

# CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



January 26, 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

2013 was a busy and productive year in Chatham County, culminating with the November passage of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. I would personally like to thank the citizens of our County for their trust in our stewardship of their SPLOST dollars.

These are pay as you go improvements to our infrastructure which keep the county out of debt. 2014 will usher in a new era of leadership for Chatham County. County Manager Russ Abolt will be retiring in the first half of the year, and the search firm we have retained is currently looking for his replacement.

Now is perhaps the most appropriate time to reflect on some of the highlights of Russ Abolt's tenure - 26 years as our County Manager.

- SEQ CHAPTER \h\r 1 Adolescent Treatment Center
- Administrative Annex/Police Building
- Aging Services Center
- All-American Community (Finalist)

- Anderson/Cohen Weightlifting Center
- Animal Control Shelter
- Aquatic Center
- Assessor's Office Appraisal Automation
- Bamboo Farm Funding
- Bamboo Farm Road
- Bandshell (Portable)
- Bay Street Viaduct
- Benton Boulevard Extension: Planning
- Best Value Contracting
- Bomb Squad
- Bryan Woods Road Widening
- Canal Maintenance Program: Countywide
- CEMA EOC (Expanded)
- Central Services Reorganization
- Channel 16
- Charles C. Brooks Park
- Charles C. Brooks Park Renovation
- Chart of Accounts Compliance
- Chatham County Police Accreditation

- Chatham County Youth Commission
- Chatham County Recreation Authority
- Chatham County Youth Commission
- Chatham Parkway Widening
- Citizens Service Center
- Civil Rights Museum (Ralph Mark Gilbert)
- Civil Rights Museum (Expansion)
- Coastal Georgia Greenway Planning
- Communications Plan
- Community Oriented Policing Program
- Community Rating System-Flood Program
- Counter Narcotics Team (CNT)
- Counter Narcotics Team Accreditation
- Counter Narcotics Team Headquarters
- County Budgets (1989-2007)
- County CIP (1989-2007)
- County Codebook

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## Voting information for State of Georgia

### Federal, State & Local Level:

2014 promises to be a major election year for the State of Georgia with candidates vying for the following seats on the federal, state and local level: U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Labor, Public Service Commission, State Senate, State House of Representatives, Board of Education President, 4th School Board District, 5th School Board District, 6th School Board District, 8th School Board District, Superior Court Judges (2), Recorders Court Judges (2) and the Board of Elections.

### Garden City:

**March 18, 2014**

Garden City will have a Special Election on March 18, 2014 to fill a vacant position in the 1st Council District. The Voter Registration deadline is February 18,

2014. Early voting will be held February 24, 2014 - March 14, 2014 at the Voter Registration Office, 1117 Eisenhower Dr., Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406.

### Federal Primary & Runoff:

**May 20, 2014**

The Federal Primary will be held on May 20, 2014. The Voter Registration deadline will be April 21, 2014. UOCAVA/Absentee ballot mail outs begin on April 1, 2014 - May 16, 2014. In-Person absentee voting will begin on April 28, 2014 - May 16, 2014. Saturday Voting will be May 10, 2014 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

**July 22, 2014**

The Federal Primary Runoff will be held on July 22, 2014. UOCAVA/Absentee mail out begins June 7, 2014 - July 18, 2014. In person voting begins June 30, 2014 - July 18, 2014. Saturday Voting will be July 12, 2014 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

### CHATHAM COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE

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](mailto:voter@chathamcounty.org)

Website: <http://voter.chathamcounty.org>

## Election Calendar 2014 Election Event Dates:

### FEDERAL ELECTION

ELECTION	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE	ELECTION DATE
Special Election (to fill vacancies)	February 18, 2014	March 18, 2014
Special Election Runoff Date	February 18, 2014	April 15, 2014
Federal Primary Election (to fill vacancies and propose questions)	April 21, 2014	May 20, 2014
Federal Primary Runoff Date	April 21, 2014	July 22, 2014
General Election (to fill vacancies and propose questions)	October 6, 2014	November 4, 2014
Federal General Runoff Date	October 6, 2014	January 6, 2015

