

Senior News

Serving **MACON** & CENTRAL GEORGIA

Information For Ages **50 PLUS!**

Anne Meroney at St. Andrews!

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

This article started out to be about St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Fort Valley throwing a surprise birthday party for Anne Meroney, the presently serving priest; but, turned out to be so much more. We've learned so much about the Episcopal Church, Diocese, workings of all the different Lay Leaders, and feel like we've made a life-long friend in Anne – and shared many friends in the past.

Since the first thing was the surprise party, let us begin here. We first heard about it from Barbara Davidson while she was deciding what to take to the party. As she always takes something different and delicious, we assured her "not to worry." On Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. on a cold Sunday morning, Anne Meroney drove in from Macon to the surprise of her life. The Episcopal congregation had pulled it off without a hitch or a snitch. Anne had no idea and was flabbergasted at the thoughtfulness and kindness of the church group. She said, "I've never been surprised. I cannot be surprised, or so I thought. And, of course, the party refreshments were divine. They actually consisted of an entire breakfast; everything from Eggs, Grits and Sausage Casseroles, Marinated Shrimp, Cheese Straws, BBQ, all sorts of fruit and a beautifully decorated Birthday Cake made by Marla Pender. Needless to say, it was not only Anne who enjoyed her surprise birthday party.

What a lovely thought and quite a perk to their usual Festival Breakfasts!

After talking with Anne, we were astounded to find that our paths had crossed not one, but many times in the past. We were Advertising Director for The Atlanta Lawyer Magazine at the same time she was practicing Law in Atlanta and she knew our best Wesleyan friend, Joyce Hall Pelphrey, and we'd had dinner with her in Macon with Susan Thigpen McDuffey at Christ Church. It's true. If you talk to a person long enough you'll find a connection. In our

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February 2016 • Vol. 30, No. 2

Macon-Bibb County Health Department awarded Car Seat Mini Grant

Buckle Up Right, Every Trip, Every Time

Special to Senior News

The Macon-Bibb County Health Department was awarded the 2016 Car Seat Mini-Grant by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention Program. Through the Mini-Grant, we are able to provide car seats and education to financially eligible families in Macon-Bibb County. This program is funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to help ensure Georgia's children are safe while riding in motor vehicles.

And it works! Since 2007, the education, car seats and booster seats provided through the Mini Grant prevented serious injury or death and saved at least 303 of Georgia's children who were involved in crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, car seats reduce fatal injuries by 71 percent among infants and by 54 percent among children ages 1 to 4 years in passenger cars. Car seats offer the best protection for children in the event of a crash, and they are most effective when installed and used correctly. Nearly three out of

every four car seats are not used properly, placing children at unnecessary risk.

"It's our responsibility to keep our children safe," said Stephanie Hyman, SafeKids Coordinator at Macon-Bibb County Health Department. "The Car Seat Mini-Grant is a great opportunity to help our community and help protect our kids from serious injuries or death in motor vehicle crashes."

In Macon-Bibb County, the local Health Department educates parents and caregivers on how to properly install and use car seats, offers car seat inspections and provides car seats and booster seats to financially eligible families. Through the Car Seat Mini-Grant, agencies supporting more than 130 counties are working to keep Georgia's children safe. These programs help families get their children buckled up right, every trip, every time.

For more information about the Macon-Bibb County car seat program, contact Stephanie Hyman at (478) 749-0144. If you would like information regarding other counties involved in the program, please contact the Ga Department of Public Health's Child Occupant Safety Project via email at injury@dph.ga.gov or at (404) 679-0500.



Cherished Children Golf's First Sponsor

Robert Coleman, Lt. Col., Ret., proudly presents a \$5000 check in sponsorship of the The 18th Annual Jean Coleman Cherished Children Golf Tournament. Accepting is Gary Martin, Board Chair. The Tournament will be held Friday, April 29, at Waterford Golf Course. Proceeds support Cherished Children, a United Way Agency providing subsidized, quality child care and education for low income working parents. Registration 11:00 am; lunch at 11:30 includes Church Women United's famous homemade dessert bar; preparation for tee off at 12:45 includes a short program by students of the Four Year Old Class who will also putt and chip while the golfers play. Teams or individuals may register at \$50 per player. Three flights by handicap with First and Second Place in each flight. Hole Sponsorships also available at Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels (\$100-\$1000). This year's Tournament is extra special as it celebrates the opening of a second facility last December. For information contact LiAnne Martin, Tournament Chair, at 478-422-4378.

