



Hurricane Season Isn't Over Yet!

We are all ready for hurricane season to be over but we still have almost two months left- it doesn't end until November 30th. As the National Weather Service predicted, the 2017 hurricane season has been very active and we've watched as storms have caused catastrophic damages in areas unfortunate enough to be in their paths. We do not have to look as far away as Houston or Miami to see the impacts of storm surge or flooding. While we were fortunate and did not take a direct hit from Hurricane Irma, she still brought flooding and storm surge damages to our region. Unfortunately, homeowners who did not have flood insurance are now facing a second disaster as they try to repair damages and find out that their homeowner's policy doesn't cover flooding damage.

The fact is anyone can be financially vulnerable to floods. Many people think that their regular insurance policy will cover them in the event of a flood. But in fact, most do not. Many people think that the federal government gives money to those impacted by a disaster such as a hurricane or major flooding. The truth of the matter is that when flooding causes extensive, widespread damage, the Governor or President **may** make a disaster proclamation. These proclamations can make disaster-related money available to affected property owners. It is important to know that this assistance is typically **not** a grant or forgivable loan. Instead, it is most often a loan that you must repay with interest.

Per the National Hurricane Center, storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane for those along the coast, while flooding is the major threat for those living inland. Most homeowner's insurance policies will cover damages due to high winds and tornadoes associated with a hurricane, but do not cover damages caused by storm surge and flooding. Do you know what your policy covers? Are you covered if you are in the crosshairs of the next hurricane?

If you do not have flood coverage, you must go through the National Flood Insurance Program administered by FEMA to obtain it. Keep in mind; it takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to go into effect after you purchase it. The time to purchase such a policy is not when the news is calling for a major rain event. The time is now so that you will be covered when it's needed.



Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

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It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for all of Chatham County. These restrictions remain in effect during both declared drought and non-drought periods.

The following outdoor watering schedules apply for all of Chatham County:

- The use of outdoor water is not allowed on between **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM;**
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays;**

Outdoor watering allowed between 4:01 PM– 9:59 AM						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	X	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses

2017 River's Alive Cleanup Saturday, October 21st 9am- 12pm 10 Rivers End

Rivers Alive is a state program focusing on protecting and improving the quality of rivers. The City of Savannah is joining many other groups across Georgia to organize cleanups as a part of the Rivers Alive program. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Rivers End boat ramp. For more information go to:

<http://www.savannahga.gov/index.aspx?NID=1777>

mobilizing fresh food for all



Thanks to Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation's *Live Well. Be Well.* initiative, Forsyth Farmers' Market has created **Farm Truck 912**, a mobile farmers' market that brings local fruits and vegetables to Savannah neighborhoods with the least access to healthy food.

Farm Truck 912 both *accept* and *double* SNAP/EBT benefits and offer health and nutrition opportunities!

The current Farm Truck stops include:

- **Department of Family & Children Services**
 - **Monday: 10am-11:30am**
- **Savannah Gardens**
 - **Monday: 3pm-4pm**
- **Sustainable Fellwood**
 - **Tuesday: 1pm-2pm**
- **WW Law Community Center**
 - **Thursday: 3pm-4pm**
- **Sheppard's Gas and Food Mart**
 - **Thursday: 5pm-6pm**
- **Memorial Health**
 - **One Friday of each month: 11am-1pm**

National Prescription Take Back Day
Saturday, October 28, 2017
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Medicines play an important role in treating many conditions and diseases, but when they are no longer needed it's important to dispose of them properly to avoid harm to others. At one time, it was believed that the best method for disposing of them was to flush them down the drain or toilet. We are now seeing those chemicals show up in our waterways, negatively impacting the animals that live there and ultimately ending up in our drinking water supplies.

How does improperly disposed of medicine end up in our drinking water?

In homes that use septic tanks, medicine flushed down the drain or toilet can leach into the ground and seep into ground water. In cities and towns where residences are connected to wastewater treatment plants, medicine flushed down the drain or toilet can pass through the treatment system and enter our waterbodies. Water treatment plants are generally not equipped to routinely remove medicines so it's important to properly dispose of medicines to ensure they do not harm the environment.

With this in mind, it is important to dispose of medicine either through a local medicine take-back program or through the following household disposal steps:

- Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
- Mix drugs (do NOT crush tablets or capsules) with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
- Put the mixture into a leak-proof disposable container with a lid or into a sealable plastic bag. Consider using multiple layers in order to ensure that the container does not leak.
- Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
- The sealed container with the drug mixture, and the empty drug container, can now be placed in the trash.

Medicine take-back programs for disposal are the **BEST** way to get rid of expired, unwanted, or unused medicines from your home and reduce the risk that someone may accidentally take the medicine or that it might negatively impact the environment.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled a National Take Back Initiative for October 28, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To find a collection site near you, check the DEA website at:

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

Only Rain Down the Drain!

It's getting to be about that time of year again, when we start to feel a chill in the air and hear the crunch of leaves under our feet as we walk about. We know that fall is here and winter is right around the corner as the leaves change from vibrant greens to beautiful shades of yellow, orange, and red and fall to the ground.

It's such an amazing time of year in the south...until it is time to dispose of all those leaves. Yes, it's fun to rake them all up and let the kids play in the piles in the yard, but what to do with them when play-time is over? Do not rake or blow them into ditches or drains.

It is your responsibility to make sure that nothing but rain water flows from your yard into storm drains. Yard waste entering storm drains increases the risk of flooding and adds pollutants to the environment.

Not only does yard waste cause blockages to the drainage system which can lead to localized flooding, it can also add carbon and nitrogen to our area waterbodies through its decomposition. This can lead to algae blooms and fish kills. Sweeping or blowing grass clippings, fallen leaves, or other yard waste into the street or down the storm drain can cause serious damage to the storm sewer system and to the other water resources to which storm drains lead.

Perhaps you only occasionally allow grass clipping, leaves, and other yard waste to wash down the drains. Multiply your "occasional" by



all the homes in Chatham County and it's easy to see why it's a major concern. Yard clippings, tree limbs, and trash can clog up the storm drains and ditches causing street and yard flooding, even with moderate rainfall.

Remember, only rain down the drain!

One Hundred Miles Plastic and Litter Reduction Efforts

Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

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A working group made up of Chatham County enviro-advocates, and organization representatives from One Hundred Miles, BYOB, Clean Coast, Fight Dirty Tybee, Surfrider Foundation, Youth for a Clean Environment, and Savannah-Chatham Sustainability Coalition have been working on a comprehensive plan for Plastic and Litter Reduction. The group first convened in May of 2017 to address community concerns for plastic litter impacts on beaches, marshes, marine wildlife, and within our own local neighborhoods.

Part of the Plastic and Litter Reduction working group effort involves a public survey for Chatham County businesses, residents, and tourists. The working group will collect community data to help refine their recommendations for plastic litter reduction in Chatham County.

Let your voice be heard! Please help them obtain information about community views by taking a few minutes to fill out their survey at:

http://www.onehundredmiles.org/choosetoreuse/?mc_cid=414fe3360d&mc_eid=0ce467749d



Forsyth Farmers' Market

Every Saturday at the south end of Forsyth Park
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Support local farmers, and improve your health by shopping at the Forsyth Farmers' Market. Select from a variety of fresh, regional produce sold by farmers, and take advantage of nutritional information and demonstrations offered at the health pavilion. EBT cards are accepted. Please visit:

www.forsythfarmersmarket.org

for more information.

