

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



RON CROSS
Commission Chairman

THE MONEY IS IN THE BANK!

Sure you say; similar to hearing my ship is about to come in or the check is in the mail or I will pay you for sure next week. No, but really, the money is the bank.

Last week Mrs. Leanne Reece, Internal Services Director of Columbia County, received a wire transfer in the amount of \$70,100,000.00. This was the proceeds from the General Obligation Bonds authorized by our voters on November 8th to fund a specific list of projects. These bonds were so popular that more than 25 investors bought large amounts, and the entire issue sold out in less than two and a half hours. Since these bonds sold at a premium because of the bond rating of the county, we received seventy million dollars on a sixty million dollar issue. People are paying more than the face value of the bonds because of the reliability. Regardless, the return on these bonds will be 3.2% tax free. Thanks to Mrs. Reece and her staff and County Administrator, Scott Johnson, for their efforts in arranging this sale with our bond attorneys and financial consultants. Our AAA bond rating is a huge part of this successful sale. The public knows that the failure rate of municipal bond issues with a AAA rating is almost zero.

So, what does this mean for our citizens? Initially our staff is investing large portions of this money to earn additional interest until it is needed. We are utilizing

several local financial institutions for this purpose. Secondly, we are in the process of purchasing a new ladder truck for the Fire Department and upgraded software for the Tax Commissioner's computers. We have issued several contracts for park designs and Greenway additions. Attached are concept drawings

for the additions to Patriots Park and the new park area at The Plaza near Evans Towne Center Park. Also, there will be new parks near Lakeside High School and near the Exhibition Center in Grovetown.

The sections of the Greenway from Riverwood to Blanchard Woods Park and from Grovetown to Patriots Park are also in design. Architectural and engineering work on the Performing Arts Center continues with a planned bid date of this fall. The new design of Evans Towne Center Blvd. is also underway in anticipation of the first building of The Plaza beginning by mid-spring. Discussions will start soon for the new Grovetown Library once the city decides on a location. Additional

facilities for the Sheriff's Department are also in this program. WOW! So many things are beginning to happen because of the citizens' willingness to support the desired additions to our already great county.

In addition to bond projects, we are also working on plans for projects included in the 2017-2022 SPLOST program. Some of these projects are the addition to the Justice Center with a parking deck, the Sheriff's



The Plaza Park | Evans, Georgia SW SEAMONWHITESIDE



PATRIOTS PARK CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN WOOD PARTNERS INC. WPI

continued on next page...

...continued from previous page.

Administration Building and dorms at the Detention Center. Those funds, unlike bond proceeds, are received monthly and will take a while to accumulate.

Hopefully, summer and early fall will bring traffic relief to Washington Road and Riverwatch Parkway. Right of way purchases are continuing on the Flowing Wells Road

widening project and design is continuing on Lewiston Road, Fury's Ferry Road, and several intersections.

The County Commission and County Staff thanks you for your continued support and your past, present, and future patience for the many inconveniences that come with growth and prosperity.

REED CREEK INTERPRETIVE CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

For More Info call 706-210-4027 or email reedcreekpark@columbiacountyga.gov



8th Annual Chocolate Festival

Come inside the interpretive center for more chocolate tasting and learn the history of chocolate.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE.

\$5 per person (ages 3 & under free)

Sat., March 11th

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm



Keystone Species: How Wolves Changed Yellowstone

We will look at Yellowstone National Park as a case study in the ecological effects of re-introduction of wolves to the park.

For ages 8+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required:

Members: Free; Non-members: \$2/child

Sat., March 25th 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm



Mom & Me: Story and Craft time for 3-5 year olds

(younger siblings are welcome!)

