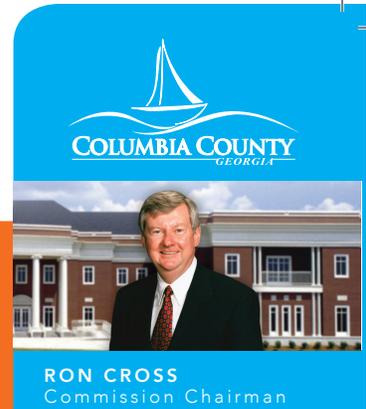


# ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

## WHAT IS THIS CYBER STUFF??? AND HOW ARE WE ALL INVOLVED?



**CYBER.** You hear it mentioned everywhere; cybersecurity, cyberwar, cyberbanking, cyberbully, cybergroup, cybercurrency, cyberwarrior, cyber threats, etc. What does it mean? How does it involve the citizens of Columbia County and the entire region?

In essence, the word "Cyber" is everything that relates to the internet including everything that is digitally connected to it. It is found in the vast array of components, jobs, and activities that make up our modern world and impacts each of us daily. Consider your time on social

In 2003, the Alliance for Fort Gordon was established to advocate for Fort Gordon and protect the community's interest during the 2005 BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). After not only saving the Fort but also expanding its missions, the Alliance was able to identify new initiatives to further Fort Gordon's impact on the community. The Alliance duties are funded by contributions from local governments, commercial stakeholders, and private citizens.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the late Representative Charlie Norwood for his part in encouraging all local



## FORT GORDON CYBER DISTRICT

media, your banking operations, your credit cards, your smart phone, your satellite radio, streaming TV, personal computers, etc. Often we hear of a cyber breach where thousands of people have their personal information "hacked" from some information source, usually a bank or retail operation. Even if you have avoided personal involvement with the internet, your medical and financial records are probably stored digitally; your tax and property records are scanned and stored in some remote "cloud". Today it is impossible to avoid some connection of "cyber" into our lives, and it is totally impossible for our governments to function without the cyber world.

The overall function of cyber is good and very progressive and allows us to know things and do things that are impossible without the tremendous innovations of the last fifty or so years. However, just as highly qualified people are working daily to improve our everyday cyber lives, others are working just as hard to find ways to intercept and steal data for personal gain and power. Who is to stop this? Who are the biggest players in this current "cyber world" battlefield? Well, they are right here in our own back yard.

leaders to form this organization. It has been my honor to be a founding member of the group.

The remainder of this article this month was written for us by Dr. Tom Clark, Executive Director of the Alliance and GB Cazes of the consulting group Metova, Inc., to give us firsthand information into the history, evolution and operations of this group. Dr. Clark, retired Army Command Sergeant Major and the founding Executive Director, retired Army Colonel Thom Tuckey, have done an excellent job for the Alliance.

In 2016, after evaluating the ever-changing cybersecurity landscape, the Alliance evolved its mission to promote, coordinate and advocate for the Fort Gordon Cyber District, to stimulate investment in cyber growth, and to capitalize on opportunities for the benefit of all. The Alliance serves as the lead organization in the establishment of the Fort Gordon Cyber District as the nationally recognized destination for cyber work, life, and play by 2020.

In 2017, the Alliance implemented a multi-faceted approach to ensure a successful implementation of its

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vision. The Alliance sought out to brand the CSRA region to attract nationwide attention. Leveraging many of the regional assets within the CSRA, and the announcement of the US Army Cyber Command relocation to the region, the Fort Gordon Cyber District was created and officially announced at the Augusta TechNet conference in August 2017.

The Fort Gordon Cyber District represents a two-state, seven-county regional economic development and attraction initiative that supports both the defense and private sector technology, innovation, and growth. Centered around the U.S. Army's new national cyber headquarters at Fort Gordon, the region is booming with opportunity for technological and economic expansion. Columbia County is following suit and is rapidly ramping up computer science education initiatives and bolstering the local community to accommodate for all of the excitement that is taking place in this friendly Southern region.

The biggest emerging player in America's cyber technology industry, the Fort Gordon Cyber District, is an exciting combination of technological innovation, education and quality of life. The unique, welcoming Southern culture combined with the advanced technological opportunities in the area has created the ideal environment for live, work, learn and play.

