



# Chatham County Connection

July 14, 2019



Albert J. Scott  
Chairman



Helen L. Stone  
District 1



James J. Holmes  
District 2



Bobby Lockett  
District 3



Patrick K. Farrell  
District 4



Tabitha Odell  
District 5:



James "Jay" Jones  
District 6:



Dean Kicklighter  
District 7



Chester A. Ellis  
District 8

For more information on the current district lines visit:

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



Al Scott, Chairman

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 2019 Hurricane Season began on June 1st. Experts are projecting an average season of 13 named storms, five hurricanes and two major hurricanes in the Atlantic. However, it only takes ONE. It only takes one storm to completely devastate our community. Over the last several years, Chatham County has seen an unprecedented amount of severe weather. Tropical storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and snow storms have wreaked havoc on our county. With 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/or visits Chatham County to take time now to create or update your family emergency plan. Spending a few minutes now may save you valuable time when a storm is approaching. Also, family emergency plans don't need to be overly complex. In fact, the best emergency plans are often created when a family sits down together and discusses three main topics: emergency notifications, evacuation procedures and communication 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. Regardless of the system that you plan to use, staying informed before, during and after an event is critical. One way to receive emergency warnings would be to register for CEMA Alerts. CEMA Alerts, powered by Swift911, CEMA alerts include a wide variety of information from severe weather notices to notifications about upcoming siren tests. These alerts will provide you with accurate and timely information when you need them most.

The second component of a successful family emergency plan is developing and updating your evacuation procedures. At the beginning of each hurricane season, discuss the best evacuation destination and determine the most efficient route for your family to take. Making plans with friends and family outside of Chatham County may be the best decision for your family. Some families may choose to stay in a hotel while others may need the support of an evacuation shelter. Regardless of your family's plan, 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 1-833-CHD-REGISTER.

The final element of an emergency plan involves a family communications strategy. During an emergency event, you could lose your cell phone. Do you have everyone's phone numbers memorized? Creating a family communications strategy will help ensure that all members in your household know how to reach one another, even if their cell phone battery is depleted. 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 everyone carries a copy in his or her book bag, purse or wallet and also keeps a copy in a central location in your home. Be sure to update this list regularly throughout hurricane season.

By knowing what actions you and your family can take this 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 if disaster strikes.



## Chatham County's CITIZEN HURRICANE ACADEMY

at Savannah High School. During this free event, Chatham County residents will have the opportunity to learn from local experts on what they can do to better prepare for hurricane season.

Interactive classes will run throughout the day in 30 minute segments with a free lunch, provided by Memorial Health. Class topics include disaster financial preparedness, understanding your flood zone, recognizing storm surge and hurricane risks, Hands Only CPR, Stop the Bleed, FEMA's You Are the Help-Until Help Arrives, and more. There will also be a Children's Workshop, hosted by Memorial Health Dwaine & Cynthia Willett Children's Hospital of Savannah. Children, age 5-13, will be able to engage in age-appropriate hurricane preparedness activities from 9:30 am-12:15 pm. Please note, a parent or guardian must check their child into the Children's Workshop and must remain on site throughout the morning.

In addition to the classes and Children's Workshop, we will also have a resource fair from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, where residents will be able to meet with agencies that provide support before, during and after an emergency situation. Some vendors include the Chatham County Department of Public Health, Memorial Health, CEMA, the Coastal Empire Disaster Recovery Committee and other voluntary agencies.

Registration is required for this event to ensure we have plenty of food for those present. If you are interested in attending, please visit [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org). If you have any questions or need assistance registering, please call the CEMA office at 912-201-4500.

## Visit the Chatham County Resource Conservation Education Center!

### RECYCLE!

Drop off your recyclables. Accepted items below.

Aluminum Cans  
Paper (newspaper, office paper, magazines)  
Cardboard  
Scrap Metal  
Plastic (#1 AND 2)  
Eye Glasses  
Cooking & Motor Oil

All rechargeable Batteries  
Cell phones  
Electronics  
Laptops  
Ink & Toner Cart  
Plastic Bags  
CD/DVD

Attendants will require you to sort at the drop-off centers. Pre-sorting will save you time.

### LEARN!

Book a talk with the Recycling Coordinator for your classroom or next club meeting.

Book a tour of the facility for your class or group and learn how recycling works.

