

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Strengthening Our Rural Roots and Voter Participation Keys to Community Development



Covenant VII members (l-r): Wilson W. Moran, Angelisa Savage-Bryant, Dave Kelly, Chester Dunham, Chairman, Mike Jones, and Pat Gunn.

The Hungry Club Forum of Savannah, Inc.(HCFS) heard from two more of the community-wide study groups involved in an examination of Tavis Smiley's The Covenant With Black America. The presentations, which will be compiled into a local publication in the late Fall, were the featured offering of the HCFS' monthly breakfast Roundtable and Open Forum, held on August 1, 2009, in the Multipurpose

Annex of the West Broad Street YMCA.

Longtime longshoreman Chester A. Dunham, Head of the local chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, is chairing the Covenant VII Study Group, that includes Wilson Moran and Dave Kelly, associated with the Harris Neck Land Trust; Pat Gunn, associated with the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative, and a local Gullah-Geechee Culture preservationist; busi-

nesspersons Mike Jones, Davita Capers-White and Angelisa Savage-Bryant; Ben Kennedy of the Kennedy Farm in Cobbtown, GA; and community activist Sidney Adkins. The focus of this dynamic preliminary report centered on heritage and cultural preservation, land retention and development and political empowerment are keys to the future prosperity of African Americans in the South and the nation in general. To par-

ticipate in this on-going study, contact Chester Dunham at 507-9944.

The Covenant VI Study Group offered up a hard-hitting, thought provoking presentation on "Claiming Our Democracy." The focus was on the on-going need for the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and all of its accompanying protections, meanings and interpretations.

Chaired by Gwendolyn Glover, HIE Project Manager, Coastal Health

Nutrition Wellness Delays Nursing Home Placement

Results from a study on the impact of a Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Aging Services (DAS) nutritional wellness program reveals older Georgians are staying in their own homes longer before having to enter a nursing home.

Since state fiscal year 2007, nursing home placements for older adults involved in DAS nutrition programs have been increasingly delayed.

In state fiscal year 2008, for example, older adults avoided nursing home placement an average of three years longer than older adults not involved in the program.

"What this really means is that good nutrition is a major factor in keeping older Georgians healthy and more independent," said Maria Greene, director of DAS. "Our nutrition programs provide healthy meals to thousands of seniors across the state. Since there is a direct link between poor nutrition and chronic health problems, providing older adults access to fresh produce and healthy foods can seriously improve their quality of life."

The results of the study are part of the Performance Outcomes Measurement Project (POMP), a federal initiative that measures the

effectiveness of Title III services, including nutrition programs, for older Americans.

The study measured the level of "food insecurity" experienced by participating older Georgians. Food insecurity refers to the limited or uncertain availability of safe, nutritious foods.

The POMP study found that 11.5% of participants in Georgia were experiencing food insecurity.

The Division of Aging Services provides a variety of services to older adults to address this issue, including nutrition screening, prepared meals, nutrition education and a Farmer's Market program that makes fresh, locally grown produce available to seniors.

For more information about the Division of Aging Services nutrition programs, call 1-866-552-4464.

Chatham County Moves Ahead with 'Green' Plan

By Eric Curl, Savannah Morning News

Chatham County officials have not forgotten about a plan to become the "greenest" in the state; much of the work is just occurring behind the scenes.

"They have been very responsive," said Larry Miles, a member of the Chatham Environmental Forum, a group of community volunteers that crafted the plan.

Henry Lewandowski, the county's director of mosquito control, has been meeting with the forum's various committees to go over the goals, Miles said.

One big step the county is taking is figuring out how much energy it consumes, said Pat Monahan, assistant county manager. Once that base value is established, the county can work to meet reduction goals set in the plan, Monahan said.

The county is aiming to achieve Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia's bronze status in the next few months, Monahan said.

Bronze status is the entry point for most applicants to Sustainable Georgia, which was established by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 2004 to encourage environmental stewardship among governments, businesses and organizations.

Some of the recommendations of the plan - such as the ordering of hybrid diesel-electric buses for Chatham Area Transit - have already been implemented, but many will take more time, Lewandowski said.

Many of the goals are expected to be cost-effective.

The up-front costs may be a little more expensive, but the county will end up saving money in the long run, Lewandowski said - citing a plan to replace traffic-light bulbs with LED bulbs, which supposedly last longer and use less energy.

Lewandowski has been coordinating with department heads since the plan was presented to commissioners on Feb. 27. So far, their reaction to implementing it has been positive, and Lewandowski said his initial apprehension toward achieving the many goals is fading.

"The more I'm getting into it and breaking this thing

into more doable steps, I'm very excited about it," he said.

County Commissioner Pat Shay, who is now serving as the environmental forum's chairman, said he is pushing the group to become more active in the county's long-range transportation plan and in water resource planning as Atlanta starts looking for ways to replace the water extracted from the Chattahoochee River and starts to eye the Savannah River instead.

The forum's plan was also adopted by Tybee Island, and is expected to be considered for adoption by the Savannah City Council on Aug. 27.

See Hungry Club, page 16

IN MEMORY OF
Kimiry Ronald -Manzensee - Smith
OCTOBER 11, 1949 - AUGUST 15, 2006

THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED RONALD
SINCE GOD CALLED YOU HOME
TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN
AROUND THE SNOW WHITE THRONE
WE OFTEN SIT AND THINK OF YOU
WHEN WE ARE ALL ALONE
FOR MEMORY IS THE ONLY THING
THAT GRIEF CAN TELL ITS OWN.
NO ONE KNOWS OF THE SADNESS
ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE LOST CAN TELL
OF THE GRIEF THAT IS BORNE IN SILENCE
FOR THE ONE WE LOVE SO WELL
GOD KNOWS HOW MUCH WE MISS YOU
NEVER SHALL YOUR MEMORY FADE
LOVING THOUGHTS SHALL ALWAYS WANDER
TO THE SPOT WHERE YOU WERE LAID.

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
**YOUR CHILDREN, GRAND CHILDREN,
MOTHER (MRS. ABBIE SMITH), SIBLINGS,
OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

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