

COMMISSIONER TIMES

Small Town Living on the Big Lake

On the web at www.claycountyga.org

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2009

Published Quarterly



Energy Assistance Program Available

Anyone interested in applying for energy assistance can go to the Enrichment Services Office located at the Senior Center. Clients can come in to sign up or call by phone--First come, first serve. Our phone number is (229) 768-2055. Applications will be processed by age— 65 and over in November and clients under 65 in December (by appointments only).

Applicants will need the following information with them in order to apply:

1. Proof of income for all household members for the past 30 days. However, if receiving Social Security or SSI, an Award Letter is needed; a copy of their monthly check or bank statement will NOT be acceptable--need gross amount.
2. Proof of Social Security number for each person in the household.
3. Last month heating bill for the household.
4. Proof of citizenship or legal immigrants status.

Yearly Income Scale

One-person Household	\$21,660
Two-person Household	\$29,140
Three-person Household	\$36,620
Four-person Household	\$44,100
Five-person Household	\$51,580
Six-person Household	\$59,060
Seven-person Household	\$66,540
Eight-person Household	\$74,020
Nine-person Household	\$81,500

For Additional Information, contact:
 Pamela R. Knighton, Site Manager
 Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
 Clay County Neighborhood Service Center
 P.O. Box 111
 155 Wilson Street
 Ft. Gaines, GA 39851
 E: pknighton@espcaa.org
 P: (229) 768-2055
 F: (229) 768-2687
 C: (229) 591-0137

The Golden Triangle Resource Conservation and Development Council

- Provides assistance to low income homeowners
- Low interest loans available for repairing/renovating an existing well system or replacing a non-functioning well
- Not available for new construction
- Available for the following counties: Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Seminole, and Terrell

For more information, please contact

The Golden Triangle Resource Conservation and Development Council at

229/723-3841

Golden Triangle RC&D Area Council, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer



This material is based upon work supported by the Rural Development Utilities Programs, United States Department of Agriculture

Drag Nasty Creek Bridge Work Continues

Thanks to assistance from Congressman Sanford Bishop, construction on Drag Nasty Creek Bridge is continuing. All work had stopped on October 1 due to the Federal protection of eagles and swallows which nest in the area. As the work is being financed by the American Recovery Act, time was of the essence. The project is now back under construction and work is being completed. Construction is expected to be complete in the Spring. Please continue to exercise caution in the Drag Nasty Creek Road area.



The Clay County Board of Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, Staff and employees wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May your journey be safe!

GEMA Presents Grant



Governor Sonny Perdue informed Clay County that a Hazard Mitigation Grant award has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant will be used to acquire one outdoor weather warning siren for a total cost of \$22,810. Valencia Miller from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency delivered the paperwork to EMA director and Sheriff Roger Shivers and Administrator Pam Ward. In his letter, Governor Perdue stated his appreciation to Clay County for our efforts to ensure that Georgia continues to be a safer place for us to live and raise our families. By working together, we continue to reduce the impacts caused by natural hazards.

Clay County

Property Taxes are due by

December 20th, 2009.



Clay County Makes Grant Applications

Clay County continues to seek outside funding to improve the lifestyles of our citizens. The following grants have been applied for:

- Georgia Dept. of Transportation Gateway Grant—Ken Penuel made application on behalf of the City of Fort Gaines for improvements along Georgia Hwy 37 at the Chattahoochee River Bridge—\$37,492
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to replace heating and air conditioning units, outdated lighting fixtures, etc. for energy and cost efficient fixtures in county buildings—\$173,513
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources Trail Program—application for Pioneer Walking and Fitness Trail to provide safe walking and exercise stations for citizens of Clay County—\$96,248

Grant applications were made during October and November. Results of the applications are expected in the first part of 2010.

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

Congratulations to our county leaders for continuing to learn!



- Commissioners Radar Fair and James Davenport and County Clerk Adria Williams recently attended continuing education classes offered by the Association of County Commissioners.
- Pam Ward attended the ACCG Policy Conference in Atlanta where she participated in two committee policy development sessions and served as the voting delegate for Clay County.
- Caryl Munford has completed annual Tax Commissioners Training
- Lisa Shivers has completed the annual Probate Judge Training
- Deanna Bertrand has completed the annual Superior Court Clerk Training
- Mable Giles has completed the annual Tax Assessors training program

Long Time Tax Appraiser Retires

Changes at the tax assessor's office will occur on December 17th when the current appraiser, Steve Baugh retires. Mr. Baugh, a contractor to Clay County has served as the part time tax appraiser the last nine years. Mr. Alen Hornaday will take over Mr. Baugh's position.

We wish Steve a long and healthy retirement and appreciation to his services to Clay County.

Commissioners Approve Lease of Backhoe



The Clay County Board of Commissioners accepted bids on a new lease for a backhoe for the Road Dept. The previous lease expired in October and required the backhoe to be returned and/or a new lease for a new backhoe executed.

A new lease was negotiated with the low bidder, Yancey Brothers. The backhoe is used on a daily basis in the clearing and maintenance of roads, loading debris and materials, clearing of downed trees, etc. and is essential operating equipment. Keeping up to date equipment helps to ensure the County has efficient operating equipment at all times.

