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THE AVENUE

East Cobb

PUBLISHER'S NOTE



March marks the one year anniversary when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Since then we have witnessed scenarios beyond our wildest imaginations. We experienced personal, professional and community challenges. From wacky "Twilight Zone" schedules, to expanding waistlines pushing our pajama elastic bands to their limits, to converting our homes into home- office-

schools. We've had to adapt and shift. We need different things—masks, outdoor space, and generosity from each other to name a few.

During this pandemic, we have witnessed some inspiring moments of humanity.

As Frances Bacon said, "In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present." In the mix of this COVID chaos we can see clearly the beautiful lights among us, especially essential workers. We humbly thank our truck drivers, grocery store clerks, teachers, police, and of course, healthcare professionals. Kudos to the good neighbors that checked in on the lonely senior, donated food to those in need and other ways too long to list. Kudos to all of you who shined your light during this time of darkness.

Enjoy this issue of EAST COBBER magazine, I hope it brightens your day while you read about all the good people and resources we are fortunate to have in our East Cobb community!

Cynthia M. Rozzo

Founder I Publisher cynthia@eastcobber.com

On the Cover

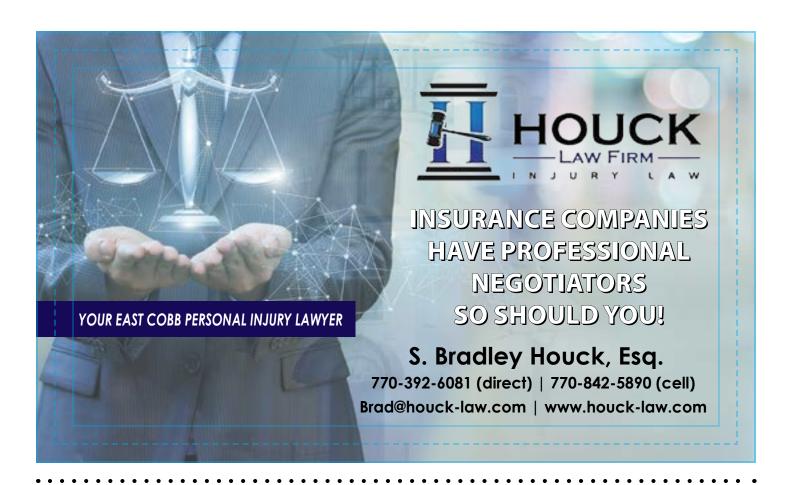
Pictured on this issue's front cover are two East Cobb-focused real estate agents, Christine Love and Randi Soniker. The photos were taken at Camps Kitchen and Bar in the Paper Mill Village shopping center.

Both Love and Soniker have been top real estate producers in the metro Atlanta area for years. As the pandemic emerged last year they saw the real estate industry enter "seas that had never been crossed," according to Soniker, and were grateful to have made the strategic move to Compass. A New York City-based firm, Compass provides its more than 15,000+ agents in major markets throughout the country with superior support and innovative technology.

Soniker discloses she was drawn to join Compass because of its modern platform, hip vibe, and the brokerage's entrepreneurial spirit. The company pairs highly motivated, top-selling producers with innovative technology and the tools to succeed. "Our clients are thrilled that we get their homes sold at top dollar with minimal days on the market."

You can read more about Love and Soniker on page 6. Readers interested in buying or selling real estate can give either of them a call. For more information on Christine Love, check out closedwithlove.com or contact her at christine.love@compass. com or 404-375-2180. For more information on Randi Soniker, check out realestaterandi.com or contact her at randi.soniker@compass.com or 678-923-7337.

Front cover photo taken by Jeremy Adamo of Adamo Photography.





LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENTS PROVIDE GUIDANCE



One thing that 2020 taught us was the importance of that which is close to the heart. For many, that turned out to be home and local community as our worlds became smaller, and we became more focused on life's basics. If you think about it in literal terms, often our only in-person encounters outside our homes were during walks in the communities in which we live. Two East Cobb-focused real estate agents, Christine Love and Randi Soniker, who not only survived, but also thrived in 2020 with a collective \$27 million in sales during the difficult year, accomplished this feat through two means — using the tools offered by their broker, Compass, and tapping into this newfound priority for home and community.

Both Love and Soniker bring a wealth of experience to their roles and have been top real estate producers in the metro Atlanta area for years. As the pandemic emerged and they saw the real estate industry enter "seas that had never been crossed," according to Soniker, they were even more grateful to have made the strategic move to Compass.

According to Love, "When you are an agent at Compass, you are surrounded by other amazing agents, which pushes you to be your best." A New York City-based firm,

Compass provides its more than 15,000+ agents in major markets throughout the country with superior support and innovative technology that help them take successes a step further.

Soniker discloses what drew her to join Compass was its modern platform, hip vibe, and the brokerage's entrepreneurial spirit which means that the company pairs highly motivated, top-selling producers with innovative technology and the tools to succeed. "Compass is a forward-thinking technology company that is crushing the competition because we are armed with tools that help us sell homes quicker than ever before," she says. "In turn, our clients are thrilled that we got their homes sold at top dollar with minimal days on the market."

Love goes on to discuss some of the various programs that Compass offers with one unique program in particular, that's entitled Compass Concierge. With this program, once the client qualifies, Compass helps by fronting the cost of home improvements and renovations before going on the market. "Take an older property that hasn't been updated," she explains. "The owners can use Compass Concierge to pay for necessary improvements without having to use cash reserves. Then at closing, the cost is paid back with no interest or fees to the seller."

Another program these women have found to be instrumental is Compass Bridge Loan Services, which provides access to bridge loan lenders with the option to get up to six months of the loan payments fronted when the home is sold with a Compass agent. Also, Compass offers the Compass Coming Soon and Compass Private Exclusive programs, which pre-market properties on compass.com.

With Compass furnishing the backbone for marketing, Love and Soniker can focus on shared convictions regarding home and local community. Both agents live in East Cobb and support "all things local," according to Love. Their focus on home and the local community proved to be contributing factors to their 2020 successes.

"We both believe that home is so much more than just a house," says Love. "This affects all that we do when helping a client buy or sell. During this past year, the concept of home evolved as it acquired new attributes with people working from home, studying from home, and everything in-between. Looking at this landscape, we also continued to build on our relationships with past clients."