Bring your curious child to the park for a story and craft. When weather permits we will read our story outdoors and collect natural elements for our craft time. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration required:

Members: Free; Non-members: \$2/child

Mon., March 13th 10 am–10:45 am

Mon., April 24th 10 am–10:45 am



Snake Identification

Special guest speaker Nate Hobbs will teach you how to properly identify snakes in our area and answer questions about these misunderstood animals. You'll get a chance to test your knowledge as we explore the park in search of snakes. For ages 8+.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required:

Members: Free; Non-members: \$2/child

Sat., April 29th 10 am – 11 am



All About Frogs

Join us for this indoor and outdoor program to learn about our local frogs and how we are studying them through a calling survey at Reed Creek. We'll go outdoors to listen for frogs using the calling survey protocol. For ages 5+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration required:

Members: Free; Non-members: \$2/child

Sat., March 18th 8 pm–9 pm



COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S CORNER IRS TELEPHONE SCAM



The IRS has seen a recent increase in local phone scams across the country, with callers pretending to be from the IRS in hopes of stealing money or identities from victims.

These phone scams include many variations, ranging from instances from where callers say the victims owe money or are entitled to a huge refund. Some calls can threaten arrest and threaten a driver's license revocation. Sometimes these calls are paired with follow-up calls from people saying they are from the local police department or the state motor vehicle department.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE SCAMS CAN INCLUDE:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.
- Scammers "spoof" or imitate the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.
- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.

After threatening victims with jail time or a driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

In another variation, one sophisticated phone scam has targeted taxpayers, including recent immigrants, throughout the country. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do: If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue – if there really is such an issue.

It is important to keep in mind the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email or phone to request personal or financial information. DO NOT give out any personal or financial information by any type of electronic communication, such as text messages, social media channels, and e-mail.

THE IRS WILL NOT:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.




Attention all lawn & plant lovers!
HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO ASK YOUR COUNTY AGENT FOR VALUABLE ECO-GARDENING & LAWN CARE TIPS
 "Eco-Lady, Margarete Alligood presents
 "ENVIRONMENT MATTERS" LUNCH & LEARNS
 Featured Speaker: TRIPP WILLIAMS,
 University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Agent
 Date: 4th Wednesdays
 From March 22 through October 25
 Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Age Group: Adults
 Cost: Free...Prizes awarded to citizens that attend five or more sessions!
 Location: Evans Library Café
 Informative & fun
 Registration is required. Seating is limited.
 For Reservations Call Evans Library: 706.863.1946



