

The Bright Side TM

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Marietta/West Cobb Community Newspaper

FEB 15, 2018



EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

Marietta's Parks, Recreation and Facilities Easter Egg Scramble will take place on Friday March 23, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The event will be held at Laurel Park, 151 Manning Rd., Marietta, 30064.

The Easter Bunny will be available for photos after the Egg Scramble until 7:30 p.m. Arrive early to find parking and your child's correct age group. Children will be divided into the following age groups: 3 and Under; 4 - 6; 7 - 10



CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA NEW OUTPATIENT CARE CENTER

A Children's Healthcare of Atlanta announced that the doors of the Children's at Town Center Outpatient Care Center are now open. The new 48,187-square-foot building, located on the existing Children's at Town Center campus, will provide pediatric specialty care in multiple disciplines to Cobb County and surrounding areas.

The Outpatient Care Center on the Children's at Town Center campus has been named the Cunningham Family Building in recognition of a generous gift from Cobb resident Jay Cunningham. The facility will offer families access to an expanded sports medicine gym, outpatient rehabilitation, and orthotics and prosthetics, as well as pediatric specialists, including allergy, otolaryngology (ENT), endocrinology, general surgery, nephrology, orthopaedics and pulmonology.

These services join Children's urgent care and radiology offerings currently available on the Town Center campus. In addition to the new building, the existing facilities at Town Center are currently being renovated and will be completed in summer 2018.

"Children's has been a proud part of the Cobb County community for more than 20 years," says Donna Hyland, President and CEO at Children's. "Our goal is to continue to find new ways to provide access to the care that every child in Cobb County deserves. With this expansion, the Town Center campus will be a one-stop shop for many of the community's specialized pediatric healthcare needs."

In 2017, Children's treated 35,000 children who live in Cobb County, from broken bones, ear tube surgeries, sports rehabilitation to cancer. Children's has five locations in Cobb County and offers families access to more than 2,000 pediatric providers representing more than 60 pediatric specialties and programs within the Children's system.

In addition to expanded services, the new facility will provide specialized pediatric equipment and techniques that children need to thrive. The building will offer a large meeting room to host local groups and events for the community.

The expansion of the Children's at Town Center campus is made possible through generous support from the Cobb community. Visit choa.org/breakingnewgroundincobb for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS DR. TIM BROWN

The Mack Henderson Public Service Award was presented to Tim Brown of Marietta City Schools. This award recognizes an individual who embodies the philanthropic legacy of Mack Henderson through outstanding commitment and dedication to building a better quality of life for the citizens of Cobb County. Brown engineered the formation of a team and plan to secure funding for the Marietta College and Career Academy. Through the entire process, Brown was absolutely determined to be successful and as a result, he was Outgoing Chamber President, Gary

Bottoms, (r) presents Dr. Brown with his award..

ALERT ALERT

Dear Readers: We want to share with you that beginning on March 1, we will combine Marietta's news with the paper we publish for Kennesaw and Acworth and no longer print and mail a separate Marietta paper. We still want to hear from you - so send us your school news, civic news, church news, community news, etc. to brightnews@aol.com.

In addition we will be using our Digital Newspaper news pages and online calendar to promote the positive news and events for Marietta - and Kennesaw & Acworth.

The BrightSide will be printed and mailed to 28,000 homes in Kennesaw and Acworth and will be published online at www.brightsidenewspapernews.com.

The link for our Digital Newspaper is www.brightsidenewspapernews.com

For questions please email us at brightnews@aol.com or call us at 770-423-9555. PS you are always welcome to advertise with us.



MARIETTA HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Marietta High School held their National Signing Day ceremony for 9 students signing their letter of intent for athletic scholarships on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. Six of the nine students are scholar-athletes with four having 4.0-grade point averages. Hall said their academic achievement is a credit to the students as well as their coaches, teachers, and parents for holding high expectations.

