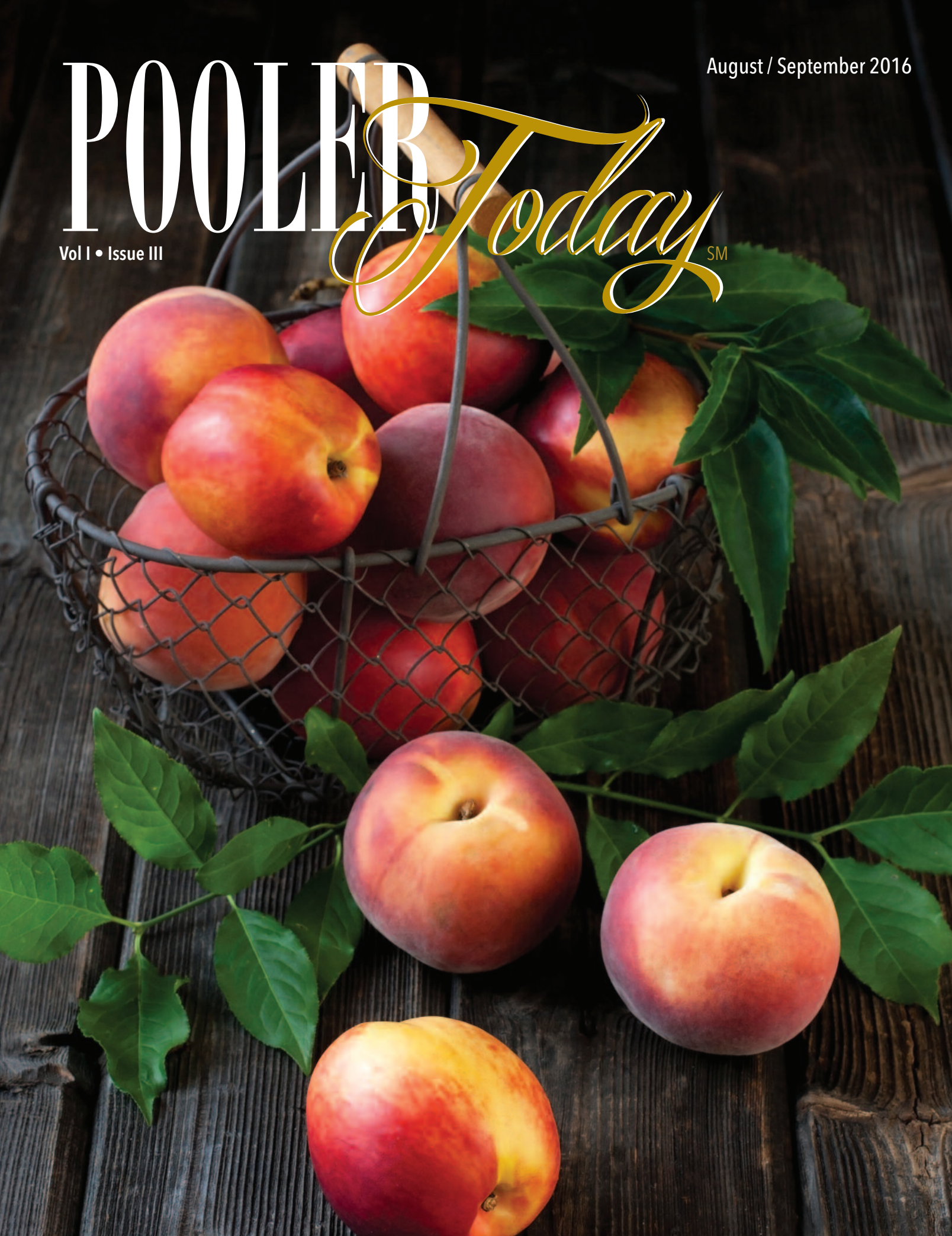


POOLER

Vol I • Issue III

August / September 2016

Today SM





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POOLER USEFUL CONTACTS

Pooler - Information / Non-Emergency

Pooler City Offices for the:

Mayor	Mike Lamb	(912) 748-7261
City Manager	Robert H. Byrd Jr.	(912) 748-7261
City Attorney	Steven Scheer	(912) 233-1273
City Clerk	Maribeth Lindler	(912) 748-7261
Finance Officer	Michelle Warner	(912) 748-7261
Fire & Rescue	Chief G. Wade Simmons	(912) 748-7012
H/R Director	Andrea Anderson	(912) 748-7261
Police	Chief Mark Revenew	(912) 748-7333
Public Works	Matt Saxon	(912) 748-4800
Recreation Dept	Hugh Elton	(912) 748-5776
Sr. Citizen Center	Susan Edwards	(912) 330-0493
Zoning Admin.	Kimberly Classen	(912) 748-7261

Other Pooler Sources:

Auto Registration	(912) 652-6800
Better Business Bureau	(912) 354-7521
CEMA Hurricane Hotline	(912) 201-4590
Chatham County Court House	(912) 652-7175
Chatham County Tax Assessor	(912) 652-7271
Drivers License	(912) 691-7400
Georgia Dept of Revenue	(912) 356-2140
Library	(912) 748-0471
Pooler Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Bureau	(912) 748-0110
United States Post Office	(912) 748-4927
Veterans Affairs	(912) 352-0441

Hospitals, Health and Medical Resources:

Candler Hospital	(912) 819-6000
Memorial Medical Center	(912) 350-8390
Memorial Health Generation One	(912) 350-7587
St. Joseph's Hospital	(912) 819-4100
St. Joseph's Hospital CareCall	(912) 819-3360
St. Joseph's/Candler SmartSenior	(912) 352-4405

Other Sources:

Chatham County Health Department	(912) 356-2441
Poison Control Hotline	(800) 222-1222
VA Outpatient Clinic	(912) 920-0214

Pooler Schools

Pooler Elementary	(912) 395-3625
West Chatham Elementary	(912) 395-3600
West Chatham Middle	(912) 395-3650
New Hampstead High	(912) 395-6789

Pooler / Area Community Churches

Beth-El Alliance Church	(912) 925-2961
Calvary Assembly of God	(912) 748-5847
Christ Presbyterian Church	(912) 399-5717
Chua Cat-Tuong Temple	(912) 965-1876
First Presbyterian Church of Pooler	(912) 330-9415
First Baptist Church of Pooler	(912) 748-7521
Heavenbound Baptist Church	(912) 921-1500
Morning Star Baptist Church	(912) 748-9994
New Birth Savannah	(912) 748-2969
New Testament Baptist Church	(912) 964-7655
Pooler Bible Church	(850) 274-2534
Quacco Baptist Church	(912) 925-3885
Relate Church	(912) 988-1354
Risen Savior Lutheran Church	(912) 925-9431
Rothwell Baptist Church	(912) 748-7593
Southbridge Community Church	(912) 401-8505
South Valley Baptist Church	(912) 748-0279
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	(912) 748-6016
The Church at Godley Station	(912) 236-1511
Trinity United Methodist Church	(912) 748-4141
West Chatham Baptist Church	(912) 748-2022
Westside Christian Church	(912) 748-0309

Utility Companies

AT&T	(800) 288-2020
City of Pooler	(912) 748-4800
Comcast	(800) 266-2278
Direct TV	(866) 810-7892
Excede Internet	(855) 627-2553
Georgia Natural Gas	(877) 850-6200
Georgia Power	(800) 437-2262
Hargray	(912) 631-1300
Save n Energy	(888) 248-0998
SCANA Energy	(877) 467-2262
Sunpower	(800) 786-7693
Vonage	(888) 218-9015

Animal Control

Animal Control	(912) 625-6575
Animal Shelter (Lost Pets)	(912) 351-6750
Chatham County Humane Society	(912) 354-9515



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2015 Safest Cities in Georgia Report!

POOLER TodaySM

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER FEATURES

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cure
CHILDHOOD CANCER

Pooler Today Magazine is proud to support
National Childhood Cancer Awareness
in September.

JOIN THE FIGHT IN SEPTEMBER!
See all our fun-filled family events
on page 18



Greetings Pooler Community

A strong community magazine can be a major asset to a city's culture, especially one like Pooler that is experiencing tremendous population and business growth. As publishers of Pooler Today, we strive to create content that benefits all of you and forges a growing relationship between our advertisers and the community. We take our readers and advertisers feedback to heart by listening and acting on your suggestions and other input, which thus far has been positive.

We are encouraged that many of the businesses who advertise in Pooler Today are reporting excellent results. One advertiser called after the first issue and said, "Dean, did you mail the first issue of Pooler Today yet?" I said we had and he added, "I knew something happened because my phone has been ringing off the hook." I talked to him again last week and the phone is still ringing. That ringing is also music to our ears and we encourage all of you to patronize our advertisers as they make it possible for Pooler Today to thrive.

Moving forward, we are launching **Pride of Pooler Readers Choice Awards** a program for you to nominate and vote for your favorite businesses in 2016. We will be accepting nominations until December 31 by mail or online. See refer to page 8 for additional information and to nominate your favorite business(es).

Mark your calendars for **Pooler Patriot Weekend**, an annual fundraiser that salutes those who serve our nation. This popular 3-day weekend event begins on Thursday, September 8 with "Picnic in Pooler" and closes on Saturday, September 10 with "Festival in the Park." Join the community for food, fun, golf and numerous family activities. See page 9 for details to plan your participation.

Please welcome our new advertisers this month; Aquacurean, Coastal Spirits, The Front Porch, Godley Station Animal Hospital, Molly MacPherson's Pub & Grill, Pooler Guns and Stoner's Pizza Joint.

Thank you, Pooler, for welcoming us into your community. Don't be shy about sharing your ideas for articles, photos and any thoughts or comments you have about this magazine. We are here for you!

