

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

City to Join Statewide Recycling Campaign

The City of Savannah joined a statewide campaign that uses humor and the absurd to promote the benefits of recycling.

City officials kicked off the campaign at a news conference on Wednesday, June 10, at the transfer center operated by Savannah's recycling partner, Pratt Industries, located at 101 Kahn Industrial Court.

Since the historic launch of the City's single-stream curbside recycling program in January, Savannah has collected over 5 million pounds of recyclables from Savannah's households.

The program has reduced the amount of material sent to our landfill by 14.2 percent, diverting 4,201 metric tons of carbon emissions from the air, according to a formula

developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The new recycling awareness campaign centers around a series of unwitting characters who proudly proclaim the reasons they refuse to recycle.

The characters even wear T-shirts that read, "I Don't Recycle." Non-recycler Tommy Krenshaw, for instance, proudly proclaims to all who will listen that we will find a new planet when this one fills up with the materials he and others like him refuse to recycle.

By highlighting the absurdities behind not recycling, the campaign responds on behalf of the rest of us with "you gotta be kidding!" (the campaign Web site, too, is www.YouGottabeKidding.org.)

The campaign was created by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

It launched in full force in Savannah on with a series of print ads, billboard messages and radio spots.

"Every time someone bypasses a recycling bin or chooses to throw a can away, they are effectively saying, 'I don't recycle!'" said Randy Hartmann, the Director of the Office of Environmental Management of DCA. "They're wearing their apathy on their sleeve. What we're saying is that these excuses won't work anymore."

"Most residents of Savannah are proud to recycle," said City of Savannah Sanitation Bureau Chief Stephanie Cutter. "However, some think it doesn't make a difference. Well, we know it does make a difference and if everyone does their fair share here in Savannah the entire state of Georgia will benefit."

Through the media relations and marketing campaign, DCA will drive Georgia residents to the campaign Web site where the real facts about recycling will be presented in a way that resonates and drives real action.

The campaign will target all non-recyclers, but with a special focus on the 25- to 34-year-old group, as research revealed they are the least likely to recycle, but also tend to be the easiest to motivate.

Savannah Becomes a We Can!City

The City of Savannah has launched We Can! (Ways to Enhance Children's Activity & Nutrition!), a fast-growing national movement of families and communities coming together to promote healthy weight in children ages 8-13 through improved food choices, increased physical activity and reduced screen time. We Can! is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Childhood obesity is a serious public health problem. In the US, nearly one-third of our youth are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight. These extra pounds can add up to lifelong health problems.

Overweight and obese adults increase their risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, certain cancers and other chronic conditions.

The City of Savannah has been designated as a We Can! City, reflecting its commitment to supporting healthy lifestyles among its residents. Savannah will join only 14 other cities/counties in the US that have earned this designation.

The Chatham County Health Department and Healthy Savannah presented the We Can! road sign to Mayor Otis Johnson at City Hall; in turn, Mayor Johnson issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, June

13th, We Can! Day.

Community partners who have been instrumental in earning the We Can! City designation include: City of Savannah, Chatham County Health Department, Healthy Savannah, Local Savannah Food Collaborative, Performance Initiatives, Greenbriar Children's Center, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Savannah, West Broad Street YMCA, Victory Heights Neighborhood Park, Youth Futures Authority, St. Pius Family Resource Center, Savannah Sand Gnats and 92.3 the Point.

For more information, please call 912.484.1885 or email: cpgibson@dhr.state.ga.us

NOAA's Gray's Reef to Host Youth Educational Summit

NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, headquartered in Savannah, Ga., will host 40 students from across the nation this month during the National Association of Black Scuba Divers' (NABS) Youth Educational Summit.

The program's goal is to develop young leaders through marine science.

"Our goal is to provide these young people an interesting and thought-provoking week of activities that will enhance their marine knowledge while reaching underserved and underrepresented communities," said Cathy Sakas, the sanctuary's education coordinator.

The 2009 program will take place June 21-27. The students, ages 9-18, will be housed at Savannah State University.

