

CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



April 14, 2013



Al Scott
Chairman



Helen Stone
District 1



James Holmes -
District 2



Tony Center
District 3



Patrick Farrell
District 4



Yusuf Shabazz
District 5



Lori Brady
District 6



Dean Kicklighter
District 7



Priscilla Thomas
District 8

For more information about the current district lines, see page 2, or visit online:

<http://www.chathamcounty.org/Government/BoardofCommissioners/CommissionDistrictMaps.aspx>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Al Scott, Chairman

This has been a very busy and productive first quarter. Most importantly, we were successful in negotiating a settlement of the Local Option Sales Tax split with the municipalities. Further, we held the first public meeting on the state of SPLOST expenditures throughout the community.

With the imminent retirement of County Manager Russ Abolt, I have retained the services of a search firm to find a new County Manager for his replacement. This task will take

a few months, and there will be more information on the search in the near future.

One month into this term, I had the honor of attending the Certification Ceremony recognizing Keep Chatham Beautiful as the newest affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. As a steward of public resources, Chatham County exercises its leadership to champion the protection of our community's natural resources for the immediate and long term benefit of our citizens. The mission of Keep Chatham Beautiful is to focus on litter prevention, beautification and community greening, waste reduction and recycling. I encourage those that are interested in volunteering to visit their booth during this Saturday's Earth Day festivities in Forsyth Park or to contact Sherry Arnott at slarnott@chathamcounty.org.

I, along with the members of this County Commission, believe in protecting the environment and in promoting

conservation and preservation. It is part of our commitment to provide a good quality of life. It offers a wide range of benefits that help to bolster a stronger sense of community. Chatham County is blessed with natural beauty and we all need to do our part to keep it clean and safe to ensure it remains that way.

I would like to congratulate Lamar Ballard, Chatham County Youth Commissioner, on his appointment to the National League of Cities Council for Youth Education and Families. Mr. Ballard is another example of success from this 20 year old program that was started by Vice Chairman Priscilla Thomas. The Youth Commission provides an excellent opportunity for high school students to learn about local government as they prepare themselves to become leaders of tomorrow. We welcome members of the Youth Commission at every County

Commission meeting and encourage their participation.

April has been designated as National County Government Month by the National Association of Counties. This year's theme is "Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities." Our employees have partnered with the Board of Education and the Youth Futures Authority for a "Safe Justice Expo" on Tuesday, April 30th at the Southwest Chatham Library Branch (Savannah Mall) from 10:00 AM to 3:30 P.M. This event is designed to bring awareness about community outreach programs available to the citizens of Chatham County. There will be display booths from various county departments along with entertainment and free food. This event is free and open to the public. We are blessed to have a wonderful staff that works hard to help make Chatham County a very fortunate place live. ■

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council Names New Executive Director



Dale Carlson-Bebout has been named the new executive director of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (CCSNPC), a county-wide planning body of key stakeholders interested in improving health care for the uninsured and underinsured. Carlson-Bebout is now responsible for organizing and carrying out all day-to-day activities of the CCSNPC.

Carlson-Bebout comes to the CCSNPC from the American Cancer Society where she served as the Southeast Georgia Regional Director. She has more than 12 years of experience in positions of leadership with non-profit organizations including Step Up Savannah, the Poverty Reduction Initiative, and Senior Citizens, Inc. Her work with lower income workers was recognized at a national White House Forum in 2010.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to work with such a diverse group of organizations that deliver healthcare services to those citizens who need it the most," said Carlson-Bebout.

The mission of the Planning Council is to develop an infrastructure to maximize access and

utilization of health services and to leverage available resources to assure improved health status for the residents of Chatham County.

"Dale is a wonderful addition to the Planning Council and will help the organization take the necessary steps to improve the health outcomes among the un- and underinsured population in Chatham County," said Dr. Diane Weems, CCSNPC Chair.

Carlson-Bebout holds a Master of Business Administration degree in finance and marketing from George Washington University. She and her husband, John, live in Savannah.

For more information on CCSNPC, go to www.chathamcounty.org. ■

National League of Cities Board

Lamar Ballard, a 17 year old junior from Islands High School has been appointed by the National League of Cities to serve on the Council for Youth,

"I will be able to apply the skills I learned on the Youth Commission to help develop youth policy for the entire country."

Education, and Families. He was one of five young people from across the country selected.

