

# The Liberty County Cast *September 2016*



Featured Photo: Sheriff's deputies train for Special Response Team at the range

## In the Spotlight: Liberty County Sheriff's Office

Greetings All, from YOUR Liberty County Sheriff's Office. As usual, it has been busy around here. Since we last spoke, a lot of things have happened. One of the highlights has been the construction of a new detective services building adjacent to the jail. Once the detectives and support staff move into their new digs, the jail administration staff will occupy the much needed available space. Additionally, space will be available to interview inmates, instead of using someone's office. After a long planning period, construction finally began earlier this year, with completion slated for sometime around October.

With retirements and other vacancies, come new employees. To those who have moved on, we wish the very best. To the new employees, welcome to public service in Liberty County.

As I have said many times, the Sheriff's Office is a very complicated operation. With all the services that a Sheriff is required by law to administer, comes the opportunity to SERVE the citizens and actually help and assist people in time of need. As your Sheriff I take these responsibilities seriously, and appreciate the opportunity to serve. One of the

things we continue to offer is Project Lifesaver, which is a tracking program designed for those citizens who may tend to wander away from home, whether it may be young children or older adults. We just recently began another session of the Sheriff's Citizen Academy, which has been very successful over the past several years. We get the chance to open our doors for the average citizen to participate in various activities within the Office and get a firsthand look at how we operate. We would especially encourage county employees from other departments to consider enrolling. Our firearms safety classes have also proven to be popular. Another session will be announced soon; right after the weather cools off a little! Our K-9 team continues to be active in the community, not only in an enforcement capacity, but offering demonstrations within the school system and other venues.

The Special Response Team is another addition to the Office that has been up and running for some time now. We have had numerous successful missions of many different types; barricaded

- Continued on page 2 -

## Official Newsletter for Liberty County Government Employees



### Liberty County Board of Commissioners

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Marion Stevens Sr., District 1

Justin Frasier, District 2

Connie Thrift, District 3

Pat Bowen, District 4

Gary Gilliard, District 5

Eddie J. Walden, District 6

*Prepared and Distributed by the  
County Administration Office*

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Liberty County  
Government Offices  
will be closed on  
Monday, September 5,  
2016 in observance of  
the Labor Day holiday.

## September Birthdays



### September 1

Krisdean McGowan  
(Detectives)

### September 3

Dinnette Williams  
(Clerk's Office)

### September 4

Karen Caines (Jail)  
Clint Stanley (I.T.)

### September 6

Donald Lovette (BOC)  
Daniel Santiago  
(Finance)

### September 7

Tami Dufresne (Victim  
Witness)  
Demetrio Mendez (Roads)

### September 10

Brittney Alexander  
(Jail)  
Chemika Jones  
(Recreation)  
Latasha Kelly (Tax  
Commissioner)  
Kim McGlothlin (Finance)

### September 11

Curtis Williams (Roads)

### September 12

Ashley Waters (I.T.)

### September 13

Maria Tart (Finance)

(continued on next  
panel)

## Sheriff's Office, continued

gunmen, high risk arrest warrants, search warrants, assisting other agencies, all sandwiched between many hours of training, some of which has been in conjunction with other agencies, both local and federal. We also now have a fully trained Crisis Negotiator on board.

Speaking of training, that continues to be a huge part of what we do. We recently hosted 4 four-hour blocks of training that focused on the challenges of mental illness, PTSD, and other issues in our community. This was required training for all employees. The instructors were two top-tier psychologists from the Veterans Administration Hospital in Charleston. We are constantly looking for ways to get the best training for all our employees.

Members of the Sheriff's Office continue to sit on the Drug Court team, the DUI Court team, and the newly formed Veterans Court team. We also have several active neighborhood watch programs.

While our patrol division is on the front lines, doing the most visible part of the

Sheriff's duties, others are quietly going about investigating serious crimes against people and property, enforcing our drug laws, securing and transporting inmates, securing county government buildings and courtrooms, serving court papers and subpoenas, providing training, and all the support services that are needed. Every person in the Sheriff's Office is a valued employee and is much appreciated. I also appreciate the support we receive from the other county agencies, the county commissioners and the staff at the commissioner's office.

Please join me in praying that our men and women will always make good decisions with the best interests of our citizens in mind, and that they will remain safe as they carry out their duties.

