

# CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



July 15, 2012



**Pete Liakakis**  
Chairman



**Helen L. Stone**  
District 1  
Chairman Pro-Tem



**James J. Holmes**  
District 2



**Patrick Shay**  
District 3



**Patrick K. Farrell**  
District 4



**Tabitha Odell**  
District 5



**David M. Gellatly**  
District 6



**Dean Kicklighter**  
District 7



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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**Pete Liakakis**

As Americans we celebrate and champion our ethnic origins. It's our way that out of diversity comes unity. From many cultures we have kept alive belief in individual liberty as the very atom of democracy. Tyrannical regimes fall as Goliath did to David.

In my case, I cherish my roots to an ancient civilization that introduced democracy and representative government to the idea of a "city-state." More specifically, out of the country of Greece came the Athenian city-state oath, which I paraphrase:

We will never bring disgrace on this our government by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.

Thus in all these ways we will transmit this government, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

Concisely, the Athenian Oath swears to "leave this community better than when we found it!"

We came into office, and had to address a budget that was unbalanced by \$5 million. We reestablished a culture of responsive government. Repeatedly the citizens we serve have said thank you. Personally, I'm buoyed by citizens saying they have regained respect for this government. Full credit goes to my colleagues on this Board, including Former Commissioner Harris Odell, who have shown on repeated occasions that you know the difference between self-interest versus selfless actions, grandstanding and ranting versus

truthfulness and passionate advocacy for right. I am proud to report that for the eighth year in a row this commission passed a balanced budget on time within the fiscal year.

We recently received excellent news from Moody's rating service. Specifically, "the County's stable outlook reflects Moody's expectation of continued sound financial performance, driven by conservative budgeting practices and satisfactory reserve levels supported by formal policies." Put simply, we have managed our fiscal affairs extremely well when compared to other government entities during the current recession. Our bond rating remains solid at Aa2 or "one step from perfect," says Finance Director Linda Cramer.

We have been blessed and fortunate these past years with nonexistent hurricane seasons however we must always remain prepared should a storm strike our community. The Chatham Emergency Management Agency has provided plenty

of information on hurricane preparation, how to stay informed and what to do should a hurricane strike. Two tropical storms formed even before the official Hurricane Season began but whether there are more storms this summer or not you must remember that it only takes one. In 1992 the first named storm did not form until late August and its name was Andrew.

In a few weeks you'll be asked to go to the polls for both the local Primary Elections and to vote on the T-SPLOST or Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. This increase in our sales tax will raise money for numerous transportation projects throughout our 10 county region. Please turn to page 2 for information on this tax and projects that will that will benefit our community.

Finally I'd like to say that it has been a pleasure to serve as your Chairman and may you all have a safe and blessed summer.



## Voting information for July 31st Primary

### In-person Early Voting has begun:

Chatham County Voter Registration will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday). Anyone that desires to vote in person must present one of the six forms of identification.

- Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including a FREE Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar's office or the Georgia Department of Driver Services
- A Georgia Driver's License, even if expired
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state
- Valid U.S. passport ID
- Valid U.S. military photo ID
- Valid tribal photo ID

### Saturday Voting is July 21, 2012

Chatham County Voter Registration Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Additional Sites and Extended Hours July 23 – July 27, 2012

**Savannah Civic Center**  
301 W. Oglethorpe Ave  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**Mosquito Control**  
65 Billy B. Hair Dr.  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**Southwest Library**  
(Savannah Mall)  
14097 Abercorn St  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday – Friday

**Voter Registration Office**  
1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
(Monday, Wednesday and Friday)  
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
(Tuesday and Thursday)

**Islands Library**  
125 Wilmington Island Rd  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

### Election Day July 31, 2012

Voting is only held at your polling location on this day. No voting at the Voter Registration Main Office.

