

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Emancipation Association Makes Financial Awards



Members of the Association pictured (l-r): Elder Willie Ferrell, Presiding Elder J.E. Taylor, Rev. Nathaniel Small, Sr., President; Rev. Marion Brooks, Rev. Thomas Greene, and Rev. Charlie Fogle.

The Emancipation Celebration held on January 1, 2009 at Asbury United Methodist Church was an historic event for several reasons. A special Litany of Thanksgiving was included for the election of Barack Obama as the first African American President of the United States, and for Larry Chisolm, the first African American District Attorney for Chatham County. Also, Presiding Elder J.E. Taylor presented a large group of young people to Emancipation Association President, Rev. Nathaniel Small, Sr., for the official formation of the Youth Division of the Emancipation Association.

In the wake of this memorable celebration, members of the Association assembled at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum and awarded a total of

\$3,300.00 among seven non-profit agencies of the community to include: Ash Tree Organization, Inc., Mr. Morris Brown, Director; Greenbriar Children's Center, Mrs. Gena Taylor, Executive Director; Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, Dr. J.W. Jamerson, III, thainann, Board of Directors; West Broad Street YMCA, Mr. Peter Doliber, Director; Wesley Community Center, Ms. Tammy A.K. Nixon, Executive Director; Savannah Faith Coalition, Pastor Marion Brooks, Representative; and Coastal Jail Ministries of Georgia, Chaplain Johnny Hands. The Emancipation Association of Savannah, Georgia and Vicinity, Inc., takes this opportunity to thank churches, organizations and individuals for continued support in our efforts to carry out our critically important mission.

A new image for Sustainable Fellwood

Sustainable Fellwood, Savannah's environmentally friendly affordable housing development, has a new logo celebrating its commitment to community and the environment. The logo was the winning entry in a contest open to Savannah area high school and college students. Yuan Yao, a Savannah College of Art and Design graduate student, designed the winning logo.

Yuan was inspired by the development's concern for the people and the environment.

"The community has a long history," said Yuan. "The people belong to the community and therefore belong to the green environment. The people have a very strong relationship with the community and it's a great environment for people. That's why I put people in the logo. It looks friendly and has a connection with people."

The logo is the silhouette of a person, outlined within the negative spaces of the petals of a flower.

"The logo captures this community aspect and idea of rebirth" so important to Sustainable Fellwood, said Denis Blackburne, CFO of Melaver, Inc. Community members were thrilled with the logo, he said.

Karina Nersesova, a SCAD graduate student, was the second place winner. Jiuxue Zhang, also a SCAD

graduate student, was the third place winner.

The first place prize was a new laptop computer donated by Seimitsu Business Technology Solutions. The second place prize was a \$250 VISA gift card and honorable mention was a \$100 VISA gift card.

Judges were looking for a logo that graphically conveys and illustrates an understood message and vision of a sustainable community.

Sustainable Fellwood will be built with sustainable materials with high standards for energy and water efficiency. For example, pervious paving will be used where possible to allow water to naturally infiltrate the ground, reducing the impact on the neighborhood stormwater system. Construction on Phase I, the first 110 housing units, began in Fall 2008.

Sustainable Fellwood is a mixed use, mixed income Housing Authority of Savannah redevelopment. Master Developer: Melaver, Inc., in partnership with Parallel Housing, Progressive Redevelopment, and Vanguard Developers. In collaboration with: Lott Barber, Architecture and Planning, Catamount Constructors, Inc., City of Savannah, and CHSA Development of Savannah. www.SustainableFellwood.com.

Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis' 2009 Inaugural Address (continued)

We are fortunate to have the experience and professionalism of Sheriff Al St. Lawrence and the members of his department in this undertaking.

As the expanded detention center comes on line, the county will be soon thereafter be completing a major expansion of the courthouse. The increased capacity of courts will not only improve the efficiency of judicial proceedings but it will also insure the courthouse better serves citizens through improved accessibility and customer-friendly features.

Within the next 18 months, the county will also complete a new records center which will not only centralize records into a single archive but allow them to be better managed. The new building, which will be constructed to withstand a category 5 hurricane, will also include document imaging and a document destruction program to improve the modernization of records management.

While the big projects always seem to grab the headlines, smaller ones can be just as important to the safety of our citizens. For example, another important but little-noticed improvement this year will be the enhancement of our community's emergency notification system. The commission has funded doubling the number of emergency sirens throughout Chatham County, which means 95% of our citizens will be advised in advance of threatening natural disasters.

Another project which few notice but which will yield public safety dividends in the future will be the implementation of the interoperable communications system. This multi-million dollar public safety enhancement will put into place a regional communication system.

Even the animals who are pets of countless citizens will also benefit by the construction of a state of the art animal rescue center which will be completed during 2009.

As we create new county facilities, we must provide



Pete Liakakis

for the maintenance of those facilities. Because of prudent financial policies during the past four years, this commission has transferred almost \$30 million from excess fund balance into capital improvements and capital repairs. Capital improvements continue to bolster the sales tax program in funding projects which improve the community's quality of life. Just as importantly, funding for capital repairs ensures that the needed maintenance of the county's capital assets today will avoid burdening future commissions.

In 2007, the commission unveiled an ambitious list of 185 projects totaling 350 million dollars. Work continues on completing the projects on this list, which include roads, drainage, parks, boat ramps, new and renovated trails, and county facilities to improve service, and the commission expects almost all of them will be completed within the next four years.

While investing in our service infrastructure pays dividends in the community's quality of life, this commission also understands the need to invest in economic self-sufficiency. Over the course of this next term, the commission will continue its focus on removing the constraints which keep almost one out of every six of our community's families impoverished. A renewed emphasis will be made with the construction apprentice program and other programs targeted to help our citizens reach economic well-being.

Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis' speech will be continued.

Savannahians, Mark Your Place in History

The public is invited to contribute written messages to be sealed in the Black & White Gala ceremonial Time Capsule. The sealed contents will be opened perhaps hundreds of years from now.

Details to be announced later. The Time Capsule is meant to preserve Savannahian's messages, sentiments and ideas that represent this transformational time in history.

The project is the brainchild of Benjamin Polote, Sr. Pelote says, "This time in history won't come again. It is important not only to those of us who are here today experiencing history first

hand, but also to future generations who will be inspired by our messages."

The Time Capsule will be available until February 13, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at The Polote Corporation, 1810 Mills B. Lane Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia 31405.

For more information, call 912-232-1188.

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L-R Krystal Young (Stylist), Vickie Young (Owner/Stylist), Vicky Murray (Nail Tech. / Braider)

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