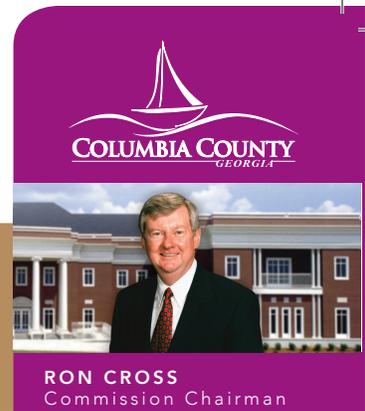


# ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

## COMMITTEES... NECESSARY EVIL OR JUST NECESSARY?



Every year, at this time, the commission is faced with appointments and/or reappointments of people to the various committees that contribute to the functioning of county government. Some people volunteer, and some are drafted because of their expertise in a particular field. The Board of Commissioners has four committees where each district commissioner is chair of one committee and is vice-chair of another. I, as chairman, serve on all four committees as the member. The vast majority of county business is decided in committees and is placed on the consent or debate agenda for commission meeting. Of course, it takes a unanimous vote in committee to be placed on consent, and any commissioner can change any consent item to debate if desired. These committees are where most county business is conducted and allows us to have shorter, more productive commission meetings. The public is invited to all committee and commission meetings and encouraged to speak if they have an interest in any topic.

Other committees can make recommendations to the commission, but the final decision is voted on by the Board of Commissioners. The effectiveness of committees has long been an item of discussion. There are probably as many jokes about committees as there are committees. Probably the best known is the anonymous quote that states "a camel looks like a horse that was planned by a committee" or some variation thereof. Arthur Goldberg lamented that "If Columbus had an advisory committee, he would probably still be at the dock". Milton Berle quipped "a committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours."

Actually, committees are an important part of county government. They bring ideas and concepts that are new to the staff and elected officials. They see things in the community that we do not see. They bring experiences to the table, that because of location or involvement, we do not experience. Granted, some committees can get to be boring and unproductive at

times, but other times can be very fruitful. Along this line, John Stevenson remarked "the difference between a good committee member and a bad committee member is that a good one sleeps upright and a bad one sleeps horizontally".

The purpose of all of this somewhat humorous and sometimes serious commentary is to invite you to consider volunteering to be on a county committee or board. There are many options for you to review. If you like trees, maybe the Greenspace Advisory Board or the Tree Advisory Board is for you; special events, maybe the Community Events Committee; county recreation, maybe the Recreation Board; books, maybe the Library Board of Trustees; animals, maybe the Animal Services Advisory Board. There is something for everyone. We also have opportunities dealing with county infrastructure like the Drainage Basin Advisory Board; the Historic Property Preservation Advisory Committee, and the Augusta Regional Transportation study Citizen Advisory Committee. Please remember that all of these committees may not have vacancies today, but openings occur regularly, and your name could be put on a list of those desiring to serve.



If you have any desire to contribute your experiences and talents to a Columbia County Committee or Board, please contact your District Commissioner or leave your name with our County Clerk, and we will notify you of any opportunities and vacancies.

Regardless of the general ridicule of committees and boards, they do serve an important purpose, and that is to get more people involved. Another committee joke goes as follows: "How many committee members does it take to change a light bulb? This topic was resumed from last week's discussion, but is incomplete pending resolution of some items. It will be continued next week. Meanwhile..."

Remember, you could be the committee member that finally changes that light bulb!



# COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S CORNER

**The Columbia County Sheriff's Office has been accepting text-to-9-1-1 service for Columbia County since 2016.** Wireless customers subscribing to Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile can now send a text (up to 140 characters) to 9-1-1 in an emergency. Text to 9-1-1 should only be used in an emergency situation, when placing a call is not possible. This system will allow an emergency response for callers that are deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech impaired, or when speaking out loud would jeopardize the safety of the caller.



This is a migration toward the next generation of 9-1-1 capabilities. By utilizing Comtech as a vendor and integrating with existing equipment, Sheriff Whittle has provided this service with no additional cost to taxpayers. July, 2015 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Americans

with Disabilities Act, and this service should prove beneficial to those that are speech or hearing impaired.

**If there is an emergency and you are unable to make a call, remember these steps:**

- Don't text and drive
- In the first text message send the location and type of emergency.
- Text in simple words. Send a short text message without abbreviations or slang.
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.

**Text-to-9-1-1 is ONLY for emergencies.**

- It is a crime to text or call 9-1-1 with a false report. Prank-texters can be located.

**The Text-to-9-1-1 service may have challenges.**

- A text or data plan is required to place a text-to-9-1-1
- As with all text messages, messages to 9-1-1 may take longer to receive, may get out of order, or may not be received at all.
- Photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1 at this time.
- Text-to-9-1-1 cannot include more than one person.