# CHATHAM COUNTY REGIONAL T-SPLOST PROJECTS - VOTE JULY 31ST -

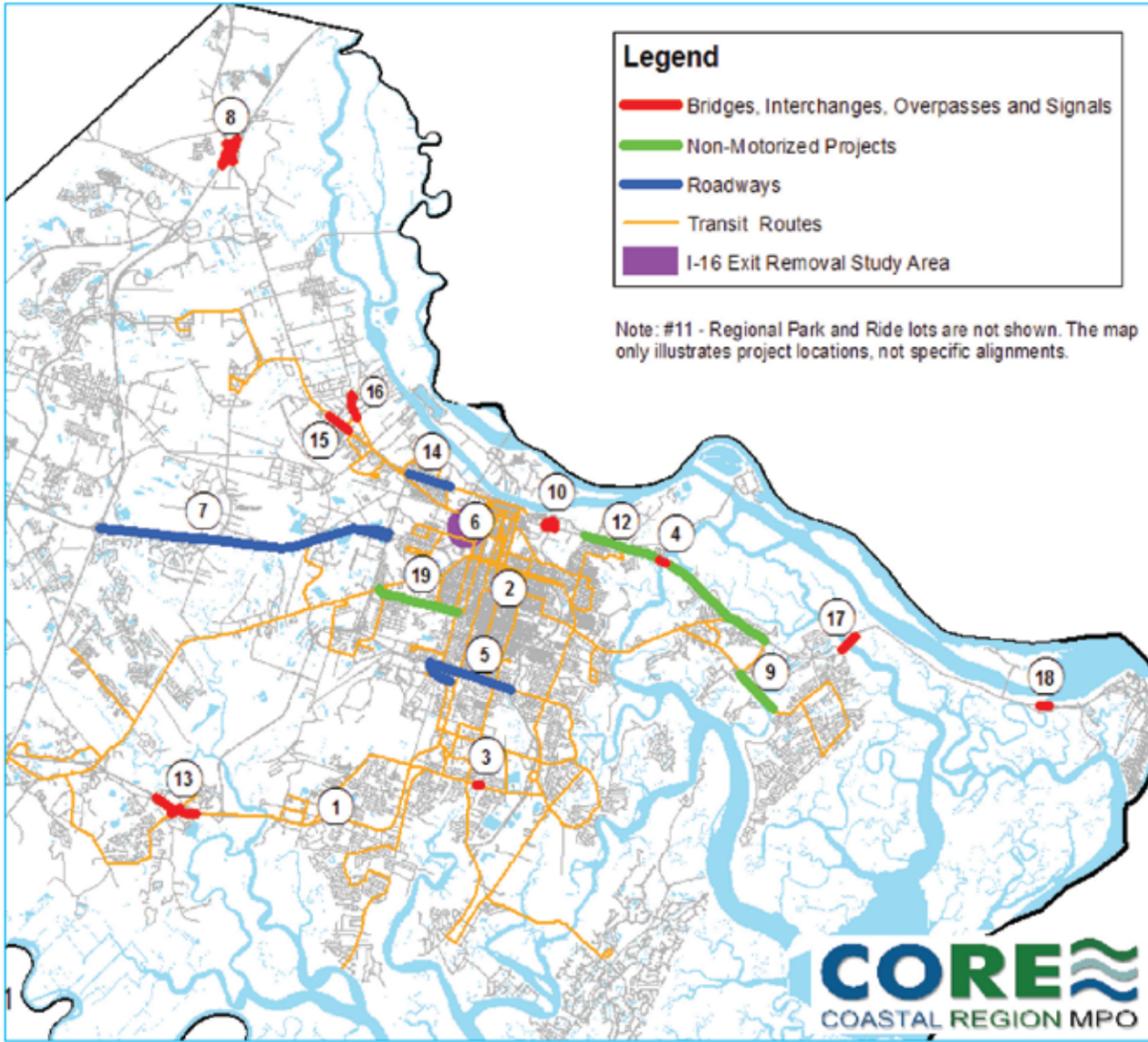
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT



**#1 Chatham Area Transit Operations** - New service to the airport and to major employers, as well as enhanced express services and new park & ride locations  
**#2 Chatham Area Transit Capital** - More than 40 new hybrid buses and more than 100 new shelters and benches  
**#11 Regional Park and Ride Lots** in Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Liberty Counties