In Gratitude,

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August / September 2016

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August / September Contributors

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Stephania Brown	September Hunger Action Month
Karrie Bulski	One Love Animal Rescue
Rosemary Cutuli	Pooler Lions International
Royceann Friedman	Low Country Charity Clays
Susan Hubbard, M.D.	Best Ways To Use Bug Spray
Brandy Jenkins	Pooler Real Estate Replay
Janet Kolbush	Memorial Health Foundation
Meredith Ley	CEMA
James Li, M.D., Ph. D.	Flu Vaccines
Nick Pecone	Authority For The Homeless
Janee Przybyl	Play Bridge
Joanne Rempel	My Favorite Pooler Business
Amy Reynolds	It's Tank In The Buggy
Gary Rowden	Alligator - An Unwanted Visitor
Jill Schlessinger	Jill on Money



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POOLER REAL ESTATE

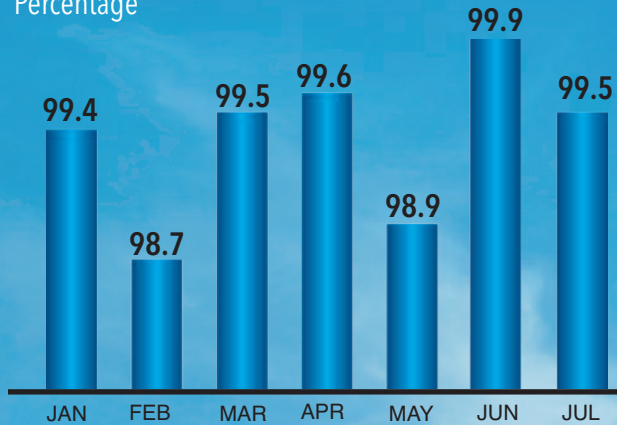
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Replay



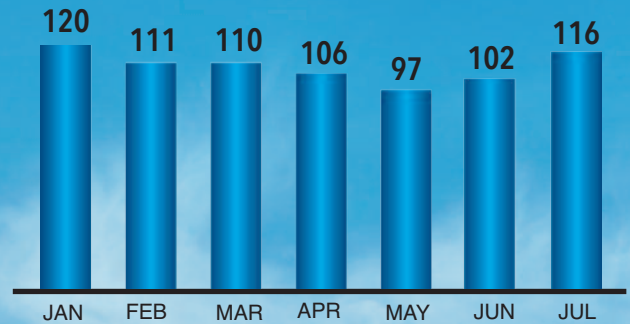
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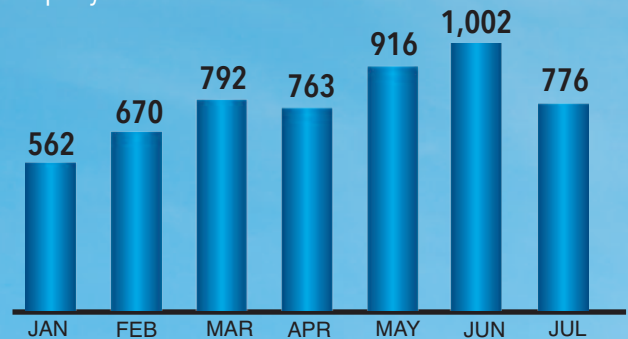


Provided by Brandy Jenkins, Remax Accent



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www.rongizzihomes.com



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elizabeth@movetocoastalga.com
www.movetocoastalga.com



Pride of Pooler 2016

Greetings Pooler Residents! Welcome to the **Pride of Pooler 2016**, brought to you by Pooler Today Magazine. We are proud to provide the Pooler community the opportunity to vote for local businesses that they feel are the **BEST** at what they do. So, please follow the nomination and voting procedures below and help us recognize these outstanding businesses.

Make your vote/nominations count; your ballot must be received by **December 31, 2016**. Votes will be accumulated in two ways: Online or by mail, please see below for details.

Our guidelines and procedures: Winners will be selected by receiving the highest number of votes. The business/organization/person with the most votes in a specific category will receive **The 2016 Pride of Pooler Readers Choice Award** and be acknowledged in the 2017 February/March issue of Pooler Today Magazine. For a candidate to win

The Pride of Pooler Choice Award, they must receive (5) ten or more votes. Only (1) one ballot per person. When you nominate a business, it will count as a vote.

How to Nominate Your Favorite Business:

❶ Fill out the survey form below and mail to:

Pooler Today Magazine

463 Pooler Parkway Suite 110, Pooler, GA 31322

❷ Visit Pooler Today online and complete online survey. www.AyersGroup.org, > then go to **Readers Choice Award** and fill in the online ballot. Here are some sample categories. If you do not see the category for the business you wish to nominate, you are welcome to write it in.

That's it - Thank you for participating as we look forward to unveiling the results next year! For inquiries email dean@AyersGroup.org.

Some Suggested Categories:

Architectural Firm

Attorney/Law Firm

Bakery

Banks/Credit Union

Barber/Stylist

Blinds & Shutters

Carpet & Floor Cleaners

Floor & Carpet Co.

Day Spa

Dentist

Dry Cleaner

Emergency/Urgent Care

Financial Advisor

Fitness and Training

Florist

Funeral Home

Golf Course

Hair Salon

Heating & Air Conditioning

Home Builder

House Cleaners

Insurance Agent

Landscape/Lawn Care

Marble, Granite & Tile Co.

Mortgage/Lending Services

Nursery/Garden Center

Nutrition/Health Store

Painter

Pawn Shop

Pest Control

Pet Supply

Pharmacy

Photographer

Physician

Real Estate Agent

Restaurants

Retail Specialty

Veterinarian

Wine, Beer & Liquor Store

*... and so much more, so, tell us what and who impresses you by nominating your favorite business. **Voting ends December 31, 2016.***

Please mail your ballot to: **Pooler Today Magazine 463 Pooler Parkway Suite 110, Pooler, GA 31322**

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____



Category / Type of Service

Name of Business / Person

❷ If you have additional nominees, you are welcome to list on a separate sheet



POOLER

PATRIOT WEEKEND

5th ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

September 10, 2016

Pooler Park: 900 S Rogers Street

Come Celebrate our Pooler Patriot's

**Visit Local Merchants,
Restaurants and Food Trucks**

FREE Amusements and Movie for the Kids

Wild life Exhibit by Georgia Southern

**Concert in the Park featuring live entertainment by
Jared Wade and 8 Mile Bend**

**First Responder Showcase featuring
Police Cars, Fire Trucks and other Emergency Vehicles**

**FIREWORK FINALE at 9:30 p.m.
Gates Open at 2:00 p.m.**

Free parking available at West Chatham Middle School
with FREE Shuttle to the Park Provided

Fireworks Sponsored By:



Amusements
Sponsored By:



Patriot's Weekend
Hosted By:



Opening Ceremony
Sponsored By:





The Pooler Police Department hosted its first Coffee with a Cop event on July 19, 2016, at **Chick-Fil-A**. An idea founded in 2011 by the Hawthorne Police Department in California, Coffee with a Cop has become one of the most successful community oriented policing programs used across the country.

The main focus behind **Coffee with a Cop** is to break down barriers and build trust between police officers and the community members they serve. Police officers communicate with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. These differences can sometimes present challenges. The relationship of the police to the community should be harmonious, but often members of the public see the uniform and badge rather than the individual behind them.

Like many other of our nation's communities, Pooler has grown at such a rapid rate over the past several years that the days of officers greeting neighbors and business owners during routine patrols are not as common as they once were. Call volume or request for Police assistance in 2015 increased by 18 percent.

Corporal Tripp Davis says "Most people, their only contact with police is seeing them in emergency situations when they're called upon, or they see them driving around in a police car... but they never get to speak with them one-on-one". Corporal Davis believes that this can lead to a disconnect between Officers and the community, something we at Pooler Police do not want to see happen in our City. That is why he teamed up with Mr. Parkman at the Pooler Chick-fil-A and spearheaded the first Coffee with a Cop in Pooler, an event that offered an opportunity for police officers to interact more closely with the citizens they serve. The results were overwhelming!

The event was held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Chick-fil-A provided and included coffee and even a few tasty treats. A total of twelve officers volunteered their time to come out and speak to tons of residents. They talked about everything from childhood memories to suspicious activity in the neighborhoods. It was encouraging to see the support from the community and a willingness to work together to make Pooler even better! We look forward to making this a regular event.

If you missed it, you could meet with Officers at the upcoming Patriot's Weekend Festival in the Park on September 10th. Take this opportunity to get to know them, ask questions and share your thoughts. Be sure to watch our Facebook page for news about our upcoming events.





Recreation Department Senior Citizen Center

Hugh Elton
Director

Greetings from the Recreation Department!

Now that summer is drawing to an end, and the kids are going back to school, the Pooler Recreation Department begins to prepare for a busy fall schedule of events. Beginning in August, our programs will resume in full force. From dance and gymnastics classes to tennis lessons, youth football, cheerleading, and fall soccer, to men's basketball, to our newest volleyball program, it will be a busy season. We are also excited about hosting our second season of high school football at Pooler Stadium, which serves as the home field for New Hampstead High School and Savannah Christian Preparatory School. There will be a few high school games featuring other schools from Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, as well as one for Benedictine Military School.

Also, join us at Pooler Park on Rogers Street for the **Patriot's Day Festival, Saturday, September 10th!**

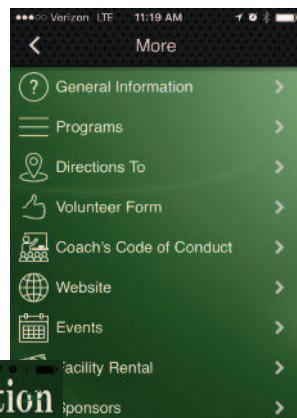
For more info, please contact us at 912-748-5776, download the FREE POOLER REC App (iTunes or Google play), like us on Facebook, or visit www.poolerrec.com. Stay informed of all the exciting events.



