

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND COLUMBIA COUNTY



RON CROSS
Commission Chairman

In the not too distant past the cry around Atlanta when the politicians hit town was: "Get the women and children off the streets the session is about to start". While that is no longer a fear there continues to be a concern in local governments that the work of the state lawmakers will not bode well for county residents. We work very hard to avoid unfunded mandates and loss of control at the local level. It takes a tremendous amount of time during the first four months of each year to protect our local interests. A good example is the bill passed several years ago under the false name of tax reform that required that all property tax notices be mailed in separate envelopes. So a person that owned five properties in the county would get five different mailings. The result was that property owners often missed one of the mailings, failed to pay on time, and then had to pay the late charges. They complained that previously all properties were in one mailing, and they wrote one check and "What was wrong with that system?" We had no logical answer, but told them to check with their state legislators. The negative result for our citizens was that postage cost increased by almost \$20,000.

This year county administration was able to avoid any damage or potential costly legislation. We had great cooperation from our state delegation to stop a bill that would give media and cellular carriers unfettered access to all utility poles in the county with no regard to number of antenna, zoning regulations, appearance, or proper rental fees. This proposal comes up in most every session from the mega communications companies and their army of highly paid lobbyists. I am sure this battle will be fought again next session.

Below is a brief summary of several bills that were passed and signed into law that will have direct or indirect impact on our county.

House Bill 381: Abandoned Mobile Homes. This bill provides a method whereby property owners can have abandoned mobile homes removed from their property.

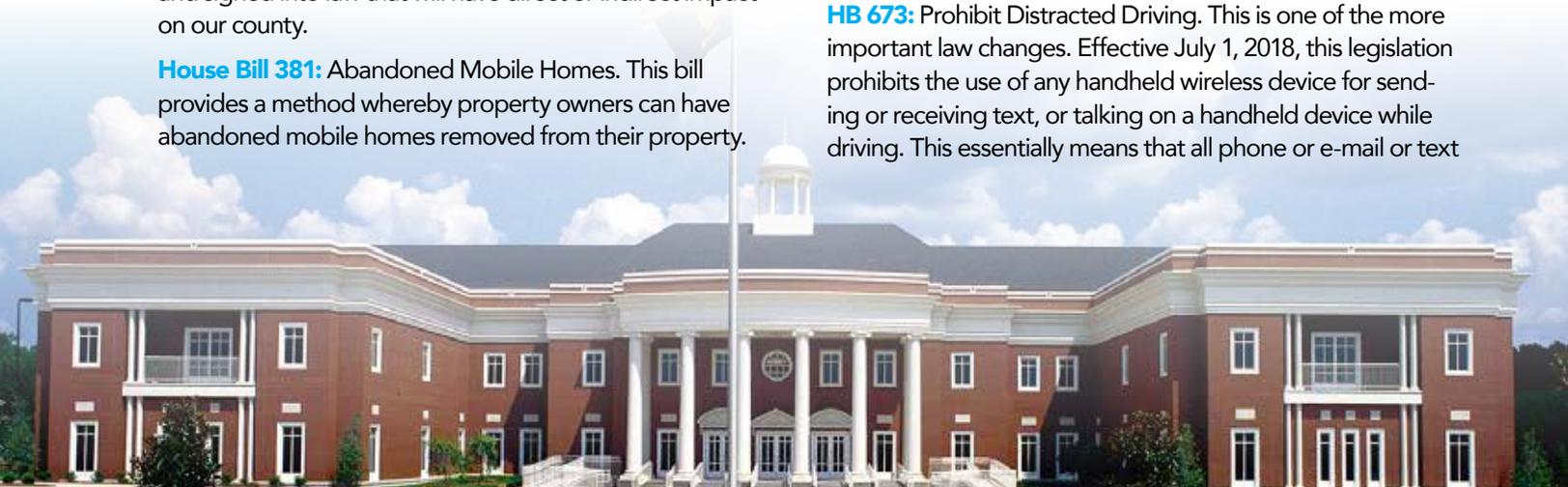
They make a request to the local government, and the local authorities appoint a "local agent" to determine if the mobile home is abandoned, derelict, or intact. If abandoned or derelict, the property owner can pay to have it removed and pursue reimbursement from the last owner in magistrate court.