Attend or host an environmentally focused workshop.

### GALLERY F.A.R.

Gallery F.A.R. is an art gallery within the Resource Conservation Education Center focused on showcasing artwork using recycled/upcycled materials.

Call the Recycling Coordinator to discuss how your environmental artwork may be featured.

Contact

1321 Eisenhower Dr  
Savannah, Georgia  
(912) 790-1647

Hours of Operation  
Tuesday - Saturday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
[recycling.chathamcounty.org](http://recycling.chathamcounty.org)






UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY  
YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE


Monday	Westside and Georgetown
Tuesday	The Landings - Skidaway Island
Wednesday	Isle of Hope, Whitefield Avenue/Dutch and Burnside Islands
Thursday	Island areas - Wilmington, Talahi and Whitemarsh Islands

Find the yard waste schedule online under "Popular Services" at [chathamcountyga.gov](http://chathamcountyga.gov)


COUNTY GUIDELINES FOR  
PROPER YARD WASTE REMOVAL




Loose items must be containerized using either a reusable container or compostable Kraft paper bags. No plastic bags.



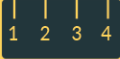
Keep weight of containers or bags to 50 lbs. or less. Yard waste that is too heavy or too large to quickly remove by hand will be scheduled for removal with specialized equipment.




Stack loose branches, limbs, brush, and larger tree prunings at the curbside for collection.



Yard waste containing plastic bags or bulky items or other non-vegetative yard waste materials will not be collected. Additionally, yard waste created by tree services and/or land clearing operations will not be collected.



Maximum length of 4 feet for tree trunks, branches, limbs, etc.



Bulk waste is collected monthly and may be placed curbside no sooner than 72 hours in advance of collection day.

## Strategic Planning Underway for Chatham County Police Department

said Chatham County Police Chief Jeff Hadley.

After the meetings, the Dolan Group met with CCPD command staff to discuss the comments and opinions voiced during the brainstorming sessions. The next step in the process is to turn the feedback into action items and a three-year plan for the department. That part of the process is expected to take several months.

Residents, employees, business leaders and government partners recently had the opportunity to weigh in on the job the Chatham County Police Department (CCPD) is doing, and what their goals should be for the future.

That feedback is one of the first, and most important parts, of the strategic planning process just launched by CCPD.

Led by the Dolan Consulting Group, who specializes in law enforcement, strategic planning will help the department define important goals to improve the work they do, while addressing some of the top concerns of the people who live and are employed in the unincorporated areas of Chatham County.

A series of meetings was held the week of May 13th to brainstorm both about what CCPD does well, and the expectations of department employees and the people they serve. Many of the discussions were lively, with people working in groups to come up with what they thought were some of the key issues facing the county and law enforcement. An online survey was also available for those who could not attend.


“This department is built on a philosophy of community policing, so we needed to hear from business owners and residents about what they want and expect from their police department,”

## CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER PATRICK FARRELL APPOINTED TO ACCG BOARD OF MANAGERS TO REPRESENT ACCG GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chatham County Commissioner Patrick Farrell was recently sworn in to serve on the 2019-2020 Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Board of Managers to represent ACCG’s Group Health Benefits Board of Directors, which he also chairs. Commissioner Farrell was sworn in by Governor Brian Kemp with other Board members during a special luncheon that took place during the 2019 ACCG Annual Conference at the Savannah Convention Center in Chatham County.




“On behalf of the Association staff and our membership, I would like to congratulate the newly installed ACCG Board of Managers,” said Executive Director Dave Wills. “Each spring, ACCG welcomes its new leaders, and we remain fortunate to be led by a group of true public servants who possess a sincere appreciation for improving Georgia’s local communities. We look forward to serving the citizens of Georgia under the direction of our new Board.”

Summer Bonanza Camp Kicks Off



Summer Bonanza, the best combination of summer camp and summer school, kicked off another exciting summer on Saturday, May 25, 2019, with over 100 participants in attendance. This rousing event got started with an exciting parade down Richards Street followed by a special appearance by Sarah Elizabeth Joyner, 2019 Miss Georgia USA, who welcomed the children and parents to these ten weeks of education and fun. After an introduction by program founder Dr. Priscilla Thomas, the children adjourned to their classrooms to begin the STEM-enriched hands-on activities. Summer Bonanza partners, JC Lewis Primary Health Care Center, YMCA Healthy Savannah, and the Savannah Police Department also had booths set up with information about their services.

