

COMMISSIONER TIMES

SMALL TOWN LIVING ON THE BIG LAKE

On the web at www.claycountyga.org

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Published Quarterly

Meet the New Clay County Health Dept Nurse Manager



Susan Askew, RN, is the new nurse manager at the Clay County Health Department. She has been a registered nurse for twenty-one years, obtaining her nursing degrees from Albany Junior College and the University of Phoenix. Her previous nursing experience includes hospital acute care in medical/surgical, postpartum/newborn, neonatal intensive care, quality assurance, employee health and infection control. She also has worked in the public health setting in immunization, child health, and school-based clinic programs.

Susan and her husband have been married almost twenty-three years and reside in Arlington, where they both grew up. They have four children.

Susan is excited to be here and looks forward to meeting the area residents and providing health department services to them. Her goal is to increase the awareness and utilization of services offered at the Clay County Health Department, therefore, decreasing the number of preventable adverse health conditions in this area. She states, "We want people to know what we offer and take advantage of the many services we provide. We want to be a venue of better health for Clay County."

Georgia Clean Energy Property Tax Credit

Save energy, save money and protect the environment and your health by using clean energy resources in your home or business.

As part of *Conserve Georgia* and the *Governor's Energy Challenge*, Georgia offers tax credits for certain types of energy efficient and renewable energy property as well as for the delivery of wood residuals to qualified biomass facilities. The credits will be available to taxpayers placing qualified clean energy property in service between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2012.

This website provides guidance, requirements, forms and other information* to assist eligible taxpayers claim the Georgia Clean Energy Property Tax Credit. It does not provide tax advice. Please consult a tax professional for specific advice.

Assistance for the energy sources can be found at: www.gefa.org

Clay County Elects Two New County Commissioners

On January 1, 2009, two newly elected commissioners officially took office. District four will now be represented by Commissioner James Davenport. Commissioner Davenport's goal is to help make this county a more unified place in which to live. "I would love to see Blacks and Whites come together as one people. I would like to revisit some of the fees that people in my district are so avidly opposed to and have expressed their opinion about. I would also love to see new jobs come to this county and hope we can work together for the good of everyone."

Commissioner Davenport is a graduate of Clay County High School and

attended Albany Technical School. He is a Deacon at the Midway Baptist Church in Morris and is the Adult Sunday School teacher. Commissioner Davenport is married and has lived in Clay County all of his life. He is a full time employee of a company in Eu-faula, Alabama.

Commissioner Davenport will replace Commissioner Trey Anderson who served two consecutive terms.



Commissioner Radar Fair will assume the duties of district five commissioner replacing the long term Commissioner Willie McCoy. Commissioner Fair's goals are to work with the board of Commissioners to see if he can bring some ideas to the board that might make a better place for all of Clay County Citizens to live.



Commissioner Fair is married to Ida Mae Fair and has three children: Debra Ann Tinsley, Radar Fair Jr. and Shirley May Fair. Commissioner Fair states he is a Christian and is a member of the Macedonia B. Church where he is a Deacon of the church and is also a member of the NAACP.

Commissioner Fair attended the Macedonia School and Speight High School. He worked for John W. Watson for 25 years then went to work with the Georgia Dept. of Transportation for twenty-five years where he recently retired.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. is a private, non-profit Community Action Agency founded in 1965. The Agency was established as a result of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which launched the nation's "War on Poverty".

ESP has an extensive service area which covers Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties. The agency has 254 full and part time positions in Administrative, Management, Social Services, Transportation, Facility Maintenance, Early childhood Education and Human Resources.

The Agency has several areas in which they assist. They are:

- Community Service Department which provides Employment and Training in the Nurse Aid program; offers Home Delivered Meals and Emergency Assistance.
- Department of Energy, Food and Housing provides weatherization, energy assistance for heating and cooling, commodities and emergency food and shelter.
- Department of Early Childhood and Family services provides education, health, disabilities/special needs, mental health, nutrition and social services

Within Clay County, ESP has provided nine total jobs (eight in Head Start Center and one in Neighborhood Service Center). ESP has also provided \$2,000 in Direct Financial Services through their Community Service Block Grant and in Head Start, 34 children and their families have been served through Head Start programs. In the Emergency Food and Shelter programs, five families have received energy assistance, one family received shelter assistance and \$4,273 of financial assistance was disbursed. There were 400 bags of commodities distributed also.

Lastly, \$10,020 was disbursed for Regular Energy Assistance, \$3,724 in Crisis Energy Assistance, \$488 in Special Crisis Energy Assistance and \$4,500 in cooling assistance.

Clay County is represented on the Enrichment Services Program Board of Directors by Mrs. Kim Johnson.

Annual Clay County "Keep Georgia Beautiful Campaign"

April has been designated as "Keep Georgia Beautiful" month and in so doing, Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines plan their clean up campaign kick off for Saturday April 18th thru Saturday April 25th, 2009. We encourage everyone to clean up their neighborhoods, local streets and roads and around their homes.

1. The campaign will cover the entire city of Bluffton, Fort Gaines and all of Clay County. You must reside in Clay County or be a customer of the Clay County Refuse plan.



2. Landfill will be open to Clay County landowners or residents for free disposal from Saturday April 18th thru Saturday April 25th, 2009, Refuse will be accepted from 7:30 to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays. No Businesses Please! All disposals must meet the following guidelines:

All refuse must be sorted according to the type of refuse regardless if it is picked up at your home AND/OR taken to the landfill. *All mixed loads will be rejected at land fill.*

White goods – stoves, refrigerators, freezers, etc.