Your Sheriff,

Steve C. Sikes

*P.S. Meet Tracey Hugo, one of our Administrative Clerks, on page 5 in the You Are Here poster campaign.*

# Save the Date!

**Our 2016 Employee Health & Wellness Fair will be held on:**

**Wednesday, October 12 @ the Courthouse Annex**

**Thursday, October 13 @ the Justice Center**

**Friday, October 14 @ Savannah Technical College**

**8 a.m. until 12 p.m. each day**



**Free for Liberty County Government  
Employees and Retirees!**



**Health screenings, flu shots, mammograms,  
stress relief sessions, healthy demo's, giveaways and more!  
Details coming in the October newsletter.**

## Happy Anniversary!

We wish to recognize our full-time & part-time employees who celebrate a service anniversary this month.

**"Thank you for your dedicated service to Liberty County and our citizens"**

### ■ 32 Years

Dennis Davis (Detectives)

### ■ 28 Years

Diana Keel (Sheriff's Office)

### ■ 21 Years

Delores Wilson (Sheriff's Office)

### ■ 20 Years

Rochelle Martin (Tax Commissioner's)

David Edwards (Sheriff's Office)

### ■ 18 Years

Vernecia Mells (Sheriff's Office)

Everette Mitchell Sr. (Roads)

### ■ 17 Years

Susan Sibley (Probate Court)

### ■ 15 Years

Tianne Agosta (Tax Commissioner's)

Diana Holtz-Markham (Jail)

### ■ 13 Years

Mary Winkles (Child Support)

### ■ 12 Years

Ashley Waters (I.T.)

### ■ 11 Years

Joseph Lindo (Jail)

### ■ 10 Years

Mitchell Newton (Jail)

### ■ 9 Years

Nancy Winchell (Jail)

### ■ 7 Years

Renee McMillan (Recreation, P/T)

### ■ 5 Years

Dennis Ellison (Sheriff's Office, P/T)

### ■ 4 Years

Mindi Padrick (State Court)

Lonnie Bowman (Narcotics)

### ■ 3 Years

Michael Armfield (I.T.)

### ■ 2 Years

Demetrio Mendez (Roads)

### ■ 1 Year

Abigail Long (D.A.'s Office)

Emmett King (Solid Waste)

Zachary Ulrich (Jail)

Windy Davis (Tax Assessors)

## Welcome Aboard!

We are pleased to announce that the following individuals have recently been selected for employment. Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to them as they begin their new careers with Liberty County.



**Breanna Ferry**

Jailer

@ County Jail



**Charles Gildon**

Jailer

@ County Jail



**Sharline Holmes**

Recreation Aide

@ Recreation

Not pictured: Quincy Canada, P/T Maintenance Tech. @ County Jail  
Savannah Hreha, P/T Crossing Guard @ Sheriff's Office

## September Birthdays



### September 14

Gypsy James (UGA Extension)  
Ethel Jones (Jail)

### September 15

Jim Chapman (LCSO)

### September 16

LaDona Andrews (Child Support)

### September 17

Kelly Little (State Court)  
Sierra Wells (Tax Assessors)

### September 18

Henry Frasier (Tax Commissioner)

### September 19

Geoff Harriman (LCSO)

### September 20

Quincy Canada (Jail)  
John Smith (I.T.)

### September 21

Tony Mullis (Bldg. & Licensing)

### September 22

Greg Pike (Jail)

### September 24

Jimmy Martin (Recreation)

### September 25

Janell Arnold (Probate Court)  
Paul Mumau (LCSO)

### September 27

Shyhiem Carter (Jail)

### September 28

Joseph Knight (Recreation)  
Nicole Martin (Bldg. & Licensing)

### September 29

Brittanny Cabral (911 Communications)

## Promotions & Training

Join us in congratulating the following employees on their recent advancements:

- In the Sheriff's Office, Deputy **Christopher Ashdown** was promoted to ADS. **Anthony Gallob** moved up from ADS to Corporal.
- **Brandi Sikes** in the Tax Assessors office was selected for promotion from Administrative Clerk to Real Property Appraiser.
- **Samantha Abby** was chosen to fill the Administrative Assistant opening at the Emergency Management office. This is a move up from her previous position of Administrative Clerk at LCRD.

**24** Employees became Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED certified thanks to Liberty Regional Medical Center.

**74** Employees completed Defensive Driving Training thanks to LGRMS.

## Smith Named Wellness Employee of 2nd Quarter

by *Laura Troutman, HR/Health Promotion*



I am pleased to announce that our 2nd Quarter Wellness Winner is **Erica Smith** from Public Safety Communications. Erica earned the most L.I.V.E. WELL points during the period of April 1st through June 30th. She scored points under all 4 main components of our wellness program: health screenings, education, physical activity and volunteerism. Her efforts were rewarded with a \$50 gift card and a L.I.V.E. WELL polo shirt. Way to set the example, Erica!