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Soniker is quick to point out the many great facets of East Cobb living that she shares with all her clients. "When considering the East Cobb area, many people only think about the quality of the schools," she says. "I agree with that train of thought. I couldn't be more pleased with the education that my three sons – one at Sope Creek Elementary and two at East Cobb Middle -- are receiving."

With that said, she goes on to stress that East Cobb offers so much more than quality schools, including excellent restaurants, shopping, historic sites, park youth sports programs, access to hiking and mountain bike trails, as well as safe places to cycle on the road. Love and Soniker share a list of just a few of their favorite local spots:

- Camps Kitchen & Bar, Paper Mill Village
- McCray's Tavern, Parkaire Landing
- Moxie Burger, Paper Mill Village and Shallowford Crossing Shopping Center
- Reveille Café, Sandy Plains Centre
- Seed Kitchen & Bar, Merchant's Walk
- Drift Fish House & Oyster Bar, The Avenue East Cobb
- Fresh Squeezed Juice Bar, Parkaire Landing
- Solstice, in the Synovus building
- Casabella, Merchant's Exchange Shopping Center
- Eagle Nails, Market Plaza Shopping Center
- Sugar Nails, 3822 Roswell Road

www.eastcobber.com

- Dance Stop Studios, Merchant's Exchange Shopping Center
- The Art Place, 330 Sandy Plains Road
- Sope Creek Trails, Paper Mill Ruins, Hyde Park, and Gold Branch Trail.

Both Love and Soniker invite anyone who is interested in buying or selling real estate to give either of them a call, "Even if you are not sure when or if you are ready to make a move, come be part of our village," says Soniker. "Let's meet up for coffee or juice and discuss the current real estate market."

For more information on Christine Love, check out closedwithlove.com or contact her at christine.love@ compass.com or 404-375-2180. For more information on Randi Soniker, check out realestaterandi.com or contact her at randi.soniker@compass.com or 678-923-7337.

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Cobb Association of Realtors
and a four-year member of the
Multi-Million Dollar Club. As an



 $\mathbb{C}^{m\times n}$

East Cobber, she promotes all things local and recognizes that real estate molds a community's landscape and lifestyle. She has the experience and resources to help her clients whether they are buying a first home, buying investment property, choosing a builder for custom construction, needing a home evaluation, or looking for information on pre-market repairs and staging.



RANDI SONIKER

REALTOR® Compass

randi.soniker@compass.com Randi is a boutique-style real estate professional who provides top-notch, individualized services to all her clients. She is an Atlanta Realtor "Top Producer," with

many years of experience in the industry. She helps clients sell their homes at top dollar and purchase their new homes or investment properties. Having lived in the metro Atlanta area for more than 30 years and living in East Cobb for more than 10 years, she brings local flavor and expertise to all that she does. Her degree from the University of Michigan in Civil Engineering helps her on the construction front, and she always crunches numbers to get her clients the best value in all real estate transactions.

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS: Hair by Bradley Seale, Makeup by Halsey

EAST⊕ COBBER March/April 2021 7

LOCAL AUTHOR WRITES BOOK

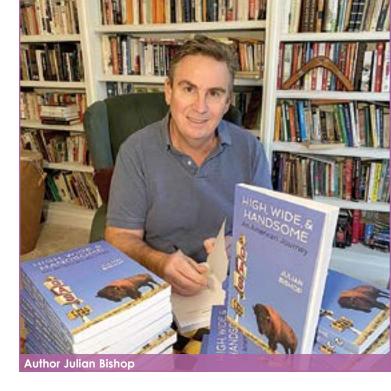
ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR AMERICA

ast Cobb resident Julian Bishop has published his first book, High, Wide, and Handsome. British-born Bishop is at an inflection point. His children have left home, and he and his wife must figure out what they want to do next. They travel coast-to-coast across the USA and explore whether they truly want to be American.

In a world where America's current political leaders are widely ridiculed overseas, Bishop says that "the book acts as an antidote to the narrative that everything American is broken. The book mostly addresses the positive side of the USA: how it became the most powerful country in the world, and how America's history has formed its culture."

Bishop wrote the book as an American guide for new US immigrants and others with a strong interest in America. Surprisingly to Bishop, Americans seem to enjoy the book too. "Americans love the humor and the non-partisan presentation of their history and culture. They are delighted to learn that there are many things they don't know about their own country."

Book sales sprinted to a strong start, with High, Wide, and Handsome topping the new release charts for travel books on Amazon in both the UK and the US. Bishop says

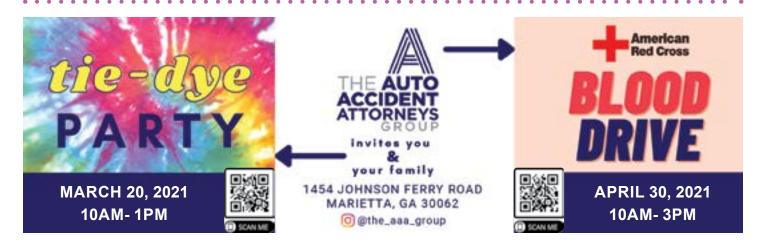


that the reviews are terrific too. "Readers seem to love the mix of humor and learning about the US. They also enjoy traveling vicariously at a time when most people in Europe have to shelter-in-place."

Serendipitously, the book's publication coincided with the date the family were sworn in as new US citizens. "Although the ceremony was severely Covid-impacted, we took it as a good sign that they both happened on the same day."

Bishop writes extensively about his experiences in East Cobb since 2012. He explores his love of Friday night football, American schooling, and subdivision life. Of particular interest to this magazine, Bishop describes his wife's crowning as 2017 East Cobb "Mom of the Year" and her appearance in the East Cobb parade.

The book is available from Amazon and all good bookshops. You can find out more about the book on www.julian-bishop.com.









