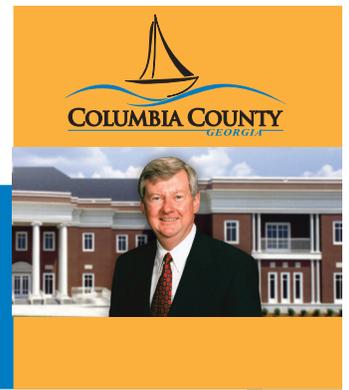


# ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

## LET'S PUT THANKSGIVING INTO THE NEW YEAR!!!!



The diminutive figure, dressed in his trademark black, made his way to the rostrum amid a chorus of standing ovation. He quieted the golf-related crowd with several hand gestures, but the applause continued. He finally succeeded in getting order and when all were seated and silent, he spoke in a voice not suited to his size or age. "When each of you get home tonight, you need to get down on your knees and thank God that you were born in America." As the shock wore thin and before the applause could acknowledge their agreement, he continued, "I have been around the world many times and seen almost all the world has to offer and nobody has it as good as you. You have the best life has to offer and the opportunity to attain more. What you have enjoyed here tonight ninety-nine percent of the world will never share."

I don't recall much of the following events that night, but I know it included many clean jokes and a lot of golf experiences, for that speaker was Gary Player. Gary Player- one of the greatest golfers of all time, winner of nine majors, twenty-four tour events, nineteen Champions Tour events, player in fifty-two Masters Tournaments, and winner of three. He is winner of THREE British Opens and TWO PGA Championships, and Gary Player talks about how lucky we are? Of course, one of his best quotes of the 'Black Knight' is, "The harder I work, the luckier I get".

That dinner has stayed with me more than any other in the past. I could not stop thinking about how a man from South Africa who is World-famous could see something so obvious to him that we as Americans take for granted. We are thankful at times for health, family, material things, successes, and many others, but do we continually appreciate just where we are?

By the time this prints, we will have finished Christmas and will be dealing with the New Year's hangover. The hangover may not be from a beverage or food, but just from the stress of the season. Thanksgiving and Christmas plans, travel schedules, horrendous traffic, the search for perfect gift for that "special someone",

or any combination of the above. Does the holiday season make you kind-of appreciate "routine" and dull any feeling of "Thanksgiving"?

If a man born half-way around the world can appreciate just being in America, why can't we all appreciate and be thankful year-round? Sadly, many of us have gotten into a rather normal routine of just complaining about almost everything-- our job, our boss, our spouse, our nation, our community, traffic, bad service, no money, the weather, county staff, and government. Oops, didn't mean to say that last one. How many times have you heard someone say, "I wish the holiday spirit could last all year long"? Well, a spirit of "Thanksgiving" can go a long way in achieving that goal. Being thankful leads to a more positive attitude, allows you to appreciate your particular situation, and allows you to compliment and understand other people more. Minor things do not become major things so often. Consider it.

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners and County Staff wish you the best for 2016 and we are thankful that we are allowed to serve such a great county and so many great people.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!





# SECONDS CAN COUNT!

## Would Emergency Responders Be Able to Find You?

Every second counts during an emergency. Your house number may not seem to be an important part of your outdoor landscaping efforts, but you shouldn't disregard this important detail. Valuable time could be lost if your address number is not clearly posted where emergency responders can see it.



If your house number is difficult to see when you drive by in the daytime, imagine how difficult it would be at night. Dark numbers, numbers that have faded or fallen off, plants or foliage covering the numbers,

or having numbers on only one side could contribute to a delay in locating the site of an emergency.

Large numbers that are prominently displayed and are visible from the road will speed a response during an emergency. Please assess the visibility of your address and ensure that you can be located by responders. Consider reflective numbers that are visible from both directions of the roadway.



Remember, we can't help you if we can't find you!

## Community Pride Design Awards 2015

The Columbia County Planning Department has carried out the sixth annual survey to ask for citizen involvement in the selection of the best new buildings in Columbia County. The winners are listed below.

