

CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



January 20, 2013



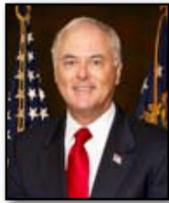
Al Scott
Chairman



Helen Stone
District 1



James Holmes -
District 2



Tony Center
District 3



Patrick Farrell
District 4



Yusuf Shabazz
District 5



Lori Brady
District 6



Dean Kicklighter
District 7



Priscilla Thomas
District 8

For more information about the current district lines, see page 2, or visit online:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Al Scott, Chairman

On behalf of the entire Commission, I would like to commend Pete Liakakis on his eight years of service as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Chatham County

Commission. We have all been grateful for his leadership. Likewise, I wish Pete the very best in his seat as Chairman of the Chatham Area Transit Board, and all other endeavors to which he will give his time and energies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Chatham County for the privilege and honor to serve as Chairman of the Chatham County Commission. I am committed to the oath that I took and look forward to the challenges I will face. I look forward to serving with the reelected commissioners Helen Stone, James Holmes, Patrick Farrell, Dean

Kicklighter, and Dr. Priscilla Thomas. I welcome, as well, newly elected commissioners Tony Center, Yusuf Shabazz and Lori Brady. Together we will work hard for you - our constituents. I believe it is important to maintain positive working relationships and it will be my job as Chairman to find common ground with all the county's municipalities. This commission has an opportunity to provide better services, to govern with fiscal responsibility, and to develop a long range vision and plan for the county.

As we begin the new year, I need to remind the citizens that there are now new

County Commission District boundaries that went into effect January 1st. In order to help you familiarize yourself with these newly drawn districts, we have inserted the new map in this Chatham County Connection.

I know I speak for all commissioners when I say that we appreciate your trust and confidence in us as we strive to serve you. We also welcome input from our citizens and it is our goal to be accessible and to respond to your concerns. We will responsibly work to make Chatham County a better, safer, and more prosperous place to live and work. ■

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council Launches Care Navigation Service



Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (CCSNPC) is a volunteer collaborative of stakeholders who work together to develop an system to maximize access to healthcare and available resources to assure improved health status for Chatham County citizens, primarily those without health insurance. The CCSNPC primary care provider system includes Curtis V. Cooper Primary Healthcare Center, J. C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center, St. Mary's Community Health Center, Community Health Mission and Good Samaritan. Since CCSNPC formed in 2004, members and partners have successfully increased

the visit capacity throughout the Chatham County system by 87%, or an average of 12.4% per year. An extensive list of health care providers and resources with maps, hours, services and eligibility requirements is on the CCSNPC website, www.chathamsafetynet.org, along with a Healthcare Resources Brochure which may be printed from a link on the home page.

As of January 2013, CCSNPC will have an additional service available to Chatham County residents who have questions about the eligibility, services and access or need help finding a primary care provider in the CCSNPC system. Ms. Latoya

Brannen-Lee, the CCSNPC Care Navigator, brings extensive local experience in linking patients to community resources to this position. We welcome her to our team. Information as to how to reach Ms. Brannen-Lee is available on the CCSNPC website above or by calling the CCSNPC office at 912-644-5219.

The CCSNPC meetings are held

six times a year and are open to the public. Below is the 2013 Calendar. In addition, meeting times, agendas, locations, addresses and directions are posted on the website prior to each meeting and notices are posted at the entrances at the meeting location.

Visit www.chathamsafetynet.org often for updated information. ■

CCSNPC 2013 Calendar

Jan 22, 2013	Dept of Family and Children Services, Room 1009A	3:30-5 pm
March 26, 2013	J.C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center	3:30-5 pm
May 28, 2013	Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care Center	3:30-5 pm
July 23, 2013	Memorial University Medical Center, Conf. Room A	3:30-5 pm
Sept 24, 2013	Candler Hospital, Board Room	3:30-5 pm
Dec 3, 2013	Chatham County Health Department	3:30-5 pm

This public announcement constitutes due notice in compliance with O.C.G.A. section 50-14-1 (2011).