HB 419: Fireworks. This bill allows cities and counties to limit hours of fireworks usage on all but the seven days covered by state law. That law allows fireworks from 10:00 am to 11:59 pm on Dec. 31, Jan. 1, July 3 and 4, the Saturday and Sunday preceding Memorial Day, Labor Day, and from 12:00 midnight to 1:00 am on Jan 1. If counties decline to regulate hours of usage, the state rule is from 10:00 am to 12:00 am every day of the year. Previous usage was from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm.

HB 876 Building Codes: This bill preempts local governments from prohibiting the use of wood as a construction material so long as such wood conforms to all applicable state minimum standard codes and the Ga. State Fire Code. Recently, we have considered requiring steel and concrete construction for any commercial project that houses people overnight, but this bill now prevents that.

SB 17: Mimosa Bill. Actually, this is a change in the local alcohol laws pertaining to Sunday consumption. One state legislator wanted to have a mimosa prior to lunch on Sunday, and the new law allows counties that already have premises consumption to serve alcohol from 11:00 am to 12:00 midnight rather than 12:30 am to midnight. This requires local governments to adopt a resolution, and the voters to approve via a referendum.

HB 673: Prohibit Distracted Driving. This is one of the more important law changes. Effective July 1, 2018, this legislation prohibits the use of any handheld wireless device for sending or receiving text, or talking on a handheld device while driving. This essentially means that all phone or e-mail or text



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usage must be with a hands free device. Fines are \$50.00 for first offense; \$100.00 for second; and \$150.00 for third. We all should invest in manufacturers of hands free devices.

HB 61: Sales Tax on Internet/Out of State Purchases. Effective January 1, 2019, all out of state retailers must collect and remit sales tax on purchases to the state or notify the purchaser that they should file sales and use tax return. A notice will be sent to the state of tax due by the retailer. This is restricted to retailers that collect more than \$250,000 from sales in Georgia or conduct more than 200 such sales in the state.

SB 371: Sales Tax Information. After several years of trying, we were finally successful in a bill that allows the governing authority of a city or county to request that the Ga. Department of Revenue (DOR) furnish to a designated official a current listing of those vendors filing sales tax returns to that jurisdiction. We have long felt that all of our sales tax paid in Columbia County is not being returned to us by the state. Our sales tax amounts have not reflected our growth and expanded retail operations. We realize that there is some cannibalization of sales when a new store opens, but our high growth should be reflected in our monthly check from the DOR. We discovered some time ago that one of our largest retailers' sales tax was being sent to the wrong county, and that was corrected. We also have the situation of a zip code, 30907, that covers two counties and the official town associated with that code is Augusta, not Columbia County. This legislation will allow us at least to verify businesses paying taxes in Columbia County and cross match with their business licenses.

SB 278: Development Powers. This legislation will allow the voters to permit redevelopment in needed areas with the property taxes on the improved property to go to a redevelopment fund. The county will not lose any funds since the property taxes will remain as it is on the underdeveloped site. Older areas in the county such as some in Martinez, Harlem,

and Grovetown will have a process for improvement currently not available. This will also allow partnerships with the private sector to accelerate improvements.

There are hundreds of bills that are introduced in the State House and Senate each session. Some are important to our existence, and some are a personal passion of a legislator. Many die a quick death; some take longer; many are passed and some become law and others get vetoed by the Governor. This year the Governor vetoed 21 bills sent to his desk and approved approximately 49. Most had very little effect on Columbia County, and some are facing legal challenges such as the one that establishes the City of Eagle's Landing formed out of the present city of Stockbridge, Ga. Stockbridge is suing Henry County that this legislation was unconstitutional. Again, the lawyers will have a gold mine.

