shirt. Additional incentives and prizes will be given to plungers who raise $150 or more. The Plunge is at 1:30 p.m. on February 23rd, and you can come out on the event day and pay to plunge onsite! Onsite registration is 11 a.m.-1 p.m. It’s easy to get involved! Online registration is open, and it is highly suggested to submit the registration forms as soon as possible. Participants can also set up their own online fundraising page. For more information and to register, please visit www.plungega.org. Please join us for a wild and crazy event that is fun for the whole family!
ETO PARTNERS WITH KSU AND COBB COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES

On Saturday December 15, a special team of elite females Meena Edwards, Xandy Edwards, Molly Henkes, Allison LoTempio, Sanjana Sharma, Staci Thomas & Kaitlyn Winters from ETO Martial Arts & Fitness, along with students from Kennesaw State University’s College of Music spent a wonderful morning at the Cobb County Foster Family Christmas Celebration held at Saint Andrew’s United Methodist Church in Marietta. They performed a display of martial arts skills complete with weapons, brick and board breaks, all set to a twist of the “Twas the Night Before Christmas” story. In addition to the martial arts demonstration, Xandy Edwards (ETO 4th Degree Blackbelt) and her KSU classmates Molly Jennings & Sierra Manson entertained the crowd with vocal and instrumental performances. These ladies represent the “true spirit” of Christmas by giving of their time, resources and talents. For more information on ETO, please call 770-528-9821 or check out www.myeto.com.

BATTLE OF KENNESAW 2019

MARTIAL ARTS & FITNESS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SERVICE PROJECT

Calling all Martial Arts & Fitness Competitors! The Energy Tae Kwon Do Organization will host the 16th Annual Battle of Kennesaw Martial Arts and Fitness Championships will be held at Furtah Prep School on Saturday February 9th. The vision of the Battle of Kennesaw is to provide a safe and fun competition that unites martial artists and fitness competitors in a service project for families in need during the holiday season.

The Battle of Kennesaw is open to both ETO and Non ETO students of all ages and all belt levels. Awards will be presented in each category for 1-2-3 placements, BUT the greater emphasis of the competition is participation. Each pre-registered participant earning a total of 10+ merits from a combination of martial arts & fitness events will be awarded a handsome 4 foot trophy.

The Battle of Kennesaw has partnered with local service organizations to provide food, toys and gift certificates to needy families during the Holiday Season. Each participant will receive merits for turning in can food donations, toy donations or gift certificates to local stores. ETO and service organizations will deliver gift baskets to special families in need. In addition to the competition and service project, The Battle of Kennesaw will celebrate the “Modern Day Warrior 2019 scholarship awarded to an athlete between the ages of 12 and 20. For more information on BOK please call 770-528-9821 or check out www.eto.bz.

ACWORTH ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL

Mark your Calendars! The Acworth Parks and Recreation Department has the most premiere adult flag football league around. Records, statistics, player(s) of the week, write-ups and box scores are posted online after each game, and the AAFFL Cotton Bowl will end post season play. Game play is 7 on 7 and teams may have a roster of up to 17 players. All games are played at the football fields at the Acworth Sports Complex with no cost to spectators.

Both men and women are welcome! Register your team now and start building your team dynasty! If you do not have a team, come out and participate in our Free Agent Sign-Up Day on Monday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. located at the Acworth Sports Complex - football fields.

The cost is $600 per team and $55 for each free agent. Space is limited! Register today at www.acworthparksonrecreation.org.
CONGRATULATIONS MCCLURE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Winnwood Retirement Community is a proud sponsor of “The Bertie, “a short-story contest for middle-schoolers! The contest is held each September and is open to students nationwide, but this year, nine winners came from one school - Sammy McClure Sr. Middle School. Rhonda Boggs, the school’s Media Specialist, promoted it to their students and they were given extra credit for entering.

The contest was created as a way for local author, Lisa Lewis Tyre, to encourage students who like to write and was named “The Bertie,” after a beloved character in Tyre’s first book, Last In A Long Line of Rebels. In total, Winnwood Retirement Community gave out $600 in prize money. The students could write in any genre, but it had to include at least one character over 65 years old. Congratulations to everyone who entered!

SOUTH BARRETT RELIEVER IMPROVES TRAFFIC
FLOW AND SAFETY

In July, the Town Center CID opened South Barrett Reliever Phase II for public use. This portion of the multi-phase project realigned the intersection of Barrett Lakes Boulevard, Shiloh Valley Drive and the rear entrance of the Town Center Commons shopping center into a multi-lane roundabout that improves sightlines and encourages connections from residential to commercial areas in the district. Its five-foot sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping and lighting now offer improved safety to pedestrians and cyclists.

Phase II was recognized with a Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) Preconstruction Award for Traffic Safety and/or Intersection Design. The Town Center CID was proud to be a part of the team accepting this award with Arcadis and Cobb County, at November’s Georgia Transportation Summit.

