

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

VISION FULLFILLMENT & COST



RON CROSS
Commission Chairman

For the past couple of months, we have been talking about the update of the Columbia County Growth Management Plan called Vision 2035. This state-mandated update reflected our citizens' desire for more "Quality of Life" improvements such as parks, greenways, multi-purpose paths, and cultural activities. They also wanted higher building standards and improved transportation systems. The Board of Commissioners responded to the study by implementing higher standards for building construction—particularly those that require mass grading. Thanks to region voter approval of the TIA (Transportation Investment Act), we have some 200 million dollars to spend on road improvements in the eight years, but some needed road projects have developed since then. Unfortunately, there is very little money for parks, greenways, bike paths, and an increase in the seating of the Cultural Center. The big question is, how can we afford these desired amenities?

Since we now know the feelings of the public, we have decided to offer our citizens the opportunity to greatly accelerate the schedule for these improvements by placing a referendum on the November election ballot to bond projects of your choice for rather immediate implementation. Columbia County has always maintained extremely low debt levels. Our current bond debt is only about nine percent of our allowable debt limit under state finance laws. Our AAA bond rating allows us to borrow funds at the lowest possible rate. After discussions with staff and our financial advisers we have decided to place before the voters a list of projects not to exceed sixty million dollars to determine if our citizens wish to finance these projects and allow almost immediate use by our citizens. So, which improvements should we consider?

Below is a list of possible projects that will reflect the intent of Vision 2035 with their estimated cost. There are more than the suggested amount and they are not in any particular order, although the top three have some monies already available to assist or preliminary work has already begun.

- Increase the seating for the Cultural Arts Center and Museum to two thousand seats plus twelve box seat areas. Estimated cost: 12 million dollars
- Complete Lakeside Park with greenspace, tennis courts, soccer fields, and walking paths. Estimated cost: 4 million dollars.
- Add a parking deck for 200 cars in the Plaza: Estimated cost: 4 million dollars.
- Complete the next phase of the Euchee Creek greenway: Estimated cost: 5 million dollars.
- Construct a new library in Grovetown similar to the new library in Harlem. Estimated Cost: 3.5 million dollars.
- Complete the park adjacent to the Exhibition Center with greenspace, walking tracks, playground, and a splash pad. Estimated cost: 3 million dollars.
- Complete the next phase of the Sheriff's vehicle training track. Estimated cost: 7 million dollars.
- Complete the park at the Plaza with greenspace, walking paths, overflow parking and splash pad: Estimated cost: 3 million dollars.
- Purchase multiple fire vehicles for the fire department: Estimated cost: 2 million dollars.
- Provide the 20% match of federal funds to purchase right-of-way for Hereford Farm Road. Estimated cost: 1 million dollars.
- Purchase property and construct a park in Martinez with greenspace, walking paths, playground and splash pad. Estimated cost: 4 million dollars.
- Provide a new park in the Riverwood area with greenspace, walking paths, playground and a splash pad. Estimated cost: 3 million dollars.
- Provide the 20% match of federal funds to purchase right-of-way for the widening of Hardy-McManus road. Estimated cost: Five hundred thousand dollars.
- Extend Gateway Blvd. to Wrightsboro Road to open large area for economic development. Estimated cost: 5 million dollars.
- Provide upgraded software for several county agencies. Estimated cost: 4 million dollars.

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- Provide protection for the Sheriff's firing range and provide a storage facility. Estimated cost: 1 million dollars.
- Add to and/or replace rubberized mulch in several county parks for child protection. Estimated cost: 5 hundred thousand dollars.
- Provide additional parking, another entrance and exit, and multi-purpose fields at Patriots Park. Estimated cost: 4 million dollars.

The above projects are an early list of needs and wants. Maybe you have different preferences. Our plan to have several public hearings will allow you to express your opinion on these and other desired projects.

