

CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



January 24, 2016



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 on the current district lines visit:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Al Scott, Chairman

A Happy and Healthy 2016 to the citizens of Chatham County! After a number of accomplishments this past year 2016 promises to be an exciting year for Chatham County as we continue to work on better way to serve you while providing easier access to your county government. We have great success on our new mobile app "Chatham County Connect" that has helped our Public

Works Department be able to respond to issues in a much timelier manner. Plans are already being made to expand that app to report issues to other departments.

I am extremely proud of the members of both the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 and the Chatham County Youth Commission, along with members of the Sheriff's Office staff, for their tremendous success with Panic in the Pen. This was not only a fund raiser for both your groups but they decided to split their earnings with Wounded Warrior Project. On December 22nd Sheriff Harris along with members of his staff and representatives of both youth groups traveled to the Wounded Warrior offices in Jacksonville and delivered a check for \$26,500. Their success along with their selflessness is to be highly commended.

Another youth group that deserves recognition is Chatham County Park's 8 & Under Youth Football All Stars for their victory in the National Prep & Youth Football Association All American Tournament in Orlando earlier this month.

2016 is a busy year for elections starting March 1st with the Presidential Preference Primary and the Special Election to fill the unexpired term of the late Al St Lawrence is also on that same date. The article below has all the information regarding registration and early voting dates. Following this election there are local and state primaries in May and the general election in November. If you are not sure if you are registered or not you can call the Voter Registration Office at 790-1520, check the Secretary of State's office at HYPERLINK "http://www.sos.ga.gov/MVP" www.sos.ga.gov/MVP or use the mobile app GA Votes.

As Commission Chairman I am proud of the fact the County Commission agreed to raise the salaries for the deputies in our Sheriff's Office. This helps the Sheriff's Office become more competitive while working to fill their vacancies. For those looking for a career in Law Enforcement the Chatham County Sheriff's Office has provided all the benefits and opportunities they offer in this edition. For those that are interested call the recruitment office at 652-7795 or visit: <http://chathamsheriff.org/Careers> to download the application.

I am proud to serve as your chairman and am proud of the employees of Chatham County who are also here to serve you. Together we will continue to help make 2016 Chatham County's best year yet. ■



Voting information for

2016 Election Dates

2016 Presidential Preference Primary/Special Election Date

Election Date: March 1, 2016

Run-off Date (if required): March 29, 2016

Like us on FACEBOOK
Chatham County Voter Registration

We're on Twitter
@Chathamvotes

Voter Education— Things to Know:

Voter Registration Deadline:
February 1, 2016

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 <http://mvp.sos.state.ga.us/> Keep your residence and mailing address updated with the Voter Registration Office. Political preference is required.

Absentee Voting By Mail:

Voting by Mail 2016 Presidential Preference Primary Election: 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 **January 12, 2016 and end on February 26, 2016**. Requests 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. Call Chatham County Voter Registration at 912-790-1520 for further details.

Absentee Early Voting:

February 8, 2016 – February 26, 2016

Early in-person voting is available 21 days prior to the Presidential Preference Primary Election. Any eligible registered voter desiring to early vote 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:

Saturday Voting will be held on **FEBRUARY 20, 2016: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

ABSENTEE ADVANCE VOTING:

February 22 – February 26

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

2016 ELECTION DATES

Feb. 1: Deadline to register to vote in Presidential Primary, runoff

March 1: Presidential Primary, special election to fill unexpired Chatham County Sheriff's term

March 29: Runoff date for presidential primary, special election

April 26: Deadline to register to vote in general primary, general primary runoff

May 24: General primary, nonpartisan general election

July 26: General primary, nonpartisan runoff

Oct. 11: Deadline to register to vote in General Election; local, state and federal runoffs

Nov. 8: General Election

Dec. 6: Runoffs for local, state offices

Jan. 10, 2017: Runoffs for federal offices

Online Voter Registration

Must have a GA Driver's License or State ID to register online.