The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), a special entity within the National League of Cities (NLC), helps municipal

leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth and families in their communities

Ballard, an Executive Member of the Chatham County Youth Commission in his second term, says, "I think it is a big privilege to be selected." He adds, "I will be able to apply the skills I learned on the Youth Commission to help develop youth policy for the entire country."

"This is a wonderful opportunity especially since Lamar is the first young person in our community to serve on such a distinguished panel. Chatham County and Savannah is well represented and we are excited about this appointment," says Van R. Johnson, II, Director of the Chatham County Youth Commission. ■





\$30,732,000 Thank You

*We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations.
Due to your efforts, we were able to collect \$30,732,000
in 2012 for the Children of Chatham County.*

- SCMPD
- Chatham County Sheriff's Dept.
- Tax Commissioner's Office
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Chatham County Commission
- Danny Powers, Tax Commissioner
- CrimeStoppers
- The Police Departments of
 - Tybee Island
 - Bloomingdale
 - Thunderbolt
 - Pooler
 - Pt. Wentworth
 - Garden City
- Pete Nichols – "The Producer"

Facts

In 2012, The Chatham County Child Support Office Accomplished The Following:

- Collected \$ 30,732,000
- Received 2,617 New Applications
- Established 1,499 Child Support Orders
- Conducted 1,014 Paternity Tests
- Determined Paternity for 2,598 Children
- Arrested 474 Non-Paying Parents
- Jailed 291 Non-Paying Parents via Court
- Suspended 994 Driver's Licenses
- Seized \$ 30,247.53 From Bank Accounts
- Seized \$ 126,565.00 From Christmas Bonuses

Staff Reductions Due To Budget Cuts:

Staff of Chatham County Child Support in 2005: 52
Staff of Chatham County Child Support in 2012: 40

Chatham County Comprises 2.6% of the
Population of Georgia.

In 2012, the Chatham County Child
Support Office Collected 4.16% of the
Child Support Collected in Georgia.

*-Thank You
Meg Daly Heap
District Attorney*

"A Helping Hand for Chatham County's Children"

Mother Mathilda Beasley House Project – Call for Historical Information

Chatham County Commissioners are requesting information from the public to support the Mother Mathilda Beasley House Project. The Mother Mathilda Beasley House is the final residence of Mathilda Taylor Beasley, Georgia's first African-American nun. The County is in the process of relocating the house from its current site, at 1511 Price Street in Savannah, to the Mother Mathilda Beasley Park on East Broad Street. The renovated structure will serve as an interpretative site to commemorate the life and work of Mother Mathilda Beasley.

Mathilda Taylor was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1832 to an enslaved woman, Caroline Taylor

who was owned by James C. Taylor. It is unknown how Mathilda made her way to Savannah, but once in this city, she operated a clandestine school for enslaved youth, worked as a seamstress and married Abraham Beasley, a free man of color. He operated a restaurant, boarding house, and food market and resided at 48 Harris Street with his wife Mathilda. Upon his death in 1877, Mathilda inherited his property and later donated it to the Catholic Church. In 1885, she travelled to York, England to become a nun and in 1887, after her return to Savannah, she started the Colored Orphan Asylum. It was located on the grounds of the Sacred Heart Church, which at that time, was

situated on Habersham Street between 31st and 32nd Streets. The name of the orphanage was later changed to Saint Francis Home, which also functioned as a school, and in 1897, it was moved to East Broad Street. The institution was affiliated with St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. After her return to Savannah, Mother Beasley also founded the first community of African-American nuns in Georgia. In 1903, Mother Beasley died in her Price Street home, on the grounds of the Sacred Heart Church.

The County is seeking information, photographs and artifacts from the 1800s and early 1900s pertaining to: Mother Mathilda Beasley,

the Saint Francis Home, Sacred Heart Church, Sacred Heart School, Benedictine College/School at the time it was located on Habersham Street, St. Benedict the Moor Church, St. Benedicts School, free people of color, clandestine schools and orphanages in Savannah, African-American nuns in Georgia, and the neighborhood in proximity to the block bounded by Habersham Street to the West, Price Street to the East, 31st Street to the North and 32nd Street to the South.

Contact: Pete Nichols, Public Information Officer at 912-652-7923 or pbnichol@chathamcounty.org

Keep Chatham Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful



therefore donations may be tax-deductible.