So, we have a "wish list" and no money; sounds very familiar. How do we pay for these desirable additions? For the county to issue fifty to sixty million dollars in bonds for these improvements for a term no greater than twelve years, it would cost each property owner between thirty-five and fifty dollars per year per one hundred thousand dollars of assessed property value. If your property is assessed at \$250,000.00, your cost would be approx. \$100.00 per year for a 50 million issue and \$125.00 for a sixty

million dollar issue. Please understand, this would increase your tax slightly for the life of the bonds. Is it worth it for these things to happen? Will it benefit us that much? Do we really need it? We must remember though, that this is a way to make our vision a reality. Otherwise it will not happen at least for many, many years; maybe never.

The great thing about our form of government is that we can decide. I and several commissioners have long made the pledge that we will not vote for a property tax increase that is not approved by our citizens. That pledge stands today. However, I will vote yes to this referendum for what it will bring to our county. The TIA program increased our timetable for road improvements by fifteen to twenty years and this would do the same thing for leisure and safety needs. It is our choice. No county in Georgia has made as many improvements for its citizens as we have in the past ten years. Can we continue that pace? Are we willing to pay the cost?

Next month we will have more project information and a schedule and locations for our public hearings.



Cultural Center concept design



COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2016

Board of Commissioners Meetings

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesdays July 5th and 19th, 6:00pm
Tuesdays August 2nd and 16th, 6:00pm

Board of Commissioners Committee Meetings

Management & Internal Services and Development & Engineering Services
Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, July 12th, 8:30am

Public Works Services and Community and Emergency Services

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, July 26th, 8:30am

Management & Internal Services and Development & Engineering Services

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, August 9th, 8:30am

Public Works Services and Community and Emergency Services

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Tuesday, August 23rd, 8:30am

Columbia County Planning Commission Meetings

Building A Auditorium, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
Thursdays July 7th and 21st, 6:00pm
Thursdays August 4th and 18th, 6:00pm