MARCH

Date	Time	Program	Description	Branch
Wed, March 1	12 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Evans
Fri, March 3	10 AM	Genealogy 101	Learn the basics of genealogical research. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Evans
Fri, March 3	11 AM	Sensory Class	A highly interactive and inclusive literacy focused class designed to help strengthen motor, social, and cognitive skills in children of all ages and abilities. Offered to special needs groups as well. Please call 706-447-7657 for appointment.	Evans
Mon, March 6	4 PM	Young Makers Program	This new Maker Space program is geared especially for children ages 8-12. Kids will learn about science, engineering, and design with hands-on experiences.	Evans
Mon, March 6	4:30 PM	YA Craft Night	Young Adults grades 6-12 make a different craft each month. Registration is required.	Eucler Ck
Mon, March 6	4:30 PM	Super Novas	Children grades 2-5 participate in hands-on activities as they discover their universe.	Eucler Ck
Mon, March 6	6:30 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Evans
Tues, March 7	5:30 PM	Camera: Parts 1, 2, & 3	Get to know your camera in this three-part class. Registration required.	Evans
Weds, March 8 & 15	10 AM-3:30 PM	Computer Boot Camp: Parts 1 & 2	Are computers a mystery? This two-part class is for you. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Evans
Thurs, March 9	1 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Genealogy Club - all ages. No registration required.	Eucler Ck
Thurs, March 9	4 PM	Factionless Fun Teen Book Club	Call 706-556-9795 for details about the March selection.	Harlem
Fri, March 10	11 AM	Walton Options - Life Skills Training Series presented by Alyson Schwartz	Money Management - The goal of this class is to assist consumers in acquiring more advanced money management skills so they can better manage their personal finances and bill payments.	Eucler Ck
Sat, March 11	10 AM	Keep Calm & Coupon On	Keep Calm & Coupon On - Registration is required	Eucler Ck
Fri, March 10	11:30 AM	STEM class: Fractals	Grades 4-12 will learn the about fractals in this hands-on class.	Evans
Suns March 12, 19, & 26	3 PM	Bloggng & Digital Marketing	Learn the 7 steps to create an online business that works!	Evans
Mon, March 13	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Join us to learn the basics then branch out to find your roots!	Evans
Mon, March 13	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Family movie and family fun for everyone. Light refreshments served, no registration is required.	Eucler Ck
Mon, March 13	7 PM	Pub Fiction	This laid-back book club meets at Pizza Central in Evans. The February selection is <i>Night</i> by Eli Wiesel.	Pizza Central, Evans
Mon, March 13th	6 PM	Dolly & Me	Bring your favorite doll and join us for an evening tea full of learning and fun!	Evans
Tues, March 14	4 PM	Teen Guitar Class	Join us for drop-in guitar instructions. We have up to 6 guitars available for use if students do not have one they can bring in, but they cannot take it home with them. This program is for ages 11-18. Registration is required.	Evans
Wed, March 15	4 p.m.	Genealogy Class	Learn how to research your family tree.	Harlem
Thurs, March 16	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Come and join us monthly to create a new craft that you are sure to enjoy.	Eucler Ck
Thurs, March 16	11:30 AM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	The March selection is <i>The Last Bus to Wisdom</i> by Ivan Doig.	Evans
Thurs, March 16	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	We will be discussing <i>Two by Two</i> by Nicholas Sparks	Harlem
Thurs, March 16,	6:30 PM	Estate Planning & Elder Care Planning	Learn to plan for care in your older years and end of life considerations. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Evans
Mon, March 20,	11 AM	Stories & Crafts with Morris Museum	Our friends from the Morris Museum will lead us through stories, songs, and crafts!	Evans
Mon, March 20,	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance while using library equipment including CAD software, development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering equipment, and general electronics tools.	Evans
Mon, March 20,	5:30 PM	Starry Night Storytime	Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed friend and blanket, and settle in for an hour of special stories and activities.	Eucler Ck
Mon, March 20,	6:30 PM	Mon Night Book Discussion	The March selection is <i>Dark Places</i> by Gillian Flynn.	Evans
Wed, March 22,	11:30 AM	Environment Matters Lunch & Learn	Bring your own lunch and learn with the Eco-Lady about how you can impact our area.	Evans Café
Thurs, March 23,	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Adult Book Club - Call the library for our current book selection. Join us for a lively discussion. Book titles for the year are submitted by our members; so you can suggest one of your favorite books.	Eucler Ck
Thurs, March 23,	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance while using library equipment including CAD software, development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering equipment, and general electronics tools.	Evans
Thurs, March 23	4:30 PM	Family Movie Day	Watch a movie with the family and have a little popcorn on us!	Evans
Thurs, March 23	6 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Do you have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.	Evans
Fri, March 24	11 AM	Walton Options - Life Skills Training Series presented by Alyson Schwartz	Emergency Preparedness - The goal of this class is to teach consumers how to identify and be prepared for an emergency and a natural disaster at all times.	Eucler Ck
Mon, March 27	4:30 PM	YA Game Night	YA Games and fun. Registration is required.	Eucler Ck
Tues, March 28	4 PM	Quilt Class	Learn how to make a quilt by learning to do a block a month for the entire year. (Must pre-register)	Harlem
Tues, March 28	4 PM	Teen Guitar Club	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.	Evans
Wed, March 29	11:30 AM	College Funding	Learn tips on preparing to pay for college. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Evans

From the Columbia County Tax Commissioner, Wayne bridges:

Our office, located at 630 Ronald Reagan Dr. Bldg. C in Evans, is presently accepting homestead applications for the current tax year, . The deadline for filing is April 1st. Applications received after that date will be for the following year. Additional detailed information and qualifications are outlined in a brochure which can be viewed on our county website at columbiacountytax.com (Forms) or by calling our office at (706) 261-8299. Office hours are 8am - 4:30pm daily.