The Alliance's plan capitalizes on cyber attributes currently residing in the region, as well as those being relocated. The approach begins with marketing the region for work-live-learn-play qualities within the Cyber District, promotes and creates a regional innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, develops an experienced and talented local workforce in cyber and IT related fields, organically grows a knowledge-based workforce through educational advancement in cyber starting in K12 institutions, as well as advocates with local, state and federal assets to bring awareness to the District.

To further support a national brand and increase local awareness, the Alliance has implemented a robust marketing and communications plan. Creating the world class **FortGordonCyberDistrict.com** website provides a single platform to promote the various qualities the region has to offer for work-live-learn-play. In addition, the Alliance deployed social media campaigns on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. The Cyber District can be followed at **Fort Gordon Cyber District** on Facebook and LinkedIn and **@CyberDistrictFG** on Twitter and Instagram.

Through the efforts by the Alliance and their advisors, the Alliance has been successful in establishing relationships with local assets and hosting innovation and entrepreneurial events throughout the Cyber District. The Alliance for Fort Gordon and The Clubhgou.se have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate, promote and foster an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Alliance has hosted multiple pitch contests, including the G60 pitch contest and IdeaFame Live. To date, the Alliance has hosted over 150 attendees and over forty-five pitch ideas by local startups with \$4,000 in prize money awarded. In addition, the Alliance is hosting a quarterly training program, Veteran Venture Leaders at Fort Gordon. The program has been established to provide lean startup best practices to transitioning military members who are considering or interested in starting small businesses in the region.

Understanding the shortcomings in the region to support the current needs and future needs of a cyber workforce talent pool, the Alliance has established a Workforce Committee to address the demands within the region. The Workforce Committee is actively creating and implementing multiple programs to identify the requisite training requirements and road map for our future cyber employees. We will review the efforts of this and other committees in the next month's letter.



**REC TEC GRILLS** **COLUMBIA COUNTY EVENTS SERIES**

**Saturday, March 24**  
**10AM-2PM**  
**Columbia County Amphitheater**  
**(behind the Evans Library)**  
**Mix and mingle with your favorite characters and princesses!**

**Character Par-TEA**

**Park Pass holders are eligible for reserved Character Par-TEA seating. Cookies and drinks included with Park Pass Reservation.**

**\$5 admission at gate. Children under 2 are free**



**all in for miller**  
**m**  
**#nvrqt**

**benefit concert feat.**  
**KELLIE PICKLER**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
**Evans Towne Center Park**  
**Gates open at 5PM**



**Tickets available at [evanstowncenterpark.com](http://evanstowncenterpark.com) for \$10**

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



# REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Taxpayers may select one of several exemptions to save money on their real property tax. The Tax Commissioner's office accepts Homestead Applications year-round (excluding holidays). For a homestead exemption to be applied to the current year the application must be submitted by April 1st of the current year.

**APPLY AT:** 630 Ronald Reagan Dr, Building C,  
2nd Floor, Evans, GA 30809



## **REGULAR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (S1) \$2,000 FROM ASSESSED VALUE.**

The homestead of each resident of this state actually occupied by the owner as a residence on January 1 of qualifying year shall be exempted from all ad valorem taxation for state, county and school purposes not to include taxes to retire county and school bond indebtedness nor taxes levied by municipalities. The exemption remains as long as the residence is actually occupied by the owner as primary residence. The exemption shall not exceed \$2,000. This exemption automatically renews as long as no change occurs to the deed or ownership.

## **AGE 62 (L3) - \$40,000 FROM ASSESSED VALUE FOR COUNTY AND SCHOOL.**

Homeowner must be 62 years of age by January 1st in year of application, and net taxable income of both spouses cannot exceed \$15,000. To qualify for this exemption, provide proof of income (Georgia & Federal Tax Returns), date of birth, and social security number.

## **LOCAL SCHOOL - AGE 70 - NO INCOME LIMIT (L6) - LOCAL SENIOR CITIZEN SCHOOL TAX EXEMPTION.**

Homeowners who are 70 years of age, or older, on or before January 1 of the year in which application

for exemption is made, can apply for the homestead exemption from Columbia County School ad valorem taxes, including taxes to pay interest on and to retire school bonded indebtedness. This exemption applies to 100% on the home and not more than three contiguous acres immediately surrounding the residence. This exemption automatically renews each year as long as no deed changes occur. Proof of date of birth is required (HB 1735).