**#9 Johnny Mercer Blvd Causeway Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements** from Bryan Woods Road to Mercer Plaza Shopping Center Intersection  
**#12 Savannah Whitemarsh Bikeway** from Goebel Street/E. President Street Intersection along Islands Expressway onto US 80 to US 80/Bryan Woods Intersection  
**#19 W. 52nd Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** from US 17 to Montgomery Street



**#7 I-16 Widening** from I-95 to I-516



**#14 Bay Street Improvements** from I-516 to the Bay Street Viaduct



**#4 High-level Islands Expressway Bridge** to Replace bascule bridge at Wilmington River;  
**#3 Montgomery Cross Road Bridge** Replacement at Casey Canal



**#8 I-95 @ SR 21/Augusta Road Interchange** Reconstruction  
**#13 SR 204 Interchange** Construction at King George Blvd



**#6 I-16 Exit Ramp Removal** and Reclaiming Old West Broad Street: I-16 Exit Ramp Removal Project



**#5 Project DeRenne:** Blvd Option, East DeRenne Improvements and West DeRenne Improvements between Truman Pkwy and Mildred Street



**#18 US 80 @ Lazaretto Creek Bridge** Widening / replacement  
**#17 US 80 @ Bull River Bridge** Widening / replacement

**#10 President Street/Islands Expressway/CSX Railroad/Truman Parkway Overpass**  
**#15 SR 21 Grade Separation** at CSX Rail Crossings,  
**#16 SR 25 Grade Separation** at NS/CSX Rail Crossings

**VOTE JULY 31ST** →

**SPECIAL ELECTION**

**Coastal Georgia District T-SPLOST**  
(Vote for One)

**Provides for local transportation projects to create jobs, improve roads and safety with citizen oversight.**

Shall Chatham County's transportation system and the transportation network in this region and the state be improved by providing for a 1 percent special district transportation sales and use tax for the purpose of transportation projects and programs for a period of ten years?

- YES
- NO

## INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT T-SPLOST

- ✓ You may wonder what T-SPLOST means. Some refer to the Transportation Investment Act as a T-SPLOST or a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. It is actually a Regional Transportation Referendum. The state is divided into 12 regions. Each region will vote on July 31, 2012 for its regional transportation list.
- ✓ Funds raised in Chatham County and the Coastal area will be used to fund local projects under local supervision. Local oversight by non-elected citizens in the area will help to guarantee against the possibility of cost-overruns or project delays.
- ✓ Money raised here, stays here. Any funds raised locally will be used only for projects in our local 10 county region.
- ✓ 25% of the money raised in our region will be used for local projects in municipalities and counties in this area. (see below)
- ✓ 75% of the money raised in the region will go to projects selected by local elected officials serving the "Round Table". (see above)
- ✓ This penny tax would be in place for 10 years or until the funding level is reached, whichever comes first. By law, the tax cannot be extended unless approved by voters.
- ✓ Fuel tax revenue is down dramatically in Georgia. Our state's gas tax of 7.5 cents per gallon is one of the lowest in the nation. Funding transportation improvements by fuel taxes is not keeping pace with the demand for roads and transit services.

## ESTIMATED DISCRETIONARY REVENUE (25%) FROM SPECIAL REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CHATHAM COUNTY - 10 YEAR TAX PERIOD (2013-2022) (\*) (2)

**Bloomingdale [\$1,635,467\*]**

Projects include road resurfacing projects, sidewalk, including on US 80, a bicycle trail at Taylor Park, as well as other transportation improvements.

**Garden City [\$3,259,352\*]**

Resurfacing on the following roadways: Telfair Road - \$240,000, Byck Avenue - \$35,000; Chatham Villa Drive - \$50,000; Hawkinsville Road - \$33,000; Chatham Parkway - \$900,000; Commerce Boulevard - \$700,000; Export Boulevard - \$200,000; Prosperity Drive - \$475,000; Salt Creek Road - \$100,000 and Telfair Place - \$200,000.

