

# COMMISSIONER TIMES

*Small Town Living on the Big Lake*

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM CodeRED 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.

**THIS SYSTEM WILL ONLY BE USED FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES.**

Examples of times when the CodeRED system could be utilized:

- Drinking water contamination
- Utility outage
- Evacuation notice & route
- Missing person
- Fires or Floods
- Bomb threat
- Hostage situation
- Chemical spill or Gas leak

and other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential for life safety.

User's can register up to two phones (mobile and land lines). To register go to the county homepage at [www.claycountyga.org](http://www.claycountyga.org) and click on the link under CodeRED or call 229.768.3518 or stop by the Sheriff's office in Clay County.



## Flood Plain Mapping Complete!

FEMA has recently presented Clay County and its municipalities with its first ever Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) and a Flood Insurance Study Report. Special flood hazard areas within the county have been identified within the scope of the maps and reports.

Within thirty days, FEMA will make arrangements for a Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination meeting with community officials and the public. This will be an open house for citizens from the county and its communities. The purpose of the meeting will be to officially present the findings contained in the FIS report and FIRM and to solicit comments.

The report and maps are available at city hall in Fort Gaines, at the commission chambers located at 105 N. Washington Street, Fort Gaines from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for Clay County and in Bluffton. The public is encouraged to stop by to review the maps and how they may or may not affect you. Note these are preliminary reports subject to approval and corrections.

## Pataula Charter Academy Meeting Schedule Update



The Pataula Charter Academy has new meeting times. They will meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the annex of the Edison United Methodist Church, Edison, Georgia. For more information on the Charter School please plan to attend a meeting or contact the Academy at [pataulacharterschool@hotmail.com](mailto:pataulacharterschool@hotmail.com)

## 2010 Census Coming Soon

The U.S. Census Bureau is issuing a call to action for every resident of Clay County. The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All U.S. residents must be counted- people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens. Census Day is April 1, 2010. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

The importance of Census Data for Clay County. Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, on census data. That is reason enough to make sure that everyone is counted and recorded. Census data affect your voice in Congress as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils and voting districts. As a Clay County citizen let's make 2010 Census in Clay County a SUCCESS! For your interest in a 2010 Census job go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and download and print the Census Practice Test. This test measures basic skills, abilities, and knowledge required to perform a variety of census jobs.

If you have already applied for a census taker job, your application will remain active and you do not need to reapply. However, if you need to update your contact information provided on your application, you may do so by calling 1-866-861-2010 where you will be routed to your Local Census Office.

## Georgia Work Ready Assessment Test

The next testing time for the assessments for Georgia Work Ready Program will be on Friday, September 11, 2009 at the Clay County Extension office beginning at 8:30 a.m. The test takes about three hours, is free and is for all residents of Clay County. Please call 229.768.3238 Ext. 3 to reserve your spot. Assessments give you the leg up in your job hunting! For more info visit [www.gaworkready.org](http://www.gaworkready.org)

**Health Matters!**

In an effort to keep our citizens updated on health issues, the Clay County Board of Commissioners has put a new link on the web page. You can go to [www.claycountygga.org](http://www.claycountygga.org) and click on **Health Update** on the left hand side. This will take you to the most recent health updates available from our health professionals.

*From: West Central Health District Pamela Fair, Public Relations Information Coordinator*

**NOVEL INFLUENZA A H1N1 UPDATE**

“Public Health has been working closely with school systems, many of which are reporting incidents of flu-like illness,” Dr. Koppanyi said. “Pandemic H1N1 is in our District, so we are not surprised to see clusters popping up as schools reopen for the fall. The influenza-like illnesses affecting students and staff in West Central Health District’s schools are being treated as a pandemic H1N1 flu cluster, even though not all of those who are sick have received positive test results for the infection,” West Central Health District Director Dr. Zsolt Koppanyi says.