*Liberty Inspires Vibrant Employees!*



Dear Employees,

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Thank you for all you do!



# YOU ARE *why we're* Getting Personal!

Through ACCG's "You Are Why We're Here" program, we highlight a Liberty County employee each month to help our community better understand the work of county employees and the individuals that are doing these important jobs.



## YOU ARE *why* Tracey is HERE

Comfy in her own skin, and in her job.

### MEET *Tracey Hugo*, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK.

- MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT** *Ha ha...there were several, all embarrassing, and we will leave it at that.*
- UNUSUAL SKILL, TALENT OR HOBBY** *My hobby is quilting, my passion is reading.*
- WHAT YOU WANTED TO BE WHEN YOU WERE 6** *A teacher! My stuffed animals and baby brother learned a lot that summer!*
- PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT** *My daughters, helping them grow into the young women they have become.*
- IF YOU COULD BE SOMEONE ELSE FOR THE DAY** *No one. I would always be myself. Everyone else is already taken.*
- HARDEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE** *Laying two of my beloved pets to rest.*
- WHAT DOES YOUR JOB MEAN TO YOU** *Knowing that I was able to help at least one person means the world to me.*
- WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT YOUR JOB** *That we are here to help the citizens of Liberty County.*
- WHAT'S AN UNUSUAL STATISTIC THAT RELATES TO YOUR JOB** *The Sheriff's Office dedicates a lot of time, money and resources to the community. On an annual basis, we walk more than 14 miles for different benefits, deliver more than 300 meals during the holidays and donate school supplies.*



Learn more about Liberty County government and the people behind it at [YouAreWhyWereHere.com](http://YouAreWhyWereHere.com)

## Special Purpose Sales & Use Tax



## Community Town Hall Meetings

#PenniesforProgress

The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce is hosting several town hall meetings in the community to inform citizens about the Special Purpose Sales and Use Tax prior to the vote on November 8th. Free to attend.

### Upcoming Dates:

**September 1 @ 6 p.m.**  
Gumbranch Fire Dept.

**September 12 @ 6 p.m.**  
Riceboro Youth Center

**September 19 @ 6 p.m.**  
Dorchester Civic Center

Additional dates/venues to be announced

For additional info, visit  
[www.libertycounty.org](http://www.libertycounty.org)

# Benefits Blurb: LiveHealth Online for 24/7 Care

Information provided by BlueCross BlueShield of GA

Visit a doctor without going to a doctor's office.

Sometimes you just need a doctor – whether you're at home in the middle of the night or in the middle of a road trip. Now you can talk to a doctor any time of day, wherever you are. LiveHealth Online lets you have face-to-face conversations with a doctor on your computer or mobile device. It's medical advice the moment you need it. No appointments. No waiting. So simple. And it costs the same as a regular doctor visit.

### Convenient, two-way video chat

LiveHealth Online uses two-way video to connect you with U.S.-based board-certified doctors. And since it's an online experience, it's quick, easy and always on your terms. But convenience also comes with excellent service. Doctors using LiveHealth Online can answer your questions, assess your condition and even provide prescriptions if needed.

### How it works

First you need to sign up, which is quick, easy and free to do. Be sure to enter your insurance information since LiveHealth Online is a covered benefit. Then, each time you log in, you'll see doctors who are available in your state. Simply click on a doctor's photo to view his or her star rating, profile and languages spoken.

### It's fast

Once you select a doctor, click **Connect** and in just a few minutes you'll be talking with him or her – face-to-face! During your session, the doctor can review your health history, answer questions, assess your condition and even prescribe prescriptions\* if needed. After each session, you can rate your experience and send a record from the LiveHealth Online system to your regular doctor.

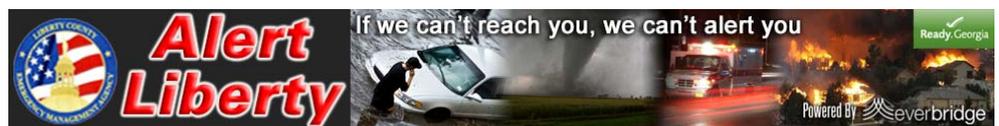
### It's for everyone

Anyone can use LiveHealth Online, and doctors can help with many different health issues, such as:

- Colds
- Flu
- Allergies
- Sinus infections
- Bronchitis
- Diarrhea
- Pinkeye and other eye infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Rashes

Visit [www.livehealthonline.com](http://www.livehealthonline.com) for more information and testimonials.