New Pickleball Program For Adults and Retirees

According to the USA Pickleball Association web site, currently, the sport of pickleball is exploding in popularity. The number of places to play has more than doubled since 2010. There are now nearly 4,000 locations on the USAPA's Places to Play map. The spread of the sport is attributed to its popularity within community centers, PE classes, YMCA facilities and retirement communities. The sport continues to grow worldwide as well with many new international clubs forming

Get The Pooler Rec App!



Pooler Recreation



and national governing bodies now established in Canada and India.

After playing golf one Saturday during the summer, Joel Pritchard, the congressman from Washington State and Bill Bell, a successful businessman, returned to Pritchard's home on Bainbridge Island, WA (near Seattle) to find their families sitting around with nothing to do. The property had an old badminton court so Pritchard and Bell looked for some badminton equipment and could not find a full set of rackets. They improvised and started playing with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball. At first, they placed the net at badminton height of 60 inches and volleyed the ball over the net. As the weekend progressed, the players found that the ball bounced well on the asphalt surface and soon the net was lowered to 36 inches. The following weekend, Barney McCallum was introduced to the game at Pritchard's home. Soon, the three men created rules, relying heavily on badminton. They kept in mind the original purpose, which was to provide a game that the whole family could play together.

Please visit www.usapa.org for more information.

There is now an effort in Pooler to establish a group to play and participate in pickleball. If you are interested, please contact Ed Forester at (317) 431-1000. The group will meet at the Pooler Recreation Department, with days and times to be determined. See you on the courts!





Pooler Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau, Inc.

Pam Southard
Executive Director

I hope you have enjoyed your issues of Pooler Today. It just gets better with each issue". The Pooler chamber is growing by leaps and bounds. As you can see new members are joining every day. The residents of Pooler have such a sense of pride for the city.

And businesses see the importance of coming to Pooler. The small "home town" feel is welcoming to residents, as well as small and large businesses alike. The chamber is proud to support our members and residents, offering great events throughout the year. Please contact our office for more information on the chamber and our events. We are here for you. We are YOUR chamber.



From Top to bottom (left) Grandopening and ribbon cutting for High Definition Haircuts, and Stoners Pizza. From Top to bottom (right) American Home Place opens in Pooler, and donates \$500 to the Pooler First Responders, and grand opening and Ribbon cutting for the new Pooler Guns. Congratulations Chamber members !



COME TO **pooler** Events

CALENDAR OF

YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN POOLER.

August 2016 - March 2017

AUGUST 18

Economic Outlook Luncheon

a presentation by
Dr. Michael Toma,
Armstrong University
11:30AM-1:30PM Holiday Inn & Suites, Pooler, GA

**The
economic
outlook**

OCTOBER 29

Georgia/Florida Football Game Shuttle
Beginning at 7am
From Pooler to Jacksonville

NOVEMBER 19

Breakfast with Santa/ Shop Pooler

9AM – 11AM
West Chatham YMCA



SEPTEMBER 9 & 10

POOLER PATRIOT WEEKEND

Pooler Park, Rogers Street
For more information contact:
Shannon Shore at sshore@pooler-ga.gov
Or call 912-748-0110

FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Hearts for Heroes Gala

6:30-11PM
National Museum of the
Mighty Eighth Air Force



OCTOBER 1

Pooler Picnic For A Cure

3 – 9 PM
Tanger Outlet Parking lot
Food trucks, music, fun for children and
the whole family.
Call 912-748-0110 for additional information.



MARCH 16, 17, 18 2017

St. Patrick's Shuttles

6:30AM-12 midnight
location for pick up TBA



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FireHouse Subs

Jimmy John's

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MembersFirst Credit Union

Ramon Ramos, MD

Sam's Club

Savannah First Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

Stop N Stor Self Storage

Sweetner Solutions, LLC

Zaxby's of Pooler



Pooler Chamber of Commerce





Best Ways To Use Bug Spray

By Sue Hubbard, M.D.
www.kidsdr.com

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have issued recommendations for the application of insect repellents in children. These include the following:

- ✓ Do not apply bug spray to children under 2 months of age.
- ✓ Use up to 30 percent DEET on children, depending on the duration of outdoor activities. Avoid the use of higher concentrations on children.
- Combination products containing DEET and sunscreen are not recommended, as sunscreen should be reapplied frequently (every two hours). In contrast, bug repellents should be applied as infrequently as possible. It is also thought that DEET may decrease the effectiveness of sunscreen.
- ✓ Apply insect repellent only to exposed areas of skin and/or clothing. Do not use repellents under a child's clothing. Certain repellents may damage synthetics, leather or plastics.
- ✓ Do not apply insect repellent to eyes or mouth, and apply sparingly around the ears. Do not spray directly on the face, spray on your hands first and then apply to the child's face

- ✓ Do not apply bug spray over cuts, eczema or breaks in the skin.
- ✓ Have a parent or caregiver apply the bug spray, as a child may inadvertently ingest the spray.
- ✓ Do not use spray in enclosed areas or near food. Avoid breathing the repellent spray.
- ✓ Wash repellents off with soap and water at the end of the day. This is especially important when repellents are used repeatedly in a day or on consecutive days. Also wash treated clothing before wearing again.

There are other ways to beat the bugs too.

- ✓ Try to avoid go outside when the bugs are most active, dawn and dusk.
- ✓ When your child does go out, cover as much of the skin as you possibly can. Use lightweight, long sleeved clothing and pants.
- ✓ Do not dress your child in bright colors or flowery clothing.
- ✓ For young children, use mosquito netting over their strollers.
- ✓ Eliminating standing water in yards and areas around the house and yard will help eliminate mosquito breeding.
- ✓ Fans do seem to help as mosquitoes have trouble maneuvering in the wind, so buying a fan to use around the picnic table may be useful.

One note: The use of citronella candles or bug zappers has not been shown to help. However, there are many ways to try and avoid the dreaded insect bites. So gather information, arm yourself with your favorite repellents and enjoy the outdoors!

(Dr. Sue Hubbard is an award-winning pediatrician, medical editor and media host. "The Kid's Doctor" TV feature can be seen on more than 90 stations across the U.S. Submit questions at <http://www.kidsdr.com>. The Kid's Doctor e-book, "Tattoos to Texting: Parenting Today's Teen," is now available from Amazon and other e-book vendors.)



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My Journey With Childhood Cancer I've Joined The Fight For A Cure

By Mandy Garola

As a young mother, I worried constantly about my children. I tried to be sure they are healthy. I monitored the amount of TV they watched. I called the pediatrician if they didn't reach developmental milestones as quickly as their peers. I agonized over where to send them to school, and wondered if they were getting plenty of sleep each night. I did not worry about them getting cancer. It was completely not on my radar. That all changed on November 13, 2008. After three weeks of unexplained fevers, ear infections, and two failed rounds of antibiotics my husband and I sat in the pediatrician's office with our two-year-old daughter, Cora. Blood work revealed that our little girl had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. In the coming days and months, our worries changed as we watched our little girl endure steroid treatment, chemotherapy drugs, spinal taps, and hospital visits. It was truly heartbreaking. I wanted nothing more than to take her place.

Over the course of the next three years, we learned we were fortunate that Cora had the most common form of childhood cancer and an optimistic prognosis. Although treatment was long and difficult, we realized that things could be much worse. As I escorted Cora to her appointments, I learned stories of families whose children were diagnosed with rare forms of pediatric cancer that came with very grim survival rates and extreme treatments. I was disturbed by the lack of funding, attention, and progress that pediatric cancer receives. I wanted to help.

Second to accidents, cancer is the leading cause of death in children. Each year, across the U.S., 16,000 new cases are diagnosed with over 40,000 children already in treatment. Right now, one in five children with cancer will not survive. More than 95 percent of childhood cancer survivors will have significant health-related issues by the time they are 45 years old.

In 2011, I was invited to attend a local childhood cancer fundraiser.

The keynote speaker that evening was Kristin Connor, the Executive Director of **CURE Childhood Cancer**. Kristin shared the story of her own young son who was diagnosed with childhood cancer when he was just one-month-old. Doctors opted to "watch" his tumor because of his young age. Her son's tumor miraculously disappeared. But Kristin didn't forget. She felt unsettled, as did I, by the sweet faces and discouraging statistics she encountered along the way. Kristin left a successful career

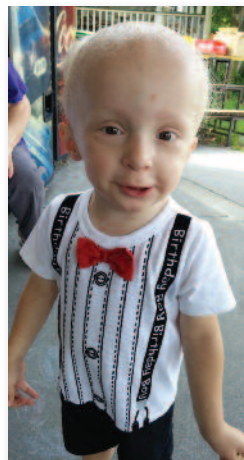


CURE CHILDHOOD CANCER IS DEDICATED TO CONQUERING CHILDHOOD CANCER THROUGH FUNDING TARGETED RESEARCH AND THROUGH SUPPORT OF PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



as an attorney to become the Executive Director of CURE Childhood Cancer in 2005. As Kristin talked about her work to forward CURE's mission: To conquer childhood cancer through funding targeted research and through support of patients and their families, I couldn't help but feel hopeful. This was an organization that was funding cancer research that was exclusively pediatric, and they were also supporting local patients and families as they went through treatment. At the conclusion of that dinner, I immediately inquired about how to get involved. I quickly became a local CURE volunteer, and I've never looked back. In 2014, I left my teaching position to come on staff as Patient Family Service/Community Engagement Manager for CURE in the Savannah area. CURE provides literature and support at the time of diagnosis, emergency financial assistance, counseling, bereavement support, meals through our Open Arms Meal program, holiday gift assistance, and much more to families in Pooler, Savannah, and throughout Georgia. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, CURE has awarded \$3.2 million in grants to fund 25 pediatric cancer research initiatives at some of the leading treatment facilities in the United States. We are focused on moving the needle ever closer to a cure for all children with cancer and advancing immunotherapies and other treatments which are safer and less toxic for children.