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Let us entertain you

by **CLAIRE HOUSER DODD**

*Roses are Red.
Violets are Blue.
I have a Bicycle.
Can you swim?*
Dr. Billy Dodd, 1988

February has lots of important days. Ground Hog Day (Candlemas) when we find out what kind of weather we are having (the ditty going "If Candlemas Day be stormy and black, it carries the winter away on its back"), another being our birthday on the 9th, along with Mardi Gras in Alabama and Louisiana. The 10th is Ash Wednesday, followed by the 12th, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, the 14th is Valentine's Day, the 15th Washington's Birthday when we honor veterans. (Fly the Flag.) And then too, it is Leap Year. Feb. 29th is called Leap Day on our calendar.

Remember the cartoon (Little Abner with Daisy Mae)? Well it was Sadie Hawkins Day in Dogpatch in the funny papers, with lots of wild goings on for the races. You see it was girls day to chase the boys to propose. It was a hoot! Guess the TV advertised Singles Clubs on the internet have probably knocked that one out of the park as you can go to there any day of the year and chase away – if you are so inclined. You may want to know, Leap Day is the last day of the month. Every 4 years Feb. has 29 days, otherwise it has 28.

Fort Valley had big doings on Jan. 10th. The Stumbos are moving up to Kentucky where their children and grandchildren are. John, the former mayor of our fair city, taught Sunday School, and Helen Rhea, among many other things such as playing the piano in Church, was also head of Missions and Outreach. The Papagans are moving with them. Sonia is Helen Rhea's secretary and right hand.

On Sunday afternoon, the Aldersgate Sunday School class at Fort Valley United Methodist Church held a lovely reception for John and Helen Rhea Stumbo and Harry and Sonia Papagan who are moving to Kentucky. Sandra Haga and Maggie Newberry were very prominent in planning and hosting the party as were approximately 20 more Sunday School class members. Two chocolate cakes were made by Phyllis Carpenter and a pound cake by Vicki Bridges. Sue Humphreys created the beautiful flower center piece. As blue and yellow are Helen Rhea's favorite colors, She chose yellow Asian lilies and Bells of Ireland in a blue and white porcelain bowl to honor her. Ann Lanter was busy at the punch bowl where she was serving a delicious lime

sherbet punch.

Although Pastor Doug Mays regretfully had to be in Valdosta for a funeral, Pastor Chris Carter was certainly present, as were two of our very prominent past ministers, Jim Hamlin and Ellis Carpenter. They were very visible as was Fort Valley's Richard Aultman, now of Byron.

Sylvia Strickland grabbed us right away to sign the beautiful pictures Amy Hiley had done for the going away gifts to the couples. Bryant Culpepper had told us about how this came about. "This one thought up this and that one thought up that. So... Amy had to wait for a sunny day to take pictures of the beautiful stained glass windows at the Methodist Church and finally got one, ordered frames from Amazon and got the whole thing put together in about three days." They are two identical pictures with lots of space around them for people to sign their names and/or leave a message. One for each family to remember and cherish.

Matthew took Emily and "yours truly" to see Alvin and the Chipmunks on his last day of vacation. We had so much fun. There is nothing like a child's laughter. It has a fierce ring and is so infectious. Our fun was watching him watch the movie and LOL. This cartoon comedy of errors was so well done as every misadventure and disaster crossed the entire country from LA to Miami. Besides the funny pesky little country chipmunk creatures, the scenery was delightful. We're thinking from now on we'll let Matthew pick out our movies EXCEPT Star Wars!

