

# CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



January 2010



**Pete Liakakis**  
Chairman



**Helen L. Stone**  
District 1



**James J. Holmes**  
District 2



**Patrick Shay**  
District 3



**Patrick K. Farrell**  
District 4



**Harris Odell, Jr.**  
District 5



**David M. Gellatly**  
District 6



**Dean Kicklighter**  
District 7  
Chairman Pro Tem



**Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas**  
District 8 Vice Chairman

## Message from the Chairman



On behalf of the Chatham County Commission I would like to wish all citizens best wishes for this new year and this new decade. While our nation continues to weather the storm of the recession 2010 promises to be the year of recovery for us locally with the ground breaking of many infrastructure

projects. In December we received word the the Georgia Department of Transportation has allocated \$128 million for the construction of the fifth and final phase of the Truman Parkway. This project combined with \$22 million for the new Skidaway Island bridge and the \$100 million for the expansion of the Chatham County Detention Center make for over a quarter of a billion dollars in area construction projects and local jobs to begin this year. We really have cause to Celebrate 2010.

While we break ground on the previously mentioned projects we will have the opportunity to celebrate many Grand Openings of completed projects. The list includes the following:

**Courthouse-Phase I**  
February Opening Ceremony-  
Basement Conversion for  
Sallyport, Tunnel Conectors,  
Inmate Holding and Court  
Services Division Offices

**Westlake-Lamarville**  
February Community  
Planting-Phase I  
Reforestation Project

**McQueen's Trail**  
March 10th Anniversary/  
Completed Restoration

**Communications Tower**  
April Signal on

**Trade Center @ 10**  
May 10th Anniversary

**Animal Shelter**  
June Opening Ceremony

**Records Center**  
July Opening Ceremony

**Mother Mathilda Beasley**  
August Opening Ceremony  
Interpretive Center

**Administrative Annex**  
October Opening Ceremony

**Truman Trail II**  
November Opening Ceremony

Last January, when this County Commission began its second term, we pledged to continue a course of prudent planning and a strict adherence to financial policies grounded in fiscal discipline. The completed projects above reflect that discipline and we will continue that same focus with the projects that are starting this year.

Our goal is to remain in communication with each municipality to ensure proper representation for every citizen of Chatham County. Each municipality working together makes Chatham County as a whole the wonderful place we call home.

On a personal note, I want to assure all citizens that I will always conduct the Office of Chairman and the business of the County Government with dignity, responsiveness and honesty. I am blessed with this responsibility and will work diligently to serve you all.



## GDOT Partnership Protects 170 Acres along Ogeechee River

On September 17, 2009, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) signed and executed a restrictive covenant for a 169.46 acre property along the Ogeechee River in order to conserve the area's natural resources into per-

petuity. The property, currently used by the GDOT as a wetland mitigation bank, lies immediately adjacent to the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society Museum property. The restrictive covenant created protects the property's natural resources by prohib-

iting development, clearing, dredging, the disposal of waste, or any other action that might compromise the integrity of the environment or the quality of the water. The creation of this covenant was supported by the efforts of Fort Stewart/Hunter Army

Airfield, the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission, and the GDOT. Together, these organizations have ensured the perpetual protection of over 130 acres of bottomland

hardwood forest (wetlands) and 35 acres of uplands, including a unique sand ridge, home to the Federally Threatened Gopher Tortoise. The protection of this GDOT parcel is part of an on-going initiative to preserve the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor, a 13,500 acre vegetated tract buffering

the Ogeechee. Over 10 agencies and organizations have joined together to achieve this goal, and with the addition of the 169 acres protected by the GDOT, this partnership has already preserved over 1,500 acres.

Joanna Bounds  
Resource Protection Planner Chatham  
County-Savannah Metropolitan  
Planning Commission



## 1500 Acre Protected Wildlife Corridor Along Ogeechee River

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles  
|-----|-----|-----|



## A New Year, A New Unified Zoning Ordinance on Its Way

Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) staff is winding down its first draft of a new, unified zoning ordinance for unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah. Known as the

UZO (Unified Zoning Ordinance), this process will update and unify the county and city's zoning ordinances which were initially adopted in 1962 and 1960, respectively. Following the completion of the first draft, an Advisory

Committee will be convened to review and comment on the document prior to a public comment period. The committee will consist of a cross section of individuals from our community. The public comment period will

include public workshops, open houses and neighborhood meetings. If you would like to participate on the Advisory Committee, please send an email to [uzo@thempc.org](mailto:uzo@thempc.org) with your contact informa-

tion, including telephone number. If your organization would like to learn more about the UZO, MPC planning staff is available to speak at meetings.

