

CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



April 20, 2014



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 the current district lines visit:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Al Scott, Chairman

By a unanimous vote at the April 11th County Commission meeting, William Lee Smith III was confirmed to succeed Russ Abolt as the new County Manager. Mr. Smith, of Goldsboro, North Carolina, is a veteran County Manager with over twenty years of experience. His background includes

experience in all areas of county management – cost reduction strategies, human resource management, budgeting and finance, operations, and community consensus building. He has been an accredited County Manager by the International County Managers Association, (ICMA) since 2004.

He has a working understanding of strategic planning, zero based budgeting (needs based budgeting), as well as appreciation for public/private partnership development and economic development.

Lee, as he likes to be called, served the last thirteen years as County Manager for Wayne County, North

Carolina where he managed a county with a military installation and multiple municipalities, much like our own. He understands

William Lee Smith III was confirmed to succeed Russ Abolt as the new County Manager.

Lee will start in his new position no later than May 12th and Mr. Abolt will assist with the transition.

the importance of forging a good working relationship with all branches and agencies of government – including constitutional officers, such as judges, sheriffs and

district attorneys. Lee will start in his new position no later than May 12th and Mr. Abolt will assist with the transition.



William Lee Smith III,
County Manager

Chatham County has been well served with Mr. Abolt's twenty six years of dedicated service. We will sincerely miss his leadership. I am sure present and past members of this County Commission join me in thanking him for his years of service and in wishing Russ and Diane the very best in their future.



Voting information for 2014 General Primary Election Election Date: May 20, 2014 Run-off Date (if required): July 22, 2014

Voter Education—Things to Know:

Voter Registration Deadline: April 21, 2014
Prior to Election Day – confirm your registration and poll location by calling Voter Registration at 912-790-1520 or use the website poll locator at www.sos.ga.gov/MVP. Keep your residence and mailing address updated with the Voter Registration Office.

Absentee Voting By Mail:

Request for mail out absentee ballots may be submitted as early as 180 days prior to the Election. Mail out of absentee ballots will begin on **April 5, 2014 and end on May 16, 2014**. Request may be submitted either by mail or fax. You must file a separate application for each election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot; there are exceptions for voters over the age of 75, disabled, military or overseas citizens. Please submit your application early and declare a party on your application. Call Chatham County Voter Registration at 912-790-1520 for further details.

Absentee Early Voting:

April 28 – May 16, 2014
Early in-person voting is available 21 days prior to the General Election. Any eligible registered voter desiring to vote in advance during this period may do so **in-person at the Voter Registration Main Office, 1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406, Mon – Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** No reason is required for absentee advance voting.

Saturday Voting:

May 10, 2014 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Voter Registration Main Office,
1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406

Additional Voting Locations:

May 12 – 16, 2014
Additional voting locations around the county will be opened for your convenience. See locations and times below.

Online Voter Registration

Must have a GA Driver's License or State ID to register online.

- Go to the GA Secretary of State website: www.sos.ga.gov
- Click Elections
- Click the red box: Register to Vote

Mobile App

- Available to use to update voter registration
- Search: GA Votes in App Store

Log in to
www.sos.ga.gov

LOCATIONS	ADDRESS	HOURS	CHATHAM COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE
Voter Reg Main Office	1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E	8:00 am – 5:00 pm (M,W,F)	1117 Eisenhower Drive Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406 MAIL: P.O. Box 13757, Savannah, GA 31416 PHONE: 912-790-1520 FAX 912-790-1519 Email: voter@chathamcounty.org Website: http://voter.chathamcounty.org
Voter Reg Main Office	1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E	8:00 am – 7:00 pm (T, TH)	
Civic Center	301 W. Oglethorpe Ave	9:00 am – 4:00 pm (M-F)	
Mosquito Control	65 Billy B. Hair Dr	9:00 am – 4:00 pm (M-F)	
Islands Library	125 Wilmington Island Rd	10:00 am – 5:00 pm (M-F)	
Southwest Library (Sav Mall)	14097 Abercorn St	10:00 am – 5:00 pm (T-F)	



\$30,560,000 Thank You

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations. Due to your efforts, we were able to collect \$30,560,000 in 2013 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 2013, The Chatham County Child Support Office Accomplished The Following:

- Collected \$30,560,000.00
- Received 878 New Applications
- Established 1,113 Child Support Orders
- Conducted 362 Paternity Tests
- Determined Paternity for 2,011 Children
- Arrested 424 Non-Paying Parents
- Jailed 85 Non-Paying Parents via Court
- Seized \$ 38,356.58 From Bank Accounts
- Seized \$ 130,240.35 From Christmas Bonuses
- Filed 3969 Contempt Actions

"A Helping Hand for Chatham County's Children"

Staff Reductions Due To Budget Cuts:

Staff of Chatham County Child Support in 2005: 52
Staff of Chatham County Child Support in 2013: 39

Chatham County Comprises 2.6% of the Population of Georgia.