Pat Cecil is going with us to have dinner at Texas Roadhouse in Macon and see the new Star Wars show. With the monetary intake topping everything, how could we avoid this movie of mass hysteria? By the way, we remembered, with horror, a trip to Universal Studios in Orlando where Dr. Dodd and your writer were herded into a simulated Star Wars scene. It was way too realistic for us to be hurdled through a very narrow canyon in a very fast rocket while shooting and being shot at doing about 2M mph – at least. We tried to hide behind Dr. Dodd, who was ridged but said nothing. We think we passed out as we can't remember how we escaped. Never to return.

Anyway, it will be much better to just be sitting in a nice, big theatre with only the movie switching and swaying, not us. We hope. We'll let you know.

Another happening you don't want to miss is the Malibus 50th Reunion at the Ag Center in Perry on Feb. 27. Playing will be Dennis Herbert, David Luckie, Eddie

Byrd, Grady Trussel, Mike Jacino, and Wes Wheeler. For tickets, get in touch with Wes Wheeler.

The Peach Festival group is up and running. New President Sandee Davis Khoury is forging ahead. We heard from Board person Emily Griffin last night that there's been a turnaround in schedule with the Fort Valley venue coming first and Byron second. So – June 3 will be Family Fun Day in Festival Park with rides, blow ups, food, fun and topped off with the

band, Conquest. The 4th will be the GA Peach Festival regular downtown celebration with Arts, Crafts, Food and Fun topped off with the Beach Party. On the 11th we'll see you at North Peach Park in Byron. More to come. The Force Be With You.

*Roses are Red.
Violets are Blue.
Read Senior News.*

I Love You.

Art store opens in Warner Robins

Special to *Senior News*

The Fine Art Society of Middle Georgia, also known as FAS, has opened a Gallery of Fine Art at 2507C Moody Road next to My Fathers Place Pizza in Warner Robins. It contains art from your local artists.

The Gallery has a show room, as well as a classroom, small research library with art magazines and books. It will be a great place for artists to collaborate on their craft. The Gallery will be open Tuesday to Saturday 11-6 pm, and on Monday and Sunday by appointment or special events.

cial events.

Ten of the FAS artists have painted several of the local churches including Bonaire Methodist, St. Joseph Catholic, Allen Chapel AME, Second Baptist, Sunshine Church, Unity Baptist, Christ Lutheran, the Old Central Baptist, Central Baptist, Harvest Church, Willacocchee Methodist, St. Marys Presbyterian, and created a 2016 wall calendar which can be bought at the gallery for \$15. The proceeds will help keep the gallery open.

Come support your local artists! For more information call Leslie Hoops-Wallace at 478-396-9198 or visit www.fasmidga.org.

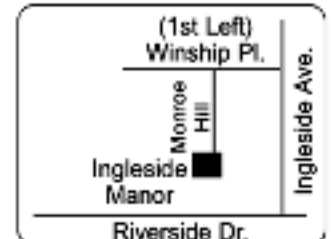
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Senior NEWS

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Website

www.seniornewsga.com
www.seniornewsgeorgia.com

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Published monthly. Business Office is located at 115 Bigham Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Approximate Monthly Readership: Metro Atlanta, 65,000; Augusta, 27,000; Macon/Central Georgia, 21,000. Editorial and advertising copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Preference is given to editorial copy submitted earliest.

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Editorial information you would like considered for publication should be mailed to: Senior News, P. O. Box 8389, Warner Robins, GA 31095-8389.

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Senior News & Views of Georgia

Poets' Corner

Editor's Note: If you have written a "well-worked" poem which you would like considered for publication, please email it to seniornewsga@cox.net or mail it to Senior News, 214 Wilsons Creek Bend, Bonaire, GA 31005. Please include your name and address on your poem. We will publish selected poems (or excerpts) as space permits.

WINTER IS HERE

by Brenda G. Partridge-Brown

*Winter is here, the season when
children around the world seem
to find magic in the air,
There will be cold bitter winds,
bone chilling winds, icy rain and
maybe even snow!*

*Winter is a time for wearing warm
clothes and over loading your bed
with warm blankets.*

*Winter is a time when you can really
enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or a
cup of hot tea, along with your
favorite book.*

*Winter is a time to sit around
sharing life stories with family
and friends, over a big bowl of
mama's hot chilly or homemade
chicken soup.*

After all, it's winter!