Message from Meg Heap – District Attorney, Chatham County

The New Year is well underway and January marks the first month of my service as District Attorney

of the Eastern Judicial Circuit/Chatham County. First and foremost, I would like to thank the citizens of Chatham County for electing me in last year's election. I am honored and humbled so many people put their faith and confidence in me. I look forward to utilizing my experience to bring integrity back to the District Attorney's Office and restoring deteriorated relationships with law enforcement, victims of crimes and the citizens of Chatham County; while prosecuting criminals to the fullest extent of the law.

One of my first orders of business was to begin rebuilding the

relationship between the District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement agencies. An essential component in fostering good working relationships is building trust and respect; elements that agencies felt had been lacking in years past. All law enforcement personnel are now allowed unescorted access to the District Attorney's Office. The prior escort policy had been a thorn in the side of many agencies that felt the requirement hindered open lines of communication between them and prosecutors. I recently held an Open House Reception for local law enforcement officials at the DA's Office and invited them back to our office. It was well received.

Although recent statistics from the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department show a reduction in overall crime in 2012 as it relates to prior years, it is essential that in order to maintain and even

further reduce this rate, we ensure criminals are successfully prosecuted. Through effective prosecution, repeat felony offenders are prosecuted as recidivists. If convicted, these offenders face stiffer and mandatory sentences for committing even misdemeanor crimes in the future. Having a good working relationship with local law enforcement agencies ensures recidivists are properly identified upon their arrest and charged with the Recidivist Clause. Appropriate sentencing will keep these repeat offenders off the streets, so they cannot commit crimes again.

The recent episodes of violent crimes involving juveniles and young adults, such as the Coastal Empire Fair Shootings, is a testament to the need for a more proactive approach from the District Attorney's Office of reaching out and educating the youth of Savannah on the dangers of violent crime. I will support any efforts by

Juvenile court and the Board of Education to reduce juvenile crime. Also, I have been working diligently to recruit and assemble the Major Crimes Division (MCD) Attorneys that will be responsible with prosecuting criminals charged with committing "7 Deadly Sins" crimes within Chatham County. i.e. Murder, Rape, Child Molestation, etc. This new Division utilizes a fast-track format that will ensure these cases are tried much more swiftly than in the past.