**Pooler [\$6,685,328\*]**

Extend Preston Stokes Drive - \$250,000; Overlay and install a dedicated non-motorized lane along Pine Barren - \$150,000 - \$200,000; overlay and upgrade Quacco Road - \$150,000 - \$200,000; improve and overlay South Rogers Street - \$95,000; improve and restructure interchange at Pooler Parkway/Benton Drive - \$75,000; overlay and re-stripe Pooler Parkway - \$350,000 and complete sidewalks throughout city where needed - \$70,000 - \$150,000.

**Port Wentworth [\$2,599,007\*]**

Resurfacing roadways based on the city's rating priority list. The higher priority projects will be implemented first until the funds are exhausted.

**Savannah [\$52,331,492\*]**

The proposed projects include traffic & safety improvements, sidewalk installations, and resurfacing projects. Aldermen are working with the city staff and his/her respective constituents to refine the projects for each district. The finalized project list will be available to the public before the July 31 referendum.

**Thunderbolt [\$1,011,821\*]**

Projects at various locations will include installing medians and median walls, improving drainage systems, improving traffic signal coordination, resurfacing the top deficient roadways, installing bike paths and pedestrian sidewalks, and improving access to US 80 and employment centers.

**Tybee Island [\$1,533,676\*]**

Resurface the top priority roads based on the 2008 road ratings.

**Vernonburg [\$53,121\*]**

Resurface Dancy Avenue, and Rockwell Avenue.

**Unincorporated Chatham County [\$28,469,486\*]**

The Chatham County plan is to use the T-SPLOST revenue to fully fund SPLOST V projects that are delayed because of lower revenue collection than expected. Specific projects are Skidaway Road Complete Streets Project - \$4,000,000; Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2 - \$3,000,000; Jimmy DeLoach Parkway at US 80 Interchange - \$3,000,000; Little Neck Road Widening - \$5,000,000; Quacco Road Improvements - \$3,000,000; County resurfacing program \$500,000 per year - \$5,000,000 total; various county bridge replacements; Walthour Road - \$1,500,000 and Skidaway Road Arch - \$1,500,000; County Sidewalks / Bikeways: Bradley Point - \$500,000; Whitefield - \$500,000 and Johnny Mercer - \$1,000,000.

**City of Bloomingdale :**

[www.bloomingdale-ga.com](http://www.bloomingdale-ga.com)

**Garden City:**

[www.gardencityga.org](http://www.gardencityga.org)

**City of Pooler:**

[pooler-ga.us](http://pooler-ga.us)

**City of Port Wentworth:**

[www.cityofportwentworth.com](http://www.cityofportwentworth.com)

**City of Savannah:**

[www.savannahga.gov](http://www.savannahga.gov)

**Town of Thunderbolt:**

[www.thunderboltga.org](http://www.thunderboltga.org)

**City of Tybee Island:**

[www.cityoftybee.org](http://www.cityoftybee.org)

**City of Vernonburg:**

[georgia.gov/cities-counties/vernonburg](http://georgia.gov/cities-counties/vernonburg)

**Unincorporated Chatham County:**

[www.chathamcounty.org](http://www.chathamcounty.org)

**Chatham Area Transit**

[www.catchacat.org](http://www.catchacat.org)



This page was prepared by the Chatham County Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission to inform citizens the upcoming referendum.

Go to [www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org) for more information

\*Total Expected TIA [Transportation Investment Act] Discretionary Funds over 10 years are estimated based on the 2010 Census data, the GDOT 2011 LMIG [Local Maintenance & Improvement Grants] program data, and the State Economist's Base Case Regional Sales Tax Forecast. All numbers are subject to change based on actual revenue collection and updated population and LMIG data. (2.) This table only shows the estimate for 25% of the TIA sales tax revenues. To view the amounts and projects for the 75% portion of the TIA sale tax revenue, please go to <http://www.it3.ga.gov/Pages/Roundtable.aspx>

