



THE EAVESDROPPER

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Chairman Eaves Discusses Fulton County Foreclosures

Fulton County Board of Commissions Chairman John H. Eaves joined national and local leaders to address concerns about the foreclosure epidemic in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County.

First Iconium Church at 542 Moreland Ave. in Atlanta hosted the discussion where attendees learned the details of the foreclosure crisis occurring in the city. By the end of 2009, more than 3,957,644 homes were in foreclosure nationally and of those 13,794 were in Fulton County. Georgia, with 106,110 homes in foreclosure, ranks seventh in the nation for foreclosures.

“It is very clear how the foreclosure crisis has impacted communities – homeowners cannot get their home loans restructured so that they can stay in their homes, the banks foreclose, the homes are vacant and crime and blight result,” Eaves stated. “For county government which collects the taxes, foreclosures mean prop-



A panel of national and local leaders discuss Fulton County's foreclosure epidemic with Georgia residents.

erty tax collections are drastically reduced, and as a result the services provided by the county and by the cities within the county are underfunded.”

It was stated in the meeting that mortgage lenders are not offering assistance to those facing foreclosure. Therefore, Fulton County is taking the opportunity to step in and offer services and referrals that will, hope-

fully, break the epidemic. Services include providing information, referring clients to Atlanta Legal Aid and Metro Fair Housing and using Neighborhood Stabilization funds to purchase, renovate and make affordable housing available to moderate income homebuyers.

Data indicates that the areas of *FORECLOSURES* continued on page 2

Atlanta Library Volunteers Recognized by Chairman Eaves

Chairman John Eaves understands the significance of volunteers. On April 24, he participated in the Library Volunteer Appreciation event that spotlighted those around the county who offer their talents and services to help the library system.

This event is an annual program honoring volunteers for their services to the Atlanta/Fulton Public Library System. Councilman Jim Maddox was honored at the event for his years of service to the City of Atlanta and the library system's board of trustees.

The library system's volunteers have made major contributions to its growth and development. In total, the work that volunteers have completed equaled to 66,974 hours in 2009 and \$1,223,615 in volunteer services.

Eaves Celebrates Holiday in West End

Sixteen years ago Hattie Watkins started a Memorial Day celebration in the West End community. This year, Chairman John H. Eaves was in attendance to participate in the fun, food and good times.

On Monday, May 31 in the southwest Atlanta community of Howell Park, Chairman Eaves and hundreds more gathered to recognize the dedication and sacrifices made by those who serve in the Armed Services.

Many local and global celebrities were on site to join in the fun; including activist and actress, Elizabeth Omilami; gospel singer, Dorothy Norwood; comedian, Bruce Bruce and many others.

Willie Watkins, owner of Willie Watkins funeral home and son of Hattie Watkins, carries on the celebratory tradition to honor his mother's legacy.

Chairman Honors Fallen Fireman

Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves joined other local elected officials and fire department members as Fulton County Firefighter Felix Roberts was memorialized by the renaming of Johns Creek Fire Station 63 in his honor on Saturday, June 19.

Firefighter Roberts died on May 28, 2007 as he tried to rescue a Fulton County resident from his burning home. Both he and the homeowner perished in the blaze, and Fulton County Fire Captain Wayne Gilliard was severely burned.

The Chairman spoke about the dedication of all of the fire



Fulton County Firefighter Wayne Gilliard, left, Johns Creek Fire Chief Joseph Daniels, Charlie Mae Roberts, Mayor Mike Bodker, Johns Creek Capt. Jeffrey Williamson, and Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves at the dedication of Johns Creek Fire Station 63 to Fulton County Firefighter Felix M. Roberts, who died in the line of duty.

fighters who responded to that fatal fire from several different communities, many of whom were in attendance. He thanked them for their service, challenged them to remember how

valuable they are to the community and charged community leaders to provide the resources, training and leadership

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Eaves Awarded at Servant Leader Awards

Community leaders and students from across the Southeast region came together at Atlanta Technical College (ATC) to honor those who received Servant Leader Awards. The event took place on June 3 and shone a spotlight on those who are making a difference in their community by being of service to others.

The Servant Leader Awards are held by the college's ATC Institute for Males (AIM) to recognize African-American males who are making a positive impact in their communities. Eaves received an award for the work that he has completed, the initiatives he is spearheading to make the Atlanta community more productive, and

for being a positive role model for African Americans.

In attendance at the event were Providence Missionary Baptist Church's pastor, Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley; Former NBA referee, Ken Hudson; ATC President, Alvetta Thomas; and Ambassador Andrew Young, who was also the keynote

speaker for the evening.

Falling in line with his work as a role model and community supporter, Chairman Eaves participated in a panel discussion on recidivism. The panel was a part of a conference presented by AIM entitled, "Call to Action: Recapturing our African-American Males".