TAKE NOTE: MAKE NOTES

by Ashley Saunders, Health & Wellness Chair, East Cobb County Council of PTAs

like to journal. I have one for each child, for myself and for lecture/sermon notes. I have a grateful journal that I occasionally write down all the blessings I experience during certain times in my life as well as a daily journal that I try to write one or two sentences in nightly. That might sound stressful, and it has been at times. But I have found that when I do journal, it is a very therapeutic way to get out my feelings and it's productive because I am able to go back later and see that I survived both the good and the bad. But there are lessons - What did I learn? How did I grow? Those times that I thought were stressful, now seem light-hearted compared to the last eleven months. But looking at old journals, I can see I should be grateful for so many things, big and small.

When schools closed in March of 2020, we gave our kids - then K, 2nd, and 4th graders - each a composition notebook and had them write just a few sentences in it every other day. Honestly, it was great for them to practice handwriting since everything went digital; but it was also a place they could privately release frustration. I never thought they would still be writing 11 months later. But here we are, now 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders, writing in the same journal. I am glad we started this practice at such a young age as they now have an outlet for the craziness they are experiencing. And it's something they can do whether in quarantine or digital or face to face. I hope one day they will be able to look back and see what they experienced and how far they came.

I don't journal every day. But when I do sit down and make the time, it opens up more space in my head to focus on important things instead of minutia wrestling for my attention. Journaling is so simple that anyone, at any age, can enjoy the exercise. Furthermore, it's a great form of stress relief that does not require a ton of money or ability. And while physical exercise is an excellent stress reliever, it may not always be possible due to weather or physical limitations. You can always write in a paper journal or on a device - maybe you jot down your thoughts for the day; maybe you write out conversations that you keep having in your head; maybe you just draw a smiley face.

Studies show that people who keep a gratitude journal have increased health benefits. Imagine what choosing to be grateful could do for your overall outlook and mental health. Explore ideas for journaling and being grateful at projecthappiness.org/science-of-happiness. Writing down where you are eventually becomes where you have come from.

I want to forget 2020 and never look back. But we need to look back so we can move forward. Simply jotting down a few things to be grateful for from 2020 can remind us during future trials that there is always a silver lining.

Stay healthy my friends. Just keep movin'. Write now so you can remember and rejoice later.



Ashley and her husband Les, reside in the Lassiter district along with their three children. She taught PE at two Cobb middle schools before becoming a stay-at-home mom that never stays at home. Her passion continues to be that being healthy does not have to be horrible.





HAVE YOU MISSED YOUR REGULAR ORAL HEALTH EXAM THIS YEAR?

Recently, broken dental appointments have become a major challenge facing dentistry. It is believed that some 100 million Americans fail to see a dentist each year. While for some, this may be related to concerns surrounding the COVID pandemic, for others it may be due to the belief that they need to see a dentist only if they are in pain or think something is wrong. Because conditions such as periodontal (gum) disease and caries (decay) are not visible to the untrained eve and do not cause pain until they are extensive, it is possible to have dental disease without being aware of it. With regular visits to a dentist for oral wellness examinations, this dental disease can be detected early on and addressed with simpler dental solutions such as fillings or periodontal therapy. Allowing dental disease to progress undiagnosed can result in the need for more extensive dental treatment such as crowns, root canals, or possible surgery. These more extensive treatments are not only more time intensive but can also be much more expensive.

The American Dental Association and your dentist recommend you have an oral health examination every six months because good oral health also translates to good health overall. Tooth decay and gum disease can lead to problems that are much bigger than an unpleasant smile or bad breath. Studies have shown that poor oral health can have profound, negative effects on areas outside of the mouth, including the heart, diabetes, pregnancy, and chronic inflammation. Regular, thorough oral health examinations allow for early detection and intervention of dental disease which results in improved oral health and overall health.

While it may seem like your dentist is just checking your teeth for cavities and evaluating the health of your gums during their exam, a thorough oral health examination goes far beyond that. The exam begins with a head and neck examination in which the dentist examines your face, neck, lymph nodes, and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) for swelling, tenderness, asymmetries, and/or pain. After taking appropriate x-rays and reviewing them for tooth decay and pathology or infection not visible to the naked eve. the dentist will perform a clinical oral examination. During this portion of the exam, the dentist will check your teeth for evidence of dental caries (decay), broken teeth, loose teeth, or damaged restorations (fillings or crowns). The dentist will evaluate the health of your gums checking for signs of periodontal disease as well as examining the oral

tissues (cheeks, lips, throat, palate, and tongue) for indications of oral cancer, vitamin deficiencies, and/or systemic disease. During this part of the exam, your dentist will also check your bite, evaluate any dental appliances you have, and check your salivary flow. Lastly, your dentist or dental hygienist will remove any plaque and tartar from the teeth, polish and floss your teeth, and review recommended brushing and flossing techniques to help you maintain good oral hygiene and health at home between visits.

In addition to regular oral health examinations, it is important to practice good oral health at home. You should

brush twice daily with a fluoride toothpaste, floss once a day, and eat a balanced diet limiting betweenmeal snacks. Practicing excellent oral health in your life will allow you to keep your smile, and your body, healthy!



Dr. Kristina Chandler practices at Cheek Dental here in East Cobb. You may contact her at 770-993-3775 or visit www.cheekdental.com.

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SUMMER CAMP: OUR KIDS' ANTIDOTE TO PANDEMIC LIVING

rom day camps to overnight camps, summer programs have been a staple in many families' lives. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, kids had to stay close to home, many on their screens, not seeing friends or doing typical activities — and spending lots of time with their parents or siblings. Many camps decided not to offer in-person programs but hosted virtual camps in 2020. This summer, after two compromised school years and everything that's gone along with it, our children's need for the benefits of summer camp will be crucially important:

REAL HUMAN CONNECTION — Zoom and remote learning have saved us in so many ways. But there's no substitute for real human connection. Making and strengthening relationships while being guided by loving people is what camp is all about. The essence of camp is in the friendships we forge, something we are all lacking and craving these days.

REACQUAINTING OURSELVES WITH NATURE — While society has been trapped indoors for the past year, most of the world is outdoors, and it is beautiful, and fills our soul with joy. Our bodies yearn for the outdoors, and that's where most summer camps happen.

RESILIENCY — Our kids are certainly developing it; experiencing disappointments that will make them stronger. Learning to be brave and confronting challenges and fears are also important facets of resiliency. It's easier to stay at home and stare at screens — but we want our kids to grow up with the kind of courage and "cando" attitude that our health care, essential workers, and superhero school teachers have learned and cultivated.