# CEMA Updates for Hurricane Season

The 2012 Hurricane Season is upon us and despite the forecast of a near normal season, the reality is that it takes only one catastrophic storm to wreak havoc on Chatham County. This past year, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has gone to great lengths to improve our hurricane plans. In May, CEMA and numerous county agencies participated in a statewide Hurricane Exercise (HURREX), conducted in partnership with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). GEMA requires counties to conduct full-scale exercises every two years. This year, the county's Functional and Special Medical Needs Evacuation, General Public Evacuation, Joint Information Center, Aviation Support and Control, and the Planning Section of the Emergency Operations Center were exercised. The full-scale exercises allow us to take our plans off the shelves and evaluate their effectiveness before a storm hits.

CEMA continues to update the county's emergency operations plans and each Emergency Support Function (ESF) is being evaluated for strengths and weaknesses and what improvements can be made. Updates are currently in the works and by summer, the goal is to have each ESF complete. You can find the current plans on CEMA's website, [www.chathamemergency.org](http://www.chathamemergency.org), under the "About" section.

In July, CEMA will once again take part in the annual Home Depot Hurricane Expo sponsored by Home Depot and WTOC. The event will be held July 21 at the Home Depot on

Abercorn Street from 9am to 12pm. CEMA will provide information regarding storm surge, hurricane preparedness, and other natural disasters. Literature in Spanish will be available.

This year CEMA has made a change to evacuation terminology. Before we used the terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" evacuations and we felt the word "Voluntary" implies there is a choice; however, if a major storm threatens Chatham County residents must evacuate. Our agency has changed the term "Voluntary" to "Early/Recommended" in hopes the change will help people make the smart decision to leave the county if they are advised to do so. The best bet to avoid a traffic jam is to leave when an "Early/Recommended" evacuation is issued instead of waiting for the "Mandatory" to be announced.

Chatham County clearance times will also change in the near future. Clearance times are how long it takes counties to evacuate the entire population. With population growth along the coast, the amount of time to get everyone out safely before the arrival of tropical storm force winds will obviously be longer. The Army Corps of Engineers is the agency conducting the new Hurricane Evacuation Study and we should see the results soon.

Again, we hope that you are prepared for this hurricane season and just because we may not see a lot of tropical action, don't let your guard down. Continue to prepare as you normally do, take a close look at your plans, and make sure you are ready.

