

# CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



APRIL 2008



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Chairman



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District 1



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District 3



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District 7  
Chairman Pro Tem



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

## Aquatic Center renovations complete and re-dedicated

When the Chatham County Aquatic Center closed at the end of May 2007, the anticipation of the new renovations were high. The Board of Commissioners had previously voted to have a new roof engineered as well as upgrades to the mechanical system. The County contracted with Thomas and Hutton Engineering for the design elements and with The Industrial Company for the large undertaking of the roof construction. Staff and Members were not quite sure what to expect over the next several months. Everyone wanted to see big changes to the roof and to the design of the building.

The first order of business was to see the "bubble" come down. Contractors first shut down power to the pool deck and prepared to remove the white dome. In a matter of minutes, the large white "bubble" was slowly losing air. Once the bubble had completely deflated, the contractors had the large task of removing the fabric from the pool deck. A sample of the old bubble can be found in the lobby of the Aquatic Center. For the first time in the history of the Aquatic Center, the pool was an outdoor pool.

The design of the new roof would be a wood truss system with wood tongue and groove decking, insulated roofing panels and a metal roof. The design team also called for a skylight to be installed. The unique concept of the roof was that the trusses would be Georgia Pine.

The pine was shipped from Georgia to the roofing timber plant in Pennsylvania for the manufacture of the trusses. Once complete, the wood trusses were shipped back to Savannah for TIC to begin the installation process. Excitement began to build as the first wood truss was set on the walls of the building. Next came the beautiful tongue and groove decking panels. With each truss that was set, the Aquatic Center roof was slowly taking shape. After all the trusses were in place, the new insulated panels could be set. This would allow for a greater insulation value than the Aquatic Center had with the old roof. Lastly the beautiful blue metal roof could be set in place. Also, a new skylight was installed over the Therapy pool.

The Aquatic Center also received new electrical lighting around the pool. The new lighting highlights the wood roof. A new scoreboard was installed for use by Aquatic staff for swim meets, announcements and the best use is for keeping time. Most swimmers will notice the new dehumidification system that was installed. This new system allows for a constant air temperature that is best suited for swimmers. The pool deck is kept at a balance between the lap pool and the therapy pool. Also in place of the old blue metal duct a new white fabric duct was installed.

The new roof was unveiled at the March 7 Aquatic Center Re-dedication ceremony. Commissioners, County officials,

contractors and Aquatic Center members were on hand to view all the final changes that had taken place over the last seven months. Members can not stop commenting on the final outcome of the roof. Many people walk in for the first time and comment that the new design looks like "a ski lodge".

Several lap swimmers like the new design because they have something to look at while they swim. Others say that the improved air quality on the pool deck allows for more comfortable swimming. While still others are glad that we are back open and offering our many programs. Swim Teams are happy to be back in their home facility, water aerobics programs have started back and swim lessons are on going. For more information about programs contact the Aquatic Center at 912-652-6793.



## Message from the Chairman

As our thoughts and prayers continue for the victims, family and friends of the Imperial Sugar Company fire. This occurrence devastated the entire community and again proved that we live in an area that consist of people who really care about their fellow man. The outpour of support for the victims and their family has been overwhelming and I applaud everyone for their support and assistance. The Emergency response during this disaster show-

cased the excellent state of readiness of our first responders and strength of mutual aid and pacts with adjoining governments.

The same can be said a few weeks later, during the St. Patrick's Weekend tornadoes as our crisis preparedness was once again tested.

I will continue to work with our City/County Coalition to keep those strong bonds between the county and the other municipalities.

Emergency preparedness will continue to improve as we are looking to expand

our siren program and roll out a new public awareness campaign on what to do when you hear a siren go off.

These improvements will come into play as we head closer to hurricane season. As always Chatham Emergency Management Agency is always available to assist citizens with their planning needs and I encourage all of our citizens to take advantage of their services.

We are very pleased to have the work completed on the Aquatic Center. Replacing the old "bubble

top" with a new state of the are roof has enhanced this facility.

This commission has been dedicated to improving our recreational facilities which had fallen to neglect four years ago. Having first class park and recreation facilities not only benefits our citizens but also allows for us to host visiting teams from all over the southeast.

