

# Senior News

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## *Time to visit Hopelands Gardens and enjoy the Gardens Concert Series!*

by CAROLYN BRENNEMAN

Cover: Beautiful camellias surround Hopelands Gardens

**J**uly is the time to spend the day admiring the beautiful gardens, ancient oak trees, grassy fields, ponds and lakes at Hopelands Gardens, situated right in Aiken. When we visit we will encounter a wonderful variety of experiences that will entice our senses and create a wonderland of beauty. And this year, the lineup for the 2016 Summer concert series is held right at the gardens near the Windham Performing Arts stage.

Right off of Whiskey Road in Aiken, you will see, on the outside a serpentine brick wall that separates the road from the splendors of this park. But enter through Dupree Road and explore the beautiful brick pathways that meander through camellias, magnolias, azaleas and various other southern plants. Rows of deodar cedars, tall ancient oaks, and magnolias tower over the main entrance path, where you see flower beds, magnolia trees, some grassy fields, and an old horse stable. From the entrance, many miles of paths lead around the park through a wide variety of environments. Along the way, there are fish ponds, complete with lily pads, fountains, ducks, turtles, a stage, a labyrinth, gazebos, wetlands, the Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame, the famous Dollhouse, and the Carriage Museum. There is even a touch-and-feel walkway with Braille signs.

Bequeathed to the City of Aiken by Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, this estate was opened in 1969 as a public garden. It has some very interesting history. The 14 acre estate was purchased as a farm in 1897 by Mr. and Mrs. Iselin. The family spent many winters on the land during this period with their daughter. Around the turn of the century, Oliver and Hope Islein built their winter home here and soon afterwards, Mrs. Islein began developing the gardens. She

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July 2016  
Vol. 30, No. 7



## Taking Care

# Lighten Up This Summer... Here's How!

by LISA M. PETSCHKE

**M**any people look forward to the mild temperatures and increased daylight of summer, which positively affect their mood and allow new opportunities for enjoyment, especially outdoors.



Lisa Petschke

Those who are looking after a frail, ill or disabled senior relative, however, may be so preoccupied that they find it hard to reap the benefits of the season.

If you are a caregiver, read on for a variety of ideas for streamlining necessary tasks in order to ensure some time for leisure this summer. Ideas for activities to enjoy with your relative are also included.

### General Tips

- Establish and stick to priorities, and curb perfectionism. Not everything needs to be done to a high standard. Set a time limit for chores if necessary/
- Be flexible about plans and expectations, taking into account your relative's energy level and yours at

any given time, as well as the weather. Take things one day at a time.

- Pay for a grounds keeping service if you can afford it.
- If you do not have central air conditioning, get a window air conditioner or oscillating fan for the room(s) you use the most. Before a heat wave hits, check that any such appliances are in good repair.

### Meal Preparation

- Collect recipes for one-dish meals, such as main course salads.
- Cook double batches of recipes and freeze half for later use.
- Keep a supply of heat-and-serve entrees in the freezer.
- Buy convenience foods that reduce preparation time: packaged salads, shredded cheese and boneless chicken breasts, for example.
- Order takeout now and then, as finances permit.
- Get a box of favorite ice cream treats the next time you are at the grocery store. Or, if feasible, take your relative out to the local dairy bar for an ice cream cone or sundae.

### Shopping and Errands

- Run errands and schedule appointments early in the day, before temperatures peak.

- Shop by mail order whenever possible.
- Take advantage of stores and other services that offer home delivery.
- Research mobile services in your area, such as hairdressing and foot care for your relative, and dog grooming, especially if transportation is an issue.

### Ideas for Activities

- The following are some ideas for enjoying quality time together.
- Have morning coffee or evening tea on the balcony, deck or patio, as applicable.
- Cook favorite foods on the grill.
- Watch a favorite summer-themed movie.
- Have a picnic in your backyard or at a nearby park.
- Go for a stroll around the neighborhood, using a wheelchair if necessary.
- Take your relative to the local farmers market for fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as favorite meats, cheeses and baked goods.
- Go to an accessible park or other outdoor public space and people-watch.
- Attend some or your children's or grandchildren's baseball or soccer

games. Just be sure your relative can safely navigate the distance and terrain from parking lot to sports field. And do not forget a chair for them that offers good support.