The schedule of activities includes: Meetings with NOAA scientists marsh walk with marine science students at Savannah State University tour of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island, community service work with the University of Georgia Shellfish Research Laboratory. education program, an offshore dive an introduction to building remotely operated vehicles, and a pontoon boat cruise through the Bull River estu-

ary

"The focus of the summit is to raise awareness and educate youth about the need for environmental responsibility, specifically the protection of our waterways and marine life," said Kenneth Stewart, NABS committee chairman.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

Visit: <http://www.noaa.gov>

CRCT Scores Increase in All Areas

Test scores for Georgia's elementary and

middle school students improved in all areas this year, but most dramatically in the crucial subjects of mathematics and science.

Students posted gains on all 14 of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) in mathematics and science, all of which are aligned to Georgia's more rigorous curriculum.

"The 2009 CRCT results are very encouraging and show that our students are learning more advanced concepts and are able to apply that knowledge properly," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox.

The biggest one-year gain on any of the CRCTs was in eighth-grade math: The pass rate was 70 percent, an increase of eight percentage points.

The CRCTs are curriculum-based tests given to students in grades 1-8 in the subjects of reading, English language arts, mathematics and - in grades 3-8 - science and social studies.

As Georgia has rolled out its new curriculum, the Georgia Performance Standards, more rigorous

tests have been created and administered.

This year, for the first time, all the CRCTs are aligned to the new curriculum.

The statewide results are reported in three categories - the percentage of students that did not meet standards, met standards or exceeded standards.

Other highlights from the 2009 CRCT report include:

- A five (5) percentage point jump in the pass rate for science in grades 3 and 5.
- In third grade, 80 percent of the students met or exceeded standards on the Science CRCT and in fifth grade 76 percent.

- Reading and English language arts performance remained high and improved in almost every grade, with 89 percent of seventh-graders meeting standards on both tests. In sixth-grade, the pass rate was 90 percent in reading and 91 percent in English.

- This is the first year students in grades 3-5 took the social studies CRCT aligned to the new curriculum. The pass rate was over 70 percent for each grade.

Zion Fair to host annual Revival

Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church, 4123 First Street, Garden City, invites you to be a part of our Annual Church Revival during the week of June 17-19.

Our evangelist for the week will be Rev. James H. Terry, pastor of St. Paul

Missionary Baptist Church. Services will begin each night at 7:30p.m.

We are looking for a spirit-filled time in the Lord. Rev. Ronald E. Small, Sr., Pastor.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids/proposals will be received by the Board of Education for the City of Savannah and County of Chatham at the Purchasing Department, 208 Bull Street, Room 213, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

09-130 Instructional Science Catalog Discount (Annual Contract)
Closing Date: 06/25/09 @ 11 AM

09-131 Repair & Refinish Gym Floor at Johnson High School. Pre-Bid conference location at Johnson High School, 3012 Sunset Blvd., Savannah GA 31404, to be held on Thursday, 06/18/09 @ 11:30 AM
Closing Date: 06/30/09 @ 2 PM

09-132 Refinish Gym Floors at Beach High, Groves High, Savannah Arts Academy, Windsor Forest High Schools
All bidders are strongly urged to attend the pre-bid conferences to be held Thursday, June 18, 2009.
Pre-bid locations are follows: Windsor Forest High @ 9 AM located at 12419 Largo Dr., Savannah, GA 31419
Savannah Arts Academy @ 10:30 AM located at 500 Washington Ave., Savannah, Ga 31405
Beach High School @ 2PM at 3001 Hopkins St., Savannah, Ga 31405
Groves High School @ 3 PM located at 100 Wheathill Rd., Savannah, GA 31408
Closing Date: 06/30/09 @ 3 PM

C09-47 Fence Installation @ West Chatham Middle School Pre-Bid conference will be held at West Chatham Middle School, 800 Pine Barren Rd., Pooler, GA 31322, Tuesday, 06/23/09 @ 10 AM
Closing Date: 07/09/09 @ 2 PM

At the time and place noted above, bids will be publicly opened. No extension of the bidding period will be made unless indicated by written addendum. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities or technicalities in proposals received whenever such rejection or waiver is in the best interest of the Board. The Board has the right to disqualify a bid of any bidder deemed non-responsive to the Board. Bidding documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Department, 208 Bull Street, Room 213, Savannah, Georgia 31401 or they may be downloaded from the District's web site, www.savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us.

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