### STATE ELECTION

ELECTION	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE	ELECTION DATE
Special Election (to fill vacancies)	February 18, 2014	March 18, 2014
Special Election Runoff Date	February 18, 2014	April 15, 2014
Primary Election (to fill vacancies and propose questions)	June 16, 2014	July 15, 2014
Primary Runoff Date	June 16, 2014	August 5, 2014
General Election (to fill vacancies and propose questions)	October 6, 2014	November 4, 2014
General Runoff Date	October 6, 2014	December 2, 2014

**Continued from page 1**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Courthouse Annex Adaptive Re-Use (Jail)     | May Street YMCA Expansion                                       |
| Courthouse Addition/Renovation              | McQueen's Island Rails-to-Trails                                |
| Courthouse Master Plan                      | MBE/DBE Purchasing Program                                      |
| Demere Property Acquisition                 | Memorial Stadium Renovation                                     |
| Detention Center-Phase I                    | Mid-Town Health Clinic  |
| Detention Center-Phase II                   | Middleground Road Widening                                      |
| Detention Center Expansion                  | Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum                            |
| DMVS Licensing Center                       | Mighty 8th/Henderson Bond Retirement                            |
| Diamond Causeway Widening-Planning          | Montgomery Crossroads Widening                                  |
| Disparity Study I                           | Mosquito Control Aerial Force                                   |
| Drainage Improvement Projects               | Mosquito Control Complex  |
| Drop Off Centers-Recycling Program          | Mother Mathilda Beasley Park                                    |
| East-West Corridor Study                    | Mother Mathilda Beasley Park Beautification                     |
| 800Mhz Radio System                         | No Wake Project   |
| Eisenhower Drive Widening: Planning         | Old Courthouse Renovation                                       |
| E-911 Upgrade                               | 1996 Olympic Yachting   |
| EMS Privatization                           | Olympic Beautification Program                                  |
| Enterprise Zone                             | Olympic Track & Field Complex at SSU                            |
| Financial Management Information System     | Open Space Plan   |
| Financial Management Policy                 | Operation Water Wheel   |
| Fire Service District Plan                  | PC Network  |
| Fire Safety Equipment Program (Cities)      | Personnel Ordinance & Policies                                  |
| Fixed Assets Policy                         | Pennsylvania Community Center                                   |
| Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club Expansion    | Pipemaker's Canal Improvements                                  |
| Frank Downing Fishing Pier Renovation       | Placentia Tidegate/Canal Improvements                           |
| Fraud Policy                                | Police Memorial Drive   |
| Freeport Implementation                     | Pooler Parkway-Phase I, II                                      |
| G-8 International Trade Summit              | Pooler Parkway Interchange/I-16                                 |
| Garden Center                               | Pooler Parkway Interchange 80/I-95                              |
| GFOA Budget Awards (1989-2007)              | President Street Widening                                       |
| GFOA Financial Reporting Awards (1989-2007) | Public Defender's Office  |
| Greenbriar Children's Center Expansion      | Public Works Building-Planning                                  |
| Greenspace Program                          | Public Works and Parks Merger                                   |
| Hardin Canal Improvements                   | Purchasing Ordinance & Procedures Manual                        |
| Helmken Farmhouse Relocation                | Records Center & Archives                                       |
| Henderson Boulevard/Drive                   | Rodney Hall Boat Ramp Renovation                                |
| Henderson Golf Club                         | Richardson Creek Bridge   |
| Home Rescue Project                         | Runaway Point Park I & II                                       |
| Hospice House Property Lease                | SABHC Behavioral Health Clinic                                  |
| Homestead: \$12,000 Exemption               | SAGIS & www.sagis.org   |
| Hudson Hill Community Center                | S&O Canal/Greenway Trail  |
| Hutchinson Island Streetscape (Shackelford) | Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (Police Merger) |
| Hutchinson Island Interchange               | Savannah International Trade & Convention Center                |
| Hutchinson Island: Parcel 7 Acquisition     | Savannah River Water Ferry Docks                                |
| Hutchinson Island Riverwalk & Extension     | Savannah Sailing Center at Lake Mayer                           |
| Hutchinson Island Utility Extension         | Science Drive   |
| Inclusive Recreation Course/May Howard      | Skidaway Road/5 Points Project                                  |
| Indigent Defense Program                    | Skidaway Road Widening-Planning                                 |
| Indigent Health Program                     | Soccer Complex  |
| In-Rem Foreclosure Program                  | Soccer Fields/Concord Road                                      |
| Inspections Automation                      | SPLOST 1985-1989  |
| Islands Bridge Replacement: Planning        | SPLOST 1989-1993  |
| I-95 Airport Connector                      | SPLOST 1993-1998  |
| Jimmy DeLoach Parkway                       | SPLOST 1998-2003  |
| Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange           | SPLOST 2003-2008  |
| Julie Backus Smith Trail Memorial           | SPLOST 2008-2014  |
| Juvenile Justice Complex                    | SPLOST Funding: Cities Drainage Projects                        |
| Land Bank Authority                         | SPLOST Funding: Cities Projects                                 |
| Land Use Plan: Islands                      | SPLOST Funding: Cities Road Projects                            |
| Land Use Plan: Southeast Chatham            | SR 21 Spur, Phase I   |
| Land Use Plan: Tricentennial                | SR 21 Intersection/DeLoach Parkway                              |
| Local Preference Policy                     | SR 307: US 17/I-16  |
| McCorkle Biketrail Extension                | SR 307 Extension: Planning                                      |
|   | Stephens-Day Exemption Implementation                           |
|   | Stephenson Avenue Widening                                      |

