The 2018 Hurricane Season begins on June 1st. Experts are predicting that the 2018 season will be more active than previous years. In fact, they are predicting 14 named storms this season. Over the last two years, Chatham County has seen an unprecedented amount of severe weather. Hurricane Maria, hurricanes, tornadoes, and snow storms have devastated our community. While the increasing frequency of hazardous weather, there is no greater time than the present for Chatham residents to prepare. The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and I strongly encourage everyone that lives, works, and visits Chatham County to take time now to create or update your family’s emergency plan. A family emergency plan does not need to be overly complex. Often the best emergency plans are created when a family sits down together and discusses three main topics: emergency notifications, evacuation procedures and strategies.

To begin, families should decide how they will receive emergency alerts and warnings. Awareness of hazards in your area is an essential element of preparedness. Staying informed before, during and after an event is critical. One way to receive emergency warnings would be to follow CEMA on social media. CEMA’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will provide you with accurate and timely notifications when you need them most. You can find CEMA by searching @ChathamEMAA on any social media site.

The second component of a successful family emergency plan is developing evacuation procedures. At the beginning of each hurricane season, discuss the best evacuation destination and determine the most efficient route to take for your family. Making plans with friends and family out of Chatham County may be the best decision; or, perhaps your family would rather stay in a hotel room. Either way, establishing the destination and routes ahead of an emergency will save time and energy when a storm approaches. For family members with functional, access or medical needs, evacuation assistance may be available through the Hurricane Registry. However, residents with these needs must apply to be on the list. For more information on the registry or to apply, please call 1833-CHD-REGISTER.

The final element of an emergency plan involves a family communications strategy. During an emergency event, cell phones and computers may be limited or unreliable. Creating a family communications strategy will help ensure that all members in your household know where and how to reach one another during an emergency. To start, create a paper copy of contact information for family members and other important people or offices such as medical facilities or service providers. Then, ensure that someone in the household has a copy of your, driver’s license and other important identification in a location where they can easily access it.

By knowing what actions you and your family can take before the start of the 2018 Hurricane Season, you can increase your level of preparedness and ensure the safety of your loved ones. Take the time now to familiarize yourself with CEMA’s emergency notifications, make your evacuation plans and develop your family communication strategy. It will make a significant impact when disaster strikes.

June is National Safety Month! Chatham County Government has partnered with the National Safety Council and other private and public organizations across the country in support of National Safety Month. The goal of National Safety Month is to focus on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities. Chatham County strives to provide Team Chatham with an exemplary workplace that is safe and injury free. Safe workplaces are a responsibility we all share. From work zone flagging, aerial lift, trenching and excavation, confined spaces and even chain saw operator certifications, Chatham County is committed to providing a safety-knowledgable workforce. However, we cannot accomplish this without your cooperation. Often times our workplaces places us in hazardous conditions. Since 2014, Georgia has seen a 58% increase in work zone fatalities. In 2017, there were 20,854 crashes in work zones with 7,276 injuries and 5 fatalities. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) offers a few important reminders about work zone safety:

• Roadway work zones are not always stationay. Slow-moving work zones conduct maintenance like litter pickup, mowing and sweeping, and may stop intermittently.
• As you approach work zones – slow down, pay attention and watch for workers. Don’t speed or tailgate. Obey flaggers. And expect the unexpected.
• Georgia’s Move Over Law (the Spencer Pass Law) requires drivers to move over one lane if possible when approaching stationary highway maintenance and construction workers, HERO and CHAMP operators, law enforcement or emergency vehicles, firefighters, paramedics, tow truck drivers and utility service vehicles in the roadway or on the shoulder and displaying flashing emergency lights. If traffic is too heavy, move to the edge of the roadway in the next speed line.
• Whenever and wherever you drive, always Drive Alert, Drive Safe. That means buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; drive alert; and do not drive too fast for conditions.

Myth #1: Roadway work zones are not always stationary. Slow-moving work zones conduct maintenance like litter pickup, mowing and sweeping, and may stop intermittently.

Myth #2: Georgia’s Move Over Law (the Spencer Pass Law) requires drivers to move over one lane if possible when approaching stationary highway maintenance and construction workers, HERO and CHAMP operators, law enforcement or emergency vehicles, firefighters, paramedics, tow truck drivers and utility service vehicles in the roadway or on the shoulder and displaying flashing emergency lights. If traffic is too heavy, move to the edge of the roadway in the next speed line.

