



December 2014
Issue 84

HOLIDAY TRIVIA

- Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.
- The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
- Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.
- It is estimated that the single "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin is the best selling single of all time, with over 100 million sales worldwide.
- In 1962, the first Christmas postage stamp was issued in the United States.
- Christmas purchases account for 1/6 of all retail sales in the U.S.
- Christmas is a contraction of "Christ's Mass," which is derived from the Old English *Cristes mæsse* (first recorded in 1038).
- The letter "X" in Greek is the first letter of Christ, and "Xmas" has been used as an abbreviation for Christmas since the mid-1500s.
- In North America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch counterparts use shoes.
- The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in Mexico, where it is also known as the 'Flower of the Holy Night'. Joel Poinsett first brought it to America in 1829.

- The popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was actually written for Thanksgiving. The song was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh"
- Electric Christmas lights were first used in 1854.
- The holiday "Boxing Day" was originally celebrated in England, for the servants to the rich people. After Christmas, the servants "boxed up" all the left-overs from the rich people and to bring them home.
- "Wassail" comes from the Old Norse "ves heill"-to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to good health.
- Animal Crackers are not really crackers but cookies that were imported to the United States from England in the late 1800s. Barnum's circus-like boxes were designed with a string handle so that they could be hung on a Christmas tree.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Blackville CDC in conjunction with the IRS and the United Way will sponsor a training session for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. These programs are looking for volunteers who are interested in sharing their skills, talent and knowledge to give back to their community while volunteering to prepare tax returns.

Volunteers are needed as Instructors, Site Coordinators, Tax Preparers, Greeters/Screeners, Computer Specialist and Interpreters.

As a volunteer, you will interact with people who need help preparing their tax returns at no cost to them. Volunteers will be provided, free tax law training, E-file software training, administrative support and a great volunteer experience.

Contact Blackville CDC to register at 803 284-0735 or e-mail info@blackvillecdc.org.

Classes will be held at the Barnwell County Library, December 11th, 15th and 16th, 2014. Hours are 1:00pm to 4:00pm and 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

MEETINGS

- ❖ **December 1**, Blackville Civic Club, Edwards Heating and Cooling, 7:00pm
- ❖ **December 4**, Blackville Community Development Corporation, 6:00pm. Town Hall
- ❖ **December 8**, District #19, Board of Education Meeting, District Office, 7pm
- ❖ **December 9**, County Council, Agriculture Building, Barnwell, 6:00pm
- ❖ **December 9**, Neighborhood Watch, Tabernacle Baptist, 6:00pm
- ❖ **December 15**, Town Council, Community Center, 6:30pm
- ❖ **December 22**, NAACP, Masonic Hall, Barnwell, 7:00pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Janice Livingston, December 3,
Martha Felder, December 4
Chelsea Calhoun, December 5
Alicia Smalls, December 6
Ceonia Albright, December 7
Tony Mayes, December 11
Deonte' Staley, December 12
Beverly G. Woods, December 17
Betty H. Williams, December 17
Corine James, December 20
Kenneth Aiken, Jr. December 25
Carrie Woods, December 26
Rev. Floyd Hughes, Sr., December 28
Xyian Daniel, December 30
Steven McLamore, December 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

James and Lawanda Brown, December 13

BLACKVILLE'S CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 13, 2014 -11:00am
Solomon Blatt Avenue
Applications available at Town Hall
803 284-2444

TOWN HALL CLOSED
December 24, 25, and 26, 2014

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

with

SOUP, SINGING AND SPIRIT
Sunday, December 15, 5:00pm Community Center/Court House Square

All churches are asked to bring a pot of soup, cornbread and members for a Community Caroling Sing-A-Long
Call 803 284-2444 to register

SCHOOL NEWS

WINTER BREAK

December 18, 2014 – January 5, 2015

December 18, students 1/2 day

Macedonia Elementary School

Santa House, December 8, - December 18, 2014
DARE Graduation, December 12, 9:00am
Christmas Program, December 18, 9:00am

Blackville-Hilda Junior High School

PTSO/SIC, December 15, 6:00pm
Santa House, December 15 - December 18, 2014

Blackville-Hilda High School

Shepard Blood Drive, December 3, 2014
PTSO/SIC, December 15, 2014, 6:30pm

LIBRARY NEWS

December 16, 2014
Pre-School Christmas Party
Positive Parenting – 11:00am
Head Start – 12:00pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Published by the Town of Blackville and Blackville Community Development Corporation. Send Information to: Blackville@bellsouth.net or vtalston@bellsouth.net add "Newsletter" in subject line. Visit our website: townofblackville.com