JULY 2016

Date	Time	Program	Age	Description	Branch
July 24, 2016	All Day	All Libraries Closed for Independence Day		All Columbia County Libraries will be closed for Independence Day. Book drops will be locked to prevent overfilling.	All Branches
July 6, 2016	12 PM	Doodle Hour: Adult Coloring	Adults	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Evans
July 6, 2016	2 PM	Teen Kumihimo Bracelets Part 2	Teens	Teens can learn to craft beautiful woven bracelets in this class. Registration is required by calling 706-556-9795.	Harlem
July 7, 2016	2:30 PM	Bunny Trail, Meet Reggie Reader!	Children	Meet our pet rabbit and learn about his favorite place, the library!	Harlem
July 8-10, 2016	All Day	Friends of the Library Book Sale	All ages	Find your new favorite book at a great price AND support the library service you use.	Evans
July 8, 2016	11:30 AM	Senior Studies 101 Lunch and Learn	Adults	Join us for a different senior studies topic each month. Call 706-863-1946 ext. 4 for registration.	Evans
July 11, 2016	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of finding your roots. Registration required by calling 706-863-1946 ext 4.	Evans
July 11, 2016	7 PM	Pub Fiction Book Club	Adults	Join us for a new kind of book club at Pizza Central in Evans. The July selection is <i>Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates</i> by Brian Kilmeade.	Pizza Central, Evans
July 12, 2016	10:30 AM	Fort Gordon Fish and Wildlife Nature Talk	Children	Learn about the wildlife that lives in our backyards with experts from Fort Gordon.	Harlem
July 12, 2016	2:30 PM	Self Defense with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department	Children	Children can learn the basics of self defense from friendly instructors with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department.	EuChee Ck
July 12, 2016	4 PM	Beginner's Guitar Class	Teens	Join us for drop-in guitar instructions. We have up to 6 guitars available for use if students do not have one they can bring in, but they cannot take it home with them. This program is for ages 11-18. Registration is required.	Evans
July 13, 2016	2 PM	Guided Story Walk	Children	Meet us in the park behind the library to go on a guided story walk!	Evans
July 14, 2016	1 PM	Columbia County Genealogical Society	Adults	Whether you're just staring out or you're an expert on your family tree, this is the club for you!	EuChee Ck
July 14, 2016	4 PM	Factionless Fun Teen Book Club	Teens	We haven't picked a July book yet, but we'd love your help choosing one. Call 706-556-9795 for updates!	Harlem
July 14, 2016	6 PM	College Funding	Adults	Are you looking for ways to pay for your child's school? Are you going back to school? Join us to learn ways to fund that education.	Evans
July 15, 2016	2:30 PM	Self Defense with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department	Children	Children can learn the basics of self defense from friendly instructors with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department.	Harlem
July 15, 2016	5-7 PM	Summer Reading Celebration Carnival	All ages	All ages are welcome for this fun-filled carnival. Children and teens who completed the summer reading program will receive tickets for complimentary refreshments and games, and adults can purchase refreshments.	Evans
July 18, 2016	1-3 PM	Medicare 101	Adults	Do you have questions about Medicare? We have answers.	Evans
July 18, 2016	6:30 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Adults	The July selection is <i>The Perfume Collector</i> by Kathleen Tassarso.	Evans
July 21, 2016	11 AM	Adult Time Out	Adults	We'll be making a refrigerator magnet craft. Call 706-556-0594 for details.	EuChee Ck
July 21, 2016	11:30 AM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	Adults	The July selection is <i>The Little Paris Bookshop</i> by Nina George.	Evans
July 21, 2016	12 PM	Art Therapy Class	Adults	When an hour of arts and crafts isn't enough, stick around after the Adult Time Out for even more creativity.	EuChee Ck
July 21, 2016	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	Adults	The July selection is <i>X</i> by Sue Grafton.	Harlem
July 22, 2016	1-3 PM	Medicare 101	Adults	Do you have questions about Medicare? We have answers.	Evans
July 25, 2016	5:30 PM	YA Game Night	Teens	Teens can join us for games and fun. Registration required	EuChee Ck
July 26, 2016	4 PM	Guitar Club	Teens	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.	Evans
July 28, 2016	10:30 AM	On the Same Page Bookclub	Adults	The July selection is <i>The "N" Word</i> by Tiana Laveen.	EuChee Ck
July 30, 2016	10 AM- 4 PM	Local Author Event	All ages	Meet your new favorite author and find out about their work.	Evans