I am honored to be able to serve local families through a wonderful organization. Don't wait until a friend or family member is diagnosed to join the fight against childhood cancer. Visit CURE's website at www.CUREChildhoodCancer.org to see what you can do to help!



Cole Edwards:
2 years old,
and pictured
32 months
later.

Cole Edwards

Age at Diagnosis- 20 months (currently age 3)

Diagnosis: Hepatoblastoma

Favorites: Cole loves making big trucks blow their horn and watching Paw Patrol. He loves playing with his three big sisters. His favorite foods are hot dogs and cake frosting.

In March of 2015, Cole's parents, Misty and Mike Edwards took him to the pediatrician for a runny nose. During the visit, the doctor noticed that Cole's little belly looked swollen. She sent him for an ultrasound that revealed a mass in his abdomen. Cole was admitted to the hospital for a biopsy. A few days later, Cole was diagnosed with Hepatoblastoma. Since that time, Cole has undergone multiple MRIs, four rounds of chemotherapy, and underwent surgery to remove the right lobe of his liver. Through all of this Cole has been his cheery self and is always happy and lovable. One year later there is no evidence of the disease. His fight was courageous and brave. His family showed strength throughout and are now overwhelmed with joy. Winning his cancer battle, Cole is growing and keeping his parents on their toes. Cole loves trucks and waves to big trucks as they pass by in hopes they will honk their horns. He also loves playing with his three big sisters. All of his family are enjoying watching Cole play and learn as he lives and experiences every new day as a healthy child.



Ava Tinsley with CARE Volunteers, and one year earlier.



Ava Tinsley

Diagnosis- Neuroblastoma

Age at Diagnosis- 3 (currently age 4)

Favorites: she loves to dance and sing. She loves animals. Her favorite foods are macaroni & cheese and cupcakes

Ava was a quiet but active little girl. Her parents, Julie and Clint Tinsley of Pooler, knew something wasn't right when Ava began to complain on and off about lower back pain. It seemed to get progressively worse. They took Ava to the pediatrician three times and finally to the ER where they discovered the tumor and diagnosis of Neuroblastoma, a type of childhood cancer that develops in nerve tissue outside of the central nervous system. There are only around 1,000 cases diagnosed in the US each year. Ava's diagnosis required strong chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant to give her the best chance of survival. Although she's tiny, Ava is strong! This little girl has not let her treatment get her down. Ava has been treated locally at Memorial University Medical Center and has spent weeks at a time in Atlanta at Egleston Children's Hospital where she has already received two stem cell transplants. But if you were to visit Ava during one of her inpatient stays you would not find a sick little girl lying in a bed. In fact, many times she's not in bed at all. Ava always wants to be wearing a pretty dress and her hospital door is usually covered with her latest pieces of art work. Ava's positive attitude has kept her parents and older sister Ella inspired as they support her during treatment.

cure
CHILDHOOD CANCER



Ava Acevedo: 4 years old, and pictured 24 months later.

Ava Acevedo

Diagnosis- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Age at Diagnosis -- age 4 (currently age 6)

Favorites: Ava attends Pooler Elementary and enjoys ballet, singing, and dancing. Her favorite foods are mac & cheese, cheese quesadilla from El Potro, hot dogs and scrambled eggs with toast

In January of 2015, Ava was playing outside with her mother, Naomi when she fell off her playset and hurt her leg. Her mother nursed it with ice, kisses, and a band-aid. But when Ava continued to complain about leg pain, her mother took her to the pediatrician. Blood work revealed a low white count and she was observed closely by the pediatrician for the next few weeks which eventually led to a diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Ava's family has supported her through her first year and a half of chemotherapy. And last year, Ava was able to attend Kindergarten and is excited about first grade this Fall. She has not let cancer keep her down. Ava inspires those around her with her spunky attitude and beautiful smile. She looks forward to the day when she doesn't have to take her chemo medicine any more and can live and play like every other healthy child.

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and CURE Childhood Cancer has lots of events planned for the community to participate, donate and volunteer. Additional details and ticket sales can be found at www.CUREChildhoodCancer.org.

September 1st, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Ice Cream Social at Memorial Hospital. Free and open to the public. Join CURE and Memorial Hospital to kick off National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

September 10th, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Royal Flush Charity Gala at the Hyatt Regency Hotel .MD Wellness presents Royal Flush for the "Cure" & LLS Savannah.

September 17th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Couture for CURE fashion show and September Party at Oglethorpe Mall. Free and open to the public. The event will take place at Oglethorpe Mall in Savannah. Walk-around Superheroes and Princesses from Princess Productions, face painting by Alyson Harris and Morgan Webb, #GoGold4CURE photo booth donated by Savannah Photo Booths, Gold nail painting, Merchandise sales, cookie cake by Great American Cookie Company, and, for the first time this year the Couture for CURE Survivor and Sibling Fashion Show sponsored by Belk.

September 22th, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Kendra Scott Gives Back Party at Kendra Scott on Broughton. If you love jewelry, come shop for a CURE. Enjoy finger foods and drinks and peruse Kendra Scott's fall line. 20% of all sales during the event will be donated to CURE.

Participate and see all the month's exciting details by visiting:

www.CUREChildhoodCancer.org

One Love Animal Rescue

By Karrie Bulski

The mission of **One Love Animal Rescue, Inc.** is to help abandoned, neglected, abused and unwanted pets by partnering with shelters, rescue groups, and the community to facilitate the

adoption of these animals into permanent and loving homes.

Our goal is to save one life at a time by promoting local animal shelter adoptions and raising awareness in our community about responsible pet ownership. We strive to highlight the importance of spaying or neutering pets which will aid in the reduction of overpopulation. We believe that appropriate and positive reinforcement training and socialization of these shelter animals will lead to well-adjusted family pets, thereby decreasing the number of abandoned animals in shelters. Our dream is that one day all the shelters will be empty because every pet will have a home.

One Love Animal Rescue, Inc. of Savannah, GA is a licensed non-profit 501(c)(3) rescue organization; all donations are tax deductible and directly benefit the animals entrusted in our care.

How to get Pooler more involved? Volunteer! We have so many areas that we need your help from transporting, socializing with the cats at Pooler Petsmart, becoming a foster home for the many cats and dogs in need, becoming a handler for the dogs at adoption events (each week we are at Pooler Petsmart on Saturday) and so much more. Our volunteer agreement is online at <http://oneloveanimalrescue.com/volunteer/>

Join our foster family! Our Foster Care Program is a critical piece of our lifesaving efforts, and hundreds of lives can be saved each year if we can maintain an extensive Foster Network. When an animal is sick or injured or just needs someone to teach him basic manners and basic training, foster parents help fill the gap between the time the animal is



brought into the Animal Control Shelters and the time they are adopted. <http://oneloveanimalrescue.com/foster-home-agreement/DONATE!>

We have an Amazon wishlist; you can choose us on smileamazon.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Always have our events on our Face Book page: <https://www.facebook.com/oneloveanimalrescue/>

- Each Saturday, we are at Pooler PetSmart from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- First Saturday of the month, also at TailsSpin Whitmarsh from 1-p.m.

Palooza East

- Second and 4th Saturday at Petsmart on Victory from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Third Saturday at TailSpin Habersham - Puppy Palooza 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Other special events

- Friends of Animal Auction:

When: Saturday, August 27, 2016, · 7-11 p.m.

Where: Savannah Station · 601 Cohen Street

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Play Bridge With Children

By Janee Przybyl

Recently my husband and I took our nephew, Gregory on a vacation. By the way, if you ever need a summer vacation spot consider Jackson, WY because it's much cooler with lower humidity than Savannah, has lots of outdoor activities, and the people are extremely friendly. After horseback riding, hiking and touring Yellowstone National Park we had some downtime in the evening, so I got out the cards. Gregory is a rising 7th grader, and I learned that this is the perfect age to start learning Bridge. He quickly picked up counting points, the major and minor suits, counting the number of cards played in a suit and what count was needed to bid a major, minor and no trump. After our week vacation, we came back to Savannah for a few days before he went back to Charleston and he continued to ask to play Bridge. I now consider Gregory, a future Bridge player. I challenge each of you to find a 7th grader and teach him or her Bridge. It's a memorable and fun experience for everyone.

The Grand Lake Club once again hosted duplicate bridge on July 18th. The bridge games are sanctioned by the **American Contract Bridge League and the Savannah Duplicate Bridge Club** (SDBC). The afternoon bridge session was directed by Roger Neds. The teams that came out on top during this session were: Ella and Gordon Rayner in 1st, Pat Cook and Sharon Sawyer in 2nd, and Judy Jones and Maggie Rousseau in 3rd. We continue to thank the Grand Lake Club in Southbridge for allowing us to use their comfortably cooled facility for our summer bridge matches on the first and third Monday of the month. The afternoon session starts at 12:40 p.m. with a short bridge lesson and then duplicate bridge starting at 1:00 p.m. and ending at approximately 4:15 p.m. The Southbridge games are open to all beginners and intermediate players with 299 master points or less. These games are geared for newer players and participants who may have played earlier and would like to pick up bridge again. For information contact Vicki Chubin at Vicki.chubin833@comcast.net. It is a great opportunity to take a break from your summer routine and enjoy the challenges associated with the game of bridge.

To stay ahead of the always challenging game of bridge, classes are available at the Bridge Center at 8511 Ferguson Ave Ste D. Check out their website at sdbc8511@comcast.net for more information. If you do not have a bridge partner, visit the Bridge Center website for information on how to find a suitable partner for duplicate bridge. They will find a match for you. Join in the fun.