The "new" Aquatic Center has hosted many meets and tournaments in the past and now will become a showcase facility in this region and I

encourage citizens to take advantage of the services it has to offer as well as our other recreation facilities.

Our work to reduce poverty continues. Step Up, Savannah's Poverty Reduction Initiative hosted a Signing Day program when local leaders from both the public and private sector came together to sign the document stating their commitment to work collectively on this persistent problem.

The County Commission recently graduated the seventh class from our Con-

struction Apprentice Program. All of these graduates now have productive, well paying jobs that will benefit our community.

This is your government and there is much to be proud of!

Chairman  
Pete Liakakis



## Chatham County Youth Commission Participates in NACO Conference

Early Sunday morning, March 2, 2008, the Chatham County Youth Commission, it's Founder, Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas and it's Director, Alderman Van R. Johnson, II left Savannah on their 10th Annual Trip to Washington, DC and the Northeast. After arriving in DC Sunday morning, the Youth Commission received a VIP preview tour of the Newseum, a 250,000-square-foot museum of news, which offered the Youth Commission an experience that blends five centuries of news history with up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits.

From there, the Youth Commissioners visited the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean Wall Memorial, situated around the reflecting pool before going to Arlington National Cemetery and watching the solemn, but historic, Changing of the Guard in front of the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier.

The Chatham County Youth Commission then had the wonderful experience of attending a dinner sponsored by the Honorable Marilyn Bland and the Prince George's County Youth Commission of Maryland, which was designed duplicating the Chatham County model. Youth Commissioners from both counties were treated to a evening of great food and music before returning to Washington, DC for the evening.

On Monday, March 3, 2008 the Youth Commission participated in the National Association of County Commissioners Annual Legislative Conference. For the 10th consecutive year, the Youth Commission is the only youth group in the country to be invited to this conference of over 2,000 County Commissioners from around the country.

The Youth Commission were the key participants in a workshop about how to address Childhood Obesity. During the workshop, the Youth Commissioners had the opportunity to meet former Chicago Bulls star Bob

"Butterbean" Love, now the Chicago Bulls Community Relations Director.

After the workshop, the Youth Commissioners boarded the bus for the journey north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they visited the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and to see the Liberty Bell.

The Chatham County Youth Commission boarded bus



early Tuesday morning, March 4, 2008 and trekked to New York where they visited the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero and the World Trade Center Memorial site, Times Square, China Town and ended the day by going on Broadway to watch Hairspray.

After the show, the Youth Commissioners had the opportunity to meet some of the stars of Hairspray including George Wendt, formerly Norm from "Cheers", Ashley Parker Angel from O-Town and vocalist Tevin Campbell.

On Wednesday, March 5, 2008, the Chatham County Youth

Commission began their final day of the exhausting, yet, exhilarating 4 day trip in New Jersey, in the shadows of Newark Liberty International Airport. Due to an extremely long day the day before and 18 hours of travel to come, the Youth Commission opted out of their Today Show visit in order to get some much needed rest.

The Youth Commissioners ventured north past the Meadowlands, across the George Washington Bridge to the Bronx for a tour of historic Yankee Stadium.

Opened in 1923, this building hosted some of sports most memorable events, as well as music concerts and notable gatherings. The 2008 season will mark the last season that the New York Yankees will play in this venue as a new Yankee Stadium is being constructed next door. The present Yankee Stadium is also the site of the 2008 All Star Game. Youth Commissioners had the opportunity of moving freely throughout the historic structure, from the Press Box, to the Club House to the Yankee Dugout and to Monument Park, where Yankee legends are enshrined.

The Youth Commissioners thanks their Advisors, Mrs. Debra Allen, Ms. Takiyah Martin, Mrs. Sandra Smalls, graduate advisors, Ms. Taqwaa Saleem, Mr. John Hawkins and Ms. ZaDonna Slay, videographer, Mr. Eric Brown, Summer Bonanza advisors, Ms. Johnnie Mae Stewart and Ms. Shenita Ferguson, Chairman Pete Liakakis and the Chatham County Commission, Mr. R.E. Abolt and the Chatham County staff, the Savannah-Chatham Board of Education and the Principals of our high schools, both public, private and parochial, WSAV's Coastal Sunrise, Coastline Tours, Savannah Communications, the Savannah Civic Center for giving us an experience we will always remember and cherish.

