



McCormick Messenger

True to Ourselves, Our Neighbors, Our Country and Our God

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No one was injured when this plane went down near Georgia Pacific on Dec. 19. The pilot and passenger stated they experienced engine problems. -Sheriff's Dept. photo

Pilot, passenger walk away from plane crash near GP

By Bob Stockton

McCormick County Sheriff's deputies responded to a series of break-ins and a plane crash just before Christmas.

Deputies were dispatched to the Georgia Pacific lumber yard at Main Street and SR 28 on Wednesday, Dec. 19. They talked with a witness who said he saw a plane flying just above three trees, and it crashed into woods near the road.

Deputies then talked with the pilot and passenger, who said that the plane experienced engine problems. They said they put it down in the safest possible area,

and both walked away from the crash unhurt.

Earlier in the month, a report of a stolen trailer attracted deputies who searched the surrounding area. They located the trailer in a wooded area off Barksdale Ferry Road, identified a suspect and obtained warrants.

Two days later, deputies saw the subject driving on SR 10, performed a traffic stop and informed the subject of felony warrants on file. They noticed a clear plastic bag on the passenger seat and advised the subject that he would be charged with possession of methamphetamine.

A further search of the vehicle resulted in an additional charge of possession of burglary tools (bolt cutters, electric drill, flashlight, screwdrivers, etc.). The subject was taken to the detention center to await a bond hearing, and the trailer was returned to its owner.

Deputies also responded to break-ins in the Morrah Bridge Road and Charlotte Road areas. Scenes were processed and the incidents remain under investigation.

The Westtown Apartments were also the scene of a break-in and theft of two video game consoles and several games. Fingerprints were lifted and submitted to the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for identification. The case remains under investigation pending identification from SLED.

Annie Laurie Gebauer celebrates 100th birthday

By Elena Anderson
Mrs. Gebauer's great-niece

December 24, 2018 marked the 100th birthday of Annie Laurie (Sturkey) Gebauer, a native of McCormick now living in Greenwood.

Mrs. Gebauer was born at her home in McCormick to Lucy (Anderson) Sturkey and M.L.B. Sturkey, a founder of McCormick County.

Mrs. Gebauer celebrated her centennial with family and friends at the Wesley Commons retirement community in Greenwood.

Representative John R. McCravy III presented her with a special commendation from the South Carolina House of Representatives recognizing her service in the Coast Guard during World War II and her 34 years in the reserves, where she reached the rank of Commander.



Pianist Richard Dowling performs "Great Scott!" - A Joplin Celebration

By Carol A. DuFault

The Sundays at Four Concert Series at the Lutheran Church By The Lake in McCormick invites you to enjoy a special concert of ragtime piano music by Scott Joplin on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 13 at 4 p.m., performed by the critically-acclaimed pianist Richard Dowling.

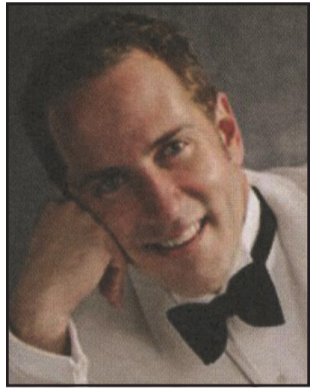
Richard Dowling's *Great Scott!* Solo piano concert features the beloved Scott Joplin ragtime piano works used in the 1973 Academy-Award-winning movie, *The Sting*, including *The Entertainer* plus many other dazzling, rarely-heard Joplin compositions. During his short lifetime (ca 1868-1917) Joplin was hailed as "the King of Ragtime Writers." New York-based pianist Richard Dowling celebrates Joplin's 150th birthday with a synopated, toe-tapping tribute that will delight audiences young and old. Dowling punctuates his performances with fascinating spoken anecdotes and projected images of the beautiful artwork from Joplin's original sheet music covers from a century ago.

Dowling is the first pianist in the world to perform all of Joplin's piano works in public. On April 1, 2017 -

exactly 100 years to the day that Joplin died in New York City - Dowling performed the complete Joplin cycle (53 rags, waltzes, marches, and cakewalks) in two historic sold-out recitals at Carnegie Hall in New York. Throughout 2017 and 2018 he has performed nearly 100 all-Joplin recitals nationwide. His 3-CD set, *The Complete Piano Works of Scott Joplin*, was nominated for a Grammy Award. Join us for this exciting concert by today's premier Joplin interpreter.

Visit Dowling's website at www.richard-dowling.com.

For more information about tickets and venue visit lcbtl.org/news-events/Sundays-at-four/



Town of McCormick streetscape will have to be rescoped and rebid

By Kathy Stokes

The regular McCormick Town Council meeting was held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the McCormick One Stop Conference Room and was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Roy Smith Jr.

Council members Dolly Franklin and Eric Butler were absent. Council members Ann Seymour, Nathan Jones, Alvin Jennings, Dolly Franklin and Town Attorney John D. Compton, III were in attendance.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Agenda as Presented.

Presentations

Rett Harbison, JLA - Report on Streetscape Bid Process, Award of Contract, and Action by Council - bidding was over \$291,000 over the \$500,000 grant awarded. The project will be rescoped and rebid. The fencing, landscaping and resurfacing the streets and sidewalks are still on, but limiting it from Virginia Street to Augusta may help keep bidding in range of current grant. Future grants will fund Phases 2 (roundabout at Cotton Gin Complex) and Phase 3 (Memorial and pedestrian walkway in front of the Town Hall).