Summer Bonanza is a youth mentoring program founded in 1991 by Retired Chatham County Commissioner, Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas. Her vision for this youth initiative continues to be administered: to provide activities addressing respectfulness, responsible choices, character, leadership, accountability, and moral behavior, while promoting health and wellness, cultural awareness, community service, and citizenship.







# Chatham County Sheriff's Office Raises Nearly \$30,000 during 17th Annual Poker Run



On April 28, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office hosted their 17th Annual Poker Run, raising nearly \$30,000 for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, a facility that houses abandoned and neglected children.

"Each year, we throw a Christmas party for the children at the Hahira campus and this poker run funds that, as well as a large purchase that the home needs," explained Chatham County Sheriff John T. Wilcher. "Last year we contributed towards the purchase of a brand new generator for the Hahira facility, as well as delivered gifts to the campuses in Dalton and Chatsworth."

Wilcher, an avid motorcycle rider and collector,

has led the poker run since the office's very first event in 2002.

"The event grows in size each year," said Wilcher. "This year the event brought out 314 motorcycles and 450 people."

This year one of the event's attendees was former youth homes resident Juan Castanon. Now 26-years-old, Castanon was sent to the Hahira home when he was 11 and in the sixth grade.

"The youth homes gave me a whole different life," said Castanon.

Castanon remained a resident at the home until he graduated high school in 2011. Before that, he and his brothers were in and out of foster homes. Now as a husband and a father, he reflects on how the home nurtured him throughout his difficult life.

"During each of the times the sheriff's office would visit, I never wanted them to leave because I really enjoyed being around each and every person," said Castanon.

The Sheriff's Office is looking forward to their 20th Annual Poker Run on Sunday, April 16, 2020.



## ABOUT THE CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is led by Sheriff John T. Wilcher and is the third oldest law enforcement agency in the United States having been established in 1732. The mission of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office is to protect the judiciary, execute orders of the courts, support our law enforcement partners and provide for the care, custody and control of legally incarcerated inmates.



## SAFETY CHAIRS

In the past year the County purchased and installed five evacuation chairs and placed them in three of their multi-story buildings. The one most recently purchased was installed in the Chatham County Public Works building located on Varne-doe Drive. The stairway evacuation devices make it easier to evacuate persons who are mobility impaired from multi-story buildings during an emergency. This includes wheelchair users and persons with medical conditions (temporary or permanent) that prohibit walking distances. An additional chair will be installed in the new Parks and Recreation Building at Memorial Stadium in the near future.

