



COMMISSIONER TIMES

SMALL TOWN LIVING ON THE BIG LAKE

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Monda Mathis Presented GWEN Award

The 7th Annual Georgia Women Entrepreneur's Conference (GWEN) was held in metro-Atlanta on October 10 & 11, 2007. The GWEN Conference, started by the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center (UGA SBDC), provides women business owners with educational and networking opportunities to grow their businesses. The GWEN vision is to inspire and enable female entrepreneurs to realize their professional and personal goals. The GWEN mission is to encourage and support the idea of "power through knowledge, wisdom through sharing, and growth through application."

The GWEN Conference has become recognized for its quality educational programs that target the needs of women entrepreneurs. During the two day event, these professional women will attend workshops and panel discussions on topics related to strategic management, marketing, finance, leadership development, technology, ethics, wealth management, procurement and more. Highly successful women entrepreneurs are the primary facilitators and instructors for these programs. A trade show, consisting of representatives from corporate America, small businesses and government agencies was also part of the event.

The highlight of the conference was on the second day at the awards luncheon announcing the 2007 GWEN Award winner! This year's winner was Clay County's own Monda Mathis of DMS Industries. Monda was one of the top five nominees last year and this year won the prestigious GWEN award. We are proud of Monda and

the hard work she has put into building her nationally successful business.



Keynote Speaker Cathy Cox, Monda Mathis, SBDC State Director Allan Adams



County Receives Grants

Over the past several months, Clay County has been fortunate to receive a number of grants to assist in the operations and expansion of county services.

In September, the county was awarded a CDBG for the construction of a new Social Services Building in the amount of \$493,144.

On November 7, the county was again awarded a OneGeorgia grant in the amount of \$320,700 for the acquisition of Sutton's Museum. This will be a great tourist attraction for the City of Fort Gaines and Clay County as well as our region.

The State appropriated \$10,000 to the county to improve security in the Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex with installation of security features.

USDA has granted the Sheriff's office and county administration office a Facilities Grant in the amount of \$38,075 for the purchase of computer equipment in both locations. The library also received a USDA Facilities grant in the amount of \$69,300 to purchase various equipment to upgrade services.

The Georgia DOT awarded a grant for the resurfacing of Garnersville and Thornton Road in the amount of \$139,914 and another grant for safety striping of various roads through out the county in the amount of \$37,908.

We received a grant from the GBI for new optical fingerprinting for Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$25,382.

Your Commissioners and staff continue to work for you in applying for all available funds to be used for improving our county services.

Entrepreneur Friendly Initiative Kicks Off

Clay, Quitman, Stewart and Randolph Counties have joined together for a unique regional initiative to become state certified Entrepreneur Friendly. Each county is working independently to create business handbooks that will introduce entrepreneurs to "How to do business in their respective County".

Additionally, we will be holding classes to help new entrepreneurs learn how to prepare business plans, budgeting, marketing, etc. Classes will be held in early 2008.

The final assessment for EF designation will be in August 2008 at which time a special ceremony will be held.

CLAY COUNTY DECLARED LEVEL FOUR DROUGHT

Governor Sonny Purdue has issued an executive order declaring Clay and Quitman Counties as part of the Georgia Drought Declaration area. All citizens are encouraged to take immediate drought precautionary measures. Use the following tips for home and work:

TIPS FOR HOME AND WORK

1. Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
2. Capture water while you wait for hot water to come down the pipes; use for toilets, house plants or your garden. Saves 200 to 300 gallons per month.
3. Shorten your showers by two minutes. Save up to 700 gallons per month.
4. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Saves three gallons each day or 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
5. Wash dishes by hand but don't leave the water running for rinsing. Saves 200 to 500 gallons a month.
6. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running tap water to cool it for drinking. Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.
7. Run only full loads in the washing machine or dishwasher. Saves 300 to 800 gallons per month.
8. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. Saves 20 gallons per day per leak.
9. Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired. Saves 400 gallons a month.
10. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. Saves 500 to 800 gallons per month.
11. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. Saves 150 gallons or more each time or more than 600 gallons a month.
12. If you have a pool, a pool cover cuts down evaporation, keeps the pool cleaner and reduces the chemicals needed. Saves 1,000 gallons a month.
13. Only take your car to a car wash that recycles its wash water.



You can make a difference. To find other helpful tips to conserve water visit www.epd.org; www.gema.state.ga.us; www.gefa.org www.health.state.ga.us

Save water every day. Every drop counts.



INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

*Congratulations to our County Leaders
for continuing to Learn!*

- Anne Lynn, Bill Gleaton, Phillip Wills and Rod Bulloch completed the required Planning & Zoning Training
- Pam Ward—successfully completed the ACCG CCAP class on Tax Policy—Concepts and Practices and the American Planning Association Introduction to Planning Commission—Part 1
- Patty Ellis— successfully completed Specialized Assessments and Exempt Properties for the Tax Assessors Board

NOTICE

**THE NEW DUE
DATE FOR CLAY
COUNTY PROPERTY
TAX WILL BE
DECEMBER 20, 2007.
Clay County Tax Commissioner**



Notes from the Bookshelf
... What's Happening at the Clay County Library

If you could put a dollar value on the free services offered by our library, what do you think it would be? In 2004 the Massachusetts Library Association came up with a formula to do just that. Below are the results based on last year's circulation and service figures.

QTY		Value of Service
14,595	Books Borrowed	\$218,925
744	Magazines Borrowed	\$1,488
4,090	Videos Borrowed	\$16,360
186	Books on Tape Borrowed	\$1,860
220	Magazines Read in Library	\$440
1,351	Interlibrary Loan	\$33,775
92	Meeting Room Use/Hour	\$4,600
728	Adult Programs Attendance	\$7,280
3,008	Children Programs Attend.	\$18,048
3,425	Hours of Computer Use	\$41,100
3,536	Reference Questions Answered	\$24,752
Total Value for FY07		\$368,628

Total local funding for the library is \$56,980. **This means our community receives an annual return on local investment of 647%!** The Clay County Library is open Monday – Friday, 9 – 6 and Saturday, 9-5. Call 229-768-2248 for more information on any of the programs.

Friends of the Clay County Library

Become a member of Friends of the Clay County Library! Your membership helps provide funds for:

New books and audio books—DVD's—Local archives—Children's programs and the Summer Reading Program—
 Adult Programs—Improvements to the building and grounds

Membership is \$10.00 per year and will last until December 31, 2008. If you have a book-lover on your Christmas list, a membership to the Friends group will be the perfect gift!

Friends of the Fort Gaines Library		
2007-08 Membership		
Name _____		Send Membership to:
Address _____		Friends of the Clay County Library
City _____		P O Box 275
State _____ Zip _____		Fort Gaines, GA 39851
Email _____		
Phone _____		
Dues \$15.00 \$10.00 _____ Additional Gift _____		
TOTAL _____		

Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS

County Offices will be closed on the following date:

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th
Day After Christmas, Dec. 26th
New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2008
Martin Luther King Birthday, Jan. 21, 2008
President's Day, Feb. 18.2008

The County is seeking volunteers to serve on various boards and committees. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pam Ward at 768.3238. Before an appointment is made, we will contact you and advise you of what committee you are being proposed to serve on and the requirements.



REFUSE PICKUP HOLIDAY NOTICE



REFUSE TRUCKS WILL NOT RUN ON DEC. 25-26TH IN OBSERVANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. SERVICE WILL RESUME ON DECEMBER 27. TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY-ROUTES WILL BE COLLECTED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE BE PATIENT

WITH THE REFUSE STAFF AS THEY WORK HARD TO KEEP CLAY COUNTY CLEAN.



CLAY CO. COMMISSIONERS
105 NORTH WASHINGTON ST.
P O Box 519
FORT GAINES, GA 39851

WE'RE ON THE WEB: WWW.CLAYCOUNTYGA.ORG

Schedule of Events

Clay County Board of Commissioners meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clay County Courthouse Annex with the exception of December. The only regular meeting in December will be on the first Tuesday of December.

Economic Development Council meetings will be held the first Monday of each month at the private dining room at Bagby State Park Lodge at Noon for lunch and 12:30 p.m. for the meeting.

Family Connections meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Bagby Lodge. All Clay residents, business owners and faith based organizations are invited to participate.

Planning & Zoning Commission business meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Clay County Commission Chambers. Planning & Zoning Public Hearings are held on an "as needed" basis. Contact County Clerk for schedule.

Clay County Chamber of Commerce meeting to be held January 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Clay County Library. Anyone interested in joining the chamber or learning more about us, please join us. **The Chamber** will meet the 2nd Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 6:00 p.m. in the Clay County Library. For additional information contact Sylvia Dowding at 229.768.2247 or Clay Co. Chamber of Commerce, P O Box 825, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.

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