For more information re-

garding the MPC's efforts to update zoning, please visit [www.unifiedzoning.org](http://www.unifiedzoning.org), or call 651-1440.

**Bank On Savannah: Save your hard earned money.**  
*Open a bank account today, and take advantage of free financial education classes*

Do you mistrust banks? Have you had a bad experience, wound up in ChexSystems? You're not alone.

Nearly 38 percent of households surveyed in Savannah's high-poverty census tracts reported in a 2008 survey that they don't have a checking or savings account. Most of these individuals pay for check-cashing services and money orders, and rely on title loans, pawnshops and other fringe providers when they need extra cash.

It's estimated this "unbanked" population pays anywhere from \$800 - \$1,000 a year just on fees to access their own money. Imagine how much this adds up to over a lifetime. For those of us living from paycheck-to-paycheck, teetering on the margins of economic stability, this is cash we can use.

In April, Step Up Savannah, Inc. and its Banking Taskforce launched the "Bank On Savannah" campaign. The focus of the campaign is to connect unbanked individuals with mainstream financial institutions. The target audience includes anyone living and working in the area who doesn't have a traditional bank account, or those seeking a second chance with a financial institution.

tenance fees, or minimum balance requirements. Plus, these banks will refund a

To find the closest participating bank branch call 2-1-1 and ask for information on Bank On Savannah.

For more information on Step Up Savannah, visit its Web site: [www.stepupsavannah.org](http://www.stepupsavannah.org); find the Bank On Savannah site on Step Up's home page, too!

Learn to tell your money where to go, instead of always wondering where it went!

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, in partnership with Bank On Savannah, Step Up Savannah, the City of Savannah, and FDIC, are sponsoring workshops using the FDIC's "Money Smart" curriculum. Take a free financial education class and learn how to save and budget money wisely.

**What:** Free financial education workshops, alternating Mondays through December

**Where:** Bull Street library / 2nd floor

**How:** Reserve your seat now. Call 912-691-2227 or e-mail your contact information to [cccs@cccassav.com](mailto:cccs@cccassav.com)



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

There are no monthly main-

ence includes anyone living and working in the area who doesn't have a traditional bank account, or those seeking a second chance with a financial institution. Bank On Savannah partners with 12 area banks willing to challenge the status quo. Bank On Savannah provides people with affordable and easy-to-use checking accounts. These accounts can be opened with less than \$100, or free for individuals who opt for direct deposit. There are no monthly main-

tenance fees, or minimum balance requirements. Plus, these banks will refund a first occurrence of a check returned for insufficient funds ("NSF") within the initial 12 months of opening an account.

Additionally, Bank On Savannah is a partner with Consumer Credit Counseling Service, offering free financial education classes at the Bull Street library on alternating Mondays. These 1 1/2 hour-long workshops are aimed at informing you how to save money and budget wisely. To reserve a seat call 912-691-2227 or e-mail [cccs@cccassav.com](mailto:cccs@cccassav.com)

Want a Bank On Savannah representative to talk at your place of business, church, community group, class or neighborhood meeting? Call to schedule a meeting or discussion; we can bring a bank representative and/or financial education instructor to answer questions. Let us know how we can be of service to you:

Your name / Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you, phone and/or email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Bank On Savannah/Step Up Savannah,  
 428 Bull St. Suite 208,  
 Savannah, GA. 31401.

Or e-mail or call us:  
[bankonsavannah@gmail.com](mailto:bankonsavannah@gmail.com)  
 912-335-7098

# FINANCIAL FREEDOM

## Step Up for Financial Freedom

Learn to tell your money where to go instead of always wondering where it went! Take a free financial education class and learn how to save and budget money wisely.

Reserve your seat now. Call (912) 691-2227 or e-mail your contact information to [cccs@cccassav.com](mailto:cccs@cccassav.com)

### 2010 class schedule

<b>Basic Money Management</b> Banking basics, budgeting	Bull Street Library, 2nd fl. 2- 3:30 p.m., Jan. 4 6-7:30 p.m., Jan. 25	Carnegie Public Library 537 E. Henry St. 6 - 7:30 p.m., Jan. 11
<b>Managing Credit</b> Choosing and using credit wisely; shopping for credit cards and paying off debt	Bull Street Library, 2nd fl. 2-3:30 p.m., Feb. 1 6-7:30 p.m., Feb. 22	Carnegie Public Library 537 E. Henry St. 6-7:30 p.m., Feb. 8
<b>Credit Report &amp; Scores</b> How to read your credit report; how to improve your credit score	Bull Street Library, 2nd fl. 2-3:30 p.m., Mar. 1 6-7:30 p.m., Mar. 22	Carnegie Public Library 537 E. Henry St. 6-7:30 p.m., Mar. 8
<b>Savings</b> Building an emergency fund; saving for future goals	Bull Street Library, 2nd fl. 2-3:30 p.m., Apr. 5 6-7:30 p.m., Apr. 26	Carnegie Public Library 537 E. Henry St. 6-7:30 p.m., Apr. 12

Brought to you by Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Bank On Savannah, FDIC, City of Savannah, Step Up Savannah, Inc. and Live Oak Public Libraries.