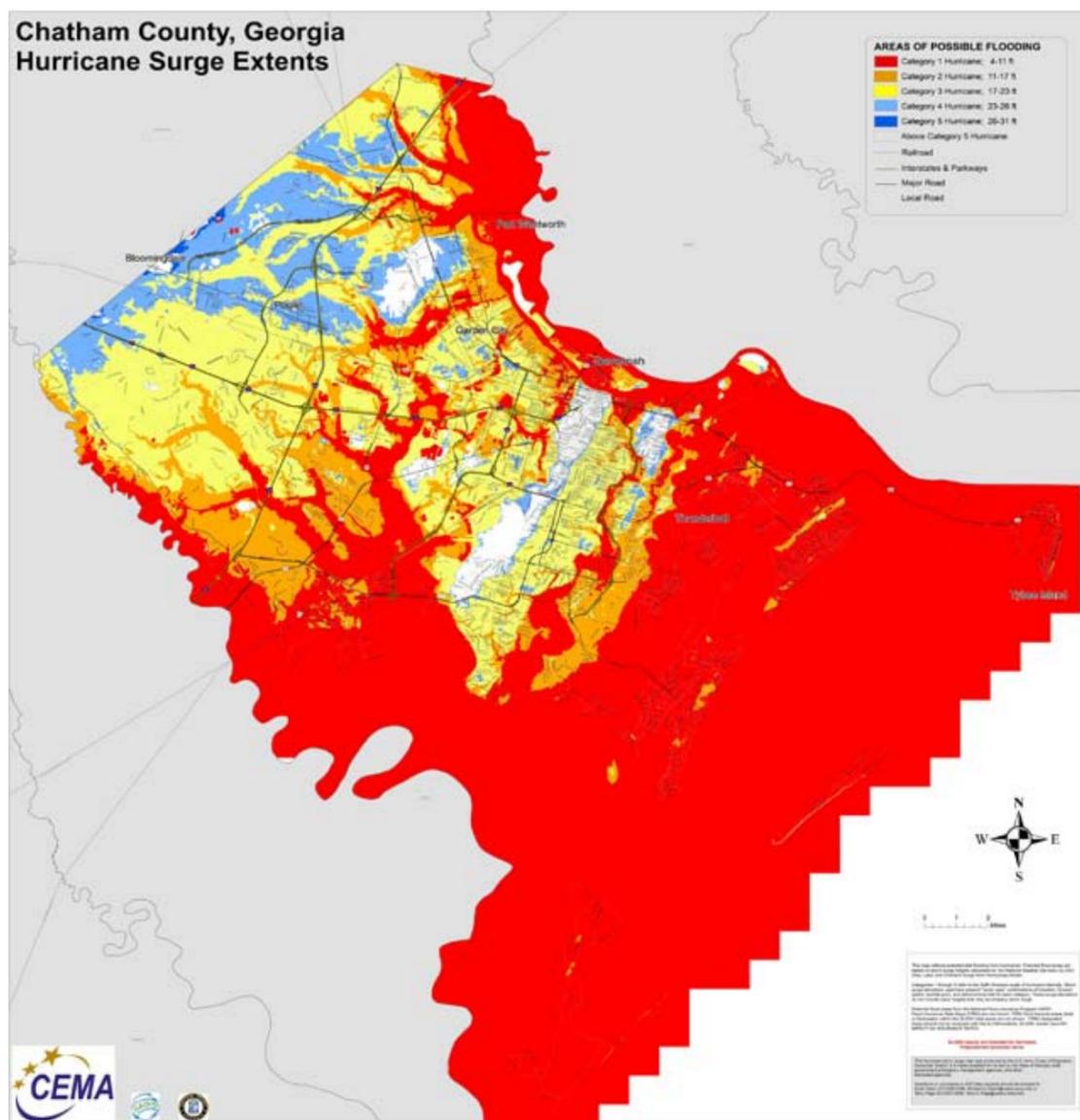
## Hurricane and Re-entry Hotlines: Save These Numbers

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) announces a new telephone line for residents seeking information regarding re-entry into Chatham County if they are forced to evacuate due to a hurricane.

Chatham County residents and business owners can call this number to obtain information on when it is safe to return home. The CEMA Re-entry Hotline number is 1-855-880-2362 and is a toll-free. The re-entry hotline is a valuable communication tool for residents who may be hours from home either in shelters or staying with friends and family. Local media outlets, shelters, as well as CEMA will be distributing information; however, the re-entry hotline is another way to reach a large portion of our population.

Again, this hotline is solely for the purpose of distributing information about re-entry back into Chatham County following an evacuation. Storm information, damage reports, and other disaster information will not be published on this line.

Residents seeking information regarding a threatening hurricane can call the CEMA/WTOC Hurricane Hotline. If there is a storm that could affect Chatham County, that hotline will be updated frequently. The Hurricane Hotline number is 912-644-8811 and is a local number.



## Staying in the Know with CEMA and Social Media

CEMA is one of many emergency management agencies across the country using social media to help disseminate information. CEMA has a Facebook and Twitter account, along with a website where information about events and emergencies is distributed almost instantaneously. You can find the agency on Facebook and Twitter at ChathamEMA.

CEMA uses text alerts as well to notify residents; this is the agency's most immediate distribution of emergency information and other items of importance and is open to anyone interested. Using the text messaging feature of a cell phone, simply send "Follow ChathamEMA" to 40404 (users will receive a confirmation text message). Standard text messaging rules apply.

**See Social Media & CEMA Continued on Page 4**

## If you evacuate – You must take your pets

Pets are treated like a family member in many households across the country. According to a 2010 report, 53% of Chatham County residents have pets and nearly all of those residents plan to take their pets with them if they ever have to evacuate. Still, post-evacuation research shows that some people will not evacuate because they don't want to leave to their pets.

Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has worked effortlessly to make sure there is an evacuation plan in place for pets. If you rely on public transportation during an evacuation, CEMA's evacuation plan will accommodate your pets. You can also find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets -- well in advance of needing them. The one thing to remember, NEVER leave your pet behind if you evacuate. While they may be able to survive, they may never find you when you come back.

CEMA recommends when you prepare to leave with your pet, prepare a pet disaster kit.

### Here are some items that we recommend you pack:

- Extra collars and tags, harnesses and leashes for all pets (including cats).
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site.
- Muzzles may be needed to control agitated and aggressive animals.
- Your pet's usual pet food to avoid diet changes in stressful situations. A five to seven day supply is recommended. Remember a can opener if your pet eats canned food.
- Toys or blankets your pet will find familiar.
- A supply of stored drinking water.
- Food and water bowls for each pet.
- A litter box and extra kitty litter.
- Paper towels, plastic bags and spray disinfectant for animal waste clean-up.
- Copies of your pet's medical and vaccination records. Boarding facilities may

not accept your pets without proof of health.

- If your pet is on medication, ask your veterinarian about keeping extra supplies of medication or a copy of the prescription for these medications in your kit.
- Include a recent photo of your pet. A photo of you with your pet is even better.
- A secure pet crate which should be easily accessible and large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around.
- Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers -- they might be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- A first aid kit should include only materials that you know how to use.

Remember that if your pet has a problem and you do not know exactly what it is, you should consult a veterinarian.

## Emergency Alerts Go Mobile

If you have a cell phone staying informed just got easier, no matter where you are.

Wireless companies, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are teaming up to provide residents a reliable wireless emergency alert system. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) is a national emergency alert system that will allow agencies like the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, and even the President to send concise, text-like messages to users. These are not text messages and will not count towards texting limits on wireless plans.

Mobile users will not be charged for receiving the alerts and are automatically enrolled to receive them. Here are the types of alerts citizens will receive:

- Presidential Alerts during a national emergency
- Extreme Weather warnings
- Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- AMBER Alerts

Alerts will push to a user's phone from nearby cell towers, no matter what city or even state he or she may be in. WEA alerts will begin this month; however many mobile devices, especially older ones, are not WEA-capable. Residents can choose to opt out of the alerts except for the Presidential messages.

"This technology has the potential to save the lives of thousands of people. So many of us always have our cell phones no matter where we go. To be able to receive life-saving information directly on your cell phone is a step in a more storm ready community," said CEMA Director Clayton Scott.

Residents can visit their local cell phone provider to see if their phones are WEA capable.

## Social Media & CEMA...continued

If you like videos CEMA is using YouTube to push information out to the public. You can find preparedness tips as well as real time updates if a major emergency is threatening our area. Just search ChathamGA at YouTube.com.

Lastly, residents can sign up to receive CEMA Alerts which are emails delivered directly to inboxes. Log onto [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org), scroll to the center of the homepage and enter your email address in the space indicated under CEMA Alert. Emails

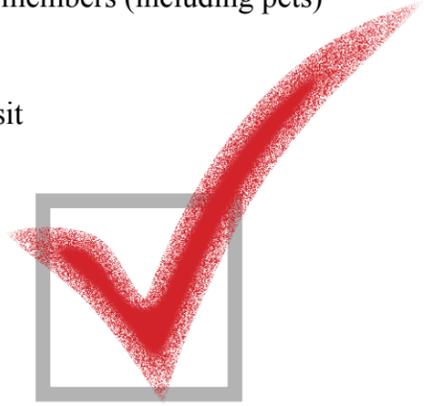
are sent for major emergency events that threaten or have affected Chatham County.



## Things to Remember to Take With You

If you have to evacuate due to a storm here is a list of items you don't want to forget.

