

# COMMISSIONER TIMES

## What is PANDEMIC FLU?

Each year millions of people are plagued with colds and flu. We suffer through sore throats, fever and runny nose. This is typically a seasonal flu. Recently there has been a lot of discussion on a new type of flu, a pandemic flu.

The State of Georgia is tackling this new pandemic flu head on with training classes held around the state to raise awareness as well as preparedness in case we encounter a pandemic flu outbreak in our area. What makes this strain critical is that it is new. Unlike common flu, we have no vaccines in place. Pandemic flu can come in the form of new and unknown strains. It takes approximately six months or more to develop vaccines to fight these new strains.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) monitors the world for possible outbreaks of pandemic flu. Because of easy and fast transportation, someone traveling can contract the flu and bring it back from anywhere in the world before they are aware they have symptoms. The fact that it can be transported so quickly is what makes a pandemic flu outbreak dangerous. The flu itself can be treated. The spread to hundreds and even thousands of people simultaneously makes staffing and operating businesses, schools, etc. a very difficult situation. It is predicted that, should a pandemic hit, as much as 40 to 50% of work staff could be affected at one time.

The exact symptoms of pandemic flu are unknown. However, the CDC notes the symptoms are similar to those of the seasonal flu, which include: Fever, Sore Throat, Runny or stuffy nose, Extreme fatigue, Headache, Muscle aches and pains and Stomach problems, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children). A person infected with the flu may carry the flu for one to two days before they have any symptoms and for five to seven days after symptoms begin.

### Why the concern over pandemic flu?



Pandemic flu is more serious than seasonal flu. Most people who get seasonal flu recover within a week or two and may not require medical treatment. Pandemic flu is different because more people who get it might not recover, even with medical treatment. People of every age may be at risk of serious illness or death.

### Who is more at risk?

The very young, the very old and the very sick are most likely to become seriously ill from any form of the flu virus.

**Planning...**Should a pandemic flu hit, a lot of people will be sick. Government officials may be required to limit community movement or impose travel restrictions to help prevent the virus from spreading. Doctor's offices and hospitals will be over crowded. Unless you are extremely ill (excessive fever, respiratory problems, etc.) you may be better off at home. Keep away from crowds, limit your exposure. If you do have to get out, wear a mask. Call your doctor for recommendations for treatment. Plan ahead by getting prepared. The following will assist in your planning.

During a flu pandemic, government officials may be required to limit community movement or impose travel restrictions to help prevent the flu virus from spreading. Take steps to plan for, get through and recover from a flu pandemic...

### Planning at Home

- Store a two-week supply of food. Select foods that do not require refrigeration, preparation, or cooking.
- Store a two-week supply of water, 1 gallon of water per person per day, in clean plastic containers.
- Store a supply of nonprescription drugs, such as pain relievers, cough and cold medicines, stomach remedies and antidiarrheal medication, as well as vitamins and fluids with electrolytes.
- Ask your health care provider and health insurance com-

### Planning in Your Community

- Ask about plans to enable you to stay home if you or a family member is sick.
- Find out your employer's plans to keep the business open if key staff can't come to work.
- Find out about your child's school or daycare provider's plans for handling a flu pandemic.
- Ask if there are plans to encourage sick children to stay home to reduce the spread of the disease.

pany if you can get an extra supply of your regular prescription drugs and medical supplies such as glucose monitoring supplies.

- Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick.

- Ask if there are plans to close during a pandemic that would require all the children to remain at home.

Learn and practice these healthy actions now to make them a healthy habit later and to help slow the spread of illnesses:

- \* Wash your hands often and correctly.
- \* Cover your cough. If possible, cough into your inner elbow instead of your hand to eliminate the transfer of germs.
- \* Stay home when you are sick.

To get more information on the Red Cross flu pandemic efforts or to get involved in raising awareness of the flu pandemic, contact your local Red Cross chapter at [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org).



## Fresh from the Garden!

Just in time for your summer eating pleasure! The Clay County Farmer's Market will be opening on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to Noon. Local growers will be bringing in whatever is fresh picked from their gardens each week. In addition, local citizens will be providing homemade goods such as jams, jelly, pickles, home made delicacies such as breads and cakes, honey, handmade soaps and candles, flowers, herbs and so forth.