In April, the Town Center CID received a $10.4M grant for Phase III from the Atlanta Regional Commission, which was the largest award for a regional roadway project in its funding cycle. In 2019, we will continue to make progress on the right of way acquisition for this phase, which will extend the Reliever over I-75 and the new Managed Lanes, connect to Roberts Court via roundabout, then head north to Barrett Parkway.

Baker Elementary School News

Baker Elementary hosted its annual Dinner with Santa on December 6th. Baker students and staff enjoyed having family members join them for fun holiday activities, including crafts, face painting, and a train ride to name a few. Popular characters like the Disney Princesses, gingerbread man, and even the Grinch snuck in and were in attendance for the main event - Dinner with Santa. It was a fun night had by all.

Acworth Elementary Junior Optimist Club Advisors Collect Diapers for LiveSAFE Resources

The Kennesaw Acworth Optimist club wrapped up its successful winter campaign to collect diapers for LiveSafe Resources. The Club sponsors Junior Optimist Clubs at Kennesaw Mountain and Harrison High Schools, Barber Intermediate, and Baker and Acworth Elementary schools. Each school participated in a fall campaign sponsored by the Kennesaw Acworth Optimist Club to collect diapers for LiveSAFE Resources. Their efforts resulted in over 7,000 diapers being donated to liveSAFE Resources.

The Kennesaw-Acworth Optimist Club has been serving the youth of our community since 1975. “Friend of Youth” is the club motto and its guiding principle. The club is a non-political, non-denominational civic club open to those who wish to serve our community. It meets Thursdays (with the exception on the 2nd Thursday) at Guston’s at noon in the Butler Creek Shopping Center on Cobb Parkway. For more information email Jim Mayhew at jim.mayhew@comcast.net.

You Are Invited to Cobb County’s Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

10 A.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

Turner Chapel AME Church
492 North Marietta Parkway, Marietta

Event Open to All

Join our event emcee
WSB-TV anchor
Fred Blankenship

Sponsored By:
STRAND ANNOUNCES BOOK CLUB WITH MOVIE SERIES TIE IN

The Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre announced the inaugural year of its Page to Screen Book Club, a monthly book club where members can read the books behind the movies before watching them on the big screen.

The Page to Screen Book Club will take a dive into the world of storytelling by reading, discussing, and then watching the film inspired by the novel. For book and movie lovers alike, the Page to Screen book club is an opportunity to connect with like-minded people to talk literature, film, and storytelling in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

Members of the club will meet in the Lumiere Lounge for drinks and discussion of the month’s book before moving into the auditorium to watch it on the big screen. The club is open to anyone who would like to join, although it is 21+ due to the meeting location.

Page to Screen offers three options for getting involved:

• Membership: A paid membership of $15 a month that includes a copy of that month’s book, free admission to the movie, and a guest pass.
• Drop-in: A commitment-free option, this includes the meeting and the movie ticket and can be purchased at any time through the box office. Cost of movie ticket is $9.
• Meeting only: For a totally cost-free option, visitors can come to the meeting to discuss the book without staying to watch the movie after.

To sign up for the book club, interested parties can email bookclub@strandmarietta.org or visit Page to Screen Book Club on Facebook.

Page to Screen is hosted by Betsy Throop, an event planner and volunteer coordinator. She is a board member of Marietta Kiwanis and is involved in many local projects such as the Marietta Pilgrimage Home Tour, Marietta TrailFest, and events at The Strand.

MARIETTA BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

The final Marietta Business Association luncheon of 2018 was held at Roswell Street Baptist Church on December 17th. The luncheon was a Celebration of the Arts in Marietta and is involved in many local projects such as The Strand, and events at The Strand.

A special panel discussion was led by moderator Bonnie Buckner Reavis, Chair of the Marietta Arts Council and owner of the Zenith Group, founder of the Brick Yard and The Loft newly opened on the Marietta Square. Panelists included; Andy Gaines, General Manager of the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theater on the Marietta Square; Donna Krueger, owner of dk Gallery on the Marietta Square; Jan Galt, General Manager of the Marietta Museum of History on the Marietta Square; Coy Dunn, Fine Arts Coordinator for Marietta City Schools

With Art Walk, Art in the Park, Chalktoberfest, Glover Park Concert Series, the Strand Theater, Lyric Theater, Marietta Museum of Art, and many wonderful galleries and restaurants in and around the Historic Marietta Square, Marietta has a national - even international – reputation for being a city of the arts. Discussed were the impact of art on the local economy from retail to tourism to the film industry. Dunn of Marietta City Schools also pointed out that including art in education improves SAT scores by an average of 70 points.

The January meeting of the Marietta Business Association will be held January 28th at Roswell Street Baptist Church – in the Fellowship Center. The address is 744 Roswell Street, Marietta 30060, with parking in the East at Aviation Road SE and Roswell Street. NetExpo will be held in the Crossing at RSBC from 10:30-11:30 AM. The buffet opens at 11:30 AM, and the program is from 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Featured speaker will be Ken Peltier, Singer, Songwriter, Survivor from Anchorage, Alaska, who recorded a CD with the Waylon Jennings Band and has shared the stage with many multiple country music stars. Lunch will be catered by Copeland's.