*Please note: LiveHealth Online is not for emergencies. If you're experiencing an emergency, call 911 immediately.*



September is one of the most active months for hurricanes. Get alerted about weather-related emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Liberty County Emergency Management Agency's emergency alert program today. This system enables them to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations.

When you opt-in to **Alert Liberty** you can enter up to 5 different addresses (within Liberty County) that you wish to receive alerts about. **Alert Liberty** can call you, text you and even e-mail you when there is an active alert at any of these addresses. You choose the alerts you wish to receive and you can change your choices at any time by returning to the **Alert Liberty** website.

To sign up, go to [www.libertycountyga.com](http://www.libertycountyga.com) and click on Quick Links: **Alert Liberty**.

# United Way Encourages You to **BE THE ONE**

by Bob Sprinkel, Assistant County Administrator

The United Way of the Coastal Empire transforms lives, right here, locally in our community. To recognize the valuable people who volunteer their time and to highlight the great works that their funded agencies do on a daily basis, the United Way has launched a new campaign called **BE THE ONE**. It takes just one person, one gift, one hand to make our world a better place. You can be the one! This message will take center stage at the Liberty County United Way's Campaign Kick Off and Making a Difference Awards on Thursday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office. The awards, presented by

Coastal Courier, will recognize local volunteers for outstanding service to the community.

Although our own employee campaign to support the United Way won't start until October, there are other ways you can assist with the organization's mission any time of year. For instance, the "BackPack Buddies" program is always in need of nutritious food donations to provide in-need school children with food during weekends and holiday breaks. Want to lend a hand? United Way could always use more helpers at their mass mobile food drops which distribute groceries to 500 families in one location in the span of a few hours. To learn about other opportunities to pitch in, follow their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/uwcelibertycounty](http://www.facebook.com/uwcelibertycounty).

Look for a United Way staff or board member to visit your department in early October and share real life stories about the many good works they have accomplished in Liberty County.

And thank you for always being strong supporters of this wonderful and caring organization.

# FOOD DRIVE

United Way of the Coastal Empire—Liberty County

## BackPack Buddies

**Our BackPack Buddies Program provides bags filled with child friendly, nutritious food to school children in need for weekends and during holiday breaks.**

### ✓ Types of Items Needed:

**\*Please bring only shelf stable and easy to open items\***



Proteins & Stews



Breakfast Items



Packaged Noodles



Canned Vegetables & Fruit



Healthy Snacks



100% Juice Boxes

### DROP OFF:

**United Way Office**  
135 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.  
Hinesville, GA  
912-368-4282



### ⊘ Do NOT bring:

- \*Snacks such as pop-tarts and cookies
- \*Chlps
- \*Spam and Vienna Sausage
- \*Jello
- \*Candy
- \*Juice Pouches



## American Red Cross Blood Drive #911day

Donate blood  
in honor of 9/11

**Saturday, September 10**  
11 a.m.—4 p.m.  
In the bloodmobile  
American Legion Post 168  
Hinesville

To schedule an  
appointment, call  
(912) 876-0168 or visit  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
sponsor code:  
ALHinesville

For more information on  
9/11 Day, visit  
[www.911day.org](http://www.911day.org)

East Liberty County  
American Legion Post  
321's

## Annual 9/11 Observance

**Sunday, September 11**  
5 p.m. at  
Midway Fire Dept.

Flag retirement/disposal  
at 6 p.m.

“According to [U.S. Flag Code](#),  
when an American flag appears  
worn or otherwise no longer  
appropriate for display, you  
should destroy it in a dignified  
way, preferably by burning.”

For additional information or  
to drop-off unserviceable  
American flags, email  
[Eastlibertyampost321  
@ gmail. com](mailto:Eastlibertyampost321@gmail.com)

# Summertime Water Conservation through Greenscaping

*By Sara Swida, Keep Liberty Beautiful*

Can you imagine what life would be like without adequate and safe water to drink? That idea is not just a piece of fiction. Many populations around the world deal with this problem on a daily basis. It is not so far-fetched that one day we could wrestle with this same problem here. We cannot take our water supply for granted. Our daily actions can make a difference in how well we take care of our abundant waters. We cannot afford to take water for granted. It is our most precious resource. It is even more precious than diamonds and rubies and even that foreign oil that we seem to be so dependent on.