On Friday's you can call 763-3752 to find out what will be available at the Farmer's Market each week. If you have excess vegetables or other market items you would like to sell at the market, contact Sylvia at 768-3752.

The market will be located at Morris Park on the corner of Hancock Street & Jefferson Street. Congratulations to Sylvia Dowding for kicking this great new service off for the citizens of Clay County. We look forward to enjoying wholesome home grown vegetables!

## Statewide Outdoor Water Use Schedule

Due to drought conditions across Georgia, the Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has declared a level two drought response for the entire state. The declaration requires that Georgians immediately follow a more stringent outdoor water use schedule. Counties and cities are free to impose tighter restrictions should local conditions warrant.

The level two drought response schedule is as follows:

- Odd-numbered addresses may water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 12 midnight to 10 a.m.
- Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses may water only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12 midnight to 10 a.m. More information can be found at [www.georgiadrought.org](http://www.georgiadrought.org).

To ensure the safety of your family and community, please do not burn. The State of Georgia is in an extreme fire risk due to the current drought. Fire can be ignited as simply as your lawn mower blade hitting a rock and throwing a spark which can and will ignite a fire. Help keep Clay County fire free. We are currently experiencing some of the smoke resulting from fires in southeast Georgia and Florida. Please use extreme caution during this drought.

*Clay County has a new County Extension Agent. Mr. Carl Childree began work for Clay and Quitman County as the joint Extension Agent. Mr. Childree will be working in both offices in Clay and Quitman County. If you need assistance with any county extension problem, stop by or call the Extension office at 768.2247.*

### County Clean Up Continues

This past April, the county, in conjunction with the state of Georgia, held their annual keep Georgia Beautiful Campaign. Residents had an opportunity to get rid of large items that had collected since last years drive.

We are now continuing our clean up campaign by asking citizens to clean up old abandoned vehicles in their yards. According to the Clay County Planning & Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 12.12 – Storage of Certain Vehicles and Equipment

The storage of certain vehicles and equipment (defined as automobiles, semi-trailer trucks with greater than three (3) axles, camping or travel trailers and boats and boat motors without current license plates is prohibited in residential districts for time periods in excess of seven (7) days unless such vehicles and equipment are stored in a carport, enclosed building, or behind the nearest portion of a building to a street.

We are asking that property owners in Clay County with abandoned or non-licensed vehicles to move these vehicles immediately.

Vehicles can be disposed of by contacting junk car dealers or crushers who will come and pick up your car. Crushers will

generally require a number of vehicles before they will come. It may be possible for residents to group together to have a crusher come in to pickup the vehicles.

Some debris other than vehicles can be taken to the Clay County Landfill. The landfill will accept white goods such as refrigerators, stoves, etc.

It's important to understand that property owners can be cited for failure to clean up junked cars. The county is experiencing a large number of written complaints on abandoned vehicles on private property.

We want everyone to have a clear understanding of the Planning and Zoning Requirements. We also want to give the property owners sufficient time to clean up their property. The County Code Enforcer will be taking note of existing conditions. We will allow sixty days from the date of this publication (June 11th) for property owners to take the appropriate steps to clean up these vehicles.

After this time, the Code Enforcer will be issuing a warning citation. Once you receive the warning, you will have ten days to take corrective measures. Failure to correct the citation warning can result in fines and/or jail imprisonment as allowed by local law.

### Clay County EDC Announces Slogan Contest Winners

On Monday, June 4th, the Clay County Economic Development Counsel met for their regular monthly meeting. During the meeting, the attendees selected the top three slogans from the more than 50 slogans submitted to the contest.

Ken Penuel, Chairman stated "I was very pleased with the turn out of great slogans submitted via the county web site, emails and mailed in. This is a sign that people will get involved and show that they care about our county. We have a great wealth of talent in Clay County."

The top three slogans are as follows:

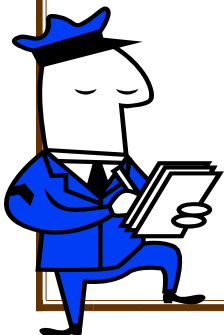
1. Small Town Living on the Big Lake by Dottie Stephens
2. A Southern Experience..Clay County by Anonymous
3. Landmarks, Lakes & Legends in Clay County by Anonymous

The first place winner will receive \$75.00 for their entry into the contest. These slogans will be used for various marketing pieces such as the county web site, brochures, flyers, etc.

### MEET CLAY COUNTY'S NEW CODE ENFORCER

Clay County has recently added a member to our administrative staff. We would like to welcome Mr. Mitchell Ellis to the role of County Code Enforcer. Mr. Ellis has completed the certification process for the Code Enforcer Training program taught by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Mr. Ellis will be monitoring business license applications, building permits, mobile home moving permits, planning and zoning ordinances and refuse accounts in an effort to assist the Commission in keeping our county a great place to live in. If you have questions for our code enforcer, contact him at the county office at 768.3238.



### INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

- Clay County's Clerk, Teresa Smith and Sylvia Dowding have successfully completed the Regional Economic & Leadership Development Program through the Georgia Academy for Economic Development as of May 3, 2007.
- Commissioner's Trey Anderson, Barry Waters and Administrator Pam Ward have each completed the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Certified County Commissioner training program.
- Teresa Smith and Bobby Dupree both successfully completed instruction in Blood-borne Pathogens on May 24, 2007 in Tifton, GA.

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

### NOTICE TO CITIZENS OF CLAY COUNTY

The Clay County Voter Registrars Office is in the process of up-grading the voters list. If you have moved, changed your name or are uncertain as to your voting status, please contact our office at 768-2000 during the working hours of 8:00 AM-4:30 PM, Monday - Friday.

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRARS



## CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

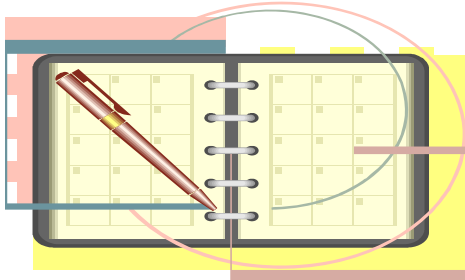
105 North Washington Street  
P O Box 519  
Fort Gaines, GA 39851

Phone: 229.768.3238  
Fax: 229.768.3672

E-mail: [administrator@claycountyga.org](mailto:administrator@claycountyga.org)

**THE FORT GAINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is seeking new members. Membership has risen to 60+ and we want you to become a member too! The cost for an Individual Member is \$20 per year. Corporate memberships are available for \$100 per year. Membership includes quarterly newsletters, annual meeting and dinner invitation and you will be assisting us in "Preserving, Protecting and Promoting" Clay County and our valuable historical assets.

To receive a membership application or request information, contact the Fort Gaines Historical Society, Inc., P O Box 825, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.



### **Mark Your Calendar for These Events!**

**June 7th** Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and The University of Georgia SBDC presents "The Rural Community Development Initiative Entrepreneurial Success Training Series" —June 7, - June 28, 2007, each Thursday, 6 - 8 PM. For further information call SBDC at 229-420-1144

**3rd of July**—Street dance at 107 Carroll Street, Fort Gaines 6-11:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Phenomenon Walking/Biking Trail. Live Entertainment and food. Bring your own chairs. No coolers please.

**4th of July**—Chicken-Q & Fireworks Spectacular – Chicken Q starts at 10 AM across from Corps of Engineers office on Hwy 39 north of Fort Gaines. Fireworks begins at dusk. Sponsored by the Fort Gaines Lions Club

**4th of July**—Antique Car Show— 10 AM across from Corp of Engineers office, Fort Gaines, GA

**July 5th—7th** The Fort Gaines—Clay County Recreation Department will host a Carnival at the ball field located behind Georgia Giant.

**Oct. 19th** The Fort Gaines-Clay County Recreation Dept. will sponsor a two Man Scramble Golf Tournament at Meadowlinks Golf Course —for more information contact Maurie Gulbrandson at 229.768.3400.

**October 20th** 7th Annual Senior Softball Tournament at 9:00 a.m. at the ball field behind Georgia Giant. Round Robin tournament—for more information contact Maurie Gulbrandson at 229.768.3400.

### **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 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.

### **UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS**

County Offices will be closed on the following date:

Independence Day—July 4, 2007

### **REFUSE PICKUP HOLIDAY**

#### **NOTICE**



REFUSE TRUCKS WILL NOT RUN ON JULY 4TH IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY. SERVICE WILL RESUME ON JULY 5TH. WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY ROUTES WILL BE COLLECTED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH THE REFUSE STAFF. THEY WORK HARD TO KEEP CLAY CLEAN.