*God had His reason for creating this
"cold, cold" season.
So, relax and embrace the moment.*

After all, it's God's weather!

ENJOYING IT ALL

by Ron Dennard

*I sit on the porch high on a hill
Green grass, evergreens, God's
blessed will
I thank God for the peace I feel
within
Not a pain in my body, because of
God my very best friend*

*I hear chatter from a home across
the street
Neighbors waving to each other
as they meet
A few birds sing, before long they
will take their winter's flight
Soon the beauty of this day will
be over taken by the beauty of
the night*

*The sky so distant, just behold
the moon and the stars
The galaxies far beyond Venus
and Mars*

*I thank God for all the days he
has inabled me to see
The losses were outdone by victories*

*I pray beauty will always be
seen here
And to me it will always be dear
God bless all of us upon this hill
Giving us courage to love and the
courage to forgive*

MY VALENTINE PRAYER

by Allie Morris

*Is that you love God (continually),
Be in the best of health,
May good protect your family
and friends,
Pay all your bills,
That you love and pray for others,
That you be happy when you see
another day.*

*My Valentine Prayer
Is that you laugh more,
Be the best person you can be,
Don't give up,
May your life be filled with Love,
Joy, Hope, Peace.*

My Valentine Prayer for You!

Butler-Baker High School Seeking Alumni

Special to Senior News

The Butler-Baker Alumni Project, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 organization, seeks all who attended the school and friends to become a member.

General membership gives right to vote, to hold office, to join committees, and to be a decision maker. General membership is \$50 monthly or \$600 annually.

We are a member of the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce, host an annual spring luncheon, won 1st Place float 2015 in the Dairy Festival Parade, partnered with Fort Valley State University in a Summer Enrichment Camp, sponsored a Fall Festival of "Food, Fun, and Fotos," and presented a gospel stage play, "Gift Wrapped." Great things are taking place on the campus on Alice Walker Drive!

For information and to join us call: 706-485-7247 or 706-485-7461.

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Anne Meroney with her three much beloved grandchildren.

ANNE from the cover

area, we're quite likely to find a cousin plus a friend, maybe the world needs more talking.

Let us play catch-up with Anne Elrod Meroney who was born in Northeastern North Carolina to Florence and Edgar of Charlotte, NC where she graduated from Myers Park High School. Then she attended Agnes Scott, in Atlanta, briefly, but opted out for a marriage proposal. Anne has two daughters, Mary Craig Dimmett of Kennesaw, GA whose husband, Rusty, is in the printing business. They have a son, Jack, who is Anne's precious baby boy of 18

(years that is) and goes right along with the love and adoration knocking him off his feet coming from his grandmother. He sends that love right back at her in spades! Is it ok to mention spades when speaking of a priest? Or is it Priestess? Whatever, Anne has another daughter, Kate Swilley. Curt is her husband's name and they live in Dunwoody, GA and have two lovely daughters, Anna Grace and Ella.

After years of marriage and family, Anne returns to Atlanta to Georgia State University, Emory Law School and practiced law for 20 years. She was affiliated with several well-known firms. She specialized in Civil Litigation and Trial Work.

Obviously, multi-talented, and probably having witnessed enough of



Anne Meroney with The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, Bishop of Atlanta.

the lawless side of life, she decided to return to the Candler School of Theology at Emory. After graduation she was ordained an Episcopal priest. This was around 2003 when she started at St. John's Episcopal in College Park. From there she went to St. Anne's in Atlanta for about a year and a half, then on to Christ Church on Walnut St. in Macon, the oldest Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta.

