

**Paine College  
Creates Police  
Department With  
Arrest Authority**

—P. 2



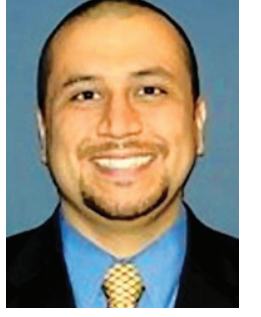
**City Contract  
With Mobility  
Is Officially  
Terminated**

—P. 7



**Organization  
Raises \$12,000  
To Buy Gun For  
Zimmerman**

—P. 3



Prst STD  
US Postage PAID  
Augusta, Ga  
Permit No. 409

P.O. Box 2385 AUGUSTA, GA 30903  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

50¢

# THE MetroCourier

VOLUME XXXI, No. 11

THE PEOPLE'S VOICE FOR 30 YEARS

AUGUST 1-7, 2013

## Mason: Some Officials Think 'Discrimination Is OK'

AUGUSTA—Commissioners' inaction regarding the 2009 Disparity Study—despite third-

party offers to work with the city and its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program—has one

commissioner questioning whether some of his colleagues care about discrimination in Augusta-

Richmond County.

“What that tells me is that the mindset of some of the commissioners on

this dais is that discrimination is OK—they won't even listen to other alternatives,” said Commis-

sioner Alvin Mason after Monday's committee meetings.

see ALBRIGHT page 2



SOUTH AUGUSTA resident Beaurine Wilkins voices her concerns to Mark Johnson, Environmental Service Director.

## Slack Trash Pickup Still Very Sore Point

AUGUSTA—Complaints about the city's once-a-week garbage collection rages on as one resident after another expresses their dismay.

South Augusta resident Beaurine Wilkins had an unique complaint of her own, though. Her bulk waste hadn't been picked up for more than a month, and she presented her concerns at Monday's committee meetings.

“I had to pay someone to take a truckload of trash,” Wilkins said. “I'm a citizen of Richmond

County and I want to be treated fairly. I pay the same taxes as everyone else,” Wilkins said.

She is among countless residents who have complained about the new service, and said, “If it ain't broke, don't fix it.”

“We had no problems with the previous contract,” Wilkins added.

District 4 Commissioner Alvin Mason said “there's no reason for us to be in this position.”

“There is no reason for us to say that we're

see TRASH page 2



ATTORNEY TANYA JEFFORDS (3rd from left) and the Dream Builders Association are sponsoring a book drive to establish a library at the Charles B. Webster Detention Center on Phinizy Road. Pictured (l-r): Arnetta Flowers, LaVaneicer Hillman, Jeffords, Elana Davis-Gairon, Sheriff Richard Roundtree, Jazmine Hillsman and Elmyria Chivers.

## Group Establishes Library At Phinizy Road Jail

AUGUSTA—When Attorney Tanya Jeffords founded the Dream Builders in 2002, it was designed as a means to

equip young people to “turn dreams into reality.”

Now, through that same program, Jeffords aspires to inspire those

who are in prison—by sponsoring a book drive and helping to facilitate a library at the Phinizy Road Prison.

“What you put in (your mind) is what you get out. I want to give those individuals access to

see SHERIFF page 2

## Commissioners 'Disappointed' With Gold Cross Negotiations

AUGUSTA—The terms of the city's newly negotiated ambulance contract with Gold Cross EMS was presented to commissioners on Mon-

day—and some of them are continuing to sound the alarm in response.

Commissioners Bill Lockett and Alvin Mason were disappointed that Gold Cross was the only vendor the city negotiated with and that some commissioners reneged on a vote that any contract over \$1 million would be put up for RFP.

