

CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



October 21, 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

I would like to remind all of our citizens to get out and exercise their right to vote on Tuesday, November 6th. The Chatham County Voter Registration office has provided all sorts of information regarding this year's elections. Take advantage of the Early Voting and Advance Voting services that their office is providing and avoid the long lines on Election Day. Remember that "it's your voice and it's your choice" in deciding the direction of your federal government, state government and county government.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Chatham County Commission these past eight years. It has been an even greater pleasure to serve with this group of commissioners during that time. I take pride in our accomplishments of providing public safety, economic stability and accountability in your county government. We have a little more than two months to go before the end of this term and we will continue to provide the same accessibility and service that we have these previous eight years.

I would like to congratulate Sheriff Al St. Lawrence on the success of Operation New Hope, a program suggested Sgt Robert Brooks that not only helps dogs from the Humane Society become adopted but more importantly teaches non-violent inmates "life skills" they lack to be accepted into

society. Since this program started only three inmates

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have returned to jail after their release.

I would also like to congratulate the new class of Youth Commissioners that were recently sworn in. It has always been my pleasure to recognize the members of the Youth Commission that take part in our meetings. The Chatham County Youth Commission is celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year and their successes are too great to mention. Commissioner Priscilla Thomas deserves

much of the credit for their success. This program was her idea and serves as a model for many other communities through out the country as a way to get the youth involved in local government. It has been said that the best government is one that teaches us to govern ourselves. I can think of no better way to

prepare our youth than the example that has been put forth by the Chatham County Youth Commission. I look forward to the day when a former member of the Youth Commission is elected as Chairman of the Chatham County Commission.

Once again it has been my pleasure to serve as your Chairman. This is a wonderful community with many great resources, the greatest being the citizens that I have served. ■



Voting information for

General Election

Election Date: November 6, 2012

Run-off Date (if required): December 4, 2012

Voter Education—Things to Know:

Voter Registration Deadline: October 9, 2012

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

Absentee Voting By Mail:

Request for mail out absentee ballots may be submitted as early as 180 days prior to the Election. Mail out of absentee ballots will begin on September 21, 2012 and end on November 2, 2012. Request may be submitted either by mail or fax. You must file a separate application for each election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot; there are exceptions for voters over the age of 75, disabled, military or overseas citizens. Call Chatham County Voter Registration at 912-790-1520 for further details.

Locations:

Voter Reg Main Office
Voter Reg Main Office
Civic Center
Mosquito Control
Islands Library
Southwest Library (Sav Mall)

Address:

1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E
1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E
301 W. Oglethorpe Ave
65 Billy B. Hair Dr
125 Wilmington Island Rd
14097 Abercorn St

Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm (M,W,F)
8:00 am – 7:00 pm (T, TH) {Oct 29-Nov 2, 2012}
9:00 am – 4:00 pm (M-F)
9:00 am – 4:00 pm (M-F)
10:00 am – 5:00 pm (M-F)
10:00 am – 5:00 pm (T-F)

Absentee Advance Voting In-Person:

October 15, 2012 – November 2, 2012

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

Saturday Voting:

October 27, 2012 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

- Voter Registration Main Office, 1117 Eisenhower Dr, Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406
- Southwest Library, 14097 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31419

Additional Voting Locations:

October 29, 2012 – November 2, 2012

Additional voting locations around the county will be opened for your convenience. See locations and

Operation "New Hope" gives shelter dogs and inmates a chance

When you think about it, shelter dogs have a lot in common with some of the inmates in the Chatham County Detention Center. They have been abandoned by someone, they are used to life behind bars, they are lacking the skills they need to be accepted by society. Maybe that's why Operation New Hope makes so much sense.

In April the Chatham County Sheriff's Office started the new inmate-dog program call Operation New Hope in the Chatham County Detention Center.

The four-week program pairs six non-violent inmates with six dogs chosen by the Humane Society for Greater Savannah. The Humane Society then trains the inmates on how to train the dogs to sit, lay, stay, walk on a leash and house-break the dogs. They are together 24/7. The dogs even live in the cell with the inmates. After the four weeks, the dogs and inmates graduate from the program and new participants are selected.

