# City of Clarkston, PALs Plus & Clarkston First Baptist Team Up to Prevent Youth Violence



(L-R) Christine Hudson, Clarkston Police Chief, Keith Barker, Clarkston City Manager, Det. Khary Ricketts, DeKalb County Police and PALs Plus Program Manager and Tom Felton, Clarkston First Baptist Church, during the June 15th City of Clarkston Summer After Dark Basketball League stakeholders' meeting.



Det. Khary Ricketts, DeKalb County Police and PALs Plus Program Manager, provided details about the City of Clarkston Summer After Dark Basketball League during the June 15th stakeholders' meeting.

#### **By Terry Sanders**

asked by Clarkston City Council to bring recreational alternatives to the city, Keith Barker, Clarkston City Manager assessed the feasibility of partnering with fellow Minority Youth Violence Prevention grantee, DeKalb County Police Athletics League (PAL) Plus. After meeting with DeKalb County Police Detective Khary Ricketts, PAL Plus Program Manager and Coordinator, the City had acquired its first basketball league external stakeholder and violence prevention partner.

Now that the league's organizational component was in place with PAL Plus, the City faced the barrier and challenge of finding a Clarkston location that would be respected, safe and secure, have the required basketball court, could accommodate the number of anticipated participants and would be available for the course of the program and league play.

Barker determined that Clarkston First Baptist Church fit the bill and would provide the necessary requirements. A preliminary meeting was held with a First Baptist representative who was very receptive to the proposed partnership, but was not the decision-maker. The decision would be made by Clarkston First Baptist Church Pastor Karl Moore in unison and collaboration with the church's congregation.

With momentum on its side, the City brought PAL and Clarkston First Baptist to the table to discuss and determine if a Clarkston basketball league was possible. Det. Ricketts gave the history, benefits, and objections encountered when and with implementing the PAL Plus program and basketball league. Not being detoured, stakeholders agreed to establishing a partnership that would bring the first official City of Clarkston Summer After Dark Basketball League to the city of Clarkston.

"This is a win, win, win for the City, PAL and Clarkston First Baptist," said Pastor Karl Moore, Clarkston First Baptist, during the first basketball league stakeholders' meeting held on May 16th.

Before this meeting ended, players and recruitment, public awareness plans, program curriculum and presenters, teams size and games schedules were all determined.

"This summer league allows the city to check off several boxes of its civic and community engagement goals and objectives," said Barker.

# Recapping the City of Clarkston's Georgia Cities Week "Show on the Road"

he City of Clarkston in participating, for the first time, in Georgia Municipal Association's Georgia Cities Week, took community and civic engagement to a whole 'nother level. There were numerous first for the City and partners during and beyond this week of celebrating cities throughout the state of Georgia.

While invited to participate in the past, this year GMA's invitation was accepted by the City. With the goal and mission of showcasing engagement, community partnerships, City services and personnel, and its elected officials, the City set about devising a strategy, plan and deployment that would be inclusive, comprehensive, mobile and visual.

After researching GMA's Cities Week and receiving their participation tool kit, the City implemented the most robust schedule of events and activities when compared to neighboring cities' known events and GMA's suggested activities.

Early community partners engagement was crucial to pulling off the City's plan, goal and mission. One-by-one targeted community partners were contacted to solicit and invite partnerships. The City received acceptance from every community partner asked. Although one community partner could not participate during the designated week, they graciously invited the City to come on a later date.

Now that community partners were on board, the questions of what and how was the City to convey and mobilize its plan and messaging, remained. Eureka! Let's take the City on the road and display City staff, services, and elected officials by mounting messaging on tri-fold boards that come with carrying cases. And to make sure that the City's display would have a polished and professional look and feel, black tablecloths with the City's logo imprinted on them were ordered, created and shipped with arrival a few days before they were to be used.

Okay the City's Georgia Cities Week checklist was looking good, but there remained a glaring missing component. What can the City do to show its appreciation to audiences that engage with and take part in activities? Swag bags!

Ready, set, go...the City of Clarkston would like to, again, thank staff, community partners, elected officials and every audience member that engaged and contributed to making Georgia Cities Week in Clarkston, a Week to Remember!