If you should have an interest in what goes on in Atlanta during the first quarter of each year, feel free to visit one or more of the websites below. I think you will be amazed at the seriousness of some legislation and the confusion of others. Several years ago, a legislator presented a bill that required cities and counties who sold surplus items to hire and pay a professional auctioneer to depose of any items. No internet sales, sealed bids, etc. Fortunately, it was learned that her husband and son were professional auctioneers and the bill did not get out of committee. We fought this ridiculous bill since we always have the option of hiring assistance but do not want to be required to do so.

For more details:

http://www.accg.org/docs/policy/2018_05_18_Final%20Legislative%20Update_Post%20Governor%20Signature.pdf

<https://legiscan.com/GA>

<https://politics.myajc.com/state--regional-govt--politics/bill-tracker-georgia-legislature-2018/cYSB8OGZWuTgapare-o7M/>



SERVICE CHARGE CREDIT INFORMATION

A stormwater credit is a reduction in the monthly stormwater utility service fee. The overall goal of the County is to give a credit to property owners that are reducing the impact of stormwater generated by their property. By reducing the peak discharge of stormwater from their property, through either a retention or detention facility such as a pond, property owners are helping the County protect properties downstream. By complying with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, property owners are helping the County improve water quality. Columbia County is offering two types of credits for

this assistance: Peak Flow Reduction Credit (also known as a pond credit) and NPDES Water Quality Credit. The maximum amount of credit available is 50% of the total stormwater utility monthly service fee. For more information about the service charge credits, go to www.columbiacountyga.gov Stormwater department, billing and SERVICE CHARGE CREDIT INFORMATION. **REMINDER: Please remember that previously applied credits expire June 30. Please submit proper inspection documentation to prevent a discontinuation of any credits. If you have any questions, please contact 706.855.7246.**