MENTAL HEALTH — While summer camp is widely known for its physical health benefits, according to the CDC, "Children's mental health during public health emergencies can have both short and long term consequences to their overall health and well-being," so it's no surprise that hospital visits related to mental health have risen dramatically for school age children and adolescents. Extroverted kids are suffering, missing the energy of their peers. Introverted kids may seem to enjoy sitting in their homes, away from life's normal pressures — but they need social interaction just as much.

Camp is a ray of hope and offers a return to the normalcy we all need. To make memories and have moments to help us feel whole. The pandemic has taken a lot from the kids. Camps offer a chance to give summer back to kids.

-Adapted from article by Andy Pritikin director of Liberty Lake Day Camp, published on the American Camping Association website.











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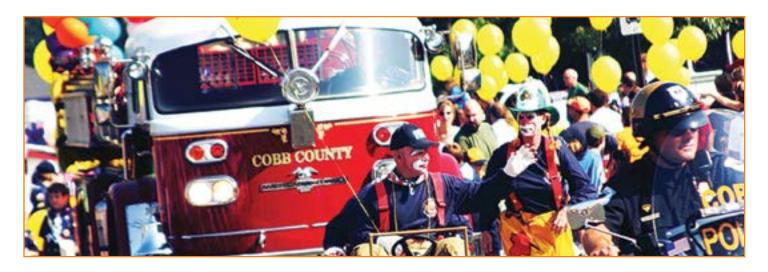
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EAST COBBER PARADE + FESTIVAL **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**



he 2021 EAST COBBER Parade and Festival has been canceled this year due to continuing COVID-19 concerns. Organizers say the cancellation is in compliance with public health rules, "With the COVID vaccine rollouts, we were hoping to bring the hometown tradition back this year—but under current CDC guidelines for community events and large gatherings we could not figure out how to keep participants and guests safe. With the focus on the health and safety of participants and spectators, organizers said canceling at this time is necessary.

"This year would have been the 25th EAST COBBER Parade... I've had many conversations in the past several weeks weighing out the risks and rewards of holding the parade, says Cynthia Rozzo, Founder and Publisher of the EAST COBBER magazine.

Cynthia Rozzo, who has organized the parade annually for 25 years, said the continuing COVID pandemic and the uncertainty about when it will finally be safe to hold large gatherings led her to decide to cancel this year's parade. It's the right thing to do," Rozzo said. "I hated to do it. It was a very hard decision to make."

"The annual parade takes months of planning and preparation to pull off, between securing permission to close roads to hold it and lining up participants as well as other behind-the-scenes steps that have to be taken. Those planning steps have been hampered by the outbreak and the uncertainty about it, the parade's founder and organizer said.

"We're in a situation that nobody has been in before, and there's just too many facets of the parade and festival that have to happen months in advance that cannot be finalized because of the coronavirus situation," Rozzo said.

The EAST COBBER Parade and Festival was slated to be held September 18, 2021. Founded in 1993, EAST COBBER extended its mission of building a sense of community by establishing a hometown tradition of a community parade and festival. As the producers of the first parade and festival in East Cobb County, the EAST COBBER aims to establish a strong network between schools, businesses, government and clubs to create a showcase event and annual tradition for East Cobb County. The EAST COBBER Parade has become the largest parade in all of Cobb County and is the only community-wide event for East Cobb.

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LOW INVENTORY AND STRONG BUYER DEMAND FUEL HOT EAST COBB REAL ESTATE MARKET

By Cynthia Lippert, Managing Broker, Ansley East Cobb and President, Atlanta Realtors® Association

ame song, different verse sums up the East Cobb real estate market so far in 2021. We are starting the year where 2020 ended with a lack of inventory across all price points, and pent-up buyer demand fueled by historically low interest rates. These two factors have combined to create frenzied market conditions that show no sign of ending anytime soon. According to Realtor® Glennda Baker, "The East Cobb market is hot as a firecracker! There is an unmatched demand for homes that far outweighs the supply. Just this past January, there were only 375 homes for sale in all East Cobb zip codes which represents a 52.5% decrease in available inventory from January 2020.

We have people standing in line for homes, and multiple offers have become the norm." Baker also notes the luxury market in East Cobb continues to reach new heights, "I was excited to be involved in the highest sale in Atlanta Country Club in 2020 (the house sold for \$2.5 million) and we are kicking off 2021 with the second highest resale in all of Cobb County, ever!"

Increased competition and record prices are great for homeowners, but these unprecedented market conditions can be intimidating for buyers. Now more than ever, it is important to work with a Realtor® who knows the market and can craft a winning a strategy for coming out on top when competing with multiple offers. Realtor® Heather Armstrong knows the East Cobb market well and says, "Recently, I have submitted offers to agents where we were 1 of 20 plus offers. I am often asked; how do buyers complete in a multiple offer situation? Hiring a full-time, professional Realtor® who will partner with your lender to make sure your offer gets to the top of the pile is crucial. Using an escalation clause and getting my buyers through underwriting prior to submitting an offer have been just a few of the tools I have used to win when competing against multiple offers."

Armstrong also has advice for sellers, "If you are considering selling, now is the time to begin getting your home show ready. Anticipate being able to generate a good price for your home but be mindful - a strong seller's market does not mean every home sells quickly for an incredible price. Homes still need to be priced

correctly, well maintained, reasonably updated, clean, and professionally marketed by a Realtor®."

Over the past few decades, buyers have consistently sought out East Cobb because of the toprated schools, competitive taxes, green spaces and enviable location that puts residents' minutes away from a number of attractions. With quality of life and having the right place to live and work becoming even more important during the pandemic, we anticipate that East Cobb will be in even greater demand throughout the remainder of the year.



Cynthia Lippert is Managing Broker, Ansley East Cobb and the President of the Atlanta Realtors® Association.



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PET OF THE MONTH: **HERMIONE**

Submitted by Grayson and Grady Zillioux



Animal: Domestic longhair cat

Age & Gender: 16-year-old female

Favorite Food: Mushy food

Favorite Person: Daddy

Best Trick: Stick her tongue out

Turn Ons: Sunny spots

Turn Offs: Vacuums, fireworks

Favorite Toy: Mouse with catnip in it

Last Seen: Right now

What Makes Her So Special: She is so fuzzy

SHOULD YOUR PET BE OUR

PET OF THE MONTH?