## Every Drop Counts: Conserve Water At Home

Reducing water use is everyone's responsibility and periods of drought remind us that water is a limited resource. The average consumer uses about 60 gallons of water each day and loses 9 1/2 gallons through leaks. In easy steps you can reduce your water consumption and save energy and money at the same time!

You can easily decrease your water use by several gallons by simply turning the water off when you are brushing your teeth, or shaving.

A 10 minute shower with an older showerhead could use up to 80 gallons of water. Time your shower and try reducing it to 5 minutes. A faucet dripping one drop of water per second can waste nearly 9 gallons of water a day.

Repairing the leaks in your home can cut your water consumption in half.

About half of the water used in a home is for toilets and showers. Toilets manufactured before 1993 use 3.5 to 8 gallons per flush (gpf). Newer high efficiency toilet models use 1.5 gpf or less.

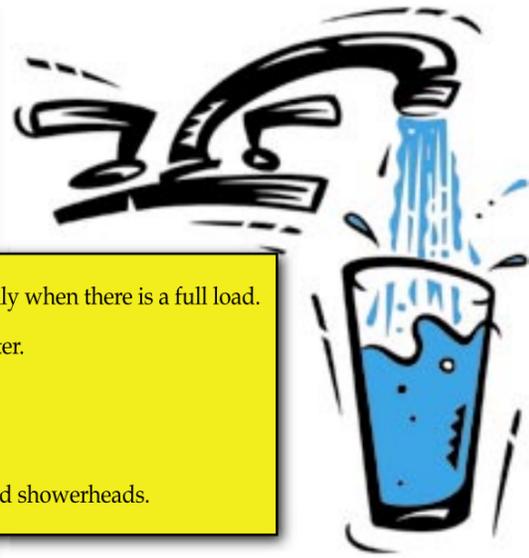
Showerheads manufactured before 1978 use 3 to 10 gallons per minute (gpm). Showerheads manufactured after 1978 use 2.5 gpm and low-flow showerheads use only 1.5 to 2 gpm. Remember,

Every Drop Counts and you can make a difference with water conservation being a part of your daily life. A few simple actions can save hundreds of gallons of water each month and put money in your pocket!

For more information or to schedule a water conservation program for your organization contact the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension in Chatham County at 912-652-7981, email jogden@uga.edu

or view our website at [www.ugaextension.com/chatham](http://www.ugaextension.com/chatham) for additional information.

- Wash laundry and dishes only when there is a full load.
- Always turn off running water.
- Take shorter showers.
- Eliminate any and all leaks.
- Reduce the flow of toilets and showerheads.



## Chatham environmental Forum Go-To Guy For Greening County

SAVANNAH (March 21, 2008)

The Chatham Environmental Forum is working alongside the Chatham County Commission in an effort to make Chatham County "The Greenest County in Georgia."

The Commission passed a resolution last year detailing the initiative and has provided funding to assist the endeavor. The Forum's role includes de-

veloping a plan to address natural resources and energy conservation, encourage use of local labor, talent and materials, and ensure investment in infrastructure to build a high-tech, knowledge-based and creative local economy.

The Forum, engaged in local environmental issues for almost twenty years, will facilitate discussion and planning among government, business and industry, com-

munity institutions and area environmental groups.

The Forum is currently expanding its membership to ensure broad community representation for effective consensus-building on policy recommendations.

Historically, the Forum has been involved in critical environmental planning, with instrumental roles in developing the Chatham County Comprehensive Water Plan and formation of the Savan-

nah Harbor Stakeholder Evaluation Group. More recently, the Forum began exploring environmental and quality of life issues resulting from urban growth and development pressures.

To achieve the goal of making Chatham the greenest county in Georgia, the Forum will focus on strategic initiatives to enhance existing conservation programs, eliminate barriers to energy and resource conservation

and provide guidance for a sustainable future for Chatham County. The Forum and the Chatham County Commission hope this effort will become a model for other communities.

