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Merry Christmas &  
a Happy New Year!*

December 2014  
Vol. 28, No. 12

# Genealogy will tell!

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

**E**ver wonder who you are? Want to find out how to answer these questions? Discover your past?

We have just met the delightful lady who can enlighten you on this subject. She is Muriel McDowell Jackson of Macon, GA. She is The Head of the Genealogy and Historical Room at the Washington Memorial Library on the corner of Washington and College Streets in Macon across from the Post Office where the historical Wesleyan Conservatory stood for 150 years.

Muriel is the daughter of the late John and Hazel McDowell. She graduated from Mount De Sales Academy in 1981 and she received her undergraduate degree from Georgia Southern with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Finance, in 1985. She then went to work at the Shurling Library in 1986 with well-known librarian, Suzy McCullough as Librarian Assistant. In 1988, she attended Atlanta University and obtained her Masters in Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) in 1989 and then returned to her home town of Macon and applied for an opening at the Washington Library in the Reference

Department. In 1994, Muriel was offered a promotion to do genealogy work with Willard Rocker, long-term librarian for the Washington Library. This department was originally located on the College Street side of the library but was later moved to the parking lot side of the library for more space.

With the advent of the web, more interest has been generated in genealogy for the younger generation. Popular TV shows like PBS's "Finding Your Roots," have created much interest in genealogy. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the host of this popular PBS series, has helped three individuals locate their family ancestry dating to English antiquity.

One well-known actress, Sally Fields, ancestry was traced back to one of the Pilgrim founding fathers, William Bradford. Sally's comment upon learning of her ancestors; "hot dang!" Not so lucky was her great grandfather who was loyal to the British during the Revolutionary War. He was later hung by the Americans for treason. His wife took their eight children to Canada and settled on 200 acres of land granted to them because of his service.

The State of Georgia pays for every public library to have a subscription of the Ancestry Library Education. Recently, the Knight

Foundation Grant gave computer software to help scan and digitize images in the archives. This addition of this software simplifies the process and helped transform an aging library into a "hub" for information and community activities accessible to area residents.

If you are interested in looking for your ancestry, get on over to the Washington Memorial Library, go in the front door and you will notice the sign on your left... Genealogy and Historical Room. Walk right in and you'll find Mrs. Jackson and her four staff members (Audrey Parker, Anne Rodgers, Charlotte Bare and Dean Maddox) ready to get you started on

your journey to discover yourself and your ancestry. All members of Muriel's fine staff have their Masters in History, Journalism and/or Library Science. For more information call 478-744-0821.

This should be a fascinating journey and a happy learning process of finding long lost ancestors. You will do a pedigree chart first which will make you think and come up with ancestors that you thought were long gone and forgotten.

Let's put to rest Napoleon Bonaparte's quote: "All history is Accepted Fables."

Happy traveling back through time!

## Parkway Assembly Choir presents "A Night of Praise"

Special to Senior News

**T**he Parkway Assembly of God choir presents "A Night of Praise," a special combination of Christmas favorites and new praise and worship songs, on Sunday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parkway sanctuary located at 5191 Eisenhower Parkway in Macon,

(Across the highway from Middle Georgia State College.) A nursery will be provided.

For additional information call the church at 478-477-5678. Please join us as we combine the Parkway choir and other singers from various local churches to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior through a powerful evening of praise and worship music.

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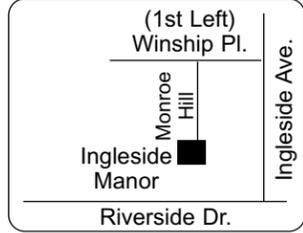



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# Let us entertain you

by CLAIRE HOUSER DODD

**A**t the Habitat for Humanity Thanks and Share Banquet last week, the *Leader Tribune* received a Certificate of Appreciation for having given exceptional service and having attained special recognition for excellence in supporting of Habitat's mission signed by Chelle Brennan, President and Jean McDonald, and to our surprise for which we felt such honor, we received one too for support and encouragement. We only wish we could have done more for this very special organization. Just wish we'd known about it at an earlier time when we could have really helped in the building and renovations.