The Board of Director consists of 23 community leaders, representing residents, government and industry. There are also three Advisory Board Members from government and the business community.

Officers for the new Board include President, Rick Hamilton, Weyerhaeuser; Vice-President, Elaine Barnard, Beautification Committee of Garden City; Secretary, Chantel Morton, Better Hometown Program Coordinator of Tybee Island; and Treasurer, Joe Wilson, Director of Public Works, Tybee Island. The Executive Director is Sherry Arnott of the Chatham County Resource Conservation Education Center.

Keep Chatham Beautiful

will focus on litter prevention, beautification & community greening, and waste reduction & recycling by:

- Encouraging individuals to become engaged stewards of the environment,
- Using education to improve awareness of the environment,
- Engaging volunteers to improve the community environment, and
- Partnering with community alliances, both public & private, to achieve sustainable improvement.

The February 5th Certification Ceremony is a culmination of the application process. The new organization conducted a litter index survey and a focus area survey of

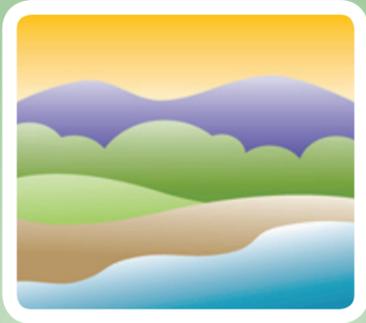
Chatham County to help determine the needs of the County, which will help determine programs aimed at improving the living environment for residents.

Keep America Beautiful and Keep Georgia Beautiful officials presided conducted the Certification Ceremony.

Keep Chatham Beautiful is seeking FOUNDER sponsors help support the organization for the first two years. As a FOUNDER sponsor you will ensure that the organization gets a solid foundation to begin cleanup, beautification & education programs.

If you would like to volunteer for projects and events, please contact the Executive Director, Sherry Arnott at slarnott@chathamcounty.org. ■

In 2012, Keep Chatham Beautiful applied to become the newest affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, an organization dedicated to encouraging residents to take greater responsibility for improving their environment. Keep Chatham Beautiful is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization,



Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation

Mission/Guiding Principles

The mission of Keep Georgia Beautiful is to support local Keep Georgia Beautiful affiliates as they build sustainable communities through litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, water resource management and community greening.

The guiding principles are:

Individual Responsibility: Improving the environment and quality of life of communities begins with personal responsibility and behavior change – individuals becoming engaged stewards of the environment.

Education: Education and awareness are the first steps to encouraging positive behaviors toward community improvement.

Partnerships: Broad-based community alliances including public, private and civic sectors are essential to achieve sustainable community improvement.

Volunteer Action: Engaging volunteers to extend the reach and multiply the impact of local initiatives that change individual behavior and improve the community environment.

Who We Are

At the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation we know that clean land, water and air are important to Georgians. For 30 years, we have been working with volunteers from our statewide network of affiliates to protect and improve Georgia's environment.

Created by Governor George Busbee in 1978, Keep Georgia Beautiful, became the first state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Housed in a state agency, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, our unique structure as a public-private partnership allows us to benefit from the resources of citizens in government, corporations, and community organizations. These connections aid us in our mission to build and sustain community environmental activities and behaviors resulting in a more beautiful Georgia.

To accomplish this mission, the Foundation supports a network of over 75 local affiliates, more than any other state in the country, covering over 76% of Georgia's population. To maintain and promote that network, we coordinate special events, help develop new affiliates, and provide educational and professional training.

The key to our success is our commitment to local affiliate action and leadership. Each affiliate offers a mix of programs based on the needs of their community. The average Georgia affiliate produces \$11.45 of benefits for every \$1.00 of public funds invested in the KAB program. According to Keep America Beautiful, active affiliate communities typically reduce litter by 48% within three years after certification. The Keep Georgia Beautiful system is cost effective and it produces results.

Detailed community assessments, local partnerships, and broad-based support are the trademarks of the Keep Georgia Beautiful system. We improve the quality of life in communities; help us improve it in yours. Become involved with your local KAB affiliate or contact us for more information on how you can improve your local environment.

Identity Safe Data Destruction Day

1321 Eisenhower Drive
May 4th 9am to 2pm

WSAV, Shredex, & Chatham County are partnering to help protect residents from identity theft by providing on-site shredders for sensitive documents. All paper shredded will be recycled. We will also be collecting electronics. The shredding is a one day event and electronics are collected regularly at the center.