Fill out the information on your pet and send it to: EAST COBBER, P.O. Box 680455, Marietta, GA 30068.

Please include a picture with your entry. Or email description and a jpg to: petomonth@eastcobber.com

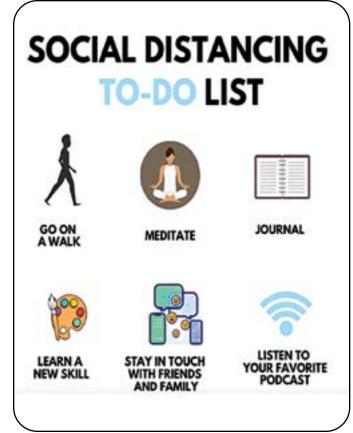
Pet's Name:
Animal/Breed:
Age & Gender:
Favorite Food:
Favorite Person:
Best Trick:
Turn Ons:
Turn Offs:
Favorite Toy:
Last Seen:
What makes your pet so special:
Owner's Name:





(That's Dog Talk for "You'll LOVE advertising in the EAST COBBER!") More Info: 770-640-7070





www.eastcobber.com



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Fuji Hana

Steak, Sushi, Thai >Japanese & Thai \$1 Sushi every Monday night dine-in only. Hibachi Early Bird Special from \$10 every day before 6pm. Voted Best Asian Restaurant in East Cobb. 1255 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 1 Marietta 30068 Mon-Sun: 11:30am-10pm 678-560-8071

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www.jchristophers.com

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770-971-3376 • www.DESSNA.com

Mon-Fri: 7am-4:30pm

Dermatology and Surgery Specialist of North Atlanta PC (DESSNA) is composed of a group of Board-Certified Dermatologists, Physician Assistants and medical aestheticians. Although our name is new, our clinic has been proudly serving the East Cobb community for over 30 years. We remain committed to providing expert dermatologic, surgical, cosmetic, and aesthetic services to our loyal patients.

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1255 Johnson Ferry Rd, Suite 26 • Marietta 30068

678-965-0382 • www.stretchsociety.com

Mon-Thur: 7am-8:30pm; Fri-Sat: 8am-1pm

Stretch Society is a socially-conscious brand on a mission to help people navigate their way to better health and wellness through professionally-assisted 1:1 stretching and small group stick stretch classes.

Stretch Society Kennesaw

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Sophie Webster, MBA, CHC, CLC, is a Certified Life and Nutrition Health Coach, motivating you to improve your routine for better health. She coaches on nutrition, health management, stress, work-life balance, and financial wellness. Sophie is also a Cognitive Behavioral practitioner (CBT) helping you better manage your self-talk.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

STRETCHING IS MORE THAN A COOL DOWN

hile often overlooked, your muscles need regular stretching to protect your health, body, and mobility for the long haul. Stretching is the key to living longer and being mobile into our old agewith less pain! We spoke with Jordan Keane, the program designer of Stretch Society, a local studio dedicated to enhanced stretching through unique Stick MobilityTM classes and 1:1 professionally assisted stretches, to dig deeper into what makes stretching the foundation to a healthy lifestyle. Here are some FAQs Stretch Society gets and are happily answered by Jordan Keane (JK) below.

When and how often should you stretch?

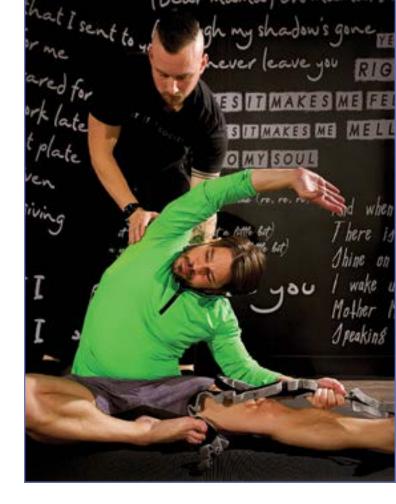
JK: Stretching daily is ideal but at least 2-3 times a week at minimum. The good news is that stretching doesn't have to take hours, short sessions are all you need. When to stretch depends on your needs. Morning stretches can release tension in the body after sleeping. Stretching in the evening relaxes your body and can help you achieve a deeper sleep. Stretching after a workout helps prevent injuries and increase your range of motion.

Who benefits from stretching?

JK: Literally everyone benefits! No matter your fitness level, if you are sedentary, just starting your health or fitness journey, or you are a seasoned athlete, stretching is a beneficial addition to everyone's healthy routine. We modify our stretches to each persons' fitness and activity level which has allowed many of our clients to kickstart their journey to a healthier lifestyle.

What are customers saying about Stretch Society classes or 1:1 sessions after they try them?

JK: A few of the amazing testimonials that come to mind are people that literally cannot move a part of their body because of a pre-existing condition or pain. They can see progress in how they gain more movement back after each session. We had a gymnast coach client who hadn't been able to do a split in 12 years. It was a huge milestone when she was able to do her splits again after class. We even have a picture of it on our Instagram! Those types of stories happen often and make me happy to be able to give people their freedom and happiness back.



What is a professional 1:1 assisted stretch and how hands on will it be?

JK: At Stretch Society, a 30 minute 1:1 stretch session uses a combination of Hypervolt™ percussion therapy, active stretching using Stick Mobility™ and hands-on assisted stretching with a professional Stretch Coach. A session could include a full-body stretch or target 1-2 specific problem areas, depending on your needs. Our Stretch Coaches will guide you through a safe and effective stretch to ensure you leave feeling relief, loose, and better than when you came in!

Why is a dedicated stretching studio better than stretching at home?

JK: We all know we need to stretch, but most of us put it on the backburner for other exercises or get too busy. We provide knowledgeable coaches and equipment that most people don't own at home so you get the most out of your stretch. We have families who come together as a bonding activity, friends who meet for the lunch class, or athletes who come to help their body recover. Stretching in our studio becomes an experience that people can share together as they build the foundation to a healthier lifestyle.

Visit stretchsociety.com to learn more about their Kennesaw and East Cobb locations and view safety precautions.

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GI SPECIALISTS SUPPORTS NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH







Lily DaSilva, M.A. and Shanil Harkins, M.D.