The Chatham Environmental Forum was established in the late 1980s as a venue for discussion of environmental issues challenging the community.

The Forum is made up of a diverse member base from

Savannah area businesses, industries, environmental groups and governments.

Reaching conclusions by consensus has granted the Forum a rich history of equitably addressing controversial community issues and collaborating to meet community challenges.



CHATHAM COUNTY SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

## Long Before Leed

By Beth Reiter, Director Historic Preservation

Nineteenth century builders inherently understood building within the constraints of the natural environment. The energy expended to harvest, transport, process and craft native materials into building materials is 'embodied' in the structures, and recycling these historic structures through adaptive reuse is an economically and environmentally sound choice.

Preservation reduces waste: the restoration of a previously disturbed site served by an established infrastructure (roads and other services) means less sprawl and less energy consumption.

Historic preservation policies share many of the principles of today's sustainability movement. And yet there is often a perceived disconnect between the goals of traditional preservation and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental De-

sign (LEED) certification system. However, a closer examination of the policies of both movements reveals the two efforts can be mutually supportive.

Savannah's National Historic Landmark District consists of a one square mile densely urban, mixed use area with residences, workplaces, religious and cultural institutions in walking distance of one another. Numerous squares, planted in indigenous oaks, palms and magnolias optimizes public open space and provides shade in the summer months.

The surrounding rivers and forests originally provided timber for construction and sand, clay and oyster shells were used for stucco, tabby and bricks.

Even the rock ballasts from ships holds were used for buildings and infrastructure. As the community expanded, public transportation in the form of streetcars connected the new neighborhoods to the business core.

Nineteenth century construction in Savannah exhibited innovative designs

that conserved water and energy, and manipulated indoor environmental quality and light.

The Owens Thomas House, completed in 1819, incorporated a cistern in the attic that funneled rainwater

to various household functions. The Green Meldrim House, built in the mid 19th century, ingeniously used a series of triple stacked frontdoors - solid for privacy, full glass for pale wintry days, and shuttered for summer days.

Interior pocket shutters were also used at the windows reducing deterioration and maintenance associated with external shutters.

Other passive energy systems at the Green Meldrim

House and others included skylight ventilation systems above the stair case, high ceilings, cross ventilation, large windows for light, and deep porches to provide shade and weather protection.

Sustainability and historic preservation share many underlying values such as resource and energy conservation. There have been several successful LEED certified historic preservation projects in the various historic districts in Savannah, but there still lingers an uneasy relationship between LEED goals and preservation objectives.

Preservationists believe that to retain existing ma-

terials and features such as original windows preserves not only our cultural resources, but 'embodied' energy as well. The destruction of existing elements often does not justify the future energy savings when offset by the loss of embodied energy, the energy costs of constructing and installing a more efficient element, and the environmental costs associated with generating additional material for the landfill. LEED's intensive criteria can at first seem problematic for the historic and visual integrity of a historic structure. However, recognition of alternative means of energy conservation can achieve the desired goals of LEED without destroying historic fabric. For example, energy efficiency can be achieved through the use of magnetic interior storm windows over historic windows.

This also provides the versatility to be removed in the summer when ventilation is optimum, and prevents the wholesale replacement of historic windows in favor of

double-paned windows.

Preservationists also contend that greater weight should be given for retaining historic interior finishes and trims not only to recycle materials, but to respect the craftsmanship that went into their making. Training craftsmen to preserve historic materials sustains the local economy and technical schools.

Additionally, as new technologies emerge such as solar panels which can be installed between the ridges in metal roofs, they can be incorporated into historic structures to make them more energy efficient without any loss of historical elements.

In conclusion, these two movements can find a balance that recognizes the inherent sustainability of historic structures while incorporating historically compatible options for insulation, roofing, glazing and other green-friendly design.



**CEMA**



2008 has been a busy year for the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and with educational forums and disaster exercises scheduled for the spring, staff members are preparing themselves for an exciting and challenging season.