**Do not send your emergency text to anyone other than 9-1-1.**

- Voice Calls to 9-1-1 are still the best and fastest way to contact 9-1-1

**Remember, Text-to-9-1-1 service is not available everywhere in Georgia and the U.S.**



## COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesdays, February 6th and 20th, 6:00pm  
Tuesdays, March 6th and 20th, 6:00pm

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
MANAGEMENT & INTERNAL SERVICES AND  
DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesday, February 13th, 8:30am

**PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES AND COMMUNITY  
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Appling Courthouse, Appling, GA  
Tuesday, February 27th, 8:30am

**MANAGEMENT & INTERNAL SERVICES AND  
DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesday, March 13th, 8:30am

**PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES AND COMMUNITY  
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesday, March 27th, 8:30am

**COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Thursdays February 1st and 15th, 6:00pm  
Thursdays March 1st and 15th, 6:00pm

# THE ENVIRONMENT MATTERS 2018 BROWN BAG LUNCH & LEARN

Last year the Lunch and Learn "Environment Matters" program was a big hit. The educational sessions focused on ways everyone can protect our precious water resources. Attendees of the 2017 sessions learned about the impact of rainwater and its ability to pick up pollutants from hard and impervious surfaces on its journey towards storm drains, which directly lead to fresh water resources. Attendees also learned that greenery, grass and plantings act as a filter and help reduce pollutants from entering our vital natural waters. Sessions were filled with valuable soil and turfgrass lessons from our County Agriculture Agent, Tripp Williams.

In addition, the program had "surprise mystery guest" speakers from many county departments who shared what their jobs entail. The information they shared was well received by citizens who overwhelmingly requested to hear more from employees in future sessions. One of the feedback surveys expressed this sentiment well: "It was very interesting, comforting and eye opening what goes on daily in various departments and behind the scenes. We think other people would enjoy hearing from the experts on how they proactively look out for the environment and safety of people in our area...we had no idea. Please continue the sessions and the workers visiting!"

Your feedback was helpful in planning the 2018 program. In addition to Tripp's excellent courses a variety of county workers will share and demonstrate what their team duties involve and how those specific roles assist our thriving community! Added will be occasional mystery guests presenting recreational water interests.

We look forward to hosting the 2018 Lunch and Learns and welcome your participation. Our informative sessions are presented in a relaxed atmosphere. Some people attend partial sessions due to various lunch schedules. We welcome you to come in at any segment. We encourage pre-registration; however, will welcome walk-ins.



**WHO** Columbia County Environmental and Storm-water Departments representing the Engineering Division, along with UGA Extension Columbia County Agricultural Agent Tripp Williams, and Georgia Master Naturalist Margaret Alligood.

**WHAT** Informative, positive, upbeat presentations on environmental and water based topics of interest. Time to ask for valuable tips. Simple snacks provided; pack a brown bag lunch if preferred.

**WHEN** February through August 2018 (third Wednesday of the month, 11:30-12:30)

**WHERE** Evans Library Meeting Rooms B&C (7022 Evans Town Center Blvd in Evans)

**HOW** Call Evans Library Reference at 706.863.1946, extension 4

**FIRST SESSION IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018, 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

**FREE**

**QUESTIONS?** Email Georgia Master Naturalist, Margaret Alligood, at [environmentalservices@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:environmentalservices@columbiacountyga.gov).

*Columbia County Animal Services*  
**My F L U F F Y**  
*Valentine*

**Saturday  
February 10th, 2018  
11:00am until  
2:00pm**

Join us along with the  
Dog Networking Agents  
for another PAWSome  
Saturday Adoption Event!

Find a love like no other!

