



Laurens Parks and Rec

## Award winner following in Quincy's footsteps

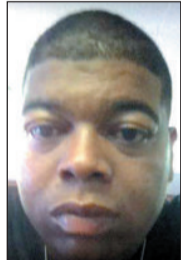
By Judith Brown  
Staff Writer

A volunteer of the year award presented Tuesday night at Laurens City Council was as much about the award's namesake, the late Quincy Cook, as it was about the recipient, and that's just how award-winner Chuck Smith of Laurens wanted it.

"I remember that phone call in 2011, when (Quincy) said he remembered I played football and he was coaching this team and he could use my help," Smith said of his cousin, following his surprise at being called in front of Laurens City Council to accept the inaugural Quincy Cook Volunteer of the Year Award. "I can't accept this award without talking about him, because I've been doing this for seven or eight years because of him."

The award was presented by Jason Pridden, director of the Laurens Parks and Recreation Department. Smith thought he had been asked there solely to talk about Cook, and he was ready and willing to do just that, starting with recounting that first call for his assistance.

It was 2011 and Cook told his young cousin that he had volunteered to coach football, and he could use his help since Smith had recently played football for



Quincy Cook



Photo by Judith Brown

**OWES IT TO QUINCY** — Chuck Smith was surrounded by the family of his cousin, the late Quincy Cook, when he was surprised Tuesday with the inaugural Quincy Cook Volunteer of the Year Award by the City of Laurens Parks and Recreation Department. Pictured are Cook's son, Quindarius Young; award winner, Smith; Cook's sister and mother, India Cook and Mary Cook; and Jason Pridden, director of the Laurens Parks and Recreation Department.

Laurens District High. "But I wasn't there anytime and he threw me in there, and said, 'I'll let you take over now,'" Smith recalled, admitting that later he understood what Cook was doing, and that was to give him a larger purpose in life than just going to work each day.

Cook passed away in 2015 at the age of 46 after volunteering with the Laurens

Parks and Recreation Department for more than four years, and volunteering with Dixie Youth baseball for more than 20 years.

"He gave many years to our local community," Pridden said, "and when we lost him on Nov. 21, 2015, it was a loss to our city."

(Continued on page 2)

## SLED, LCSO investigating fatal Youngs Comm. fire

By John Clayton  
Editor

Investigators from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the Laurens County Sheriff's Office are still investigating a Wednesday night house fire that killed a man in the Youngs community.

Korey Cantrell, 42, perished in the fire at his home on Harris Bridge Road, which is just a short drive from the Youngs Fire Department and EMS station.

Fire fighters responded to the blaze around 8:30 p.m. and the Laurens County Coroner's office pronounced Cantrell dead at the scene at 8:49 p.m. An autopsy performed Thursday afternoon determined he died of smoke inhalation and thermal burns, said Laurens County Deputy Coroner Vickie Cheek.

Laurens County Deputy Director of Fire Services Curt Thackston said the fire had spread into the roof when fire fighters arrived at the home and found Cantrell in the house.

Fire departments from Youngs, Durbin Creek, Thompson Road, Gray Court and Sandy Springs responded to the fire.

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