After that, she became a supply priest on Sunday and a Hospice Chaplain – just retired in November. During this time, she worked as part-time priest at All Angels in Eatonton, and supplied at many churches in the Diocese, as she is currently doing at St. Andrew's in Fort Valley, much to

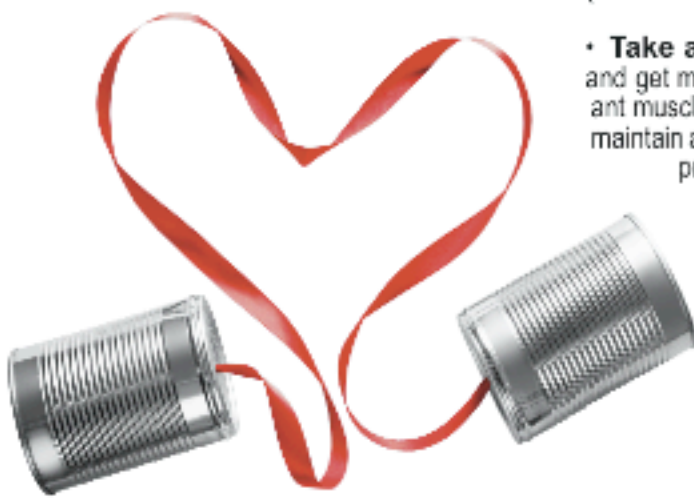
the pleasure of the membership.

Anne says, "I have enjoyed my venue here in Fort Valley at St. Andrew's more than ever. The people are so rich in their own spirituality and love for each other, and their kindness toward each other. I call this a Big-Small church. I feel called to minister to small churches like this one because it makes me feel so Blessed."

Having known many members, past and present of St. Andrews, from Charlie and Betty Robinson to now, we agree and understand where Anne Meroney is coming from. She and a great friend of both of us, W. C. Wyatt, has the exact thoughts of this beautiful and friendly little church on Central Avenue.

Your Heart has a lot to Say. Are you listening?

(like a stress test) can be ordered.



• **Take a healthy approach to life.** Get up and get moving. Exercise works that most important muscle in our body while helping us reach and maintain a healthy weight. It also helps lower blood pressure and cholesterol.

• **Eat a colorful diet of fruits and vegetables.** Push away from the chips and consciously eat healthy. Keeping a food journal is a great way to see what you're putting in your body on a daily basis. Eating good healthy food offers a plethora of benefits, decreasing risks associated with heart disease but also cancer, diabetes, and other debilitating diseases.

• **Laugh, love, and live well.** You've heard that saying 'it does my heart good' when referring to a positive life event. Well, it really does. Positivity and humor keep us healthy in both mind and body.

• **Listen to your heart by getting screened.** Screening won't officially diagnose heart disease and stroke, but it is a great way to get an idea of your risk factors. A simple blood test can show your cholesterol levels, can let you know if you have high blood sugar levels, and so much more. It's a great way for your heart to "speak" to you.

If you are interested in a heart screening, Coliseum Medical Centers is hosting a FREE screening at Mabel White Baptist Church on Saturday, February

6 from 7am to 12 pm. Screenings can be done between 7am-11am and include blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, BMI, and hip to waist ratios. Beginning at 9:30, speakers will present seminars on nutrition, exercise and other heart issues. Snacks will be provided as well! What a deal! This is a great way to celebrate Heart Month! Invite your friends to join you! To register for this screening, all you have to do is call Consult-a-Nurse at (478) 746-4646 and tell them you want to attend the "Listen to your Heart" event on Saturday, February 6!

Celebrate Heart Month by taking care of yours! If you want more information on heart health, or if you need a referral to a qualified cardiologist, Consult-a-Nurse can also help. You can reach Consult-a-Nurse by calling (478) 746-4646.

COLISEUM Heart
INSTITUTE

Coliseum Medical Centers
350 Hospital Drive
Macon, GA 31217
(478) 765-7000

Consult-a-Nurse
(478) 746-4646

Visit us online at
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

February is National Heart Month and it's a great time to remind everyone to listen to what your heart has to say. Because our hearts are literally what is keeping us alive, we should make sure we are paying attention! Too many of us abuse our hearts by the way we live our lives.

Here are a few tips that can keep your heart beating and keep you living life the way you should.