For a complete list of library programs, please visit www.gchrl.org

APRIL

Date	Time	Program	Description	Branch
Sun., April 2	2:30 PM	Local Author Group Therapy	Are you a current or aspiring author? Do you need tips, tricks, or just venting about your work? Join us for this fun & supportive group.	Evans Library
Mon., April 3	4 PM	Young Makers Program	This Makerspace program is especially for children ages 8-12. Kids will learn about science, engineering, & design with h&s-on experiences.	Evans Library
Mon., April 3	6:30 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Eucler Ck Library
Tues., April 4	10:30 AM	Fort Gordon Wildlife	Join us to learn about & see local wildlife up close!	Evans Library
Tues., April 4	11 AM	Teddy Bear Picnic	Bring your teddy & join us for a picnic on library grounds!	Evans Library
Wed., April 5	11 AM	Fort Gordon Wildlife	Join us to learn about & see local wildlife up close!	Evans Library
Wed., April 5	12 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Evans Library
Thurs., April 6	2 PM	Art Buffet	Get creative with a buffet of art supplies!	Evans Library
Fri., April 7	11 AM	Sensory Class	A highly interactive & inclusive literacy focused class to help strengthen motor, social, & cognitive skills in children of all ages & abilities. Offered to special needs groups as well. Registration required.	Eucler Ck Library
Fri., April 7	11 AM	Identity Theft	The goal of this class is to educate consumers on how to protect their identity. Registration required.	Eucler Ck Library
Sat., April 8	10 AM	Keep Calm & Coupon On	Have you wondered about saving money with coupons? Join this fun group to share tips & compare ideas.	Evans Library
Mon., April 10	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Join us to learn the basics then branch out to find your roots!	Eucler Ck Library
Mon., April 10	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Family movie & family fun for everyone. Light refreshments served, no registration is required.	Pizza Central, Evans
Mon., April 10	7 PM	Pub Fiction	This laid-back book club meets at Pizza Central in Evans. The April selection is <i>A Man Called Ove</i> by Fredrik Backman.	Evans Library
Tues., April 11	10:30 AM	Baby Explorers	Play builds early language skills! Bring your baby to explore!	Evans Library
Tues., April 11	4 PM	Teen Guitar Class	Drop-in guitar instructions. We have 6 guitars available for use, but they cannot take it home with them. Ages 11-18. Registration is required.	Evans
Wed., April 12 & 19	10 AM-3:30 PM	Computer Boot Camp: Parts 1 & 2	Are computers a mystery? This two-part class is for you. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Eucler Ck Library
Thurs., April 13	1 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Whether you're an experienced genealogist or just learning to find your roots, this club has something for everyone.	Eucler Ck Library
Fri., April 14	12:30 PM	Homeschool STEM Class: Mission Possible	This interactive session presents basic cryptanalytic concepts & focuses on problem-solving techniques with a lot of teamwork. Registration required.	All Branches
Sun., April 16	All Day	Libraries Closed for Easter	All Columbia County Libraries are closed for Easter.	Evans Library
Mon., April 17	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance while using library equipment including CAD software, development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering equipment, & general electronics tools.	Evans Library
Mon., April 17	6:30 PM	Mon. Night Book Discussion	The April selection is <i>The Last Painting of Sara de Vos</i> by Dominic Smith.	Evans Library
Tues., April 18	5:30 PM	Microsoft Word 101	Learn the basics of Microsoft Word. Registration is required.	Eucler Ck Library
Thurs., April 20	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Intro to Quilling- an art form that uses strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, & glued together to create decorative designs. Registration required.	Evans Library
Thurs., April 20	11:30 AM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	The April selection is <i>Commonwealth</i> by Ann Patchett.	Evans Library
Thurs., April 20	4:30 PM	Earth Day Party	Join us to celebrate Earth Day!	Evans Library
Thurs., April 20	5:30 PM	Microsoft Powerpoint 101	Learn the basics of Microsoft Powerpoint. Registration is required.	Evans Library
Fri., April 21	10 AM	Genealogy: Immigration & Naturalization	Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 for details & registration.	Eucler Ck Library
Fri., April 21	11 AM	Community Resources	The goal of this class is to educate consumers about the different resources out in the community. Registration required.	Evans Library
Fri., April 21	1 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Do you have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.	Evans Library
Sun., April 23	3:30 PM	Estate Planning & Elder Care Planning	Learn to plan for care in your older years & end of life considerations. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Eucler Ck Library
Mon., April 24	4:30 PM	Family Game Night	Join us for games for the whole family!	Evans Library
Tues., April 25	4 PM	Teen Guitar Club	Meet to discuss & share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.	Evans Library
Tues., April 25	5:30 PM	Microsoft Excel 101	Learn the basics of Microsoft Excel. Registration is required.	Evans Library
Wed., April 26	11:30 AM	Environment Matters Lunch & Learn	Bring your lunch & learn with the Eco-Lady about how you can impact our area.	Eucler Ck Library
Thurs., April 27	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	The April selection is <i>A Stolen Life</i> by Jaycee Dugard.	Evans Library
Thurs., April 27	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance while using library equipment including CAD software, development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering equipment, & general electronics tools.	