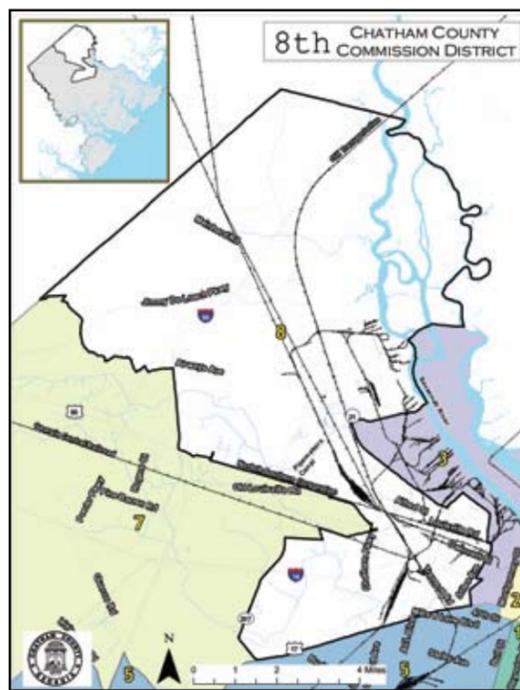
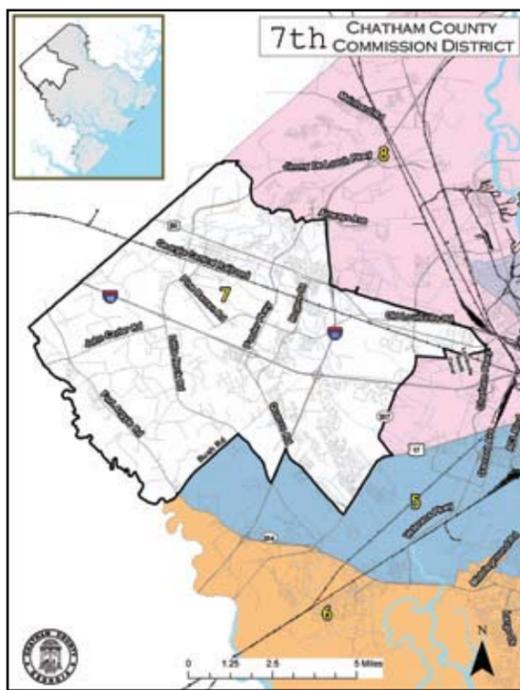
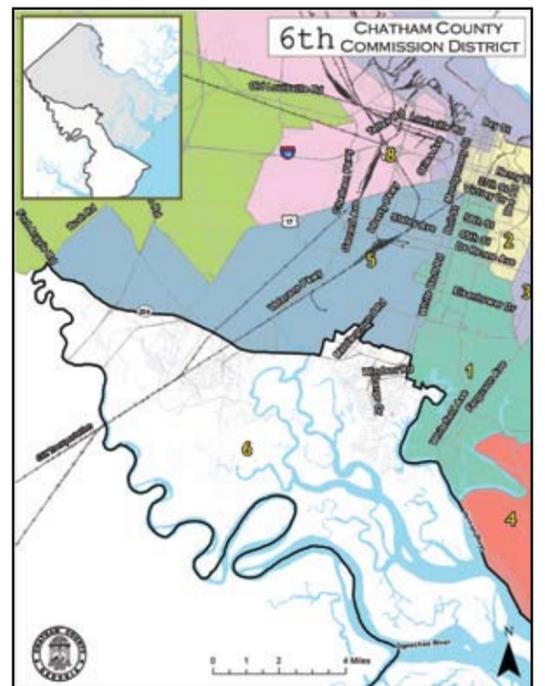
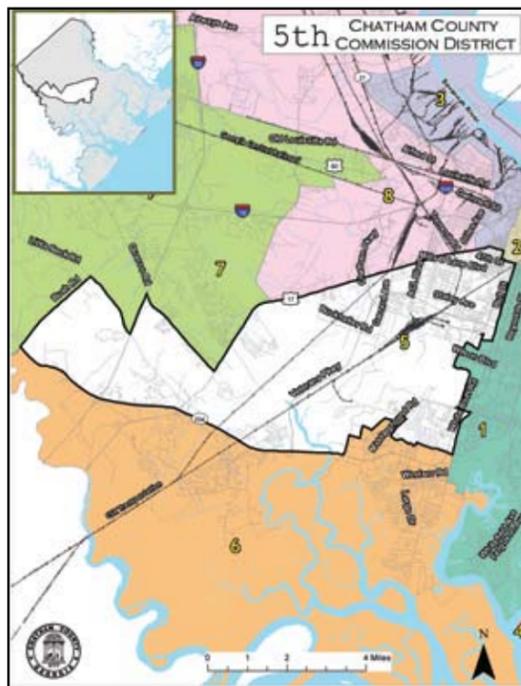
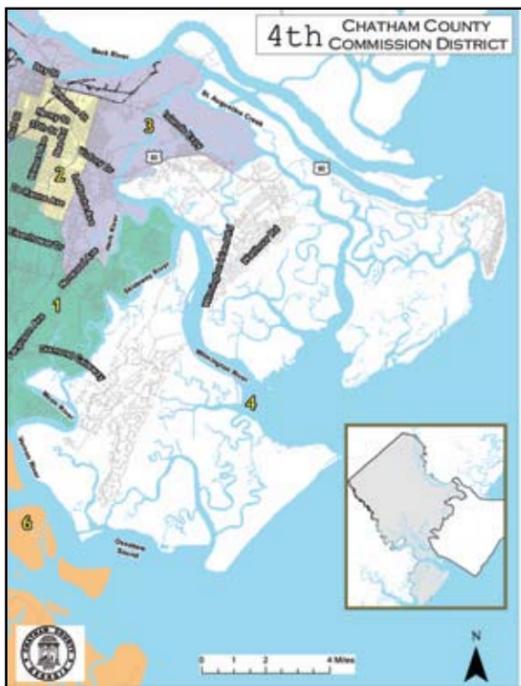
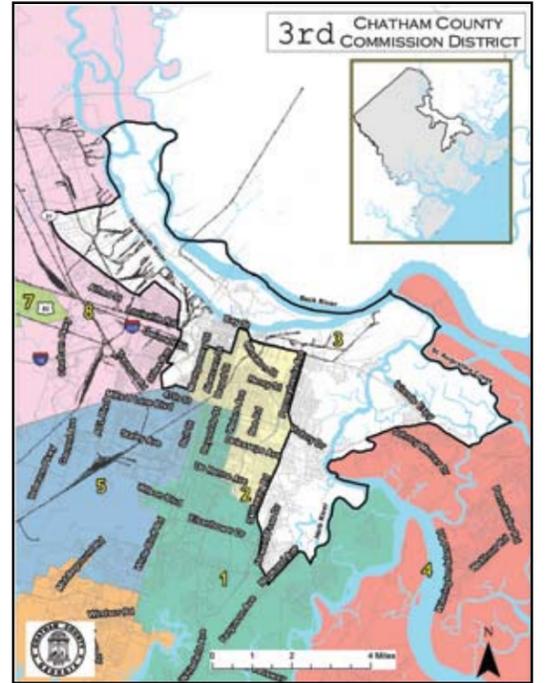
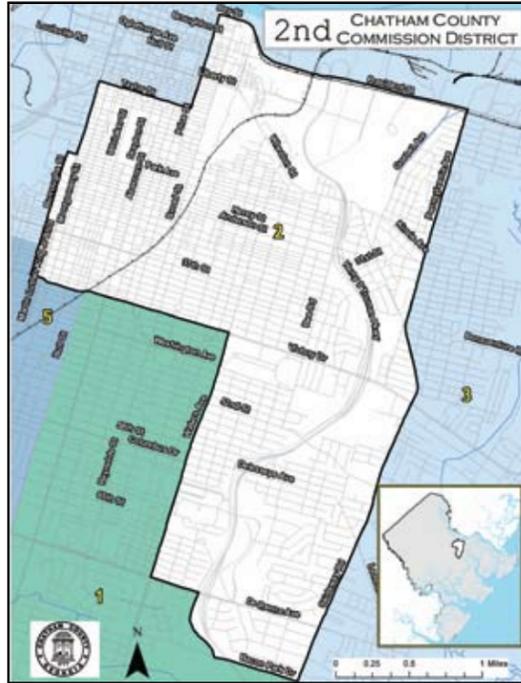
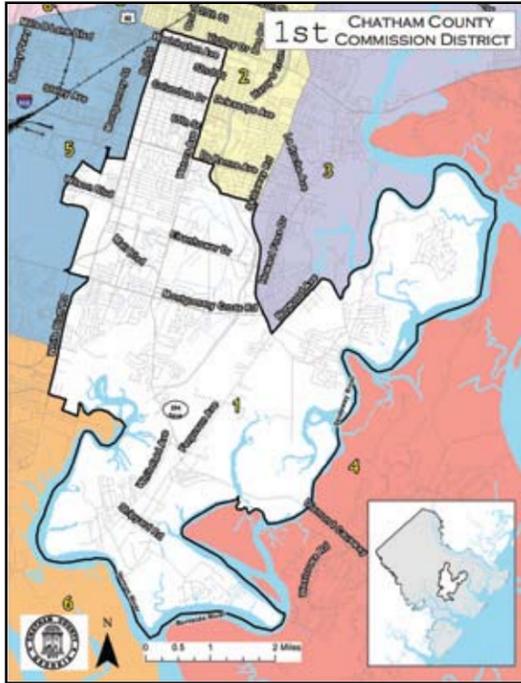
Although this is a substantial task, I am up to the challenge. I am working hard to honor the promises I have made to the citizens of Chatham County and set in motion the initiatives I believe will lead the District Attorney's Office in the right direction for 2013 and the years beyond. ■