The following students signed their letter of intent during Marietta's National Signing Day ceremony: Cameron Hill, Baseball has signed with Georgia College and State University. Taylor Chestnutt, Cross Country has signed with Huntingdon College. Johnathon Davis, Football has signed with Faulkner University. Christian Ford, Football has signed with Georgia Southern University. Azeez Ojulari, Football has signed with the University of Georgia. Brooke Adams, Soccer, has signed with Georgia College and State University. Olivia Durham, Soccer, has signed with Southern Mississippi. Peyton Lee, Tennis, has signed with Belmont University. Omar Roberts, Track, has signed with Morehouse College.

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ALL MONTH LONG

Lost this month's issue? Husband, dog,
kid, threw it away? No worries! --

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY



ENRIQUETA
KINGSLEY

Happy Birthday to Henriqueta Kingsley,
who recently celebrated her 103 birthday
at RoseLane. She is the mother of Provi
Drucker, Kennesaw.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME REMINDERS**

Daylight Saving Time is here. The
Georgia Arson Control Board would like to
remind citizens in Cobb County to change
the batteries in their smoke detectors when
they move their clocks forward an hour for
Daylight Saving Time.

Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday,
March 11, 2018, at 2:00 a.m. This is when
clocks are set ahead one hour. Clocks should
be set before bedtime Saturday evening,
March 10.

The change from standard time to
Daylight Saving Time is a good opportunity
to make sure your smoke detector has fresh
batteries and is functioning properly.

Also recommended: replace batteries in
flash lights, weather radios, and other safety
devices used for house hold emergencies.

**SENIOR CITIZENS
MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Beginning February 1, senior citizens
will have to pay a membership fee to use any
of the six Senior Centers in Cobb County, but
not in a lump sum payment. At the January 23
Board of Commissioners meeting, a number
of citizens spoke against the fees, citing
the difficulty for many seniors in paying
the fee on a limited income. Following
public comment, the Commissioners voted
to allow the \$60 fee to be paid monthly at
\$5.00 per month. Seniors who can qualify
as low income following federal guidelines
will be able to have the fee waived. The
Board also voted to maintain the class fees
at the previous level pending more review
by a citizens committee.

The discussion focused on the need to have
some contribution from the public for the cost of
maintaining the Senior Centers.

Beginning February 1, seniors will be
issued a membership card which, when swiped
at a Senior Center, will indicate whether the
monthly fee has been paid. Seniors who do not
use a Center in a month will not be required to
pay for that month according to Commission
Chairman Mike Boyce.

**WHY WE SAY WHAT WE
SAY....**

BY ANDREW BRAMLETT

For this month's article I will focus



on the early
settlers of the
A m e r i c a n
South. During a
religious war in
Scotland during
the 1640's,
the people
who opposed
the leaders of
Scotland signed
manifestos in

their own blood. To signify that they were
part of the opposition, they wore red scarfs
around their necks. They were then known
as "REDNECKS" by the Scottish leaders.
Many early settlers in the Americas were
descendants of these Scottish rebels and the
name redneck came along with them.

When the Scottish settlers arrived here,
they were not welcome by the English who
had settled along the coast. They decided
to move inland into the mostly uninhabited
wilderness. This area was a border between
the English settlements and the Native
American tribes. Over time this area became
known as the "FRONTIER" which was an
English term for border. Eventually this
came to mean any large unexplored area.

Knowing that other Scottish settlers
would be following them into the frontier
they learned to leave a series of markers,
known as blazes, to tell fellow travelers
where to go. Those who led the way
and left the marks became known as
"TRAILBLAZERS". Trails marked with
blazes are still used today in many of our
parks and forests.

CONSIGNMENT SALE

Little Lambs Children's Consignment
sale returns to Marietta FUMC March 8-10.
Buy or sell quality children's and maternity
clothing, as well as toys, games, furniture
and more! Visit lil-lambs.org for more
information.