- Go to the GA Secretary of State website: www.sos.ga.gov
- Click Elections
- Click the red box: Register to Vote

Mobile App

- Available to use to update voter registration
- Search: GA Votes in App Store



Log in to
www.sos.ga.gov

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)
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)

CHATHAM COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE

1117 Eisenhower Drive Suite E, Savannah, GA 31406
MAIL: P.O. Box 13757, Savannah, GA 31416
PHONE: 912-790-1520
FAX 912-790-1519
Email: voter@chathamcounty.org
Website: <http://voter.chathamcounty.org>

Chatham County 4-H'ers to attend District Competition



Ashley Johnson leading a project area class at the local Humane Society



Chatham County 4-H'ers at DPA workshops



4-H Portfolio Workday with friends



4-H Portfolio Workday with friends



Chatham County 4-H'ers



Zach Holick teaching a project area class

Twenty-three youths will represent Chatham County at the Southeast Junior / Senior 4-H District Project Achievement Competition at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on January 29-31, 2016. Five hundred, seventh through twelfth grade 4-H'ers from 39 counties are expected to attend the annual project competition.

To compete at the district level, each 4-H'er completes a 4-H portfolio of their project activities during the past year. These are submitted prior to the contest for judging. At the actual competition, they present an illustrated demonstration on one subject in their project

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area. The portfolio and demonstration scores are combined to determine the winners. Junior 4-H'ers do not advance beyond the district level, but senior district winners will travel to Atlanta for the State 4-H Congress in July .

In addition to their project area, Zach Holick & Josh Morris will also have political competition to worry about. They will run for a position on the Southeast District 4-H Board of Directors while at Rock Eagle.

The other 4-H'ers, in addition to their individual project demonstrations, will participate in group discussions, recreational activities and special assembly programs. Other highlights of the weekend include the annual district slide show and the presentation of district awards to counties excelling in certain areas of 4-H work during the past year.

The local 4-H'ers will attend the contest courtesy of Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

4-H is the youth program of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. For more information about 4-H in Chatham County, contact the 4-H staff of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service at (912) 652-7981

If you want to find why YOU are Georgia 4-H, call the Cooperative Extension Office at 912/652-7981 or visit our webpage at: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/chatham>

Senior 4-H'ers to represent Chatham County include:

Kashta Muhammad, Amari McDonald & Tommy McNear - Arts & Crafts

Ashley Johnson - Dog Care & Training

Josh Morris - Environment Science

Zach Holick - Family Resource Management

Imani Muhammad - Festive Food for Health

Anna Morris - Food Safety & Preservation

Phoenix Best - Forest Resource & Wood Science

Katie Fenno & Tia Grant - History

Sonte Davis - Human Development

Corey Williams - Performing Arts Dance

Taylor Cobin, Aisha Duck & Sakura Muhammad - Performing Arts Other Instrumental

Juston Days - Performing Arts Vocal

Marie Mitchell -Textiles Merchandising & Interior

Rae Hyatt & Faythe Robinson-Wildlife & Marine Science

Junior 4-H'ers competing are:

Morgan Curry - Forest Resource & Wood Science

Haile Briggs - Performing Arts Vocal

Emily Fenno - Photography

Helping Unrepresented Families "Put the Pieces Together"

Help is hard to come by in the court system for families who cannot afford an attorney.... UNTIL NOW!

The Superior Court of Chatham County and the Mediation Center of Savannah have joined together to offer the FAMILY LAW RESOURCE CENTER [FLRC].

At little or no cost to you, the FLRC helps families "put the pieces together" to file or respond to a DIVORCE, LEGITIMATION, MODIFICATION, CONTEMPT OR NAME CHANGE petition. Do not waste your time and money on online forms from sources not approved by the local court system!