Chatham County Commission Districts



Legend

- District 1** - Helen L. Stone
- District 2** - James J. Holmes
- District 3** - Tony Center
- District 4** - Patrick K. Farrell
- District 5** - Yusuf Shabazz
- District 6** - Lori Brady
- District 7** - Dean Kicklighter
- District 8** - Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas



Two New Live Oak Libraries break ground

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for two new Live Oak Libraries, Islands Library and Garden City Library, took place on December 19, 2012. The Islands branch will be built next to Islands High School on the corner of Johnny Mercer Boulevard and Whitmarsh Island Road. The Garden City Branch will

be located in Garden City Town Center at 100 Central Avenue. The identical buildings are designed to be energy efficient that will save approximately \$15,000 per year in utility costs. Construction will begin later this spring and both are expected to be completed in the summer of 2014. ■





Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective during an emergency.

Do you think you have what it takes?

Do you want to learn ways to protect you and your family during a disaster?

If so, plan now to attend the next CERT training scheduled for February. Training is free to Chatham County residents and requires both classroom instruction and hands on fieldwork. You must attend all days!

Time and location of next training:

- February 9 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- February 10 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- February 16 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- February 17 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Southside Fire Department
Grove Point Road

Register now online at
www.ChathamEmergency.org

CERT training will teach participants to:

- Take steps to prepare themselves for a disaster
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces
- Apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources and safety measures
- Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating shock
- Conduct triage under simulated conditions
- Select and set up treatment areas
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds
- Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations
- Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extraction ■



Chatham County DUI Court

Below is an estimate of the minimum cost to an individual who pleads guilty to a 2nd DUI in a five (5) year period, with an accompanying traffic charge in the State Court of Chatham County.

For a person earning \$20,800.00 per year, this equates to over 32% of the gross earnings over a two year period.

Fine for DUI \$600.00 (minimum)	\$949.00 (after surcharges)
Fine for Traffic Charge \$100.00	\$143.00 (after surcharges)
Loss of Work Due to Jail Time (15 days)	\$1,200.00 (lost wages)*
Community Service (240 hours)	\$2,400.00 (lost wages)*
Court Mandated Appointments (108 hours)	\$1,080.00 (lost wages)*
Attorney Fees (minimum)	\$2,500.00
Treatment Fees	\$2,184.00
Probation Fees	\$1,176.00
Risk Reduction (DUI School)	\$285.00
Victim Impact Panel	\$30.00
Clinical Evaluation	\$85.00
Ignition Interlock (six months)	\$525.00
Publication of Photo	\$25.00
Driver's Licenses Reinstatement Fee	\$210.00
Transportation Cost Due to 1 Year License Suspension	\$576.00 (12 month C.A.T. Pass)
Auto Insurance Increase	Approximate 15%
TOTAL	\$13,368.00

* based on the individual working 40 hours per week @ \$10.00 per hour, grossing \$20,800.00 per year
visit us on the web at www.statecourt.org

Public Input Sought for an Updated Zoning Ordinance for Unincorporated Chatham County and the City of Savannah

On July 10, 2012, the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) released the second draft of the Unified Zoning Ordinance (UZO) for public comment. The UZO is a proposed updated zoning ordinance for the city of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County. Why is this important to you? Because zoning affects more than 93,000 parcels of land within Savannah and Chatham County in a variety of ways. Whether you are a current or future property owner, a business owner, or both, MPC wants you to be aware of the proposal and seeks your input.