JUNE 2018

Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Mons & Thurs. thru June 28	10:15 AM	Two-dlders Class	Evans Library	Join us each week for this fun program to learn and practice new ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Mons & Thurs. thru June 28	11 AM	Preschool Class	Evans Library	Join us each week for this fun program to learn and practice new ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Tues. thru June 26	10:15 AM	Baby & Me: Crawlers & Prewalkers	Evans Library	Join us for singing, reading, bouncing, playing, and fun! Please preregister.
Tues. thru June 26		ESL	Evans Library	The English as a Second Language classes at the CCO library are taking a summer break. Classes begin again on 4 September at 10:30 am.
Tues. thru June 26	11 AM	Baby & Me	Evans Library	This special class is designed especially for babies under two. Please register.
Tues.	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.
Wed.	10:30 AM	Baby & Me	Eucler Ck Library	This special class is designed especially for babies under two.
Tues. & Thurs. in July	10:30-11:30 AM	Book A Bunny!	Evans Library	Book an appointment to read to Reggie the library bunny! This program is best for young readers in rising grades 1-5. Appointments last 20-25 minutes. Please call 706-447-7657 or visit the children's desk to book an appointment!
Weds thru June 27	10:15-11:45 AM	Play Café	Evans Library	Drop in each Wed. morning in June for play activities designed to encourage early literacy practice! Crafts, games, snacks, and more. Ages 2-5. Children's classroom.
Weds thru June 27	10:15 AM & 11 AM	Baby & Me	Evans Library	This special class is designed especially for babies under two.
Thurs. thru June 28	4:30 PM	Afternoon Adventures	Evans Library	Join us each week for this fun program to learn and practice new ways of helping your child develop early literacy skills!
Thurs. in June	3:30-5 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	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.
Fri's in June	2:30-5 PM	Teen Summer Movie Series	Evans Library	Teens can join us for a different Marvel movie each week.
Sat's, June 16-July 21, 2018	11 AM	Learn Your Virtues	Evans Library	Have your kids learn life's virtues in these interactive classes Children ages 4-8, accompanied by a parent. *Registration is required and begins June 1.* Please call 706-447-7657 to register. Attendees must attend at least 4 of the 6 classes.
Fri., June 1, 18	All Day	Summer Reading Begins	All Branches	The Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults runs June 1-July 27, 2018.
Sun., June 3, 18	2:30-4:30 PM	Local Author Group Therapy	Evans Library	Are you a current or aspiring author? Do you need tips, tricks, or just venting about your work? Join us for this fun and supportive group.
Mon., June 4, 18	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., June 4, 18	4:30 PM	Super Novas Club	Eucler Ck Library	We'll make Solar Ovens, so bring an empty pizza box. Call 706-556-0594 to register.
Mon., June 4, 18	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., June 5, 18	10:30 AM	Magician and Ventriloquist	Harlem Library	Come out and enjoy a fun magic show geared toward younger children. Keith Karnok
Thurs., June 5, 18	12-6 PM	Teen Gaming Marathon: Board Game Edition	Evans Library	Join us for a marathon gaming session using our board games or bring your own. Snacks and drinks are provided.
Tues., June 5, 18	2:30 PM	Magician and Ventriloquist Keith Karnok	Eucler Ck Library	Come out and enjoy a fun magic show geared toward younger children.
Tues., June 5, 18	6 PM	Magician and Ventriloquist	Evans Library	Come out and enjoy a fun magic show geared toward younger children. Chad Crews
Wed., June 6, 18	10 AM	Birding Part 2	Harlem Library	Come and learn the basics of bird watching and participate in a bird watching session right at the Library! Class will also discuss the basics of bird photography. Please call 706-650-5009 to register.
Wed., June 6, 18	12 PM	Doodle Hour Adult Coloring	Evans Library	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.
Wed., June 6, 18	1:30 PM	Beginning Crochet	Eucler Ck Library	Fun and informal. Supplies provided. No registration required.
Wed., June 6, 18	2 PM	Watershed Ed	Evans Library	Join us for a talk on pollution and a drone demonstration!
Wed., June 6, 18	2 PM	Rock & Roll Photo Booth	Harlem Library	Create memories at the library using our collection of photo props!
Wed., June 6, 18	2:30 PM	Teen DIY Drums	Evans Library	Make your own drum and the jam with the group.
Thurs., June 7, 18	10 AM-12 PM	Geocaching	Evans Library	Join us to learn about geocaching and go on a real treasure hunt on the grounds! Bring your smart phone
Thurs., June 7, 18	1:30-3:30 PM	Intro to Coding & Animation Music Fun	Evans Library	Come have fun learning basic coding and animation. With Scratch you can do games, animation in one program.
Thurs., June 7, 18	5:30-7:30 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Evans Library	Open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. Join us for a low-key craft meetup!
Thurs., June 7, 18	6 PM	Home Buying Series: Heating & Air	Evans Library	Getting ready to buy a home? This series will walk you thru much of what you need to know.
Fri., June 8, 18	11 AM	Estate Planning & Elder Care	Evans Library	Hear legal strategies to protect your family and estate including: wills & trusts, estate planning, probate avoidance, powers of attorney, Medicaid and VA planning as well as the VA Aid & Attendance Benefit.
Sat., June 9, 18	11 AM-3 PM	Minecraft Club	Eucler Ck Library	Bring your own device or laptop with Minecraft already loaded.
Mon., June 11, 18	10 AM-12 PM	Cord Cutting	Eucler Ck Library	Learn the basics of cord cutting and the latest options such as Hulu, Sling TV, Roku, antennas, etc. ditch that cable bill!