Former inmate Joseph Carter was one of the first participants to graduate from Operation New Hope. "No one in the program said this is not going to make you a criminal anymore. They said this is all about the dogs. If you get something from it, you get something from it."



So far 34 dogs have graduated from the program, only the ones who just graduated from the program on Friday have not been adopted. These pooches represent dozens of different breeds—including Shih-Tzu's, Labrador Retrievers, Chihuahuas and mutts. As for the inmates—only three have returned to jail since graduating. That great considering 78 percent of the inmates who come to the Chatham County Detention Center are repeat felony offenders.

Sgt. Robert Brooks, creator of the program, said, "If we can reduce the recidivism rate and help find homes for these dogs then it's a win-win for Chatham County."

Sheriff St Lawrence said he is proud of this new program that is helping dogs and inmates alike. "This has already become a very popular program and I hope it stays that way. It's a small way the Chatham County Sheriff's Office can do something positive for this community."

The idea for this program may be new to Chatham County, but there are several jails and prisons across the country, which have similar programs, including the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office.

Most importantly, Operation New Hope doesn't cost taxpayers a dime. The training is provided by the Humane Society for Greater Savannah and the community has been extremely generous in donating kennels, dog food, treats and other supplies.

Anyone interested in adopting one of the Operation New Hope dogs can contact the Humane Society at (912) 354-9515.

You can learn about the dogs up for adoption by going to the CCSO website at www.chathamsheriff.org or by checking out the CCSO's Facebook page.

Chatham County Youth Commission is sworn in ■ 2012-2013

(Savannah, GA) On Friday, September 21, 2012 during the Chatham County Commission meeting, the Honorable Pete Liakakis, Chairman of the Chatham County Commission gave the oath of office to 37 Chatham County Youth Commissioners, appointing them to serve as the representatives of youth of Chatham County. 15 of these young people are new candidates and 22 are returning for another term.

"These young people have contributed over 80 summer hours to join our family," said Van R. Johnson, II, Youth Commission Director. He added, "They are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but they are the leaders of today."

The Youth Commission was founded by Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas in 1992. 2012 summer activities included tours of the Savannah History Museum, Savannah College of Art and Design, Chatham County Detention Center, Hunter Army Airfield, Memorial Health, Chatham Area Transit and attendance at the Chatham County Commission and Savannah City Council meetings. Since its inception, over 400 Chatham County youth have graduated from the program and are all over the country doing positive things and are active in the communities in which they live.

This program has been replicated in Fulton County (Atlanta),

GA, Alachua County (Gainesville), FL, Savannah, GA (Savannah Youth Council), Prince George's County, MD, Cass County (Fargo), ND and Dougherty County, (Albany), GA, Riverdale, GA and Newnan, GA, Miami-Dade County, FL, and DeKalb County, GA.

ABOUT THE CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION...

The Chatham County Youth Commission was established in 1992 by Chatham County Commissioner Priscilla D. Thomas and the Chatham County Commission. Now in our 20th year, we have over 400 graduates and have started similar programs in Savannah, GA (Savannah Youth Council), Fulton County (Atlanta), GA, Prince George County, MD, Alachua County (Gainesville) FL, Cass County (Fargo), ND, Dougherty County (Albany), GA Riverdale, GA, Newnan, GA, Miami-Dade County with several other programs in development phases.

Please check out the Chatham County Youth Commission Facebook fan page or follow the Youth Commission on Twitter @ChathamCountyYC (or visit their page at www.twitter/ChathamCountyYC).

For more information on the Chatham County Youth Commission, visit their website at www.ChathamYouth.com



Be prepared and protect yourself from Flood Damage.

We have all heard on news programs and/or read in the newspapers about devastating flooding along the Gulf Coast, the Mississippi River, in nearby Atlanta and Albany, Georgia. There were skeptics living within those areas that at some point stated, "That kind of flooding can never happen here!" For those areas it did happen, and it can happen in Savannah, Georgia.