In 2013, the Chatham County Child Support Office Collected 4.10% of the Child Support Collected in Georgia.

*-Thank You
Child Support Services
Meg Daly Heap, District Attorney*

Pay Your Bills From Home

Accepting credit cards online for various Chatham County services has recently expanded. More of our services requiring a fee, or payment of bills due, can now be handled from your home.

County websites processing Park rentals or water and sewer bill payment are now up and ready for use. By going to <http://parks.chathamcounty.org>, you can now reserve facilities at Chatham County parks as well as pay any associated fees. Select the facility to rent and follow the instructions.

As of April 2014, opening <http://water.chathamcounty.org> will allow citizens to pay Chatham

County water and sewer bills online. Citizens can also sign up for eBills and use a variety of credit cards, debit cards, or electronic checks. Do note, a small convenience fee is added to facilitate the payment.

As an addition to the payment changes, the bill has gone through a facelift and should be a little easier to read.

Expect to see more eGovernment services as we continue to expand our digital capabilities.



Keep Chatham Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful

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, therefore donations may be tax-deductible.

On February 5th, 2013 Keep America Beautiful and Keep Georgia Beautiful representatives came to Chatham County to conduct the Certification Ceremony chose as their Mission Statement, "To engage individuals to take greater responsibility for the Chatham County environment."

During its first year, **KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL** has been awarded two national grants, was named HOME TOWN HERO by WTOCTV, and received the President's Circle Award from Keep America Beautiful.

The Board of Director consists of 12 community leaders, representing residents, government and industry. There are also five 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.

Current Board Members include: Julian Smith (owner of SolarSmith), Sherri Collins (Manager of Pratt Industries), Deatre Denion (Program Coordinator, Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs), Yvonne Warren (Asst. Professor of English at Savannah State University), Scott George (City of Garden City Mayor Pro Tem), Linda Sams (Chatham County), Jackie Ogden (UGA Cooperative Extension), Garrett Kaminsky (Chatham County resident).

Associate Board Members include: David Nash (Chatham County), Molly Adams (McNamara Adams Attorneys), Jackie Jackson Teel (Director of Comprehensive Planning/Metropolitan Planning Commission), and Dan Flaxer (Marketing Director, WSAV-TV). And, Executive Director is Sherry Arnott (Chatham County).

The new organization conducted a litter index survey and a focus area survey of Chatham County to help determine the needs of the County, including programs aimed at improving the living environment for residents and visitors.

KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL has chosen to focus on litter prevention, beautification and community greening, and waste reduction and 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.

KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL is seeking "FOUNDER" sponsors to 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 and education programs.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for projects and events, go to <http://www.keepchathambeautiful.org> or contact the Executive Director, Sherry Arnott at slarnott@chathamcounty.org

DATA DESTRUCTION DAY

The next Chatham County Data Destruction Day will be Saturday, May 3rd from 9am-2pm in partnership with WSAV-TV.

This is an opportunity for residents of Chatham County to shred their old sensitive documents, free of charge.

Usually about 1,000 vehicles drive through the facility from 9am-2pm.

Residents may bring their old documents to shred, bring outdated computer equipment to donate to Goodwill Industries, and drop off their household recyclables.

Most residents bring their paper documents in plastic bags or cardboard boxes, so these cardboard boxes and plastic bags (thanks to Food Lion) are also recycled.

Data Destruction Day is held twice a year, in May and November, and is a free service to the residents of Chatham County.



RECYCLING YOUR OLD TV

Things have changed at the Resource Conservation Education Center at 1321 Eisenhower Drive.

As of April 1st, 2014 NO TELEVISIONS will be accepted for recycling.

So, where can residents go to recycle their old TV's? The following businesses do accept televisions, with some restrictions. Some also have a pickup program, if you don't want to load it up and drive it to their location.

RECYCLE TV's:

Goodwill Industries: Residents may take working TV's with the remote—model year 2007 and newer—to Goodwill locations throughout Chatham County during regular working hours.

Best Buy: Residents may take 32" or smaller TV's or monitors to Best Buy locations during regular working hours. They do not accept larger than 32" screens or monitors, nor do they accept rear or front projection TV's or exposed cathode ray tubes. Best Buy also has a pickup program. Call their stores for details.