BRIDGE QUIZ

- If you open 3♠ when vulnerable, how many tricks should you expect to take in your own hand?
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
- In first seat, partner opens 4♥ with nobody vulnerable. How many high card points should he/she have?
 - 8 - 12
 - 13 - 15
 - 16 - 18
- Traditionally, what is the Worst sin you can make in bridge?
 - Revoke
 - Ruff your partner's ace
 - Lead from the wrong hand
- Partner opens with 1C. What is your correct response with AQ107, J1064, Q84, 93
 - 1♦
 - 1♥
 - 1♠
 - 1NT
- The opponents end up in 4♠. Your side hasn't bid. You have ♦974 of hearts. How often will a good player lead the ace of hearts?
 - 2% of the time
 - 15% of the time
 - 35% of the time
- Your Right Hand Opponent opens 1 ♠9. Which convention do you use to ask your partner to bid a minor suit?
 - Cheaper Minor for takeout
 - The Unusual Notrump
 - The Negative Double

Join Us For Bridge



ANSWERS

1. 7
 2. 8-12
 3. Ruff your partner's ace – NEVER do this!
 4. 1♥
 5. 2% of the time – Leading aces against a suit contract is a very bad idea!
 6. The Unusual Notrump – If you don't know this learn it. It can be the best and the worst contract.
- All depends on how you use it with your partner.

Reading Literacy In Pooler

By Rosemary Cutuli

The Pooler Lions sponsored a reading literacy project for Pooler Elementary and Godley Station School during the past year. Volunteers read to kindergartners and tutored second graders in reading and language arts.

Thank you to the volunteers for making a difference in our community and investing in the future of our youth.

If you are interested in helping children and making a difference in their lives, we welcome you to join us in this valuable endeavor. Please contact the Pooler Lions at lionsclub2@gmail.com or PO Box 830, Pooler GA 31322.



Pictured: Cathy Bell, Karen Nierle, Susan Blashford, Rosemary Cutuli, Fran Hyatt and Maggie Fowler. Dennis McCann also participated.

Veronica Voisine and Len Cutuli.

Congratulations



The Pooler Lions Club is proud to announce their new **President for the 2016-2017 term, Veronica Voisine**. Veronica received the Lion of the Year Award from **Past President, Len Cutuli**.

Veronica sponsored three new members during the past year.

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Time For Mid-Year Maintenance On Your Finances

By Jill Schlesinger

Global uncertainty, volatile markets and elections are out of your control, but there are many things you can do to control your financial destiny. As we start the second half of 2016, here's a checklist of tasks that will put your finances in better shape and make you feel virtuous for having completing them.

❖ Track your money. In the age of easy to use apps like Mint, Digit and Level Money, not to mention bank apps, there is no excuse for not getting a handle on what's coming in and what's going out!

❖ Attack your consumer and student loan debt. Create a list of outstanding debt and divide it into two categories: consumer (credit card/auto) and student loan. Put the highest interest rate debt at the top, followed by other

loans in descending order. Attack the highest interest loan first, and after you whittle it down shift the money towards the next highest one.

❖ Check/repair credit. About half of Americans (46 percent) say they have checked their credit score within the past year, according to a Bankrate.com survey. That is simply crazy - you need to know what's on your report and your score before you try to borrow money to buy a car or house. Go to AnnualCreditReport.com to review/correct your report and be persistent - it can often take time and energy to have errors removed.

❖ Refinance your mortgage. Mortgage rates are flirting with near four-year lows, while house values have increased. That means that a lot of homeowners who may have been unable to refinance may now qualify.

❖ Review your insurance. Don't wait for a natural disaster to occur before you review your homeowner's policy. The three biggest mistakes are under-insuring, shopping for price only (not comparing apples to apples), and not reading policy details. Also, check to see if you have at least 20 percent equity in your home - if so, you may be able to drop your private mortgage insurance (PMI). Auto. If you have an old car worth less than \$5,000, eliminate collision and comprehensive coverage and increase deductibles. You may be able to earn discounts by purchasing car, homeowner's and umbrella liability insurance coverage from one company. Life insurance needs often decline as you age, so you may be able to get rid of an old policy or consider replacing an expensive policy with a cheaper term one.

❖ Check your progress on retirement saving. Still haven't calculated your number? You are not alone. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute's Retirement Confidence Sur-

vey 2016, fewer than half (48 percent) of workers report they and/or their spouse have ever tried to calculate how much money they will need to have saved so that they can live comfortably in retirement. Go to your retirement plan website or use EBRI's "Choose to Save Ballpark E\$timate."

❖ Rebalance your investments. The fallout from the Brexit vote was a good reminder that market gains can quickly evaporate before your eyes. The end of the quarter is the perfect time for long-term investors to rebalance accounts so that allocations remain in check. If possible, choose auto-rebalancing so you don't have to worry about the direction of markets or when it's time to reallocate.

❖ Draft or update your will! I advise hiring a lawyer to prepare a will, power of attorney and health care proxy/living will. If you insist on doing it yourself, you can use a software program like Quicken WillMaker. All of your estate documents and final instructions should be stored in a safe place - don't forget to provide copies to your executor/trustee. Those with larger estates, or who want more control over the disposition of assets, may consider a revocable or changeable trust.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP®, is the Emmy-nominated, Business Analyst for CBS News. Jill appears on CBS radio and television stations nationwide covering the economy, markets, investing and anything else with a dollar sign. She translates complicated business and economic news into understandable, relatable topics for everyday viewers and listeners. Jill is also the host of the nationally syndicated radio show, "Jill on Money", which airs over 80 markets. Jill is a LinkedIn Influencer and also writes the nationally syndicated column "Retire Smart" for Tribune Media Services. (Contact Jill Schlesinger, senior business analyst for CBS News, at askjill@moneywatch.com.)

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It's Tank In The Buggy!

By Amy Reynolds

As dog lovers already know, there is something therapeutic about our interactions with them which improves our well-being. From reducing stress to increasing self confidence, there is a reason why they are considered "man's best friend."

Tank, our English Bulldog, is a registered therapy dog with Therapy Dogs International (www.tdi-dog.org). He regularly visits the pediatric unit at Memorial Hospital and is involved with the Live Oaks Public Libraries "Dog Days" in which children of all ages are given the opportunity to read to dogs. Research has shown that many children have difficulties reading. As a result, they can develop low self-esteem when reading in public. By reading to a dog, children relax and focus on the dog and 'the reading', thereby building self-confidence.

You may see us walking Tank, or more often, pushing him on his buggy! We originally got the buggy in order to get Tank through the expansive hospital and bring him up higher to the folks in beds so they can easily reach him. We've come to learn that Tank truly enjoys being chauffeured around! He's not a fast walker and he doesn't go far, so taking the buggy with us allows the rest of us to get a bit more exercise!

Some of the questions we are often asked about Tank are, "How much does he weigh?" His highest was 72lbs but after extensive dieting, he is about 64. "What does he like to eat?" Look at him, almost anything, but he hates green beans. He does, however, LOVE broccoli! -----My favorite question came from a four year old in the pediatric unit who asked, "Can he dance?" and "Does he talk?" The same child then asked for Tank's autograph, which turned out to be the first of many he has given!

If you see us walking Tank and his siblings, please stop and say hello. Tank loves kids - especially babies. We look forward to seeing many of you at our new Garden City library where Tank participates in the "Dog Days" program.

If there are any other therapy dogs in the neighborhood, I am sure the Garden City library would love to hear from you! <http://www.gardencitypl.org>.



Do you have a Precious Pet that you would like us to feature? Send us your story, we'd love to hear from you.

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Savannah Voice Festival Featuring Unprecedented Three Opera Season

The 2016 Savannah VOICE Festival, an annual celebration of opera music and vocal arts, will run Aug. 7-21 at various Coastal Empire locations. This year's event includes three masterfully staged operas.

The first opera, "Romeo et Juliette," features soprano Meechot Marero as Juliet and tenor Santiago Ballerini as her Romeo. The production is slated for Sunday, August 7, at Asbury Memorial Theatre in downtown Savannah, and will be performed again on Tuesday, August 9 within the sanctuary of Asbury.

The festival's centerpiece event, "Alice Ryley, A Savannah Ghost Story," is a Savannah-centric opera that combines local lore with beautiful melodies. The 55-minute performance will be staged twice on Tuesday, August 16 in the ballroom of the Westin Savannah Harbor on Hutchinson Island. The evening's second performance includes a reception and steak dinner in addition to a dinner theatre type performance of the opera.

The final opera to be showcased is Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" (The Magic Flute), which also serves as a training and exposure opportunity for rising vocal stars ready to showcase the talents they've been honing under the festival's VOICE Studio Program. It will be performed on (Needs a date) at the Westin Harbor ballroom.

"All these smaller productions fit the scale and size of their venues," says Maria Zouves, who co-founded this festival with her husband. "It's the voices and music we are featuring here, not any fancy set ideas or design."

For more information or to buy tickets to the operas and other SVF events, please visit savannahvoicefestival.org, call 855-76OPERA or email info@savannahvoicefestival.org.

Applications Open For 2017 American Traditions Vocal Competition

Applications are now being accepted for the 24th season of the American Traditions Competition (ATC) which is slated to run February 20-24, 2017. Vocal artists are encouraged to apply online at www.americantraditionscompetition.com/Apply.html before the October 20 deadline for this annual competition which celebrates classic American music.

Those selected will have the pleasure of performing before judges Judy Kaye, Andrew Lippa, Kurt Ollmann and pianist Dan Gettinger. The judges, each boasting impressive resumes and experience, will critique the singers on technique, stage deportment and diversity of style.

Kaye has starred in many Broadway roles including "Nice Work if you Can Get It" and "The Phantom of the Opera," for which she won Tony Awards. She also has performed opera in concert with many of the world's greatest orchestras.

Lippa's credits include music and lyrics for Broadway shows such as "Big Fish" and "The Addams Family," and a recent hit song, "Evil Like Me," which appears in Disney's "Descendants." He has won an Emmy and many other prestigious awards.

