

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

TIS THE SEASON...



RON CROSS
Commission Chairman

Ooooh, we ate too much and perhaps overindulged, but Thanksgiving is over and with that comes a sense of relief. The holidays can get hectic, busy and more difficult to appreciate than what our forefathers intended Thanksgiving to be. Breaks in the routine bring many different emotions along with contradictions. We gladly look forward to the holiday season, but once it is over, we sometimes wonder why we are so tired and not feeling as refreshed as we should. Attempting to pack too much in too short a period of time? Even we, at Columbia County, try to pack so much for our citizens in a short period of time, but that's what makes it a great place to live.

Regardless, it is a wonderful time of year. The combination of Thanksgiving and Christmas is so very special and not just for the children. Our attitudes are better; people seem to be friendlier; you see more smiles, and don't we always say that we wish it could be this way all year long? Even the fatigue that comes with the holidays can be a good feeling. A special time to be thankful can change our attitudes and make us truly realize how very fortunate we are. One of the greatest of the Christian holidays can lift our spirits and enhance the joy of giving presents and giving of ourselves for others. The pressures of our lives can be pushed in the background and not seem so important for a while. But we have to engage. We must allow the feeling not to be hindered by the problems of the day and the perceived or actual condition of our nation and

Merry
Christmas
and
happy
New Year

the world. A strong commitment to have an attitude of gratitude and a love for all that is good and right is important. True, not easy, but it can happen. Many people make it work, so why not all of us?

Here at the county, we make it work by reflecting on all that is good and all we have to be thankful for during 2017. To start with, we completed the beautiful, new Harlem Library and held its grand opening in May. Location for the new Grovetown Library has been determined and negotiations for design have begun. A right-turn lane was installed at

Fury's Ferry Road and North Belair Rd/Mullikin Road to help with the flow of traffic, and a traffic signal was installed at the intersection of William Few and Chamblin Road. Right-of-way acquisitions for the Flowing Wells Project are almost complete. Patriots Park, the Gateway Park, Lakeside Park and the park at The Plaza are all in the design phase. The Performing Arts Center is out to bid and should be awarded by the middle of December. Land acquisitions for the Euchee Creek Greenway trail are in full swing. And last but certainly not least, we are

in the homestretch of both Washington Road and Riverwatch Parkway projects!

We, the people of Columbia County, have so much to be thankful for. We enjoy the spirit of Christmas and its true meaning the "reason for the season." We sincerely wish all of you a great Holiday Season and a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!