Physicians at GI Specialists of Georgia

Dr. Shanil Harkins of East Cobb GI Specialists of Georgia joins medical professionals throughout the country in spreading the word to promote National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Did you know colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer? Did you know it's also the third most common cancer for both men and women in the United States? These are not questions we typically want to think about. But, as Dr. Harkins points out, awareness leads to prevention, and that's what National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month is all about.

"Screening is the No. 1 way to reduce the risk of colorectal cancer," explains Dr. Harkins. "Colorectal cancer almost always develops from precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum. With regular screening, the polyps can be detected early and removed before they become cancerous."

Dr. Harkins stresses that a colonoscopy is the gold standard screening method, one recommended by the American Cancer Society and the American Gastroenterological Association.

A colonoscopy is a safe, short endoscopic procedure that allows an endoscopist to view the inner lining of your large intestine by using a flexible tubular instrument while under anesthesia. When necessary, polyps are removed and sent to pathology for evaluation. It's important to note not all polyps are the same, which is why screening

is so important. A prior office visit is not always necessary, and GI Specialists even has a scheduling hotline at 1-888-MYCOLON.

In 2018, the American Cancer Society revised its screening guidelines, and now recommends all average risk patients of all races start screening at age 45. However, for those with a family history of precancerous polyps in a first-degree relative, screening should start at age 40 or 10 years before the relative was diagnosed.

This year, Dr. Harkins is preparing for her initial screening colonoscopy, which she plans to document with video and share it online and via social media. "I know the screening preparation is hard, but it's important," she says. "So many patients don't know what we're looking for regarding polyps. We are with you and know it's not easy." Her goal is to clarify and answer the common questions she encounters in her daily practice.

Another significant factor in raising awareness is communicating what symptoms to look for, according to Dr. Harkins. These include unexplained changes in bowel habits, blood in the stools, and persistent abdominal pain.

Part of a larger network of 22 physicians, the East Cobb location of GI Specialists of Georgia treats all disorders of the digestive tract including liver and pancreas disorders. GI Specialists of Georgia has nine office locations and three endoscopy centers in the Northwest Atlanta area.

Join others during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and schedule your colonoscopy now. For a screening colonoscopy appointment, call 678-741-2313. For more information about GI Specialists

of Georgia or to schedule an office appointment, go to www. gigeorgia.com. GI Specialists of Georgia in East Cobb is located at 3747 Roswell Road, Suite 314, Marietta 30062.



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EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT BIG PEACH RUNNING CO.



This past year more than ever, with gyms closed and group exercises on hold, more people have been out running and walking. Whether it's walking the dog around the neighborhood, getting those daily steps in, or training for a 5K — Big Peach Running Co. (BPRC) wants the community to know that the active lifestyle is for everyone.

Locally owned and operated by active, passionate and knowledgeable runners

from the area, the Big Peach Running Co. fosters a friendly, inclusive atmosphere that encourages guests to discover the many ways

> to have fun using their feet to move forward while also making sure they have the right gear to do so.

If BPRC has learned anything over the past year, it's that people want to like running, they just need some help getting there.

"Most people don't identify themselves as a runner, it can be intimidating, but we're not just for

runners," said Steve DeMoss, lifelong endurance athlete who humorously calls himself one of BPRC's "Chief Running Officers." "There are so many dimensions to the pedestrian active lifestyle: workouts, hiking trails, dog walking, racing, running with kids, running to clear your mind — it can be social and it can be individual."

At BPRC, there are so many ways to make being

active more enjoyable and accessible. Their team is

dedicated to encouraging people to be enthusiastic about embracing an active lifestyle.

"Our BPRC community is a group that's found this activity that is so fulfilling and so rewarding. It keeps you healthy, you sleep better, you're more productive, and it just makes you feel good. We want to share that with everyone," DeMoss said.

Sharing that passion with others is what drives their team. Not only is BPRC consistently deemed one of the "Top 50 Running Stores" in the U.S., it's also "the friendliest place on the planet."

"The best thing is that running and walking are free, and can be done anywhere at any time. They're pandemic friendly and always available," DeMoss said. "Keep in mind: you don't need a lot of gear, but a comfortably fitted shoe, a nice pair of socks and, for women, a run bra can make a big difference"

Luckily, matching people to the right shoe is BPRC's specialty. Their customized three-step fitting process aims to match the customer's needs based on understanding biomechanics, how much support someone needs out of a shoe and how that aligns with foot characteristics, fit and feel.

"Your job is to listen to your foot, our job is to figure out what it's saying," DeMoss said.

BPRC carries a wide range of footwear, apparel, accessories and has a variety of in-store programs.

For example, BPRC offers a free 30-minute class called "How to Hate Running Less." The class is open to all and happens Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Big Peach's store located at 1062 Johnson Ferry Road in Marietta/East Cobb.

Want to hit the ground running? Run (or walk) to your local Big Peach Running Co. store or call 770-579-0444.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

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East Cobb's specialty running and walking shop with footwear,

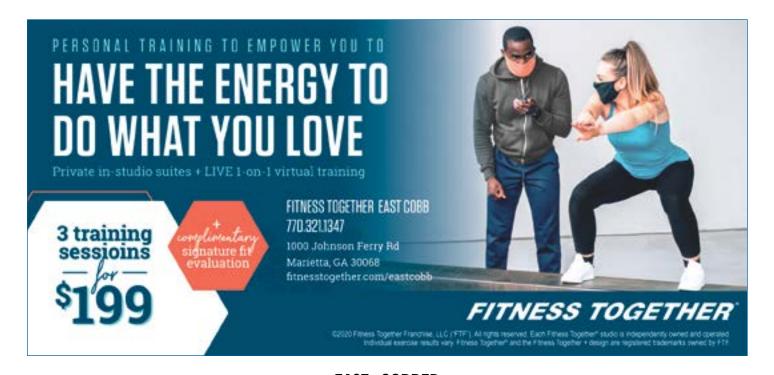
east Cobb's specialty running and walking shop with tootwear, apparel and gear for all your adventures! May your best miles be those covered on foot!