Ollman, a lyric baritone and veteran ATC judge, enjoyed a long-standing artistic association with Leonard Bernstein which continued after his death in 1990. He recorded several of Bernstein's stage works, including "Candide" and "West Side Story."

Pianist Gettinger has participated as a music director, vocal coach and pianist in many workshops, including the VOICE experience in Savannah, New York, Orlando and Florida.

"The 2017 American Traditions Competition season is falling into place nicely," says ATC president, Danny Cohen. "Our administrators and boards directors work hard to recruit the cream of the crop to seek out the best judges and accompanists. Our applicants raise the bar higher each year."



Pooler Today, is a magazine for and about you and your neighbors. We look forward to your participation and comments. We LOVE pictures, lots and lots of pictures, so snap away and we'll include what we can. Are you an artist? We would love to share your creative artistry with the community, so send us your images. Post your special events and classifieds. Check it out...

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The Legendary Trapper Jack Douglas assisted by Gary Rowdan on a recent alligator capture and removal.



An Unwanted Southbridge Visitor

By Gary Rowden

Property Manager, Southbridge HOA

I received a call from the Southbridge Greater Savannah Realty office (located at the main entrance gate) stating that there was a big alligator in the lagoon behind their office. The Southbridge Homeowners Association takes these calls seriously, so I quickly responded assuming the "big" would be the usual 4 footer. When I arrived, I saw the size of the gator's head, I was certain this was not a 4 footer, we truly had a big one!

I called the legendary Trapper Jack Douglas immediately for assistance, and he was there in 20 minutes. It is always exciting assisting Trapper Jack in the capture of an alligator.

After a two-hour battle, I was surprised to see that it was 9' 8" creature. Trapper Jack has been a great friend to Chatham county and surrounding areas over the years responding to and helping with a variety of wildlife issues. We appreciate his expertise and extensive knowledge in removing potentially menacing and harmful alligators.

Predator Controller - Trapper Jack

By Cierra Ayers

Trapper Jack Douglas wildlife specialist, normally receives about 200 requests a year to remove nuisance alligators, of all sizes. Trapper Jack primarily serves Georgia's Bryan and Chatham counties for alligator calls and beyond. Since the Orlando incident and most recent the Tybee alligator beach capture his phone has been ringing off the hook with sightings from concerned Savannah residents.

Trapper Jack has offered his expertise in predator control and nuisance wildlife trapping for over 45 years. He is a licensed trapper in both Georgia and South Carolina. His years of experience and knowledge of animal behavior, along with his extensive resources and equipment, allow him to actually trap many predators within a short period of time.

Jack's expertise extends into predator control in large plantation type settings – up to 46,000 acres. His trapping is done with the ultimate respect for the property and its operations. He observes all state/local trapping regulations/seasons and is well respected within his field. He is frequently called upon by many community associations as well as the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

His vast knowledge also extends beyond alligators to include snakes, raccoons, fox, coyotes, wild boars and more. For those that are interested in riding along with the Gator Legend, please visit Trapper Jack's website for additional information <http://trapperjack.savannah.com>.



I AMsterdam

By Cierra & Dean Ayers

Delta Airlines ‘had us at hello’ with an enticing offer of a reduced first class fare to Europe that Dean and I couldn’t resist. We had not been planning a vacation, but quickly packed our bags and mapped out a two week trip to Amsterdam, Bruges and London.

In early June, we landed at Schiphol Airport, the fifth busiest airport in Europe. This airport also houses the primary train station in Amsterdam that connects to many other European cities. Don’t be intimidated by this massive structure, once you get your bearings, you will feel at ease with how convenient and efficient it all is.

Dean’s first instinct was to establish our logistical orientation, and mine was to sample the sinful chocolate truffles and Gouda/Edam cheese offered by vendors in the airport. Feeling a tad adventurous, we said no to the taxis and boarded a tram for a very short lift to INK Hotel Amsterdam-McGallery, a boutique-style hotel centrally located within walking distance to most sights and attractions. Along the way we noticed that the city is peppered with B&B establishments rather than enormous chain hotels. Like many European hotels, the rooms are small, but comfortable and very clean.



“AMSTERDAM IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SMALL CITIES IN THE WORLD. FROM CANALS TO WORLD-FAMOUS MUSEUMS IT IS ONE OF THE MOST ROMANTIC AND BEAUTIFUL CITIES IN EUROPE.”

The Dutch have such a functional artist approach to decorating and design, everything from luxe to quirky all with a sense of humor and fun. An example, our room had a wall where an artist rendered the entire city map on the wall with all the districts and points of interest. We amused ourselves mapping out our

activities on this giant blackboard.

Navigating our way through this lively city, we admired the canals that are densely populated with quaint cafés serving healthy breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. How wonderful it is to dine al fresco with the boats serenely maneuvering through the narrow canals. The food in the city is very diverse to please different palates, but you must taste some of the authentic

flavors of the Dutch culture. Excellent places to sample local cuisine are the “brown cafés” or bruin cafés as the ambiance is usually dark, with dimly lit traditional wood paneled interiors. We dined at one such restaurant, the historic Haesje Claes. Originally an orphanage in the 16th century, the Haesje Claes has preserved much of the original structure. The fare is simple and the atmosphere laid-back. We enjoyed smoked salmon, smoked eel, shrimp, mackerel, trout and salted herring, cheeses and pickled

vegetable sampler plate. Called hupjes which means lighter fare, the meal gave us an opportunity to try a bit of everything. A local favorite is bitterballen, a mixture of beef and veal rolled into a ball deep fried with a ragout filling and served with mustard. For me, it was like a hushpuppy without meat! Delicious, but even better when chased with the famous Holland beers Grolsch and Heineken or with jenever the local spirit similar to American gin.

Speaking of local libation, take the Heineken interactive brewery tour, an informative English language guided tour through the beer making process. At the end of the tour, you can sample the products and learn how to pour a perfect draft serving.





With its maze of winding streets and canals, we chose to purchase Hop On Hop Off bus and boat tickets for a 24-hour period to give us a broad, but thorough overview of this intriguing city. Houseboats that are home to people and families and a variety of pleasure boats line the canals. We hopped on and off frequently and took many round trips. The bus has one route with eleven stops and the boat tour has two routes and 12 stops. In Amsterdam we bundled the bus transport with a canal boat tour. It was leisurely, and the guide was very knowledgeable about the architecture, customs and traditions as well as notable places for cultural activities, dining and touring opportunities. Amsterdam has 165 canals that span 60 miles... the canal tours may be one of the BEST experiences you will have in Amsterdam!

Bicycles are the preferred mode of transportation in Amsterdam. They are everywhere and travel on the city's roadways along with cars, trams and busses. Make no mistake; you can get run over by a fast-paced bike if you are not paying attention. It is easy to get sidetracked by all the architectural beauty of the homes and businesses and of course the waterfall of florals bursting with colors. It's magnificent and picturesque; the mild weather so conducive to such beauty and not limited to just tulips. For photo ops – it doesn't get any better.



In June the weather was cool (high in the mid-60's), but it did not deter us from strolling through the city marketplaces. The vibrant colors, the aromas of seafood define this multicultural city, and it beckoned us to soak it up - my camera capturing its beauty to relive

when we got home. Sip the local wine and snack from a selection of Henri Willig cheeses with crusty bread, olives, and nuts. It's a perfect way to end a day, or perhaps bid a final farewell to this captivating city.

Other attractions...

Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum, Artis Royal Zoo, Holland Casino, Stedelijk Museum, Rembrandt House Museum, Nemo Science Museum, Hermitage Amsterdam, and the Diamond Museum. Consider purchasing the Regional Day Ticket with your City Card and receive 24-hours of free public transport to the surrounding areas of Amsterdam. The ticket allows you to take full advantage of the many colorful attractions and surprising museums the region has to offer.

For those interested in a walk on the wild side...

De Wallerjes is the largest and best-known red-light district in Amsterdam and consists of a network of alleys that house approximately three hundred one-room cabins rented by "entertainers." The area attracts curious tourists (we too took this stroll), but be warned of pickpockets here and out of respect for visitors and workers, do not take photographs!

In the Netherlands, the term coffee shop means an alcohol-free establishment where cannabis is sold and consumed legally. According to the Dutch Drug and Coffee Shop Law, the Amsterdam coffee shops are licensed to sell small quantities of cannabis to adult tourists over 18. Identification is required and tourists are encouraged to partake sensibly.

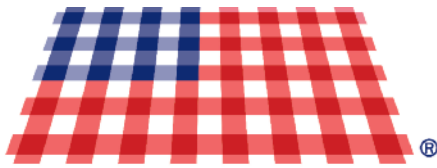
And then there's the money. Amsterdam utilizes Euro currency. Savvy travelers will bring at least a small amount of euros so that they can immediately make use of services (e.g. bus, train, taxi). Most places take credit cards; many visitors report that they get 'good' to 'excellent' exchange rates by using their debit cards at Automated Teller Machines. When you use a debit card to obtain euros at an ATM in Amsterdam, your bank withdraws the equivalent dollar currency from your checking account — using a favorable rate of exchange. Check with your bank beforehand to ensure you are not overcharged. Overall Amsterdam is reasonable and a good value.

Helpful Resources:

Trip Advisor
Viator
RailEurope
Hop-On Hop-Off

<https://www.tripadvisor.com>
<http://www.viator.com>
www.raileurope.com
<http://www.hop-on-hop-off-bus.com/amsterdam-bus-tours>





**America's Second Harvest
of Coastal Georgia**

September Hunger Action Month

Stephania Brown

America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, a member of the Feeding America® nationwide network of food banks, will observe **Hunger Action Month™** – a nationwide initiative designed to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger and join the movement to help end hunger. Hunger advocates from Coastal Georgia and across the country are working together this September to shine a light on the issue of hunger and the 1 in 7 people who face hunger in America – including 158,230 here in Coastal Georgia.