• **First, know your risks for heart disease and stroke.** If you have a family history, you may be more likely to develop cardiovascular disease. Talk to your family, and then let your doctor know if there is a history so appropriate diagnostic tests

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Support Groups

- Bosom Buddies: Call 478-765-4805.
- Bosom Buddies Too: Call 478-765-4805.
- Chronic Fatigue/Fibromyalgia Support Group: Call 478-475-4908.
- G.L.A.D. (Good Living Around Diabetes): Call 478-765-4338.
- Surviving Together... Strive From Stroke Support Group: Call 478-765-4413.
- United Ostomy Association Support Group: Call 478-765-4185.
- Helping Hands Grief Support Group: Call 478-464-1401 or 478-765-4805.
- Middle GA MS Support Group: Call 478-475-1818.
- Bipolar Support Group: Call 478-741-1355.
- Survivors of Suicide Support Group: Call 478-741-1355.
- Extending H.O.P.E. - Lymphedema Support Group: Call 478-765-4805.
- HOPE Network: Call 478-765-4805.

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- Joint Pre-Surgery Education Classes: Call 478-751-0189
- Focus on Healing Classes (Lebed exercise): Call 478-765-4413 to register.
- Perspectives: Mon., 12:30 p.m.; Tues., 9 a.m.; Fri., 7 p.m. Cox Cable channel 15
- Joint Classes at Coliseum Northside Hospital: Call 478-757-6092 to schedule.
- A-Z Diabetes Self-Management: Day Classes: Call 478-765-4338.
- Look Good... Feel Better: Call 478-765-4805.

Alzheimer's Association, Central

Georgia Regional Area Caregivers' Support Groups

Call 478-746-7050 or 800-272-3900 for details.

Bibb County

- 2nd Tues., 3:30 p.m., Alzheimer's Association, 886 Mulberry St., Macon, 478-746-7050
- 1st Wed., 10 a.m., Martha Bowman UMC, 500 Bass Rd., Macon, 478-743-7050

Houston County

- 4th Thurs., 7 p.m., Peachbelt Rehab Center, 801 Elberta Rd., Warner Robins, 478-397-4669
- 4th Tues., 7 p.m., Houston Health Care, Classroom #1, 1601 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, 478-923-2532

Dodge County

- 3rd Thurs., 5:30 p.m., Dodge County Hospital, Educational Annex, 901 Griffin Ave., Eastman, 478-374-0600

Lamar County

- 4th Tues., 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 375 Thomaston St., Barnesville, 770-358-4516

Laurens County

- 1st Thurs., 2 p.m., Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, 12-A Family Room, 1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, 478-272-1210, x2328

Monroe County

- 1st Thurs., 6 p.m., Monroe County Hospital Dining Hall Downstairs, 88 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., Forsyth, 478-747-8754

Peach County

- 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., The Medical Center of Peach County Cafeteria, 1960 Highway 247 Connector, Byron, 478-951-3613

Putnam County

- 3rd Wed., 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, 115 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton, 706-485-3331

Upson County

- Last Thurs., 7 p.m., Thomaston Reflections, 302 S. Bethel St., Thomaston, 706-647-1607

Telephone Support Group

- 1st & 3rd Tues., 7-8 p.m., "Care Connection" facilitated by an Alzheimer's Assoc. staff member, 1-866-453-5550. To learn more about "Caring Connection"

call 800-272-3900.

Meals on Wheels of Macon and Bibb County

Meals on Wheels of Macon and Bibb County needs volunteers to help deliver meals to home-bound clients. Volunteers must have a valid Georgia driver's license and a positive attitude. If you can spare two hours a day one day a week, then you may just be the person needed. We especially need help on Thursdays and Fridays. Meals on Wheels is a wonderful organization which takes pride in everything it does. This program would not exist without volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Joyce Waller or Beverly McCard at 478-745-9140.