**You earned it. So keep it.**  
**Get your tax refund in**  
**48 hours or less!**

### Free tax preparation and Alternative Refund Advance Loan (ARAL)

- Don't pay for electronic filing
- You may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), if you earned less than \$48,000
- Receive your refund within 48 hours with a qualifying ARAL.
- To be eligible for an ARAL, taxpayer must be an established member or agree to become a member of Georgia's Own Credit Union. The ARAL interest charged is based on 14 days of interest at 17.99% APR, based on the amount of the tax refund with distribution of 80% of the total refund.

ARAL offered for limited time only, January 19-February 13, 2010, at the following free tax preparation sites:

- Moses Jackson Golden Age Center (1210 Richard St.)  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesdays only.
- Savannah Entrepreneurial Center (801 E. Gwinnett St.)  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays only
- Neighborhood Improvement Association (1816 Abercorn St.)  
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Thursdays only
- St. Mary's Community Center (812 West 36th St.)  
4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Wednesdays only
- Super Saturday Extravaganzas!**  
Coastal Georgia Center (305 Fahm St.)  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Jan. 23, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6

For more information about the ARAL and additional free tax preparation sites, please call the Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc. at (912) 447-5577 or visit its Web site, [www.csadc.net](http://www.csadc.net)  
 Presented by the Neighborhood Improvement Association, Chatham Savannah Asset Development Coalition, City of Savannah's Economic Development Department, and Step Up Savannah, Inc.

## Chatham County Board of Registrars

The Senior Judge of Superior Court of Chatham County appoints the Board of Registrars from a list of ten names submitted by the Grand Jury. The term length is four years. The Board's duties are to register voters properly, update the county voter files daily, conduct absentee mail-out voting, absentee early voting, absentee advance voting, issue voter photo ID and operate satellites advance voting sites.

They meet once a month on the second Friday, at 4:00 p.m. at Voter Registration, 1117 Eisenhower Dr., Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406. All meetings are open to the public.

**Board Members:** Colin McRae, Chairman, Sage Brown, Board Member, Gerald Pollack, Board Member

## Voting in Chatham County

2010 Voter Registration deadlines, election dates and advance voting dates are as follows:

Type of Election	Voter Registration Deadline	Election Date	Advance Voting Dates
Special Election	February 16, 2010	March 16, 2010	March 8 - 12, 2010
Special Election Runoff	February 16, 2010	April 13, 2010	April 5 - 9, 2010
General Primary/Special Election	June 21, 2010	July 20, 2010	July 12 - 16, 2010
Runoff Date	June 21, 2010	August 10, 2010	August 2 - 6, 2010
Special Election	August 23, 2010	September 21, 2010	September 13 - 17, 2010
Special Election Runoff	August 23, 2010	October 19, 2010	October 11 - 15, 2010
General/NonPartisan/Special Election	October 4, 2010	November 2, 2010	October 25 - 29, 2010
Runoff Date	October 4, 2010	November 30, 2010	November 22 - 24, 2010



You may sign up to vote at any time, but you must register by the established registration deadline prior to an election if you wish to vote on election day. If you are not already signed up to vote, please register today!

### Voter Qualifications

To register to vote in the state of Georgia, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote
- 18 years old by election day (17 1/2 at time of registration)

Also, you may not register to vote if you are currently:

- Serving any sentence imposed by conviction of a felony
- Judicially determined to be mentally incompetent

In the state of Georgia, you do not have to register by political party to vote in the state's regular primaries or general elections. However, for primary elections you must declare your party preference when casting your vote.

Chatham County residents You have an individual responsibility to confirm your registration prior to election day, do so by calling 912-790-1520 or use the poll locator at public libraries. A resident 1-888-265-1115 or on the internet at [www.sos.ga.gov/elections/poll-locator](http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections/poll-locator)

Motor Voter registration is offered when you renew or apply for your driver's license. Registrations at the drivers license department and/or mail in is not 100%.