To recap what the CEMA staff members have been doing, let's take a closer look at the last three months. All was relatively quiet for CEMA during the month of January but as February turned the corner, staff began preparing for Governor Sonny Perdue's Severe Weather Awareness Week which fell on February 2nd - 9th, 2008. CEMA staff members prepared an "infomercial" to educate Chatham County residents about the Chatham County Outdoor

Warning Siren System as well as collaborated with state officials to conduct a state-wide tornado drill.

However, CEMA staff members shifted gears immediately to respond to a major explosion at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Port Wentworth. With many workers seriously injured and several missing, the CEMA staff buckled down to assist with the coordination and support of over 200 agencies that responded to the incident. After-Action Reports were submitted and

a conference of emergency responders was arranged to discuss the success of the response operation and improvements that could be made in future operations.

The month of March began with a tornado warning for the East Chatham County area that fortunately expired soon after it was issued with no damages reported. Also in March, Assistant Director Clayton Scott assumed the role of CEMA Director after Phillip Webber accepted a position with one of the Nation's top emergency management consulting firms.

Saint Patrick's Day weekend celebrations were quiet, especially since a tornado touched down in Effingham County destroying several homes and knocking out a Georgia Power facility that thrust the County into a blackout. CEMA officials partially activate the Emergency Operations Center due to the blackout and to monitor the tornado warning that had been issued by the National Weather Service for the County. CEMA activated the sirens to warn the public about the tornado threat but fortunately, Chatham County was spared from any destruction. Power was restored the next day but Saint Patrick's Day celebrations were cut short and many revelers went home with unique stories to tell about Savannah's dark Saint Patrick's Day weekend.

While it is impossible to predict what the spring season will hold in regard to weather disturbances, the CEMA staff has been busy preparing for all types of hazards in Chatham County as well as organizing spe-

cial training sessions and events. Let's take a closer look at what CEMA will be doing throughout the spring months.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Chatham County's CERT program continues to expand with additional training opportunities available for current and new CERT Volunteers. A new CERT class is being designed for the beginning of the summer and a Train the Trainer course for Volunteers who wish to become Instructors will take place in the following weeks.

Currently, more than 150 Chatham County residents have been trained in the CERT program with 40 CERT Volunteers actively responding to County emergencies when requested.

Earth Day falls on April 19th and CEMA along with the Chatham County Citizen Corps Council (C5) will be sponsoring a table to educate residents about volunteer opportunities in their neighborhoods.

The C5's goal is to have all citizens participate in making their communities safer, stronger and better prepared for preventing and handling threats of terrorism, crime and disasters of all kinds.

Beginning in April, CEMA



will be participating in several table top exercises. These exercises bring officials/staff members with emergency management responsibilities together informally, to examine and discuss simulated emergency situations.

Officials attempt to resolve problems based on their emergency plans without tight time constraints or deployment of equipment or resources. This allows officials to walk through their plans together and to make adjustments as needed. The following Table Top Exercises have been scheduled with CEMA:

- April 22nd: P u b l i c Works Hurricane Exercise
- April 24th: Skidaway Island Eco-terrorist Exercise
- May 5th-9th: A r m y Corps of Engineers Hurricane Exercise

A full-scale exercise focuses on the operational capability of emergency response and management systems. Typically this will include actual deployment of the resources required to

demonstrate coordination and response capabilities in as realistic a setting as possible without putting the safety of the public and staff at risk. The following full-scale exercises have been scheduled with CEMA:

- May 6th: Region J Hospital Hazardous Materials Exercise
- May 28th-29th: Georgia Emergency Management Agency's Hurricane Exercise

CEMA continues to make improvements to the Chatham County Emergency Warning Siren System that is used to notify residents of danger. Currently there are 31 sirens located throughout the County that if activated warn residents to take shelter immediately and to monitor their weather radios, commercial radios and televisions.

CEMA hopes to expand the program within the next five years so that 95% of Chatham County is covered by the siren program.

The Citizens Hurricane Academy has been scheduled for Saturday, June 21st

and will take place this year in the Port Wentworth/Garden City area. Classes will be taught throughout the day with four training sessions that will address hurricane awareness, home preparation, evacuation and re-entry. All Chatham County residents are encouraged to attend this free and educational event.