I had our five year old Grand this weekend, and much to my delight, I was awakened to the lovely sounds of a vacuum cleaner running, then a carpet sweeper jumping the threshold to our bedroom. Oh, yes, a little ball of energy was in house and working for his breakfast. He ordered eggs, grits, sausage, toast and butter with warm coffee (mainly milk). How lucky, you say, but let's flip to the end of the story, Matthew has a very vivid imagination, and what he can't think of with a ball of twine can't be thunk-up! He is excited about Christmas and cold weather and SNOW. It was the latter that made headlines. First, little bitty bits of white wash yard were broken off and spread all around. Pretty soon this became tedious and streamers of the yarn were hung from chandeliers, flower arrangements, lamps, doors,

etc. This endeavor wore out and a Styrofoam package was annihilated into tiny white balls, and that sufficed as entertainment for awhile. You are, of course, waiting for the vacuum cleaner to resurface. Yes? No. It did not, but he kept bringing people into the house to show off his "snow." We don't think anybody quite caught on to his creative genius and imagination! Leigh Giles Wasson and her two granddaughters came in and one of Ed Wasson's young ones; they looked a little disappointed. They just look like a deer in the headlights. Will those pesky little balls and bits of yarn ever disappear? Play grandma, smile and enjoy it... there's more to come!

The Fort Valley Study Club met with Joyce Huckabee out on Norwood Spring Rd on that very cold Tuesday afternoon. Believe it or not, almost all 30 members were present, enjoyed a program by Sara Anderson of Bristol House and wonderful refreshments by Joyce and Becky Adamson.

While getting out winter clothes, we had a surprise. A blue hanger appeared in a group of jackets... but with no arms. We thought it was a hanger with broken arms, but it turned out to be one of those bags that suck moisture out of the air. We'd forgotten we got it at the hardware store when we put up winter clothes last spring. Viola, here it shows up with a plastic bag hanging down with about two cups of water. Mystery solved. We didn't believe it would work, but decided to take a chance to get rid of the dampness in closets and the musty odor. We're saving it to show disbelievers, and

just called to order four more!

Matthew and yours truly had a baby deer trying to get in the car with us on a bridge on Buckeye Road. Matthew was thrilled; he just knew it had to be Rudolph!

Christmas is so exciting to kids... let us try to keep up. What with the birth of Christ, the presents and Santa, too... how can we miss?

Fantasy In Lights is one great trip to Callaway Gardens and the Pine Mountain Sound and Light Show which continues with its 8 million lights, for details call 800-225-5292 or go to callawaygardens.com for information.

com for information.

The "Nutcracker" runs from December 10th -14th at the Grand Opera House in Macon. For ticket information call 478-301-5470 or the grandmacon.com. Theater Macon downtown is doing both "Cinderella," and a "Christmas Cabaret." The first runs December 5th, the second Dec 18th-24th, details for both may be reached at 478-746-9484 or theatermacon.com.

Go see and enjoy all these Christmas festivities.

Merry Christmas and to all a Good Night!

## Special Alice Walker Exhibit at Georgia Writers Museum

Special to *Senior News*

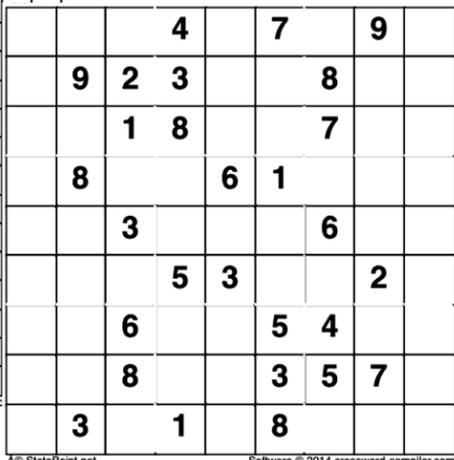
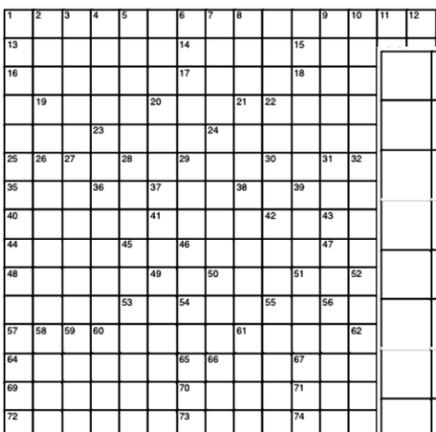
December 7th.

GWM is the first venue to be chosen to put this invaluable collection on display. Historian Larry Moore, who arranged the display, said it is extremely rare that a University Special Collections Library permits original material out of their possession.