**1st Horizon Motor Coach**  
(Located on Appling Harlem Road)



**2nd St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church**  
(Located on Columbia Road)



**3rd Hill Top Animal Hospital**  
(Located on Washington Rd)



# JANUARY LIBRARY EVENTS

Date	Time	Program	Age	Additional Info	Branch
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning January 20	10:15 AM	Toddler Time	Children	Toddler Time is for children 2-3 years old. No registration required.	Evans
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning January 20	11:00 AM	Preschool Time	Children	Preschool Time is for children 3-5 years old. No registration required.	Evans
Mondays beginning February 1	10:00 AM-2:00 PM	AARP Tax Help	Adults	AARP volunteers provide free assistance with your taxes on a first-come, first-served basis.	Euchee Creek
Tuesdays	10:30 AM or 6:00 PM	ESL Classes	Adults	Free English Language classes are now offered at the Evans Branch.	Evans
Tuesdays	10:30 AM	Child Enrichment	All ages children	Join us for stories, songs, dancing and the coolest crafts around. No registration required.	Harlem
Tuesdays beginning January 26	10:30 AM	Baby & Me	Children	Baby & Me Class is for children under 2 years old. No registration required.	Euchee Creek
Tuesdays beginning January 26	4:15 PM	Child Enrichment	Children	Join us for stories, songs, dancing and the coolest crafts around. No registration required.	Euchee Creek
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays beginning February 2	10:00 AM-2:00 PM	AARP Tax Help	Adults	AARP volunteers provide free assistance with your taxes on a first-come, first-served basis.	Evans
Wednesdays beginning January 27	10:30 AM	Child Enrichment	Children	Join us for stories, songs, dancing and the coolest crafts around. No registration required.	Euchee Creek
Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning January 21	4:30 PM	Afternoon Adventures	Children	Afternoon adventures is for all ages of children. Stories, songs, dancing and the coolest crafts around. No registration required.	Evans
January 1-3, 2016	All Day	Libraries Closed for New Year's		All Columbia County Libraries will be closed. Book drops will be locked to prevent over filling.	All Branches
January 4, 2016	4:00 PM	Maker Space	Teens	Teens will have the opportunity to 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. Those interested may participate in library sponsored projects with materials and assistance provided by library staff.	Evans
January 4, 2016	5:30 PM	Pajama Storytime	Teens	Join us for a pajama story time, fun, and games!	Euchee Creek
January 8, 2016	11:30 AM	Elmcroft Senior Studies 101 Lunch and Learn	Adults	Join us for a different senior studies topic each month. Call 706-863-1946 ext. 4 for details and registration.	Evans
January 8, 2016	3:00 PM	Genealogy Club	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of finding your roots. Registration required by calling 706-863-1946 ext 4.	Evans
January 9 & 23, 2016	12:00 PM	Saturday Chess Club	All Patrons	Saturday Chess Club has no age limits and registration required.	Euchee Creek
January 10, 2016	3:00 PM	Transcendental Meditation	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of transcendental meditation. Call 706-863-1946 for details and registration.	Evans
January 11, 2016	5:30 PM	Microsoft Word	Adults	Learn the basics of Microsoft Word. Registration is required.	Evans
January 11, 2016	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	Family	Join us for a family movie night. Call for details.	Euchee Creek
January 11, 2016	7:00 PM	Pub Fiction Book Club	Adults	Book to be announced. Call for details.	Evans
January 14 and 21, 2016	10:00 AM-3:30 PM	Computer Boot Camp	Adults	New to computers? Perplexed by technology? This two-part class will get you started on the right foot. Registration is required.	Evans
January 14, 2016	1:00 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Adults	Whether you're an expert or just beginning to look into your roots, this club has something to offer everyone.	Euchee Creek
January 14, 2016	5:00 PM	All Libraries Close at 5:00 PM for System Upgrades		All branches will close at 5:00 PM for system upgrades.	All Branches
January 15-18, 2016	All Day	Libraries Closed for System Upgrades		All branches will be closed for computer system upgrades.	All Branches
January 18, 2016	6:30 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Adults	The January selection is <i>Edge of Eternity</i> by Ken Follett. The January meeting will be at Pizza Central in Evans.	Pizza Central, Evans
January 21, 2016	4:00 PM	Harlem Book Club	Adults	Call for details. Book TBA.	Harlem

All programs are subject to change. Visit [www.gchrl.org](http://www.gchrl.org) or call 706-863-1946 (Evans branch), 706-556-0594 (Euchee Creek branch), or 706-556-9795 (Harlem branch).

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# JANUARY/FEBRUARY LIBRARY EVENTS

