

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of Calhoun County



## New Emergency Operations Center to Transform Crisis Response

A cutting-edge Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is set to be sent out for bid in September 2024. Aimed at enhancing crisis response capabilities, it's scheduled for completion in 2026. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to withstand severe weather, earthquakes, and other hazards, ensuring operational integrity during emergencies.

The new EOC spans 4400 square feet with a modular design for rapid reconfiguration to meet various emergency needs. The open-plan workspace promotes seamless communication and coordination among agencies, enhancing collaborative efforts. Key features include a media room, conference room, kitchen, two bunk rooms, and a dedicated radio room. The EOC/Training room can accommodate 48 people, providing ample space for operations and drills.

The EOC will house representatives from fire, police, medical, and other services, fostering a unified command structure. Regular educational programs and workshops will inform and equip residents, while the center serves as a hub for public information during crises.

The project is grant-funded, with additional financial support from the county. Meadors is the architect on record, ensuring the facility meets the highest standards of design and functionality. The new EOC represents a significant advancement in emergency preparedness and response. By leveraging technology, fostering collaboration, and engaging the community, it will become a model of resilience, safeguarding lives and property, and enhancing regional safety and security.





## Purple Martin Festival Record Turn Out



Back in April, the Purple Martin Festival and Parade drew a joyful crowd to Calhoun County, with a fantastic blend of rides, vendors, and food trucks. The festival's turnout surpassed expectations, making it a memorable event for all attendees.

The Friday night street dance had a huge turnout! Including bingo, dancing horses, food trucks, vendors and a DJ.

On Saturday, families and thrill-seekers enjoyed a variety of rides that dotted the grounds. From the classic Ferris wheel offering panoramic views to swings for the little ones, there was no shortage of excitement.

The festival featured an array of vendors showcasing unique crafts, handmade jewelry, and artisanal goods. Visitors had the chance to shop for one-of-a-kind items, supporting local artisans and discovering new treasures.

A highlight of Purple Martin was the impressive lineup of food trucks. Offering everything from bbq ribs and pizza to sweet treats and refreshing beverages, the culinary options were as diverse as they were delicious. Festival-goers savored the opportunity to try different cuisines and enjoy meals in the festive atmosphere.

Beyond the rides and food, Purple Martin fostered a strong sense of community. Live music performances, and dance showcases, created a lively environment where everyone could connect and celebrate together. Also a HUGE thank you to our sponsors that help make this festival happen!

With such a successful event, organizers are already planning next year's Purple Martin Festival, promising even more rides, vendors, and delectable food options. The festival has firmly established itself as a beloved annual tradition, and its future looks bright.

Mark your calendars for next year's Purple Martin Festival and get ready for another weekend of fun, flavor, and fantastic memories!

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS!

**Colony Sponsors**

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- Purple Martin Friends: Dukes-Harley Funeral Home, First Baptist Church St. Matthews, St. Matthews Furniture, Calhoun Soil & Water Conservation, Middling Cotton Company, Inc., Grubbs Furniture New America EFI, Thornton's Auto Sales LLC, Rose Garden Club, Golden Kernel Pecan Co.



## Upcoming Events

Calhoun County Sports Complex

CONCESSIONS

# GRAND Opening

Friday, June 14th  
12pm-2pm

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs will be provided




CALHOUN COUNTY FIREWORKS SHOW

# SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH

Featuring: THE GASPUMPERS

Festivities start at 6pm  
Fireworks around 9pm

Richland Ave.  
(Across from the Calhoun Convalescent Center)

Live band sponsored by: TCE




## Fort Motte Community Festival

SATURDAY JULY 6TH  
11AM-6PM

### Community Festival

Featuring PLENTY OF FOOD  
FUN VENDORS  
FOOD TRUCKS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & MORE!

19 TOWN SQUARE  
FORT MOTTE, SC 29135

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION: CAROLYN JACKSON 803-837-165

FREE 7-DAY DIABETES MEAL PLAN  
COOKING DEMO  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH  
11AM - 1PM  
CALHOUN COUNTY LIBRARY  
TECHNOLOGY ROOM

Diabetic Friendly Recipes  
Cooking Demo  
Wednesday, July 24th  
11am - 1pm  
Calhoun County Library  
(Technology Room)

Diabetic Friendly Recipes  
Cooking Demo  
Wednesday  
7TH AUGUST  
11am - 1pm  
Calhoun County Library  
Technology Room

Cooking Demos!  
July 10th, July 24th, July 31st & August 7th  
11am-1pm

If you would like to submit info for the newsletter, please email [calhouncd@calhouncounty.sc.gov](mailto:calhouncd@calhouncounty.sc.gov)