JUNE 2018

Date	Time	Program	Branch	Description
Mon., June 11, 18	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Evans Library	Join us to learn the basics then branch out to find your roots!
Mon., June 11, 18	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Eucler Ck Library	Join us for movie fun and light refreshments for the whole family.
Mon., June 11, 18	7-9 PM	Pub Fiction Book Club	Evans Library	This laid-back book club meets at Pizza Central in Evans. The June selection is <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding.
Tues., June 12, 18	10:30 AM	Magician Chad Crews	Harlem Library	Come out and enjoy a fun filled magic show!
Tues., June 12, 18	2:30 PM	Magician Chad Crews	Eucler Ck Library	Come out and enjoy a fun filled magic show!
Tues., June 12, 18	4 PM	Teen Guitar Class	Evans Library	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. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.
Tues., June 12, 18	6 PM	Young Authors Club	Evans Library	This writing club for aspiring young authors meets on the second Tues. of each month. Attendees will be provided story prompts and snacks. Grades 1-5. No registration. Children's classroom.
Wed., June 13, 18	10:30 AM	Morris Museum of Art	Harlem Library	Come enjoy an hour of stories and crafts. Please call 706-650-5009 to register.
Wed., June 13, 18	12-2 PM	Bookkeeping, Payroll, and Business Financials	Evans Library	A bookkeeping, payroll and business financial seminar is being presented by Tabitha Hollimon, MBA, EA and owner of Avail Bookkeeping and Tax Services.
Wed., June 13, 18	2 PM	Rock-n-Roll Photo Booth	Evans Library	Create memories at the library using our collection of photo props!
Wed., June 13, 18	2-4 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Eucler Ck Library	This group is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. The group is open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty. Join us for a low-key craft meetup!
Wed., June 13, 18	2:30-4 PM	Teen Rock Craft	Evans Library	Join us to make art pieces to keep or decorate the library.
Thurs., June 14, 18	1 PM	Cola Co. Genealogical Society	Eucler Ck Library	Whether you're an experienced genealogist or just learning to find your roots, this club has something for everyone.
Thurs., June 14, 18	4 PM	Teen Advisory Board	Evans Library	Help us decide what programs to offer this year while getting volunteer credit.
Thurs., June 14, 18	6 PM	Adult Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc.
Sat., June 16, 18	11 AM	Web Maker Mini-Series: Make your own Simple Webpage!	Evans Library	Your children will enjoy learning the fundamentals of computer science and programming thru games and projects taught by our professional educators. Ages 8-12, register at www.educode.io/register .
Mon., June 18, 18	4:30-6 PM	Anime Club	Eucler Ck Library	Screening this season's most popular anime. No registration required.
Mon., June 18, 18	6:30 PM	Mon. Night Book Discussion	Evans Library	The June selection is <i>Track of the Cat</i> by Nevada Barr.
Tues., June 19, 18	10:30 AM	Therapy Dogs	Harlem Library	Come and learn about pet safety and see the dogs do fun tricks for you.
Tues., June 19, 18	12-6 PM	Teen Gaming Marathon: Video Game Edition	Evans Library	Show off your skills on our Xbox One game marathon. Snacks and drinks are provided.
Tues., June 19, 18	2:30 PM	Paleontologist - Robert Cromer	Eucler Ck Library	Meet a local paleontologist & learn about dinosaurs.