Wood, yard trash – must be less than 12 inches in diameter, inert materials, NO stumps. No plastic bags allowed in the landfill area. Contents dumped into the inert landfill (leaves, organic waste) will need to be dumped out of plastic bags by hauler. No plastic bags can be accepted in this area. (This does not apply to regular garbage being sent to outside landfill.)

Lumber – All building materials must be less than 6' long for disposal. Boards with nails in them will be rejected.

You must be a resident of Clay County (have a Clay County license tag on your vehicle) OR provide your Clay County Refuse Billing statement for verification.

ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT ALLOWED! No Tires, No bed springs, No fencing materials, No paint, gas, diesel or other flammable materials. (Empty paint cans, dry with lids removed will be accepted.) No stumps, No shingles, No dead animals or carcasses, No batteries, No containers with any kind of liquid, No refuse accepted from commercial vendors, contractors, home builders, construction, etc.

Call 229-768-3238 to schedule pick up of materials from your home. Reservations for pickup will be taken from April 13th thru April 17th. Items must be sorted per the above list to be picked up. Pickup will be between April 18th and April 25th, 2009. *Materials placed beside the road after county personnel have serviced your area or road will not be picked up.*

Please note the county has begun enforcing zoning policy for trash, junk and junk yards throughout the county. Now is a great opportunity to get rid of unsightly materials in and around your property.

Help us make Bluffton, Fort Gaines and Clay County a place to be proud of and welcoming to our visitors!



Now Taking Orders!



"The History of Clay County"

Reprinted with Index

Book with Index: \$30.00

Index Only: \$10.00

Contact the library to place your order at:

Jean Turn, Librarian
Clay County Library
208 Hancock Street
P O Box 275
Fort Gaines, GA 39851
Phone: 229.768.2248
Fax: 229.768.2248
Email: jturn@krlibrary.org

News from Clay County Department of Family and Children Services

The "Clay County Department of Family and Children Services Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008" is ready for DFCS Board approval this month. The format is based on Child Welfare House Bill 1406. Eleven people worked in Clay County full or part time from July 2007 through June 2008.

Clay County DFCS administered \$65,622.00 in TANF, a 81.8% reduction from the beginning of Welfare Reform in January 1997. Clay DFCS also administered \$1,120,045.00 in Food Stamps, \$5,486,148.21 in Family and Adult Medicaid, including Medicaid for eligible nursing home residents.

Thirty reports of Child Abuse or Neglect were received. Half of these families received "Diversion" services, which linked them to the support they needed to improve conditions for their children without DFCS involvement ongoing.

Now everyone can screen themselves for benefits and apply online at www.COMPASS.GA.GOV.

Men of Clay Announce Opening of Clothes Closet

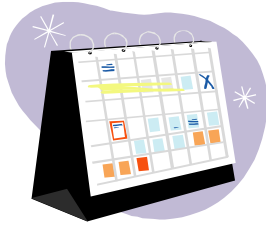


The Men of Clay have been hard at work collecting and preparing the donated clothing for the operation of the Clothes Closet. The Clothes Closet is located in the double wide trailer behind the Clay County Health Dept. The Clothes Closet is open to the public with hours of operation from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on every Tuesday and from 9:00 a.m. to Noon every Saturday.

Items can be purchased for fifty cents to five dollars. All proceeds go to funding the Men of Clay Food bank that is used to assist families in crisis. Anyone wishing to make clothing donations may drop them off at City Hall in Fort Gaines or the Clay County Courthouse.

Thanks to donations and purchases through the Clothes Closet, the Men of Clay have averaged assisting over 125 families per month with food. Recent donations of two freezers have enabled them to now provide perishable food when available. In fact, the Men of Clay food distribution and the Clothes Closet has been so successful, they are running out of room in the double wide trailer. The Men of Clay are seeking a larger building or warehouse that could possibly be used for either the food distribution warehouse and/or the Clothes Closet. If you are aware a facility that would be suitable, please contact anyone from the Men of Clay.

The Men of Clay will also gladly accept donations of non-perishable foods and monetary donations toward the operation of the Food Bank. All donations are tax deductible. The Men of Clay can also be assisted by volunteering your time or skills through the Food Bank, Clothes Closet or in building wheel chair ramps, etc. For additional information, contact Bro. Ralph Estes at 768.2789 or Bennie Ward at 334-618-2675.



Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

March 7th—Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for our newest Clay County Business—Pop’s Gourmet Deli, Catering and Market located at Pataula Creek on Hwy 39 North.

April 4—Sing Clay County—A festival of song to be held in Fort Gaines. Watch for more news!

April 18th-25th—Spring Clean Up—County Wide



In a continued effort to keep our website fresh and user friendly, we are currently adding a new feature! Soon you will be able to add community events to the website through a submission form. You simply complete the form and submit it. The form will be reviewed and, if approved, will be added to our calendar of events. This will be yet another way that our citizens will be able to keep in the loop of current events and attractions in Clay County! Visit us at www.claycountyga.org



Clay Co. Commissioners
105 North Washington St.
P O Box 519
Fort Gaines, GA 39851

Clay County is an equal opportunity provider.

Schedule of Events

Clay County Board of Commission 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 (except on holidays) at Bagby State Park Lodge in the private dining room at 12:00 p.m.

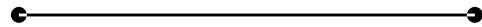
Family Connections meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the new Coleman Social Services Building behind the Health Dept. All Clay residents, business owners and faith based organizations are invited to participate.

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.

UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS

County Offices will be closed on the following date:

Good Friday—April 10th



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