- Attend an outdoor concert or summer art festival.
- Go for a drive in the country.
- If it is hard to get out, obtain some CDs featuring summertime sounds of nature (babbling brooks, loons calling, and so on), and play them in the background while eating meals or reading the newspaper, for example.
- Reminisce about summers from your youth, including family customs, special people and places and touching or humorous moments.

Do not forget to set aside some personal time, for self-care. Make a habit of doing something you enjoy every day: read, listen to music or spend time in the garden, for example, even if fifteen or twenty minutes are all you can manage. Consider this a necessary time to recharge your batteries.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Lisa M. Petschke is a social worker and a freelance writer who has personal and professional experience with elder care.*



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## AGENCY ALERT

# 8th Annual Elder Rights Conference held in June

by KATHLEEN ERNCE  
Executive Director, The Senior  
Citizens Council Augusta, Georgia  
kernce@seniorcitizenscouncil.org

I had the opportunity to attend and to participate in the 8th annual Elder Rights conference that was held in June. Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation is around us on a daily basis. We may say to ourselves – not in my town or community; however, when we begin to



Kathleen Ernce

dig deeper and become interested and more aware, we find many examples. It may be an irritated clerk in a store who is waiting (very impatiently) on an older customer who is having a difficult time finding her debit or credit card to pay for her groceries. As she or he fumbles for the card, has to be shown where to swipe the card or how to insert the chip under the card reader, you may hear, "if you do not know how to use the machines you should not even be allowed to use these 'modern' advances!" This situation actually happened recently in my community. I felt very badly for the older woman as she walked out of the store with her purchases. As I walked out behind her, I asked if I may help put her groceries into her car? She graciously accepted my offer and said, "I know I am an old woman and a lot of newer things are so difficult to for me because until last week my husband, did all of these things. You see, Charlie died last Monday, and well, he just did everything for me so I never learned how to." As she pause, I wanted to reach out to hug her – but stopped before doing so because she thanked me for my help and got into her car.

You say, was this event abuse? My answer is yes because the event took advantage of her inability to stand up for herself or to advocate for herself. I urge each of you to become aware and look around your community and you will see such events. And once you become aware of such events; take action, stand up for individuals who are not able to advocate for themselves.

Advocacy involves taking action to help others who may not be able to say what they want, to secure their rights or interest and obtain services they need. What do we advocate? Human Rights –

Human rights are relevant to all of us – not just those who face repression or mistreatment. Human rights protect us in everyday life because they are based on dignity, equality, and fairness and they are ours from birth to death. They apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe, how you choose to live your life. They can never be taken away – although they can sometimes be restricted due to circumstances or situations, they are still ours!

How can we help protect and advocate for us, for others, for our human rights? What can you do?

You can Become a member of the CSRA TEAS – simply put, we are a Peer group – yes, we plan meetings, activities, and trainings; but, we also offer support to one another and act as sounding boards for difficult situations.

You can plan or join in a planning campaign that focuses on where the issues of elder abuse is in our community – think Elder Abuse does not live in our communities – talk with some of us "old timers" the stories we could share will curl your toes!

You can address and influence public opinion by finding out how much the community already knows and cares about the issue of elder abuse and promote increased awareness.

Or you can work to change individual and societal attitudes about seniors by getting senior issues on local agendas – at church meetings, at social events, during board meetings, by partnering with Clergy, community leaders, physicians, representatives of social

service agencies, even local sports personalities – to generate concern about Elder Abuse. For once these individuals are aware of and understand the issues, then make sure that they understand how this issue affects them and our communities directly – for it is when they realize the seriousness of the issue that they will begin to see Elder Abuse or Elder Mistreatment for what it is – a serious crime against humanity – one that demands public money to help correct the issue, can cause an overall deterioration in society if it is "an accepted way of life" and one that needs to be addressed locally, state-wide, regional, and nationwide.