**RESCUE**  
**ADOPT**

1940 William Few Parkway  
Grovetown, GA 706-541-4077

## FEBRUARY 2018

Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Mon	10 AM-2 PM	AARP Tax Aide	Eucler Ck Library	Free tax preparation assistance. Bring all 2017 tax documents.
Mon, Wed, & Thurs	10:15 AM	Two-dollers Class	Evans Library	A fun program to learn and practice new & engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Mon, Wed, & Thurs	11 AM	Preschool Class	Evans Library	A fun program to learn and practice new & engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Tues, Thurs, and Sat	10 AM-2 PM	AARP Tax Aide	Evans Library	Free tax preparation assistance. Bring all 2017 tax documents.
Tues	10:30 AM-12:30 PM	ESL	Evans Library	Free and open to adults whose first language is not English. Come and practice conversational English with us!
Tues (except March 20)	10:30 AM	Child Enrichment	Harlem Library	Each week we will read stories and do crafts geared to help children fall in love with reading.
Tues	10:15 AM	Baby & Me: Crawlers	Evans Library	Join us for singing, reading, bouncing, playing, and fun! Please preregister.
Tues	10:30 AM	Baby & Me	Eucler Ck Library	This special class is designed especially for babies under two.
Tues	11 AM	Baby & Me: Walkers	Evans Library	Join us for singing, reading, bouncing, playing, and fun! Please preregister.
Tues	4:15 PM	Child Enrichment	Eucler Ck Library	Stories, songs, dancing and the coolest crafts around. Registration required.
Wed	10:15 AM	Baby & Me: Crawlers	Evans Library	Join us for singing, reading, bouncing, playing, and fun! Please preregister.
Wed	10:30 AM	Child Enrichment	Eucler Ck Library	Stories, songs, dancing and the coolest crafts around. Registration required.
Wed	11 AM	Baby & Me: Walkers	Evans Library	Join us for singing, reading, bouncing, playing, and fun! Please preregister.
Thurs	4:30 PM	Afternoon Adventures	Evans Library	A fun program to learn and practice new & engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills.
Thurs, February 1	4-6 PM	Teen Advisory Board	Evans Library	Wrap books for Blind Date with a Book, have fun and get volunteer credit at the Teen Advisory Board.
Thurs, February 1	5:30 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Harlem Library	Have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.
Thurs, February 1	5:30-7:30 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Evans Library	Bring your own projects - crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc and socialize with others.
Fri, February 2	11 AM	Sensory Class	Evans Library	Interactive stories, games, songs, and activities for children and caregivers of all abilities. 3+. Registration required.
Sun, February 4	2:30-4:30 PM	Local Author Group Therapy	Evans Library	Current or aspiring author? Need tips, tricks, or just venting about your work? Join this fun and supportive group.
Mon, February 5	2 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	Harlem Library	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.
Mon, February 5	4:5-30 PM	Young Makers Program	Evans Library	Geared for children 8-12 to learn about science, engineering, and design with hands-on experiences.
Mon, February 5	4:30 PM	Super Novas Club	Eucler Ck Library	Join us for a visit from GBI forensics.
Mon, February 5	6:30 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	Evans Library	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.
Tues, February 6	2 PM	Tape Town	Evans Library	Ages 2+. Classroom B/C. No registration. *Bring your own toy cars for this event. Only a limited number available.*
Tues February 6, 13, & 20	5:30 PM	Chess	Evans Library	Join us for a three-part
Tues, February 6	5:30 PM	Teen Crafternoon	Harlem Library	Join us for a craft just for teens. Call 706-650-5009 for registration and more information.
Wed, February 7	12-1 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	Evans Library	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.
Wed, February 7	7-9 PM	An Evening with Rebecca Skloot & the Lacks Family	Evans Library	Register at <a href="http://henriettalacksevans.eventbrite.com">henriettalacksevans.eventbrite.com</a> .
Thurs, February 8	10:30 AM	Estate Planning & Elder Care	Evans Library	Learn keys to plan for your retirement. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Thurs, February 8 & 22	10:30 AM	Crochet Class	Harlem Library	Learn new crochet techniques every month. Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Thurs, February 8	1 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Eucler Ck Library	Whether an experienced genealogist or just learning to find your roots, this club has something for everyone.
Thurs, February 8	1:30-3:30 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Evans Library	Have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.
Thurs, February 8	4:5-30 PM	Teen Advisory Board	Evans Library	Help decide what programs to offer this year while getting volunteer credit. Now with snacks!
Thurs, February 8	6 PM	Adult Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc.
Fri, February 9	11:30 AM	Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's Disease	Evans Library	Learn about age-related memory loss and dementia and what to do if you have signs of Alzheimer's.
Mon, February 12	2 PM	Genealogy Club	Evans Library	Join us to learn the basics then branch out to find your roots!
Mon, February 12	4:30 PM	Teen Craft: DIY Cards	Evans Library	Join us to make custom Valentine's Day cards for your loved ones.
Mon, February 12	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Eucler Ck Library	Join us for movie fun and light refreshments for the whole family.
Mon, February 12	7-9 PM	Pub Fiction Book Club	Pizza Central	The February selection is <i>The Weight of This World</i> by David Joy.
Tues, February 13 & 27	3 PM	Open Sewing	Harlem Library	Bring your sewing projects and use our machines. Call 706-650-5009 to register.