For over twenty-five years, Russ displayed exemplary managerial skills that has assisted in the growth and betterment of our community and for that, I am very appreciative. I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and wish him all the very best for the beginning of this new era of his life. ■

## Victim Witness Assistance Program Celebrates 30 Years – Presents 'Voice For Victims Awards'

SAVANNAH, GA— The Chatham County District Attorney's Office's Victim Witness Assistance Program began in 1983; spearheaded by former Chatham County District Attorney Spencer Lawton. The development and implementation of the District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) gave Chatham County the first comprehensive program of its kind in Georgia and one of the very first in the nation. The VWAP Program provides free and vital

resources to citizens of Chatham County who have been the victim of a crime, or are a witness to a crime. The program offers guidance through the often confusing legal system by providing case information, court orientation and preparation, referrals to community agencies and assistance with applying for financial compensation. The program provides invaluable services to crime victims, witnesses and their families, as well as helps strengthen cases through victim and



Victim-Witness Assistance Program

witness participation and involvement in prosecution efforts. In recognition of thirty years of service to Chatham County, a program was held today to honor and thank the VWAP

program's organizers and staff that have helped the program grow and flourish through

the past thirty years. Former District Attorney Spencer Lawton and present District Attorney Meg Heap spoke on the significance of the program at the time of its inception and the strides it has made for victim and witness assistance in the past thirty years. This event also gave present VWAP Director Cheryl Rogers the opportunity to present "Voice For Victims" awards to law enforcement individuals, as well as civilian volunteers and crime victims who have gone beyond the call of duty and helped make the program a success.

### 2013 "Voice For Victims" Recipients

#### Volunteers

Charlotte Black & Ed Vertovec

#### Law Enforcement

Sgt. Ricky Becker, Sgt. Joe Kujawa & Ofc. Barbara O'Neal

#### Citizen Heroes

Lisa Middleton, Michael Prather, Pam Abraham & Coren Ross

## Chatham County Health Department Receives LEED Gold Distinction

The Chatham County Health Department on Eisenhower Drive has been given Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) gold status by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED certification offers third party validation of a project's green features and verifies that the building is functioning at high energy efficiency.