**O**riginal Alice Walker materials including 12 handwritten letters from Alice Walker to her older sister, Mamie, five photographs, and three hardcover books, all first editions and inscribed from Alice to Mamie, will be displayed at the Georgia Writers Museum from Wednesday, December 3rd through Sunday,

GWM is located at 109 S. Jefferson St., Eatonton, GA. For more info call 706-991-5119 or visit [www.georgiawritersmuseum.com](http://www.georgiawritersmuseum.com).

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## Publisher

**Billy R. Tucker**  
Email: seniornewsga@cox.net

## Editor

**Ann Tunali**  
seniornews@msn.com

## Advertising Account

### Executives

**David VonAlmen**  
Phone: 478-213-5986  
Email: VAMktPub@aol.com

### Ron P. Myatt

Phone: 478-672-7001  
ronpmyatt@hotmail.com

### Jan Tassitano

Phone: 770-993-2943  
Email: jan@jjmconsulting.com

## Columnists

Claire Houser-Dodd  
Lisa Petsche  
Dr. Anne Jones

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### CORPORATE OFFICE

Billy R. Tucker, President/Publisher  
Phone: 478-929-3636  
FAX: 478-929-4258  
E-mail: seniornewsga@cox.net  
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## Poets' Corner

### THE DOWNSIDE OF AGING by Henry Newton Goldman

Oh yes, I have to ask again,  
My hearing is failing, you know.  
Old age is not a delightful thing.  
When your hair turns the color of  
snow.

And I have to squint sometimes to  
see,  
When things are small in failing  
light,  
My eyesight is not as good as it used  
to be,  
On-coming headlights blind me at  
night.

At one time I could remember  
things,  
But that seems a thing of the past.  
Seems now I can't remember names,  
And where I put things I used last.

Now when I go for an evening walk,  
Hope my neighbors don't think I'm  
drunk.  
My balance seems to be the fault,  
A sobriety test I'd sure flunk.

So I try my best to enjoy growing  
old,  
There's still a few things to be  
enjoyed.  
I forgive Father Time – my youth he  
stole,  
And look forward to my Heavenly  
Reward.

\*\*\*\*\*

### LISTEN!

by Brenda Tillman

*Echoes of the morning dew,  
Sweet and pure usher in new dawns,*

*Horizon of hope, sparrows in flight,  
Humming of birds in twilight.*

*Valleys of rosebuds bursting in  
spring, Fragrance of lilac-  
intoxicated air,  
Potent prosperity, gravitate here.*

*Tooting horns of toads exercising  
there lungs,  
Lovely lucky ladybugs lie in lush  
landscapes,  
Scratching of crickets, cicadas'  
delight,  
Salient sounds of summer in sight.*

*Ripples of blue-green at waters'  
edge,  
Tranquil tides, peaceful streams,  
Joyful beams light hovering the  
heavens,  
Fresh human-state spirit awakens.  
LISTEN!*

\*\*\*\*\*

### NO GREATER LOVE

by Sue J. Shealy  
(July 5, 2011)

*No greater love could the Father  
give  
Than to give His Son that I might  
live.  
No greater faith could I ever show  
Than the life I live that others may  
know  
Of the Savior who gave His life of  
love  
That all who accept Him have a  
home above.  
What more could we ask?  
What more can He do?  
His love is for all. His message is  
true.*

*Take it or leave it. It's up to you.*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### A MOTHER'S STUFF by Dot A. Jones

*My home is filled with "stuff" I  
have saved.  
Most say I'd just throw it away,  
what's it good for anyway.  
But, I tell myself, it is mine to enjoy.  
Many things entwined with  
memories, more precious with  
time.*

*Friends say get rid of "stuff" now.  
Your family will be burdened, when  
you are gone, with cleaning out  
your family home.*

*But, I say, they may have a choice,  
but they will gain much more, as  
they touch each thing I have  
cherished and relive memories  
of a family with love.*

*They will find pictures, trinkets,  
books and toys of childhood days.  
There will be antiques, collectibles  
and dishes too, which once were  
new.  
Some they may save, some will be  
thrown, but no difference it makes.  
I enjoyed my "stuff," while I  
could. Now, I am happy again  
content with God and His angels,  
with rewards of eternity for  
evermore.*

*My family can say she enjoyed her  
life and is now at peace. She  
always knew her earthly joys and  
"stuff" would some day cease.  
when heavenly treasures were hers  
to increase.*

## Immigration: A perplexing and paralytic paradox!

by DANIEL W. GATLYN  
USN Ret., Minister/Journalist

**J**ust when I figure that my analysis of current events is somewhat on target, in comes the "stragglers and strangers" of perspective... and muddy the waters of standard operating procedure!