#### Monday, April 23, 2018: Jolly Elementary School









"Everyone at Jolly would like to thank the City of Clarkston for continuing its long and supportive engagement at Jolly. Our students are still showing off their Swag bags." —Judy Rosemond, (Now Retired) Principal, Jolly Elementary School

#### Tuesday, April 24, 2018: Clarkston Community Center









"The Clarkston Community Center gladly opens its doors to welcome the City's Show on the Road in celebrating Georgia Cities Week."

— Cindy Bowden, Executive Director, Clarkston Community Center

#### Tuesday, April 24, 2018: Clarkston Community Center









"City Council applauds and joins staff, community partners and our first Mixer attendees in recognizing the greatness of and in the city of Clarkston in celebration of Georgia Cities Week." — Ted Terry, Mayor, City of Clarkston

## **City News**

#### Wednesday, April 25, 2018: Clarkston High School









"We are happy to host the City of Clarkston's Show on the Road during this week of celebrating great cities throughout Georgia like Clarkston."
— Michelle Jones, Principal, Clarkston High School

#### Thursday, April 26, 2018: Clarkston Library





"Clarkston Library and the City of Clarkston have a long-standing partnership and the library's participation in Georgia Cities Week via the City's Show on the Road, only strengthens community presence and engagement." — Effie Chisholm, Senior Librarian, Clarkston Library

#### Saturday, April 28, 2018: Clarkston Culture Festival









"This year's Culture Festival welcomes the City's increased presence, participation and support. And we are very pleased and proud that the City chose to end its Georgia Cities Week celebrations here at the Clarkston Culture Festival."

— Angela "Lady A" Moore, Festival Organizer, Minister and First Lady at Clarkston First Baptist Church

#### Wednesday, May 16, 2018: Indian Creek Elementary School









"Although we could not participate during the actual Georgia Cities Week, we did not want to miss this opportunity to extend and expand our community partnership with the City of Clarkston. Our students, faculty and staff are appreciative of any and all opportunities to support, engage and increase awareness of the City of Clarkston's services, staff, and elected officials."

— Dr. Antonette Campbell, Principal, Indian Creek Elementary School

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## **City News**

Continued from Front Cover

"The City gets to expand our partnership with Clarkston First Baptist Church and to partner, for the first time, with PAL Plus a national organization that already has the infrastructure, experience and abilities to implement and manage this program and league. We, the City, get to provide additional recreational offerings and lastly, but more importantly, the City continues its efforts to prevent youth violence."

DeKalb PAL Plus is a specialized unit of DeKalb County Police Department (DKPD) that utilized preventive programs and activities to combat juvenile crime. A combination of education, athletic and crime prevention initiatives are strategically implemented via youth programs. The activities help to prevent crime and generates positive attitudes toward police officers. When youth are involved in healthy, structured and supervised activities, they are less likely to join gangs, get involved with illegal activity or even experience disciplinary problems in school. Through the structured PALP activities, our youth develop self-respect, respect for authority and pride in their community.

Clarkston Summer After Dark Basketball League workshops and games, are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, they started on June 26th and are scheduled to end on August 2nd. Clarkston First Baptist Church Gym is the location for the 9:00 p.m. mandatory Life Skills Workshops and 10:00 p.m. games that will result in championship rounds to determine which team will be awarded the winners' trophy.

"During these workshops, each participate will learn from subject matter experts about a variety of topics, including anti-gang awareness, drugs and violence causes and consequences, that they will hopefully carry with them throughout the course of their lives," said Detective Ricketts. "The opportunities, information and discussions that occur in these workshops are so important, that attendance and participation is mandatory. It's simple, if they don't attend, they don't play."

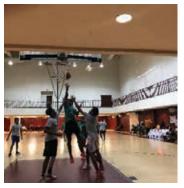
In addition to these mandatory 9:00 p.m. workshops, the Summer League has FREE registration, and is open to the public. Participants must be 14-19 years of age. They can just show up on any of the applicable Tuesdays and, or Thursdays to play in any, if not all of the games that start, after the workshops, at 10:00 p.m. Clarkston Summer Basketball League participants will also learn about local employment opportunities.