## AUTOMATIC DOORS INSTALLED

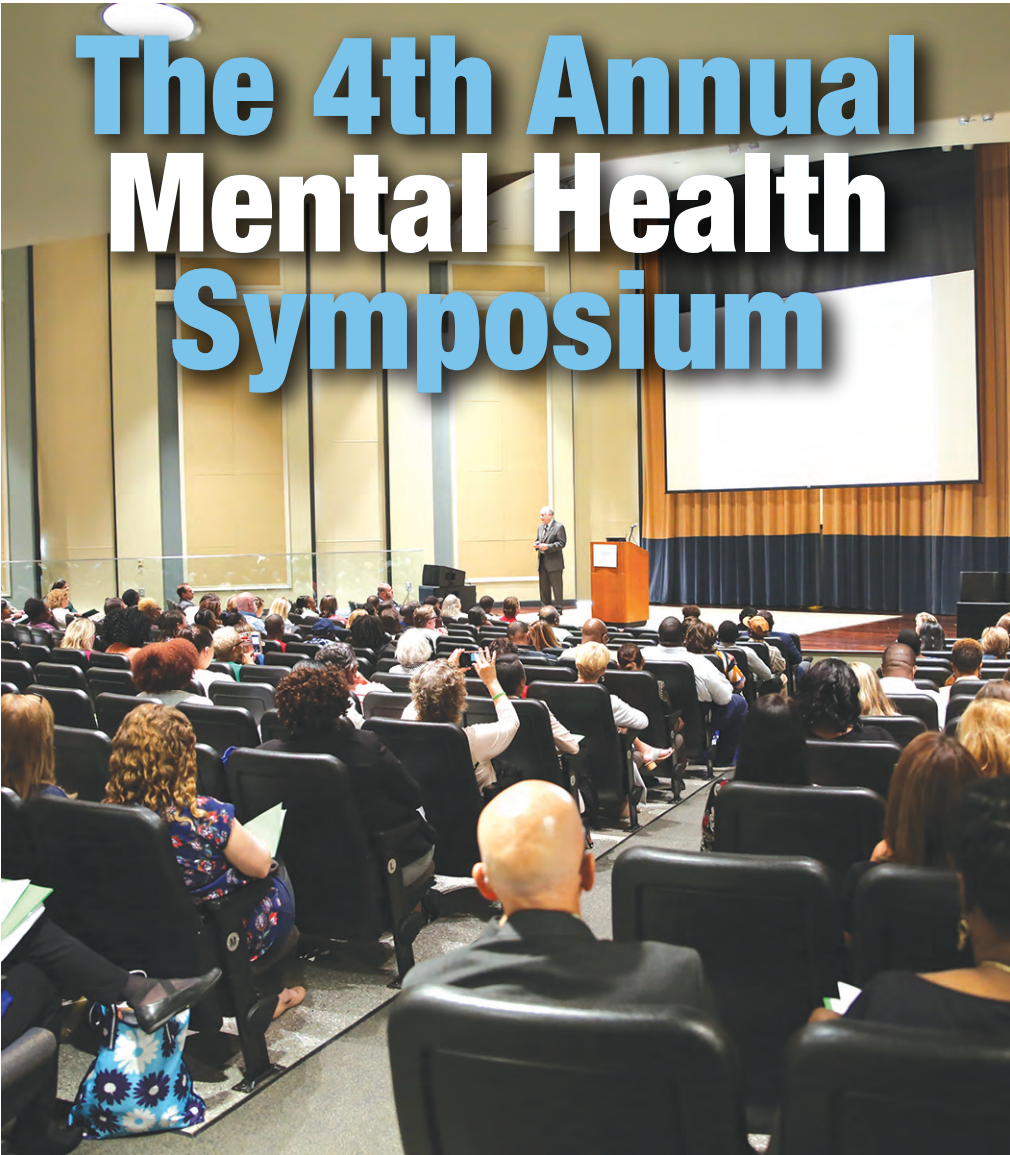
Chatham County is continually working to make the County safer and more accessible to all of our residents and visitors, including those with differing abilities.

In October of 2018, the Frank G. Murray Community Center moved from Whitmarsh Island to 125 Wilmington Island Road. Recently, an automatic door opener was installed at the new location to make it easier for people with mobility impairments to get in and out of the building. The new door is especially helpful for those attending the Sit and Be Fit exercise program designed for people with a mobility impairment or that are recovering from an injury or surgery and cannot stand for long periods of time. In addition to the Sit and Be Fit class, there is a wide variety of programs for participants of all ages. They have Zumba, Line Dancing, Toddler Arts and Crafts, Yoga, even a Friday Night Kid's Movie where parents can drop the kids off and come back to pick them up when the movie over. The center is also available to rent.

For more information about the Frank G. Murray Community Center contact:  
Jodi L Moody, Recreation Supervisor, Frank G Murray Community Center  
125 Wilmington Island Rd, Savannah, GA 31410 • (912) 898-3320



## The 4th Annual Mental Health Symposium



When the Chatham Community Blueprint was released in late 2015, we heard from the public that one major concern and request was to address the mental health needs of residents. Chatham County has worked alongside national allies such as Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), state partners like Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (GADBDHDD), and local stakeholders to effectively address mental health by educating the public, increasing early intervention programs and removing gaps to increase access to treatment. However, our work is not yet done.

Nearly one in four adults (estimated at 46.6 million) live with a mental illness while one in five youth, aged 13-18, and one in eight children, aged 8-15, experience a severe mental disorder at some point during their lives. Today, as many as 1.4 million adults in Georgia have been diagnosed with mental illness such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Prevention is one effective way to reduce the psychological, social and economic burdens associated with mental illness; therefore, early identification and intervention can alleviate suffering and lead to improved lives.

Chatham County recently hosted the 4th Mental Health Symposium with more than 250 attendees to include our keynote speaker, Clark Flatt, youth suicide prevention champion and President of the Jason Foundation. Flatt quoted CDC data showing youth suicide rates have increased 70% from 2006 to 2016 in the United States. Furthermore CDC estimates that in the U.S. we lose approximately 6700 young people to suicide each year.