## **DISABLED VETERANS (S5) - \$77,307 FROM ASSESSED VALUE.**

A letter from the Veterans Administration stating that the veteran has a 100% Service Connected Disability is required to qualify for this exemption. To continue receiving this benefit, a letter from the Veterans Administration updating the disability information is required every 3 years.

## **TOTAL & PERMANENT DISABILITY (L5) - \$40,000 FROM ASSESSED VALUE.**

An affidavit from two physicians describing the disability is required at the time of application. Net taxable income of both spouses cannot exceed \$15,000. Proof of income (Georgia & Federal Tax Returns), date of birth, and social security number are also required.

## **SURVIVING SPOUSE OF FIREFIGHTER OR PEACE OFFICER (SG) 100% FROM ASSESSED VALUE.**

To qualify for this exemption, the firefighter or peace officer must have died in the line of duty. The surviving spouse must provide documents verifying eligibility, including evidence of spousal benefits, death certificate and certified marriage license.

## **SURVIVING SPOUSE OF MILITARY MEMBER (SS) - \$77,307 FROM ASSESSED VALUE.**

To qualify for this exemption, the member of the Armed Forces must have died while in an area of war or conflict, or died while en route to or from that duty assignment. The surviving spouse must provide documents from the Secretary of Defense evidencing surviving spousal benefits, death certificate, and certified marriage license.

With respect to all of the homestead exemptions, the board of tax assessors makes the determination as to eligibility. If the application is denied the taxpayer must be notified and an appeal procedure is available to the taxpayer.

**For more information visit the Property Tax Division website at:  
<http://tax.columbiacountyga.gov/property-tax-division/tax-exemptions> or call (706) 261-8299**