“One in 5 people, including 58,660 children in Coastal Georgia struggle with hunger, and America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia is eager to rally around Hunger Action Month as we continue our fight to solve this issue,” said Mary Jane Crouch, Executive Director of Second Harvest. “Hunger affects everyone – our child's classmate, an office coworker or neighbor down the street. September is an opportunity for all hunger-relief advocates to take simple steps towards supporting those in need.”

Also, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia will commemorate Hunger Action Day®, which will be held Thursday, September 8. Hunger Action Day is an opportunity for the country to learn more about how hunger affects their community. We invite our neighbors and community members to get involved in Hunger Action Month by hosting a Peanut Butter Food Drive. Our shelves have been depleted of peanut butter, the number one and most palatable source of protein for all ages. Consider helping us out by collecting jars of peanut butter and visiting your local food bank to deliver them.

America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia is one of 200 member Feeding America food banks, which serves every county in the United States and provides over 3.6 billion meals each year to Americans in need. To learn more about America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, our hunger programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit www.helpendhunger.org and for information on Feeding America's Hunger Action Month, please visit www.hungeractionmonth.org.



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Low Country Charity Clays Tournament

By Royceann Friedman and
 Janet Kolbush
 Events and Fundraising Manager, Memorial Health Foundation

Lowcountry Annie Oakleys is excited to host their Second Annual Charity Clays Tournament on Friday, September 23, 2016, at the Forest City Gun Club. This unique and special event will benefit the **Dwaine and Cynthia Willett Children's Hospital of Savannah**.

This event promises to be a wonderful opportunity for area sporting clays enthusiasts to support the area's only children's hospital.

Please contact us for further details on tickets and sponsorships contact Royceann Friedman at 912-354-7011 royceann@bellsouth.net or visit us at www.lowcountryannieoakleys.com.



Thank You Pooler For Your Support and Care

By Shannon Shore
 Pooler Police Dept.

How lucky are we to live in and serve such a wonderful community like Pooler?! With all that is going on in today's world, the amazing residents of Pooler have shown the Pooler Police Department support and kindness.

Thank you so very much for all the wonderful goodies and care packages, it means so much to us.

This is exactly why we are all so proud to protect, serve and live in the Pooler community - it is a great place to be. Pur gracious appreciation.

*thank
you*



My Favorite Pooler Business

By Joanne Remppel

I am a loyal customer at **TailsSpin** in Pooler because they focus on providing excellent products and personal service. The staff is educated about what they sell, and their advice is always in the best interest of your pet's health and well-being. Knowing that our pets are valued members of the family, the owners Jusak Bernhard and Jeff Manley will not sell a product unless it meets the

highest standards of quality and integrity. All of the food they offer is well researched (they have even visited the manufacturing facilities), and the scope of their knowledge regarding the ingredients is tremendous. They want you to ask questions and to know exactly why that food is recommended for the specific needs of your dog or cat.

TailsSpin is active in the community by creating bridges between pet rescue agencies, pet communities, pets, schools, and many other non-profit organizations. Their signature events such as Low-Cost Pet Vaccine Clinics, Savannah PAWrade, Pet Care & Adoption Fair, Disc Dogathon, and Woof Woof Run/Walk Over Pet Cancer, raise awareness and hundreds of thousands of dollars for local and national charities.

TailsSpin is not just a business, but a mission to make the lives of our pets better. I have learned how to take better care of my dogs from being a customer, and I am so glad they are here in Pooler.



Chatham Savannah Authority For The Homeless

By Nick Pecone

On a recent trip to Atlanta to attend family events, my wife Judy and I stopped at Arby's in Dublin to grab a quick dinner. Entering the restaurant, I noted a gentleman with bandaged hands using a walker headed toward the entrance. It appeared he was wearing pajama bottoms. I held the door for him to enter unimpeded. I thought he would get in line but he simply went in and sat down. I assumed he was waiting for someone, but no one joined him. After I finished my dinner, I decided to go talk to him, and what I learned was heartbreaking.

This gentleman had just spent four weeks in the burn unit of an Augusta hospital after an accident with a chainsaw that had exploded, causing severe burns to both hands. His landlady refused to hold his room until he could get back to work. As a result, he was sleeping in the woods. I am a former Rehabilitation Counselor and can tell you that a recovering burn victim is very susceptible to infection. To make matters worse, he was diabetic and did not have his medication. There are no homeless shelters in Dublin beyond the VA Hospital which I mentioned to the gentleman. He failed to respond so I suggested that he try contacting the local churches. I asked him if he had had anything to eat and he said no. He did not ask for anything, but I purchased a meal for him and he was most grateful.

This man's story is an example of how quickly one can become homeless. The most recent count of people homeless in Savannah/Chatham County stood at 4,224. Most are people who float in and out of homelessness due to economic or other reasons. The number includes 364 male youth and 385 female youth 17 or younger. Women accounted for 1,205 while men accounted for 2,270. Adding to the disgrace, 237 of our homeless population are Veterans who served our country. Many of these Veterans have been left with mental health disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). People included in the count often have an income, but it is too low to be considered a "living wage". We estimate that the wait-

ing list for public housing and Section 8 housing exceeds 8,000 heads of households. Within Savannah and Chatham County there is a significant lack of affordable housing. Out of Reach 20161 reports that "fair rent" for a modest two bedroom apartment in Savannah would require the renter to earn \$17.25 per hour, far above minimum wage. With our poverty rate hovering above 25%, the choice often comes down to what to spend the family's limited income on: housing, food or medicine? There are far too many of our neighbors at risk living paycheck to paycheck where a layoff or illness could put them out on the street.

In Savannah and Chatham County, there are 35 homeless camps where people who cannot afford basic housing are living in the woods in tents and under tarps. Residents of the camps must contend with mosquitoes and the possibility of the Zika virus and venomous snakes. These camps have no sanitary facilities or running water. Disease is ever present.

For too many years, our approach to homelessness in Savannah and Chatham County has been reactionary. The needle on the dial has not moved much as we have failed to address a major underlying cause of homelessness, the lack of affordable housing. The result of this failure has financially strained our social services, hospitals, and law enforcement. Around the country a new initiative has made "housing first" a priority and a number of tiny house communities have been developed. These tiny house villages now exist in a number of states from Maine to California which have proven to be a more cost effective method of addressing homelessness. Unfortunately, widespread acceptance of this cost effective methodology has yet to gain traction.

Under the direction of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Executive Director Cindy Kelley and with full support of the Board of Directors, CSAH is moving toward establishing a community of 70 - 80 tiny houses. The first single occupancy 12 houses will be limited to homeless Veterans. We closed on 3.1 acres at 75 Dundee St. on June 2nd at a cost of \$207,200. The Saffold family had owned the property for over 80 years and graciously financed the purchase of the property by CSAH.

Currently, Kelley and the Board are diligently working with the Municipal Planning Commission, Codes Enforcement and the

City to make this happen. To date we have had three major clean-ups of the property in preparation of the purchase along with having completed due diligence most of which has been provided as "in-kind" services. The Cove at Dundee will be divided into several villages of 12 tiny houses with a "clubhouse" containing laundry facilities, a restroom and meeting room. Also planned toward the back of the property is a small chapel and outdoor arena. Our tiny house model can be seen at 704 Wheaton St. in the parking lot of the Savannah Baptist Center

This demonstration project shows what can be done to reduce the cost of homelessness and effectively address the underlying causes of homelessness in Chatham County. There are no government funds involved in this endeavor and for that reason we are appealing to the public for assistance. Materials for each house cost approximately \$7000. The first 12 houses will be built through the HBI program at Fort Stewart by military personnel in their construction training program who are ready to ETS into civilian life. In addition to the cost of the property, there will be considerable costs to develop the infrastructure for the community i.e. water, sewer, utilities and a service road for emergency vehicles. Each resident will be required to pay a nominal monthly rent and perform duties in the community of the Cove at Dundee. Please visit our website www.homelessauthority.org and check out the "About Us" tab for additional information and pictures.

How can you help? We need donations from individuals, churches, civic organizations and corporations. Any personal help you can provide will be deeply appreciated. If you belong to any of the organizations I have mentioned or others, please encourage them to donate. For example, one church has already pledged to build the chapel. Visit www.homelessauthority.org to donate or call Cindy Kelley at 790-3400. No Veteran who served in defense of our nation should be experiencing homelessness. No child should have to endure the hardships of homelessness. No mother should be afraid to seek help for fear of losing her children. **Please HELP!**

(Nick's career spanned 40 years and included positions as an educator, counselor, public social services administrator and non-profit senior executive. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless.)

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*Pictures may show options not included in the base price of the home. See your AHP Building Consultant for details.

Atlantic 2016 Hurricane Season Outlook

By Meredith Ley
CEMA

June 1st marks the official start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. It's expected to be an average season, with 10 to 16 named storms, of which 4 to 8 could become hurricanes, including 1 to 4 predicted to reach major hurricane strength. However, that's no guarantee that a storm won't make a catastrophic landfall to our area. These forecast numbers do not include Hurricane Alex, which formed in January and Bonnie, which formed in May.

Forecasters report that while El Niño is weakening and is likely to dissipate prior to this summer, the far North Atlantic is quite cold. The absence of El Niño should reduce the strong upper-level westerly winds that were present in the Caribbean and across portions of the tropical Atlantic last season.

"We don't focus on the number of predicted storms," says Dennis Jones, Interim Director of the Chatham Emergency Management Agency. "We watch every storm because we know it only takes one to significantly disrupt life and cause damage to our community. This is the time for residents to check their kits and develop family emergency and communication plans."