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Myth #8: Georgia’s Move Over Law (the Spencer Pass Law) requires drivers to move over one lane if possible when approaching stationary highway maintenance and construction workers, HERO and CHAMP operators, law enforcement or emergency vehicles, firefighters, paramedics, tow truck drivers and utility service vehicles in the roadway or on the shoulder and displaying flashing emergency lights. If traffic is too heavy, move to the edge of the roadway in the next speed line.

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5 CLASSIC MYTHS ABOUT (INTERNAL AUDITING)

May Is Internal Auditors Month

Myth #1: Internal auditors are accountants by training. One of the most common misperceptions about internal auditing is that the auditors are all “bean counters” who focus solely on their companies’ financial records. This is an obvious gross of truth in the internal audit myths. A solid audit or accounting background can be helpful for a career in internal audit. But internal auditors commonly address fraud risks, compliance issues, and a myriad of operational issues that are unrelated to accounting, and the auditors’ backgrounds are likely to be as diverse as the operations they audit. An auditing degree is not the only path for career success, and these days it’s not even the most common path. A recent survey by The IIA’s Audit Executive Center indicates that audit executives are now recruiting job applicants with analytical/critical thinking ability, data mining skills, business acumen, and IT skills more often than they seek applicants with accounting training.

Myth #2: At the heart of several jokes about internal auditors is the misconception that we are dead set on picking apart processes and ruining the reputations of the people who do the “real work.” According to the myth, the auditors are viewed as the group who “baysouts the wounded after the battle is over,” distracting management from more important responsibilities to stop. In reality, of course, internal audit’s focus is on major risks rather than on nit-picking details. Audit resources are limited, and when auditors focus too much attention on minor issues, they are limiting the time available for addressing the major risks and controls that are at the heart of internal audit. Any auditor would rather report on a $6 million cost savings than on a $6 error!
Crawford Square Café
Open at Henderson Golf Club

As you walk into the Henderson Golf Course Clubhouse, you now will be welcomed by the smells of bacon on the grill and fresh coffee brewing in the morning. Or between 9s, a hot dog or fresh popped popcorn awaits. Since taking over operations of Henderson Golf Club in September 2016, Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department has been working to reopen the cafe to be able to serve golfers, as well as, the community and local visitors. We are pleased that a local businessman has decided to partner with us in this endeavor to reinvigorate the cafe.

Why the name? Crawford Square, where the owner of the cafe grew up, is the only square in downtown Savannah with recreational equipment. The square houses a basketball court, a park, and the neighborhood team after a 1946 city wide tournament. It has a rich history of playground basketball which is responsible for producing some of Savannah’s greatest players. The Cafe has a simple but delicious menu planned for breakfast and lunch served daily. Grab a quick sandwich or burger on the go. Or sit a while and enjoy your lunch with a beautiful view. We hope the combination of play on the golf course and food and drinks at Crawford Square Cafe can mirror the many parks we have in the county that act as a central focal point for the area, providing a gathering place for recreation and enjoyment, and fostering a sense of community pride.

Table & Swings

We’re at it again! We are continually making improvements to our Parks and Recreation properties in Chatham County to make them as accessible as possible for all of our citizens. In April, we added a wheelchair accessible picnic table to the pavilion at King’s Landing at the request of a family that frequents the boat landing. The new table is extended at both ends to accommodate an additional four feet, allowing a wheelchair user to pull up under the table.

We are also installing two accessible swings at the Lake Mayer playground. One is a Bucket Seat for smaller children ages 2 to 3 years. The other is a little bit larger Inclusive Swing Seat for children 2 to 12 years of age. Both are swing, supportive seats offering children a fun ride while helping them coordinate head and eye movements, and stay upright against gravity. The installation of the swings should be complete in June.

If you need an accommodation to access any of Chatham County’s buildings or services, or know someone who does, please contact James Abprint

ADM Coordinator
He can be reached by phone at (912) 695-7587 during business hours, or by email at JABPRINT@CHATHAMCOUNTY.ORG

Prevent Suicide Today

Above all, these trainings teach that suicide is preventable, and that we as a community have the power to save lives.