**COBB GENEALOGY
SOCIETY**

Will meet Tuesday, February 27, 7:00
PM - 8:00 PM at the First Presbyterian
Church of Marietta, 189 Church Street,
Marietta, GA 30060

Our speaker is Maggie Thomas on the
subject of Handwriting, Misspellings, and
Red Flags The public is invited to attend and
there is no charge. For more information
visit www.cobbgagensoc.org/

MARIETTA LIONS CLUB

Meets the second Thursday of the
month at 7:00 PM, at the First United
Methodist Church, 56 Whitlock Ave SW,
Marietta 30064. For more information, or if
you are interested in joining our club, email
mariettalions@aol.com or visit our website:
www.mariettalionsclub.org.

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COBB SENIOR SERVICES

CHICK-FIL-A

Starting October 17th, Chick-fil-A will
be selling breakfast & lunch on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Thursdays at Cobb
Senior Services (1150 Powder Springs St).
Breakfast is available 7:30am until 9am
and lunch is available 11:30am until 1pm.
Limited menu items.

**MARIETTA ELKS
LODGE #1657**

Marietta Elks general meeting is the
first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm with
a social gathering starting at 6 pm. Our
lodge is located at 1706 Powder Springs
Rd., Marietta, GA 30064. The Lodge
phone number is 770.795.9490 and email is
mariettaelks@bellsouth.net. The Marietta
Elks is open on Thursdays starting at 5
pm, Saturdays at 4 pm and Sundays at 2
pm. For more information or to become
an Elk member please call Nita Knighton,
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SAM OLENS TO SPEAK AT FEBRUARY MB

The February MBA meeting will feature Sam Olens speaking about Marietta and Cobb County Past, Present, Future - through the eyes of Sam Olens. Sam has dedicated his career to public service, first serving as a the Cobb County Commissioner, then as Chairman of the Cobb County Commission. He went on to serve as the Attorney General of the State of Georgia, and more recently as President of Kennesaw State University. The meeting will be held on Monday February 26, buffet opens at 11:30, at the Radisson Hotel Atlanta, 1775 Parkway Place, Marietta, GA. Please RSVP at www.mariettabusiness.biz.



JANUARY MBA MEETING

The first Marietta Business Association meeting of 2018 welcomed new president Angella Ocheltree who reaffirmed the MBA's ongoing support of Marietta City Schools and particularly the Career Pathways program which links students in the program with business and industry in the city and county.

The guest speaker for the program, motivational speaker Lisa Fey, encouraged the group to improve business communication by using the response "Yes, and..." in business communications. Her entertaining and interactive style kept the meeting lively and fun. MHS students Karena Grigenas, a junior at MHS, and sophomores Maggie Smith and Abigail Jacobs were recognized for winning a marketing plan competition conducted by Graphic Packaging International, a multi-billion-dollar international business with corporate offices in Atlanta, that designs packaging for many grocery products. The February MBA meeting will feature Sam Olens who will be reflecting on changes in Cobb County over his many years of holding various public offices in Cobb County.

REGISTER NOW!

MAY-RETTA DAZE ARTS & CRAFTS

The Marietta Parks and Recreation Department would like to invite artists to participate in the 42nd Annual May-retta Daze Arts and Crafts Festival held in Glover Park in the Historic Marietta Square on May 5-6, 2018.

More than 100 local and area artists and craftspeople will display and sell their paintings, pottery, jewelry, and much more at the annual festival.

To register to sell items at the event, please review the requirements and print out the form and mail it to the Parks and Recreation Department located on the 3rd Floor of City Hall, 205 Lawrence St., Marietta, GA, 30061. Applications should be postmarked on or before the registration deadline on March 29th. Please review the application to see the booth space fees. Admission to the festival is free. More info: Marietta's Parks and Recreation Department, 770-794-5601.