“Pandemic H1N1 flu is more contagious than regular seasonal flu, and it has a high attack rate in children and teens. The symptoms are fever, cough or sore throat, headache and fatigue. Many patients, especially young ones, are also experiencing nausea and vomiting,” Koppanyi said. High risk groups such as pregnant women, children, people with chronic disease, and health care providers should plan to get a seasonal flu vaccine and the Novel Influenza A H1N1 vaccine when it is available.

“It is extremely important to stay home if you are sick until 24 hours after your fever is gone without using fever-reducing medicine. Further, people at high risk for flu complications that are in close contact with someone with flu-like symptoms, or if high risk individuals become ill, they should speak to their healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Because H1N1 flu is known to be circulating in West Central Georgia, more people are expected to fall ill, especially now that schools are back in session. “At this point, whether you are tested and actually diagnosed with H1N1 flu is less important than what you do if you become sick. Rapid flu tests are not 100 percent accurate for diagnosis of H1N1.”

*Koppanyi urges the public to connect with trusted health information sources and keep up to date with current recommendations.*

Koppanyi offered the following recommendations for homecare for people with flu symptoms:

- Check with their healthcare provider about special care they may need if they have an underlying health condition.
- Make sure patients get lots of rest.
- Patients should drink plenty of clear fluids so they won’t get dehydrated.
- Patients should wear a mask if possible so they won’t pass flu germs to the rest of the household.
- Do not give aspirin to children with the flu. Use a fever-reducer without it, such as Tylenol®.
- If symptoms include difficulty breathing, vomiting and the inability to hold down liquids, or if flu-like symptoms get better then return with higher fever and worse cough, emergency medical treatment is needed right away.

“In addition, people can help keep the flu from spreading by washing their hands often with soap and water, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes and avoiding touching your eyes, mouth and nose,” Koppanyi said.

Finally, Koppanyi praised West Central Health District’s schools for their response. “The schools have responded appropriately,” he said. “They have an excellent working relationship with local and district public health.”For more information about Pandemic H1N1, contact the Columbus Health Department or go on-line to [www.columbushealth.com](http://www.columbushealth.com).



**Friends of Lake Eufaula Now a Reality!**

During the past several months, advocates of Lake Walter F. George (aka Lake Eufaula) have been working to put together an organization that will work to assist everyone that lives, works and plays on the lake waters. In coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers, a new organization has been formed for just that reason. The purpose of this Association is to provide a meaningful and influential organization composed of interested (Alabama and Georgia) individuals, businesses and other entities having a common interest in the protection and general welfare of Lake Walter F. George. Please join our efforts to keep our lake beautiful! The Friends of Lake Eufaula meet monthly at the Chamber of Commerce office in

Eufaula at 12:30 p.m. Eastern time. The Friends of Lake Eufaula invite anyone with an interest to preserve, protect and promote the lake to attend. If you are interested in membership, complete the following application and return it the address listed below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Membership:**

- \_\_\_ \$25.00 - Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 - Founding Member (active thru 12/31/09)
- \_\_\_ \$250 - Life Member (one time donation)
- \_\_\_ Less than \$25 - Supporter

**Mail to:**

**Friends of Lake Eufaula**  
**P.O. Box 142**  
**Eufaula, AL 36072-0142**

**Corporate Sponsorship:**

- \_\_\_ \$250 - Corporate Membership
- \_\_\_ \$500 - Silver Corporate and Associate Membership
- \_\_\_ \$1000 - Gold Corporate and Associate Membership

**\*\* 501C3 Status Pending**

## Notes from the Bookshelf

What's Happening at the Clay County Library?



### Celebrating the Freedom to Read.

#### Read a Banned Book, September 26 – October 3

What do "To Kill a Mockingbird", "Of Mice and Men", and "The Color Purple" have in common? They are some of the most frequently challenged books of the past twenty years.

