

## CHATT HILLS SENIOR LUNCHEON

### *Food, Fellowship, and Information Sharing*

*By: Laurie Searle (March 17, 2023)*

The city of Chattahoochee Hills and partners hosted a Senior Luncheon on St. Patrick's Day, in what they hoped would be the first step in offering some level of senior services in the city.

Councilmember Laurie Searle (Dist.3) welcomed the seniors at the March 17<sup>th</sup> luncheon and opened the program by thanking and acknowledging the city, partners and sponsors.

Mayor Tom Reed said he and Councilmember Searle started meeting with Fulton County in 2021 to discuss the city's need for senior services. He said, "We were making good progress until COVID hit. Then the Fulton County senior centers shut down and things got put on hold. But we've recently picked up again where we left off and are now working on an agreement for some contract services."

Councilmember Ruby Foster (Dist.1), who also serves as the Chatt Hills Community Outreach Coordinator, was acknowledged and thanked for helping with the luncheon, and for adding all of decorative and festive touches. She thanked the many volunteers who support community outreach and reminded the seniors about the upcoming Movie Night at Rico Park on Saturday, April 29 (6:30-9:30 p.m.).

Community Brickworks board chair Lisa Remley and Library & Activities Director Nan McGuffey were acknowledged and thanked for providing the main course of the meal and for posting the event's registration on their website. Nan invited the seniors to suggest arts & crafts or program they would be interested in, and to check the Community Brickworks website for current scheduled events at [www.communitybrickworks.org](http://www.communitybrickworks.org).

Providence Baptist Church members were acknowledged and thanked for providing meals, side dishes and serving the guests, with special thanks for Kenneth and Elaine Bryant for coordinating the food, the ladies group for providing "goodie bags," Rev. Mike Emeott for giving the invocation, and Bill & Nesha Bryant for providing musical entertainment.



*More than 60 seniors enjoyed the March 17 luncheon hosted by the city of Chattahoochee Hills with Community Brickworks, Providence Baptist Church, and special program guests from Fulton County Senior Services, and AARP.*



*Councilmember Laurie Searle, Mayor Tom Reed, and Councilmember Ruby Foster welcomed seniors to the luncheon.*



*Providence Baptist Church members helped make and serve the meal.*

## FULTON COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES PRESENTATION

Andre Gregory, Program Manager of Fulton County Department of Senior Services, gave an overview of the three levels of services offered by the County through its different facilities:

Four multipurpose facilities for Independent Seniors

- Dorothy C. Benson Senior Multipurpose Facility (404-613-4900)  
6500 Vernon Woods Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30328
- H. J. C. Bowden Senior Multipurpose Facility (404-613-6131)  
2885 Church Street, East Point, GA 30344
- Harriett G. Darnell Senior Multipurpose Facility (404-613-8580)  
677 Fairburn Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30331
- Helene S. Mills Senior Multipurpose Facility (404-613-5820)  
515 John Wesley Dobbs Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30312



*Andre Gregory, Fulton County Senior Svcs.*

Fourteen Senior Centers for Semi-Independent Seniors. (Palmetto and Fairburn centers are closest to Chatt Hills)

- Palmetto Neighborhood Senior Center (770-463-4990)  
510 Turner Avenue, Palmetto, GA 30268
- New Beginnings Neighborhood Senior Center (404-612-8984)  
66 Brooks Drive, Fairburn, GA 30213

Four Adult Day Care Facilities (at the Multipurpose Centers) for Semi-Dependent Seniors.

Andre said that last year only four residents utilized the services in the Palmetto Neighborhood Senior Center. He encouraged more residents to visit the Center and participate in its many programs. He said the County also offers a variety of on-line educational and recreational programs listed on the county's website, and STARLine offers referrals for in-home services such as light housekeeping, meal preparation or delivery, grocery shopping and escorts to appointments. For more information visit Fulton County Senior Services:

Website: <https://fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/senior-services>

STARLine: (404) 613-6000

## AARP PRESENTATION



*Jil Hinds, AARP*

Jil Hinds, Associate Director of Community Outreach, AARP Georgia State Office, asked the seniors if anyone had heard of AARP before. Everyone raised a hand, confirming they knew about the Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Then she asked if anyone knows how old you have to be to join AARP? She said while AARP's primary membership serves people aged fifty and older, those as young as 18 years old may join with some limitations on their benefits.

Jil said when she was a teenager, she recalled moving closer to an aging relative to help with her care. She said that seems to be happening more and more these days, which is why AARP has expanded the age group for its membership.

In addition to the several news publications AARP offers its members, it also provides online educational & recreational programs, in-person services like income tax preparation assistance, and even program topics it will give in your community like estate planning. Jil said there are also many discounts available for AARP members, such as reduced rates at hotels and discounts on some automobile insurance policies. For more information visit: [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).

## CHIEF BRETT – PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION



*Chatt Hills Fire Chief Greg Brett*

Chatt Hills Fire Chief Brett said a major part of Chattahoochee Hills Fire Rescue Department's operations is emergency medical services. Every firefighter employed by Chattahoochee Hills is an emergency medical professional with a State of Georgia license to serve as a Paramedic or EMT. Additionally, the city offers the following safety programs:

- ChattCare is a "community paramedicine" program that provides proactive contact with "at risk" persons having emergent, terminal or age-related health conditions.
- Chatt Hills Alert is a citizen notification program to receive weather and emergency alerts via phone, email, and text message.

## OTHER GUESTS

Several other people in the audience were acknowledged before the end of the program:

**Blake and Rachel Smith** from The HearingSmiths, are practicing hearing care providers located in Serenbe. They offer complimentary hearing screening in their office or through their mobile services in which the screening can take place in the comfort of your own home. For more information visit: [www.thehearingsmiths.com](http://www.thehearingsmiths.com) or call 770-778-3304.

**Diana Wilson**, chair of the Chatt Hills Parks Commission, invited the seniors to visit the city's seven public parks and facilities on 1,200 acres of preserved parklands. The New RiverLands Park is not open yet, but work should begin this year on the pavilion and boat launch project through the Trust for Public Land. She said free parking passes for residents are available at city hall.

**Veterans** were acknowledged for their service by Chip Denton, member of the Chatt Hills Parks Commission.

**Churches** were acknowledged as their members raised their hands and invited others to visit.

## SENIOR INPUT

At the close of the two-hour luncheon, seniors were invited to complete an input card to share their suggestions, recommendations and concerns. The following are the top three responses:

1. What Informational programs would you like in the future?
  1. Aging in Place (15)
  2. Home Care Services (10)
  3. Estate Planning (9)
  4. Land Conservation Options (11)
2. What recreational programs would you be interested in?
  1. Silver Sneakers (17)
  2. Arts & Crafts (13)
  3. Book Clubs (9)
  4. Hiking (7)
  5. Bicycle Riding (13)
  6. Horseback Riding (4)
3. What are your biggest concerns or challenges as you age in Chattahoochee Hills?
  1. Not being able to drive to appointments (15)
  2. Isolation and lack of social contact (4)
  3. Maintaining your home and quality of life (17)

## NEXT STEPS

The city of Chattahoochee Hills and partners will be meeting soon to plan the next senior luncheon and program, tentatively scheduled for June. The team will also continue working with Fulton County Senior Services to provide some level of program support.

\* Photography by Chip Denton