How about running a media and publicity campaign to get more public opinion behind us and you? The media campaign does not mean an expensive series of television ads but can be accomplished with press releases, press conferences, public service announcements, letters to the editor, and other free or nearly free publicity opportunities always ensuring understanding of the issue and its importance.

I urge you to investigate all that you can about this crime against humanity – by visiting various websites, making telephone calls to the CSRA TEAS members, all to raise public awareness about preventing, identifying and responding to this crime which is often the hidden problem, and always share the information with someone else because it just may save that person's life.

You may contact me at 706-868-0120 or by email at kernce@

seniorcitizenscouncil.org or Wallace White at the Area Agency on Aging office at 706-210-2018 for more information.

**Does your  
Life Policy  
only pay  
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# Senior NEWS

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## Poets' Corner

### IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE

by Allie Morris

*Lying in bed one Saturday morning  
I could see the sunlight through my  
blinds.  
Thought, "It's Good to Be Alive!"*

*Get out of bed on my own, able  
to walk,  
Dress myself, I thought, "It's Good  
to Be Alive!"*

*Have pretty good eye sight, fix my  
own meals,  
Make my own decisions. Go where  
I please.  
Read my Bible daily, also pray.  
I thought, "It's Good to Be Alive!"*

*To the others who complain about  
what's not so good about their  
morning.  
There's many who would love to  
be in your shoes.  
They can't get out of bed on their  
own,  
Nor walk, can't dress themselves.*

*There's others who have lost their  
eyesight, would love to read again,*

*Would love to make their own meals,  
Make their own decisions, or go  
where they please.*

*So, the next time you complain  
about what's not so good about  
your morning,  
They are saying this, "It's so Good  
to Be Alive!"*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### WHEN YOU CAN'T SLEEP

by Gerry Noel

*When you can't sleep  
Counting sheep doesn't do for you  
Then talk to the Shepherd  
He will pull you through*

*When you stumble  
Make it a part of your dance  
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord  
He will hear your rants*

*When you say you can't  
And you don't try  
You're staying behind  
Life is passing you by*

*For I am 50% blind  
Have trouble sleeping*

*But I imagine my Pastor  
Into the night comes creeping*

*He says, call on the Shepherd  
Who is attending his sheep*

*Read your Bible  
Then go fast asleep*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### THE LONELY PATH

by Edna Kuhn  
(96 Years Young!)

*I know the time has come, when  
I must walk alone.  
I have a question to God, why he  
waited so long to call me home?  
I guess he had a plan for me, I  
don't know what it was.  
But who am I to question God,  
I knew someday I would be  
walking alone.*

*So I want to bid everybody  
goodbye, prepare yourself, the  
day will come.  
When you will walk down the  
lonely path.  
My life has had ups and downs,  
not knowing when God would  
call me home.  
I tried to be ready to walk down  
that lonely path.*

*This is my fair well to each and  
everyone that had a part in my  
life.*

*So just remember, we will meet  
again, but you too will have to  
walk down that lonely path.  
So hope someday we will meet in  
heaven, when God calls you home.  
Then you too will walk down that  
lonely path just like everyone  
before you.*

*So this is my good bye until we  
meet at the pearly gates; but, the  
only way here is to walk down  
that lonely path. (2016)*

## The 2016 Georgia Golden Olympics

### Special to Senior News

**T**he 2016 Georgia Golden Olympics is scheduled for September 21-24, 2016 in Warner Robins, Georgia and hosted by the Warner Robins Recreation Department. Join us for the 2016 event and qualify for the 2017 National Senior Games scheduled for June 2-15, 2017 in Birmingham, AL.