Pictured above: MBA 2019 Board of Directors" - Left to Right: Brent Rittersdorf, Angella Ocheltree, John Silvey, Michelle Faucher, Julie Michaels, Keith Ivey, Christina Barth, Lauren Fict, Jeff Garland, Teresa Jones

MARIETTA HISTORY MUSEUM LECTURE

On Tuesday, January 15th, at 6:30pm, the Marietta Museum of History will host an Evening with History lecture featuring former Lockheed Test Pilot, Glenn Gray. Mr. Gray began his Lockheed career in 1957 as an engineering test pilot after flying for the U.S. Navy. Mr. Gray tested a variety of aircraft including the C-130, Jetstar, C-141 and the C-5, among others. He later went on to be the Director of Flying Operations. Mr. Gray will share stories of flights around the world, including the Paris Air Show, and some that didn’t get past the testing stage. FREE for Museum Members and $5 for not-yet members. To learn more about the Marietta Museum of History, visit us at www.MariettaHistory.org

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Marietta Police Department is pleased to announce its upcoming Citizens Police Academy. The semianual program provides citizens of Marietta with an opportunity to experience and take an in-depth look at what it is like to be a police officer.

During the program, participants will get an overview of various units within the police department and learn about multiple topics such as: Crime Analysis, Narcotics, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Crime Interdiction Unit, Investigative Services, Traffic Enforcement, Community Response Unit, K-9 Unit, Crime Scene Processing, and much more.

The eleven week program is FREE of charge and is scheduled to begin on March 28, 2019. Classes will be held every Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Marietta Police Department for eleven weeks.

The Academy is open to residents, and business or property owners of the City of Marietta pending a background check. Applications are available at the front desk of the Marietta Police Department (240 Lemon Street), or online at https://www.marietta.ga.gov

Anyone with questions about the program should contact the Citizens Police Academy Coordinator, Officer P. Hill, at 770-794-5356 or via email at phil@mariettaga.gov

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Expires February 28, 2019

قول: “صغير الأمل حرة خدمة”
NOT ON REGRETS, BUT ON POSSIBILITIES!

REV. SAM STOREY, COLUMNIST

Happy New Year! Did you know that New Year’s Day is the one holiday that is almost universal? It is the world’s most observed holiday. I trust you’ve made your New Year’s resolutions one of which is to be in church each week. Well done for this first Sunday. I won’t ask you if you’ve resolved to lose the weight you gained between Thanksgiving and Christmas, or if you’re planning on joining a health club, or if you’re going to run five miles a day. Five miles, by the way, is my total aggregate of a lifetime of running.

The late Erma Bombeck made some memorable resolutions over the years:

1. I will go to no doctor whose office plants have died.
2. I am going to follow my husband’s suggestion to put a little excitement into my life by living within our budget.
3. I’m going to apply for a hardship scholarship to Weight Watchers.
4. I will never loan my car to anyone I have given birth to.

Joke writer Ed McManus has some words of comfort for those of us who are setting resolutions: “Don’t worry about [keeping] those 2015 News Year’s resolutions,” he says. “You only have to deal with them until the end of February and then you can give them up for Lent.” It sounds like he has been spying on some of us.

Resolutions are good, especially if there are changes we need to make in our lives. I heard about one poor guy who dialed his girlfriend and got the following recording: “I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes.”

It’s good to make changes, for the most part. As we are often reminded by our critics, our spouses or our children, none of us is perfect. In fact, some of us might have some deep regrets about the way we’ve lived our lives.

Dr. Les Parrott tells about a guy in Fredericksburg, Virginia named Cliff Satterthwaite who helps people get rid of their regrets. Each New Year’s Eve Mr. Satterthwaite sets up a booth there in Fredericksburg where those celebrating New Year’s Eve can come for a moment of sober reflection. Put the emphasis on “sober” reflection. Those who come write their regrets on a scrap of paper, then they set a match to them and turn them to ashes in an adjacent canister. Literally, their regrets go up in smoke. At least, that’s the general idea.

We could do that. We could write our regrets on a piece of paper and bring them to the church altar or the Square, the mountain, the lake and watch them go up in smoke. That might be very therapeutic for some of us as we begin a new year. John 1:1-18 from the prologue to the Gospel of John puts the emphasis not on our past, but on our future. Not on our regrets, but on our possibilities…. So why don’t we make John 18:1-18 one of your main resolutions for this new year.

(Rev. Sam Storey was Senior Associate Minister, Emeritus of Marietta First United Methodist Church. Rev Sam passed away on Thursday March 2, 2017 after battling heart disease for over two decades. He wrote for us faithfully for seven years. Because his writings are timeless we are sharing decades. He wrote for us faithfully for seven years. Because his writings are timeless we are sharing.)
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