An important fact to remember is, flooding is an act of God, but flood damages are caused by the acts of man. For generations, mankind has known about areas in and around where he lives that were subject to flooding. For various reasons over the years, man elected to ignore the flooding patterns established and to develop within these flood prone areas. Doing so put countless lives at risk as is evident by the previously mentioned flood events. Chatham County institutes several programs aimed at reducing flood damages and the loss of life. Some of these programs include the Flood Mitigation Plan, Chatham County's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) program, and the Drainage Maintenance Program. Each of these programs institute guidelines and operating standards to reduce flooding within the County. Chatham County also makes it possible for each property owner and renter to obtain flood insurance. Flood Insurance policies issued within the unincorporated areas of Chatham County can receive up to a 20 percent discount. Having a flood insurance policy is an excellent way to protect your property in the event of a flood event whether you live in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or not.

The SFHA is sometimes referred to as the 100-year floodplain and includes 2 type flood zones, AE and VE zones. If you own property within the SFHA and have a Federally-backed mortgage (FDIC insured loan) or a Federally-backed home equity loan flood insurance is required. Flood insurance is made available to property owners living outside the SFHA (areas typically called X-zones or X-500 zones). A flood insurance policy is highly encouraged for

Savannah area property owners and renters because Chatham County is a coastal community which makes it highly susceptible to hurricanes and tropical storms. Another reason to consider having flood insurance is; although FEMA requires a flood policy for property owners living within the SFHA, the majority of flooding that has occurred within Unincorporated Chatham County is mostly located outside the SFHA. Flood insurance is not required by FEMA within the X and X-500 flood zones but it is within these areas where the majority of flooding has occurred.

Feel free to contact your Floodplain Administrator, Michael Blakely with the Chatham County Department of Engineering, to learn more about the above topics and to determine your flood risk and flood history. He can be reached at (912) 652-7814 or via email at mblakely@chathamcounty.org

Flood determination letters and elevation certificates are required by insurance companies in order to accurately quote flood insurance policies. Flood zone determination letters are generated by the Department of Engineering. Elevation certificates are generated by Georgia Registered Land Surveyors and submitted to the Department of Engineering for archiving. Unfortunately we do not have elevation certificates for all properties located within Unincorporated Chatham County. The elevation certificates that we have and the flood determination letters, are made available to the general public at no cost. Requests for elevation certificates and flood letters should be made in writing to floodletters@chathamcounty.org, via the web or faxed to (912) 652-7818. Please include the property mailing address and the Property Identification Number (PIN), if possible. Requests can also be mailed via the United States Postal Service (USPS) to Flood Request, P.O. Box 8161, 124 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 or hand delivered to the Old Court House located at 124 Bull Street, Suite 430, Savannah Georgia 31401. We request a maximum turn-around time of 2 weeks, however, in most cases we can supply you with the requested documents within a few days.



CHAIR:	SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION	CLASS	TERM
Ms. Alexis Parker*	St. Vincent's	SR	3rd
VICE CHAIR:			
Ms. Brianna Polite*	Windsor Forest	SR	3rd
SECRETARY:			
Ms. Marissa Karp	Savannah Country Day	JR	2nd
PARLIAMENTARIAN:			
Ms. Jaylah Diggs	Jenkins High	JR	2nd
EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:			
Mr. Lamar Ballard	Islands High	JR	2nd
Ms. Nia Dawson*	Savannah Arts	SR	3rd
Ms. Lydia Peay*	Savannah Christian	SR	3rd
MEMBERS:			
Ms. Brianna Adams*	Johnson High	SR	3rd
Ms. JaBrea Barnwell	St. Vincent's Academy	JR	1st
Ms. Wynter Benyard*	Johnson High	SR	1st
Ms. Emily Bermudez*	St. Vincent's Academy	SR	3rd
Ms. Justice Bosco	Windsor Forest	JR	1st
Mr. Carlton Brown	Benedictine Military	JR	1st
Ms. Hollis Brown	Savannah Arts Academy	JR	1st
Mr. Marcus Brown*	Benedictine Military	SR	2nd
Ms. Shakira Bush*	Groves High	SR	3rd
Ms. Asia Coles	Woodville Tompkins	SO	1st
Ms. Kristen Conley	Bible Baptist	SO	1st
Ms. Xavier Cooper	Savannah Arts Academy	SO	1st
Mr. James Flowers	Johnson High	JR	2nd
Ms. Gabrielle Gardner	Savannah Early College	JR	2nd
Mr. Victor Gonzalez	Jenkins High	JR	2nd
Ms. Jermiah Gordon	St. Vincent's Academy	SO	1st
Mr. Jared Grant*	Savannah Arts	SR	3rd
Ms. Mikelyn Green*	Calvary Day	SR	3rd
Ms. Simone Greene	St. Vincent's Academy	SO	1st
Ms. Claire Hammond*	Savannah Arts	SR	3rd
Mr. Calvin Harrison	Calvary Day	JR	2nd
Mr. Christopher Howard	Jenkins High	JR	2nd
Mr. Kentrel Johnson	Jenkins High	JR	1st
Ms. Sabria Jones	St. Vincent's Academy	JR	1st
Ms. Amanda King	Memorial Day School	SO	1st
Mr. Greg Mortimer*	Johnson High	SR	1st
Mr. Dionte' Samuels	Savannah Early College	JR	2nd
Ms. Kayla Smokes	St. Vincent's Academy	SO	1st
Mr. Tyler Washington	Jenkins High	JR	2nd
Ms. Tyhira Williams*	Jenkins High	SR	2nd