“We said that all contracts would be up for re-

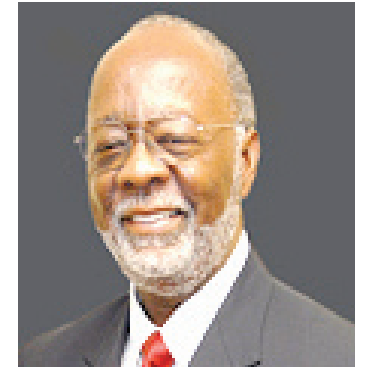
newal in excess of \$1 million. ...Then repeal that for this one particular vendor. Have we established a precedent here?” Lockett said.

Mason took it a step further, saying the contract had “gotten out of hand.”

“I would have to ask the question—what's the problem with putting it out for open bid? Then see FAIRNESS p. 5



Comm. Alvin Mason



Comm. Bill Lockett



## Dedication Opens 'Pocket Park'

City officials and community leaders were on hand for the dedication of a “pocket park” in the Heritage Pine neighborhood Tuesday. Among those honored included Mrs. Adele Randall, a long-time Pine Street resident who died July 1, as well as several city officials and community leaders: Cedric Johnson, community liaison at Georgia Regents University; Betty Beard, former District 1 Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem; Marion Barnes, District 1 School Board Trustee, City Administrator Fred Russell and Mayor Deke Copenhaver. Johnson is pictured, sitting at a bench dedicated to him and his contributions toward the revitalization of the Laney-Walker neighborhood

## Shiloh Will Help 15th Street Residents Make Transition

AUGUSTA—Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center, which has provided services to seniors and children for decades, will now aid 15th Street residents through a federally-funded grant as they relocate.

Through a \$70,000 grant from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Program and in partnership with the Mayor's



Elizabeth Jones

Office, Shiloh will be providing services to residents in the 15th Street corridor who will

be displaced by the 15th Street Sustainable Project.

Elizabeth Jones, Executive Director at Shiloh, says the effort will help residents with the upcoming move—which in some cases, will see residents moving from housing projects into homes.

“We want the residents to have a successful transition when they see SHILOH page 2



## Albright Says Business League Can Help Resolve Program

**from page 1**  
During the Administrative Services meeting, commissioners did not move on a proposal from the CSRA Business League and President/CEO Ellis Albright to work with the city and its DBE Program. Mason blasted Commissioners Joe Jackson and Mary Davis for voting to receive the item as "information."

"Do you know what happens with what we receive as information? It goes in the trash can, never to be heard or talked about again. How

**from p. 1**  
move. Our plan is for people to have a workable plan in place prior to their move," Jones said.

The service period will run from September 1 to February 28, 2014, and includes the GDOT 15th Street widening area. Services will be provided to low- to moderate-income residents and will include job training, financial planning and relocation assistance.

"By creating a program at Shiloh, the services will be based within the hub of the community that will be directly impacted by the 15th Street widening project. The city is pleased to be partnering with a community agency that has been a pillar of the community for over 35 years," said John Paul Stout, the Augusta Sustainable Project Manager.

According to Commissioners Corey Johnson and Alvin Mason, who were advocates for additional assistance for the residents on 15th Street, the training will bridge a gap between the typical training and information that has been provided to people being relocated in past projects. The program will build training around real-world issues and bring in speakers and trainers from the corridors that have succeeded in their various fields.

**from page 1**  
picking up the same amount of trash that we always did, and that we're not charging you more...That's a lie, because there's no way the city is picking up the same amount of trash," Mason said.

His solution is to offer a second trash bin for families—at no additional cost.

"Families differ in the amount of trash that they generate, and in turn, how they choose to dispose of it. It doesn't make them bad people, that's just a choice."

does that solve the problem? ...It's a disservice to this community and those who are being discriminated against," Mason said.

Albright previously spoke to commissioners in June, and says the Business League can address the disparity study where city officials currently cannot.

"We can do what can not be done in-house, and offer a solution that has shackled the hands of the city. Citizens should be treated (fairly), regardless of race, color or creed, in regards to city contracts and having a seat at the table of economic prosperity," Albright said.

