

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

S.P.A.C.E. Announces Open House, 2009 Season



The public is invited to an open house at S. P. A. C. E. – Savannah's Place for Art, Culture and Education -- on Wed., Jan. 7, 2009 from 5 to 7 p.m. Attendees can meet S.P.A.C.E. instructors, tour the facility, register for classes and receive information on the year's upcoming visual and performing arts offerings. Established in 1999 by the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs, S. P. A. C. E. has been serving as the city's arts education hub and providing a place for the community to gather, inspire, create and enjoy for ten years.

"We have put together an exciting calendar of programs," said Debra Zumstein, the city's arts programs coordinator. "Cultural activities allow our community to share

experiences, develop new skills, exchange ideas and grow together through the creative process."

At the Open House, attendees can meet the City's new Performing Arts Coordinator, Ellie Pyle and recently promoted Visual Arts Coordinator, Lisa Bradley, along with upcoming exhibiting artists Jennifer Jenkins, Erica Rollings and the Creative Force Artist Collective. There will also be a preview performance of the latest Black Box production, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).

The Open House is free and open to the public. S. P. A. C. E. is located at 9 W. Henry St. (between Bull and Whitaker Streets). Free off-street parking is available.

The Savannah Waterfront Association Announces Changes in Leadership

The Board of Directors of the Savannah Waterfront Association (SWA) has named Kenny Hill as the interim Executive Director of the Association after the resignation of Rick Lott.

"I am very excited and ready to lead the association as it continues to bring quality events to River Street and improve the experience of the merchants, visitors and locals alike", says Kenny Hill. Hill is a resident of Savannah, has been Associate Director of the SWA since October, 2004 and is active in many community organizations and boards, area non-profits and his church. "I hope to bring a new energy to the organization and further its partnerships within the community; there's no better place to be than Savannah... and no brighter gem than the waterfront", continues Hill.

Outgoing Director Lott says "I have been considering stepping down as Director for the past few months so that I could better pursue other interests. Having served as Director for nearly ten years, I've seen a

lot of changes in our historic waterfront and with the Savannah Waterfront Association. I have enjoyed my work with our members and with our Festivals; I leave with a great amount of pride in my accomplishments. I think my proudest moment was leading the way to provide public boat docks for downtown. I appreciate our retiring Board President, Dr. William Dickinson, and our Board of Directors for their ongoing support and encouragement through these past several years. I think the Association is in very capable hands going forward in a challenging time."

Incoming SWA Board President Jack Bussert states "we appreciate the work and commitment of Director Lott. We also look forward to the leadership of Kenny Hill as we strive to partner with other entities in Savannah to promote our community."

The Savannah Waterfront Association promotes the eclectic vitality of the shops, restaurants, pubs and hotels that create the one-of-a-kind experience found nowhere else in the world than historic River Street. The SWA is a 501 (c)(3) private organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of historic River Street.

Visit on the web at RiverStreetSavannah.com.

Do You Have a Personal Story About Johnny Mercer or Know Anyone Who Does?

This year's Georgia Days Honored Figure is Savannah and Georgia's own native-son, world-renowned lyricist Johnny Mercer. The Georgia Days Kickoff for 2009 will feature a presentation, by writer-musician Jim Wann, on the life of Johnny Mercer with selected performances of his most treasured songs. In addition, Mr. Wann will be presenting personal reflections on Johnny Mercer submitted by Georgians. The Georgia Historical Society will be collecting these stories to be bound and added to our collections, the final volume will be on display in the Society's reading room throughout the month of February in honor of Mercer and Georgia Days.

Johnny Mercer has touched the lives of Savannahians and Georgians



Johnny Mercer

of all ages either personally or through his music. If you have a personal story of your memories of, or your encounters with Johnny Mercer or his music, please share it with us. Stories should be submitted in writing, and be no more than 500 words (one typed page). They must be mailed to the **Georgia Historical Society at 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA 31401, or emailed by January 9, 2009.**

New City Program Promotes Public Transit

The City of Savannah and Chatham Area Transit unveiled a new City employee discount program Friday aimed at encouraging public transportation and reducing fuel and travel costs.

On Friday, Dec. 19, Mayor Otis Johnson presented the City's first Half Off Transit (HOT) Pass to the first City employee who signed up for the program. Through the program, the City of Savannah will pay for half the cost -- \$22.50 -- of a

monthly CAT bus pass for City employees. The \$22.50 employee share will be automatically deducted pre-tax from the employee's paycheck. The HOT Pass will reduce employees' tax liability, save the employee money on gas and other transportation costs, and promote environmental sustainability.