- Shot records for all family members (including pets)
- Medical & Dental records
- Copies of all prescriptions
- Bank account & safe deposit box information
- Monthly bill information and addresses
- Pay check information and addresses/phone numbers
- Vehicle and insurance documentation
- Marriage certificate
- Birth certificates for all family members
- Citizenship papers
- Adoption papers
- Passports with any required Visas
- List of social security numbers for family members
- Powers of Attorney
- State and Federal Tax records
- Wills
- Insurance policies
- List of immediate family addresses & phone numbers
- Court orders: divorce, child support, child custody, etc.
- Real estate documents, e.g. leases, deeds, & mortgages
- Copies of any installment contracts (car, furniture, etc.)
- Pet records and supplies



## Functional/Medical Needs Registry: Don't Wait to See if You Qualify

Coastal communities have been lucky when it comes to hurricanes, but weather experts agree that it's only a matter of time before Georgia gets hit by a major storm. That's why Chatham County Health Department and Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) officials encourage those with functional or medical needs to apply to Chatham County's Functional and Medical Needs Registry (previously known as the Special Medical Needs Registry).

### What is the Functional and Medical Needs Registry?

The Functional and Medical Needs Registry is made up of residents who may require transport and medical assistance during a hurricane evacuation and have no other resources such as family, friends, neighbors, or church members to help them if they need to evacuate. Residents must apply to be on the registry.\*

### If I am accepted to the Registry, where will I be evacuated to when a storm is coming?

Those on the Registry will be evacuated to an American Red Cross shelter (not a hotel) that will likely be in a gymnasium or similar setting. The Registry is truly a last resort, but if a hurricane is threatening our area, it is important CEMA and Health Department officials know where the most vulnerable residents are located so that evacuation assistance can be provided to them.

### What are Functional Needs?

Functional needs registrants/clients are defined as those individuals who may need services to maintain their independence in a shelter. This includes, but is not limited to, children and adults with physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Others may include women in late stages of pregnancy, elders, and people needing bariatric equipment.

### What are Medical Needs?

Medical needs registrants/clients are defined as those individuals who require support of trained medical professionals. This includes, but is not limited to, those individuals who may need assistance with managing unstable, terminal, or contagious conditions that require observation and ongoing treatment.

### How to register...

Call the Chatham County Health Department at 353-3255 and request an enrollment form or go to [www.gachd.org/chatham](http://www.gachd.org/chatham), click on the Functional and Medical Needs Registration link at the top right-hand side of the page and download the application. Complete the application and return it to Cathy Schmid, R.N., Functional/Medical Needs Coordinator, Chatham County Health Department, 1395 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah, GA 31406.

\*People living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and personal care homes are not eligible for the Functional Medical and Needs Registry and must follow their facility's emergency plan.

\*Local hospitals will not accept Functional and Medical Needs clients.

## How to help your community in the wake of a disaster

How can you help your community following a disaster? You can; join the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a free program offered by the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA).

The CERT program falls under the Citizen Corps umbrella which was created after September 11, 2001. Along with CERT, Volunteers in Policing, Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, and Neighborhood Watch are part of the Citizen Corps program. The goal is to teach people the skills to take care of themselves before, during, and after an emergency, and to enhance the safety of our communities.

The CERT program is extremely active in Chatham County and so far more than 250 residents have been trained. The 20 hour class is broken up over the course of two weekends and teaches participants basic first aid skills, hazardous materials awareness, fire suppression, as well as terrorism awareness. The best part about it is it's free.

If disaster training doesn't spark an interest, Chatham County residents can volunteer in the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The EOC is a central location where public safety leaders and decision makers work together in support of incident response and recovery operations. It is responsible for strategic overview, or the "big picture" of an incident. The EOC can often be a fast paced environment and needs a variety of people to support operations.

CEMA needs dedicated and enthusiastic people to serve as phone operators, general recorders, display processors, reproduction specialists, situation recorders and clerical and administrative assistants. Training will be provided and a background check on volunteers will be conducted after selected.

If you are interested in the CERT program, volunteering in the EOC, or any other programs under Citizen Corps, please contact the CEMA office at 912-201-4500.