To register and for more information, contact: Det. Khary Ricketts, kkricketts@dekalbcountyga.gov, 404.664.1225;

Terry Sanders, tsanders@cityofclarkston.com, 470.244.5355

Or just show up on Tuesdays and Thursdays, before/by 9:00 p.m.!!

#### June 26th and June 28th "Plays of the Game!"











## **Health Matters**

## **Summer Health Tips**

#### **Extreme Heat Safety**



- Stay out of the direct sun. Seek shaded or air conditioned areas such as libraries or malls. MORE
- Whenever possible, schedule outdoor events (public gatherings, sporting events) early in the morning when it's cooler and the air quality is better.
- Drink plenty of fluids. (Avoid alcohol and caffeine.)
- Wear light-colored, light-weight clothing. Use hats with brims and sunscreen for more protection.
- The elderly, small children, and people with chronic health conditions are more vulnerable to the heat. Call and check on friends, family, and neighbors.
- Anyone showing signs of heat stroke (altered mental state, not sweating, nausea) should seek medical attention immediately.

#### **Swim Safely**



Swimming is a great way to beat the summer heat and it is a fun way to get exercise. Whether you are swimming in your own backyard pool, in your family or neighbor's pool, or in a natural body of water, follow these tips to keep this popular summer pastime safe:

- Never swim alone! Even experienced or strong swimmers might need help.
- Do not leave young children or non-swimmers unattended.
- Encourage children and other non-swimmers to use life jackets or other approved flotation devices.
- Sign up for swimming lessons—you are never too old or too young to learn how to swim!
- Do not jump or dive into the shallow end of a pool.
- Keep away from pool drains, pipes, or other openings to avoid entrapments.
- Always keep a phone nearby.
- Learn CPR. It's a lifesaving skill, literally.
- Install a fence, with self-closing and self-latching gates, around backyard swimming pools. Check local ordinances or laws to make sure you are in compliance.
- Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming and while supervising children.

#### **Sun Safety**

Protect yourself from exposure to the sun's rays and reduce your risk of sunburn, skin cancer, and heat stress:



• Apply sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and both UVA and UVB protection before you go outside, even on cloudy days.

Reapply sunscreen after swimming or sweating or after staying outside for more than two hours.

Wear clothing, sunglasses, and a hat with a wide brim to protect exposed skin.

Seek shade, especially during midday hours.

Drink plenty of fluids.

#### **Food Safety**



Eating out more this summer? View food safety inspection reports for your favorite restaurants.

Foodborne illnesses increase in warmer weather. Keep food safe during cookouts and camping trips by handling, preparing, and

cooking it properly.

#### **Rabies**



Prevent animal bites and rabies by avoiding contact with wild animals.

#### removing a tick



#### **Lyme Disease**

Ticks are most active in late June and early July. Prevent Lyme Disease and other tickborne illnesses by avoiding ticks and tick bites.

#### **West Nile Virus**



Mosquitoes are most active in the summer months. Protect yourself against West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses by using bug spray with DEET, avoiding mosquito breeding grounds, and taking other preventive measures

## Recognitions





uring the May 1, 2018 City Council Meeting, Deborah Samuels, an employee in the Clarkston Court Services Department, was awarded for her 15 Years of Service with the City of Clarkston. Samuels' has provided "outstanding" customer service delivery and daily execution of duties and responsibilities have contributed to her department's operational success.







arcus Seaton of the City of Clarkston's Public Works Department has been a very busy man for years. Not only was he recognized for his five Years of Service with the City, but he is has earned and received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Clayton State University while working full-time.

"My son was my inspiration to graduate and to walk the talk instead of the other way around. I knew if I was to direct him and tell him the importance of an education, that I must lay the ground work and show him it can be done off my own experience. Furthermore, I have a family that I'm responsible for taking care of and supporting with nothing less than 100 percent of my abilities.

However, this process couldn't have been as smooth without the support of my boss and co-workers at the City of Clarkston," said Seaton.





or his 10 Years of Service in protecting and serving the city of Clarkston, Asst. Police Chief, Thadius Brown was praised as being a "tremendous asset" to the City of Clarkston and to the Clarkston Police Department. In receiving his Certificate of Appreciation, Brown thanked his fellow law enforcement officers and a special expression of appreciation was given to Chief Christine Hudson for her leadership and for being a mentor.



