

Share your news through photos, stories in paper

The Tribune & Georgian is a community newspaper and we encourage our readers to let us know about stories they want to read in the newspaper about Camden County.

In addition to the news and sports stories that our reporters write, we invite our readers to contribute their own news to these pages. Most people know that they can submit birth and wedding announcements, death notices and letters to the editor, but we also accept submissions in ways you may not have realized.

Here are some of the news we want you to share:

- Tell us about a recent award, scholarships and dean's list recognition for our People page.
- An anniversary announcement is a wonderful way to celebrate a long and happy marriage. For those who have been married for 25 years or more, include "now" and "then" photos.
- Share the good works of your church, youth group or favorite nonprofit organization through short articles and photos. The community is more likely to support these causes when they know what they are doing.
- Give your child's youth sports team a boost by sending us some details about the team, like the coach's name, season record and who plays on the team. The kids will love seeing a team photo in the paper.
- Tell us about management or location changes for your place of business so we can keep your customers up to date.

It only takes a few paragraphs to help raise awareness about something that is important to you or someone you love. Photos are welcome, too.

Send your news to editor1@tds.net, fax it to (912) 882-6519 or deliver it to us at 206 Osborne St., St. Marys, GA 31558.



"Thanks for showing us how to start a fire, Dad. Now can you show us how to start an air conditioner?"

Options abound for outdoor fun

July seemed like the perfect time to take my neighborhood walk-around to all the amazing parks and recreation opportunities in St. Marys.

Along with my fellow mayors from Kingsland and Woodbine and two county commissioners, I sit on the board of directors of the Camden County Public Service Authority, better known as the PSA. If you are not familiar with this organization, it is a county-wide collaborative that oversees all 29 parks and recreation centers in Camden County. Jointly funded by the cities and the county, PSA is led by the talented and respected William Brunson, an administrator who spends more time in the field than behind a desk. You can view the PSA website www.camdencountypsa.info for more information.

While St. Marys residents can visit any of the 29 facilities, I focused on those located in the city when I was walking. One of the better known recreational areas is off Margaret Street where there are multiple ball fields that get plenty of use and our older city pool and the dog park. The pool is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, but the dog park — one for small dogs and one for big dogs — is open



John Morrissey
Guest columnist

year-round. Nearby off of Herb Bauer Drive by the library is the civic park and aquatic center recreational area. New to this facility is Lake St. Marys where recent upgrades have made it a popular walking spot for many residents with a 3,000-foot walking path and eventually two fishing decks for those anglers out there. The aquatic center is managed by the capable and enthusiastic staff of PSA and is financially very sound and extremely busy during the summer months with many Florida residents making the drive north. (And yes, they do pay a higher fee.) Families can enjoy the lazy river, the splash bucket and the pool with a full concession stand and ample picnic areas. Moving on up Point Peter Road, a major upgrade is in the works at Sweetwater

Park with new construction and equipment expected to be completed in August. Restroom improvements and ball field upgrades are in the works and these additions will make this well located park very popular for youngsters in the area. Just up the road on the North River Causeway is Notter's Pond. Popular with all ages, this pond has been known to give up a fish or two even to the most inexperienced angler.

If you cross over to Charlie Smith Sr. Highway up to the 3600 block, the McIntosh Sugarmill Park is home to the tabby ruins and an important link in the planned tabby trail. The new restroom addition is just one of many segments that will create our portion of the Eastcoast Greenway, and key for bicyclists who come from all over to enjoy our city.

On the west side of town off of Kings Bay Road at 1000 Pro 3 Parkway is the soccer complex. One of the most popular of our facilities, it is well used by everyone in the county and something to be proud of.

The Camden Community Recreation Center on Wildcat Drive in Kingsland serves all Camden residents with year-round athletic programs, day camps on school holidays and during

the summer and the Off our Rockers program at the pool encouraging seniors to exercise and stay healthy. The state-of-the-art work-out facility offers dozens of classes, child care, a racquet ball court and basketball court. Remember, details and membership fees can be found at www.camdencountypsa.info.