* Graduating Seniors

SAGIS Updates Geographic Info for the Public

The Savannah Area GIS (SAGIS) is working behind the scenes to provide useful data to its customers and to the public. Sometimes what SAGIS does makes a big splash, like the elevation data SAGIS obtained in 2009 or the website redesign and upgrade in 2011. At other times, you do not easily see what SAGIS is doing to support our community's data needs.

For example, SAGIS supports a complex system behind the scenes that drives the county E911 system. People expect that when they call 911, the emergency responding agency will show up at the correct address. In Chatham County they do partially because of the support SAGIS provides. The E911 system has a many moving parts and the skills of the SAGIS staff help ensure that the system works.

Our focus is on geographic information: the road and address data that feeds the system. Staff from two departments at the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) team up to produce the two sets of data that make the E911 system work. SAGIS is the department responsible for the road centerlines, and the Information, Services and Mapping (IS&M) department is responsible for the Master Address Database or MAD as we like to call it.

The MAD has a point for every address in Chatham County, and the road centerlines have the addresses assigned to a range. This allows the E911 system to find an address in two ways, starting with the MAD; and if for some reason an address is not located in the MAD, it can still be mapped using the range on the centerlines. This is a great combination to ensure that emergency services personnel make it to the correct location when a call goes out.

Maintaining the dataset requires attention to detail and many hours of data input. The process includes populating the numerous data fields with the correct attribute, spatial editing such as putting the point on the correct building, and constant quality control. When new addresses are entered into the system, they are first assigned the addresses by the range (road centerlines), then the MAD points. A site visit is often required to ensure the proper

placement of the points in the correct location and to ensure the numbering is as it was assigned. The most important step is quality control. SAGIS and IS&M staffs keep the input process under constant review to ensure completeness and correctness.

Now SAGIS is on the brink of making a big splash and making a bold step in data delivery. Soon SAGIS.org will make available virtually all of our 400 plus layers of data to download free. These data layers will be available in three formats: ESRI (shape-file), Excel (CSV) or xml. This data will be updated on a quarterly basis. Details are available on our data download site: http://thempc.org/SAGIS/Q_Export/default.htm. SAGIS is also working on providing data in Google (KML) format in the near future.

This is a major shift to direct delivery of data. The public can access data directly, which until now they needed to request it from IS&M. SAGIS is one of the first entities in Georgia to provide the amount of data free in the multiple formats.

Another project underway is to spatially correct the parcel lines data layer. Now parcel lines are often misaligned when displayed over other layers like aerial photography. The project involves SAGIS, Chatham County Engineering, Chatham County Board of Assessors and the University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Information Technology Outreach Service (ITOS). At the end of the project, we will have spatially correct parcel lines as well as a right of way layer for the entire county. The right of way layer is a representation of the area on either side of the road that the state, county or city owns. This is important information for all sorts of roadway and other projects. As part of this project Environmental Systems and Research Institute (ESRI) will provide the Board of Assessors new tools and training for the proper maintenance of the parcels, which will ensure that this great work that has been started continues for the future ensure clean and accurate data.