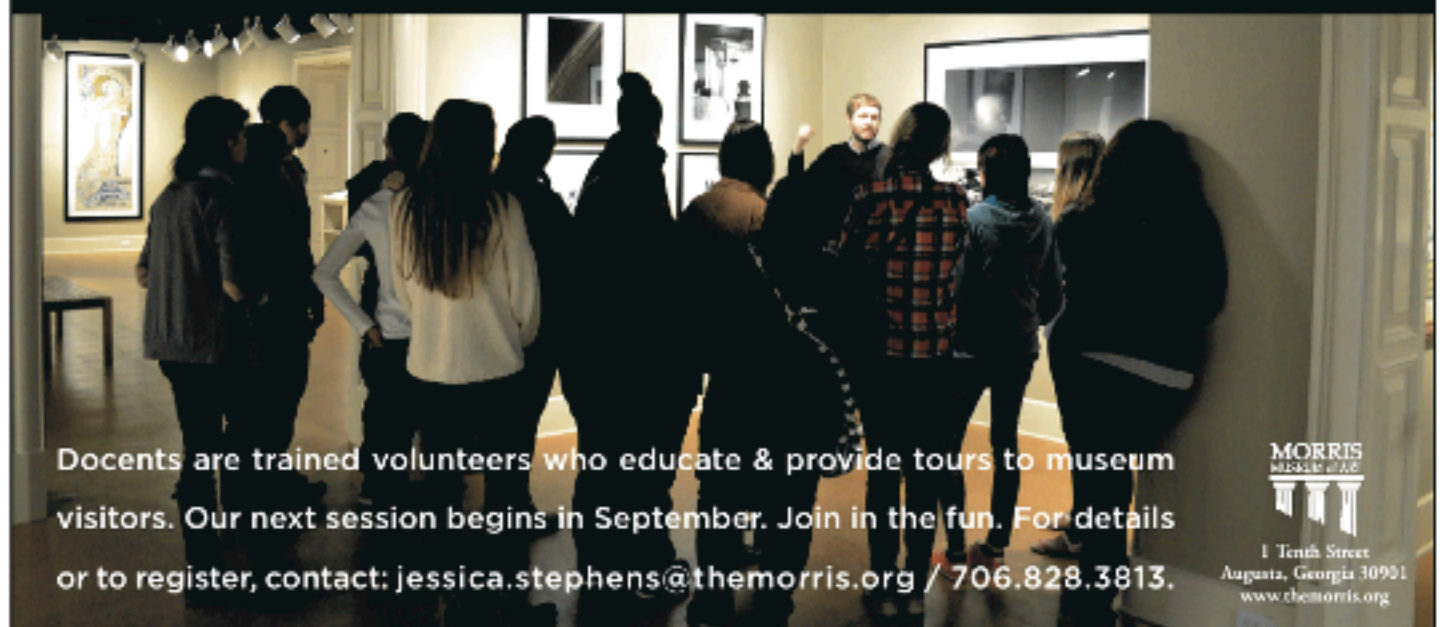
Registration will continue

through August 1, 2016. If you have competed in the Georgia event in previous years, you may register online (after May 1, 2016) from the website: [www.georgiagoldenolympics.org](http://www.georgiagoldenolympics.org)

If this is your first time to compete, you may print the form from the website and mail with your fees and age verification to Georgia Golden Olympics, PO box 958, Winder, GA.

For more information about the games you may go to website or call 770-867-3603.

## Inspire a passion for art. Become a docent at the Morris Museum.



Docents are trained volunteers who educate & provide tours to museum visitors. Our next session begins in September. Join in the fun. For details or to register, contact: [jessica.stephens@themorris.org](mailto:jessica.stephens@themorris.org) / 706.828.3813.

**MORRIS MUSEUM OF ART**  
1 Tenth Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30901  
[www.themorris.org](http://www.themorris.org)



## HOPELANDS from page 1

desired to create a peaceful haven of beauty, and an atmosphere of tranquility. It is said, that Mrs. Islein planted the deodar cedars and magnificent live oaks that grace the area today. Finally, in 1970, after her death at the age of 102, Hopelands was bequeathed to the City of Aiken.

Also, we will want to plan to attend one of evening concerts this July, starting at 7 pm. On July 4th is Preston and Weston to entertain us, on July 18th will be Mike Frost Band, July 25th will be Southern Meltdown, and August 1st check out Savannah River String Band! Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and some tasty treats to enjoy the performances.

Hopelands Gardens and the concert series are one of the best

events in the area to attend. So come on out this July! For more information about Hopelands Gardens, call (803) 642-7630. It is located at 135 Dupree Place in Aiken, SC 29801.



