

# The Liberty County Cast

November 2016



Featured Photo: The county's debris removal contractor, CrowderGulf, continues to pick up yard waste from Hurricane Matthew. They expect to collect over 100,000 cubic yards of storm debris.

**Official Newsletter  
for Liberty County  
Government Employees**



**Liberty County  
Board of Commissioners**

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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*

## Role of Assessors Includes Storm Damage

**By: Glenda Roberts, Chief Appraiser**

The Assessors Office staff has been extremely busy over the last few months. We are actively pursuing completion of all 2016 appeals that have been filed. Appeals that could not be resolved at our level have been forwarded to the Board of Equalization.

Considering the fact that property taxes will be due soon, we'd like to take this opportunity to remind property owners that it is too late to file an appeal on their property for this year. However, beginning January 1, all are encouraged to file a Property Tax Return. This filing allows a property owner to not only state their opinion of the value of their property, but also to point out any existing problems such as leaking roofs, other water damage due to flooding, etc. This will result in a one on one inspection of the property to determine if a decreased valuation is valid.

Most recently, we have busied ourselves with Damage Assessment throughout the county from Hurricane Matthew. Our

role in Damage Assessment following any natural disaster is to assess damages to structures. The data collected is not just for FEMA. It also helps us in determining whether or not the damage to properties will ultimately affect values for the upcoming year.

Overall, our department remains consistently busy as we transition from one year to the next. Our GIS website offers many unique details and we invite all to familiarize themselves with it.

As we kickoff a new tax year, the "motto" of the Assessors Office is as follows:

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."*

- Gandhi

*"Motivation is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it."*

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Inside This Issue:

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## No One Wants the Flu!

The flu season is upon us once again and we want to make sure that you are protected from a flu outbreak. In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu or of transmitting influenza to others should be vaccinated.



Free flu vaccines will be available to all Liberty County government employees at a clinic on Wednesday, **November 2nd** at the following times/locations:

- 9:00-11:00 @ Annex
- 11:30-1:00 @ Road Dept.
- 1:30-3:00 @ Justice Center
- 3:30-5:00 @ D.A.'s Office

Flu vaccines are designed to protect against the main flu viruses that research suggests will be the most common during the upcoming season. All of the 2016-17 trivalent influenza vaccine is made to protect against the following three viruses:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)

If you miss the opportunity to get a flu shot at the clinic, you can also get one at your doctor's office or a local pharmacy. Use this website to find locations offering the flu vaccine:

[FluShot.healthmap.org](http://FluShot.healthmap.org)

The cost of the flu shot is covered by the County's health insurance plan and most other plans including Tricare and Medicare.



## 3rd Quarter L.I.V.E. Well Winner

**Robin Bell - Clerk of Courts Office**

Congratulations to Robin Bell from the Clerk of Courts Office, our 3rd Quarter Wellness Winner. Robin earned the highest number of L.I.V.E. Well points during the months of July, August and September. Her focus during this period was education (online wellness coursework) and preventive health screenings. For her efforts, Robin was rewarded with a \$50 gift card and a L.I.V.E. Well shirt. This is the second time she has received the quarterly crown, having won in the 3rd quarter of 2013. Way to get back on top, Robin!



## County Receives Wellness Grant for 10th Straight Year

We are thrilled to announce that Liberty County has been selected for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) to receive a *Health Promotion & Wellbeing Grant*. We received the grant award based on our continued commitment to employee wellness. This grant helps fund our wellness program which is designed to enhance the health and productivity of our most important assets: **YOU, our valued employees!**

The average adult spends almost 2/3 of their waking hours at work. In today's busy world, we deal with many challenges that make it hard to eat healthy, get enough physical activity, manage stress effectively, and engage in other activities that boost our well-being. The ACCG grant allows us to conduct workplace wellness activities that help make healthy living – and working – that much easier. We are excited to continue offering these important services to you!

## In Memoriam

**Robert (Bobby) V. Sikes**

**November 26, 1927 - September 26, 2016**



*Sheriff (Retired) Bobby Sikes was a man's man! He served Liberty County much of his life and he gave much more that we could have ever*

*given him. He first started out as operating a Western Auto Store and then became a Chevron distributor for many more years. However, it was in 1959 that his and Liberty County's life took a big change. Sheriff Sikes father, Sheriff Paul Sikes passed away and Bobby ran for his unexpired seat and won. Bobby then served Liberty County as its Sheriff for 29*

*years until he retired. Sheriff Bobby Sikes was one of the most instrumental people that helped form the Coastal Area Planning and Development Commission. This alone is a legacy that far will outlive Sheriff Sikes. By the creation of this Commission, Sheriff Bobby Sikes has insure the proper planning and development of our entire coastal region. This allows business to flourish and grow, bringing jobs and resources into our community that benefits every citizen of Liberty County and all of the County's that surround us!*