Register for an appointment online at mediationsavannah.com to get access to:

- forms approved by the Superior Court
- assistance in completing the forms, and
- education on how to file your forms successfully

If you have any questions, please call (912) 354-6686 ext. 214 or email us



at sav.familylawresource@gmail.com. We are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9am until 5pm. The cost is \$30, with fee waivers available based on Federal Poverty Guidelines.

For more information, visit the FAMILY LAW RESOURCE CENTER located at 5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 111A (at the corner of Paulsen and 68th Street) or Register online at mediationsavannah.com

Donation to Wounded Warrior Project



On Tuesday December 22, 2015, representatives from Chatham County Explorer Post 876, Chatham County Youth Commission and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office met with officials from the Wounded Warrior Project to deliver their donations. The meeting was held at the WWP National Headquarters in Jacksonville, FL. We were given a tour of their wonderful facility and a vast amount of information on the great things WWP is doing for our injured service members.

The donations were raised during the Panic in the Pen Haunted

Jail that was held this Halloween at the old county jail in downtown Savannah. Thanks to the attendance and support of the community and surrounding areas, the event was a huge success and we sold out every night. All proceeds collected went to charity. The Explorer Post and Youth Commission are the local organizations that benefited from the event. They each agreed to split the proceeds and donate half of the profits to the Wounded Warrior Project. In total, \$26,500 was given to WWP to help them continue to give aid to injured members of our Armed Forces.

Because the Entire Family Matters



Associated Press- The image that gripped the nation and started a movement: The dog named "Snowball" was ripped from a little boy's arms as he was boarding a public bus for evacuation. The boy was among the thousands sheltered at the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina. But when he went to board a bus to be evacuated to Houston, a police officer took the dog away. The boy cried out — "Snowball! Snowball!" — then fell to his knees and vomited in distress. The confrontation was first reported by The Associated Press.

We understand that pets are family too. Unlike people, our pets cannot speak for themselves and rely on us to protect them from harm. We also know that people will often stay behind when a hurricane threatens a community if they feel that there are not appropriate accommodations for their pets. Hurricane Katrina proved this and prompted a shift in pet rights. It's estimated that 250,000 pets were left behind and 150,000 died during the hurricane or in its aftermath. Less than a year after Katrina, the Pet Evacuation Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006 was created. The law demands that state and local governments factor pets into emergency evacuation

plans, and authorize the use of funds for rescue workers to "procure, construct, or renovate emergency shelter facilities and materials that will temporarily accommodate people with pets and service animals."

Every year before hurricane season, Chatham EMA works with Savannah Chatham Animal Control and the Humane Society to review and update Chatham County's Animals in Disasters Plan. When an evacuation order is issued, the Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) will be activated to assist members of the public and their pets who do not have reliable transportation out of town. Appropriate staffing at the pet evacuation area has always been a major concern

in regards to pet check in procedures, registration, vaccination and loading. Animal Control and the Humane Society both are responsible for evacuating their own shelters and simply will not have enough staff to assist with pet evacuations of the general public at the EAA. This year, we decided to do something about it.

Chatham EMA has partnered with the Florida State Animal Response Coalition to train Chatham County citizens on all-hazard disaster preparation, planning, training, response and recovery during animal emergencies. When a hurricane, fire, tornado or other disaster threatens our area, the Chatham Animal Response Team (CART) will be there to assist the animals that rely on us. CART is organized under Chatham Emergency Management and utilizes the principles of The Incident Command System (ICS). At this time, no program like this exists in the state of Georgia. With the Florida State Animal Response Coalition's help, our volunteers will be able to not only learn and exercise pet emergency response, they will become certified trainers and have the ability to train other teams throughout Georgia.

Chatham Animal Response Team training dates are as follows:

Awareness Level:
February 20, 2016, 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Advanced Training:
March 5-6, 2016, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Train the Trainer Course:
April 16-17, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

**Please note, the Awareness Level course is required for the Advanced Training. All courses are required for the Train the Trainer Course. For more information, contact Meredith Ley at maley@chathamcounty.org.*

Chatham County Launches "Chatham County Connect" Mobile Citizen Engagement App

Chatham County is excited to announce the launch of their new mobile application: "Chatham County Connect".