Discussions over the study, which cost the city \$500,000, have ranged from how the city can implement the findings—



**Ellis Albright**

which expire at the end of this year—to the roles of DBE director Yvonne Gentry and Equal Employment Opportunity Director Jacqueline Humphrey.

**It's The 50th Anniversary  
MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

**Bus Leaves August 23rd**  
Walmart on Deans Bridge @ 5 pm Sharp  
**Cost Is \$135 Call Shirley For Details**  
(706) 631-0912 or (706) 724-0368

**MEDICAL VILLA PHARMACY**

**WE TAKE:**

- Georgia medicaid
- Insurance plans
- Charge cards
- WIC vouchers

**FREE DELIVERY SERVICE**

**706-722-7355**

**Marshall Curtis, Pharmacist/Owner**  
**Baron Curtis, Pharmacist**

5TH STREET  
WIFE SAVER MEDICAL VILLA PHARMACY  
LANEY WALKER BLVD  
MCG TEXASD

## Paine College Creates Police Department

AUGUSTA—In the aftermath of two sexual assaults on its campus, Paine College has changed its Campus Safety Department to the Paine College Police Department.

"Our students' safety is priority. The Paine College Police Department will act as a deterrent to individuals who will want to impede instruction in our educational environment," said Dr. George C. Bradley, President of Paine College.

Chief Joseph Nelson, who was hired in March as the school's new Chief of Campus Security, will head the department.

Nelson, the former Chief of Police for Thomson, Ga. and a 2010 graduate of the Georgia Chiefs of Police Academy, has made a notable increase in the number of certified police officers at Paine.

He has increased the number of certified police officers at the College to seven, bringing the Department's staff to a total of thirteen. In addition, Chief Nelson is certified in the State of Georgia in the following areas:

Criminal Investigation, Criminal Procedures, Crime Scene Technician, Interviews & Interrogation.

"Our new chief has successfully put together the resources to allow the College to transition from Campus Safety to a Police Department," said Brandon Brown, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Paine.

Additionally, the department, also known as the Paine College Police Department (PCPD) now has total arrest authority in the State of Georgia. The college has also been approved and granted an Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) number, assigned by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services to criminal justice agencies. The ORI is used to identify the agency, in this case the PCPD, in transactions on the state's database or in criminal history source document submissions.

Last week, A Paine College student who was raped in a campus dorm in March filed a multi-million dollar civil suit against the college.

books. ...Hopefully, they will read something that will spark something in them," Jeffords said.

When she spoke with then Sheriff-elect Richard Roundtree last year, she petitioned to have books in jail—something that

hasn't been allowed for Richmond County inmates since 2006.

"When I asked him about it, he said, No prob-

**from page 1**  
lem."  
For more information on the book drive or to donate, call (706) 724-4834.



**WILLIAM A. TROTTER, III  
DAVID C. JONES  
JAMES B. TROTTER  
JAMES S. V. WESTON**

OF THE LAW FIRM

# TROTTER JONES LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ANNOUNCE WITH PLEASURE THE ADDITION OF

**KEITH B. JOHNSON**

AS AN ASSOCIATE

3527 WALTON WAY  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA 30909  
706.737.3138

[WWW.TROTTERJONES.COM](http://WWW.TROTTERJONES.COM)

SPECIALIZING IN REAL ESTATE, BUSINESS LAW AND CIVIL LITIGATION

**AUGUSTA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN PIONEERS**

**POLITICS**  
Honorable Earl Warren  
Honorable Thurgood Marshall

**RELIGION**  
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**CIVIC**  
John Hope Franklin

**MEDICINE**  
Dr. Charles D. Bell

**EDUCATION**  
Mrs. Victoria Lawson Walker

**ARTS**  
Margaret Murray Brown

**BUSINESS**  
Nelle Carter

**SPORTS**  
Maurice Bishop

**The Lucy Craft Lantry MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY And Conference Center**

1116 PHILLIPS STREET  
at the historic Laney Walker District  
AUGUSTA, GA 30901  
PH: 706.724.3576