CASINO NIGHT - MARCH 17

MY NEXT BIG ADVENTURE FUNDRAISER

Are you looking for an evening of great entertainment and fun while supporting a good cause? Then make plans to attend the first Casino Night supporting "My Next Big Adventure," a mentoring program for elementary and middle school students attending Park Street Elementary and Marietta Middle Schools. On March 17 from 7:00 to 10:30 at McCollum Airport, participants can enjoy a variety of casino-style games - including blackjack, roulette and craps - and compete for prizes while sampling tasty dishes donated by Carrabba's and beverages including beer and wine. Vegas-style showgirls, neon-lighted tables and a DJ entertainer will complete the club atmosphere, making this a night to remember.

Tickets to attend the event are \$125 individual and \$200 couple and include food, drinks, \$25,000 in play money for the casino games, prizes for the top money-makers and a hand-rolled cigar! Purchase tickets at <https://donate.mynextbigadventure.org/casinonight>.

Sponsorships from \$1000 to \$5000 are now available. Sponsorship includes recognition via social media, a promotional video, and other advertising as well as free tickets to the event. Contact Julie Michaels, executive director, at 770-337-4264 for more information on being a sponsor for this event.

THE STRAND OLE OPRY SINGS THE BLUES AWAY THIS FEB

On Saturday, February 17 the popular Strand Ole Opry series of country music concerts returns with its live band and ensemble of singers to sing the lovesick bluegrass).

Strand Ole Opry's Love & Heartbreak (Saturday February 17, 2018) Visit the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre for a special Strand Ole Opry this February as the live band and singers pay homage to what country music is best at -- songs about true love and a broken heart. This back-porch special featuring Travis Cottle and his One Horse Band and a host of guest vocalists is sure to please country fans of all ages!

Following in the footsteps of a great southern tradition, this concert will transport patrons to the old south with beautiful vocals and live band accompaniment, as well as traditional southern storytelling. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 the day of. Tickets are available at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

MARIETTA ART WALK

The 2018 season of Marietta Square Art Walk kicks off Friday, March 2nd and continues every first Friday through November. Art Walk celebrates the vitality of Marietta's diverse cultural Arts scene with artists, businesses, and organizations representing a variety of artistic disciplines. The evening comes alive as performance, dance, culinary and visual Art permeates every corner of the charming Historic Marietta Square.

During this free, self-guided walking tour guests will enjoy gallery openings, live music, original photography, painting, sculpture and more on display along the sidewalk throughout town. Art lovers will also enjoy late night shopping at the many one-of-a-kind boutiques.

Marietta Square Art Walk is now accepting artist applications for 2018. Become a part of this thriving, electric, community arts event.

To learn more contact Stephanie Coston at stephaniecoston07@gmail.com or visit www.ArtWalkMarietta.com.

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COBB COUNTY RECOGNIZES MISSY OWEN

The County Commissioners at their January 23 meeting recognized Missy Owen and the Davis Direction Foundation for their significant contributions in battling the opioid epidemic in Cobb County. Commissioner Bob Ott read a resolution recognizing Owen’s accomplishments in providing direct assistance to recovering addicts and their families; providing crisis support through phone, email, and personal contact; coordinating education efforts in the community and at local schools; founding the first and only recovery facility in the county; partnering with the Sheriff’s office to work with inmates who are addicted; and training families and law enforcement personnel in techniques for identifying and supporting opioid addicts.

Owen and her husband, Michael, created the Foundation in memory of Davis, the son they lost to heroin addiction in 2014. Through the Davis Foundation, they established The Zone, a facility that is open to recovering addicts and their support groups. The Zone, located in the heart of Marietta and accessible from all over the county, provides a safe place for addicts in all stages of recovery to find acceptance and support. The Foundation is also sponsoring a national conference in September to provide information and education to anyone interested in creating a support network to address the opioid epidemic in their communities.

Missy and her family accepted the resolution in front of a packed house and to emotional applause at the Board of Commissioners meeting Tuesday night.

CHEERFUL ART ADORNS THE WALLS

On Monday, February 5th, the artists, their families, school administrators, and school board members, were hosted by Children’s Healthcare to celebrate these amazingly talented young people as CHOA presented 88 pieces of art. The pieces of art, showcased at the Children’s Outpatient Care Center at Town Center were created by middle school and high school students in Cobb County Schools. The art is throughout the building – in exam rooms, waiting rooms, halls, community room. Thanks to our Cobb students.