AUGUST 2016

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

Date	Time	Program	Age	Description	Branch
August 1, 2016	4-5:30 PM	Young Makers Program	Ages 8-12	This Maker Space program is especially for children ages 8-12. Kids will learn about science, engineering, and design with hands-on experiences.	Evans
August 1, 2016	6:30 PM	Doodle Hour: Adult Coloring	Adults	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Evans
August 2 & 9, 2016	5:30-7:30 PM	Intro to Chess I & II	All ages	Have you ever wanted to learn chess? Join us for instruction and hone your skills!	Evans
August 3, 2016	12 PM	Doodle Hour: Adult Coloring	Adults	You've seen the trend, now try it! Join us for a relaxing hour of coloring.	Evans
August 4, 2016	4 PM	Family Movie	All ages	Call for 706-556-9795 for details and the movie selection	Harlem
August 7, 2016	2:30-4:30 PM	Local Author Event	Adults	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.	Evans
August 8, 2016	3 PM	Genealogy Club	Adults	Join us to learn the basics of finding your roots. Registration required by calling 706-863-1946 ext 4.	Evans
August 8, 2016	7 PM	Pub Fiction Book Club	Adults	Join us for a new kind of book club at Pizza Central in Evans. The July selection is <i>What Alice Forgot</i> by Liane Moriarty.	Pizza Central, Evans
August 9, 2016	4 PM	Beginner's Guitar Class	Teens	Join us for drop-in guitar instructions. We have up to 6 guitars available for use if students do not have one they can bring in, but they cannot take it home with them. This program is for ages 11-18. Registration is required.	Evans
August 11, 2016	4 PM	Factionless Fun Teen Book Club	Teens	The August selection is <i>The One and Only Ivan</i> by Katherine Applegate.	Harlem
August 11, 2016	6 PM	Investment Basics	Adults	Join us to learn about investment basics. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 for registration.	Evans
August 12, 2016	11:30 AM	Senior Studies 101 Lunch and Learn	Adults	Join us for a different senior studies topic each month. Call 706-863-1946 ext. 4 for registration.	Evans
August 15, 2016	4 PM	Maker Space (ages 13-18)	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. Assistance is provided by library staff.	Evans
August 15, 2016	6 PM	Monday Night Book Discussion	Adults	The August selection is <i>The Secret Place</i> by Tana French.	Evans
August 18, 2016	11:30 AM	Brown Bag Book Discussion	Adults	The August selection is <i>A Sudden Light</i> by Garth Stein.	Evans
August 18, 2016	4 PM	Harlem Book Club	Adults	The August selection is <i>Real Murders</i> by Charlaiane Harris.	Harlem
August 18, 2016	5:30 PM	Excel	Adults	Learn the basics of Microsoft Excel. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 for registration.	Evans
August 19, 2016	1:30 PM	Medicare 101	Adults	Do you have questions about Medicare? We have answers.	Evans
August 22 & 29, 2016	10 AM- 4 PM	Computer Boot Camp Parts I & II	Adults	Are computers a mystery? This two-part class is for you. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.	Evans
August 22, 2016	4-8 PM	Open Sewing Hour	Adults	We'll supply the sewing machines and the space, you bring the supplies and the creativity!	Evans
August 23, 2016	4 PM	Guitar Club	Teens	Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc. Ages 11 to 18.	Evans
August 25, 2016	4 PM	Maker Space (ages 13-18)	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. Assistance is provided by library staff.	Evans
August 25, 2016	4 PM	Cookbook Club	Adults	Bring your favorite summer recipe to share!	Harlem
August 25, 2016	6 PM	Long Term Care & Estate Planning	Adults	Learn the basics of long-term care and estate planning. Call 706-863-1946 ext for details and registration.	Evans
August 26, 2016	10 AM- 2 PM	Open Sewing Hour	Adults	We'll supply the sewing machines and the space, you bring the supplies and the creativity!	Evans
August 26, 2016	2:30 PM	Medicare 101	Adults	Do you have questions about Medicare? We have answers.	Evans
August 29, 2016	5:30 PM	Adult Crafts- Cup Koozies	Adults	Make your own cup koozie. Registration is required. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4.	Evans

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



COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM

To be placed on the House Watch program, contact Columbia County Sheriff's Office dispatch at **(706) 541-2800** at least 24 hours prior to departure.



The House Watch Program was set up over 10 years ago to help protect the homes of people who are going to be away for an extended period of time. This free Service was designed to allow people living in Columbia County to have peace of mind while away or on vacation. In order to be placed on the House Watch program contact Columbia County Sheriff's Office dispatch at (706) 541-2800 at least 24 hours prior to departure. You will be asked

QUESTIONS YOU WILL BE ASKED:

- Home Phone Number
- Address
- Emergency Telephone Number
- If you have an Alarm Company and who
- If you have any pets
- Are there going to be any lights on
- Any vehicles in the driveway
- Is there anyone Authorized to be there
- A contact number for a person with a key
- And emergency Contact Number
- Leaving Time and Date
- Returning Time and Date

a series of questions including, but not limited too

Once the information is entered into the system, our deputy will check on the houses periodically during the day and night. If you find that you will be away longer than expected just call dispatch and tell them about the change and they will be happy to adjust the times.

ABSENTEE & EARLY VOTING SENATE 24 DISTRICT ONLY



TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA ~ SENATE 24 DISTRICT (ONLY)

Absentee Voting by mail for the July 26, 2016 Republican General Primary Run-off Election will be available June 10, 2016 through July 22, 2016. If you would like to receive an Absentee Ballot by mail, a written request must be submitted to our office.

