



McCormick Messenger

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

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In Brief

Planning Commission

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the McCormick County Planning Commission has been changed from Thursday, Jan. 6 to Thursday, Jan. 13. The meeting will be held at the Parksville Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. A public meeting will follow at 7 p.m. to discuss the new proposed Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. The public is encouraged to attend.

Library Hosts Local Author

Dr. James A. Franklin Sr. will discuss his memoir, *Golden Nuggets: Experiences in the Old South*, on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the McCormick Library. Born and raised in McCormick, and the youngest of twelve children, Dr. Franklin grew up in Dorn's Alley, in one of nine shanty houses located where the library stands today. He earned three degrees from S.C. State University and became a lifelong educator, serving as a teacher, principal, professor and superintendent. His presentation will be followed by a book signing and light refreshments.

Children's Cooking Class

The McCormick County Library in cooperation with the Clemson Youth Learning Institute SNAP-Ed will offer a hands-on Children's Cooking Class on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the library. This unique class will include preparation of a recipe and will cover: learning how to measure liquid and dry ingredients, kitchen safety, nutritional values, My Plate healthy portions, and a black light demonstration of the importance of handwashing/cleanliness. Every child participating will receive a cookbook. This free program is designed for children ages 8-13. Please call or email the library to register. 864-852-2821 mccormicklibrary@hotmail.com

Health Screening Events

Self Regional Healthcare's Full Circle Care Clinic and Community Prevention and Wellness will host community preventative health screening events on the following dates: Date: Sunday, Jan. 16. Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Location: New Hope Baptist Church, 1680 New Hope Rd., Plum Branch.

Date: Sunday, Feb. 20 Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Location: Shiloh AME Church, 405 SC Highway 10, McCormick.

Events are open to the public. Health education, preventative screenings, assistance with MyChart Activation and Telehealth appointments will be offered.

Annual Meeting

The McCormick County Housing Authority on Aging will hold its annual public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the McCormick County Library.

OEDGS January Meeting

The public is cordially invited to the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society meeting on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 3 p.m. in the American Legion Hut, 314 Penn Street, Edgefield. The program will be a Catfish Stew Appreciation Dinner and Local Indian Artifact Exhibit. OEDGS 1st Vice President Ralph Scurry is planning to make one of his father's famous catfish stews and Phillip Wright will have some of his father's magnificent Indian artifacts on display for the public to view. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this event!

CWP Class

Police Chief Bo Willis will conduct a concealed weapons permit class on Saturday, Jan. 22 starting at 8 a.m. at the sheriff's office on Augusta Street Extension. For more information, call 852-2985.

Head Start

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. is now enrolling 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 3 to 5 years old. Call 864-852-6010 for enrollment information. Visit www.gleamns.org to complete an enrollment application. Applications are accepted regardless of race, sex, creed, nationality, immigration status or disability.



Christmas trees at the old Grist Mill (photo credit: Nathan Elliott / Savannah Shoreline Magazine)

McCormick listed as one of nine SC towns that could star in a Hallmark Christmas movie

The *Travel Awaits* website recently published an article entitled, "9 Charming Towns In South Carolina That Could Star In A Hallmark Christmas Movie". McCormick was number three on the list. Other towns included Greenville, Aiken, Myrtle Beach, Murrells Inlet, Manning, Abbeville, Pendleton, and Rock Hill.

The photo of the trees at the Grist Mill was taken by Nathan Elliott, publisher of *Shorelines*, the Savannah Lakes Village monthly magazine. The following excerpts are from the article written by Penny Zibula a freelance travel writer and blogger based in New Bern, N.C. To read the entire article go to: <https://www.travelawaits.com/2714839/south-carolina-hallmark-christmas-towns/>

"South Carolina is rich in history, beautiful beaches, friendly inhabitants, and many other good things, but snow is not among them. However, the lack of white precipitation in no way dampens the Christmas spirit in South Carolina's towns, nor does it make those towns less worthy of Hallmark Christmas movie town status."

"In the same way, each town has its own look, feel, and story; each also has its own individual Christmas

vibe. With so many delightful destinations from which to choose, deciding among them is impossible. But here is a small sampling of shining South Carolina towns where all your Hallmark Christmas movie dreams can come true.