For more information about CEMA events, please visit us in our downtown office at 124 Bull Street, Suite 140 or call us at (912) 201-4500. You can sign up for CEMA Alerts by visiting our website at [www.chathamemergency.org](http://www.chathamemergency.org).

**Consumer Natural Gas Education Program**

Natural gas consumers, you have a choice. Did you know that eleven natural gas marketers provide residential service? Did you know senior citizens discounts are available?

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Georgia Public Service Commission, Atlanta Gas Light, Consumers' Utility Counsel, and natural gas marketers provide valuable and easy-to-understand in-

formation about residential natural gas service through the UGA Cooperative Extension Natural Gas Education Program.

The Natural Gas Education Program assists consumers with learning more about gas marketers and their plans, understanding billing terms and determining eligibility for senior citizens discounts.

Neighborhood associations, senior citizens groups, religious organizations and

others have already scheduled free programs and taken advantage of the opportunity to better understand Georgia's deregulated natural gas market and most importantly their bills.

Contact the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension in Chatham County at 652-7981, email [lapowell@uga.edu](mailto:lapowell@uga.edu) or view our website at <http://www.fcs.uga.edu/naturalgas> to receive additional information.



**Savannah Selected for a National Project to Encourage Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

SAVANNAH, GA—

When the next flu pandemic hits, Savannah will be even better prepared to protect its community thanks to a new initiative called "Take the Lead."

Savannah is one of only 9 locations across the country chosen for this initiative by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These 9 locations, called "collaboratories," will get extra federal support to prepare their communi-

ties for a flu pandemic, and then will serve as preparedness models for the rest of the country.

A flu pandemic will occur when a new flu virus begins spreading rapidly around the globe. Because the virus will be new and we'll have no built-in immunity to it, many people will get sick and die.

A flu pandemic could happen at any time. In the last century, three flu pan-

demics killed more than 50 million people worldwide, and almost a million people in the U.S.

"Preparing for a disaster is an enormous task, and we've been working for many years to help our community be ready for the next flu pandemic," says Dr. Kathryn Martin, Administrator of the Chatham County Health Department. "We welcome this opportunity for additional support

from the federal government, and a chance to share our successes with the rest of the nation."

Through the "Take the Lead" campaign, CDC and HHS will work with the Chatham County Health Department to provide community leaders with information, tools and support, and ask them to spread the word about preparing for pandemic flu.

"We need our most influential leaders talking to

people about personal preparedness," says Dr. Roslyn Taylor, a local physician and Chair of the Chatham County Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee.

"They are strong voices, and can encourage people to take steps to protect their families."

The 9 collaboratories are Savannah; Seattle; San Diego; Cache County, Utah; Ft. Yates/Sisseton, North Dakota/South Dakota; Bur-

lington, Vermont; St. Louis; Tuscarawas County, Ohio and Wilmington, Delaware.

The communities were selected to represent a variety of challenges and characteristics.

For more information about pandemic flu, visit the Coastal Health District's website at [www.gachd.org](http://www.gachd.org) and click on the "Pandemic Flu" box on the front page. For more information about the "Take the Lead" initiative, visit [www.pandemicflu.gov/takethelead](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/takethelead).





## Signing on to step up

County, City, business leaders sign agreement to work together to reduce poverty

Chairman: "We thank each of you for signing up to help those in our community who are less fortunate."

It was standing room only at the Savannah Morning News auditorium by 10 a.m. Feb. 26. More than 80 organizational representatives had been invited by County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis and Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson to pledge to step up their commitment to reduce area poverty.

Step Up Savannah's Poverty Reduction Initiative organized the "signing day" ceremony under the direction of its Leadership Board. It was meant to get the public

commitment of community leaders to work collectively on this persistent problem. Leaders from the business sector, nonprofits and government agencies were asked to sign an agreement to collaborate with each other and Step Up Savannah.

Leaders from groups as diverse as All Walks of Life, Inc. (AWOL), Greenbriar Children's Center and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension-Chatham County, plus bankers, private and non-profit developers, and agencies such as DFCS and the Housing Authority of Savannah gathered for the historic event.

While Step Up Savannah emerged more than four years ago from the work of a city taskforce on poverty, this was the first time community leaders were asked to formally commit to work together, share information and resources.