"Chatham County Connect" will allow citizens, residents and visitors to report a variety of problems such as potholes, graffiti, drainage and flooding quickly and easily via web tools and a citizen reporting mobile app. These reports are then forwarded directly to the county's Public Works Department with all the information needed to get the job done.

Furthermore, the platform offers a centralized and integrated management system, whereby county can engage further with citizens, track issues and monitor success.

The mobile app is available for download on Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.seeclickfix.chathamcountyconnect.app>) and iPhone (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chatham-county-connect/id1016479373?mt=8>).

In addition to the mobile apps, residents can send reports to the county using the widget on the county's website (<http://publicworks.chathamcounty.org/Service-Requests>) and seeclickfix.com.

Please keep in mind that these reports are for the unincorporated area only. If the issue is within one of the municipalities the user will be notified as to which municipality it is in and they will be directed to that municipality.

It is easy to submit an issue...

1. Select location (either use the map – it automatically picks your location if you have GPS turned on, or enter an address)
2. Select the Chatham County Public Works Category that matches your issue
3. Enter a Title and Description
4. Attach a picture
5. Submit your Report



Walk-a-Weigh

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016
Time: 6:00 PM

Live Oak Public Library
Garden City Branch
104 Sunshine Avenue



Learn how to change your eating and physical activity habits to lose weight and control or reduce risk for chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Each session includes a short presentation, a taste test of a low calorie recipe and a time to exercise.

Pre-Registration is a must!

Highlights

- Team up with others to be physically active together!
- Learn how to prepare healthy and delicious food.
- Get support to make the changes you want to make.

Next Class Dates

February 9, 2016
February 23, 2016
March 8, 2016
March 22, 2016
April 12, 2016
April 26, 2016

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension • UGA Cooperative Extension - Chatham County
Jackie Ogden, CEC, FACS Agent

Phone: 912.652.7981 • Fax: 912.652.7989 • E-mail: jodgen@uga.edu



Chatham Apprentice Program (CAP)

Each year the Chatham Apprentice Program (CAP) helps 100 or more individuals find a pathway into a brighter future. Individuals like Malcolm Chaplin who need assistance to overcome the barriers that prevent them from making a family-sustaining wage.

Chaplin, a Johnson High graduate, had worked as a dishwasher or line cook at local restaurants after earning a culinary arts certificate at America's Second Harvest but in the last few years, as the restaurants' profits fluctuated seasonally so did his hours, and it became increasingly difficult to find consistent full-time positions that paid more than \$8 an hour. Things finally changed when he learned about the County's Chatham Apprentice Program (CAP); at that time it was holding classes at the West Broad Street YMCA.

After completing CAP, Chaplin is earning \$10/hour plus benefits at a full-time position. Seven months into the job and he's now a lead supervisor.

Step Up Savannah oversees CAP, which helps unemployed and under-employed Chatham County residents find

MAKE YOUR 2016 RESOLUTION TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY IN SAVANNAH

Our vision: Savannah is a community where all people have hope and opportunity, where we challenge injustice, and where all community members Step Up to reduce poverty.

Will you step up today?

We are asking every partner, every business, every faith community, and every individual to do their best in reducing poverty.

Visit stepupsavannah.org/createopportunity

or create career paths that offer decent wages and opportunities for advancement. Its E3 job-readiness class is an intensive four-week training program that is a collaboration among many community organizations and area employers. Classes are held at various community centers in the area. Attendees participate in individual, computer-based learning, facilitated group work covering topics such as effective communication, interview skills, conflict resolution

and professionalism. They also receive one-on-one coaching, development of individual employment and education plans, financial education, and counseling services.