Another large scale undertaking is the regional aerial photography that is currently being contracted through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Chatham



SAGIS Helps with editing address points



Parcel Line work
Original parcel lines –Orange • New parcel lines – Blue

County along with other counties along the coast is contracting with NOAA to fly six inch – four band high resolution aerial photography. The fourth band is the near infrared band which is important for monitoring our environment and identifying wetlands and other sensitive areas.

This regional project includes funds from Georgia Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sapelo Island, and all participating counties to acquire the imagery. Through this regional partnership, the cost of acquisition is reduced by about fifty percent for Chatham County. Having a regional imagery data set of this caliber will further planning and modeling for not only Chatham County but for our neighbors.

SAGIS is engaged in one more large scale project to update our Pictometry images. These images are oblique photographs of Chatham County. Oblique images provide a 360° view of all structures and areas within the county. This update includes software that will allow SAGIS to make these images available to the general public via www.sagis.org. The software will allow a user to

click on a property to view the images from all sides.

Pictometry is being acquired on a similar schedule as the regional aerial photography to provide us with high quality datasets all within the same timeframe. The Pictometry dataset is three inch and nine inch oblique photography. About forty-five thousand images need to be collected to cover all of Chatham County.

This high resolution oblique photography is another great planning tool for planners, emergency managers, and emergency response agencies as well as other public and private sector uses. Chatham County SPLOST funds made the parcel, aerial photography and Pictometry projects possible.

All these new and exciting projects and products are essential to providing the best data to the public for planning in Chatham County, especially for those who do business or want to do business in Chatham County. For further information on these or any other projects SAGIS is working please call the MPC at (912) 651-1440.

Chatham County 4-H sends delegation to the 2012 6th Biennial Georgia Youth Summit

Candicee Childs, Chloe Spencer, Taylor Cobin, Clarissa Bacon, Ariaunna Dorsey, Reidar Groover, Kirsten Morris, Deborah Stevens and Peyton West of Chatham County attended the 6th biennial Georgia Youth Summit, Sept. 8-9 at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Ga. This event is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and coordinated by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Cooperative Extension. The Georgia Youth Summit is a leadership conference designed to prepare the next generation of Georgia leaders by providing youth with knowledge, resources, and encouragement to create positive change in their communities. Teams work together to create awareness of state and local issues, develop youth-adult partnerships, and become active locally in the betterment of the community. At the Summit, the Chatham County team evaluated issues within the community in the areas of safety, education,

health, and economic development, and they found creative strategies to address these issues. While working on the 2012 Georgia Youth Summit, the Chatham County team developed a plan of action to combat pollution caused from storm water runoff. With their slogan, "When it rains, it drains! Our Solution: Rain Gardens," impacting the community through demonstrations and education is the priority. Working with the Metropolitan Planning Commission's Jackie Teal, and the Department of Community Affairs', Deatre Denion, the Youth Summit delegates found that nationally, storm water discharges are laden with pollutants. As Savannah is known for being a coastal area, these discharges are generated by run-off from land and impervious surfaces such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops. During heavy rainfall, pollutants are washed into the waterways in quantities that could adversely affect water quality. Pollutants in our area included fertilizers,



household chemicals, pet poop, oil, and raw sewage. "We realize that our county is known for our beaches and the Savannah River. Contaminants in our waterways can lead to closures and health issues for wildlife and citizens. "We adore having the coast as our home; it's time to protect it!" The delegation plans to implement rain gardens (depressions that function as a miniature

wetland to absorb storm water and its pollutants) as their solution. Plans include rain garden research, educating the public, implementing rain gardens, and ultimately decreasing storm water pollutants in waterways. For more information on Chatham County 4-H, please contact the Chatham County Extension Office at 912-652-7981 or email Trish.West@uga.edu.