CREVICE GARDEN OPENS AT SMITH-GILBERT GARDENS

A NEW, ONE OF A KIND, UNIQUE GARDEN OPENS IN KENNESAW

Mayor Derek Easterling and Councilman Christopher Henderson joined community members and volunteers for the ribbon cutting and opening of the new Crevice Garden inside the Smith-Gilbert Gardens.

The garden is filled with rare and dwarf-growing plants that mimic the harsh climate of an alpine mountain side and is the first of its kind in the City of Kennesaw and the State of Georgia.

The foundation of the garden is made of tons of concrete that was once the sidewalk around Kennesaw’s City Hall. “We were able to keep tons of debris out of the landfill,” said Smith-Gilbert Gardens Manager Lisa Bartlett. The Crevice Garden will remain open year-round, offering guests something different each time they visit. Bartlett adds, “From the hundreds of bulbs and spring flowering plants to the rare dwarf conifers that will give evergreen structure in winter, there will be four seasons of interest completed.”

The project was completed thanks to the tireless efforts by volunteers who contributed more than 400 hours of service. The project was funded with grants from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and American Conifer Society. “The volunteers were an integral part of this renovation. We had wonderful support from Georgia Power and Citrix,” Executive Director Ann Parsons added. “Renowned plant expert, Ozzie Johnson, served as a consultant for the project, helping to source hundreds of plants, now part of the collection.”

Smith-Gilbert Gardens is located at 2382 Pine Mountain Road Kennesaw, Georgia 30152. For details about admission visit www.smithgilbertgardens.com.

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THE FELLOW WITH TWO UMBRELLAS!

REV. SAM STOREY, COLUMNIST

I heard about about a minister sailing across the Atlantic one summer who noticed a dark skinned man sitting in a deck chair reading the Bible. He sat down beside him and said,



"Forgive my curiosity, but I'm a minister, and I assume you are a Christian, and I'm interested to know how it happened."

"Yes," said the dark skinned man, setting aside his Bible. "I'm very glad to talk about that. I'm a Filipino. I was born in a good Catholic home in the Philippines. Some years ago, I came to the United States to study law. My first night on campus, a student came to see me. He said, 'I've come to welcome you to the campus and to say that if there is anything I can do to help make your stay here more pleasant, I hope you'll call on me.' Then he asked me where I went to church and I told him I was a Catholic. He said, 'Well, I can tell you where the Catholic church is, but it's not easy to find. It's quite a distance away. Let me make a map.' So he made an outline

of the way to the church and left.

"When I awakened Sunday morning, it was raining. I thought to myself, I want go to church today. "Then there was a knock on the door and when I opened it there stood that student. His raincoat was dripping wet and on one arm he had two umbrellas, and he said, 'I thought you might have a hard time finding your church in the rain. I shall walk along with you and show you the way.' "As we walked along in the rain under the two umbrellas I asked, 'Where do you go to church?' " 'Oh,' he said, 'my church is just around the corner.' "I said, 'Suppose we go to your church today and we'll go to my church next Sunday.'

"I went to his church and I've never been back to my own. After four years, I felt it was not the law for me, but the ministry. I was ordained a Methodist minister and am now Bishop Valencius of the Methodist Church in the Philippines."

That's a fascinating story of one of the most important people in the world -- not the bishop, though he is important -- but the man with the two umbrellas. In back of every convert to the Christian faith, in back of every church that was built, in back of every Christian enterprise and movement in history, you will find someone like that unnamed fellow with two umbrellas.

Will you dare to be the person with two umbrellas and make your faith so attractive that others will be willing to walk with you to the foot of the cross?

(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 them, once again, with our readers. This article first appeared in the Feb 2012 Bright Side.)

THANK YOU!