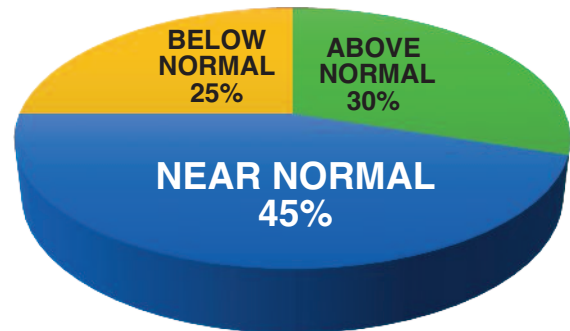
With the start of the season CEMA has entered into Operating Condition 5, which represents the normal day-to-day operation level during hurricane season when there is no direct threat posed by a tropical cyclone. Typical actions include reviewing and updating plans, incorporating lessons learned and regular and vigilant monitoring of the Atlantic Basin. When a tropical cyclone poses a threat to any Gulf or Atlantic coast state, coordination efforts are initiated.

This year, CEMA took a long hard look at the word "Recommended"

when it came to evacuations. The word implies there is a choice; however, if a major storm threatens Chatham County residents must evacuate the county. Starting this season, CEMA will no longer use the term "Recommended" Evacuation, instead we will use "Evacuation" or "Mandatory" Evacuation. This change is to reflect the dangers residents will surely face should they stay behind.

To stay in the know this hurricane season, download our free app by searching "ChathamEMA" in the Apple or Android app store. To receive emergency information via text message, text "[Follow ChathamEMA](#)" to 40404.

NAMED STORMS: 10-16
HURRICANES 4-8
MAJOR HURRICANES 1-4



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Flu Vaccines

By James Li, M.D., Ph.D., Allergic Diseases,
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.



Tests can help determine which flu vaccine is safe for patient with allergies.

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: Last year, I had an allergic reaction (swollen lips and face, itching around the neck and jawline) after getting a flu shot. Since then, I've discovered that I'm allergic to thimerosal. Is it safe for me to get the vaccine this year?

ANSWER: It is likely you can find a vaccine you can take safely. There are influenza vaccines available that don't contain thimerosal. Before you get the vaccine again, make an appointment to see a doctor who specializes in allergies. He or she can do tests to check your allergies and help you find an influenza vaccine that's safe for you.

Influenza, or the flu, is a viral infection that often causes fever, chills, coughing and headaches. In people who have other diseases or medical conditions, and in healthy people older than 50, the flu can lead to serious illness that may require hospitalization. Each year, thousands of people die as a result of complications from the flu.

The best way to help prevent an influenza infection is to get a flu vaccination each year, preferably in early November. The vaccine works by causing your body to produce its own protection, called antibodies, against the flu, and is recommended for infants 6 months and older, all children, and all adults. The vaccine can protect you from influenza viruses, but you need to get it every year because the vaccine's protective effects only last about a year. It is customized each year to protect against the viruses that are most likely to cause disease at that time.

Some preparations of the flu vaccine do contain thimerosal. Thimerosal is a preservative that helps prevent the growth of bacteria or fungi that could make the vaccine unsafe. At this time, thimerosal is only included in containers that hold more than one dose of the flu vaccine intended to be given as an injection, or a shot. These are called multi-dose vials. Thimerosal is used in multi-dose vials to lower the possibility of contamination of the vaccine once the vial has been opened.

Vials of the flu vaccine that have only one injection dose don't need thimerosal because when they're opened, all of the vaccine is used right away. The form of the flu vaccine given as a nasal spray is always packaged as a single dose, so it does not include thimerosal, either. Currently, about two-thirds of the flu vaccine in the U.S. does not contain thimerosal, so you should be able to easily find an alternative to the preparations containing that preservative. It would be a good idea to see an allergy specialist first, though, to make sure you don't have any other allergies that could cause a reaction to the flu vaccine. For example, some people with egg allergies may have an allergic response to the vaccine. Also, an allergy specialist can help determine if you're

currently sensitive to thimerosal.

Your doctor can do a skin test to check your reaction to the different types of flu vaccine. The test involves scratching a tiny amount of the vaccine on your skin and watching to see if your skin reacts to it. If you don't have a reaction to the skin test, your risk of having a significant allergic reaction to the flu vaccine is low, and it is likely to be safe for you.

(Mayo Clinic Q & A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. E-mail a question to [MayoClinicQ&A\(AT\)SIGN\)m Mayo.edu](mailto:MayoClinicQ&A(AT)SIGN)m Mayo.edu). For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.org.)



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For more information:

Patriot Weekend in Pooler
307 Hwy 80 SE, Pooler, GA 31322
www.patriotweekend.org



MISS SOPHIE'S

Pooler Today Magazine is proud to present Steve and Teri Bell, owners of Miss Sophie's, Pooler's beloved restaurant and caterer. We welcome their contributions in true Southern Hospitality to the Pooler community.



Miss Sophie's Pesto Chicken & Bowties

This quick, delicious dish is great for busy weeknights. When I'm really crunched for time, I swing by the grocery, pick up a rotisserie chicken and a French baguette; throw together a salad while the pasta is cooking and poof! Dinner is served.

- 12 ounces bow-tie pasta cooked
- 2 cups cooked chicken, chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1½ cups heavy cream
- ¾ cup basil pesto
- 10-12 cherry tomatoes cut in half

Melt butter in a large pan or skillet. Add garlic and sauté 1-2 minutes. Add flour and stir until a ball forms. Gradually whisk in heavy cream until mixture is smooth. Stir in pesto. Add pasta, chicken and tomatoes to basil cream and cook 2-3 minutes. Taste and season with salt and pepper as needed. Serve warm.

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Pooler Today, is a private magazine designed exclusively for the residents of the Pooler community. This magazine is about you and your neighbors, therefore, we look forward to your participation. We LOVE pictures, lots and lots of pictures, so snap away and we'll include what we can. Are you an artist? We would love to share your creative artistry with the community, so send us your images.

Share all your joy and excitement and newsworthy announcements! A great opportunity to post a calendar of events item to promote your activity. Email your images and articles, we'll even edit them for you. All submissions must be received by the 15th of each month for the following month's publication. Contact Dean at (702) 767-0508 or email dean@AyersGroup.org or visit www.AyersGroup.org.

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SPECIFICATIONS AND COSTS

Classified advertisements:

Cost: \$25 per issue for 50 words or less.

Pooler Today is a bi-monthly publication and reserves the right to edit the length of submissions and appropriate listings for inclusion. Space is very limited.

Your copy must be received by the 20th of the month (May, July, September, November) for the following months publication.

Please forward your classified copy via email to dean@poolertoday.org. For inquiries, please call us at (702) 767-0508.

Hurricane Preparedness Plan

By Meredith Ley
CEMA

Do You Know Your Plan?

You play a vital role in your family's safety. Surviving a small or large scale disaster depends a lot on how prepared you are. This is the time to discuss who you will call, where you will go and how you will get to your destination during a hurricane evacuation.

In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster, designate a family rally point--both locally and out-of-town. Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

"Teach family members how to text and use email as alternative modes of communication," says Dennis Jones, Deputy Director of



the Chatham Emergency Management Agency. "Even social media can allow communication between family members and play a part in getting your loved ones back together when phone lines are overburdened."

Take the guess work out of planning by downloading the CEMA mobile app. The "My Plan" feature allows users to discuss and share with friends and family their personalized strategy to surviving a disaster, and it can be emailed or shared on social media. The app is free and available on iPhone and Android devices. To download, visit the App Store and search for "ChathamEMA."

Sign-up to get alerts: <http://www.chathamemergency.org/>

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Help For Students With Learning Disabilities

By Sarah Schiesser
OTR/L

Rehabilitation Institute
Memorial University
Medical Center

For parents of children with learning difficulties, the thought of heading back to school creates anxiety over what lies ahead. Whether your child struggles in one subject or throughout the entire school day, you may feel unprepared for the tears, tantrums and trials.

Occupational therapy may help your child learn to manage the challenges of school. A skilled therapist can also help parents understand the basis of those challenges.

Learning difficulties can range from simple to more complex diagnoses. Some children have a diagnosed or undiagnosed learning disability, such as difficulties with reading, math, spelling, and handwriting skills.

Other children struggle with higher-level executive functioning skills, such as attention, organization, time management, planning, memory and the ability to self-evaluate their performance. These children may appear inflexible, impulsive, distracted and unmotivated. They may be procrastinators who may have trouble controlling their behavior in the classroom.

An occupational therapist (OT) is a skilled practitioner who can help your student be his or her best, and teach parents what you can do to help. An OT can fully assess your child's sensory processing, school skills, visual-motor skills, coordination, organization and behavior, and then develop a plan to address his specific needs.

OTs use movement, coordination, play, compensation strategies, self-regulation and education for families and school staff to help your student achieve her highest potential and decrease school-related anxiety.

Occupational therapy can help students who have:

- Trouble with reading, spelling or math
- Illegible handwriting
- Poor classroom behavior
- Poor attention skills
- Difficulty with time management, organization and memory skills
- Clumsiness or poor coordination

Ask your doctor for a referral to the pediatric occupational therapy team at The Rehabilitation Institute at Memorial University Medical Center. We have offices in Pooler and Savannah.

Sarah Schiesser, OTR/L, is an occupational therapist who works with children at The Rehabilitation Institute at Memorial University Medical Center. She offers private evaluation and treatment for children up to age 21. Call 912-273-1000 (Pooler) or 912-350-3285 (Savannah) to learn more.



Visit our Pooler office for a variety of adult and pediatric rehabilitation services, including physical and occupational therapy and speech/language pathology. Our specialized pediatric therapists design treatment plans to meet each child's unique needs. Call today to help your child succeed in the new school year.



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The Class of 2016 earned acceptance to 93 colleges and universities in the United States and the District of Columbia. Our graduates will matriculate to some of the most competitive programs in the country, including: Davidson College; Emory University; Georgetown University; Georgia Tech; University of Georgia-Honors; Johns Hopkins University; Rice University; University of Southern California and Williams College.

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