The Chairman's Calendar

August:

Tuesday, 3 – 27th Annual National Night Out.

Friday, 6 – 31st Annual American Gardening Assoc. Conference Opening Session. 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Loudermilk Center.

Saturday, 7 – Atlanta Inquirer Newspaper 50th Anniversary Brunch. 11 a.m.—2 p.m. The Lofts at Castleberry Hills.

Wednesday, 11 – UNCF Inaugural Breakfast: Corporate Partners in Education. 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Marriott Marquis.

Wednesday, 11 – Senior Citizens Farmers Market. 12:30 p.m.—1:30. New Horizons Senior Citizens Center.

Wednesday, 18 – Fulton County Board of Commissioners Meeting. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

To view other community events that Chairman Eaves will attend and support, visit www.fultoncountyga.gov; e-mail chairman@fultoncountyga.gov or call 404-612-8206.

Reynoldstown Wheelbarrow Festival Celebrates 15 Years

The 15th Annual Reynoldstown Wheelbarrow Festival was celebrated on Saturday, June 12, 2010. There was much fun on hand for adults and children alike and a good time was had by all. The artist's market included works by Hollywoof Styles, Calabash Creations, TIF Candles and others. Chairman John Eaves was in attendance to support the annual event and partake in the food and fun.

Eaves greeted festival goers and shook hands with the vendors and community members. He was also sure to show his appreciation to all attendees, from those in the audience to those performing on stage.

The event included a health fair that allowed everyone to get their blood pressure checked along with other health services



and information provided by the Arthritis Foundation, Avon Breast Foundation, West End Medical Center and many other organizations.

The festival was a family-friendly affair with something for everyone. Therefore, chil-

dren are not left out of the fun.

Entertainment for youth included performances of song and dance, games, arts and crafts "take homes" and a drumming workshop. Next year's celebration promises to be greater than this year's festival.

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Fulton County most impacted by foreclosures are in south Fulton, particularly College Park, Hapeville and East Point, and in north Fulton County, namely Alpharetta, Milton and Roswell.

The National AFL-CIO, the Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council, the Atlanta Mortgage Coalition and others organized the forum that included the testimony of four victims of mortgage bank practices. Other panelists included Charlie Fleming, President of the Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council; Arlene Holt Baker, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President; Georgia State Senator Vincent Fort; Reverend Timothy McDonald, Pastor of First Iconium Baptist Church, and Bill Brennan, Director of the Atlanta Legal Aid Home Defense Program.

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firefighters need to "make it home after every shift." Chairman Eaves also thanked Roberts' family: "I would like to acknowledge the fortitude of Firefighter Roberts' family. I want to express my admiration for their faith and generosity for having shared him with us."

Firefighter Roberts was assigned to Station 63 when it was a part of the Fulton County Fire Department. In 2008, the station came under the authority of the City of Johns Creek.

He was 42 years old, and an eight-year veteran of the Fulton County Fire Department.

Join the Chairman for a 'Night Out'

The Chairman is taking a stand against criminals who are trying to take over communities. He will be taking part in the "27th Annual National Night Out" (NNO). This is a global crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). On Tuesday, August 3 communities all across Atlanta, are encouraged to turn on their porch lights, throw block parties, flashlight walks, youth programs, exhibits and other events that will place a spotlight on criminal activities that plague many communities.

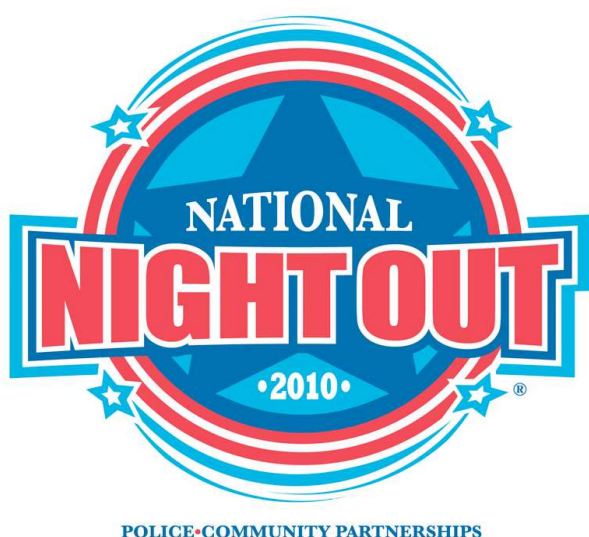
The National Night Out campaign is not only for community residents. This evening will open doors to connect involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials and fight the criminal activities in communities. More than

15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide will participate in the NNO. In all, more than 36 million people participated in National Night Out 2009.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The official 2010 NNO registration form is available at www.nationalnightout.org.



Join Chairman Eaves as he takes a stand to fight Atlanta's crime during the

27th Annual National Night Out Campaign on Tuesday, August 3

Visit www.nationalnightout.org to learn how you can participate!