The Path at Hopelands



Enjoying the summer concert series



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**AUGUSTA/CSRA METRO AREA  
Senior Services & Events Directory**  
For additional Services & Events listings,  
please visit our website at: [seniornewsga.com](http://seniornewsga.com).

**The Senior Citizens Council**  
4210 Columbia Road, Suite 13A, Martinez,  
GA 30907; 706-868-0120  
[www.seniorcitizenscouncil.org](http://www.seniorcitizenscouncil.org)

The Senior Citizens Council is open  
Monday through Friday for the following  
services:

- Advocacy Programs Department – including: Caseworker Services - Caregiver Respite, Referral Information and Support (CRRIS); Bill and Money Management (MAP); Senior Health Insurance and Education (SHINE) - the Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.
- The Senior Corps Department: Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and Senior Companion Program (SCP) for income-eligible persons age 55 and older who "serve up to 20 hours a week with special needs children or adults." Call us at 706-868-0120 for complete details. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for individuals looking for "fun and rewarding ways to make a difference in the community" or just get out-of-the-house a few hours a month. RSVP recruits individuals age 55 and over for the opportunity to apply their skills, expertise, and experience to help meet critical community needs while meeting other like-minded folks in our community. RSVP pairs talented volunteers with a variety of local nonprofit, health care, governmental, and faith based organizations to assist these groups with meeting the needs of those they serve. Please call us at 706-868-0120 for details on any of our programs or make an appointment for a needed service. Our physical address is 4210 Columbia Road, Suite 13A, Martinez, GA 30907, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### CSRA Senior Centers

Over 60? Enjoy socializing, parties, cards, crafts, Bingo and travel? Interested in staying healthy and active? Tired of eating

lunch alone? If you answered YES to these questions, then you need to check out a Senior Center near you!

- Blythe Area Recreation Department Patricia Strakosch; 3129 Highway 88, Blythe, GA 30805; 706-592-6668
- Carrie J. Mays Recreation Center Sheryl Jones; 1015 11th Ave., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-821-2831
- East View Community Center Roberta Sullivan; 644 Aiken St., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-722-2302
- HH Brigham Senior Center Heather Kooms; 2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta, GA 30906; 706-772-5456
- McBean Community Center William Shaheed; 1155 Hephzibah-McBean Rd., Hephzibah, GA 30815; 706-560-1814 or 706-560-2628
- Sand Hills Community Center Lillie Rosier; 2540 Wheeler Rd., Augusta, GA 30904; 706-842-1912 or 706-842-1916
- New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. Millicent E. West; 1336 Conklin Ave., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-722-0086
- Bessie Thomas Community Center Jeff Asman; 5913 Euclid Creek Dr., Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-556-0308
- Burke County Senior Center Jackie Brayboy; 717 W. 6th St., Waynesboro, GA 30830; 706-437-8007
- Glascock County Senior Center Anita May; 568 Brassell Park Ln., Gibson, GA 30810; 706-598-3050
- Grovetown Senior Center Jennifer Thomas; 103 W. Robinson Ave., Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-210-8699
- Betty Hill Senior Citizens Center Cathie Birdsong; 730 Waters Work Rd., Sparta, GA 31087; 706-444-7532
- Harlem Senior Center Tina Sidener; 405 B West Church St., Harlem, GA 30814; 706-449-8400
- Jefferson County Senior Center Marie Swint; 209 E. 7th St., Louisville, GA 30434; 478-625-8820
- McDuffie Senior Center Melinda Hill; 304 Greenway St., Thomson, GA 30824; 706-595-7502
- Jenkins County Senior Center Shirley Chance; 998 College Ave., Millen, GA 30442; 478-982-4213
- Lincoln County Senior Center Pam Parton; 160 May Ave., Lincolnton, GA 30817; 706-359-3760
- Sylvania Senior Center Cathy Forehand; 209 E. Ogeechee St., Sylvania, GA 30467; 912-564-7727
- Taliaferro County Senior Center Allene Oliver; 119 Commerce St., Crawfordville, GA 30631; 706-456-2611
- Warren County Senior Center Gwanda Murray; 48 Warren St., Warrenton, GA 30828; 706-465-3539
- Washington County Council on Aging Jane Colson; 466 Maurice Friedman Rd.,