SKIN CARE

Skin Care by Carmen

2854 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 100 • Marietta 30062 770-515-8150 • clinicalskincarebycarmen.com

Carmen Fletcher's beauty and skincare clinic was established with both young and older women in mind. Carmen has been in the beauty and skincare business for almost fifteen years now. Treatments include skin correction, facial toning and body waxing.



TIPS TO STAY HEALTHY DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

OVID-19 has changed many of our daily routines in a way no one anticipated. Many of us are at home more to minimize exposure. Isolation and being at home can illicit the temptation to eat snacks high in sodium, junk food and low-quality meals that provide instant gratification for our taste buds rather than nutrient-dense whole foods that can also be delicious. This is a challenge for many in these times of social distancing and self-isolation.

A day that may have previously included many steps, physical activities like walking from your car at your work-place parking lot twice per day, shopping for groceries, outings with the family or visiting the shopping mall are absent for many. With this unprecedented lifestyle shift, there is a potential for the normalization of a more sedentary lifestyle packed with activities like watching television, sitting while reading for long periods, or sitting at your computer for longer-than-usual periods of time. We must stay proactive, and in some cases creative, to maintain an active lifestyle in the era of social-distancing. Even if you are not directly affected by COVID-19, or tested positive, it no doubt has had a drastic impact on your day-to-day routine, which could negatively affect your overall health.

So what are some things we can do to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle while the world around us has adapted to limiting exposure to COVID-19?

STAY ACTIVE: The gyms may not be open, however, there are lots of safe alternatives to getting physical activity without going against the preventive best practices recommended by the CDC like social distancing and avoiding large crowds. Another important point to consider is that avoiding crowds does not mean avoiding nature. Going for a brisk walk or jog outside in uncrowded areas outdoors is still considered relatively safe.

ADEQUATE SLEEP: Good sleep is essential to our overall health. According to The National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the nation's leading medical research agency: "Immune system activation alters sleep, and sleep in turn affects the innate and adaptive arm of our body's defense system." While the amount of sleep needed for good health and optimum performance mostly depends on the individual, the CDC recommends adults age 18-60 years get seven or more hours of sleep per night.

DIET AND NUTRITION: Practicing self-discipline and avoiding "emotional eating" due to stress that may be related to the drastic changes surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects our lives is imperative. According to the CDC, whole foods like dark, leafy greens, oranges and tomatoes—

even fresh herbs—are loaded with vitamins, fiber and minerals. Make it a habit to try to eat more whole nutritious foods instead of processed snacks or fast food.

SELF-CARE: Take time to take care of yourself. Be supportive and suggest the same for those close to you. Meditation, relaxation, quality time with family, personal care of yourself promotes overall wellness.

HEALTHCARE MAINTENANCE: If you have medications prescribed for any condition, be sure to take them as directed by your provider. Chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma and many others should be kept in check with taking your medications as prescribed. Be sure to reach out to your healthcare team with any concerns as well. In the age of COVID-19, telehealth solutions are available if you want to speak with a provider about a health concern unrelated to COVID-19.

COPE WITH STRESS AND ANXIETY: Positively cope with stress and anxiety induced by new precautions we must all now take to combat the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Positive coping mechanisms would include exercise, meditation, reading, further developing certain skills or hobbies, etc. Use this era to increase your daily repetition of these positive activities and develop new or even better routines than you may have adhered to prior to the emergence of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

STAY CONNECTED: Talking with loved ones while in isolation can help reduce the anxiety and instances of feeling down. Take time to utilize the multitudes of technologies and apps (many free) that can help you stay in touch with those you love. Our busy lives before the COVID-19 may have limited how often we connected with distant loved ones, now's the time to fully exploit these modern capabilities for fellowship, companionship, and camaraderie.

The guidance above is to improve overall health and wellness. Please be aware that although eating nutritious foods, physical activity, adequate rest and taking care of our mental health makes us more resilient, it's not a cure nor does it guarantee immunity from contracting COVID-19. In addition to these suggestions, be sure to practice CDC guidance on social distancing, self-care, self-quarantine, wearing of cloth masks when social distancing is not possible and talking with your provider about any concerns you may have regarding your health. If you have a medical emergency, visit an emergency room. If you have an injury or illness unrelated to COVID-19, be sure to visit an Urgent Care Center.

Reprinted from army.mil website.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

UROLOGY

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Advanced Urology, is committed to giving their patients the best experience possible through innovative treatments, exceptional service, and superior outcomes. Their skilled medical professionals work within their state-of-the-art facilities where they are dedicated to making their patients feel comfortable and valued. Their patients are their #1 priority.

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Vascular Surgeons providing comprehensive care of the vascular system. Both arterial conditions and venous conditions are our specialty. Ultrasounds are done in our office by Registered Vascular Technicians for diagnosis and monitoring daily.

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3233 S. Cherokee Lane, Building 1000 • Woodstock 30188 770-485-7411 • womenfirstrehabilitation.com

The providers at Women First Rehabilitation offer a holistic approach to healing by providing all-natural pain-relief, bowel and bladder restoration, nutritional counseling, whole-body strengthening, functional medicine and wellness programs.

YOGA

Bring It Om Power Yoga

3162 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 440 • Marietta 30062 470-299-5256 • bringitompoweryoga.com

Monday-Friday: 5:30am-8pm,

Satuday: 8am-12pm, Sunday: 10am-6pm

Bring It OM Power Yoga welcomes yogis of all levels to their relaxed, fun, and inviting space. They offer a variety of classes for all levels including power, fundamentals, yin, heated/non-heated. They are dedicated to making yoga enjoyable for everyone, and are proud to serve the East Cobb community.





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SENIORS

AARP OFFERS TAX AIDE TO SENIORS



very Friday through April 9, AARP will offer Tax Aide at the Tim D. Lee Senior Center. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and remote tax assistance free of charge to anyone, with a special focus on taxpayers who are 50 or older or who have low to moderate income.