Macon-Bibb County Parks & Recreation Department Senior Center

1283 Adams Street Macon, Georgia 31201; Phone: 478-751-2790, 478-751-9238; Daily activities 9:00-2:00

Warner Robins Senior Citizen Services (50+ Years Old)

Warner Robins Recreation Department:

Felicia Wright, Director

Email:

FWRIGHT@wrga.gov; 478-293-1066

Senior Activity Center
152 Maple Street, Warner Robins

Office: 478-293-1066

Support Group for Caregivers of Frail Elderly Family Members

First & third Tuesdays of each month, 3:30-5 p.m., 6060 Lakeside Commons Place (off Bass Rd.), Macon. Call Martha Duke at 478-808-

6957.

Theatre Macon

438 Cherry Street, Macon
478-746-9485

• Don't Dress For Dinner: Feb. 19-27

Divorce Recovery Group

First Baptist Church of Macon, located at 511 High Place, is offering a Divorce Recovery Group for those interested. The meetings are held on Wednesday evenings. Child care and children's activities will be provided.

For additional information call the church office at 478-742-6485.

DivorceCare Offered By Central Baptist Church

Divorced? Separated? Find help at DivorceCare.

DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. The group meets at Central Baptist Church located at 1120 Lake Joy Road, Warner Robins. Childcare is provided for babies through 5th grade.

continued on page 7

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Alzheimer's advocates raise voices for local legislative change

Submitted by Amy Johnston
Director of Marketing and
Communications

Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter's Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the Georgia State Capitol is February 3, 2016.

More than 130,000 Georgia residents are living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias with the total predicted to increase to 190,000 by 2025. This is why, on February 3, 2016, The Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter will have more than 300 advocates from across the state meet with leaders at the Georgia State Capitol to encourage three key policy changes for 2016:

Update Georgia's Power of Attorney Act to provide a simple way for people to deal with property issues by providing a power of attorney, in case of future incapacity, while at the same time including safeguards to protect the incapacitated individual from financial abuse.

Update Georgia's Adult Guardianship Statutes to make it consistent with the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act (UAGPPA), which establishes a uniform set of rules and framework for state court judges to communicate in multi-jurisdictional cases. This saves time and money for

the guardian by removing jurisdictional barriers. Georgia is one of nine states whose statutes are not consistent with the UGAPPA.

Require mandatory reporting of suspected neglect or abuse of any person by anyone 18 years or older to an adult protection agency or any law enforcement agency. This would help protect adults who cannot physically or mentally protect themselves against abusers responsible for their care.

"Awareness Day encourages much needed change and informs elected officials of issues affecting those living from Alzheimer's and dementia. It is by hearing from those both dealing with this terrible disease and their caregivers that we can make ending Alzheimer's a state-wide and national priority through our legislators," said Leslie Gregory, President/CEO - Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter. "We believe the requested policy changes will improve the quality of life for those with the disease, and their caregivers and families."

Along with policy reform, advocates will meet with policymakers to request more than \$125,000 for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to fund a forensic auditor and forensic analyst to specifically work on cases of elder abuse. In addition, the local Alzheimer's chapter, as a part of the Coalition of Aging Advocates, is

requesting \$10 million in support for home and community based aging services, which, on average, helps seniors remain in their homes for 50 months before going to a nursing

home.

Visit alz.org/Georgia to learn more about Alzheimer's Awareness Day and Alzheimer's Advocacy in Georgia.

EVENTS

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For additional information call 478-953-9319.

Volunteer Advocates Needed for Ombudsman Program

The Middle Georgia Ombudsman Program is seeking volunteers to train as advocates for residents of personal care homes and assisted living homes. Trained volunteers will visit residents at least once a month to have friendly conversations and to participate in ensuring that their rights are protected. Ombudsmen volunteer candidates will need to complete a training course to be offered in the Macon/Warner

Robins area in the near future. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer advocate with the Ombudsman Program and would like more information about the program, please contact Nancy Hill at 478-922-4464 or nhill@mgcaa.org.

Alzheimer's Association Neighborhood Memory Café

Have concerns about your memory? So do we. The Café is a time of socialization and support for people with early to mid-stage memory loss AND their spouses and friends. Meets every 3rd Thursday, from 2 pm-3:30 pm. Call Allison at (478) 328-3800, x24 for location and information. The Memory Café is made possible by Summer's Landing of WR and The Alzheimer's Association of Central GA.