Legislators and scribes of over two hundred years have studiously enacted and inscribed documents that spell out an accepted process of ways, means, and methods – and with one stroke of a "pathetic pen" – all is relegated to antiquity! We are currently endeavoring the acclimation of "an emperor's emancipation" of various unknowns – a deliberate act to confuse

authenticated juris prudence – and wholesale debate is on!

Who is right? And who is in error!! What party has misconstrued the script of a non negotiable, and honorable path to progress? What does the Constitution state? Better yet, what did it really mean to project and set in stone rules of the road? And in the finale, who will render the properly balanced solution? A poisoned well introduces casualties!

The rapid response to these questions would be to place all blame around the Oval Office! I do not minimize the ghastly action taken over the past few hours, as concerns a host of items issued by our Chief Executive – but let's be fair to the entire equation! Scores of individuals, (many of whom were granted a diploma) are thoroughly beset – as numerous scholars of law grapple with "what is legal, and what is not!"

To be very honest, our statesmen, commentators, politicians (both in and out of office) are as confused as a blind quadriplegic (with Chihuahuas) entering Iditerod competition! There is simply no consensus for judicial travel! And, the innocent suffer!

This scenario of wreckless gov-

ernmental procedures begs the discernment of every citizen; along with the firm decision to refrain from redefining (or ignoring) plain English! Let's get real! How many ways does a person describe the word "NO?" The U.S. Constitution includes only forthright terms... terms and phrase that are readily understood!

Those phrases have become the law of the land!! They are as binding as "driving on the correct side of the road!" And all citizens, regardless of position, are responsible to follow! If there is question, we have established the Supreme Court to settle the issue; with answers that should have been determined (long ago) by that body! Other Officers of Government are compelled by law to enforce those decisions! Violators and opportunists have painted with favorite colors!

I hold no office in this great nation! I am not an attorney! Neither do I claim special insight! But as a loyal citizen, and reader of mentioned documents, I will tell you in a heartbeat that a viable, practical, and fair, (and legal) solution is "near at hand;" requiring only a moral and concerned approach! All others seem to have sold out to "the highest bidder!" We best get our act together... Like today!

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## MACON METRO AREA Opportunities Directory

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## Coliseum Health System "Medicare Made Easy and Advanced Directives"

Coliseum Northside Hospital, 400 Charter Blvd. For complete information call 478-746-4646.

## Support Groups

- Bosom Buddies: A support group for breast cancer survivors. 1st Wed. each month at noon, Coliseum Medical Centers, Cancer Center, Bldg. C, Suite 120. Free. Call 478-765-4805.
- Bosom Buddies Too: A support group for breast cancer survivors. 2nd Thurs. each month at 6 p.m., Macon Northside Hospital, 1st Floor Conference Room. Free. Call 478-765-4805.
- Chronic Fatigue/Fibromyalgia Support Group: First Sat. every month, 1-3 p.m., Location varies. Call 478-475-4908.
- G.L.A.D. (Good Living Around Diabetes): 2nd Mon. every other month at 5:30 p.m., Coliseum Diabetes Management Center, Bldg. C, Suite 120. Free. Call 478-765-4338.
- Surviving Together... Strive From Stroke Support Group: 3rd Thurs. each month, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is served. Coliseum Medical Centers cafeteria. Patients, families and caregivers whose lives have been touched by stroke. Call 478-765-4413.
- United Ostomy Association Support Group: 4th Sun. every month, 3 p.m., Coliseum Medical Centers, Private Dining Room. For people who have had colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy surgery. Call 478-765-4185.
- Helping Hands Grief Support Group: Meets every Mon. at 2:30 p.m., Coliseum Medical Centers, Bldg. C, Suite 120. Call 478-464-1401 or 478-765-4805.
- Middle GA MS Support Group: 3rd Thurs. each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Coliseum Northside Hospital, 1st floor conference room. 478-475-1818.
- Bipolar Support Group: Meets every Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, Coliseum Psychiatric Center, 478-741-1355