I've only highlighted a few of the fun recreational opportunities available so I would encourage you to check the website to discover all 29 parks and recreation areas in Camden that provide individuals and families local places to enjoy year-round, but especially during our hot summer months. There really is something for everyone. PSA is one of those joint programs we can point to with pride that demonstrates how government entities working together can provide well-managed venues to help our citizens enjoy the great outdoors, participate in athletics or just stay healthy.

If you have a favorite among the 29 facilities, let me know. I'm always interested in which locations residents find most enjoyable.

John Morrissey is the mayor of St. Marys. He can be contacted at john.morrissey@stmarysga.gov or (912) 510-4041.

WE WANT YOUR OPINION
What do you think about Camden governments pursuing solar power?

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS
What do you think about the new class ranking system for the high school?

64% I don't like it
36% I'm not sure
0% I like it

Tribune & Georgian

P.O. Box 6960 — 206 Osborne Street
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
(912) 882-4927 — Fax (912) 882-6519
Publication Number (086-640)
ISSN Number (1551-8353)

OUR MISSION

The Tribune & Georgian is published with pride weekly for the people of Camden County by Community Newspapers Inc., Athens, Ga. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities — "Newspapers get things done!" Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

Jill Helton, Editor and Publisher
Christy Braswell, Marketing Director
Foy R. Maloy Jr., Regional Publisher

Tom Wood
Chairman/CNI

Dink NeSmith
President/CNI

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.

Enjoying a motionless menagerie

Two Scotties tussling on a TV table. A small but serene-looking wooden dog propped up in a corner near my sofa. A couple of owls, actually a mother and a baby owl, plastic, of course, on a perch on the living room wall.

These are the first of a motionless menagerie of charming little creatures in my apartment that my late wife left me, perhaps so that I would never feel entirely alone.

No actually it was because she loved all the animals, "all creatures great and small." She was tender-hearted toward them and for many years we always had a dog, a living, breathing one that needed feeding, taking out, playing with and petted. So, if I can remember them, there was Wellington Puffin, a perfect little white peek-a-poo; Plume, a white, more remote poodle; Ewoc, a dark, diminutive, more playful mix of perhaps many breeds; and, not recalling a few others, the most important dog in the world, in our world at least, there was



Fred Hill
Opinion

Mike, or Mikemus, the bold black lab who became on a big backyard at Point Peter an entire opposing baseball team to which I drilled innumerable bat-driven rubber balls while he chased them in sheer happiness.

Ah, those were the days when I could handle live creatures, take them out frequently and keep them happy and also myself.

But those days are past. We, my wife and I, tried having a dog after we moved into an apartment complex. But it just wasn't the same, so we gave up having live pets. Then the "motionless menagerie" grew.

As I move down the hallway from the living room I pass "The Christmas Cardinal," a small but quite beautiful red bird made of glass and hanging on the wall, a gift from a friend.

On the floor and leaning against the wall there is a colorful portrait of a tiger resting on all fours. I think we got the portrait when we lived in Auburn, Ala. He is a reminder of what was our home — Auburn and Auburn University. I think of him as my "Auburn Tiger," guarding the hallway.

But most important though is the almost exact replica of Mike, the mighty Lab described above. A reader of my column gave me this stature of a black lab, now in my study, that could have been modeled on Mike himself. I always speak to the statue, acknowledge it with a spoken "Mikemus" and a smile, even a laugh. So Mike in art and memory still gives me joy.

I should not forget, however, the wooden cat in the corner of the laundry area. I've never been a cat person, but I rather like my corner

cat. But it is just a "rather" I'm afraid.

Yes, my menagerie is "motionless" except they move into my mind and make me smile. The wooden dog near my sofa in the living room is a TV companion. He is a lovable-looking little dog and I also speak to him. I call him "Peep." I'm not sure why. Perhaps because he looks so shy and unaggressive. I acknowledge him with a "Hello, Peep" and another laugh.

Perhaps I seem to be quite a lonely old guy. But it's only a "seeming" I think. Actually, I feel rather comfortable with my motionless menagerie. All my little creatures are in place.

And when I think of the ferocious, fearsome world outside my apartment with its riots, its violence (the now new horror of acid attacks) and its voluble hatred, I don't regret living a somewhat restricted life and no shame in enjoying my motionless, non-violent friends.

Fred Hill is a regular columnist in the Tribune & Georgian.