



The WaterSpout

Comprehensive Plan Update

We would first like to thank everybody that took the time to come out to the public meetings and fill out our surveys, as well as all the individuals and organizations that helped us get the word out about the update to the Comprehensive Plan. Your input was invaluable and has assisted in the creation of a document that will help shape our community by identifying issues, opportunities, and priorities and allocating resources accordingly.

On August 30th the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission acted to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. The document is scheduled to go before City Council on September 15th and County Commission on September 23rd. The Coastal Regional Commission will review the Comprehensive Plan prior to the document submittal to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in October.

You can view the full document on the MPC website on the Comprehensive Planning page (<http://www.thempc.org/Dept/Comp>).



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COMING SOON!!!

Chatham County Red Zone Water Management Plan

The MPC has received a Coastal Incentive Grant to support revisions and updates to the Chatham County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (2006) to address water sustainability issues within the "Red Zone" (users in Chatham and South Effingham Counties) of the coastal Region of Georgia.

As this region continues to see unprecedented growth, it is necessary to make efforts to conserve and protect our natural resources.

The following jurisdictions are partnering in the update:

- City of Bloomingdale
- City of Garden City
- City of Pooler
- City of Port Wentworth
- Town of Thunderbolt
- City of Tybee Island
- City of Rincon
- City of Savannah
- Unincorporated Chatham County
- Unincorporated Effingham County

Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved!

Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for unincorporated Chatham County, the Cities of Savannah, Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Tybee Island and the Town of Thunderbolt. These restrictions will continue to remain in effect during both a declared drought and non-drought period.

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

- **Odd-numbered addresses** may use outdoor water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays;
- **Even-numbered and un-numbered addresses** may use outdoor water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays;
- The use of outdoor water is not permissible between the hours of **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**; and
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays**.



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 22, 2016 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. Nearly 50% of Americans take at least one prescription medication, and many more regularly use over the counter medicines. Often times unused and expired medications sit in medicine cabinets for years. 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, we are encouraging folks to dispose of medicine either through a local medicine take-back program or through the following household disposal steps:

1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs (do NOT crush tablets or capsules) with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 22, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To find a collection site near you, check the DEA website at:

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

Grease Disposal

As you prepare to cook your holiday meals, remember don't pour grease of any kind down drains or into stormwater inlets. While grease or cooking oil may be liquid at first, it quickly hardens in pipes. Pour enough and it will completely block the sewer pipe. Backups can fill your home with raw sewage, pollute nearby waterways or cause a mess on your neighbor's property, and may require costly repairs.

Place kitchen grease in a container and put it in the trash. Or better yet, recycle it with the City of Savannah. The City works with a local company to convert grease into environmentally friendly bio-fuel. Yellow (kitchen) grease is accepted free of charge at the City of Savannah's President Street Water Reclamation facility, 1400 East President Street, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.



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Tybee Island Creates Georgia's 1st Sea Level Rise Plan

Sea level rise is quickly becoming one of the most talked about issues for coastal communities around the globe due to more frequent and widespread flooding. Communities are working to figure out how to protect existing structures and infrastructure and ensure that future development is done in a manner so as not to be vulnerable to flooding and storm surge.

Through an award provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program, the City of Tybee Island partnered with researchers and outreach professionals from Georgia Sea Grant, UGA, and Stetson University to develop a plan that addresses the risks that Tybee faces from sea level rise over the next 50 years. On April 17, 2016, Tybee Island City Council unanimously voted to adopt the Tybee Island Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.

The Tybee Island Plan received NOAA Sea Grant's highest national outreach award in 2014. The project has become a regional and national model with methodologies and approaches for sea level rise planning developed in the process now being utilized in several other U.S. southeast communities. Some of those communities include St. Marys, GA; Hyde County, NC; and Monroe County, FL.

To read the full Tybee Island Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, visit https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289999590_Tybee_Island_Sea-Level_Rise_Adaptation_Plan.

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 Park 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.

Upcoming Events

CoastFest 2016, Saturday, October 1st, 10 am- 4 pm at the regional headquarters campus of the GA DNR in Brunswick, GA

For more information, go to: <http://www.goldenises.com/event/coastfest-2016>

Savannah Bicycle Campaign's 8th Annual Midnight Garden Ride, Saturday, October 8th, 6-11 pm at Historic Grayson Stadium

For more information, go to: <http://bicyclecampaign.org/event/8th-annual-midnight-garden-ride/>

Savannah Riverkeeper's 7th Annual Savannah Roast on the River, Saturday, October 15th, 6pm at Hogan's Marina

For more information, go to: <http://www.savannahriverkeeper.org/savannah-roast-on-the-river.html>

Sustainability's 3rd Annual Mattress Dash, Sunday, October 16th, south end of Forsyth Park

For more information, go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Savannah/mattressdash>

National Prescription Take-Back Day, Saturday, October 22nd, 10 am-2 pm

For more information, go to: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

Skidaway Marine Sciences Day, Saturday, October 24th, 12-4 pm at University of Georgia's Skidaway Island Campus

For more information, go to: <http://marex.uga.edu/calendar/skidaway-marine-sciences-day/>

Savannah Food Day Festival, Saturday, October 29th, 11 am-5 pm at Daffin Park

For more information, go to: <http://wellfedsavannah.com/>