



# Chatham County Catch Basin

## Meet Chatham County's New Resiliency Program Administrator

### Jackie Jackson



Chatham County has identified a need for County-wide guidance to evaluate local and current resources to gauge capacity for resiliency. In order to meet this need, Chatham County has hired a new Resiliency Program Administrator, Jackie Jackson, who will ultimately work to coordinate a County-wide resiliency effort.

What is “resiliency” and how does it impact us? A recent interview with Jackson sheds light on resiliency in Chatham County.

#### *What does “resiliency” mean?*

*Jackson-* In short, [resiliency] is often described as the ability to “bounce back” from a shock or stressor. It’s the ability of both Chatham County and its residents to proactively anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, and recover from both extreme disturbances and persistent stressors. Chatham County’s resilience is being examined through the lens of a whole-community approach with a resilience framework consisting of four main themes:

- ✦ Infrastructure & Environment,
- ✦ Leadership & Strategy,
- ✦ Health & Wellbeing, and
- ✦ Economy & Society.

However, these resilience themes are not independent of one another, but instead are intertwined and mutually beneficial with impacts in and on other program areas.

#### *Resiliency seems to cover a wide range of topics. As for stormwater and flooding, can residents increase their resiliency to flooding and if so, how?*

*Jackson-* Absolutely! In recent years, the impacts of climate change have been felt across the world, and Chatham County is not immune. Locally, we see the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. For instance, a warming climate is producing heavier and more frequent rainfall events and tidal gage data shows rising trends in sea levels heights. In fact, tidal gauges have collected data at Fort Pulaski since 1935 and currently show nearly one foot (1’) of sea level rise since 1935.

Residents can increase their resiliency to some flooding risks by learning and preparing for weather related events. This should include:

- ✦ Learning about your home’s flood risk,
- ✦ Knowing your flood zone,
- ✦ Protecting you, your family, and your home (including contents) from flooding and flood damage, and
- ✦ Evaluating the need for flood insurance no matter where you live in Chatham County.

And there’s plenty more recommendations on the County’s “Flood Facts” webpage here: <https://engineering.chathamcountyga.gov/FloodZones/FactsForCitizens>

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Native Plant Sale was a success!

**Thank you for supporting the Chatham County's First annual Native Plant Sale!  
The UGA Botanical Gardens sale was a tremendous success!**

**Many thanks to Savannah Victory Gardens, and NatureScapes of Beaufort,  
Savannah Tree Foundation, and the UGA Botanical Gardens  
for providing a diversity of native species!**

**Also— thanks to Savannah Tree Foundation and  
Chatham County Public Works for providing FREE mulch.**

**Rain barrel winners are:  
Rod Van Dyck and Rachel Cadichon**



Photos UGA Botanical Gardens

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***How can residents learn more on resiliency?***

***Jackson-*** I'm working on adding some information to the Chatham County website in the upcoming months, but for now, feel free to reach out to me via email or phone:

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Chatham County Resiliency  
Program Administrator  
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Office: 912-652-7896

Many thanks to Jackie for shedding light on resiliency and ways coastal residents can be prepared. Not only have coastal afternoon storms began to flare up in the summer heat, but the Atlantic Hurricane Season began on June 1st. Street and property flooding can happen from rain events and storms. You can help reduce flooding and KEEP STORMWATER CLEAN!

- ✦ Pick up litter.
- ✦ Bag leaves and lawn debris for County pick up.
- ✦ Avoid chemical applications to lawns and gardens when a heavy rain is predicted.
- ✦ Volunteer to tile storm drains and educate the community through participating in the AAD Volunteer program!



**STORMWATER  
VOLUNTEER  
PROGRAM**

**July & August  
Adopt-A-Drain (AAD)  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

Volunteers needed to apply storm drain tiles  
in Unincorporated Chatham County!!

**Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.**

**Tiling supplies provided.**

**Opportunities possible Monday through Saturday!**

**Contact Angela at  
[acbliss@chathamcounty.org](mailto:acbliss@chathamcounty.org)**