In 2015, CAP offered five E3 job-readiness classes and two hard-skill trainings at various locations throughout the community. In addition, they reached special populations by partnering with Coastal Workforce Investment Board and the Coastal Transition Center specifically for returning citizens as well as a partnership with Wesley Community Center for a class for single parents.

CAP also added two new components to the program: individual "case management" and hard-skills training.

Case management is for low-income individuals who are interested in a career change or advancement but are unable to attend the E3 class due to schedule conflicts. Many individuals are working part-time or for low-wages, but are motivated to make a change.



The new hard skills training class was delivered by Savannah Technical College, which provided forklift safety training and certification, in addition to CAP's employability training. Over 40 percent of hard-skill training graduates were placed in jobs with an average pay rate of \$10.16 an hour.

They receive one-on-one assistance, which includes resume review and revision, specific job search guidance, interview techniques, and other job-readiness counseling.

In the last year, 100 individuals received training from CAP with a 55.5 percent job

placement rate and an average hourly pay of \$9. Some graduates decided to continue their education by obtaining their GED or pursuing higher learning.

In 2016, CAP will offer six job training classes, four of which will include hard-skill training including two forklift

safety certification classes and two classes that will include Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWIC). CAP also plans to extend its case management and will begin holding regular appointments, two Fridays a month at St. Mary's Community Center.



CAP graduate, Malcolm Chaplin, 2015

CHATHAM APPRENTICE PROGRAM'S 2016 SCHEDULE

Location	Dates	Registration Deadline
Department of Labor	January 4 - January 29	December 7, 2015
St. Mary's Community Center	March 7 - March 31	February 26, 2016
Moses Jackson Community Center	April 25 - May 20	April 15, 2016
Mercy Housing	July 25 - August 18	July 15, 2016
St. Mary's Community Center	September 19 - October 7	September 9, 2016
West Broad YMCA	October 31 - November 18	October 21, 2016

I live in Chatham County. How should I discard my cardboard?

Monthly Bulk Pickup



Cardboard will be collected as part of the monthly Bulk Trash pickup. Simply pile the cardboard at the curb with your bulk items and the County will pick them up. To find collection schedules please visit:

<http://publicworks.chathamcounty.org>

**With Christmas coming do not forget to put your boxes with your bulk items for monthly bulk pickup or take them to a drop-off recycling center.

Drop-Off Recycling Center



Cardboard may be recycled at four different drop-off facilities around the county. These include drop-off facilities located on Eisenhower Drive, Wilmington Island, Sharon Park, and Chevis Road.

Yard Waste Pickup



PLEASE NOTE: Yard waste contaminated with cardboard, plastic bags or bulky items or other non-vegetative yard waste materials will not be collected.



Chatham County Sheriff's Office Savannah, Georgia



Join our team of the best-trained professionals in the industry.

Salary & Benefit Information:

- Starting Salary \$33,841-\$34,518
- Group Health & Life Insurance
- Chatham County Employee Health Center for health plan participants
- Dental and Vision Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Deferred Compensation (457 Plan)
- Accrual of Sick & Annual Leave
- Longevity Pay: \$425 after 5 years of service (increases in increments of 5 years)
- Wellness Program
- Other great benefits!

Corrections Duties:

- Build, maintain and operate county jails
- Maintain and protect physical facilities of the jail
- Responsible for health, safety and welfare of prisoners
- Provide prisoners with food, clothing, exercise, recreation and medical services
- Responsible for supervising and protecting the constitutional rights of their prisoners
- Appoints jailers who swear to treat prisoners humanely nor allow them to escape jail management

Visit <http://chathamsheriff.org/Careers> to download an application or call the recruitment office at 912-652-7795 for more information.



DO YOU NEED HELP GETTING INTO A BUILDING OR ACCESSING A SERVICE?

Chatham County complies with all aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act but sometimes we miss something. If you or anyone you know needs help, because of a disability, accessing any service the county provides please contact James Aberson the Chatham County ADA Coordinator. He can be reached by phone at (912) 652-7937 or email at jeaberson@chathamcounty.org.