Tues., June 19, 18	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Evans Library	Join us to watch a movie on the big screen, eat popcorn, and have fun! Ages 3+. No registration.
Wed., June 20, 18	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Environmental Matters Lunch & Learn	Evans Library	County Agent, Tripp Williams, will have valuable tips on turfgrass success!
Wed., June 20, 18	1:30 PM	Beginning Crochet	Eucler Ck Library	Fun and informal. Supplies provided. No registration required.
Wed., June 20, 18	2 PM	Rockin' with Auggie	Evans Library	Meet and greet the mascot of the Greenjackets baseball team!
Wed., June 20, 18	2:30-4 PM	Musical Instrument Petting Zoo	Evans Library	Come in and check out a variety of musical instruments, and find the one that's the right fit for you.
Wed., June 20, 18	3 PM	Teen Crafternoon	Harlem Library	Come out and have fun socializing and making a fun craft! 706-650-5009 to register. Ages 11 and up.
Thurs., June 21, 18	11 AM-1 PM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	Evans Library	The June selection is <i>Driving Miss Norma</i> by Tim Bauerschmidt.
Thurs., June 21, 18	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Eucler Ck Library	Easy Crafts Show & Tell. Bring a craft & show how to make it.
Thurs., June 21, 18	1-3 PM	SCORE Workshop	Evans Library	You are in business (or dreaming of starting a business) to make money, right?
Thurs., June 21, 18	1-3 PM	Gadget Help with Alex	Eucler Ck Library	Drop by the Library during these times to get individual help with your electronic gadgets. First come, first serve
Thurs., June 21, 18	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	Harlem Library	Come out and discuss <i>The Girl Who Knew Too Much</i> by Amanda Quick.
Thurs., June 21, 18	6 PM	Crafters' Gadgets	Evans Library	Come join us for a low key crafting session with Natalie Pulley, the children's librarian.
Mon., June 25, 18	10:30 AM	Morris Museum of Art Story Time & Craft	Eucler Ck Library	Art is what it's all about. Create a special art project.
Mon., June 25, 18	4:30-6:30 PM	Your Money, Your Future	Evans Library	Ten 30-minute lessons focused for grades 7-12 uses for money; how to spend, save and share; setting
Mon., June 25, 18	4:30 PM	Family Game Night	Evans Library	Games for the whole family! No registration required.
Tues., June 26, 18	2:30 PM	Therapy Dogs	Eucler Ck Library	Learn how these dogs are trained to help people in need.
Tues., June 26, 18	4 PM	Teen Guitar Club	Evans Library	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.
Wed., June 27, 18	2 PM	Magical Poodles	Evans Library	Join us for this entertaining dog show! *Registration is required and begins June 12.* magicalpoodles.eventbrite.com
Wed., June 27, 18	2-4 PM	Fiber Arts Craft & Chat	Eucler Ck Library	This group is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. The group is open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty. Join us for a low-key craft meetup!
Wed., June 27, 18	2:30-4 PM	Synthesizer Competition	Evans Library	Join us to make your own song using an online synthesizer. The winner selected by our judges will receive a prize!
Thurs., June 28, 18	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Eucler Ck Library	The June selection is <i>At the Water's Edge</i> by Sara Gruen.
Thurs., June 28, 18	4-5:30 PM	Teen Makerspace	Evans Library	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.