When I first started with the City of Clarkston, I noticed that David was the biggest dude here, so we quickly became good friends. And he has had my back ever since. He and Corey Ford are the heartbeats of the Public Works Department," said Keith Barker, Clarkston City Manager, when awarding David Meadows with his 15 Years of Service award.

Barker went on to describe Meadows and his Public Works co-workers as the true "unsung heroes" of and for the City of Clarkston. In being moved by Barker's accolades, Meadows gave an emotional, heartfelt acceptance as a token of his appreciation to the City of Clarkston.

## Recognitions

ity of Clarkston Mayor Ted Terry and City of Clarkston Special Projects Coordinator, Terry Sanders have been accepted into the Leadership DeKalb Class of 2019.

A respected leadership development program in DeKalb County, Leadership DeKalb was founded in 1986 by the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce to educate community leaders and to address issues facing the growing population. In 1994, Leadership DeKalb became an independent nonprofit organization. Since then, more than 1,000 community leaders have completed the program. Graduates of the program include CEO's of top public and private companies, as well as a large number of DeKalb's elected officials, educators, judges, entrepreneurs, volunteers and nonprofit leaders.

Class members learn about history, diversity, government, justice, arts and culture, education, health and economic development in the county. Classmates and alumni gain access to other leaders in all of these sectors. With over 1,000 alumni, we facilitate long-term leadership sustainability.





he City of Clarkston Special Project Coordinator, Terry Sanders has accepted an invitation from DeKalb County's Communications Department Public Information Officer, Suzanne Forte, to serve on the 3CMA Savvy Awards Judging Team.

Established in 1988, the Savvy Awards continues to recognize outstanding local government achievements in communications, marketing, engagement, and creativity. Every year, the entries are even more innovative than the year before, demonstrating that clearly, the best is yet to come!





## **People & Places**

## 2018 Women in Public Safety Conference

larkston Chief of Police, Christine Hudson, attended the annual Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety Conference held in May and hosted by the city of Athens.

The Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety (GAWPS) was created with a vision to provide professional growth opportunities for women that are employed in fire, law enforcement, or emergency communication services in the state of Georgia through mentoring, networking, and training.

GAWPS is a non-profit organization sponsored and administered directly by public safety practitioners. Our mission is to create

opportunities that facilitate professional growth through training, education, and mentoring for women in Public Safety in the State of Georgia.

The general purpose of the Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety is to promote the achievements and needs of women in public safety; to provide an environment that encourages growth, professional development and success for women across public safety disciplines through education and networking opportunities; serve as an identifiable resource for public safety leaders seeking solutions for recruiting, retention, career development, and promotional opportunities.





## **People & Places**

## City of Clarkston's Radio Shows Airing on SagalRadio.org

#### **CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNCIL**







Clarkston City Councilman Awet Eyasu served as Host for this episode entitled, "Conversations With Council, Resettlement Agencies & Faith Based Communities", interviewing Allecia Lowery, New American Pathways, Community Outreach AmeriCorps Member and call-in guest, Judy Marx, the first Executive Director of Interfaith Community Initiatives, overseeing ICI's World Pilgrims, Atlanta Interfaith Leaders Forum, and Immersion Experiences, programs. This discussion detailed the intersections of resettlement efforts, interfaith opportunities, civic engagement and the role that the City of Clarkston plays in each.









Yterenickia "YT" Bell, Clarkston City Councilwoman, serving as Host for this episode of Conversations With Council, welcomed Carmen Chubb, Deputy Commissioner for Housing at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Deputy Executive Director of Housing for the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority (GHFA), into the studio to discuss and inform listeners about "Housing Affordability in Clarkston". Listen in to learn about programs that can help Clarkston residents and the public at-large, with getting on the path to homeownership and that can also assist with keeping you in your home.

