



ONE LAST HURRAH

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH PROMISES ROCKIN' GOOD TIME

If the kids are feeling gloomy about summer's end, quell their blue moods with Dunwoody's Back-to-School Bash, part of the Groovin' on the Green concert series. Program Recreation Supervisor Rachel Waldron says this year's event is the biggest to date, with five concerts at Brook Run Park, each 6-9 p.m.

The Bash on Aug. 13 features live music from the Josh Gilbert Band, local food vendors such as the Atlanta Pizza Truck, giveaways and a new Atlanta Sport and Social Club tailgate area with adult beverages and lawn games. To make the event extra-special for kids, highlights will include face painters, balloon artists and giveaways of items such as beach balls, sunglasses and sweet treats. Families can either bring dinner in a cooler or order from vendors.

Band frontman Josh Gilbert says he's looking forward to returning to Dunwoody's concert series for the third year. The self-described working musician and former choir boy lives with his family in Chattanooga. "My songwriting influences include U2, Coldplay and Muse," he says, "but we play a number of classic covers from The Allman Brothers Band and CCR, too."

Gilbert enjoys watching kids of all ages have fun.



"I remember a couple of cool moments [from prior concerts] with a lot of children dancing in front of the stage. And one kid threw a frisbee at me last year while I was performing, and I caught it and threw it back. That was memorable." ■

dunwoodyga.gov

The American Hydrangea Society's annual garden tour shows five private gardens with colorful hydrangeas, other plants and various landscaping features.

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Get a Taste of Atlanta

Food That Rocks showcases local flavor

The 21st annual Taste of Atlanta is made up of four mini-festivals this year, highlighting different parts of the city and what makes them flavorful. On Aug. 19 and 20, Food That Rocks, located at City Springs in Sandy Springs, will offer ticket-holders unlimited bites from local restaurants including The Select, il Giallo, Kid Cashew/Wood Fire Grill, Chef Rob's Caribbean Cafe and more, plus samples of libations and live musical entertainment.

Chefs, bakers, brewers, sommeliers and mixologists will be on hand for live demonstrations at this 21-and-up event. "Enjoy mouthwatering tastes from the community's best restaurants," says Taste of Atlanta Founder Dale DeSena. "Good food equals good mood!"

Though the setup of the festival is different this year, the goal for Taste of Atlanta is unchanged: to give back to the culinary community and support local restaurants while connecting patrons to their next unforgettable meal. Two local nonprofits designed to assist food service workers and families with food insecurity, Giving Kitchen and Second Helpings Atlanta, will benefit from the event. Tickets are \$95 per person and include both days of the event. *Simply Buckhead* is honored to be a media sponsor. ■

foodthatrocks.org • @foodthatrocksatl



BUZZ

10,000 MANIACS IN SANDY SPRINGS

July 29

visitsandysprings.org

Sing along to "These are Days" and other popular songs from this multi-platinum alternative band. Lawn admission is free, and reserved tables range from \$60 to \$90.

PLEIN AIR ART CLASS AT DUNWOODY NATURE CENTER

Aug. 6

dunwoodynature.org

Artist Sharon Weiss will teach a plein air sketch class from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Bring a chair, sketchpad, graphite pencil, watercolor pencil, ink pen or watercolor set. Weiss will teach composition, light, color and pattern in the presence of natural beauty to ages 14 and up. \$40 for members, \$50 for nonmembers.

THE BIG PEACH SIZZLER 10K/5K

September 5

mcf.org/sizzler.html

Celebrate Labor Day with this sizzlin' summer race supporting cystic fibrosis research. Ideal for runners of any level, the race will follow Peachtree Road from Chamblee through Brookhaven to Buckhead.

Find the Next Masterpiece

U.S. artists congregate at Piedmont Park Arts Festival

If your walls could talk, they would tell you to buy something at this year's Piedmont Park Arts Festival. With approximately 250 artists and crafters

from all over the United States, the two-day festival on Aug. 20 and 21 in Midtown features numerous kinds of media to peruse and purchase, from

painting and photography to glass, wood and metal.

The event is presented by the Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces and supports the Piedmont Park Conservancy's upkeep of the park. "We are very grateful for the ongoing support from the community, artists, vendors and festival-goers year after year," says Festival Founder Randall Fox.

Besides art for purchase, the festival offers live music, artists' demonstrations, a myriad of food options, beverages and play areas for the kids. Bring the whole family—the dog included. Admission is free. ■

piedmontparkartsfestival.com • @artlanta



Photos: K. Tauches