SUMMER CAMPS AT REED CREEK PARK



WETLAND ADVENTURE CAMP Does your child love the outdoors? During Wetland Discovery Camp we will be outside exploring the wetland, creek and pond at Reed Creek Park. Each day children will discover something new about wetlands and enjoy hands-on activities designed to inspire a love of the outdoors. Activities will include creating mini wetland habitats, orienteering with park maps, wetland research, pond and creek exploration and using a microscope to observe microscopic aquatic life. Campers will need to bring sack lunch and reusable water bottle each day.

JUNE 4-8 (AGES 5-7) • JUNE 25-29 (AGES 8-12)
CAMP HOURS: 9AM - 1PM • COST: \$100/CHILD

JR. MASTER GARDENER CAMP: LEARN, GROW, EAT & GO! (AGES 6-10) Calling all gardeners! The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the university cooperative Extension network. Join the CSRA Master Gardeners to learn all about plants – why they are important to us, how to grow a garden, and how to give plants what they need. Campers will participate in a vegetable gardening project and learn why the plants were growing are important for health and nutrition. Children will be engaged in hands-on group activities and learning experiences that foster a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. Campers will need to bring sack lunch and reusable water bottle each day.

DATES: JUNE 11-15 CAMP HOURS: 9AM - 1PM • COST: \$100/CHILD

CSRA ADVENTURE CAMP (AGES 12-14)

Campers will meet at Reed Creek Nature Park each morning, then set out to explore the many outdoor activities in the CSRA: the Savannah River by kayak, practice their binocular skills while birding at Silver Bluff Audubon Preserve, become an Ecologist for a Day at Savannah River Ecology Lab and other fun outings. On Thursday we will spend the day at Wildwood Park with disc golf, kayaking, swimming and a cook out. Campers will need to bring a sack lunch, a snack, and a reusable water bottle every day except Thursday. Lunch will be served at Wildwood Park Thursday.

DATES: JULY 9-13 CAMP HOURS: 9AM - 3PM • COST: \$150/CHILD

REED CREEK SUMMER PROGRAMS:

Pre-registration is required through our website www.Reedcreekpark.Com
 Due to space limitations walk-ins are not permitted
 All children must be accompanied by an adult while attending classes.

SIZZLING SUMMER SATURDAYS (AGES VARY BY CLASS) FREE

JUNE 16TH & 23RD; JULY 7TH & 21ST

- 7-8Am: birding (teens & adults) *quiet children may join us
- 9-10Am pond exploration (ages 4-6)
- 11Am-12pm wetland walk (all ages)
- 1-2Pm really cool reptiles (ages 5+)
- 4-5Pm terrific turtles (ages 7+)
- Nocturnal thursdays 8:30-9:30 pm (ages 5+) free

JUNE 14TH & JULY 26TH: ALL ABOUT FROGS

- Simply science Fridays 1:30 – 2:30 pm (ages vary by class) free

JUNE 22ND: IT'S A SMALL WORLD: CELLS! (AGES 8+)

- Please check the website for more information on summer camps www.Reedcreekpark.Com

SAVE THE DATE BLOOD DRIVES

650-B Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans
 06/14/2018 - 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
 08/09/2018 - 10:30 am - 6:30 pm
 10/10/2018 - 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Roads & Bridges, 2257 County Camp Road, Appling
 06/13/2018 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 08/08/2018 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
 11/01/2018 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S CORNER

DISTRACTED DRIVING FACTS

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention away from the primary task of driving.

Highway Fatalities:

- 37,461 lives were lost on U.S. roads in 2016, an increase of 5.6% from 2015 (data not yet available for 2017)

Distracted Driving:

- 10% of fatal crashes and 15% of injury crashes in 2015 were distraction affected. NHTSA.
- Distracted driving crashes are under reported and the NSC estimates that cell

phone use alone accounted for 27% of 2015 car crashes.

- In 2015, there were 3,477 people killed and an estimated additional 391,000 injured in crashes involving distracted drivers. NHTSA
- The fatal crash rate for teens is 3 times greater than for drivers age 20 and over.
- Driver distraction is responsible for more than 58% of teen crashes.

Three types of distractions:

Traffic safety experts classify distractions into three main types: **Manual, Visual and**



Cognitive.

- Manual distractions are those where you move your hands from the wheel.
- Visual distractions are those where you focus your eyes away from the road.
- A cognitive distraction is when your mind wanders away from the task of driving.

Texting involves all three types of distraction.

2018 BROWN BAG LUNCH & LEARN NEW OUTREACH PROJECT

The year is flying by! There are only three sessions left for you to come join us for the action packed fun. Dates left are June 20, July 18th and August 15th. We share information on a plethora of topics while introducing you to many County employees that share with you what they do behind the scenes that help make our Community a great place to live.

Columbia County's Georgia Master Naturalist, Margaret Alligood will be coordinating the roll out of the newly developed environmental public outreach this year called "Rock the Park with Environmental Education". The top dedicated participating citizens at the lunch and learns will be the first group of volunteers invited to team up with the host of the lunch & learns, the Columbia County Engineering Division which houses the Environmental and Stormwater Departments. We are most appreciative and are excited at the enthusiasm expressed and the dedication from the many helpful citizens that have been attending the brown bag lunch sessions.