"For a pretty town with a population of less than 3,000, McCormick makes the holiday season shine with big-time celebrating, just like in a Hallmark Christmas movie."

"To help everyone get into Hallmark movie mode, the 2021 Holiday on Main (HOM) Christmas Parade has as its theme "Cultivating a Hallmark Christmas." Of course, Santa is primed and ready for fun and photos.

"The Holiday Market at the Cotton Gin, featuring local and regional artisans selling unique handcrafted creations, as well as the Festival of Trees at the Grist Mill make excellent use of McCormick's historical sites."

"Santa and his elves assist in the tree lighting ceremony. And everyone is counting the days to the Chamber of Commerce Cookie Walk. A \$10 advance ticket purchase buys over 25 individual cookies or baked items from participating local businesses."



Hershey Kiss Boddie, furbaby of Office Manager LeeAnne, paid a visit for the first time to the Messenger. She had so much fun touring the building. She loved the stairs the most.

MCA receives \$5,000 grant

The McCormick Community Alliance (MCA) received a \$5,000 grant on Dec. 20 for the purpose of educating citizens on redistricting. One-hundred mini-grants were made possible by several generous donors through the Southern Leadership for Voter Engagement (SOLVE), and MCA was selected to receive one of them.

MCA is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) education organization that was established in 2021. It is an umbrella organization that addresses issues that affect the entire county through presentations, flyers and newspaper articles. Redistricting is the first project; and after the first grant expires, other issues will be identified and addressed.

The following presentations on redistricting have been scheduled; no registration is required, just show up:

- Thursday, Jan. 6, 1 p.m. at the McCormick Chamber of Commerce
- Monday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m. at the McCormick Chamber of Commerce
- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 12 p.m. (noon) at the McCormick County Library
- Saturday, Jan. 15, 1 p.m. at the Parksville Town Hall
- Monday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m. at the Lutheran Church By The Lake
- Thursday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. at the Mims Community Center, Willington

For more information about the McCormick Community Alliance, suggested issues to address, or how to make donations to support MCA's programs and activities, send a message to McCormickCommunityAlliance@gmail.com

Upstate Red Cross is recruiting residents for volunteer positions

By Dave Lorenzatti
Red Cross Community Volunteer Leader

The American Red Cross of South Carolina is asking residents to consider making a New Year's resolution to become volunteers. More than 1,700 people are Red Cross volunteers in South Carolina. They are among the almost 300,000 volunteers across the country who respond to 60,000 disasters every year.

Rod Tolbert, chief executive officer for S.C. Red Cross said, "In 2021, because of the generosity of our donors and the power of our volunteers, we responded to nearly 1,500 disasters, providing more than \$1.3 million in direct financial assistance, as well as food, shelter, comfort and hope to 5,600 people affected by home fires and other disasters." He added that more than 125 volunteers were deployed to other states, some more than once, to assist families who suffered losses resulting from large-scale disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and wildfires.

And to meet the increasing needs of hospital patients, Tolbert said the Red Cross collected more than 83,000 units of lifesaving blood in the state; that it made nearly 1,500 homes safer through educational visits, and assisted more than 4,000 active-duty military, veterans, and their families through emergency communications and other essential needs.

The Upstate Red Cross Chapter is looking to residents of McCormick, Greenwood and Abbeville counties to fill several volunteer positions as members of disaster action teams, disaster shelter volunteers, blood donor ambassadors, service to armed forces and more. Training is free. More information is available online at www.redcross.org/volunteertoday.

The Red Cross said the safety of volunteers is a top priority as it navigates the coronavirus pandemic, and that it follows the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control. Beginning Jan. 3 of the new year, all volunteers for in-person positions are required to have received a COVID-19 vaccination. It also recommends that individuals who consider becoming volunteers and are at higher risk for severe illness, should consult their health care provider.

Free books available for pre-school children

Would you like to receive free books for your pre-school child(ren)? McCormick County First Steps and Dolly Parton extend the invitation for you and your pre-school aged child to enroll in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. To be eligible the child must be preschool age (birth to age 5) and must be a resident of McCormick County. If you are interested, contact NaToya Cartledge at McCormick County First Steps (located at McCormick Elementary School Room 133) 864-443-5382.