The gathering fostered a spirit of rejuvenation and renewed commitment to the complex and at times overwhelming work.

"This is truly a wonderful day," said Mayor Johnson. "I talk all the time of creating a



just and caring community. Talk is cheap but when you put your name on the paper, that's a real commitment."

Poverty in Savannah and Chatham County has deep roots, reaching back generations. With a city-wide poverty rate of 22 percent, and rates topping 40 percent in five census tracts, community and business leaders un-

derstand there are no short-term fixes.

Chairman Liakakis, who serves on the Step Up leadership board along with Mayor Johnson and business and neighborhood leaders, noted the County joined in January of 2005

and had invested \$383,000 in a construction training program.

The Construction Apprenticeship Program, a unique partnership of the County, Savannah Technical College and private contractors, serves as a solid example of what can happen when these sectors work together.

"Step Up does not have all

and business represented have the capacity, if they work shoulder-to-shoulder, to make a dent in the lives of those who are motivated to change. The agreement also asks organizations to share their data and information; to actively participate in the 10 "action teams" of Step Up, on topics from transportation to childcare, education, workforce development and more; and to hold each other accountable.

said Bill Hubbard, Savannah Area Chamber president and leadership board member. "This is not a simple or easy road."

Hubbard, along with Craig Barrs of Georgia Power, acknowledged the substantial work of each of the organizations present, adding there is no "quick fix."

Step Up leaders pledged that the collaborative would be non-partisan and data-driven; that it would seek to build bridges and facilitate an open exchange of information among members.

Step Up's key role will be to continue to raise awareness of how poverty inhibits the entire community from realizing its full economic potential. Barrs acknowledged Step Up has received positive attention as well as some criticism, noting that no single organization can find the solutions. But the organizations

and business represented have the capacity, if they work shoulder-to-shoulder, to make a dent in the lives of those who are motivated to change.

The agreement also asks organizations to share their data and information; to actively participate in the 10 "action teams" of Step Up, on topics from transportation to childcare, education, workforce development and more; and to hold each other accountable.

Step Up will host annual meetings each year to both evaluate what the collaborative has accomplished and to set specific, measurable goals for the coming year. As its name implies, Step Up Savannah seeks to balance its examination of the systemic causes of poverty with personal choices and decisions—calling on both the community and individuals to step up and out of poverty.

## Voting in Chatham County



2008 Voter Registration deadlines, election dates and advance voting dates are as follows:

Type of Election, Voter Registration, Deadline, Election Date, Advance Voting Dates:

**Presidential Preference Primary**  
January 7, 2008 February 5, 2008, January 28 - February 1 2008

**General Primary / Special Election**  
June 16, 2008 July 15, 2008 July 7-11, 2008

**Primary Runoff / Special Runoff**  
June 16, 2008 August 5, 2008 July 28 - August 1, 2008

**Special Election**  
August 18, 2008 September 16, 2008 September 8-12, 2008

**General - Nonpartisan Election / Special Election**  
October 6, 2008, November 4, 2008 October 27-31, 2008

**General - Nonpartisan Election Runoff**  
October 6, 2008 December 4, 2008 November 24-28, 2008

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!

**Advance Voting Sites, Location, Address, Hours of Operation:**

Voter Registration Main Office - 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite E 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Savannah Civic Center - 301 W Oglethorpe Avenue 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Mosquito Control - 65 Billy B. Hair Drive 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Chatham County Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

County Commission meetings are held in the Commission Meeting Room, second floor of the Old Courthouse, 124 Bull Street. The Pre-Meeting begins at 9:00 A.M. and the Call To Order is immediately following the Pre-Meeting.

The meeting are broadcast live on Channel 16 on Comcast. The meetings are re-broadcast on Friday and

Monday at 6:00 P.M. and on Sunday at 3:00 P.M.

The meeting broadcasts are closed captioned and Chatham County would like to acknowledge Comcast for helping to provide this service.

January 18	July 11 & 25
February 8 & 22	August 8 & 22
March 7 & 22	September 5 & 22
April 11 & 25	October 3 & 17
May 9 & 23	November 7 & 21
June 13 & 27	December 5 & 19