All programs are subject to change. Call your local branch for details. Evans: 706-863-1946 Eucler Ck: 706-556-0594 Harlem: 706-556-9795

For a complete list of library programs, please visit www.gchrl.org

CARREERBUILDER.COM PRESENTS

ROCK FORE! DOUGH

TICKETS
\$30 IN ADVANCE
\$40 DAY OF SHOW
100's and UNDER GET IN FREE

CLUB DRIVE FOR SINGH H
FORE! DOUGH

APRIL 4, 2017 EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK

LADY ANTEBELLUM AND DARIUS RUCKER
KIP MOORE BETHANY AND THE SOUTHSIDE BOYS

TICKETS ROCKFOREDOUGH.COM
AUGUSTA AREA KROGER STORES

The First Tee
Augusta

Adopt Love & Luck

Saturday
MARCH 11
11-2PM

Columbia County
Animal Services
1940 William Few Pkwy

Hosted By
Dog Networking Agents

Ol' Blue Eyes

featuring
Mark Randisi

"I thought I was listening to a Frank Sinatra recording."
— Andrea Bocelli

Saturday, March 4, 2017
7:30 pm

JBH Performing Arts Theater
Evans Library

For more info:
www.augustaamusements.com

Thursday
March 16, 2017
7:30 pm

What's Going On

The Marvin Gaye Experience
featuring
Brian Owens

JBH Performing Arts Theater
Evans Library

For more info:
www.augustaamusements.com

GELTIC TENORS

Tuesday
March 14, 2017
7:30 pm

JBH Performing Arts Theater
Evans Library

For more info:
www.augustaamusements.com

SPRING 2017 CALENDAR COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY EVENTS

JOIN US!
WHETHER YOU'RE A FAN OF GREAT FOOD, LOVE GOOD MUSIC, OR JUST ENJOY GETTING OUTSIDE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS...WE'VE GOT AN EVENT FOR YOU!

MARCH

25TH - ART OF THE OYSTER
A NIGHT FULL OF MUSIC, FOOD & ARTS
@ COLUMBIA COUNTY AMPHITHEATER
4PM-8PM

APRIL

7TH - BLUES, BREWS & BBQ FEAT. RAE & THE ROYAL PEACOCKS
FRIDAY AFTERNOON FULL OF BBQ, BLUES MUSIC, AND CRAFT BEER AT COLUMBIA COUNTY AMPHITHEATER
15TH - EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE
JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF EASTER EGG HUNTS, PRIZES, MUSIC & MORE!
10AM-1PM @ EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK

Blues Brews BBQ

21ST - BLUES, BREWS & BBQ FEAT. SPEAKEASY
FRIDAY AFTERNOON FULL OF BBQ, BLUES MUSIC, AND CRAFT BEER AT COLUMBIA COUNTY AMPHITHEATER
6PM-9PM

MAY 12

THE ULTIMATE MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT
@ EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK
THE TEMPTATIONS REVIEW FEATURING DENNIS EDWARDS TOGETHER WITH THE O'JAYS
[TICKETS@TICKETMASTER.COM](mailto:tickets@ticketmaster.com)

5TH JUNE

SUMMER BEACH BLAST
FEAT. A1A & PIRATE FLAG BAND
@EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK

17TH

RUBBER DUCK DERBY
BENEFITTING UNITED WAY OF THE CSRA
LOCATION TBA

COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY EVENTS

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
@COLUMBIACOUNTYEVENTS**