"We have put a lot of effort into making sure that we operate to the greenest extent possible inside and out," Chatham County Health Department Administrator, Randy McCall. "Green facilities such as the health department don't cost any more to build and we should actually see cost savings in the long run as a result of the building's efficiency."

LEED is a points-based system where building projects earn LEED points for satisfying specific green building criteria. Within each of

the seven LEED credit categories, projects must satisfy particular prerequisites and earn points. The five categories include Sustainable Sites (SS), Water Efficiency (WE), Energy and Atmosphere (EA), Materials and Resources (MR) and Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ). An additional category, Innovation in Design (ID), addresses sustainable building expertise as well as design measures not covered under the five environmental categories. The number of points the project earns determines the level of LEED Certification the project receives. LEED certification is available in four progressive levels: certified, silver, gold, and platinum.

The new, energy efficient Dr. Martha B. Fay Public Health Center/Chatham County Health Department opened its doors in May 2013. The 33,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, located behind the existing health department. ■



# Chatham County SAFETY NET Planning Council

## Helping to Piece Together the Health Care Puzzle

Submitted by Dale Carlson-Bebout, Executive Director

The Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council is a collaboration of health providers which includes: our hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, free Clinics, prescription assistance, healthcare professionals, county/city government, and business. The mission is to connect uninsured and underinsured citizens with affordable and quality health services in our County. Yearly the Safety Net providers participate in a rigorous evaluation process.

### The Safety Net Evaluation Data for 2012

The evaluation process is a team effort with all organizations analyzing the data compiled. In Chatham County 26.0% (or 46,000 people as of 2011) were uninsured. The highest ethnicity of uninsured individuals is Latino followed by African American.

#### Some statistics for 2012 include:

- 26,119 patients were served by the Safety Net Providers. 9% of the patients came from outside Chatham County.
- 20,336 of the above patients were uninsured
- 89% of the patients were served by the Federally Qualified Health Clinics: Curtis V. Cooper and J.C. Lewis
- Total patients accounted for 122,800 visits
- \$9.1M of free medication was provided by Safety Net's prescription assistance organization, Med Bank

- 31,354 Emergency Room Visits occurred for non-life threatening Primary Care reasons
- 52% of the Emergency Room Visits were for children less than 18 years old
- Types of visits grew in Dental and Behavioral Health
- Access to Specialty Care and for disease management of diabetes, hypertension, and depression is limited.

### Chatham Health Link

Chatham Health Link, a strategic focus of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, is the Regional Health Information Exchange. Health Information Exchanges allow providers to share patient records electronically. Customer and provider access to records and reduced duplication of information and medical testing are some of the primary drivers. Specifically, reduction of Emergency Room Visits and connection of patients to quality primary care physicians is a priority use of the information. Currently, Chatham Health Link is partnering with its healthcare providers and the State of Georgia Health Information Network to meet the current standards for patient record exchange.

### The Affordable Care Act in Chatham County

Safety Net's mission is to connect as many uninsured and underinsured individuals to the information they need to make an informed decision about health insurance. In-person assistance with enrollment can be accessed below.

## Felicia Spears joins the Chatham County Public Defender's Office



Felicia is a hometown girl, born and raised in Savannah. She graduated with honors from Savannah Arts Academy in 2003, then moved on to Valdosta State University after graduation. Felicia graduated from VSU cum laude with a B.A. in Philosophy and minor in Applied

Ethics in May 2007. Throughout her time at VSU, she also worked in the Psychology and Counseling Department as an office assistant.