Date	Time	Program	Age	Additional Info	Branch
January 21, 2016	11:00AM	Adult Time-Out (Healthy Habits for a Healthy You)	Adults	Learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement.	Euchee Creek
January 22, 2016	11:30 AM	Alzheimer's Association : Health Habits for a Healthier You	Adults	Learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.	Evans
January 23, 2016	10:00 AM	Keep Calm and Coupon On	Adults	Get couponing tips and swap coupons. Registration required.	Euchee Creek
January 25, 2016	5:30 PM	YA Game Night	Teens	No registration required.	Euchee Creek
January 25, 2016	6:00 PM	Transcendental Meditation	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of transcendental meditation. Call 706-863-1946 for details and registration.	Evans
January 28, 2016	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Adults	Book to be announced. Call for details.	Euchee Creek
January 28, 2016	5:30 PM	PowerPoint	Adults	Learn the basics of Microsoft PowerPoint. Registration is required.	Evans
January 29-31, 2016	All Day	Friends of the Library Book Sale	All	Find great deals and rare books and support the Columbia County Libraries!	Evans
January 29 and February 5, 2016	10:00 AM-3:30 PM	Computer Boot Camp	Adults	New to computers? Perplexed by technology? This two-part class will get you started on the right foot. Registration is required.	Evans
January 29, 2016	11:00 AM	STEM (Skittles Guessing Game)	Children	Children grades 1-4 will love learning science and math with this fun program. Call for details.	Euchee Creek
February 1, 2016	4:00 PM	Maker Space	Teens	Teens will have the opportunity to 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. Those interested may participate in library sponsored projects with materials and assistance provided by library staff.	Evans
February 1, 2016	5:30 PM	Super Novas Club (Weather Experiments)	Children	Join us for weather experiment science adventures for 2nd - 4th grades.	Euchee Creek
February 1, 2016	5:30 PM	YA Craft Night (Exploding Box)	Teens	Join us for an exploding box craft? Intrigued? You'd better be there to find out more!	Euchee Creek
February 6 and 20, 2016	12:00 PM	Saturday Chess Club	All Patrons	Saturday Chess Club has no age limits and registration required.	Euchee Creek
February 8, 2016	5:30 PM	Family Movie Night	All Ages	Family movie and family fun for the whole family. Light refreshments served. No registration required.	Euchee Creek
February 11, 2016	1:00 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Adults	Whether you're an expert or just beginning to look into your roots, this club has something to offer everyone.	Euchee Creek
February 12, 2016	6:00 PM	2nd Annual Family Forts Night	Children	"Join us again for a night of fort building! Bring some blankets, flashlights, pillows, and an eagerness to read and play, and we'll provide the rest - including fun game booths, interactive stories, s'mores snacks, and more!"	Euchee Creek
Recommended for all ages of children!"	Evans	Transcendental Meditation	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of transcendental meditation. Call 706-863-1946 for details and registration.	Evans
February 12, 2016	11:30 AM	Elmcroft Senior Studies 101 Lunch and Learn	Adults	Join us for a different senior studies topic each month. Call 706-863-1946 ext. 4 for details and registration.	Evans
February 12, 2016	3:00 PM	Genealogy Club	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of finding your roots. Registration required by calling 706-863-1946 ext 4.	Evans
February 13, 2016	10:00 AM	Keep Calm and Coupon On	Adults	Get couponing tips and swap coupons. Registration required.	Euchee Creek
February 15, 2016	4:00 PM	Maker Space	Teens	Teens will have the opportunity to 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. Those interested may participate in library sponsored projects with materials and assistance provided by library staff.	Evans
February 15, 2016	6:30 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Adults	The February selection is <i>Letters from Skye</i> by Jessie Brockmore.	Evans
February 17, 2016	2:00 PM	Bibliobop Dance Party	Children	Have fun with dance and creative movement at the library! There will be scarves, instruments, a parachute and more, along with ample opportunities for motor skill development and caregiver-child interaction. Recommended for ages 2-5 years.	Evans
February 18, 2016	11:00 AM	Adult Time-Out (The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's)	Adults	This Program provides information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of Alzheimer's Disease, treatment, and related dementias.	Euchee Creek

All programs are subject to change. Visit [www.gchrl.org](http://www.gchrl.org) or call 706-863-1946 (Evans branch), 706-556-0594 (Euchee Creek branch), or 706-556-9795 (Harlem branch).

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# FEBRUARY LIBRARY EVENTS

Date	Time	Program	Age	Additional Info	Branch
February 19, 2016	11:00 AM	STEM ( Math Game Day)	Children	Join us for math games for grades 1-4.	Euchee Creek
February 19, 2016	11:30 AM	Alzheimer's Association: Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's Disease	Adults	Learn the signs of Alzheimer's disease. Registration required.	Evans
February 22 and 29, 2016	5:30 PM	Camera 1 and 2	Adults	Get to know your camera in this two part class. Registration required.	Evans
February 22, 2016	5:30 PM	YA Game Night	Teens	Join us for fun, games, and light refreshments.	Euchee Creek
February 25, 2016	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Book Club	Adults	The February selection is to be announced. Watch for details!	Euchee Creek
February 25, 2016	5:30 PM	Google School	Adults	Is your mind boggled by Google? Join us for this informative class. Registration is required.	Evans
February 26, 2016	11:00 AM	STEM Class, Gold Bug	Children	Learn about science, technology, engineering, and math in this fun program for ages 9-14.	Evans

## Columbia County Schedule of Meetings for January and February 2016

### Board of Commissioners Meetings

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesdays January 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesdays February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

### Board of Commissioners Committee Meetings

**Management & Internal Services and Development & Engineering Services**  
Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am