Here are some zoning basics: A zoning ordinance establishes regulations and standards relating to the use and development of land and structures. It includes a zoning map which identifies the base zoning districts for each property in Savannah and Chatham County. A base zoning district includes the types of uses that are permitted within the district (e.g., bakery, auto repair shop, apartment complex), as well as the development standards, such as maximum building height, minimum lot size and minimum yard setbacks from property lines. In compliance with State law, Savannah and Chatham County adopted individual zoning ordinances in 1960 and 1962, respectively.

Since the early days of their adoption, discussion regarding the effectiveness and unintended consequences of both ordinances has existed. [See inset for history.] That discussion eventually led to a decision by the Chatham County Commission and the City of Savannah Mayor and Aldermen to modernize both ordinances for the 21st century.

The framework of the draft UZO was created by a Technical Committee, whose membership included 30 public and private sector individuals. It was then refined by an Advisory Committee of approximately 80 public and private sector citizens, including 33 neighborhood associations. After four years of work, the initial draft was released for public comment on June 28, 2011. In response to comments received from the general public, stakeholders, the Planning Commission, as well as City, County and MPC staff, Draft 2 was released on July 10, 2012.

While ordinances of any kind do not make for enjoyable reading, the devil really is

in the details. During the public comment stage, which has no present deadline for ending, it is the goal of MPC to assist the public with a better understanding of those details and refine them as needed. But to do this, your input is necessary.

MPC is presently working with the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and the Savannah Economic Development Authority to meet with members and non-members representing 10 different sectors ranging from religious institutions to eating and drinking establishments. The purpose of the meetings is to provide basic zoning information, explain the differences between existing and proposed zoning, guide attendees through the available resources and answer any questions or

concerns. Individual follow-up meetings are encouraged with staff to address more specific details. Such meetings have been invaluable as they aid staff's understanding of how certain businesses function, for example. Does the draft create unintended consequences? Has there been an oversight? If the answer is "yes," staff works through the concerns and makes revisions as necessary.

MPC has reached out to nearly 200 neighborhood associations, numerous business groups, and other stakeholder groups representing interests ranging from historic preservation to the environment. Response has been more minimal than anticipated but there is still time to offer your feedback—the public comment

Continued on next page...

Zoning History

Think back to the early 1960s when the Savannah and Chatham County zoning ordinances were adopted. What comes to mind about the community? If you guessed that businesses were leaving downtown, older neighborhoods were losing residents and that the unincorporated county was mostly semi-rural to rural, you are correct. Now, imagine two zoning ordinances written during that time period that have never been updated but amended numerous times for specific situations. The result is a muddle of regulations from various decades that sometimes contradict each other, reflect differing planning philosophies, that are sometimes not consistent with existing and historic development patterns, and that sometimes leave one wondering what the intent was.

Between the city and county, for example, there are 10 marina zoning districts. Yet the only property zoned with such a district is a condominium complex (which is not a permitted use in that district, and which is being corrected during the UZO process). Several long-time marinas aren't zoned to allow marinas (which is also being corrected), and other marinas are permitted in districts that aren't marina related. Given the limited space of this article, there isn't sufficient room to reveal more of these situations, but there are many.

As far back as 1962 then executive director and future city manager of Savannah, Don Mendonsa, expressed his concerns about the city's zoning ordinance. Less than two years after its adoption, it was evident to him that it was falling short. Words like "ambiguous," "lacking" and "ineffective" were sprinkled throughout a memo he wrote that year.

A 1997 review of the existing zoning ordinances by a nationally known planning consultant, Lane Kendig, identified that both had "flaws," which is not unusual for older zoning ordinances. He specifically called out a lack of regulations to promote resource protection and community character. The zoning map looked like "...a case of chicken pox" with its numerous zoning districts. And if you have ever had to use the existing ordinances, you can appreciate that he also mentioned both as not being "user-friendly."