Other thrift stores may also accept TV's. But, please call ahead to ask about your specific TV before you load it up and drive it anywhere.

NO TV's will be accepted at the Data Destruction Day Event on May 3rd, 1321 Eisenhower Drive.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

Natural Resources Department



Many people aren't aware of the difference between storm drains and sanitary sewers. Sanitary sewers carry sewage that comes from our toilets and other household drains via underground pipes to treatment plants. Typically, we don't see those pipes or openings.

Storm drains lead to a separate pipe system with openings that are visible from the street. They are designed to route rain runoff into large pipes that lead directly to major ditches, creeks, and other waterways, which ultimately empty into our rivers and oceans. There's little treatment or filtering of this water between your yard and our waters.

It is your responsibility to make sure that nothing but rain water flows from your yard into storm drains. Yard waste entering storm drains increases the risk of flooding and adds pollutants to the environment. Not only does yard waste cause blockages to the drainage system which can lead to localized flooding, it can also add carbon and nitrogen to our area waterbodies through its decomposition. This can lead to algae blooms and fish kills. Sweeping or blowing grass clippings, fallen leaves, or other yard waste into the street or

down the storm drain can cause serious damage to the storm sewer system and to the other water resources to which storm drains lead.

Perhaps you only occasionally allow grass clipping, leaves, and other yard waste to wash down the drains. Multiply your "occasional" by all the homes in Chatham County and it's easy to see why it's a major concern.

Don't blow or sweep your lawn clippings into the street or storm drains. If you have someone provide lawn services for you, make sure that they do not dispose of the lawn clippings in the street or storm drain to ensure that your landscaper does not contribute to the stormwater pollution problems.



Not only is it bad for the environment and our stormwater system to allow lawn clippings and other yard waste to wash down a storm drain, it is a direct violation of each of Chatham County's municipalities' stormwater codes and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

What should I do with my yard waste?

The best option is to re-mow several times so the clippings will sink down into the lawn and break down, providing natural fertilizer to your lawn. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn all summer is equivalent to one application of fertilizer. Another option is to compost lawn clippings for reapplication to your lawn or garden. Leaves and lawn clippings may be bagged in biodegradable brown bags and placed curbside to be collected or hauled to area collection sites as well. Do not bag your clipping and place them in the trash for regular household refuse pickup, as this uses valuable landfill space unnecessarily and is in violation of the landfills' solid waste permit.

Identity Safe Data Destruction Day
1321 Eisenhower Drive
May 3, 9AM - 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 **ShredEX** **CHATHAM COUNTY RECYCLES**
KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL



Explorer Post 876 Places At Winterfest

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 returned from Winterfest 2014 with arms full of awards.

We were one of over 60 law enforcement agencies to compete from the Southeast US.

Of the six events Post 876 participated in, they placed in four. The events were picked for our post by the Winterfest Law Enforcement Staff.

Post 876 received 1st Place in Bomb Threat Response, Caving and Class A Uniform Inspection. They also received 2nd place in the Talent Show. The team also participated in the categories of Domestic Violence and the written exam.

The mission of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 is to educate young men and women who

are interested in a career in the law enforcement field. This serves to enhance their future by mentoring, motivating and preparing them for their roles as productive citizens and possible law enforcement officers in the Coastal Empire.

For more information of becoming an Explorer please visit: <http://www.chatham-sheriff.org/Community/Explorer-Post-876> ■

Chatham County 4-H's Wildlife Enhancement Project

Using Mastery, Generosity, Belonging and Independence to Plan, Implement and Evaluate a Program through Service Learning

by Patricia West, Chatham County 4-H and Youth Development

A large area of unused land compasses the landfill site on Little Neck Road. The landfill is surrounded by Tupelo Swamps, Pine forests, and barrow pits; an environment perfect for many types of wildlife. Two pairs of nesting Bald Eagles and a population of Brown-headed Nuthatches make this area home. Because of its restricted overall range, its dependence on mature pine-savannah habitats, and its declining population trend (45 % decline overall since 1966), the Brown-headed Nuthatch is a species of high conservation importance. Chatham County 4-H began the task of turning this site into a wildlife refuge.

Students from Chatham County's 4-H Club are working with the Georgia Conservancy and local birders and naturalists to complete ongoing programs to preserve wildlife at Superior Landfill. According to Waste Management representative Amanda Fairley, the local community has come together to develop an environmental education program that is not only good for the animals that roam the property, but also students from around the state. "We have been very lucky to have students from the 4-H Club and people from other local groups to participate and support this initiative. It not only benefits the wildlife at the landfill, but it is also a wonderful educational opportunity for students and interested citizens."