Rick Green, Community Services Director, Upper Savannah Council of Governments - Town Zoning Ordinance & Zoning Map. The proposed Town of McCormick Zoning Map has been digitized and will be available at Town Hall and the web as soon as it is approved.

Appearance of Citizens, Public Comments - None.

By Kathy Stokes

McCormick Commission of Public Works, 912 South Main Street, McCormick, met Thursday, Dec. 13 at 5:05 p.m.

Members in attendance: Leonard Bowick, commissioner, Charles Hegler, chairman, Adam Hedden, general manager, George Long, commissioner and James Robinson, superintendent.

Public or Employee Comments - None

Minutes from Nov. 8, 2018 Regular Meeting; November Accounts Payable; and October 2018 Financial Statement were all approved as presented.

Office Manager/Finance Director Cheryl Daniels - Deborah Peeler has accepted the office clerk position and will start work on Jan. 7. Overall, operations are running smoothly.

Superintendent James Robinson - Safety training for the month of December will be Lock Out and Tag Out. Overall, things are running smoothly.

Charles Hegler spoke for Glenn Hill and Edward Deason for West Water and Water Treatment Plants. New pump for West Town lift station. Second and final toxicity tests were good (each test costs approximately \$1,000). Overall, operations are running smoothly even though there was high lake turbidity. Lake level on Dec. 7 was 326.6 feet. All settling basins have been washed out as of last week. Total flow 14,633,000 gallons, compared to last year's 16,071,000. Total sewer gallons treated was 13,170,000 gallons compared to last year's 13,330,000. Deason attended the annual DHEC surface water meeting in Columbia, where McCormick Water Plant was awarded the Area-Wide Optimization Program Excellence Award. The Water Plant would like to thank the commissioners for the meal in Greenwood and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

General Manager Adam Hedden:

• Water Intake Project Update - We are working toward closing out the project. The contractor provided

Regular Town Council Business - November Minutes, Bills, and Financial Statements were approved.

Legislation: Ordinance - one: O-2018-10-09-01 - Zoning Ordinance & Zoning Map Update (Motion for Second Reading/Adoption) - approved.

Resolutions and Proclamations - None

Reports:

Police, Fire (house on Clayton took 22 firemen from eight stations; although the structure was saved the interior was not), Clerk/Treasurer & Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Reports are written and not distributed but can be reviewed at Town Hall.

Old Business:

Copy of 2019 Meeting Dates/Holidays to be Observed

Copy of FY 2019/2020 General Fund Operating Budget Schedule

New Business:

Draft Copy of Resolution No. R-2019-01-08-01 - Safety Policy & Management Letter for review; will move to Legislation for Council Action in January

Mayor's Comments/Events:

Elected Officials Drop-in/Dorn House, Dec. 13; 6-8 p.m.

Rescheduled Parade - Dec. 15, 3 p.m.

Christmas Holidays - Dec. 24, 25 and 26

Motion for adjournment was made at 7:22 p.m.

CPW meeting highlights

the final paperwork needed so we can complete the final draw. Once the final draw is approved, the RIA will then want to do an onsite visit before completing the project closeout. The onsite is anticipated for January.

• Water Plant Update - Tower - S&ME performed the boring Geotechnical study. Their report stated the encountered soil profile appeared suitable for the proposed development. Also, the driveway permit has been approved by the SCDOT.

• Letting - Plans are currently at USDA for review. Our local attorney is finishing up the property and right of way review required by the USDA. A copy of our policies was provided as part of the letter of conditions.

• Interim Financing - We need the letting date before moving further.

• Wastewater Plant Update - The ordinance and response plans are complete. They were turned in to DHEC prior to the due date. The ordinance must be reviewed by DHEC before we can send it over to the town for an ordinance vote. All items on the consent order are complete.

• Wholesale Power - We are still on schedule to go live with NTE on 1/1/19. Our NTSAs are signed and complete.

• Equipment - Dump Truck - in Lexington finishing bed modifications. It should be done by Christmas.

• Wall Street Lights - Original requestors have not responded. Moving forward with plans to place a light near the curve.

New Business: none

Old Business: George Long requested verification from last month's meeting from Hedden about homeowners who report a significant water leak. Hedden clarified that the old way CPW would credit on the sewer portion only but the Board approved that the homeowner would be charged the average water usage in full and the rest would be the CPW cost of the water used.

Comments: none

Executive Session: adjourned for session and meeting at 5:17 p.m.

In Brief

Meeting

McCormick County First Steps Partnership Board will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 4 p.m., in the First Steps Office, 615-A Clayton Street. The public is welcome and all board members are encouraged to attend.

Pancake Breakfast

The Good Shepherd Men's Club is having a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will have your choice of regular, blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes with regular or spicy sausage, peaches and cream, orange juice and regular or decaf coffee. All you can eat for just \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Good Shepherd Church is located one mile out of McCormick on Hwy. 221 going toward Greenwood.

Free Eye Clinic

The McCormick Lions Club and the Greenwood Eye Clinic will hold a free eye clinic and do blood pressure readings on Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 9 a.m. until noon. The clinic will be held at the Chamber of Commerce office at the corner of Gold and Main Streets in downtown McCormick. An ophthalmologist from the Greenwood Eye Clinic will conduct vision screenings and provide evaluation. There is no charge for these services, and an appointment is not necessary. If you know of anyone who has vision problems and cannot afford glasses, please let them know that the Lions will pay expenses for new glasses for qualified applicants. For transportation or more information about the clinic, please call Bet Dombrowski at 391-2861. Start the new year right - have your vision checked!