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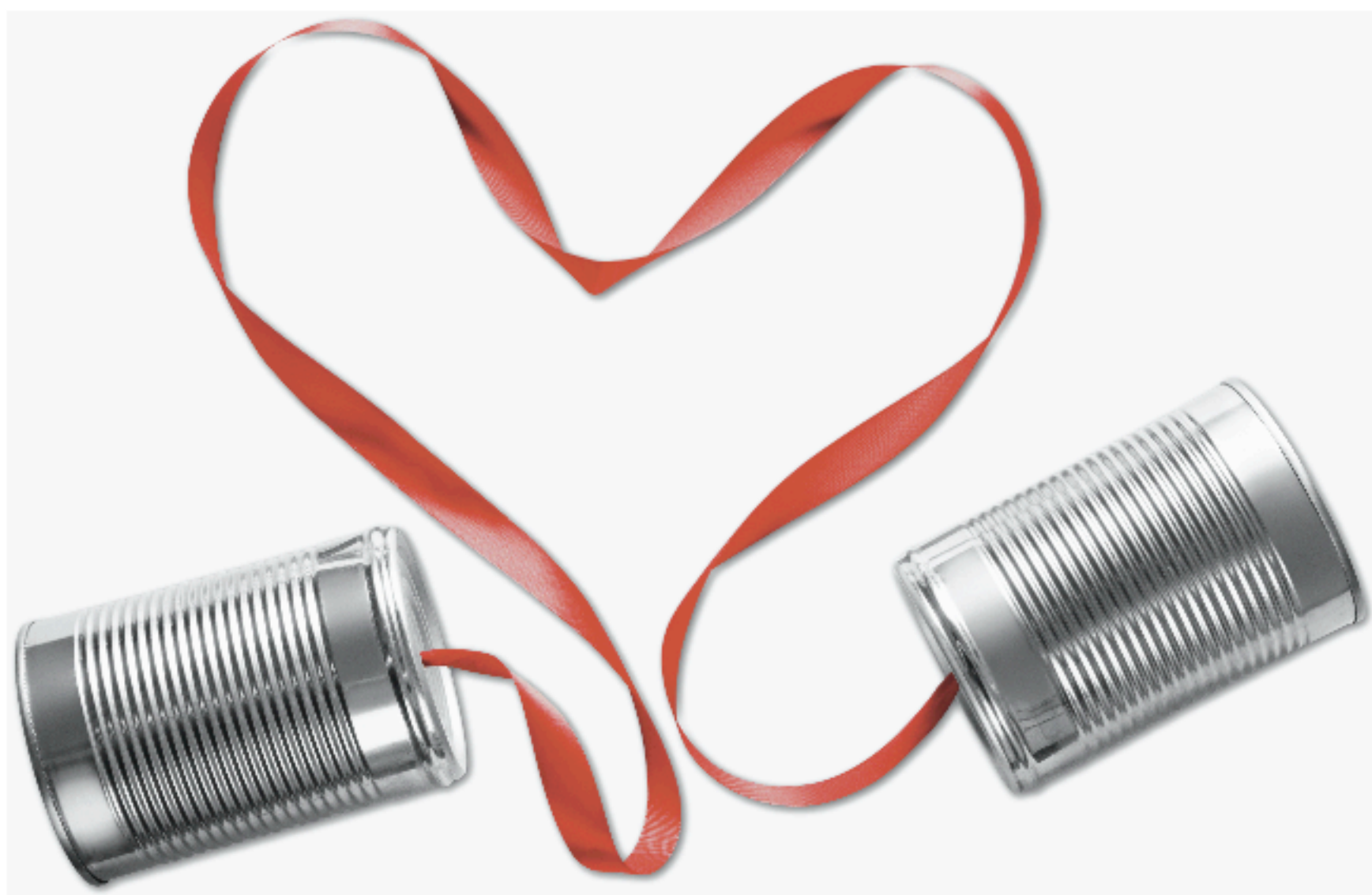
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