MPC staff also came to a similar conclusion after a thorough evaluation of both ordinances and other city and county ordinances and policies. Their work led to the creation of the "Zoning Assessment Report," an extensive review of the zoning ordinances, procedures and as well as approaches used by other communities that may emulated and refined for our community. The report also includes basic zoning information. You can view the report at www.unifiedzoning.org. ■

period is still ongoing and has no scheduled end date at this time.

To learn more about the UZO, please visit the UZO website at www.unifiedzoning.org. The website includes the ordinance draft and the existing and proposed zoning maps. The map can be viewed using the UZOOM feature, which allows you to type in an address or property identification number for any property in the city limits of Savannah or unincorporated Chatham County to see the existing and proposed zoning districts, including permitted uses and development standards. A Help Document on the UZO webpage is available if you need assistance with UZOOM. The webpage also includes a schedule of upcoming meetings, past presentations and minutes, and other helpful documents related to this project.

If you or your group would like to discuss the proposed UZO, please call 651-1499 or send an email to uzo@thempc.org. The MPC staff looks forward to assisting you, and we offer our best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy new year. ■

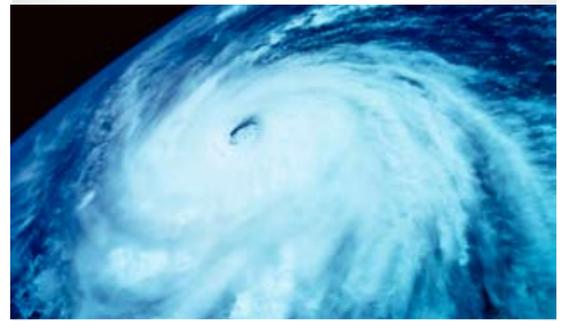
The Metropolitan Planning Commission, in conjunction with the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and the Savannah Economic Development Authority, is hosting a series of meetings in January to discuss

the UZO as it relates to the following business sectors. All are invited to attend.

Lodging Establishments (January 16)
Eating and Drinking Establishments (January 23)
Vehicle/Watercraft Dealers & Services (January 28)
Retail and Service Establishments (January 30)

MPC Office
Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
112 E. State Street
(ground floor of the State Street parking garage)
9:00am to 11:00am (all meetings). (912) 651-1499

Severe Weather Awareness Week 2013: Make Small Changes to Help You Prepare in a Big Way



Hurricane Sandy affected much of the East Coast during late October 2012 and while it was only a Category 1 storm, she caused a giant path of destruction. Hundreds of people were killed and the storm caused more than \$65 billion in damage and business interruption, not to mention millions of people were without power. Hurricane Sandy's destruction serves as a reminder of just how powerful Mother Nature truly is. Many residents along the East Coast were caught off guard when it came to preparing for what Sandy had in store.

Complacency is something people will admit they are guilty of and some will often times adopt the attitude of it hasn't happened to me. The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) truly aims at helping people prepare for disasters and emergencies. Planning though doesn't have to take much effort on your part and simple changes in your way of thinking can help you in a tremendous way.

Severe Weather Awareness Week will take place February 4 through 8 and the week is designed to allow you to focus on weather emergencies and what you need to know to protect yourself. Make sure you mark it on your calendar and pledge each day of the week to do something (big or small) to prepare.