Sandersville, GA 31082; 478-552-0898 (Mon., Tues. and Thurs.) 478-552-0013

- Wilkes County Diana Hall; 108 Marshall St., Washington, GA 30673; 706-678-2518
- Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center Elizabeth Jones; 1635 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-738-0089

### H. H. Brigham Senior Center

2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta  
Contact: Patricia A. Jenner  
706-772-5456; 1 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Aiken County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

902 Vaulcluse Rd., Aiken, SC 29801; 803-642-7559; [www.aikencountysc.gov/tourism](http://www.aikencountysc.gov/tourism)

### Courtesy Senior Center

49 Roy St., Wagoner, SC; 564-5211

### Harrison-Cayer Park

4181 Augusta Rd., Clearwater, SC; 593-4698

### Aiken County Recreation Center

917 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Graniteville, SC; 663-6142

### Roy Warner Park

4287 Festival Trail Rd., Wagoner, SC; 564-6149

### Hearing Loss Association of Augusta

Meetings are normally held on the 3rd Saturday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., September-April except for December, at University Hospital, 1350 Walton Way, Dining Rooms 1-3. For information on the organization please contact Gayle Tison at [g.m.tison@wowway.com](mailto:g.m.tison@wowway.com).

### Hephzibah Lions Club

For additional information contact Lion Frank Spinney, President, at 706-592-5618 or Jon Winters at 706-592-9622 or 706-833-0458.

### Morris Museum of Art

1 Tenth Street at Riverwalk in Augusta Riverfront Center. Call 706-724-7501 for more information or visit the Museum's website at [www.the-morris.org](http://www.the-morris.org).

• Thurs., July 7, 10-11 a.m.: *Mommy and Me: Folk Art Frenzy*. \$4 per participant. Advance registration required.

• Fri., July 8, Noon: Films on Friday:

*Oklahoma* (1955). Free

• Sun., July 17, 2 p.m.: Music at the Morris:

*Bethany and the Southside Boys*. Free

• Thurs., July 23: Day trip to Milledgeville, Ga. Paid reservations due by July 22

### Augusta Museum of History

560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Call 706-722-8454 for events information.

• Brown Bag History Series: *Augusta Chinese and the Chinese Consolidated*

*Benevolent Association*, July 13

### Lucy Craft Laney

### Museum of Black History

[www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com](http://www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com)

Call 706-724-3576 for events information.

### USA DANCE Augusta Chapter 6074 Every Third Saturday of the Month

The USA Dance is a National Dance Organization. Our Chapter 6074 focuses on the Augusta and Aiken areas. Our dances are held on the THIRD SATURDAY of each month. The dance is held at American Legion Post 63, 90 Milledge Rd., Augusta, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Lessons at 8 p.m. If you are able, please bring something sweet or savory for the goody table. Tasty food, the best dance floor in the CSRA, great music, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere all add up to a perfect Saturday evening experience. Cost is \$8.00 for USA Dance members or \$10.00 for non-members. For additional information call Kay Cooke at 706-210-8780 or Rudy Brostrom at 803-442-9337. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Monthly dance details below:

- July 16: Independence Day Fox Trot
- Aug. 20: Ice Cream Bolero
- Oct. 15: Halloween Salsa
- Nov. 19: Thanksgiving West Coast Swing
- Dec. 17: Christmas (No Dance Instructor)

### Augusta Christian Singles Dance

Dances are at 7:30 p.m. with complimentary dance lessons at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be \$10.00 for guests and \$8.00 for members. Light refreshments will be served.

Located at The Ballroom Dance Center, 525 Grand Slam Drive, Evans, GA 30809.

### Friday Night Dance

Every Friday, 8-11 p.m., American Legion Post 63, 90 Milledge Rd., Augusta. With band or DJ. \$10 cost. Free coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. Call 706-733-5184.

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# General Business Directory For Seniors

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# Sidewalk Salesmen and Parking Lot Peddlers

by **KELVIN COLLINS**  
President/CEO, BBB of Central  
Georgia & the CSRA, Inc.