Angie Chavez and Melissa Krudwig are very grateful for everyone that referred their services last year and to their amazing clients in 2017. They were blessed to grow their business by 21% and closed \$24 million dollars in sales. It was an honor to serve their clients in their largest financial transaction and to be a part of their family's story. Their goal is to work with 125 families in 2018 and we'd love the opportunity to earn your trust and business. The Bear of Real Estate - Think Melissa Team Office: 404-793-BEAR (2327) www.ThinkMelissa.com

SENDING ROSES
BY LINDA OVIATT

They say that the red rose began its symbolic history with the Greeks and Romans where it was tied to, or Venus, the goddess of love. Later, in early Christian times it became associated with the virtue of Virgin Mary.

If you are sending roses be sure to get the count right! 1 means "You are still the one!", 13 means you'll be friends forever, 15 means your sorry and 36 means you are head over heels in love! Anything over that means your wallet has no limits. Not the right message!

Rose essential oil is a type of essential oil commonly used in aromatherapy. It contains the flower's aromatic compounds and used for a number of health-related purposes. Inhaling essential oil molecules, or absorbing essential oils through the skin, transmits messages to the limbic system — a brain region responsible for controlling emotions and influencing the nervous system. These messages are believed to affect biological factors such as heart rate, stress levels, blood pressure, breathing, and immune function. Bringing rose oil home may be more romantic than the roses themselves!

Swedish chefs have added rose hips to soup as a centuries-old delicacy. Rose flower water has permeated culinary and folk medicine practice as long as we have had the ability to distill it — over a thousand years!

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The Music of Our Faith

Join the *Worship Arts Ministry* as they share stories behind the music and hymns of our faith

Sunday, March 18, 10:55 am

First Baptist Church Marietta
148 Church Street
www.mariettafbc.org
770.424.8326



MARIETTA TREE KEEPERS MARCH PLANTING

Marietta Tree Keepers invites volunteers of all ages to help plant trees in the Marietta City Cemetery on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 9:00am. Tools and refreshments provided. Dress for outdoor weather.

We will be planting trees in the Marietta City Cemetery. The parking address is: Brown Park, 358 West Atlanta St., Marietta, 30064, look for the green signage. You can also drive into the middle of the cemetery and look for our sign-in table at the small white building. The date is Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 9:00am.

Please join us as we plant trees to reforest our community. Grab a friend or a family member and donate your Saturday morning to help Marietta Tree Keepers put more trees in the ground. Dress for the weather. Tools and gloves included. Donuts, hot chocolate and hot coffee provided. In case of bad weather please call 770-424-4664 for weather updates and rescheduled date. Large groups please contact us with your number of volunteers that will be in attendance.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

for Metro-Montage-XVIII. The Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art is calling all artists to submit an original work that has been created within the past 10 years and has not been shown at MCMA. Deadline for submissions is April 20 at 11:59. Works will be exhibited at the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art from July 7 until September 9, 2018. Visit www.mariettacobbartmuseum.org for submission requirements and entry forms. Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art is located at 30 Atlanta Street, SE, Marietta, GA

BE HELPFUL - WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE WITHOUT A SMILE, GIVE THEM YOURS

GSO SENSORY FRIENDLY CONCERT

In collaboration with Autism Speaks, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra will present the third annual Sensory Friendly Concert on Saturday afternoon March 3rd. A favorite part of GSO's educational and outreach program, this concert will give a broad overview of the great expanse of classical music. Sensory sensitive listeners and family members will delight in the discovery of an orchestral experience that invites and welcomes those with autism into the world of classical music.

The concert will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 2:00pm at the Marietta Performing Arts Center 1171 Whitlock Ave, Marietta, GA 30064

Tickets \$10 and are available at www.georgiasymphony.org.

