



COLUMBUS
family connection[™]
MUSCOGEE COUNTY

May 2025

MAY Newsletter





The month of May is here, bringing sunshine, blossoms, and a full calendar of celebrations! As we transition deeper into spring, this month offers us the chance to honor important moments and make meaningful connections.

We begin by recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of AAPI communities. We also mark Mental Health Awareness Month, encouraging us all to prioritize well-being and support one another.

Throughout the month, we'll come together to celebrate Mother's Day (May 11), honor our nation's heroes on Memorial Day (May 26), and recognize the importance of education during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5–9). May is also home to Cinco de Mayo (May 5), a vibrant celebration of Mexican culture and heritage.

Whether you're attending local events, spending time with family, or simply enjoying the spring weather, we invite you to stay connected and engaged with everything happening in our community. Let's make this May memorable, together.



CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY



Partner SPOTLIGHT



SERVING THE SOUTHWEST GA AREA:



WHO ARE WE:

Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest Georgia works directly with DECAL licensed programs in a 48-county region working towards a Quality Rated star rating.

Child care programs who achieve a Quality Rated star rating have been evaluated by credentialed early childhood experts and identified as high-quality through a one, two, or three star rating system.

Through targeted coaching, training, and technical assistance, CCR&R of SWGA helps programs achieve their star rating by providing higher quality child care environments and better child/teacher interactions.

SERVICES OFFERED:

- BFTS Approved Trainings related to GELDS, business practices, program development, and content specific for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school age care
- Free Technical Assistance for DECAL licensed child care programs participating in Quality Rated
- Free coaching, consulting, modeling, and mentoring for child care staff.
- PLC opportunities for child care programs
- and MUCH MORE!!!

Contact us:

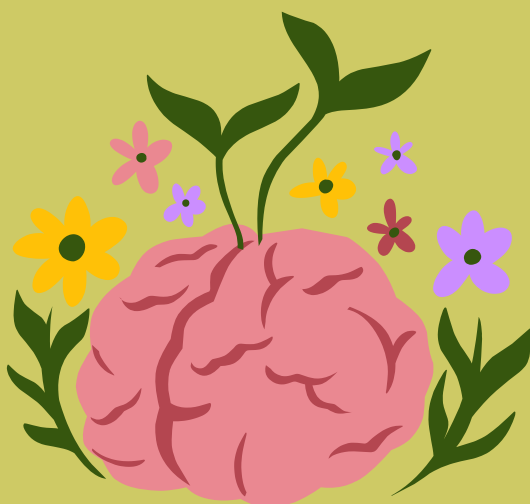
📞 229.500.2895 📍 2429 Gillionville Rd, Albany, GA 31707 🌐 www.asurams.edu/ccrr

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/CCRRSWGA> 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/CCRRSWG>

This project is funded by Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning using the federal Child Care and Development Fund.

Mental health matters

Your mental health matters—every day. Whether you're navigating stress, anxiety, burnout, or just need someone to talk to, you're not alone. If you are in need of support, contact our local resources to help you take the next step toward balance and peace of mind.



New Horizons Behavioral Health
706-596-5500

Pastoral Institute
706-649-6500

The Bradley Center
706-320-3753

Valley Healthcare System
706-987-8336

Georgia Hope
762-261-0162

To contact the Suicide and Crisis
Lifeline, dial

988

**SATURDAY
MAY 17th**
Columbus Public Library
10am-3pm
FREE!



LOOK WHO'S COMING TO COLUMBUS!



Lauren Tarshis

Beloved bestselling creator and author of the *I Survived* series and the *Emma-Jean Lazarus* books.



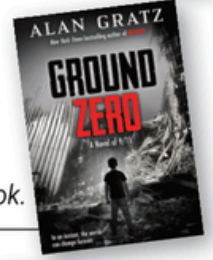
Sherri Duskey Rinker

NYT bestselling author of *Steam Train, Dream Train*, *Silly Wonderful You*, and the *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site* series.



Alan Gratz

#1 NYT bestselling author of action-packed, thought-provoking books for young readers including *Heroes*, *Refugee*, *Ground Zero*, and *Ban This Book*.



Yesenia Moises

The hyper-talented creator of *Stella's Stellar Hair* and illustrator for tennis superstar Serena Williams' children's book *The Adventures of Qai Qai*.



FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT:

- DJ Solo
- Flashback Foto Booth
- Face Painters
- Mama Koku the Storyteller

FEATURED COSTUMED CHARACTERS:

- Curious George
- Bingo and Bluey
- Paddington Bear
- Rainbow Fish

Autographs

Food Vendors

Community Partners



Touch-A-Truck

Festival Bookstore

Entertainers

Craft-O-Mania

Cool Crafts & Fun Inspired by Our Authors



Book Festival

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY LIBRARIES



SIMPLE STEPS GARDEN!

Especially for Infants - Age 5



VISIT cvlga.org OR CALL 706-243-2669 FOR MORE INFORMATION

SAVE THE DATE
THE
COLUMBUS HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A

Mother's Day
COMMUNITY
BABY SHOWER

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Columbus Public Library
3000 Macon Road
Columbus

THE BREASTFEEDING CONNECTION



**RESERVE LA FECHA
EL DEPARTAMENTO
DE SALUD DE COLUMBUS LE INVITA
CORDIALMENTE A**

*un Baby Shower
comunitario por el*
**DÍA DE LAS
MADRES**

EL VIERNES 2 DE MAYO

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*Biblioteca Pública de Columbus
3000 Macon Road
Columbus*

THE BREASTFEEDING CONNECTION



Save the Date



GIFTED APPLICATIONS
Referral Window

Opens:
Monday, May 5, 2025

**Questions? Contact St. Elmo School
for the Gifted at (706)- 748-3115.**

MUSCOGEE.K12.GA.US

COMMUNITY BLOCK *Party*



Get ready to fire up your taste buds and engage with community resources at our unforgettable block party! There will be activities for youth and families.

**SATURDAY,
3 MAY**

**747
WINSTON RD**

**12.00-
2.00 PM**

Call Us
706-223-0650

Visit Our Website
www.theliteracyalliance.org



Youth MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
*Strengthening pathways for treatment, prevention
and lifelong wellness.*



Learn:

- ✓ Mental health concerns among youth
- ✓ Reducing stigma
- ✓ How you can help

Sign up here:



May 13th



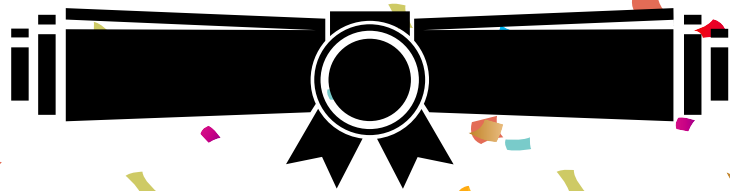
9am - 2:30pm



2100 Comer Ave

Congratulations!

 **class of**
2025



Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have paid off. Wishing you success and joy as you step into your next chapter!





Message From the Director

As we step into the heart of spring, May brings with it longer days, blooming flowers, and a fresh sense of energy in our community. From local events to new initiatives, there's a lot to look forward to this month. Whether you're planting your garden, prepping for graduation, or just enjoying the sunshine, we're excited to share the latest happenings, highlights, and opportunities to connect.

Zoe Hightower