Chatham County FDTC wins awards for excellence

The Chatham County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) has been selected as a National Peer Learning Court by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The team will receive an "Award of Excellence" at a symposium to improve family recovery, safety and stability, on September 5th, 2012.

In addition, the Chatham County FDTC was recently recognized as the "Top Family Court" in Georgia at the 2012 Georgia Accountability Court Conference, held in Atlanta on June 26, 2012. This recognition was awarded to the FDTC by NPC Research, a company providing research-based information to guide public policy and a leading authority in Accountability Courts.

Members of the Chatham County FDTC team have previously received numerous individual awards in their fields for work with the FDTC, including:

- The 2009 Leadership Award at the 10th Annual Child Placement Conference in Athens, Georgia was awarded to The Honorable Patricia P. Stone (FDTC Judge). This award is given annually to an individual, in the public or the private sector, who demonstrates outstanding vision for change and leadership in advocating for children and families served by the Georgia foster care and juvenile justice systems.
- WJCL's Champion for Change 2009 was awarded to the Honorable Patricia P. Stone for her continuing work as the presiding Judge of the FDTC.
- The 2009 Case Manager of the Year Award at the 10th Annual Child Placement Conference in Athens, Georgia was awarded to Yolanda Parker (FDTC designated case manager at the time). This award is presented to a case manager that has made outstanding contributions in the field of social services.
- The 2010 Child Advocate Award from the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division/Juvenile Law Committee in the category of Deprivation-Legal Advocate was awarded to Leo Beckmann, Jr. (FDTC S.A.A.G.) in recognition of his demonstrated commitment and service, above and beyond the call of duty, to children and families in Georgia.
- The 2010 Juvenile Court Attorney of the Year from the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children was presented to J. Michael Love (FDTC parent attorney) in recognition of his demonstrated outstanding commitment to children and families in Georgia.

The Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) program is designed to break the cycle of addiction and neglect through monitored service delivery and with ongoing and expedited permanency planning. Agencies involved in this collaborative effort include: Chatham County Juvenile Court, The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Court Appointed Special Advocate program (CASA), Recovery Place Inc., Safe Shelter Inc., Law Office of J. Michael Love, Judicial Citizen's Review Panel, and the Savannah Chatham Authority for the Homeless. The FDTC team is comprised of the following members: The Honorable Patricia P. Stone; Special Assistant Attorney General Leo G. Beckmann, Jr. of the Law Office of Beckmann and Lewis; Associate Special Assistant Attorney General Wendy Furey; J. Michael Love, Esquire; Lori Loncon, Esquire; Susan Ryncavage; Jan Moser; James Callaway; Jessica Minopoli; Shatara Jackson; Brooke N. Foley; Madeleine



Haddad; Lee Hooper; Rose Grant Robinson; Herb Smith; Deputy Ron Robinson; Deputy Steve Darnstaedt; Latrell Gulotta; and FDTC Coordinator Jean Newton Cottier.

The primary mission of the Chatham County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) is to improve the lives of children and their families by addressing deprivation/dependency resulting from the substance abuse of a parent or caregiver. This mission is carried out by addressing the comprehensive needs of parents and children through an integrated, court-based, and multi-disciplinary team approach which strives to achieve timely decisions, coordinated treatment and ancillary services, judicial oversight, and safe and permanent placement for children. The FDTC program is led by Judge Patricia Parker Stone, and is designed to break the cycle of addiction and neglect through monitored service delivery, and through ongoing and expedited

permanency planning. The FDTC uses a team approach in working with deprivation cases. The team works to provide a highly structured and coordinated method of treating the parents' disease of substance abuse, while simultaneously addressing parenting deficits and holding parents accountable for their choices, while working toward improving the lives of children in a timely manner.