**I**t is a beautiful spring weekend and you are dashing to complete a list of errands. As you pull into the parking lot of a neighborhood mall or store, you see some enticing signs for "high quality" equipment, furniture, jewelry or artwork that is displayed on the blacktop. You decide that the advertised prices are extremely low and worth checking out. Think again, as you are about to get taken.

It is known as the "white van" or the "parking lot peddler" scam. People driving white vans or sport utility vehicles pull into a parking lot to display their wares. The packaging looks legitimate, the merchants will swear that the products are not stolen, and assure you that they can be returned if you are not completely satisfied. What they do not tell you is that they will be long gone by the time you discover the products are defective, not high quality, or counterfeit brands. The salesperson's "satisfaction guaranteed" or "return for full refund" claims are worthless.

It is best to exercise similar caution when evaluating goods displayed on card tables set up on

busy sidewalks. The merchants will assure you that the purses are designer brands, the jewelry 24-carat gold and the watches top quality. While the prices may be attractive and the merchandise tempting, think about your recourse should you not be satisfied with your purchase. Are you going to be able to track down that particular sidewalk vendor again? If he is not there, do you know the name of their business and its physical location? Were you provided with a business card with contact information or a sales receipt with a printed return and exchange policy? Chances are, the answer to each of these questions is "no."

At the very least, contact your Better Business Bureau and ask about the merchant and the manufacturer of the product before making a purchasing decision. The BBB may have a business review on the company with helpful information. You can also contact the city or county licensing department to see if the vendor is properly licensed.

BBBs also hear the heartbreaking stories of complainants after the fact. The stereo speakers do not work, cannot be configured properly or end up being bricks or blocks of wood. The furniture smells of chemicals and appears to be "used" rather than "brand new." The jewelry has left a green mark on their

skin. The purse is counterfeit and the stitching is coming loose.

Unfortunately, sidewalk vendors and parking lot peddlers travel quickly through town. They do not stay in any one place for very long before moving on. If you fall victim to a white van scam, contact your local police and Better Business Bureau. At the very least, your call can help warn others who may be tempted by the "great" deals.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Kelvin Collins is president/CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Central Georgia & the CSRA, Inc. serving 41 counties in Central Georgia and the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the Council of Better Business Bureaus. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-*

4222, Web site: [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) or E-mail: [info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org](mailto:info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org) or [info@csra.bbb.org](mailto:info@csra.bbb.org). For more consumer tips that you can trust, visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).

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# General Business Directory For Seniors

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**Carolyn Brenneman**  
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# Chamber announces Small Business Champion

Special to Senior News

**T**he Columbia County Chamber of Commerce announced the inaugural Small Business Champion award recipient on Thursday, June 16, 2016. Southeast Restoration Group was recognized as a Small Business Champion for their dedication to the community.

Small Business Champion is an initiative of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce that is meant to recognize small businesses for their successes and contributions to the community. This award provides the opportunity to showcase the story behind their success. With this program, the Columbia County Chamber wants to promote awareness and visibility of small businesses throughout the Greater Augusta area.

To be considered for this award, a business must meet the following qualifications:

1. Employ 19 or fewer full-time employees.

2. In business three (3) or more years.

3. Been a Columbia County Chamber member for at least one (1) year and currently in good standing.

4. Contribute to the community.

5. Must not be a prior year winner in the same category.

6. Maintain good employee relations.

7. Demonstrate a commitment to good business practices.

8. Have primary source of revenues from business operations, rather than grants, donors, or governmental funding. Not-for-profits may be eligible to apply if they meet these criteria.

Nomination forms can be found on the Columbia County Chamber's website. A winner will be announced at the end of every quarter. Nominations are good for one (1) year. For more information, please contact Becky Dearden, Member Relations Manager.

The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is a five-star accredited chamber



representing over 1,000 businesses in the Greater Augusta area. As a member driven, business focused organization, the vision of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is to

ensure and promote the beneficial growth of our community. For more information on the Columbia County Chamber, visit [www.columbiacounty-chamber.com](http://www.columbiacounty-chamber.com).

## Vintage Gardens At Sweetwater



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