*Sheriff Bobby Sikes was a leader and visionary and he will be missed by all.*

## 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"

#### ■ 39 Years

Gordon Roberts (Building Maintenance)

#### ■ 33 Years

F. Barry Wilkes (Clerk of Courts)

#### ■ 32 Years

Donovan McMillan (Building Maintenance)

#### ■ 19 Years

Ivonne McGee (Child Support)  
Shonda Meekins (Detectives)

#### ■ 16 Years

Brenda Stacy (Finance)

#### ■ 15 Years

Nicole Martin (Building & Licensing)

#### ■ 12 Years

Krisdean McGowan (Detectives)

#### ■ 11 Years

Ashley Ray (Road Dept.)  
Scott Wall (Assessors Office)

#### ■ 10 Years

Shanquanette Williams (P/T, Public Safety Communications)

#### ■ 9 Years

Rebecca Carter (Animal Control)  
Jeremy Maney (Road Dept.)

#### ■ 8 Years

Terri Mullis (Records Retention)  
Cynthia Hocking (Child Support)

#### ■ 7 Years

Eric Allen (Detectives)

#### ■ 6 Years

Daryl Morgan (Jail)

#### ■ 5 Years

Kasey Bozeman (UGA Extension)  
Donna Perryman (Clerk's Office)

#### ■ 4 Years

William Barber Jr. (Jail)

#### ■ 3 Years

Brian Coleman (Sheriff's Office)

#### ■ 2 Years

Jessica Thomas (Public Safety Communications)  
Lalah Pitts (Jail)

#### ■ 1 Year

Nate Golden Jr. (Assessors Office)  
Nyoda Yarbrough (Building Maintenance)  
Elisha Gaskins-House (Child Support)

## 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.



### **Brian Blankenship**

*Communications Officer Trainee @ Public Safety Communications*

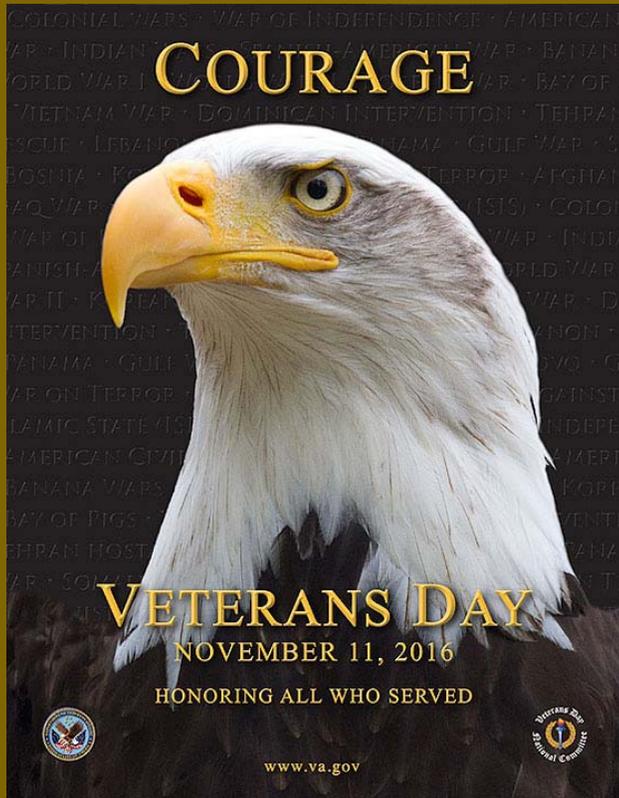
Photos unavailable for:

**Dora Patten**, *Communications Officer Trainee  
@ Public Safety Communications*

**India Thomas**, *Crossing Guard @ Sheriff's Office*

**VETERANS DAY** is the day set aside to thank and honor veterans who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime.

Liberty County employees join the rest of the nation on **NOVEMBER 11** in remembering the sacrifices of America's 25 million veterans and expressing our appreciation for your service.



### VETERANS DAY EVENTS IN LIBERTY COUNTY:

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 VETERANS SALUTE

10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. at Bryant Commons  
Hinesville Military Affairs Committee hosts their 4th annual event. Open to the public, free admission & parking, live entertainment, battle of the bands, craft vendors, food booths, and bike show. POC: Melinda Schneider at 912-271-1702 or yellowbowlady@coastalnow.net

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY PARADE

Line Up Starts at Bradwell Institute at 2:00 p.m.  
Parade will Kick Off at 4:00 p.m.  
Hosted by East Liberty County American Legion Post 321.  
Concession stand will be available.  
For Applications: email the Post at eastlibertyampost321@gmail.com

## Promotions

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

- At the Jail, **Larry Bell** moved up from Jailer to Transport Deputy.
- In the Public Safety Communications department, **Brittany O'Donnell** and **Tiffany Mayberry** were promoted from part-time trainees to full-time Communications Officers upon successful completion of training.

