



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROSIE KELLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL AWARD

Nominations accepted through February 3, 2017

ST. MARYS, GA (January 11, 2017) - The St. Marys Downtown Merchants' Association is accepting applications for the annual *Rosie Kelley Community Service Award*. The award recognizes outstanding service by an individual to the St. Marys community and is named in memory of Rosa Lee (Rosie) Kelley who was contributory in implementing St. Marys' first Mardi Gras Festival. The festival will celebrate its 23rd year on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

The Mardi Gras Festival & Parade has grown steadily over past years and has become an eagerly anticipated event on the Georgia Coast. The festival, which is named to Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events, will take place on Saturday, February 25th beginning vendors opening at 9:00 a.m. and the 10 a.m. parade. The 2017 theme for floats and costumes is "The Wild Wild West." There will be a Mardi Gras Kick-off Party the week before on Saturday, February 18th that benefits the Hospice of the Golden Isles. Call 912-882-7350 for information.

Qualified award applicants should be Camden County residents for a minimum of two years, be at least 21 years of age and should be involved in organizations or activities benefiting the local community. Activities need not be restricted solely to St. Marys, but the bulk of activity should benefit institutions, arts, community service projects and residents of St. Marys.

Please provide a completed nomination form, which includes a brief essay outlining the nominee's community service activities and why you feel this person is worthy of community recognition, to Angela Wigger at the St. Marys Welcome Center, 400 Osborne Street or email info@stmaryswelcome.com. The submission deadline is by close of business Friday, February 3rd. Complete information regarding the nominee and the person making the nomination must be provided, in case there are any questions or follow up required. Nomination forms can be picked up at the St. Marys Welcome Center or Once Upon A Bookseller or printed from VisitStMarys.com.

All nominations will be reviewed and considered by an awards review panel with the winner being selected based on their achievements made towards a better St. Marys and based on how their community service best characterizes the spirit of St. Marys. The winner of the award will be announced and recognized during the Mardi Gras Kick-Off Party on Saturday, February 18th."

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