CEMA offers these suggestions:

- Set up a Twitter and Facebook account and follow ChathamEMA in order to receive important alerts when emergencies happen or disaster strikes
- Sign up to receive text message alerts from CEMA; text to 40404 and in the body of the message type follow ChathamEMA and hit send
- Sign up to receive email alerts from CEMA; sign up at www.ChathamEmergency.org
- Learn how to text in case you need to summon help and you can't get a call out on your cell phone
- Check your flashlights in your home and make sure they have working batteries
- Put a roadside assistance kit in your car
- Put a pocket size first aid kit in your purse or briefcase
- Teach your children how to use 911
- Write down important contact numbers on a notepad in case your cell phone dies and you need to call someone
- Figure out where you put your important documents to include social security cards and insurance papers and move them to a safe and collective location
- Check your smoke detector batteries
- Look under your kitchen sink to see what types of hazardous chemicals you have under there and whether or not you are properly storing the items
- Clean up your yard; this is good protection from the stormy season as well cleaning overgrown brush can prevent the spread of fire

To learn more ways to protect yourself and your family as well as more about Severe Weather Awareness Week 2013, visit www.ChathamEmergency.org. ■

Chatham County Sheriff's Office Recognizes Explorer Post 876



The Chatham County Sheriff's Office could not be more proud of the young men and women who make up Explorer Post 876. The 15 teenagers represent eight local and private high schools in Chatham County. They became members because they wanted to learn about law enforcement, but they are getting a lot more out of the program.

Mary Margaret Tarsitano is a sophomore at Calvary Day School and holds the rank of corporal with Explorer Post 876.

"I hope the county and community realizes we are the ones who want to help and be a part of their community later on in life," Tarsitano said. "I'd also like it if the other teens felt inspired to come and join. It's been a truly amazing experience to be in the Explorers."

The mission of Explorer Post 876 is to educate young men and women who are interested in a career in the law enforcement field and to enhance their future by mentoring, motivating and preparing them for their roles as productive citizens in the Coastal Empire.

A team of 12 advisors, led by Deputy Rhonda Bryant-Elleby, and dozens of trainers from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office teach the explorers a variety of law enforcement skills ranging from cell extractions, crime scene investigations, to felony traffic stops.

In 2012, Explorer Post 876 marched in five

parades and participated in two competitions— Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN and Summerfest in Savannah. They also accompanied Georgia Sheriff's Association Youth Home children to Disney World, went camping at Magnolia Springs and delivered gifts to the Boys and Girls Ranch in Hahira.

On November 16, 2012 the Explorers were recognized at a Chatham County Commission meeting.

Explorer advisor Sgt. Lamiles Hill said, "It was great! I was happy to see the Explorers get a chance to see how leaders and people in their community feel about what they are doing by participating in this program."

Sheriff St Lawrence said, "It was great to hear the commissioners praise these young men and women. I am very proud of our Explorers—they are great role models for other teenagers. In the Explorer program they learn about law enforcement, leadership, character and other skills that will help them be successful in life."

On February 7, 2013 Explorer Post 876 will be traveling to Gatlinburg, TN to compete in the annual Winterfest Competition. They will be competing against hundreds of other Explorer Posts from across the country.

To learn more about Explorer Post 876 check out their webpage at explorers.chathamsheriff.org. ■

Walk Georgia

Move More. Live More.

Walk, garden, dance, swim, yoga your way across Georgia. It's time to get moving! You're invited to join us for a virtual stroll through Georgia.



Walk Georgia is a 12-week program sponsored by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. It is designed to increase your physical activity in a fun, interactive, community-oriented way. Participate individually or as part of a four-person team. The goal is to be active, whether you're walking, biking or playing Ultimate Frisbee. Move more, and enjoy living more!

www.walkgeorgia.org

Join us!

Pull on your shoes and join us as we move more and become healthier. Walk Georgia is a free program open to adults, youth, families, schools, community organizations and employers.

Visit www.walkgeorgia.org to register yourself or your four-person team. An email address is required to register. Don't have one? Join a team – only the team captain needs an email address to register.



This program is sponsored through your Cooperative Extension Chatham County office. For more information about Cooperative Extension or this program, call 912-652-7981 or go to www.walkgeorgia.org.

Registration opens February 1

See our group/school registration kits and other promotional material at www.walkgeorgia.org/promo.



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
College of Family and Consumer Sciences