Books usually are challenged with the best intentions—to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information. Censorship can be subtle, almost imperceptible, as well as blatant and overt, but, nonetheless, harmful. As John Stuart Mill wrote in *On Liberty*:

*If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.*

— *On Liberty*, John Stuart Mill

Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose and the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular. It stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met. Observed since 1982, Banned Books Week reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Stop by the library during the week of Sept 26. Pick out something from our display of favorite banned books. Exercise your freedom to read.

Friends of the Library's used book store on Hancock Street in the old City Market will be open the following days:

- 65-Mile Yard Sale, Saturday, November 14
- Christmas at the Fort, Saturday, November 21

As usual, we ask for a donation to the library in exchange for all the books you care to take.

The Clay County Library is open Monday – Thursday from 9 – 6 and Friday and Saturday from 9-5. Call 229-768-2248 for more information on any of the programs.



### Community Calendar Now Available on Line!

In a continued effort to keep our website fresh and user friendly, we are currently adding a new feature! You can now add community events to the website through a submission form on the web. 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](http://www.claycountyga.org) Click on the **Calendar** tab located near the top of the page.

## Did Your Property Tax Bill Go Up?



- Since 1999, the Georgia General Assembly and the Governor have provided a credit on property tax bills called the Homeowners Tax Relief Grant (HTRG). In recent years, that credit resulted in a \$200-\$300 reduction to your property tax bill.
- Due to financial strains on the state budget, the Georgia General Assembly and the Governor did not fund this credit for 2009 property tax bills. While the HTRG credit may someday be reinstated by the General Assembly, it is not expected to be considered again until state revenues increase significantly.
- None of the taxing entities (Clay County Board of Commissioners, Clay County Board of Education, City of Fort Gaines) raised their millage rates in 2009.
- In some cases, the fair market value of your property may have changed, which impacted your assessment and the amount that you owe.
- For more information visit [www.FactsAboutPropertyTax.com](http://www.FactsAboutPropertyTax.com)



**FactsAboutPropertyTax.com**



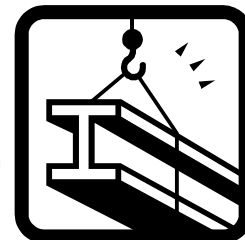
### New Hours for Adult Learning Center

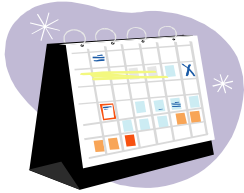
Beginning Monday August 3, 2009 Clay County Adult Learning Center will have Day Classes for Adult Education. Classes will be from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on Monday's and Wednesday's. Mrs. Mamie Vaughn will be the Day Instructor.

Night Classes will continue on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Sharona Grimsley will be the night Instructor. For more information contact Mrs. Vaughn at 334-618-3191 and Ms. Grimsley at 334-703-2972 or Johnnie Grimsley at 229-768-2798

### Drag Nasty Creek Road Closed to Through Traffic

Demolition and construction have begun on the Drag Nasty Creek Bridge project. The Georgia Department of Transportation along with American Recoveries Act Funding have funded and awarded the project to Alexander Contracting from Columbus, Georgia. Local traffic on Drag Nasty Creek Road southwest of the bridge should use the detour through Jenny Lynn Rd off highway 39. Please use caution in and around this area. The project is slated for completion in September of 2010.





**Mark Your Calendar for These Events!**

65 Mile Yard Sale—November 14, 2009 from Fort Gaines to Camilla, GA. Event is free. To sell your wares, simply coordinate with a land-

owner to use their space along Highway 37. Be sure you have adequate parking OFF the highway!

Christmas at the Fort— Saturday, November 21, 2009 at Pioneer Village, Fort Gaines from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Find your Christmas shopping items from the many artists, craftsmen, vendors and great food!

**UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS**

County Offices will be closed on:

Monday, September 7, 2009—Labor Day

Thanksgiving Holidays—Nov. 26th & 27th



**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.

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



Clay Co. Commissioners  
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P O Box 519  
Fort Gaines, GA 39851

*Clay County is an equal opportunity provider.*

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