**Public Works Services and Community and Emergency Services**  
Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am

**Management & Internal Services and Development & Engineering Services**  
Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am

**Public Works Services and Community and Emergency Services**  
Appling Courthouse, Appling, GA  
Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30am

### Columbia County Planning Commission Meetings

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Thursdays January 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
Thursdays February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

### Columbia County Development Advisory Board

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA  
Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm



## 2016 Key Election Dates

<u>Election Date and Type</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Early Voting Begins</u>	<u>Saturday Voting</u>
March 1, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary and Special Election	February 1, 2016	February 8, 2016	February 20, 2016
March 29, 2016 Special Election Run-off (if needed)	February 1, 2016		
May 24, 2016 General Primary	April 26, 2016	May 2, 2016	May 14, 2016
July 26, 2016 General Primary Run-off	April 26, 2016	July 5, 2016	
November 8, 2016 General Election	October 11, 2016	October 17, 2016	October 29, 2016
December 6, 2016 General Election Run-off for Local and State Offices	October 11, 2016		
January 10, 2017 General Election Run-off for Federal Offices	October 11, 2016	December 19, 2016	

## Upcoming Reed Creek Park Events

**Simply Science: Squishy Sensations** Join us in learning the steps of the scientific method as we create slimy, squishy, bouncy, springy balls out of different materials. For ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required by calling 706-210-4027 or email Kim Byne at kbyne@columbiacountyga.gov. Members: free; non-members: \$2/child. Saturday, January 9 10:00am - 11:00am

**Nocturnal Nightcrawlers** We'll learn about animals that are active at night and discuss how they are able to be so crafty while everyone else is sound asleep! For ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required by calling 706-210-4027 or email Kim Byne at kbyne@columbiacountyga.gov. Members: free; non-members: \$2/child. Friday, January 22 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**Wilderness Survival** This is a fun program for those who are interested in backcountry camping or anyone wanting tips in emergency survival skills. We'll go over the "do's and don'ts" for dressing for the wilderness and what to bring when you go camping, ways to signal for help, as well as tips for making fires and shelters. For ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required by calling 706-210-4027 or email Kim Byne at kbyne@columbiacountyga.gov. Members: free; non-members: \$2/child. Saturday, January 30 11:00am - 12:00pm

# UPCOMING CONCERTS



## LIVE FROM NASHVILLE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.  
at the JABEZ S. HARDIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Live From Nashville is an incredible production that stars singers and dancers, and a bona fide band of Nashville musicians, dazzling staging and costumes: all designed to celebrate a century of celebrities and treasured songs from Music City!

Reserved Seats can be purchased online at [www.augustaamusements.com](http://www.augustaamusements.com) or by calling 706-726-0366. Tickets are \$43.00. Concertgoers are encouraged to dress in their favorite Country Music attire and to walk the red carpet at the entrance to the Hardin Performing Arts Center.



## THE WORLD FAMOUS GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016 at 7:30PM  
at the JABEZ S. HARDIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Now, over sixty years since the public first embraced the successful Miller Sound, both the legend and the music live on. The Glenn Miller Orchestra is the most sought after big band in the world today for both concert and dance engagements. Still considered the greatest band of all time, its unique sound is loved by almost anybody that cares for music.

A limited number of reserved seat tickets (\$43.00) for this special evening with The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra are available online at [www.augustaamusements.com](http://www.augustaamusements.com). The doors open at 6:30, and guests are encouraged to wear 1940s/50s attire in tribute to Glenn Miller and walk the red carpet to the entrance of the beautiful Jabez Hardin Performing Arts Center.



## TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016 at 7:30 PM  
at the JABEZ S. HARDIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Since its inception in 1985, Turtle Island Quartet has been a singular force in the creation of bold, new trends in chamber music for strings. A unique element of Turtle Island is their revival of venerable improvisation and compositional chamber traditions that have not been explored by string players for nearly 200 years.

All tickets only \$21! Buy yours at 706.826.4705 or [SOAugusta.org](http://SOAugusta.org).



## JOHNNY PEERS AND HIS MUTTVILLE COMIX

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.  
at the JABEZ S. HARDIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix have appeared in Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus and on David Letterman. Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix is a slapstick comedy act like no other. Johnny leads over a dozen dogs through challenging and hilarious tricks as Johnny plays the straight man role in this wonderful show.

Reserved Seats can be purchased online at [www.augustaamusements.com](http://www.augustaamusements.com) or by calling 706-726-0366. Tickets are \$29.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 12 and under. The Jabez S. Hardin Performing Arts Center is located at 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd in Evans, Georgia. Concertgoers are encouraged to dress in their favorite clown attire and to walk the red carpet at the entrance to the Hardin Performing Arts Center.