



Courthouse Connection

JULY - SEPTEMBER
2013

In this Issue:

- Relay for Life
- Office Spotlight
- Quarterly Quote
- Hurricane Season
- Photo Gallery
- Quarterly Recipe

Quarterly Quote:

“Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment”

Unknown

Hot Topic:

The George County CWC will remain open according to a news release from the MDOC on June 17. More than 40 trustees work for the county each day. This opening will save the county \$3 million.

Did you know:

A snail can sleep for three years.



Relay for Life 2013 Was a Great Success

This year George County Relay for Life raised \$70,000 and the Courthouse Cancer Kickers were proud to be a part of that by raising \$6,065.17. We also received the following awards: 2nd Place Most Money Raised, Most Creative Team, Best Tent, and Best Team Captain.

Relay night is a time to come together as a community to celebrate, remember, and fight back against cancer, and that is just what we did. The night started with cancer survivors walking a lap around the track while everyone cheered them on, then they made a lap with their caregivers. After the caregiver lap all teams are then recognized and make a lap around the track while being cheered on for their hard work in helping fight cancer. As the night goes on everyone plays games, listens to entertainment, enjoys great food, and walks the track. When darkness falls the lights go out and a slideshow is presented of those battling cancer or who have lost the fight, then sky lanterns are lit and released into the sky. This is a very emotional part of the night that really reminds us why we come together to relay. A big part of relay is raising money for the American Cancer Society but Relay night is really about coming together as friends, family, and community to remember who we have lost and celebrate the ones we still have. If you missed Relay night you truly missed a heart touching experience. I hope everyone will continue to be a part of our Courthouse team because together we can make a difference. If you or someone you know would like to participate in Relay for Life 2014 as a team, committee member, volunteer relay night, or donate please let me know. Cancer is such a terrible disease affecting so many people how could we as a community not help each other. We are bigger than cancer when we stick together.



Written by: Nancy Smith



“Office Spotlight” Veterans Service



George County is proud to be home to 1,800 U.S. military veterans. These local veterans need assistance in filing claims with the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The County's Veterans Service Officer is Jerry Hite, and he assists military veterans in obtaining their benefits and advising them of their rights. Jerry has been employed by the County since 1986. His newly renovated office is on the first floor of the Courthouse.

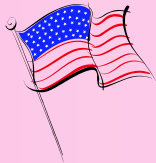
Last year the County office handled \$8.6 million in expenditures from Veterans Administration. The most common request include: funeral advice, file claims, widow benefits, children's benefits, discharges, medical assistance, appeals, insurance, government issued homes, loans, and assistance to ex -POW's. We have seen an increase in benefits and assistance due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Veterans Office business hours are every Wednesday, 7 AM - 1 PM.



Important Dates:

July 4 & 5 - Holiday
 July 4 - Fireworks Show
 Aug. 7 - School Starts
 Sept. 2 - Labor Day



Service Milestones:

July:

Rhonda Byrd - 5 years
 Nicole Schultz - 5 years
 Joe Dearing - 5 years
 Hance Holyfield - 5 years

August:

Johnny Havard - 1 year
 Vicki Mizelle - 10 years
 Kathy Smith - 5 years
 William Davis - 10 years

Did you know:

A single cigarette contains over 48,000 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer



Remember:

Hurricane Season is
 June 1– Nov. 30



**Hurricane Season 2013
 Are you Ready?**



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting an above average season for hurricanes this year. With warm ocean waters and a lack of an El Nino; NOAA is predicting 13 to 20 named storms, with seven to 11 of them becoming hurricanes and possibly three to six of those becoming major hurricanes.

The question is: **Are you ready for what this hurricane season may bring to our area?** Preparedness can be summed up in three steps, be informed, make a plan, and make a kit.

First be informed of all the hazards that can affect our area from a hurricane including strong winds, tornadoes, and flooding. Then make a plan for what you and your family will do should a hurricane threaten our area. Decide if you will evacuate or stay home. If you plan to stay in a public shelter know what to bring with you. If you have pets make plans for them also. Finally make a disaster supply kit. Includes items such as non-perishable food, water, flashlights, extra batteries, battery powered radio, toiletry items, pet food, etc. For more information on preparedness visit www.ready.gov or www.msema.org. Also, the American Red Cross has a free hurricane app you can download for your phone. Remember preparing for a storm now will keep you and your family safe later.

**Photo Gallery
 Relay for Life 2013**



**Quarterly Recipe
 "Coconut Delight"**



1c flour
 1 stick margarine (melted)
 ½ c chopped pecans
 1 tsp. coconut flavor
 Mix until crumbly and press into 9x13 dish. Bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned; let cool.
 1 8oz cream cheese
 1c confectioners sugar
 1c cool whip (from large container)

Mix well and spread onto cooled crust.
 2bx vanilla instant pudding
 3c milk
 Large cool whip (minus 1 cup)
 Mix well and pour over cream cheese layer.
 Sprinkle 1-2 cups coconut flakes on top and gently pat in.

Submitted by: Loraine Howell