Tax-Aide volunteers are located nationwide, and are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. Tax help is provided in safe environments using a variety of methods based on a number of factors, including where you are located, COVID-19 spread, and volunteer availability

The service is by appointment only, no walk ins. Individuals may call 770-765-3470 to schedule an appointment. The center is located at 3332 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta/East Cobb. •

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NEXT ISSUE: MAY/JUNE DEADLINE: APRIL 15 CALL EAST COBBER:770-640-7070

A NEW OPTION FOR CARING FOR YOUR AGING MOM AND DAD

Qualicare Homecare Opens in East Cobb for Loving Support and Advocacy



Launching a new business on the economic roller coaster posed by a global pandemic may sound daunting. But not for Rob lackson, the own-

er of Qualicare Home Care, East Cobb's newest provider of care at home for Cobb, Cherokee and North Fulton families. The company provides home care, help transitioning from hospital to home, hospice and palliative care, help around the house and companionship for seniors, convalescents and the many families seeking respite care for both elders and their special needs children.

"This is an exciting and perfect fit, having worked in health-care and home services, I understand healthcare delivery from the clinical and providers' perspectives. But the top priority should be the experience of the families receiving care. I see friends struggle to navigate options for safe, affordable help for their parents and children. There is no guidebook, it can be overwhelming to try to do it all on your own without really knowing your options," said Jackson. "I know what a tremendous impact having a true advocate on your side can make. We team up with the entire family, custom designing a care plan and pricing that is a fit for everyone with nurse-led care."

It is no secret that residential care homes are expensive. Jackson wants to stand apart from others by providing flexible schedules for diverse budgets, reaching those that ordinarily couldn't afford home care--yet desperately need it. He sees it as something that shouldn't hinge on wealth or willingness to deplete hard-earned savings. He knows with a more creative model; everyone can receive excellent services, regardless of income.

Qualicare utilizes a detailed screening and methodology to match the right caregiver to each client, assuring ideal chemistry. Jackson takes great pride in how his team is passionate about helping local families. "Because our caregivers feel they receive support, respect, tools for success, and rewards for stellar service, we know we have the edge on customer value and trustworthiness from our clients, "stated Jackson.

If you are navigating the process of caring for an aging or ill family member, Qualicare Marietta is happy to get on a call and help you understand your options or do a free consultation.

For mor information, call 470-632-7400 to speak with our team or visit www.qualicare.com/marietta-ga.

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ROCKY MOUNT STUDENT

RECEIVES SILVER PEN AVVARD



Back Row (L-R): Golden K Past President, Jim Perry; Silver Pen Award Winner, Jeremiah Perry; Rocky Mount Assistant Principal, Dr. Sage Doolittle; Jim Farley, and Aimee Mendel; Front Row (L-R): Shani Childress, Marika Perry, Gene Schumacher



Silver Pen Award to Jeremiah Perry.

The Silver Pen Award is presented by the Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K to an elementary school student in Cobb County for completing and submitting a creative writing response to a writing prompt. The 2020 Silver Pen winner is Jeremiah Perry from Rocky Mount Elementary School. Jeremiah won the award last year when he was a fourth grader, but the pandemic delayed the recognition ceremony until February 2021.

As explained by Jim Perry, Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K (no relation to the winner), "The Silver Pen Award is designed to encourage creative writing". Students read the beginning of an interesting short story, create an engaging end to the story, then submit it to their 4th grade teacher for review. Each homeroom teacher selects the top three entries from the class and the Assistant Principal chooses one finalist from each class. The four finalists are given "a numbered score" by former educators who are now members of the Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K. All the stories are submitted without names throughout the selection process, so the judges do not know which student wrote the story.

Jeremiah received the following special gifts: A Kiwanis Club Pen, a Silver Pen, twenty one-dollar coins, and an engraved plaque from the Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K recognizing Jeremiah for his writing accomplishment.

Jim Perry spoke for all present (at the socially-distanced, outside awards ceremony on February 10, 2021) when he told Jeremiah, "We hope you will take that writing skill and put it to use throughout your life, because our whole purpose is to encourage good writers to be better writers. You did well," Assistant Principal Dr. Sage Doolittle added, "Rocky Mount is so proud of Jeremiah! We are thrilled that he has embraced a love for creative writing and that writing passion will serve him well in the future."

The Kiwanas Club of Marietta Golden K branch is made up of retirees and is based at the Tim D. Lee Senior Center in East Cobb. The Golden K Kiwanis Club was organized in 1991 under the Kiwanis International Organization to benefit the Children of the Community and the World by providing financial support and direct service to build tomorrow's leaders. Before the COVID pandemic, the Golden K club met weekly at the East Cobb Senior Center, now known as the Tim Lee Senior Center.



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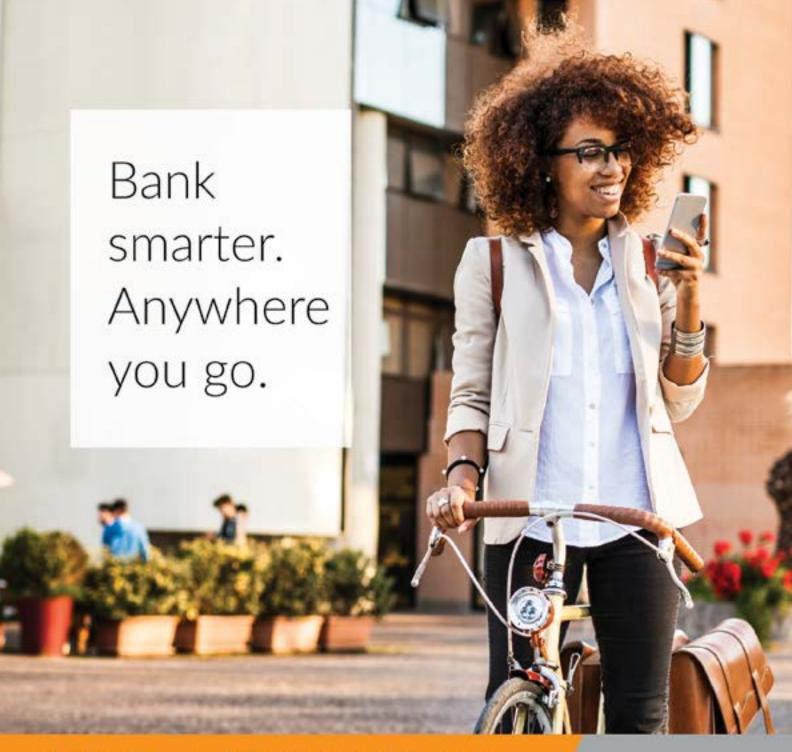
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