### Back Injury Prevention: Safe Lifting

Wednesday, November 9th  
12:00-1:00 PM

Courthouse Annex, Board Room



Instructor: John McIntyre, Field Representative  
from LGRMS Risk Control

Back injuries are among the most frequent workplace injuries. This class will discuss and demonstrate, with employee participation, proper and safe techniques to handle every day lifting jobs --lifting, bending, twisting, etc.

All county government employees are invited to attend. Full-timers will earn 25 L.I.V.E. Well points for attending. Free lunch will be provided to those who register by November 7th. Call or email Laura in the HR office.



## Save the Date

Holiday/Service Awards Luncheon

For County Employees & Retirees

Friday, December 9, 2016

# 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* Jay is HERE

For 8 years, he just keeps on truckin'.

### MEET *Jay Johnson*, MAPPER, LIBERTY COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.

- MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT** *Australia, 1996—we'll leave it at that.*
- WHAT YOU WANTED TO BE WHEN YOU WERE 6** *A firefighter like my dad.*
- PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT** *Serving my country in the US Navy.*
- HARDEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE** *Delivered a calf and then having to put down its mother.*
- SOMETHING ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU** *I have a Class 'A' CDL and am a former Commercial Over-The-Road Driver.*
- WHAT DOES YOUR JOB MEAN TO YOU** *I enjoy using the skills I've developed in helping property owners & customers get the information they need quickly, and in discovering new and innovative ways to empower my co-workers by enabling them to work more efficiently.*
- UNUSUAL STATISTIC ABOUT YOUR JOB** *The Liberty County Property Information System (PRISM) has had almost 6 million hits since January and will top 7 million by the end of December.*
- WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT YOUR JOB** *GIS can do so much more than just print a map, with the right data the possibilities are limitless.*

**YOU ARE**  
*why we're*  
**HERE**

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

# November Birthdays



- November 1**  
Ronda Walthour (Elections)
- November 2**  
Marc Anderson (Maintenance)  
Joseph Lindo (Jail)  
Tom Wahl (911 Communications)
- November 3**  
Daina Hale (Assessors)  
Lydia Moran (Magistrate Court)  
Barry Wilkes (Clerk of Courts)
- November 5**  
Ivonne McGee (Child Support)
- November 6**  
Melissa Holtz (Assessors)  
Shantel Johnson (Recreation)  
Clenton Wells (Public Works)
- November 7**  
Elliot Deigh (Tax Commissioner)  
Deontee Hickerson (Recreation)
- November 9**  
Jackie Collum (Child Support)  
Debbie Edwards (911 Comm.)  
Rochelle Martin (Tax Comm.)  
Chris Reed (Detectives)
- November 10**  
Kevin Burgess (Jail)  
Jeff Hall (Jail)
- November 11**  
Vonzell Butler (911 Comm.)
- November 13**  
Lawrence Fleming (Roads)  
Becky Frost (Tax Commissioner)  
Orrin Nestor (LCSO)  
Steve Sikes (Sheriff)
- November 14**  
Tyler Kalbach (Jail)  
Katina Sapp (Clerk's Office)

(continued on next panel)

# Don't Sit it Out! Be an Active and Informed Voter

By Bob Sprinkel, Asst. County Administrator

With the November elections just around the corner (November 8th to be exact), I would like to remind everyone to get out and vote! Your right to vote has not come easy, it has been a hard fought battle. Voting is a right that every American should take seriously and exercise every time an election is held!

I, for one, take it very seriously! The first presidential election I voted in was the 1972 election and I have not missed an opportunity since then. Has my candidate always won? Absolutely not. Does that stop me from voting? No! With this election in November we have so very much at stake. Not only do we have a Presidential race to vote on, but there are many local and state elections to be decided.

We have one important local issue that our community must decide on and that is SPLOST or, as you will see it on the ballot, "Special Purpose Sales and Use Tax". I am totally staying away from telling anyone how to vote on anything, I am just telling you that you need to VOTE on this issue one way or another. It really makes me sad to see such a significant issue get decided one way or another by less than

500 people when we have over 19,000 registered voters. The very few decide for the many, how fair is that?

The SPLOST has the ability to do great things for the county but you must decide that for yourself. Go to the various websites such as [www.libertycounty.org](http://www.libertycounty.org) or [www.libertycountygga.com](http://www.libertycountygga.com) and read up on what SPLOST has done in the past and what it plans to do in the future. If you still have questions, you can call the Chamber of Commerce or the Board of Commissioners Office and someone there will be happy to speak with you and give you more information.