Fairley said some of the projects the groups are working on include completing plant and animal surveys, building and monitoring bird boxes and constructing and placing picnic tables and benches along parts of the onsite lake. She said through the development of these wildlife enhancement programs, Waste Management is demonstrating its commitment to environmental stewardship and community involvement. "This program focuses not only on landfill site construction, operations and water and air monitoring education, but also on the environmentally responsible activities conducted onsite daily. Multiple volunteers and organizations have provided their expertise and time to make this site a valuable community asset."

Fairley said all the projects assist in the development of a wildlife preservation strategy. "The 4-H students spent many hours on site completing a site survey. They took photos and samples of plants and hope to identify what wildlife some plants attract or harm." She said the students will create an app to document the information. "With the development of an app to plot the information, the students will be able to pull up the plant surveys on their phones at any time. This will help develop future conservation plans," said Fairley. She said the app will also be accessible to site visitors so they can pull up the species onsite that interest them.

The dozen or so 4-H Club students, Georgia Extension Office, Georgia Conservancy staff, involved community members and others were recently thanked for their efforts at a luncheon sponsored by Waste Management. Fairley said the educational program the students have developed at Superior is an eye opener for many citizens. "Even though most people think of landfills as places to dispose of household trash and debris, Waste Management's Superior Landfill is much more than that. Most people are surprised to learn that Superior Landfill is a sanctuary for local birds and animals."

Rebecca Culler, Education Specialist for the Corporate Lands For Learning program at the Wildlife Habitat Council, said she agrees. "Waste Management's program encompasses much more than education about waste and disposal. The mission of the education program at WM's Superior Landfill is to demonstrate their commitment by focusing on five core themes. These themes include landfill site construction, environmental monitoring, landfill gas to energy operations, recycling and wildlife habitat enhancement. Through these site activities, we can demonstrate that industry and the environment can coexist and how Waste Management is actively an environmental steward." She said the projects also allow the community the chance to use the habitat as an outdoor learning laboratory and community service opportunity. ■

Be Prepared: Before, During and After a Flood Event



BEFORE A FLOOD OR HURRICANE

- Know your flood hazard. Check with the Chatham County Department of Engineering at (912) 652-7800 to find out what flood zone you are in and what the Base Flood Elevation is for your lot. Note that flood zone determination requests and elevation certificate request are to be made in writing and can be faxed to Chatham County at (912) 652-7818 or emailed to floodletters@chathamcounty.org. You can get a good idea of your flood zone and risk by visiting www.sagis.org.
- Understand the flood warning system and know the safest route to high, safe ground. Visit Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA): www.chathamemergency.org or call (912) 201-4500 to find out about the flood warning system and what evacuation route you should use.
- Prepare a family disaster kit. Learn more at: www.ready.gov
- Prepare your home. Learn how to turn off the gas and electricity to your house and do so if flooding is imminent. Protect your home against high winds associated with hurricanes and tropical storms (install storm shutters, reinforce garage doors, etc.).
- **Buy flood insurance.** Flood damage is not covered by homeowner's insurance. It's affordable and easy to obtain. Renters can secure flood damage coverage for their personal property.
- Do you have questions or concerns? Evacuation routes and the locations of emergency shelters can be found in the phonebook and online. Michael Blakely is the Chatham County Floodplain Administrator and is available to assist you with questions concerning flood water depths, flood insurance, flood zones, elevation certificates, historical flooding and other natural hazards. He can be reached by calling (912) 652-7814 or via email at mblakely@chathamcounty.org.

DURING A FLOOD

Because flood water can rise quickly, be prepared to evacuate before the water level reaches your property.

- Stay informed during a weather event. Follow evacuation orders when issued.
- Move to higher ground if you can do so safely—but **DO NOT attempt to walk, drive, or swim through moving water or flooded areas.** Just 6 inches of fast moving water can knock a person off their feet and less than 2 feet of swiftly moving water can sweep away heavy cars and trucks. Remember: **turn around, don't drown.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood-related deaths, followed by electrocution.
- If you are caught at home by rising water, move to the second floor or the roof. Take your disaster supply kit with you.
- If evacuation is required and you can safely do so, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close any gas valves. On the road, watch for and avoid floodwaters, fallen debris and power lines.

AFTER A FLOOD

Danger does not end when flood water recedes.

- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Hidden structural damage may make a building unsafe
- Have a professional check your heating, electrical system, and appliances for safety prior to using
- Don't use any food or water that was exposed to floodwaters
- Dry your house slowly but thoroughly. Be sure to treat your home to prevent mold and mildew.
- Pump out flooded basements slowly to avoid structural damage.