

In Brief

Dinner and Elvis

Friday, Feb. 11, 7 - 10 p.m., TFC Cafe, 1319 S. Main St. Single \$20, couple \$35. (BYOB). Baked chicken, broccoli casserole, green beans, side salad, drink, red velvet cake.

Proceeds go to Meals on Wheels program, 852-3755.

Bees Don't Bug Me

The next program at the McCormick Library is for ages 10-17 and will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 10 until 11:30 a.m. This free class will cover the importance of pollinators, beneficial plants for bees, and a basic beekeeping lesson with a local beekeeper.

Every participant will receive a mason bee house kit and seed packets to take home. Live bees are not part of this class. Register soon, seating is limited. Email: mccormicklibrary@hotmail.com Phone: 864-852-2821

Sharing Concerns

Save the date! Wednesday, Feb. 16, 4 p.m., McCormick County Library, 201 Railroad Avenue.

Why? A gathering of Republicans and like-minded conservatives to discuss any McCormick County issues, as well as local/national political situations, election integrity, etc. This will be a give-and-take discussion of what's on your mind.

Questions? Contact Kevin McCravy, McCormick County Republican Party Chairman, (703) 398-5552, mcrp_chairman@outlook.com.

CTC Meeting

McCormick CTC will hold its regular meeting at 9 a.m. on Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. in the County Administration Center, 610 South Mine Street.

Recreation News

The McCormick Recreation Department is now accepting registration for youth baseball/softball. This is for boys and girls ages 4 to 12. You may register at the McCormick County Administration Center (next to Food Lion) Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the Mims Civic Center. The last day to register is Feb. 25.

Health Screening Event

Self Regional Healthcare's Full Circle Care Clinic and Community Prevention and Wellness will host a community preventative health screening event on the following date: Sunday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Shiloh AME Church, 405 SC Highway 10, McCormick.

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

Cursive Workbooks

The Literacy Association now has cursive handwriting workbooks for adults, "Learning Cursive with Positive Affirmation & Inspirational Quotes." Call 864-852-3172 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to obtain one.

Open Enrollment

McCormick County School District will begin open enrollment for CERDEP/PRE-K and Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Please contact Pam Turman with any questions at 864-852-0620.

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library board members will meet on March 1 to discuss potential changes to their existing by-laws. The gathering will be held at the McCormick Public Library at 1:30 p.m. in their meeting room on site. All current FOL members are encouraged to attend and provide comments.



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church was presented the Award of Excellence for Non-Profit at the Chamber's annual dinner on Jan. 27. Pictured are Verda Musier, Linda Jones, Pastor Michael Butler, Lynda Butler, Kitty Craig-Jackson and Willie Jackson.

Chamber annual dinner draws crowd at Talmadge Center

McCormick County Chamber of Commerce members gathered Jan. 27 at the Talmadge Center for the annual dinner meeting.

Approximately 125 people attended the event sponsored by First Citizens Bank, the MACK, CPW, Lee Builders, Hester's Bottoms, Savannah Lakes Village Property Owners Association and WCTEL.

Chamber Board Chairman Jimmy Smith welcomed the crowd and introduced Chamber board members Judah Van-Syckel, Vicki Dorn, Terry Olson, Tonia Bandy, Linda Jones, Lucinda Deason, Larnell Leverette and Shay Franklin.

Bandy, Deason and Jones have agreed to serve another term. Matt Dove was elected to fill the seat of Shay Franklin.

Chamber Executive Director Charlotte Tallent said that 33 members have joined the Chamber since last year and there are currently 208 total members. The Railroad Cafe, three law offices and a barber shop opened this year. Two new businesses, along with another law office and the Lakeland Overheard Door Company, will be coming soon.

The first speaker of the evening was Mark Warner, McCormick County Director of Economic and Community Development. Warner brings 12-plus years of economic development, business development and marketing to his role. Prior to joining McCormick County last April, Warner was VP of Business Development and Marketing for Davis & Floyd. Before that he was with the Greenwood Partnership Alliance, serving as existing industry and workforce director and then chief executive officer.

Warner began his presentation with a

new website, which was launched before Christmas: www.discovermccormick.com He thanked all those involved in this project. The site promotes the lifestyle, recreation and tourism activities that McCormick County offers.