Yellow Pine Energy Plant Closer to Reality

Mark Sajer, managing director of Summit Energy Partners, LLC recently updated the County Commission and Development Authority on the status of the proposed bio-mass energy plant to be built in Clay County.

Mr. Sajer advised the boards that there were still two permits to be approved through EPD and they were hopeful they would be successful. Bond funding is being applied for through the State of Georgia which will assist in construction of the facility. Negotiations are under way with construction contractors. If all goes well, construction should begin in late spring. Construction should employ around 200 people with 30-35 full time employees when the plant is operational.

NO FLU IN MY HOUSE!



Any flu can make you sick enough to miss work, school, activities, or even be hospitalized.

Vaccinate against seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza (swine flu).

Fight flu!

For information, visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Work Ready Assessments Scheduled

The next round of Work Ready Assessments are being offered for Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in computer lab at the Clay County Middle School in Fort Gaines. There is no cost for taking the assessment. The assessments will be taken on computer and results will be delivered automatically upon completion of the three modules.

Anyone who would like to take the assessments should register by calling or stopping by the Family Connections office located in the Coleman Social Services Building, Wilson Street, Fort Gaines. You may call Leata Gleaton at 229.768.3541 to register by phone.

Be Work Ready is helping unemployed citizens jump start their job search, gain confidence and a competitive advantage in the marketplace. It provides a financial incentive for unemployed Georgians who earn a Work Ready Certificate - or those who have earned a Work Ready Certificate since Sept. 1, 2008 - and another for those who improve their skill level through free, online training.

By taking part in Be Work Ready, Georgia's unemployed job seekers gain a valuable competitive advantage for their job search. The opportunity to earn a Work Ready Certificate is offered at no cost via the state's network of technical colleges, and validates an individuals' skill and knowledge levels to potential employers. Free, online skills gap training helps individuals improve their Work Ready Certificate level. Visit www.gaworkready.org for more information on the program.

Notes from the Bookshelf

What's Happening at the Clay County Library?

Our own Jean Turn has recently been promoted to Director of the Kinchafoonee Regional Library. Although we are saddened to lose Jean, we are excited for her and her new challenging position. Jean will continue to live in Fort Gaines and commute to her office in Dawson. She will also continue to watch over our activities here in Clay County. The library is currently seeking permission to hire another librarian for Clay County. Because of budget constraints, the library will be closing one day per week. Hopefully this will be a short term circumstance. Until further notice please see the following schedule.



New Clay County Library Hours:

Monday – Wednesday: 9 am – 6 pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday – Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm

Hours will be in effect until the librarian's position is filled.



SECONDS COUNT IN AN EMERGENCY!

Clay County has instituted the CodeRED Emergency Notification System - an ultra high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications. This system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the County in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child or evacuation notices). The system is capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour. It then delivers our recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number.

On December 14, 2009 the system was again utilized to forewarn our citizens of several tornado warnings. Those individuals who previously signed up received the advance notice and were able to seek shelter. Protect your family by taking two minutes to register now. You can access the Code Red signup at www.claycountygga.org then click on the left side for Code Red OR call the Clay County Sheriff's office at 229.768.2505.



Clay County Receives More Grant Funding

- Clay County, in conjunction with the regional Georgia Work Ready program has received a \$12,000 reimbursement grant for offsetting the costs of advertisement, promotions, etc. in meeting the goals of the Georgia Work Ready Program. Residents are asked to take scheduled assessments to evaluate the knowledge levels of basic work skills. Certificates are awarded upon successful completion of the assessment. The certificates may give job applicants a leg up over other individuals who are equally qualified but that do not hold the certificate. The next assessment will be held January 14, 2010. Please contact Leata Gleaton for registration to the next assessment at 229.768.3541.
- Clay County has received funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in the amount of \$66,200. These funds will be used in the Transit system to purchase two new vehicles, computers and software for the transit operations. The funding will ensure our fleet is up to date and operates efficiently for the citizens of Clay County. For assistance with transit service, contact (229) 334-8580.

Congratulations!

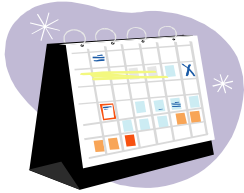
M.C. "Top" Spann was recently honored with a certificate of appreciation from the Clay County Board of Commissioners for over fifty years of service to Clay County. "Top" has served in a variety of positions and continues to serve the county at the landfill where he assists customers.

Business Owners

2010 Occupational Business Licenses, Beer and Wine Licenses

**Due no later than
December 31, 2009**

**Please come by Commission
office at 105 North Washington St.
to purchase.**



Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

Work Ready Assessments will be given at 4:00 p.m. on January 14, 2010 at the Clay County Middle School computer lab. Call Leata Gleaton for reservations at 229.768.3541.

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UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS

County Offices will be closed on:

Christmas Holidays—December 24th & 25th

New Year’s Holiday—January 1st, 2010

Martin Luther King—January 18th, 2010

President’s Day—February 15, 2010

Schedule of Events

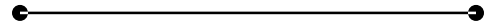
Clay County Board of Commission meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clay County Courthouse Annex with the exception of December. The only regular meeting in December will be on the first Tuesday of December.

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 6:00 p.m. in the Clay County Commission Chambers. Planning & Zoning Public Hearings are held on an “as needed” basis. Contact County Clerk for schedule.

Chamber of Commerce—second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Social Services Building.



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

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