The HOT Pass offer is part of the City's larger Thrive initiative, a plan that aims to reduce City Government's carbon footprint 15 percent

by the year 2020. Surveys show that City of Savannah employee commutes account for 14 percent of the City Government's total carbon footprint.

Chatham Area Transit officials, who will be at the event, hope to use the City's HOT Pass program as a model for other large employers in the Savannah area.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 651-6410.

Step Up Savannah and Hands On Savannah to host Poverty Simulation

Step Up Savannah, Inc. and Hands On Savannah of the United Way of the Coastal Empire have scheduled a poverty simulation for Jan. 23 at Georgia Power's office building. The "Welcome to the State of Poverty" simulation will be held from 1- 4 p.m. at the Gagnilliat Auditorium, 3rd floor of the Georgia Power building, 600 Bay Street.

The simulations, developed by Rowel (Reform Organization of Welfare) Education Association, require groups of 35 to 75 people to assume the roles of 26 families living in poverty. The goal of each family is to survive for one month,

which takes place in four 15-minute "weeks." In this time, participants must maintain secure shelter, utilities, feed their families, make loan payments, meet living expenses such as transportation, handle unexpected emergencies, access local support services, and keep their children in school -- all while subsisting at or below the poverty level.

Thousands of families in Chatham County are living at or below the poverty level. For them, every day can turn into an emergency, whether it is securing a place to live, feeding their families, paying utility bills or finding and accessing trans-

portation and support services to help them meet basic needs.

The simulation is open to anyone who wants to learn more about what it's like to live in poverty in our community. Participation is free but registration is required.

To register for the Friday, Jan. 23rd simulation at Georgia Power, contact Shawnte Tyler at Step Up by e-mail at styler@stepupsavannah.org.

If you have participated in a simulation and wish to volunteer, please contact Kim Fritz at Hands On Savannah by phone (651-7725) or e-mail at kfritz@uwce.org

Department of Cultural Affairs Seeks Arts Instructors, Classes

The Department of Cultural Affairs is seeking applications from artist/instructors to teach classes during the spring semester. Beginning, advanced, adult and youth classes and workshops in the mediums of jewelry, ceramics, printmaking, drawing, painting, metals, glass and theatre arts will be considered.

Day and evening class proposals can range from one-day workshops to eight

week courses. Interested individuals should submit an application and a proposal to include: a resume; description of proposed class; and up to five portfolio images (in digital format). Previous experience in art instruction is required.

Applications are available at www.savannahga.gov/arts. The deadline for applications is Jan. 9 at 5 p.m. Visual arts applications should be submitted to Lisa

Bradley, Visual Arts Coordinator, at lisa_bradley@savannahga.gov. Performing arts applications should be submitted to Ellie Pyle, Performing Arts Coordinator, at elizabeth_pyle@savannahga.gov.

Applications can also be mailed to City of Savannah, Department of Cultural Affairs, 9 W. Henry St., Savannah, Ga., 31401.

For information, call (912) 651-6783.

RA-LIN & Associates, Inc., Construction Managers
will receive sealed proposals from subcontractors, at RA-LIN and Associates, Inc. Office, 101 Parkwood Circle, Carrollton, GA 30117 until 2:00PM, Eastern Time on December 30, 2008, for renovation and addition to Windsor Forest Elementary School. There will be a pre-proposal meeting on December 11, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. to be held at [To be determined]. All interested proposers should attend. Contact Brian Fritts at (770) 834-4884 for all information pertaining bid room location and proposal document procurement. Proposal documents may be examined at the Construction Manager's office, RA-LIN & Associates, Inc., 101 Parkwood Circle, Carrollton, Georgia and at the following plan rooms:

THE SAVANNAH ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER
P) (912) 652-3582;
CLAYTON DIGITAL REPROGRAPHICS
P) (912) 352-3880 or P) (912) 447-5445;
MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION / DODGE
P) (912) 354-6696.

7110 Skidaway Road

Claudia Clarke
Vice President,
Senior Lending Officer
and Branch Manager

701 M. L. King, Jr. Blvd.

***Free Checking**
***Great CD Rates**
***All Types of Loans**

*Contact One Of Our Financial Services Specialists For Details

Carver State Bank



www.carverstatebank.com