Felicia first joined the Public Defender's office in August 2007 as a receptionist out of the county's temporary employee pool. When the temporary receptionist position became permanent in September of that year, we immediately offered it to Felicia. It is important to understand a bit about our receptionist position. It is much more than a phone system operator. One must be able to manage a tremendous volume of phone calls and walk in traffic from people under the most stressful of personal circumstances, all the while accessing several secure and sensitive data systems, fielding and screening information calls, running interference for lawyers and serving as the "face and voice" of the office to judges, county commissioners, the press and others. In fact, we have come to refer to that position as our customer service manager. Felicia was instrumental in developing the position and has provided training for subsequent staffers. An interesting side note - Felicia is our "Siri"; hers remains the voice of our phone mail system, six years later!

In 2009 Felicia was offered a scholarship to the University of South Carolina School of Law. With the bitter-sweetness of sadness for her departure and excitement for her future, we sent Felicia to Columbia with our well-wishes (and not so silent hopes for her subsequent return to us) to study law. Felicia maintained contact with us during her time in South Carolina, visiting us when home and even lending a hand when able. She received her J.D. from USC Law in May 2012. While in school, as she had at VSU, Felicia maintained employment, working as an intern at the Columbia law firm of Wyche Burgess Freeman & Parham and then as a housing research assistant for South Carolina Applesed Legal Justice Center, a major public interest law organization with a nationwide presence.

Felicia sat for the Georgia Bar in March 2013 and received her passing marks in October. During her swearing in ceremony in Superior Court in November, I was honored to present her for admission. During my introduction, I shared that it was my great hope to soon see Felicia return to Savannah and join the Public Defender's office as an assistant public defender. Through a series of unexpected circumstances the very next month, that hope was fulfilled and on January 6, 2014, just days into our 10th year of operation, Felicia Spears joined the Chatham County Public Defender's office as our newest assistant public defender. ■

## Stay Healthy - Get Insured

Enroll October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

To learn about health plans, financial help and how to enroll, you have several options: the Health Insurance Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596, 24/7 OR [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) OR call 2-1-1 (912-651-7730)

For **In-Person** assistance, call for an appointment at:

Curtis V. Cooper Federally Qualified Health Clinic  
J.C. Lewis Federally Qualified Health Clinic

912-527-1115

912-721-6726



## SAGIS has three great things that will be making its debut on the public webpage

SAGIS is a cooperative agreement between Chatham County, City of Savannah, The Metropolitan Planning Commission, Georgia Power, Georgia Tech and other public, private and educational organizations.

First, SAGIS can now provide Pictometry imagery to the public on our [www.sagis.org](http://www.sagis.org) site. New tools allow us to launch public access to the imagery via a web based viewing tool. For individuals that are not familiar with Pictometry, it is oblique aerial photography taken at a 45° angle and provides a 360° view of every structure. Further, our most recent flight recorded higher resolution photos for better clarity of details. Once completed there will be a button on the web map to launch Pictometry as well as instructions.

Second, the new tool and changes in licensing allows the entire catalog of Pictometry imagery back to 2003 to be available.

Third, soon up-to-date orthophotography also will be available on [www.SAGIS.org](http://www.SAGIS.org). Orthophotography are aerial photographs geometrically corrected such that the scale is uniform - thus the photo has the same lack of distortion as a map (looking from above down to the ground). Both the Pictometry and Orthophotography pictures were taken by air in the same timeframe, which means the images should show the same conditions.

The Pictometry and orthophotography and were made possible through funding approved by the County Commission from SPLOST funds. These projects has had great support by the County Manager Russ Abolt (who is a SAGIS board member) and by Al Bungard, County Engineer. Mr. Bungard has been a major supporter and he and his staff has collaborated to assist in production of SAGIS projects such as these. "Without Mr. Bungard's support, with the use of SLOST funds and staff assistance, many of these type of projects would not have been possible." Russ Abolt. ■



Pictometry Old County Courthouse from the East



Pictometry Old County Courthouse from the North



Old County Courthouse Ortho imagery

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on the community outreach page



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# The Mother Mathilda Beasley House Status Report

January 12, 2013



**Progress was made on the Mother Mathilda Beasley House project** during 2013 as the team members worked to conduct research and prepare design and construction plans for the structure, and plan the relocation of the house from 1511 Price Street to the Mother Mathilda Beasley Park on East Broad Street. The primary team members are Pioneer Construction, Barnard Architects and Coastal Heritage Society (CHS) all are based in Savannah.