## Chatham County Commission Recognizes Outstanding Citizenship

The Chatham County Commission presented Mark McDougald and Dereck Williams with a Certificate of Outstanding Citizenship for their "bravery shown in the apprehension of a criminal in the act of committing a crime."

Both Mr. McDougald and Mr. Williams were able to chase down a criminal after he held a young lady at gun point in the Civic Center parking lot in broad daylight. The two were saluted "for displaying heroic attributes by aiding a citizen in distress and offering assistance to the Savannah/Chatham County Metropolitan Police Department to help make our streets safer for all citizens."



## Operation BEARABLE HUGS



The Chatham County Child Support Office is collecting new stuffed animals for children who will spend Valentine's Day in Backus Children's Hospital.

Please join us in Lending a Helping Hand and a Little Love this Valentine's Day by donating a new stuffed animal.

Donations may be dropped off at the Child Support Office, 415 West Broughton Street, Savannah.



# COASTAL HEALTH DISTRICT

## Chatham County Health Department

### H1N1

The holidays may be over but flu season isn't. The H1N1 flu is still circulating and causing illness, hospitalizations and deaths.

"The H1N1 flu has proven unpredictable and we could easily see another wave," said Dr. Diane Weems, Chief Medical Officer for the Chatham County Health Department. "Vaccination is the best protection from the H1N1 flu and it's definitely not too late to get vaccinated."

The Chatham County Health Department has H1N1 flu vaccine available for those six months and older and there is no

cost for the vaccine. The vaccine is now available for anyone who wants it; however, there are some people at higher risk for complications due to flu. They include pregnant women; household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age; healthcare and emergency services personnel; people six months to 24 years old; and those 25-64 who have chronic health conditions.

Children under the age of 10 need two doses of the H1N1 vaccine to get maximum protection from the H1N1 flu.

"A lot of people think that if they haven't gotten vaccinated and haven't gotten the flu yet then they're out

of the woods," said Weems. "But the H1N1 flu is still going around and we don't want people to let their guard down."

Flu viruses, including H1N1, are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of infected people. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

Although getting vaccinated is the best way to avoid getting the flu, there are basic steps that everyone can take to prevent the spread of germs including the flu:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or alco-



- hol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cough or sneeze into the corner of your elbow.
- Throw away a tissue after using it.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Chatham County Health Department staff members have vaccinated close to 6,500 residents through outreach clinics, in schools, and at Health Department locations.

"Our staff has done an out-

standing job and stand ready to continue vaccinating those in need," said Weems.

There are two forms of the vaccine: the flu shot, an inactivated vaccine containing fragments of killed influenza virus, and a nasal spray, which is made using a weakened live flu virus. Although the nasal spray consists of a live, weakened virus, it cannot cause the flu.

"The vaccine is safe and has proven effective in warding off the H1N1 flu," said Weems.

For more information on the H1N1 flu, go to the Coastal Health District website at [www.gachd.org](http://www.gachd.org) or the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## NOAA WEATHER RADIO The Voice of the National Weather Service

Due to the El Nino phenomenon that is affecting the United States this year, Georgians can expect severe weather with cooler temperatures and above average rainfall. With this severe weather, it is likely that Chatham County will see an increase in Tornado Watches and Warnings. To prepare for this, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency recommends that Chatham County residents purchase NOAA Weather Radios to alert them to emergencies that could affect their families.

NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. As the "voice of the National Weather Service," it provides continuous broadcasts (24 hours a day) of the latest weather information from local National Weather Service offices. Weather messages are re-

peated every 4 to 6 minutes and are routinely updated every 1 to 6 hours or more frequently in rapidly changing local weather or if a nearby natural hazardous or manmade condition exists.

The regular broadcasts are specifically tailored to the weather information needs of the people within the service area of the transmitter. For example, in addition to general weather information, stations in coastal areas provide information of interest to mariners.

Other specialized information, such as hydrological forecasts and other climate data may be broadcast.

During severe weather, National Weather Service forecasters can interrupt routine weather broadcasts and insert special warning messages concerning imminent threats to life and property. Forecasters can also add special signals to warnings that trigger "alerting" features of specially equipped receivers. In the simplest case, this signal activates audible or visual alarms, indicating that an emergency condition exists within the broadcast areas of the station being monitored, and alerts the listener to turn up the volume and stay tuned for more information. More sophisticated receivers are automatically turned on

and set to an audible volume when an alert is received.

In the most sophisticated alerting system, NOAA Weather Radio Specific Area Message

Encoding (SAME), digital coding is employed to ac-



tivate only those special receivers programmed for specific emergency conditions in a specified area, typically a county. SAME technology can activate specially equipped radios and cable television receivers and provide a short text message that identifies the location and type of emergency. SAME is the primary activator for the Federal Communications Commission Emergency Alert System (EAS).