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](http://www.gchrl.org)

## FEBRUARY 2018

Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Tues, February 13	4 PM	Teen Guitar Class	Evans Library	Six guitars available for use, but they cannot be taken home. Ages 11-18. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Tues, February 13	6 PM	Young Authors	Evans Library	Book-writing and idea-sharing event for aspiring young authors! Story prompts, snacks, and welcoming environment to share creativity. No registration. Children's classroom. Grades 1-5.
Tues, February 14 & 21	10:30 AM-3:30 PM	Computer Boot Camp	Evans Library	Are computers a mystery? This two-part class is for you. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Wed, February 14	2-4 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Euclhee Ck Library	Bring your own projects - crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc and socialize with others.
Wed, February 14	2:30 PM	Valentine Rock Painting Class	Harlem Library	Join us to make special Valentine rocks for your sweetheart. Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Thurs, February 15	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Euclhee Ck Library	Two-part class to learn to make book boxes. Registration and supplies required. Class is 1.5 hours long.
Thurs, February 15	11:30 AM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	Evans Library	The February selection is <i>Moonglow</i> by Michael Chabon.
Thurs, February 15	1 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Euclhee Ck Library	Have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.
Thurs, February 15	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	Harlem Library	The February selection is <i>The Love Letter</i> by Cathleen Schine.
Fri, February 16	10 AM	Bingo for Books	Harlem Library	Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Fri, February 16	6 PM	Family Forts Night	Evans Library	Bring blankets and flashlights to this after-hours family program! Fort building, group reading, games, playing, and fun for all ages. Library will close at 5pm and reopen at 6pm. Other services will not be provided at this time.
Mon, February 19	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	Teens use CAD software, development software, 3D scanner & printer, soldering equipment, electronics tools..
Mon, February 19	4:30 PM	Otaku-Rabu Anime Club	Euclhee Ck Library	Screening this season's most popular anime. No registration required.
Mon, February 19	6:30 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Evans Library	The February selection is <i>The Alice Network</i> by Kate Quinn.
Tues, February 20	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Evans Library	Bring friends, watch <i>Cars 3</i> and eat popcorn!
Wed, February 21	1-3 PM	Costume Jewelry: Trash or Treasure	Euclhee Ck Library	A brief history of costume jewelry. Registration required.
Thurs, February 22	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Euclhee Ck Library	The February selection is <i>Small Great Things</i> by Jodi Picoult.
Thurs, February 22	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	Teens use CAD software, development software, 3D scanner & printer, soldering equipment, electronics tools..
Thurs, February 22	5:30 PM	Google School	Harlem Library	Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Sat, February 24	10 AM-12 PM	Minecraft Mini-Camp: Intro to Programming	Evans Library	Use kid-friendly block coding language called Scratch, and industry grade programming languages like Python and C on a mini-computer called Raspberry Pi! Register at <a href="http://www.educode.io/register">www.educode.io/register</a> .
Mon, February 26	4:30 PM	Family Game Night	Euclhee Ck Library	Join us for games for the whole family. No registration required.
Tues, February 27	4 PM	Teen Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.
Tues, February 27	5:30-7:30 PM	Intro to Microsoft Excel	Evans Library	Learn the basics of Microsoft Excel. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Wed, February 28	10:15 AM	Music and Dance Play Café	Evans Library	Join us for instrument making fun! This drop in event will be held in lieu of our two-dlder and preschool storytime. No registration.
Wed, February 28	12-2 PM	Bookkeeping, Payroll, and Business Financial Seminar	Evans Library	Learn about the financial side of business. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Wed, February 28	2-4 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Euclhee Ck Library	Bring your own projects - crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc and socialize with others.

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

For a complete list of library programs, please visit [www.gchrl.org](http://www.gchrl.org)



## MILITARY MEMORIAL WALL: BE A PART

Honor our servicemen and women by honoring their service to our country.



For a one-time fee, dedicate a plaque to be displayed on the Columbia County Military Memorial Wall behind the Evans Library. Please contact Stephanie Kingdom for more information:

**706.312.7131**

[skingdom@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:skingdom@columbiacountyga.gov)



VISIT US TODAY! [www.ColumbiaCountyGa.gov](http://www.ColumbiaCountyGa.gov)

# UPCOMING EVENTS:



As seen on **CMT**

**Southern Fried Chicks**  
CAGE-FREE  
COMEDY TOUR

**Saturday, February 17, 2018**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT [AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM](http://AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM) OR CALL 706-726-0366. ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:30 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE NOTED.

THE **BLACK MARKET TRUST**

"...Virtuosic playing, beautiful harmonies, and fun interaction with the crowd" — **PBS**



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT [AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM](http://AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM) OR CALL 706-726-0366. ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:30 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**OlateDogs™**  
Winners of AMERICA'S GOT TALENT



**Friday, March 9, 2018**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT [AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM](http://AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM) OR CALL 706-726-0366. ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:30 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**6th ANNUAL**  
**ETCP** **SPRING FEST**

**Saturday, March 10th**

Mark your calendar for the 6th Annual Metro Spirit ETCP Springfest at the Lady A

**Craft Beer • Live Music • Great Food**  
**Noon-6 | FREE ADMISSION | Family Friendly**