#### **CLARKSTON SPEAKS**









Omatola Gordon-Rose, District 3-5 Chronic Disease Prevention Coordinator, DeKalb County Board of Health, joined Clarkston Speaks Host, Shawanna Qawiy, Dr. Les J. Richmond, Division Director of Community Health and Prevention Services (CHAPS), DeKalb County Board of Health, and Dee Keeton, Registered Nurse and Executive Director, Physician's Care Clinic to discuss "Men's Health, Care & Wellness". Tune into this episode on SagalRadio.org, to learn about diseases, conditions and health issues that are commonly found in men; and to learn of healthcare advances in treatment and prevention.

#### RESTOCKING OF CLARKSTON'S CRYSTAL POND/LAKE









DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond has completed the collaborative efforts to restock Crystal Pond in the city of Clarkston. A total of 1,600 fish have been placed in the pond to replace the fish that were killed in a February 2018 sewage spill. Clarkston's Mayor Ted Terry also lent hands to the restocking of this Clarkston treasure. DeKalb County worked with the Clarkston Shores Association and with representative, Cathy Burroughs to ensure that a promise made was a promise kept.

## **People & Places**

#### **CITY COUNCIL PRE-WORK SESSION MIXERS**

In on-going efforts to increase community and civic engagement, the City of Clarkston are regularly hosting Pre-Work Session Mixers on the last Tuesday of each month, from 6:00PM – 7:00PM, at Clarkston City Hall, 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021.

Clarkston residents, City Council Work Session Stakeholders and the public at-large are invited to mix and mingle with elected officials, City of Clarkston Administrative Staff and influencers, before the regularly scheduled City Council Work Session.

Light to heavy appetizers, are served at every Mixer.



April 24, 2018



May 29, 2018



June 27, 2018







#### **POSITIVE GROWTH'S MULTICULTURAL LUNCHEON**

How do you travel to 13 countries in one hour? With your taste buds! On June 26, Positive Growth's Multicultural Center hosted its 2nd annual Food Festival. Cuisine from 13 countries (Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Kenya, Burma, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Portugal and USA) were featured. Attendees were invited to network, fellowship and to learn more about Positive Growth services that its Multicultural Center offers communities.

#### **FULTON-DEKALB HOSPITAL AUTHORITY INTERNS' SUMMER PROJECT**







ing Renewable Opportunities for Wellness".

College students, participating in the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority internship completed and presented their summer internship project, "The G.R.O.W. Initiative". In partnership with Clarkston's Positive Growth, Inc., these students evaluated the nutritional knowledge and practices of PGI's residents. Among the goals of this project was to foster and put into action "Grow-

On June 22nd, after their presentation, the interns lead PGI residents, staff and volunteers in the installation and planting of a vegetable garden.

Participating students included: Nkosi Cave, Emory University, Claire Monyak, Bucknell University, Cameron Watts, Georgia College and Georgia State University, Jared Wilson, Gwinnett College and Morehouse School of Medicine Fellow, Shamaye Dixon.

Overseeing the project for PGI was Rose Arnold, Program Director. And the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority internship program is managed by Beverly Burks, Director of Community Engagement.



## CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CENTER & RECYCLED PIECES OF ART

One man's trash, becomes pieces of art in Clarkston. Turkey born artist, Baris Karayazgan, known for his oversized sculptures, worked with Clarkston Community Center's STEAM-Plus Summer Camp attendees, using recycled water bottles to create these large-scale pieces of art in the shapes of a giraffe, Stegosaurus, a "Clarkston" tower, go-cart and a robot.

Artist and students, with parents in attendance, debuted their collaborative art pieces during an unveiling reception held at the Clarkston Community Center.



#### **CITY DONATED MILAM PARK LIBRARY**

The City of Clarkston would like to publicly thank Patti Ghezzi for her donation of a small, quaint, for public use library. This library was install in Milam Park by the City's Public Works Department.

## Save The Dates In 2018!



#### **DeKalb Hiring Summer Lifeguards**

DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs is hiring lifeguards for the 2018 swimming season. Applications are open through July.

Pool lifeguard applicants must be 16 or older, have American Red Cross certification or certification from a nationally-recognized aquatics training program and successfully pass a criminal background check. To view available positions or complete an application, visit DeKalb County's job search portal by visiting www.dekalbcountyga.gov, clicking on "How Do I?" and selecting "Apply for Jobs."

