



This Little Library was recently added near the Plum Branch Town Hall by McCormick County Friends of the Library.

Little Libraries program expands to Plum Branch

By Glenda Sartain

McCormick County Friends of the Library is pleased to announce the expansion of our Little Libraries program.

Our newest edition is located in Plum Branch next to the Town Hall. A skilled local craftsman donated his time and talents to create the newest mini book repository.

Thanks also to the Plum Branch Town Council for their willingness to support our effort by allowing its placement.

This will make the third of our mini-micro libraries currently in operation in the county. One is located at the McCormick Rehab and Healthcare Center (previously Petra Rehab Center), and the other is sited at the McCormick Family Practice.

Feel free to visit one of our Little Libraries to take a book, trade one or share one.

These mini libraries are maintained by volunteers from Friends of the Library. They are not to be used to return books you have checked out from the Main Library in town. We hope you will be able to take advantage of one of our Little Libraries in the near future. Happy reading!

PBYC to meet with Corps to implement five-year plan

By Bob Stockton

The Plum Branch Yacht Club (PBYC) is anticipating the growth that has taken place over the last several years will continue into 2021 and beyond.

"More and more people are retiring or working remotely, and they are joining recreational vehicle and boating communities," said PBYC's George Selfridge.

Based upon growing RV and boat sales, PBYC has invested several millions of dollars in its recreation facilities over the years, anticipating that this growth will continue and will become an important part of the economy of McCormick County.

"Thurmond Lake has a reputation as one of the best lakes in the eastern U.S., but is also one of the best kept secrets," Selfridge said.

The recent developments of the Thurmond Lake RV Park and the Main Street Boat Sheds in the immediate vicinity of PBYC is further evidence of the lake's growing reputation.

"We are seeing a greater number of people from the coast coming to PBYC," said Selfridge. "Coastal visitors have become a surprisingly unexpected source of income for us. They bring their campers, put their boats in our slips, buy at our Ship's Store and eat at the Lakeside Grill.

"We have built and set aside dedicated slips for these transient boaters thanks to grants from the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Fund sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. This is another 'first' for PBYC: the first inland marina to obtain these Grants.

"During our prime season, April to September, our campgrounds and marina are filled to capacity," he said.

To accommodate anticipated growth, Selfridge will be meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to outline future expansion plans and get its approval.

"We started 26 years ago with a lot of small camping trailers and small pontoon boats, but now we're getting a few \$100,000-and-up recreation vehicles and big boy boats," he said.

"We are fortunate that Eddie Wilson has recently joined our PBYC staff as maintenance manager. He has been coming to this location since he was in high school.

"Eddie has made a substantial difference in improving both our appearance and service to our customers, and he will be instrumental in guiding our future growth," said Selfridge.

Wilson heads up a department of five employees in the PBYC maintenance department. Four other employees staff the Ship's Store, and seven-to-nine more work at the Lakeside Grill during the summer months.

"This will be our 26th year operating Plum Branch Yacht Club, and the years have gone by way too quickly," said Selfridge. "The best part of this endeavor is that we have made a great number of very nice friends."



Eddie Wilson, who had been coming to the Plum Branch Yacht Club location as a high school student, is now the manager of the PBYC maintenance department and its five employees. "Eddie has made a substantial difference in improving both our appearance and service," says PBYC's George Selfridge.



The Plum Branch Yacht Club was not what it is today when George Selfridge and Bea McClain took charge of it 26 years ago. The pair have invested millions of dollars into the facility and attracted an upscale client base. When they first opened, the typical camper was like the one above. Today, PBYC hosts some RVs like the one below.



In Brief

McCormick Lions Club Eye Clinic

Due to COVID-19, the McCormick Lions Club is not able to offer free eye clinics until the spread of the virus has subsided. However, if you have received optical assistance through the McCormick Lions Club in the past and your records are already in the database, you may call Bet Dombrowski at 391-2861 or 378-4024 to determine if you are currently eligible for assistance.

Meeting Location Change

The regular Town Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Talmadge Fitness Center, 1319 S. Main St., McCormick. A joint meeting with McCormick County officials regarding the use of the old County Office building located on East Augusta St. will begin at 6 p.m. Face coverings and social distancing required.

Long Cane Massacre Anniversary

The Lower Long Cane A.R.P. Church in Troy will mark the 261st Anniversary of the Long Cane Massacre at 3 p.m. on Jan. 31.

Guest speaker will be Eric Williams of Greenwood. Williams is a Ret. Star Fort Ranger and an artist. He will also unveil his painting of the massacre site.

For more information contact Jenny Kelly at 864-379-2753.

Building Trades National Medical Screening Program

Did you work at a DOE/AEC site? If so, you may be eligible for a FREE medical exam. DOE/AEC sites include: Amchitka, Argonne West, Ashtabula, Battelle Labs (King Ave & West Jeff), Brookhaven, Brush Luckey, Fernald, GE Evendale, Hanford, Huntington Pilot Plant, Idaho National Lab, Kansas City Plant, Mallinckrodt, Mound, National Energy Technology Lab, Oak Ridge, Paducah, Pinellas, Piqua, Portsmouth, Rocky Flats, Savannah River Site, Shippingport Atomic Power Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Weldon Spring and Yucca Mountain. For more information, call 1-800-866-9663 or visit www.btmed.org.

Head Start

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. is now recruiting for the 2021-2022 school year for the GLEAMNS Head Start and Early Head Start Center. A life-changing experience for the entire family. McCormick Head Start ages birth to five years old. Call 864-852-6010 for enrollment information. Visit www.gleamshrc.org to complete an enrollment application. Applications are accepted regardless of race, sex, creed, nationality, immigration status or disability.

483 COVID-19 cases

On Jan. 3, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announced 483 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in McCormick County and 9 confirmed deaths. On Jan. 3, DHEC reported a total of 328,073 cases of COVID-19 in the state and 5,498 confirmed deaths.