Mental health is an essential part of an individual's overall well-being, and mental illness is a major public health concern in our nation. Chatham County is committed to finding solutions and we look forward to the community's support in our efforts to reduce the stigma and increase treatment options.



# Chatham 911 Communications Services Celebrates National Telecommunicators Week



Communications Officer Angela Page

Chatham 911 Communications Services and area public safety agencies celebrated National Telecommunicators Week during the week of April 14 through 20, 2019. The 911 Department and various Public Safety agencies thanked the 911 Department’s staff for the services they provide daily to the citizens of Chatham County, and to the agencies dispatched. Some of the agencies showed their appreciation by visiting the Center, and contributing meals and gifts during the week, to include the Chatham County Police Department, the Garden City Police Department, the Savannah Police Department and the Savannah Fire Department. During the week of celebration, the following 911 team members were recognized by their peers for providing exemplary customer service:

- Communications Officer of the Year—Angela Page
- Communications Training Officer of the Year—Dionne Lloyd
- Communications Supervisor—Cathy Wiley
- Administrative Team Member—Cynthia Johnson



From left to right, Judith McCook, Deputy 911 Director; Communications Training Officer Dionne Lloyd; Communications Supervisor Cathy Wiley; Administrative Assistant Cynthia Johnson; Interim 911 Director Diane Pinckney

The Chatham 911 Communications Services recently transitioned to Chatham County government from the City of Savannah and became an independent agency as of January 1, 2019. The 911 Department’s Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) provides Fire, Police, EMS dispatch and other support services for unincorporated Chatham County, the City of Savannah, Pooler, Bloomingdale, Garden City, Port Wentworth, Thunderbolt and for Chatham County Animal Services after hours.

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES OFFERS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICES

Live Oak Public Libraries has launched new high-speed internet services connecting 16 library locations across Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties. The Library recently completed an advanced fiber-optic network, in partnership with Comcast Business, that serves public libraries throughout Chatham County.

### Internet Access Free to the Public

Access to computers, broadband, and wireless internet at Live Oak Public Libraries is free to the public. The new high-speed internet service increases community connectivity and gives library patrons greater access to technology and online resources. Patrons have improved services to search and apply for jobs, access e-government services, obtain information and find support for lifelong learning.

### Community Place for Technology

- Live Oak Public Libraries’ resources are free to Chatham County residents and include:
- More than 450 public computers
  - More than 11 million library items available through PINES
  - More than 100 library databases indexing thousands of online publications
  - Thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks, digital magazines, and streaming movies
  - Ongoing computer training, coding classes, and e-resource lessons for all ages

### Fiber Optic Network

The new fiber optic network supports library services at almost twice the speed of the prior network. The network supplies improved online performance with guaranteed bandwidth that is faster, more reliable, and more secure. The service is dedicated, flexible, and scalable, which prepares libraries for future growth as Comcast’s fiber network can deliver up to 100 gigabits per second. The cost of the project is more than 90% subsidized through substantial financial support from the federal E-Rate Program and the Georgia Public Library Service.



## Prevent Suicide Today

Learn the skills. Save a life.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

Workshops available monthly in Chatham County.

VIEW FULL SCHEDULE & REGISTER AT:

[WWW.CHATHAMSAFETYNET.ORG/ASIST-REGISTRATION/](http://WWW.CHATHAMSAFETYNET.ORG/ASIST-REGISTRATION/)

CONTACT US:

912.661.1456 | [ASIST@CHLINK.ORG](mailto:ASIST@CHLINK.ORG) | [FACEBOOK.COM/PREVENTSUICIDETODAY/](https://www.facebook.com/preventsuicidetoday/)



If you or someone you know is in crisis and needs help,  
call Georgia Crisis and Access Line at  
1-800-715-4225.



## Did You Know?

YOU CAN ADOPT CATS AND DOGS AT  
CHATHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES!

Dogs \$70  
Cats \$10

ADOPTIONS INCLUDE; AGE APPROPRIATE VACCINATIONS, CANINE HEARTWORM TEST (IF OVER 7 MONTHS OF AGE), DEWORMER, FELV/FIV TEST FOR FELINES, SPAY-NEUTER, AND A MICROCHIP.