3 WSAV **CHATHAM COUNTY RECYCLES**

ReVISION Art & Eco Festival

Saturday, April 20 9 am - 3 pm
Forsyth Park

Artwork
Sculpture
Jewelry
Mixed Media

Eco Cars
Demonstrations
Entertainment
Education

New Health Department to Open its Doors



The citizens of Chatham County will soon have a brand new and improved health department to call their own. The newly constructed Dr. Martha B. Fay Public Health Center/Chatham County Health Department will open its doors on Tuesday, May 7. The 33,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, located behind the existing health department, will face Sallie Mood Drive and will provide services in a space that's client-friendly and easy to navigate.

“Everyone in Chatham County benefits from public health services either directly or indirectly and deserves the best public health has to offer. This new facility is part our commitment to provide that,” said Weems.

“This has been a long time coming and we are truly excited to show off our new location,” said Diane Weems, M.D., Coastal Health District Health Director. “The design and openness of the building will create a welcoming environment and be more accommodating to those seeking public health services.”

The new facility will include a high-tech patient flow system and an advanced emergency

response center all within a LEED Silver certified structure which means that the building will be extremely energy efficient.

The Health Department will be home to multiple exam rooms for both child health and adult health services; family planning services; vital records (birth and death certificates); immunization and travel services; the Women, Infant, and Children’s (WIC) program; tuberculosis services; and environmental health services.

Chatham County Health Department officials have worked with faculty and graduate students from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) to develop interior color schemes and choose appropriate displays, including original graduate student artwork, to enhance the building’s interior spaces.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony and public open house will be scheduled for some time in June.

“Everyone in Chatham County benefits from public health services either directly or indirectly and deserves the best public health has to offer. This new facility is part our commitment to provide that,” said Weems.

The Chatham County Health Department was officially renamed the Dr. Martha B. Fay Public Health Center in 2008 in recognition of the leadership, vision, and passion of local public health advocate Dr. Martha B. Fay. Dr. Martha B. Fay dedicated herself to promoting and protecting the health of the citizens of Chatham County and the state of Georgia for more than 40 years. She served on the Chatham County Board of Health for more than three decades and was instrumental in developing both public health and mental health community services. ■

Water Quality

Water quality is essential to our economy and the quality of life in Chatham County. Water from the Savannah River supplies many of our industries and an increasing number of residential areas. The estuaries function as nurseries for many commercially important species, and the health of the estuaries can have profound effects on the local fishing industry. In addition, most residents of Chatham County enjoy some form of recreation that involves local water resources including fishing, canoeing, birding or swimming, all of which are enhanced by a healthy and protected waterway.

Water pollution is often blamed on industry, manufacturers and water treatment plants. Pollution from these types of direct sources is called “point source pollution” because it comes from one particular point, such as a pipe emptying into a river. Point source pollution has been greatly regulated and reduced over the past 25 years due to the Clean Water Act. Any discharge into State waters now requires a permit and is monitored for pollutants on a regular basis. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the leading cause of water pollution in the United States is now “non-point source pollution” (NPS). NPS pollution comes from everywhere and from all of us. Rainwater runs over the land and carries contaminants into our streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries. NPS pollution can include runoff from roads, sediment from construction sites, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and agriculture, and oil, litter and other waste that is dumped into storm drains. Since NPS pollution comes from so many different sources and locations, it is difficult to control. It is up to all of us to prevent NPS pollution.

WE ALL CAN PREVENT NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION!

- Keep litter and debris out of the environment and out of storm drains.
- Apply garden chemicals at the proper time and in the proper amounts.
- Dispose or recycle used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other chemicals properly.
- Control soil erosion by planting ground cover or utilizing silt fences.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped at least every 3-5 years.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly in the garbage.



MAKE A SPLASH™

WATER SAFETY DAY '13



- Swimming
- Water Safety Activities
- Lifeguard Demo
- Pool Games
- Kayaking and Snorkeling
- Water Slide

**Saturday, May 18
1:00-5:00PM
Ages 6-12**

Pre-Registration is required and limited spaces are available. To register, contact the CCAC at 912-652-6793.

Registration Deadline is May 1, 2013

ENROLLMENT IS FREE!!!

Participants need to bring: Swim bag with their name on it, swim suit and towel.

CHATHAM COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER

