

COMMISSIONER TIMES

SMALL TOWN LIVING ON THE BIG LAKE

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Published Quarterly

Clay County's First Water System Goes On Line

On May 6th, the county's first water system was turned on to public use. The switch was turned on and the pumps began distributing water to subscribers in the northern end of the county.

The contractors are putting the last few service meters in and finishing up installation of the CDBG water lines. Homeowners were mailed a letter notifying them they were able to connect the meters to their homes. Users were cautioned they must completely sever any connection from their old wells to the home's plumbing. Water from wells can not come in contact with the system water. Failure to take this precaution could result in loss of the water system to the user.

For more information, contact customer service at 229.768.3238.

Mega Boat Ramp Coming to Clay County

On Friday, May 16th, Governor Sonny Perdue announced the second round of awards for the Georgia Go Fish initiative. State appropriations will allow a tournament boat ramp (four 16 foot lanes) to be installed on Lake Walter F. George. Clay County will now have the opportunity to sponsor professional and corporate fishing tournaments. There will be planned parking for up to 400 trucks and trailers with a weigh in station and room for exhibitors and sponsors. Large fishing tournaments can mean upwards of \$1 million dollars in additional revenues to our region. It will encourage business in and around the lake and promote economic development which will hopefully create more jobs for county residents.



Southwest Georgia Regional Technology Authority Receives OneGeorgia Grant

Evans Simmons, Chairman SWGA Technology Authority, Governor Sonny Perdue, Sheila Dalmat-Key Bridges Marketing Consultant, Michael Kadron—SWGA Technology Authority Board Member, Matt Leszynski—Digitel, Inc., Joe Lee Williams—Commissioner Stewart County, Ken Penuel—Vice Chairman SWGA Technology Authority are shown receiving the big check from Governor Perdue. Grant Funds awarded from OneGeorgia will be used in the Phase I planning and assessment for pursuing broadband services through the Technology Authority.

2008 General Primary Election

Elections for the General Primary will be on July 15, 2008. Democratic and Republicans have qualified for several positions. For the Commission District 3, Bill Koch and Leata Gleaton will run off against each other. The winner of that race will run against Radar Fair, Sr. in the November 4th election.

Anyone wishing to run on the Independent ballot for any office, can contact Lisa Shivers, Probate Judge for details. Mark your calendars to vote July 15th!

Georgia Trend Magazine Presents 2008 County Excellence Award

At the annual Association of County Commissioners of Georgia meeting held in Savannah on April 26-29, the 2008 County Excellence Awards were given to counties based on outstanding innovation. This year, Clay County, along with Randolph, Quitman, Stewart and Calhoun Counties received the award. This is probably the first time in the history of the award that it was presented on a regional basis. Our counties received the award based on their diligent efforts at problem solving on a regional basis. Over the past several years, the counties have put together several regional authorities that will work together on issues such as E-911 services, a regional airport, jail, development authority and technology authority. Due to the small scale of our counties, regional partnerships are the best way to effectively approach issues that affect each of us.

Shown below are your Clay County Commissioners with the award.

(L-R) Commissioner Walt Killingsworth, David Shivers, Chairman Trey Anderson, Vice Chairman Willie McCoy and Barry Waters.



Farmer's Market in Ft. Gaines Open Every Saturday Morning

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There are many new things going on at the Farmers Market this year. Not only are we having fresh local VEG-TABLES, but we have added tables for yard sales, craft items and when we can arrange it we will have an area church or Organization cooking as a fund raiser.

We promise a good variety of vegetables depending on the time of year. You can be sure there will be fresh eggs, tomatoes, squash, okra, cucumbers, corn, peaches. If we don't have what you need, please ask us and we will make sure we get it the next week. We are always looking for additional sources for vegetables, fruits, and baked goods so please call if you or someone you know might be interested.

As an additional service, we are taking orders Monday thru Thursday noon to help you save on gas. Just call **768-3752** leaving us your name & number and what you want to order. Ken or Sylvia will call you back with an estimated cost. We will make every effort to get what you need at a good price. All orders will be delivered or picked up on Friday afternoon.



MEN OF CLAY



Over the last couple of years, residents in and around Clay County have been receiving fresh vegetables. Ever wonder where they are coming from? The Men of Clay, a local ecumenical organization have been gathering, transporting and giving away literally tons of fresh produce. They have distributed cabbage, onions, corn, tomatoes, potatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers, and whatever happens to be ready to harvest. They pick, load and haul the vegetables back to Fort Gaines where they are free for the taking. Along with the fresh produce, monthly they distribute non perishable goods in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. If that isn't enough, they have also assisted countless individuals with repairs in and around their homes.

Men of Clay was started several years ago by individuals who wanted to give back to the community and reach out and spread the gospel and encourage a faith based community. Men from all churches, regardless of religion, are encouraged to become a part of this team. Men of Clay meet monthly at area churches. You can contact Chairman Bennie Ward at 334.618.2675, Bill Gleaton at 334-687-2500, Bro. Ralph Estes at 768-2789 or your church pastor for when and where the meetings are held. The larger the team, the more the Men of Clay can serve the community.

Congratulations

*to our
2008*

Graduating Seniors!



*School is out!
Please watch out for our
children at play.*



Notes from the Bookshelf

What's Happening at the Clay County Library
Vacation Reading Program
"Catch the Reading Bug"
 At the Clay County Library

The Clay County Library Vacation Reading Program begins on May 27, 2008. Please bring your child to sign up for registration. The following is a list of activities that will be happening this summer:

Weekly programs each Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

May 27	Good, Bad, and Bugly Stories with Josie Bailey
June 3	"Bug Off" with Scott Routsong
June 10	Jason Carte-"Got Ants in Your Pants"
June 18 (Wed.)	"BUGGYing" Down with Stephanie Wilson
June 24	How to Eat Fried Worms with Christine Kennedy
July 8	Creepy, Crawly Creatures with Brenda Jones

REFUSE PICKUP HOLIDAY NOTICE



Refuse trucks will not run on holidays listed. Please be patient with the refuse staff as they work hard to keep our county clean!

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

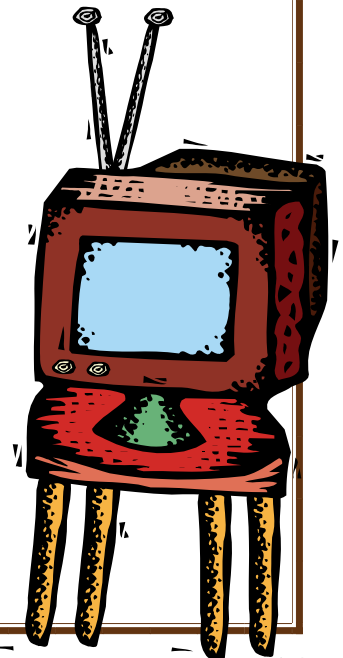
Congratulations to our County Team for continuing to Learn!

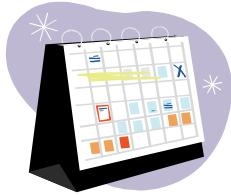
- *Bobby Dupree and Jamie Wilson have completed certification for Class IV—Water Systems*
- *Pam Ward has successfully completed the CCAP certification program for County Officials*
- *Adria Williams has completed the Georgia Academy for Economic Development*
- *Bill Koch and B.G. Littleton have completed the state mandated Development Authority Training*
- *Teresa Smith participated in a Dept of Labor employer seminar*
- *Deanna Bertrand attended the Superior Court Clerk's Training Conference*
- *Lisa Shivers attended the Georgia Probate Court Judges Spring Seminar*
- *Mable Giles, Roy Neves, and Patty Ellis all completed the CAVEAT Course for Tax Assessors Board*
- *Judy Cooper has completed the Magistrate Firearms Course*
- *Caryl Munford attended the annual GATO Tax Commissioners Training*
- *Chris Kennedy received an Annual SWD 4-H Program Award*
- *Numerous county employees completed CPR training provided by ACCG Health and Wellness grant*

The Digital Television Transition—What Does it Mean to You?

On 2/08/08, President George Bush signed legislation establishing February 17, 2009 as the official date for the switch from analog television broadcasting to digital broadcasting in the U.S. Digital Television (DTV) is a new type of over the air broadcasting technology that transmits pictures over the airwaves in data bits, like a computer. DTV enables TV stations to provide clearer pictures, better sound quality and more programming choices.

After 2/17/09, if you do not have a digital TV, do not subscribe to a cable TV or satellite service, you will need a converter box to receive digital broadcasts on an analog TV (one that receives its signal through an antenna). You can upgrade your analog TV by purchasing a DTV converter box that plugs into your existing TV. A converter box will enable you to continue to receive free television reception and the boxes which are expected to cost between \$40 and \$70 will be available for purchase soon. The federal government is providing \$40 in coupons that can be used toward the purchase of these boxes. You can apply for up to two coupons which must be redeemed within 90 days. For more information or to request a coupon, call 1-888-DTV-2009 or 1-877-530-2634. You may also go on line to www.dtv2009.gov or mail coupon applications to P O Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208. You can also go on line to www.dtvanswers.com for more help.





**Mark Your Calendar
for These Events!**

July 1 – July 19 – SCULPTURE EXHIBIT
by artist Ken Olmstead: Clay County Library, 208 Hancock St., Fort Gaines, Georgia. For more information call (229) 768-2248

768-2248

July 4th—Annual Fourth of July Fireworks at dusk at the dam. Lions Club Chicken Q across from Corps of Engineers office starting at 11:00 a.m.

July 5 - CLAY COUNTY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE: at our new used book store location on Hancock St. next to Buy Rite Drugs, Fort Gaines, Georgia 10 AM-4 PM (EDT). For more information call (229) 768-2248

July 5—Street Dance - Big Bad Wolf Saloon – 7:00 TO Midnight. Band is "ACCENT" from Montgomery, Al.

July 8 - SUMMER READING PROGRAM: CREEPY, CRAWLY CREATURES: Clay County Library, 208 Hancock St., Fort Gaines, Georgia 3 PM (EDT). For more information call (229) 768-2248

July 30 – BALCONY PEOPLE- Presentation by Kyle Dyer of Wiregrass Hospice: Clay County Library, 208 Hancock St., Fort Gaines, Georgia 2 PM (EDT). For more information call (229) 768-2248

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.

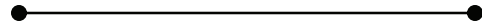
Planning & Zoning Commission business meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Clay County Commission Chambers. Planning & Zoning Public Hearings are held on an "as needed" basis. Contact County Clerk for schedule.

UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS

County Offices will be closed on the following date:

July 4th—Independence Day

September 1—Labor Day



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FORT GAINES, GA 39851

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