Unfortunately, we use a lot of water during the summer on our yards. Now our yards are important to us southerners. Our yards are an extension of our homes—essentially our outdoor rooms. We garden in them. We relax in them. And we entertain in them. We are lucky that in southeast Georgia, we can pretty much enjoy these ‘outdoor rooms’ all year long. Nothing is as relaxing as being outdoors in your backyard enjoying the sun and having fun in your garden or landscaped yard. But did you realize that up to 60 percent of all household water use in the summer months is used for landscape purposes in these ‘outdoor rooms’? By taking care of our lawns and gardens properly, we can save money, time, and protect the environment by conserving water use.



Water conservation is the “beneficial reduction in water use, waste, and loss”. It is proven to be the most economical and environmentally protective means of meeting the challenges of water supply management. Water conservation activities can help us save water, save time, and save money year round—not just in the summer. The Environmental

Protection Agency encourages us to consider ‘greenscaping’ instead of landscaping. Greenscaping is a set of landscaping practices that can improve the health and appearance of your lawn and garden while protecting and preserving natural resources, like water.

Here are some tips from the Environmental Protection Agency Greenscape site for conserving water outdoors this summer.

- Build your soil with compost and mulch to hold water and reduce evaporation.
- Choose low-water-use plants. Once established, they can often thrive just on rainfall.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation on beds - they can save 50 percent or more compared with sprinklers.



- Use an outdoor water timer (available at garden stores) to water just the right amount, frequency and time of day. Even better get one with a sensor that shuts it down when it rains.
- Water lawns separately from other plantings. Make sure sprinklers aren't watering the pavement.
- When soil is dry or compacted, it won't absorb water quickly. If water puddles, stop watering a while and then restart so the water has time to soak in.
- Water in the early morning—if you water at mid-day, much of the water just evaporates. Evening watering should be avoided because it can encourage the growth of mold or plant diseases.

In a dry spell, you can allow an established lawn to go dormant. Water just once a month and brown areas of the lawn will bounce back in the fall.

These ideas will save water and reduce your water bills, too. For more information on greenscaping, check out [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

# RECYCLE IT! FAIR

Saturday, September 10

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Liberty County Health Department - 1113 East Oglethorpe Hwy, Hinesville

Walthourville City Hall - 222 Busbee Drive, Walthourville

Midway Community Complex - 9397 East Oglethorpe Hwy , Midway

## Items that will be collected for recycling:

- ✦ Electronics (including computers, printers & accessories)
- ✦ Cell phones/accessories
- ✦ Household batteries
- ✦ CFL & fluorescent bulbs
- ✦ Gently used clothing & shoes
- ✦ Household paint (in sealed cans with NO rust)
- ✦ Ink/toner cartridges
- ✦ Household goods
- ✦ Telephone & hardback books
- ✦ Used motor oil & antifreeze
- ✦ Car batteries
- ✦ Terracycle recycle items for local schools

For More Information, Contact:  
912-880-4888  
@KeepLibertyBeautiful



## Shred It Day!

Saturday, Sept. 10

Only at the Midway Community Complex

9397 East Oglethorpe Hwy

Shred your personal files to keep your identity safe!

(Cars must be in line by 12:45 to participate.)

## Prescription Take Back!

Collecting old prescription & over the counter medicines  
(no hypodermic needles)

Sponsored By:



KEEP  
LIBERTY  
BEAUTIFUL

& our partners

Goodwill Industries  
Coastal Auto & Recycling  
Liberty County Solid Waste  
Local Law Enforcement

[www.keeplibertybeautiful.org](http://www.keeplibertybeautiful.org)

**CONTACT US:**

Physical Address:  
112 N. Main St., Room 2200  
Hinesville, GA 31313

Mailing Address:  
100 Main St., Suite 1320  
Hinesville, GA 31313

Phone: (912) 876-2164

Fax: (912) 369-0204

Website:  
[www.libertycountyga.com](http://www.libertycountyga.com)

**OFFICIAL SOCIAL  
MEDIA LINKS:**



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Facebook!

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Follow our  
tweets!

[@libertycounty](http://www.twitter.com/libertycounty)

**Monthly Motivation:**

*"Spend a moment every day  
thinking of someone to  
thank."*

*- Richard Carlson*



**LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONTHLY CALENDAR**

SEPTEMBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**September 5**

Labor Day Holiday—Offices Closed

**September 6**

BOC Regular Meeting @ 6 p.m.  
Courthouse Annex, Room 2100

**September 15**

BOC Mid-Month Meeting @ 5 p.m.  
Courthouse Annex, Room 2100

View the Community Event Calendar at [www.libertycounty.org](http://www.libertycounty.org)



Liberty County BOC  
100 Main St., Suite 1320  
Hinesville, GA 31313



*Friend's Name*

*Street Address*

*City, State Zip Code*