

# Exceptional Times



## Upcoming Events:

- **Georgia Aquarium Autism Awareness Day:** FEE APPLIES. Sunday, April 23rd. There will be a special quiet zone area from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.georgiaaquarium.org>
- **Life Rolls On "They Will Skate Again":** FREE. Saturday, April 29th from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Kennesaw Skate Park. For more information about this event or to register, visit <https://liferollson.org/georgia>
- **Cycling Madness:** FREE REGISTRATION. Friday, May 26th from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Bring your own bicycles to this family-friendly event at Boundary Waters Park. For more information contact Ms. Morgan at 770-920-7129 or [jmorgan@co.douglas.ga.us](mailto:jmorgan@co.douglas.ga.us) Registration is requested. To register online, visit [www.douglascountyparks.com](http://www.douglascountyparks.com)
- **Surfers for Autism:** 2nd 6th Annual Coastal Empire Beach Festival, September 16th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tybee Island, GA. Registration opens July 19th. More coastal Florida events are scheduled throughout the summer. For additional information visit <http://surfersforautism.org/>
- **April is Autism Awareness Month**



## Summer Camp Information

### 2017 GLRS Special Needs Summer Directory:

<http://me.gls.org/>

The 2017 directory is in progress. For the 2016 directory, scroll over "Resources" and click on "2016 Special Needs Summer Directory." Many of the resources are the same from year to year.

### Camp Listings:

[http://www.atlantaparent.com/article/detail/special\\_needs\\_camps](http://www.atlantaparent.com/article/detail/special_needs_camps)

[http://www.camptwinlakes.org/aboutus/camp\\_partners.html](http://www.camptwinlakes.org/aboutus/camp_partners.html)

### Camp D.O.U.G.:

Summer day camp at Deer Lick Park. Call 770-920-7129 for more information. Registration opened **April 1st**.

### Camp Hawkins:

<http://www.gbchfm.org/Camp-Hawkins>

### Summer Activities:

#### Public Library Loan Program:

Free passes to Zoo Atlanta, Center for Puppetry Arts, Go Fish Education Center, and Georgia state parks are available for checkout at local libraries. For details visit: <http://www.wgri.net/park-passes/>

#### Georgia Residential Disability Licenses:

Free fishing license for Georgia residents with disabilities. License is good for 3 years and can be renewed. The application is available at the following website: <http://www.georgiawildlife.org/licenses-permits-passes>

#### Morgan's Wonderland, San Antonio, TX:

<http://www.morganswonderland.com/>

#### The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass:

Free admission to national parks with documentation of permanent disability and proof of residency. There is a \$10 fee to process mailed applications. For details visit: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>

## Activities

### **Arts for All Gallery: A Program of VSA Arts of GA**

**FREE.** The gallery is located within Mason Fine Art in Atlanta. Hours are Tues.–Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sat., noon to 5 p.m. For information visit <http://www.vsaartsga.org/arts-for-all-gallery.html> or call 404-221-1270.

### **Challengers Baseball Team**

**FREE.** Individuals with special needs ages 6–21 are invited to play baseball at Beulah Ruritan Park from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. every Saturday morning in April, May, and June (weather permitting). For more information contact Coach Troglin at 770-941-2209 or [DCCchallengers@aol.com](mailto:DCCchallengers@aol.com)

### **Children's Museum of Atlanta**

**FREE.** Free admission from 1–6 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. For more information visit [www.childrensmuseumatlanta.org](http://www.childrensmuseumatlanta.org) or call 404-659-5437.

### **Haven Hills Therapeutic Riding Center**

**FREE.** For ages 2 and up. For more information, or to inquire about volunteering, contact Ms. Carter at 678-296-9693 or [scarter1031@gmail.com](mailto:scarter1031@gmail.com) or visit [www.havenhillstrc.org](http://www.havenhillstrc.org)

### **Matthew's Time**

**FEE APPLIES.** A weekend camp program for children with developmental disabilities ages 2–25. For more information contact Ms. Sewell at 770-463-3344 or [ksewell@gbchfm.org](mailto:ksewell@gbchfm.org) or visit [www.gbchfm.org/Matthews-Time](http://www.gbchfm.org/Matthews-Time)

### **Music Lessons**

**FEE APPLIES.** Music lessons for guitar, bass guitar, piano, banjo, mandolin, and ukulele. For more information call Mr. Littlefield at 404-272-1963 or visit <http://www.jameslittlefieldmusic.com/>

### **S.T.E.P. (Special Talents Entirety Program)**

**FREE.** An inclusive co-ed dance program for children ages 7-11. Classes are on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Hunter Park Community Center. Current season is March 24th to June 3rd. For more information or to register, visit [www.ofheartfitness.com](http://www.ofheartfitness.com)

### **Swimming Lessons**

**FEE APPLIES.** Individual swim lessons at Boundary Waters Aquatics Center. \$80 for four 30-minute lessons. Call 770-489-2175 for more information or to schedule lessons.

## Resources for Families

### **Aubrey's Warriors Foundation**

<http://aubreywarriorsfoundation.weebly.com/resources.html>

### **The Family Support Program**

As a service of the Cobb and Douglas Counties Community Services Boards, this program helps families with a family member who has a developmental disability to lower the cost of receiving services such as respite care. Visit the website for more information or call 770-429-5000.

<http://www.cobbcsb.com/services/developmental-disabilities/>

## The Nest

I thought you would not leave the nest,  
Your feathers feared the wind.  
My expectations on bended wings still,  
Not knowing, could you ascend?

Love and patience mended your wings,  
I said, please more time, to the wind.  
My words were tossed into the air,  
Lost from start to end.

I could not stop you willing wings,  
And I could not stop the wind.  
On the day you soared into the sky,  
Precious flight my heart did lend.

☞Renee Davis, Parent Mentor