Warner referenced an economic development strategic plan, which was published in 2015. There were challenges, threats and opportunities listed in that plan. Challenges were high rents, particularly in the downtown area; divides between long-time and newcomer residents; and negative attitudes. "This county is at a turning point. Our population is aging, and our school enrollment is in decline."

He continued, "The best thing that is going on in the county is the growth at Savannah Lakes. We pulled permits from 2016, and there have been over 500 new single-family residences built countywide, and 74 percent of those are in Savannah Lakes."

The next speaker was Dr. Jaime L. Hembree, superintendent, McCormick County Schools of Inquiry and Innovation. She has worked in education since 2002. She was named superintendent of McCormick County Schools in July of 2020. She received her Bachelor of Science degree at

Marshall University in West Virginia and both her Masters and Doctorate of Education degrees at Gardner Webb University in North Carolina.

Dr. Hembree gave examples from the

Chamber Dinner, see page 2



Strom's Drug Store was presented the Award of Excellence in Business during the Chamber's annual dinner recently. Pictured (l-r): Stephanie Lewis, Tonya Callaway, Reba Dorn, William Matheny, Dorothy Avery, Spencer Franks and Taylor Champion.

School board approves sale of bonds

By Chuck Cook

At their Feb. 7 monthly meeting the McCormick County School Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the sale of up to \$1.4 million in general obligation bonds for capital improvements. All members of the board were present for the meeting at the MHS Media Center, with the exception of Shay Franklin.

Bond attorney Mike Gallagher attended the meeting virtually and informed trustees that the actual amount of bonds sold would depend on interest rates in April when the details of the sale are finalized. The district does not plan on increasing the current 27 mill levy to cover its one-year maturity date for bond sales, so the amount will be based on how much that levy will raise in the bond market on the sale date. Gallagher and financial consultant David Loadholt also confirmed that last year's bond sale would be retired in March, before the new sale is offered to the public in April.

Under the state's constitution school districts and other public bodies are authorized to sell without a voter referendum general obligation bonds totaling up to eight percent of the assessed value of property in the taxable district. The resolution passed by the board indicates that as of June 30, 2021 the assessed value of taxable property in McCormick County was \$49,813,739, providing the district with \$3,985,099 of bond sales authority without a referendum.

There was no discussion of the specific capital projects that would be funded by this year's bond sale, but the trustees have already approved a list of priority capital improvements proposed by the district that are in various stages of planning and implementation, including re-paving roads and parking lots at the school complex, construction of new storage sheds to house district equipment, acquisition of ultraviolet air scrubbers for classrooms, and lighting of school athletic facilities.

Superintendent Jaime Hembree updated trustees on the status of COVID-19 infections and quarantines in the district. Dr. Hembree indicated that five students have tested positive for the virus and that another 16 students are currently quarantined. Eighteen of the 21 students affected are in the Elementary School. No faculty or staff members are currently affected.

Hembree also advised the trustees that the district "was adhering to new CDC and DHEC guidelines regarding isolations and quarantines," including a 5-day quarantine period. She said that COVID-19 testing is still available from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. every

School Board, see page 5

Singing Valentines to be delivered Monday

After a pandemic-related break in 2021, McCormick's own Huguenotes Barber-shop Quartet will once again be delivering Singing Valentines on Monday, Feb. 14 in McCormick, Abbeville and Greenwood counties to raise money for charity. Over the years, the Huguenotes have raised over \$50,000 for such charities as the McCormick Children's Home. With that now closed, 100 percent the money raised will go to the Connie Maxwell Children's Home which does continue to serve all of our local counties, caring for vulnerable children and their families. (For more information about Connie Maxwell Children's Home and their mission, please visit <https://conniemaxwell.com/who-we-are/about-connie-maxwell/>)

When you select your Valentines recipient and make a donation directly to the Children's Home, the Huguenotes will go to their specified location at a specified time, present the recipient with a lovely rose bouquet and sing a couple of touching love songs to warm their heart. (Male recipients receive chocolate roses instead . . .)

Just call Bob Osterman at (864) 391-5312 and have the name and location of your recipient ready.