Register at: https://www.chathamcountyny.org/asist-registration/
SuicideTALKS is a free suicide awareness talk. The information provided in these discussions helps participants:

- Understand how personal and community beliefs affect suicide stigma
- Appreciate how talking openly about suicide can help prevent it
- Contribute to suicide safety by protecting and promoting life in their communities

Request a scholarship, schedule a FREE SuicideTALK, or contact us with questions: ASIST@chlink.org Facebook @PreventSuicideTODAY (912) 961-1456

Upcoming 2018 ASIST Workshops

- June 18-19 Chatham County Health Dept
- June 27-28 Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens
- July 20-21 St. Joseph’s Hospital
- July 24-25 Union Mission
- Aug 14-15 Chatham County Health Dept
- Aug 30-31 Demere Center, Hospice Savannah
- Sept 12-13 St. Mary’s Community Center
- Sept 27-28 Juvenile Court
- Oct 11-12 Chatham County Health Dept
- Oct 15-16 Demere Center, Hospice Savannah
- Nov 1-2 St. Joseph’s Hospital
- Dec 6-7 St. Mary’s Community Center

S$25 Scholarships Available!
Chatham County Youth Commission Rethinks Poverty

On Saturday, April 7th, Step Up Savannah and the Economic Opportunity Authority (EOA) hosted a poverty simulation for community members and members of the Chatham County Youth Commission (CCYC) interested in developing a deeper understanding of poverty.

Step Up’s poverty simulation is a tool used to help community members rethink the challenges that 18% of Chatham County residents face each and every day as they live in poverty. Alderman Van Johnson asks all CCYC members to participate because he believes that in order to effectively lead a community, the complexities of poverty must be understood. The simulation, created by the Missouri Community Action Network, requires groups of 35 to 75 people to assume the roles of families in poverty. The goal of each family is to survive for one month, which takes place in four 15- minute “weeks.” In this time, participants must maintain steady employment, send their kids to school, make car payments, pay rent, buy groceries, and buy clothing for their families. Each CCYC student took on the identity of someone else. For two hours, they acted as family members to fellow youth commissioners and community members as they navigate difficult life circumstance. Many participants faced eviction, school suspension, rent arrears with law enforcement, or childcare issues. A few of the lucky ones were able to retain employment while others faced unemployment early.

Following the simulation, participants discussed their experience. Many voiced the frustrations of not being able to do enough or the “right thing” to pay their bills. Many shared the hopelessness they felt. Nearly every participant ended the simulation committed to doing something about addressing poverty in our community. CCYC members were no exception. In fact, many sought Step Up staff to discuss ways they could personally get engaged.

Kate Blair, director of communications and development with Step Up Savannah, praised the maturity and focus of CCYC. “I’ve hosted many simulations with students throughout Savannah and each time I work with the Chatham County Youth Commission I am awe of their level of engagement and passion. None match it.” They are eager to learn, participate, and discuss the complexities of poverty. There is no doubt in my mind that Savannah will be a more equitable and just community when these students become our leaders.”

For more information about Step Up’s poverty simulations, email kbibb@stepupsavannah.org.

A Call for Collaboration: Savannah Votes

At the center of Step Up’s work is the belief that all community members should be represented in community decision-making. Throughout history, systems have marginalized populations by reducing or preventing their participation in economic, social, and political life. Over the last ten years, the Neighbor- hood Leadership Academy (NLA) at Savannah State University has been Step Up’s primary method of promoting civic engagement and grassroots community organizing within low-income communities. The NLA brings together established and emerging leaders from diverse segments of the community to enhance their leadership skills with a focus on advocacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

In 2017, Step Up Savannah’s “Savannah Votes” initiative was created by the NLA Alumni Network. The network consists of 119 alumni, each member representing their own circles of influence and neighborhoods. Step Up secured additional funding to support a part-time voter engagement coordinator and Ciiera Selby was hired to fill this role.

As a non-partisan initiative, Savannah Votes’ mission was to ensure all Chatham County residents have the opportunity to fully exercise their political power through voting. Savannah Votes builds on the success of community organizing and offers the public grassroots voter engagement and registration services.

Savannah Votes will build upon Step Up’s model of collaboration as the foundation of its efforts. At the nucleus of Savannah Votes is the volunteer. Collaborating with volunteers adds value, credibility and community buy-in to this kind of civic participation. In addition to the NLA Alumni Network volunteers, Savannah Votes will train community members to move the program towards its goal. Step Up will collaborate with its network of nonprofit and business partners at events, schools, faith communities, and businesses to meet unregistered residents where they are.

Step Up Savannah works to engage all sectors of the community to improve the economic mobility and financial stability of families in Savannah and Chatham County. In order to be successful at this, all members of our community must be at the table. Step Up is excited to expand its civic engagement efforts, starting with one voter registration event a time.

If you would like to volunteer with Step Up’s voter engagement project, call 912-222-8747 or email savannahvotes@stepupsavannah.org.