For more information, contact LaShanda Davis, public relations specialist, at 404-371-3643

#### Join Chef Lucas Banks at the Clarkston Community Center's Wine & Tapas Festival

Saturday, July 21, 2018

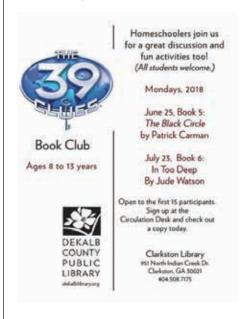
7:00PM - 10:00PM



#### Clarkston Library Presents Book Club

Monday, July 23, 2017

(Contact the library for time and more information.)



#### Clarkston Library Presents Tuesday Movies

Tuesday, July 24, 2017

12:30PM - 3:00PM

(Contact the library for time and more information.)

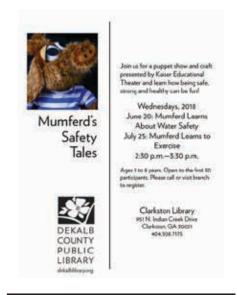


#### Clarkston Library Presents Mumferd Learns to Exercise

Wednesday, July 25, 2017

2:30PM - 3:30PM

(Contact the library for time and more information.)



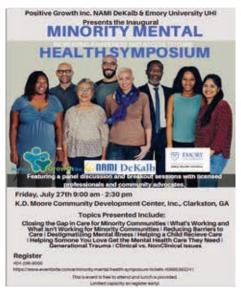
#### Positive Growth & NAMI Minority Mental Health Symposium

K.D. Moore Community Development Center

4007 Church Street, Clarkston 30021

July 27, 2018

9:00AM - 2:30PM



### Save The Dates In 2018!

#### City of Clarkston, PALs Plus & Clarkston First Baptist Church

Summer Basketball League

Tuesdays & Thursdays: June 26th – August 2nd

9:00PM - Until

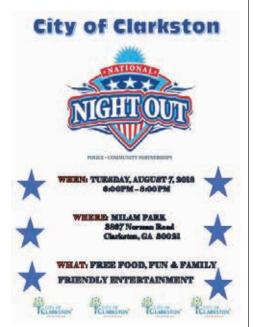


#### City of Clarkston National Night Out

Milam Park

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

6:00PM - 8:00PM



WHAT IS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT?



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes policecommunity partner-

ships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

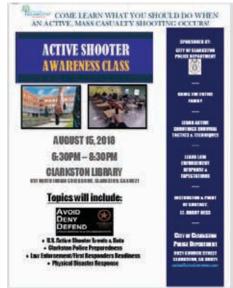
Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas celebrates on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more.

#### Clarkston Police Active Shooter & Violent Intruder Awareness Class

Clarkston Library

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

6:30PM - 8:30PM



#### Fresh on DeK Mobile Farmers Market in Clarkston

Clarkston First Baptist Church

Wednesdays, June 6th – September 19th

12:00PM - 2:00PM



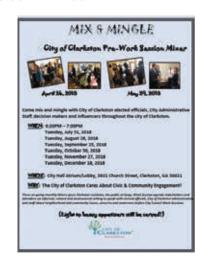
#### City of Clarkston's 2018 Pre-Work Session Mixers Schedule

Fourth Tuesdays of the Month

(Dates are subject to change accordingly.)

Clarkston City Hall

6:00PM - 7:00PM





## Two upscale thrift stores benefiting homeless pets

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E. Smith Heating & Air - 770-422-1900 Premier Indoor Comfort - 770-345-9707

#### **Active Adult Properties**

Soleil Laurel Canyon - 678-710-9291

#### **Flooring**

Enhance Floors & More - 678-293-9974

#### **Home Theater/Automation**

Atlanta Audio & Automation - 404-602-0559

#### **Mountain/Lake Properties**

Lake Arrowhead Realty - 770-720-2700

#### **Outdoor Kitchen/Fireplaces/Gas Logs**

The Mad Hatter - 770-740-8133

#### **Painting**

Painting Plus - 404-382-9988

#### Plumbing

Serv'All - 770-917-1852

#### **Roofing/Gutters/Siding**

IBG. LLC - 770-966-9846

Sentinel Exteriors - 404-647-4073

#### **Tankless Water Heaters**

Premier Indoor Comfort - 770-345-9707