(continued on next page)

## RECYCLE IT! FAIR

Saturday, November 19

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, November 19th  
Only at the Liberty County Health Department  
1113 E. Oglethorpe Hwy, Hinesville  
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:



& our partners  
Goodwill Industries  
Coastal Auto & Recycling  
Liberty County Solid Waste  
Local Law Enforcement  
[www.keeplibertybeautiful.org](http://www.keeplibertybeautiful.org)

## Voting, continued

Below we have attached a sample copy of the “Special Purpose Sales and Use Tax” question that you will see on the ballot. Please remember: because this is a local referendum it is going to be the very last thing on the ballot. We wanted to place a sample here so you will know what it looks like and give you time to read it and understand what is on it.

For more election information, you may contact the Liberty County Elections Office at (912) 876-3310 or visit the state of Georgia’s election website at [sos.ga.gov/elections](http://sos.ga.gov/elections).

Please, don’t sit it out! Be an Active and Informed Voter!

### Ballot for Special Purpose Sales and Use Tax

#### COUNTY ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX

- YES** Shall a special one percent sales and use tax be imposed in Liberty County for a period of time of six years and for the raising of an estimated amount of \$54,000,000 for the purpose of paying previously incurred indebtedness of Liberty County and funding the following capital outlay projects within Liberty County: (i) for Liberty County: retire previously incurred debt of the County for capital outlay projects financed through the Liberty County Public Facilities Authority for the Justice Center and MidCoast Regional Airport and to undertake the following new capital outlay projects: County-wide road projects; repairing, replacing, and constructing various drainage projects within the County; recreational facilities; renovations and improvements to the Road Department; improvements to the jail; acquisition, construction, and equipping of an East End Medical Clinic to be operated by Liberty Regional Medical Center; improvements to the County record retention center; improvements to the County’s fire and 911 public safety systems; a new fire station; fire and public safety equipment, including County patrol vehicles and ambulances; the construction of infrastructure for economic development; the acquisition of property and construction of facilities for use in industrial and business training through Savannah Technical College; Historical and Cultural Improvements; and, related costs for program management; (ii) for the City of Hinesville: retire previously incurred debt of the City of Hinesville for capital outlay projects financed through the Liberty County Public Facilities Authority for City Hall and Public Works and to undertake the following new capital outlay projects: roads projects; a new fire station; the acquisition of fire and public safety equipment and vehicles; and the construction and renovation of recreational facilities and parks; (iii) for the City of Midway: roads projects; a multi-purpose governmental facility; and the acquisition of land and public facilities; the acquisition of public safety equipment and patrol vehicles; (iv) for the City of Riceboro: roads projects; constructing and equipping water and sewer improvements to provide adequate service for new businesses and/or, if portions of said water and sewer improvements are not needed, expansion, renovation, and improvements to City Hall; (v) for the City of Walthourville: roads projects and the acquisition of public safety equipment and patrol vehicles and/or other fire and governmental buildings and facilities; and (vi) for the Cities of Allenhurst, Flemington, and Gumbranch: roads projects?
- NO**

## November Birthdays



**November 15**  
Dawn DeLoach (Child Support)  
Chuck VanDuser (Recreation)

**November 16**  
Tiffany Mayberry (911 Comm.)

**November 18**  
Joseph McEady (Jail)

**November 19**  
Gary Gilliard (Commissioner, District 5)  
Jordan Holmes (Roads)  
Matthew Marchand (LCSO)

**November 20**  
Jessica Golden (Jail)

**November 21**  
Nick Clark (Probate Court)  
Mindi Padrick (State Court)  
Marion Stevens (Commissioner, District 1)

**November 22**  
Erica Smith (911 Communications)

**November 23**  
Diana Keel (LCSO)

**November 24**  
Susan Marchand (D.A.’s Office)

**November 25**  
Denise Towery (Child Support)

**November 27**  
Windy Davis (Assessors)  
Joseph Lane (LCSO)

**November 28**  
Sascha Moody (Child Support)

**November 29**  
Donovan McMillan (Maintenance)  
Jeff Osteen (State Court)

**November 30**  
Jerald Binkley (Jail)

**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)

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

**Monthly Motivation:**

*"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."*

*- Patrick Henry*



**LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY CALENDAR**

| NOVEMBER 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 |    |    |    |

- November 1:** BOC Regular Meeting @ 6 p.m. Courthouse Annex, Room 2100
- November 4:** BOC Department Head Meeting @ 9 a.m. Courthouse Annex, Room 2100
- November 8:** Election Day
- November 11:** Veterans Day Holiday—Offices Closed
- November 17:** BOC Mid-Month Meeting @ 5 p.m. Courthouse Annex, Room 2100
- November 24-25:** Thanksgiving Holiday—Offices Closed

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*