With the support and assistance of Chatham County staff, the Mother Mathilda Beasley House Project Advisory Committee continued to meet to explore options for programming at the new site. The Committee is composed on community residents and representatives of the Mother Mathilda Beasley Society and local agencies and institutions. Over the past year, the group has worked to identify key themes to frame the kinds of activities that would take place in the structure once renovations have been completed. In addition, the Committee met with staff at the East Broad Elementary School to explore avenues to engage youth in the project. The school abuts the park and provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about Mother Mathilda Beasley.

In order to ensure that the current and future developments at the Park

adhered to the goals of the Mother Mathilda Beasley House Project, the County engaged Mandel Design, LLC to update the park's master plan. This revised plan, which includes a proposed Genealogy Center, should be completed by February, 2014

Staff from the CHS Construction and Preservation division have performed documentary research and structural investigations to determine the look and configuration of the house at the time of Mother Beasley's occupation, ca. 1903. The majority of this work is complete, but staff will continue its research in 2014 by performing historic paint analysis and investigative work to determine the location and number of window and door openings that were present during Mother Mathilda's occupancy in the home. The findings by CHS will be incorporated into the architect's final design.

The next phases of work will include developing interpretive signs and elements on the exterior and interior of the building, describing the history of the house and the life of Mother Mathilda Beasley. This will be done in partnership with the Advisory Committee.

Barnard Architects' design criteria separated the scope into several phases to insure that the project could be completed within Chatham County's

**Progress was made on the Mother Mathilda Beasley House project during 2013 as the team members worked to conduct research and prepare design and construction plans for the structure, and plan the relocation of the house from 1511 Price Street to the Mother Mathilda Beasley Park on East Broad Street.**

budget. All of the phases proposed by Barnard Architects have been accepted by Chatham County and incorporated into the scope of the project. In November, 2013, Pioneer Construction initiated the mobilization and demolition scope, which included the removal of the interfering trees and limbs from around the structure. With the trees out of way, the company's crew will be able to successfully access the foundation to stabilize and prepare the home for the future move which also requires proper permitting.

The site/civil drawings were submitted to the City of Savannah in December, 2013 and approved by the Development Services Department on December 19, 2013. The building drawings

(architectural, electrical/mechanical, and structural) were submitted to Chatham County for preliminary review in December. Comments were received on December 23, 2014.

The construction documents and building drawings that are required for permitting will be completed by the end of January, 2014. Once the structure has been successfully delivered to the Mother Mathilda Beasley Park, Pioneer Construction will work to complete the overall renovations to the home, which, upon completion, will provide an inviting and attractive space for visitors to embrace the legacy of Mother Mathilda Beasley. ■

## Chatham County Aquatic Center Partners with the University of Nevada School of Medicine to Conduct a Two Year Study

The Chatham County Aquatic Center is partnering with the University of Nevada School of Medicine to conduct a two year Pediatric Water Competency and Skill Retention Study. The purpose of the study is to determine how quickly children learn and how long they retain their skills while in formal lessons. The Aquatic Center will invite parents of children 2-5 years old to participate in the program. Each parent will complete consent forms and all the forms will be kept confidential. This is strictly a volunteer program. At the completion of each lesson, the swim lesson instructor will complete the study paperwork which will be provided to the University on a weekly basis. Every 6 months, the

parents will complete a survey to determine parental expectations and knowledge of their children's swimming ability.

The Aquatic Center is the pilot facility for this national study, which begins in February. After the pilot phase is over, the study hopes to partner with 1,000 children nationally from different swim programs. This is an exciting opportunity for our Facility to participate in a study that will provide important information about swim lessons and the retention of lessons. ■

**The Aquatic Center will invite parents of children 2-5 years old to participate in the program.**