PLANTING AND CARING FOR BULBS

Do you love to garden and would you like to be part of a local garden club in your area? The Marietta Council of Garden Clubs(MCGC) would love for you to join a garden club and we invite you to our monthly meetings. Maybe you're a beginner and lack basic gardening knowledge, or an experienced gardener looking to get involved in community projects. The upcoming meeting is on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 9:30am. Come and socialize and listen to this month's program on "Planting and Caring for Bulbs". This presentation will feature Joanne Newman, a Cobb County Master Gardener. This is a perfect time to hone our skills on planting and caring for bulbs. The meeting also informs you on what the garden clubs are doing in the Marietta area. The meeting will be held at the Marietta Educational Garden Center, 505 Kennesaw Ave, Marietta, GA, 30060, 770-427-3494.

LEARNING LIFE LESSONS

A group of students at Park Street Elementary and Marietta Middle schools are learning some important life lessons through "My Next Big Adventure," a new year-long peer-to-peer mentoring program. Through monthly meetings, the students get together to hear a guest speaker, participate in activities, and get take-home lessons to continue their learning. Executive Director Julie Michaels calls the meetings "a time to encourage students to make a difference by building their self-esteem, developing leadership skills, creating positive friendships, making health life choices, and finding value in giving back to the community."

The December meeting, which had to be rescheduled to January because of the weather, focused on communication skills. Speaker Alvin Huff, Project Manager for the City of Marietta Economic Development department, shared with the students the importance of effective communication. Through playing charades and writing a song, the students practiced non-verbal and verbal communication skills.

On January 29, the students learnED about giving back to the community. Speaker Marlon Longacre, Community Pastor at Piedmont Church, led the students in an activity and worked with them to choose a service project for the year.

On February 12, the students learned about healthy eating from a speaker representing Whole Foods. For more information on "My Next Big Adventure" visit their website at www.mynextbigadventure.org or [facebook.com/MyNextBigAdv](https://www.facebook.com/MyNextBigAdv).



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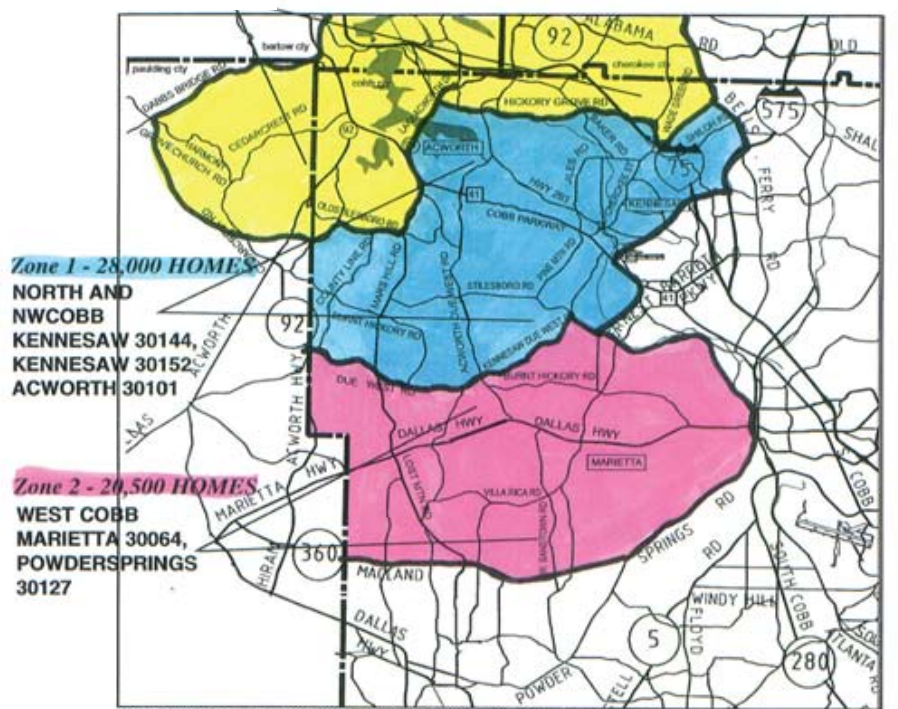
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