- US TOO for Prostate Cancer Education and Support: 3rd Mon., 6 p.m., Coliseum Medical Centers, Bldg. C, Suite 120. 478-765-4805.
- Survivors of Suicide Support Group: 2nd Wed., 6-7 p.m., Coliseum Psychiatric Center, 340 Hospital Dr. 478-741-1355.
- Extending H.O.P.E. – Lymphedema Support Group: 1st Wed., 1:30 p.m., Coliseum Medical Centers, Bldg. C, Suite 120. 478-765-4805.
- HOPE Network: 1st Thurs., 2 p.m., Coliseum Medical Centers, Bldg. C, Suite 120. Support group for all cancer survivors and their caregivers. 478-765-4805.

## H2U Activities

- For information call 478-757-6092
- Improving the Chemotherapy Experience: Coliseum Medical Centers' Cancer Center, Bldg. C, Suite 120. 478-765-4805.
  - Joint Pre-Surgery Education Classes: 3rd Wed. each month, Coliseum Medical Centers, 1st Floor Classroom. 478-751-0189
  - Focus on Healing Classes (Lebed exercise): Advanced: Mon. & Thurs. 8 a.m.-9 a.m.; Beginner: Tues. & Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 noon. Coliseum Medical Centers, Bldg. D, Suite 230. \$34 per month. 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: Offered weekly for Patients who are going to have Joint Replacement Surgery. Coliseum Northside Hospital; 478-757-6092 to schedule.
  - A-Z Diabetes Self-Management: Day Classes: Last Thurs. of month with exception of Nov. & Dec., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Coliseum Diabetes Management Center, Bldg. C, Suite 120. 478-765-4338.
  - Look Good... Feel Better: A free program by the American Cancer Society designed to help women overcome the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. Coliseum Medical Center, Bldg. C, Suite 120. Registration required. 478-765-4805 for dates.

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## Medical Center of Central Georgia – Partners In Health Classes Golden Opportunities

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3797 Northside Drive, Macon 478-757-7817

## Heartworks

389 First St. (Inside the MHC)  
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3351 Northside Drive  
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- Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) Support Group: 478-633-7157
- Empower Seniors Fall Risk Assessment: 478-757-7817
- Stroke Support Group: 478-201-6500
- Smoking Cessation: 478-633-9090
- CPR Classes: 478-474-3348
- Spinal Cord Injury Support Group: 478-201-6500
- Brain Injury Support Group: 478-201-6500
- Parkinson's Disease Support Group: 2:30-3:30 p.m., 478-743-7092, ext. 254
- Parkinson's Disease Caregivers Support Group: 478-743-7092, ext. 254
- Crohns and Colitis Support Group: 3rd Sun., 3 p.m., 478-737-8788 or [kjhague@cox.net](mailto:kjhague@cox.net)
- Community Seminar for Arthritis, Knee & Hip Pain: 478-633-1865
- Central Georgia Autism Support Group: For information call 478-633-8088
- Pine Point Adult Grief Support Group: 478-633-5615
- Lymphedema Therapy: Ask physician to call 478-201-6748 for referral.

## Cancer Life Center

- Information and Reservations: 478-633-8537; [www.cancerlifecenter.org](http://www.cancerlifecenter.org)
- The Pink Alliance: 478-633-8537
  - The Pink Alliance HoPe Chapter: 478-719-8528
  - Look Good, Feel Better: 478-633-8537
  - Prostate Cancer 101: 478-633-8537
  - Man-to-Man Support Group: 478-633-6349
  - Chemotherapy Orientation Classes: 478-633-8537
  - Cancer WellFit: 12-week oncology recovery program, 478-757-7847
  - Genetic Counseling: 478-633-6270
  - Cancer Clinical Trials: 478-633-1738

continued on page 7

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\*The degree of invisibility may vary based on your ear's anatomy. Fits up to a 35dB loss.

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## CALENDAR from page 6

or [www.mccgclinicaltrials.org](http://www.mccgclinicaltrials.org).  
\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Free Legal Services Available to Seniors

The Macon Office of Georgia Legal Services provides free legal services to seniors (60 and over) as resources allow. We interview clients in the following counties BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: Bibb, Baldwin, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs and Wilkinson.