To program NWR SAME receivers with the proper county(s) and marine area(s) of choice, you need

to know the 6-digit SAME code number(s) for that county(s). SAME code numbers can be obtained for free by dialing: 888-NWR-SAME (888-697-7263). Once you have your code number(s), follow the manufacturer's directions for programming

all types to be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radios within seconds. NOAA Weather Radios currently broadcast from 1011 stations in 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan on seven frequencies in the VHF band, ranging from 162.400 to 162.550 megahertz (MHz). These frequencies are outside the normal AM or FM broadcast bands.

Special radios that receive only NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts, both with and without special alerting features, are available from numerous manufacturers. NOAA Weather Radio capability is currently available on automobile, aircraft, marine, citizens band, and standard AM/FM radios as well as communications receivers, transceivers, scanners, and cable TV.

By nature and design, NOAA Weather Radio coverage is limited to an area within 40 miles of the transmitter. The quality of reception is dictated by transmitter distance, local terrain, and the quality and location of the receiver. In general, those using a high quality receiver on flat terrain or at sea can expect reliable reception beyond 40 miles. Those with standard receivers, surrounded by large buildings in cities and those in mountain valleys

may experience little or no reception at considerably less than 40 miles. If possible, a receiver should be tested in the location where it will be used prior to purchase.

NOAA Weather Radio is directly available to a large portion of the U.S. population. The National Weather Service is currently engaged in a program to increase coverage to at least 95 percent of the population.

If you have questions regarding technical aspects of NOAA Weather Radios such as transmitter location, reception, and characteristics, or if you are interested in becoming a partner with the National Weather Service to identify or provide local funding and/or facilities for the installation of a NOAA Weather Radio transmitter, please contact the National Weather Service Office in Charleston or send a letter to:

National Weather Service  
Attn: Dissemination Systems Branch, W/OPS17  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



## PARK SERVICES

### Chatham County 2010 Activities

## Event Locations:

- Lake Mayer Community Park
- Tom Triplett Community Park
- Frank Murray Community Park
- Tybee Pier

## Winter/Spring

### February

#### 2nd Annual Fashion Show (co-sponsored: Macy's) -

Get a glance of the latest fashion trends while you enjoy some refreshments and dessert.

**Location:** Frank Murry Community Center

**Fee:** FREE

#### Adopt A Spot -Chatham Park Beautification Project.

- Design your very own garden in a community park!

**Location:** L. Scott Stell Park

**Fee:** Adoption is FREE

### March

#### Wearing of the GREEN Luncheon

- Bring your favorite covered dish and come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us! Wear your green hats, beads and festive costumes!

**Location:** Frank Murry Community Center

**Fee:** FREE ( Please bring covered dish)

#### Couch to 5k - FIRST 5K Race!

- Come and cheer on the Lake Mayer Couch to 5K Running Team. It will be their first race.

### April

#### 1st Annual Tybee Pier & Pavilion Seafood Festival

- Bring the whole family and be a part of this exciting new event on Tybee Island

**Location:** Tybee Island Pier

**Fee:** TBD

#### Lake Mayer SPRING Camp

- We will be swimming, playing sports and doing arts & crafts! Let the FUN begin!

**Location:** Lake Mayer

**Date:** March 29th-April 2nd

**Fee:** TBA

## Spring

### April

#### Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza

- Bring the whole family and be a part of this exciting event! Prizes will be awarded.

**Location:** Tom Triplett Park

**Fee:** FREE

#### 1st Annual Easter Bone Hunt

- Let your dog hunt for bones and doggie treats! Bring your camera and dress your pooch up! Prizes will be awarded for best Easter costume and Best Bunny Ears!

**Location:** Tom Triplett Park

**Fee:** FREE

#### Spring Gardens

- Plant your own garden! Garden plots are available to the public during the spring and fall sessions.

**Location:** Scott Stell Park

**Fee:** FREE

#### Crazy Hat Luncheon

- Make your own Easter Bonnet and show it off at this event! Prizes will be awarded for the silliest and the most creative! This is a pot luck event.

**Location:** Frank Murray Community Center

**Fee:** FREE (Please bring a covered dish)

### May

#### Community Pot Luck

- Bring the entire family and your favorite covered dishes to this event. Enjoy family games and activities.

**Location:** L. Scott Stell Park

**Fee:** FREE (Please bring a covered dish)

For more information:  
Chatham County Park Services  
(912) 652-6780