## MARCH 2018

Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Mon	10AM-2 PM	AARP Tax Aide	Eucler Ck Library	Free tax preparation assistance. Bring all 2017 tax documents.
Mon, Wed, & Thur	10:15 AM	Two-dollers Class	Evans Library	Join us each week for this fun program to learn and practice new & engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Mon, Wed, & Thur	11 AM	Preschool Class	Evans Library	Join us each week for this fun program to learn and practice new & engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Tues, Thur, and Saturdays	10AM-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	This class is free and open to adults whose first language is not English. Come and practice your 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.
Thur	4:30 PM	Afternoon Adventures	Evans Library	New & engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills! We take breaks to plan and regroup for upcoming sessions.
March 1-31		Monstrous March	Evans Library	Monstrously fun activities in the children's library during the month of March! Dragons, yetis, the Big Green Monster and more!
Thur, March 1	5:30-7:30 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Evans Library	This group is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. Open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty.
Thur, March 1	5:30 PM	Cord Cutting with Alex	Harlem Library	Learn to cut the cord and save money. Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Fri, March 2	11 AM	Sensory Class	Evans Library	Interactive stories, games, songs, and activities for children and caregivers of all abilities! Recommended ages 3+-. Registration required.
Fri, March 2	1-3 PM	Genealogy 101	Evans Library	Learn the genealogy basics of research and organization. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Mon, March 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, March 5	4-5:30 PM	Young Makers Program	Evans Library	Geared especially for children ages 8-12. Kids will learn about science, engineering, and design with hands-on experiences.
Mon, March 5	4:30 PM	Super Novas Club	Eucler Ck Library	Don't miss our visit from a meteorologist from WRDW News 12!
Mon, March 5	4:30 PM	Teen Craft Night	Eucler Ck Library	Call 706-556-0594 for details about this great craft just for teens.
Mon, March 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, March 6	5:30-7:30 PM	Google School	Evans Library	Learn to make the most of Google. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Tues, March 6	5:30 PM	Teen Craftemooon	Harlem Library	Join us for a craft just for teens. Call 706-650-5009 for registration and more information.
Wed, March 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.
Thur, March 8	1 PM	Columbia Cty Genealogical Society	Eucler Ck Library	Whether you're an experienced genealogist or just learning to find your roots, this club has something for everyone.
Thur, March 8	4-5:30 PM	Teen Advisory Board	Evans Library	Help us decide what programs to offer this year while getting volunteer credit. Now with snacks!
Thur, March 8	5:30-7:30 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Evans Library	Do you have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.
Thur, March 8	6-8 PM	Adult Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc.
Mon, March 12	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Evans Library	Join us to learn the basics then branch out to find your roots!
Mon, March 12	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Eucler Ck Library	Join us for movie fun and light refreshments for the whole family.
Mon, March 12	7 PM	Pub Fiction Book Club	Pizza Central	This laid-back book club meets in Evans. February selection: <i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> by Trevor Noah.
Tues, March 13 & 27, 2018	3 PM	Open Sewing	Harlem Library	Bring your sewing projects and use our machines. Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Tues, March 13	4 PM	Teen Guitar Class	Evans Library	Guitar instructions. Up to 6 guitars available for use, cannot be taken home. Ages 11-18. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Tues, March 13	5:30-7:30 PM	eBay 101	Evans Library	Learn about buying and selling on eBay. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Tues, March 14 & 21, 2018	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, March 14	2-4 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Eucler Ck Library	This group is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. Open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty.
Thur, March 15	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Eucler Ck Library	Join us for part two of this class and learn to make book boxes. Registration and supplies required. Class is 1.5 hours long.
Thur, March 15	11:30 PM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	Evans Library	The March selection is <i>The Wonder</i> by Emma Donoghue.
Thur, March 15	1 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Eucler Ck Library	Do you have a new gadget that you can't figure out? Drop in to have our tech guru Alex show you the basics.
Thur, March 15	3:30 PM	Wild Rumpus	Evans Library	Make monster repellent, learn how to find and catch Sasquatch, show off monster-inspired moves, and more! No registration required.
Thur, March 15	4 PM	Teen Craft: DIY Suncatchers	Evans Library	We'll be making suncatchers to take home and to decorate the library.
Thur, March 15	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	Harlem Library	The March selection is <i>Suffer and Grow Strong</i> by Carolyn Newton Curry.
Fri, March 16	10 AM	Bing for Books	Harlem Library	Learn about Bing for Books. Call 706-650-5009 to register.
Fri, March 16	12-2 PM	Bookkeeping, Payroll, and Business Financials	Evans Library	Learn about the financial side of business. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Mon, March 19	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	Teens 13-18 use CAD software, development software, 3D scanner & printer, soldering equipment, and general electronics tools.
Mon, March 19	4:30 PM	Otaku-Rabu Anime Club	Eucler Ck Library	Screening this season's most popular anime. No registration required.
Mon, March 19	6:30 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Evans Library	The March selection is <i>Commonwealth</i> by Ann Patchett.
Tues, March 20	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Evans Library	Watch <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> on the big screen, eat popcorn, and have fun!
Wed, March 21	2 PM	Baby Explorers	Evans Library	Drop in with your little explorers for this sensory playtime for babies and toddlers! Ages 0-2. No registration.
Wed, March 21	3:30 PM	Genealogy Class	Harlem Library	Learn the genealogy basics of research and organization. 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)

## MARCH 2018

Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Thur, March 22	10AM-12 PM	Birding 101	Evans Library	Learn to identify the birds in your neighborhood and beyond. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Thur, March 22	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Eucler Ck Library	The March selection is <i>Kill 'EM and Leave: Searching for James Brown and the American Soul</i> by James McBride.
Thur, March 22	1:30-3:30 PM	Email 101	Evans Library	Learn the basics of using email. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Thur, March 22	4 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	Teens 13-18 use CAD software, development software, 3D scanner & printer, soldering equipment, and general electronics tools.
Saturday, March 24	11:30 AM	Sonic Pi Mini-Series: Make Music with Code (Part 1)	Eucler Ck Library	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, March 26	4:30 PM	Family Game Night	Eucler Ck Library	Join us for games for the whole family. No registration required.
Tues, March 27	2-6 PM	Sheppard Community Blood Drive	Harlem Library	Donate blood and support your community at the Harlem Library.
Tues, March 27	4 PM	Teen Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.
Wed, March 28	2-4 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Eucler Ck Library	This group is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. Open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty.

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)



## COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S CORNER

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, through

out 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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

**Friday, March 9, 2018**

**LIVERPOOL LEGENDS**  
THE COMPLETE BEATLES EXPERIENCE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 and  
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT [WWW.AUGUSTAAMUSEMENTS.COM](http://WWW.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

*Working*  
**SMOKE ALARMS  
SAVE LIVES**

*Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery*

*"Dedicated To Life Safety"*