Call the Macon Office at 478-751-6261 for an appointment.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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 - Melanie Lewis**  
Email: [mlewis@wrga.gov](mailto:mlewis@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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

For additional information call 478-953-9319.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BUSINESS CARD SECTION

For Advertising Information Call  
**David VonAlmen at 478-213-5986**  
**Ron P. Myatt at 478-672-7001**  
**Jan Tassitano at 770-993-2943**

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# General Business Directory For Seniors

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Need a Home Inspection?  
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[VAMktPub@aol.com](mailto:VAMktPub@aol.com)

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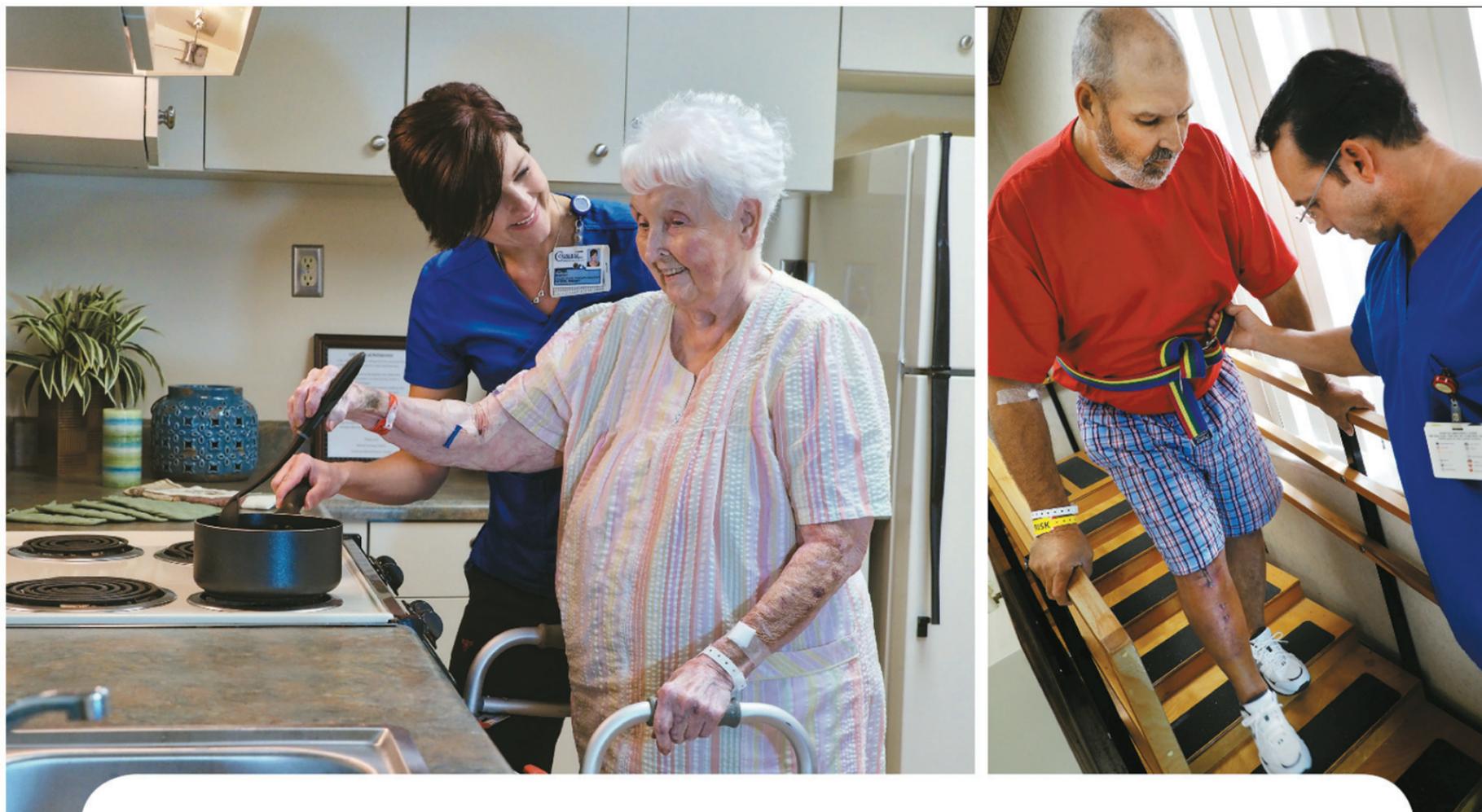
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