To date, the FDTC has secured grant funding in 10 separate awards totaling \$540,000. These funds were and continue to be utilized to assist the county in the development and implementation of the FDTC, to provide individual counseling and case management for participants, to provide assistance with lingering legal issues that inhibit the parents' ability to progress, to organize and implement the Community Policing Team, to provide specialized training for the Community Policing and the FDTC Team, and to execute two ongoing evidenced-based programs, which are directed by Angel Tatum. Those programs being:

- Celebrating Families, which is a program from the National Association of Children of Alcoholics for families in early recovery. Families affected by chemical dependency have unhealthy family rules such as, "don't talk, don't trust, and don't feel" that have often been passed down for generations. Many participants and their children have false beliefs that they have caused the disease, can cure the disease, and/or can control the disease. Celebrating Families examines how families are affected by chemical dependency and teaches skills to break those patterns.
- Strengthening Families is an evidenced-based SAMSHA program for families in recovery that teaches healthy family functional skills such as improving behavior, increasing communication, decreasing overt aggression, and preventing drug use. The programs are taught in sequence and begin with a family meal, followed by an age appropriate break-out session, and then a family based processing group.

The Chatham County FDTC has had 9 drug-free babies to date representing a total cost savings between \$8.6 million and \$16 million dollars, when calculated using the 2002 Office of Justice Program study cost related to the birth of a drug and/or alcohol exposed baby, estimated to be between \$962,500 and \$1,787,500 per child in today's dollars. Additionally, the FDTC clients receive assistance from the community in the form of donations of furniture, household goods, training space, and food items.

Savannah Children's Book Festival

Saturday

Nov. 10, 2012

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA
Rain location: Savannah Civic Center

Presented by Live Oak Public Libraries and the City of Savannah

Celebrate the joy of reading, the power of the written word and the magic of storytelling with children's book authors and illustrators from around the country.

The Savannah Children's Book Festival will feature...

- **Tad Hills**, author and illustrator of "Rocket Writes a Story," and "Duck & Goose"
- **Victoria Kann**, illustrator and co-author of "Pinkalicious" and "Purplicious"
- **Laura Vaccaro Seeger**, author and illustrator of "Green," "Dog and Bear" and "First the Egg"
- **Andrea Davis Pinkney**, author of "Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down"
- **Blue Balliett**, author of "Chasing Vermeer," "The Wright 3" and "The Danger Box"
- **Shana Corey**, author of "Here Come the Girl Scouts!: The Amazing All-True Story of Juliette 'Daisy' Gordon Low and Her Great Adventure"
- **Carmen Agra Deedy**, author of "Return of the Library Dragon" and "14 Cows for America"
- **Raven Magwood**, teen author of "The 7 Practices of Exceptional Student Athletes"
- **Alan Katz**, author of "Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs"
- **John Harris**, author of "Jingle Bells: How the Holiday Classic Came to Be"
- **"Dino" Don Lessem**, author of "National Geographic Kids Ultimate Dinopedia" and "Monsters of the Sea"
- **Calvin Alexander Ramsey**, author of "Belle, The Last Mule at Gee's Bend: A Civil Rights Story" and "Ruth and the Green Book"
- **Michael P. White**, illustrator of "Return of The Library Dragon" and "The Secret of Old Zeb"
- **Elizabeth Dulemba**, author and illustrator of "Soap, Soap, Soap" and "Lula's Brew"

The free festival will also include authors and illustrators from throughout the Low Country and Southeast region, arts and crafts, costumed characters, a graphic/comics area, and a variety of food and entertainment.

In addition, a **Book Walk** will be staged among the trees so families may enjoy a story together reading from page to page through the park. This year's book selection is the best-selling "How Rocket Learned to Read," and one reading will be led by the book's author, Tad Hills.

J'miah Nabawi will again host the festival's International Tent, which will feature a variety of multicultural musical performances, special guests and storytelling sessions.

And the talented young actors from the **Savannah Children's Theatre** will perform skits, monologues and improv throughout the day!



Artwork by: Lauren Shweiky at Scribble Art Studio



www.liveoakpl.org
912.652.3605



LIVE OAK
Public Libraries



Major support provided by the Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation and Gulfstream Aerospace.

ALSO: Reaching Reluctant Readers - Friday, Nov. 9 @ SW Chatham Library

A free symposium for individuals who work with children and teens.

This program is specially helpful for teachers, media specialists, pre-service teachers, parents and education majors!

For information: colemanc@liveoakpl.org or 912-925-8305