As our population increases it is more critical to pick up pet waste and dispose it in trash cans and not down the storm drains because they eventually lead back to our valuable natural water resources. By not throwing

anything down the storm drains it also will help prevent unnecessary clogging and will allow proper draining during storms. The new public education project will increase public awareness & help protect our most precious natural resource which is irreplaceable water.

"Rock the Park with Environment Education" details: Several unannounced times a year a table will be set up and manned by various volunteering citizens at the Lady A Park. Park visitors that stop by the project outreach table and allow the volunteers to share helpful pollution prevention tips will be eligible to choose from either a planet earth stress ball or a bone shaped container filled with a roll of doggie bags that comes with a carabiner allowing you to attach it to your key chain or dog's leash. Printed on the bone container is "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain" to remind us pet waste needs to be properly disposed of in the trash cans. The planet earth stress ball has the message "Environment Matters" on it to remind us all that Earth Day is a nice celebration day however EVERY day is EARTH day to our community. There are a limited number of these commemorative give-away items for the project table. So be on the lookout for us as we "Rock the Park with Environmental Education!"



At the "Environment Matters Lunch & Learns 2018" County Agent Tripp Williams has been teaching us the importance of pollinators. Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning they are critical to our ecosystem and plant growth. There has been an alarming decline in pollinator populations. Tripp will be teaching us various ways we can help the precious pollinators increase instead of decline.

June 20th, July 18th and August 15th are the three 2018 dates left of the "Bring Your Brown Bag" adult lunch and learns. The location is the Evans Library main lobby 1st hall on right. We will start at 11:30 promptly. Simple snacks are provided.

You are encouraged to contact the Evans Library to register 706.863.1946 EXT 4.

We hope to see you there. Georgia Master Naturalist, Margaret Alligood malligood@columbiacountyga.gov

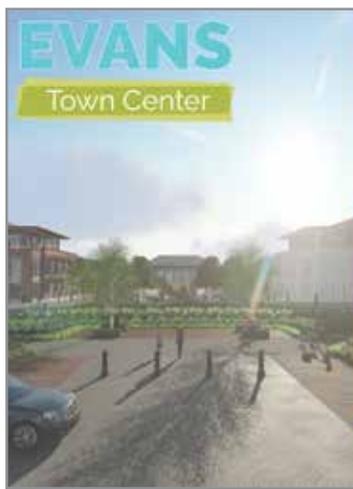
SOAKIN' SUMMER SERIES

WATER SLIDES, INFLATABLES & WAVES OF FUN

WEDNESDAYS AT EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK BEGINNING JUNE 6

EVANSTOWNECENTERPARK.COM

FREE WITH PARK PASS OR \$2/CHILD 10AM-2PM



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF EVANS TOWN CENTER LOOK LIKE?

Join us for the final public meeting to find out and to have one last chance to get your input heard before the plan approval process is underway!

Draft Plan Presentation
June 14, 2018 // 6:30pm

@ Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center, Columbia County Library
7022 Evans Town Center Blvd
Evans, GA 30809

visit our website:
www.evanstowncenter.com

THE GREATEST SHOW RETURNS TO GROVETOWN

LOOMIS BROS. CIRCUS

MON JUNE 18 & TUE JUNE 19
4:30 & 7:30 PM

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER
2112 PARTNERSHIP DRIVE - GROVETOWN, GA

COUPON \$5 OFF ONE ADULT TICKET 2 FREE CHILD'S ADMISSIONS

BOOM 18 IN THE PARK

FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

JULY 4TH @

EVANS TOWNE CENTER PARK

GATES OPEN AT 5PM

PARK PASS HOLDERS ENTER AT 4PM

LIVE MUSIC, FIREWORKS, AND VENDORS!



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, Construction & Facilities Management, for more information.

Stephanie Kingdom, Project Specialist
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