Early/Advance Voting for the July 26, 2016 Republican General Primary Run-off Election (Senate 24 district only) will be available July 5, 2016 through July 22, 2016, Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 5:00PM in the Board of Elections Office, located at 500 Faircloth Drive, Building E of the Evans Government Complex Center.

Columbia County's Memorial Wall



We have had several inquiries regarding the purchase and dedication of park benches and/or plaques at Columbia County's Memorial Wall. I have included that information below:

To purchase a bench: please call David Wicker at (706) 312-7194 or email him at dwickerc@columbiacountyga.gov.

To purchase a plaque for MILITARY MEMORIAL WALL, Please call John Paul Stout at (706) 312-7374 or email him at jstout@columbiacountyga.gov.

The dedication plaques will be 11.25" x 3" in size. Once approved and verified, a dedication plaque would be produced and affixed to the designated area on the Memorial Wall.

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S 2016 BACK-TO-SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION WALK-IN CLINIC



Requirements for School 4-6 Years

- DTAP series
- Hepatitis B series
- Polio series
- MMR (2 doses)
- Varicella (2 doses)
- Hepatitis A
(If born on or after 01/01/06, 2 doses)

Requirements for School K4 & K5

- Hearing, Vision, Dental Screening & Nutrition Screening (form 3300)
- Students transferring to Georgia from another state must meet

vaccine requirements for attending facilities and schools in Georgia. Parent(s) must bring the child's immunization record to the health department to be evaluated by the nurse for vaccine requirements to receive form 3121 for school entry.

- If you are new to our clinics, it is helpful to drop a copy of your child's immunization records by prior to your visit so we may enter them in the State Immunization Registry System. This allows us to better serve you in a timely manner.

Dates: **August 1-5 & August 8-12, 2016**

Time: **8:00 am - 3:30 pm**

Location: **1930 William Few Parkway
Grovetown, GA 30813**

Telephone: **706-868-3330**



Youth Leadership Program



**8th— 12th Grade Students
INCREASE YOUR PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS**
Learn to speak more confidently in front of 2, 20, or 200.

The number one fear of youth and adults is speaking in front of a group. This leadership program is non-threatening and entertaining. The class will provide techniques to make those sometimes nervous butterflies come together and fly in unison.

Register Now - July 11, or until filled
Class Dates: July 11 - 15, 2016 Graduation July 15th
Time: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Fee: \$52.00
Location: Columbia County Extension/4-H Office
Additional information and registration
www.ugaextension.com/columbia



COLUMBIA COUNTY AND HEALTH CENTER CREDIT UNION PRESENT

**BOOM
IN THE
PARK**

COLUMBIA COUNTY'S ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, FUN & FIREWORKS!



Connect with us on **social media**

For the latest **NEWS, UPDATES, and INFO** on **UPCOMING EVENTS!**



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www.columbiacountyga.gov



STATE BANK & Trust Company

PRESENTS

**FAMILY
MOVIE MATINEE**

**DOORS OPEN AT NOON
MOVIE BEGINS AT 12:30**
Free admission! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by adult - seating is limited

JSH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
7022 Evans Town Center Blvd

JUNE 8

JUNE 15

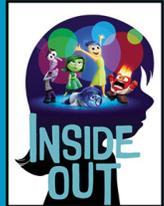
JUNE 22



JULY 13



JULY 20



JULY 27



CALL 706.868.3484



COLUMBIA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

**NEW SUMMER
ADOPTION AND
OFFICE HOURS!**

TO BETTER SERVE YOU
AND OUR FURRY FRIENDS!



OFFICE:
8:00AM - 6:00PM

KENNEL:
10:30AM - 5:30PM

STARTS: MAY 1

ENDS: OCTOBER 31

CALL FOR INFO: 706-541-4077



These hours are based on our Monday - Friday schedule.