

Around KENNESAW

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JUNE 2022

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Smith-Gilbert Gardens

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Local News



Our Great Lifeboat has released a new album, "Infinite Joy."

Mount Paran Teacher Releases New Album

Derek McCloud, sixth-grade Bible teacher at Mount Paran Christian School, has released a new album, "Infinite Joy," with his band, Our Great Lifeboat. McCloud and the band worked on what he describes as "a new sound" for this latest album — a mix between Christian, indie and folk music. Creating the album wasn't without its challenges, as it took about eight years to conceptualize and bring it to life.



Derek McCloud

The band — which got its name from the biblical story of Noah, whose faith led him to beat seemingly insurmountable odds — is made up of McCloud (vocals, guitar, banjo), Erica Ransbottom (cello), Turner Zahn (vocals, guitar, piano), Raegan Barton (vocals, guitar), Aree Ogir (vocals, bass, drums) and Tiffany Watson (violin, mandolin).

"Infinite Joy" is available for streaming on Spotify, YouTube, Amazon Music and Apple Music.
<https://vibe.to/infinitejoy>.

Get Ready to Celebrate the Fourth of July

The city of Kennesaw will hold its annual Independence Day celebration with music and fireworks, 6-10 p.m. July 3. Admission to the event in downtown Kennesaw is free.

Salute to America will feature two stages with live music, street entertainment, food vendors, kids activities and a brilliant fireworks finale, visible from Depot Park and along Main Street, at 9:30 p.m.

Performing on the Main Street Stage will be School of Rock East Cobb House Band, 6-7:30 p.m., and "American Idol" contestant Leah Belle Faser, 8-9:30 p.m. On the Depot Park Stage will be neo-psychedelic rock band Lakota, 6-7:30 p.m., and The American Flyers, performing rock and R&B hits from the '60s, 8-9:30 p.m.

Besides entertainment, the celebration also will include street vendors, pay-to-play inflatables and a wide selection of food. Attendees may bring picnic baskets or coolers. Tables in front of the Depot Park Stage can be reserved at www.kennesawjuly3.com.

Families in the community are invited to participate in Kennesaw Parks and Recreation's Kids Parade, noon-1 p.m. July 3. Participants, who are encouraged to dress up and decorate their strollers, wagons or bicycles in red, white and blue, will meet at Commemorative Park and walk down Main Street, ending behind City Hall. To register, visit www.kennesawjuly3.com.

For more information, call 770-422-9714 or visit www.kennesawjuly3.com.

Trees Planted in Honor of Arbor Day

In recognition of Arbor Day 2022, the city of Kennesaw's public works department planted three Yoshino cherry trees at Depot Park in April. City arborist Rod Bowman conducted an informative presentation and answered questions from those who attended.

At the tree planting were, from left, Army official Chet Witkowski, city arborist Rod Bowman, Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes, Public Works Director Ricky Stewart and Stormwater Manager Grey Won.





Students, from left, Haidyn Smith, Chloe Camp and Emily Brown help McKenna Farms, a therapeutic center, prepare for its annual Derby Day fundraiser.



Volunteers Dillon and Tracey Overton create artwork for Foundation for Hospital Art to soften the hospital environment.

Annual Family Serve Day Benefits 39 Nonprofits

Mount Paran Christian School (MPCS) families participated in the school's annual Family Serve Day in April and completed service projects for 39 community ministry partners. More than 1,050 MPCS students in grades 5-12, parents, faculty and staff served off-campus to do such projects as landscaping, organizing food pantries and clothes closets, making blankets, cleaning yards, preparing meals and doing performances for assisted-living residents. Ministry partner sites included Bartow Family Resource Center, Books for Africa, Blue Skies Ministries, Calvary Children's Home, Camp Gideon, City of Refuge, Cobb Street Ministries, Family Promise, First Care Women's Clinic, Gaines Park Assisted Living, Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter, Goshen Valley Boys Home, GRACEPOINT School, MUST Ministries, Our Pal's Place, The Salvation Army and Thankful Baptist Church. Additionally, students in pre-K through fourth grade participated in on-campus projects such as creating placemats and snack bags, donating stuffed animals to the Kennesaw Police Department, making bracelets to support children in Ukraine and working in the school garden.

@ the Library

Cobb County Public Library System
www.cobbcat.org

WEST COBB REGIONAL LIBRARY

1750 Dennis Kemp Lane, Kennesaw
770-528-4699

www.cobbcat.org/venue/west-cobb-regional-library

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays

June 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29

Stop by for **family storytime** to dance, sing, read stories and make new friends. Most suitable for children ages 5 and younger, with a participating adult; however, all ages are welcome. The same books and activities are offered at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week. Registration is not required.

June 7, 28

Drop in for **LEGOmania** on the first and fourth Tuesdays in June and July, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to create structures and complete a LEGO challenge card. Registration is not required.

June 9, 16, 23, 30

Join the **West Cobb Craft Club**, 10 a.m.-noon Thursdays. Do you knit, crochet or work with yarn? Or do you want to learn how, while making friends? Join the group to craft and get inspired. All skill levels are welcome (especially beginners). Bring your own yarn.

June 16

Thursday Explorers meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Ages 4-7 are welcome to enjoy a different activity at every meeting. This month, join Cobb 4-H for yoga, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Space is limited; registration is required.

June 21

The Great Stephenski's Magic Show is coming to West Cobb, 3-3:45 p.m. Most suitable for ages 4-10, there will be magic tricks from library books that will amaze and entertain. Registration opens June 7.

June 27

The **West Cobb Fourth Monday Book Discussion** meets 6:30-7:30 p.m. and covers a variety of literature, including fiction, nonfiction, classics and new releases. There will be an alternate online option in June; visit the website for details. This month, members are reading "The Plot" by Jean Hanff Korelitz.