

# The VOICE

The quarterly  
newsletter  
of the

October 2005



## A Message from the Chairman

I suppose it's bad news and good news. The turnout for the Educational Local Option Sales Tax (ELOST) was miserable..., roughly 10% of the registered voters of Morgan County bothered to vote. But, the voters in favor of renewing the ELOST won by almost 85%. Our public schools will be able to continue improving and building to serve us without having to push for higher property taxes.

A few months ago, when the Morgan County School Board proposed to make their memberships elected on a Non-Partisan basis, the local Republicans showed up en masse to threaten and bully the board members for suggesting such foolishness. I'm not sure I'm in favor of Non-Partisan school boards, either, but the Republicans made no secret of their support of school vouchers and charter schools. Money for such vouchers and charter schools will have to come from our public schools' budget.

It is very important that we support our local public schools. A very small percentage of us showed up to vote on the recent ELOST election... but the smart folks did, and most of them looked like Democrats to me.

*Ted Arnold*

## Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to speak in Atlanta

All are cordially invited to the 18th Annual Eizenstat Memorial Lecture at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue Sunday, Oct. 23 at 7:30PM featuring Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Her lecture is free and open to the public. The synagogue is located at 600 Peachtree Battle Avenue, just north of Atlanta off I-75.  
<http://www.aasynagogue.org/directions.asp>

## GA Dems offer Democratic Message by Ruth Bracewell

At the request of our National Chairman, Gov. Howard Dean, we participated in an exercise at the recent Democratic State Committee meeting to articulate a message for the Democratic Party. This is being done all over the United States. Dean feels we are a "message challenged" party, which, too often, allows others to define who we are. Here are some of the suggestions:

- *Liberty and Justice for All*
- *The Donkey is Alive and Kicking*
- *The Party for Tax Fairness (because some are not paying their fair share)*
- *The Party of Values (protection of country, justice, land, honesty, and openness)*
- *The Party that Supports the Working Man and Woman*
- *Democrats Want a Better Economy, Better Education, and a Cleaner Environment*
- *The Party that cares about the less fortunate*
- *Unity, Security, and Accountability*

Also:

- *We believe America can and should lead the world, not by military threats, but by setting an example – of a great and vibrant nation whose values, integrity, opportunity, education system, fairness, and kindness are the envy of the world.*
- *As Democrats, we believe in a strong military at the center of strong global and regional alliances, a free market that does not police itself, a safety net for tough times, and government as enabler and protector of all our freedoms.*

## LOCAL CANDIDATES VOICE OPINIONS ON NEW SEWAGE PLANT

All the candidates who will be on the ballot in the Madison city election in November were presented with the following question:

**Madison's outgoing mayor says that the bids coming in for Madison's new sewage plant are above what is budgeted. What do you propose?**

Here is what each said:

### Candidates for Mayor

**Tom DuPree:** We should consider: 1) negotiating the bids for more cost efficient designs and eliminate non-mandatory elements, 2) selective sell sewer services outside city limits to spread capital cost over more households, 3) supplemental purchase of used portable package treatment plant at a fraction of the cost which over time would significantly reduce the average cost of providing sewer services 4) improved stewardship by reinvestment in infrastructure along the way to better avoid consent orders. We average 460,000 gallons per day with capacity of 660,000, after recent reinvestments. The new plant adds 1,000,000 gallons per day and a used plant could add 180,000 to 500,000.

**Brian Lehman:** The City of Madison's infrastructure is critically important. It must keep pace with and provide future excess capacity for the inevitable growth. Foremost among these requirements is that of waste water treatment. Madison's new proposed waste water treatment facility is planned to come online within two years. However, bids have come in significantly over estimates. Options are several. We can change specifications or potential capacity to reduce costs or we can submit the proposal for re-bid, or both. All options should be explored, but my examination of the issue indicates that current revenue from water and waste water fees is adequate to meet bond obligations without any increase in taxes.

### Candidates for District 5

**Bonnie Binion:** Declined to respond.

**Michael Naples:** Inasmuch as we are under a consent order to upgrade our sewage system, the construction of a new plant being a part of that order, we are limited as to our options. Since our new hookup fees are already quite high, the possibility of assessing impact fees to new hookups is not feasible. Thus, my suggestion is to scale back our current plan to bring it more in line with our budgeted amount, but, if we are still significantly above budget, we must nonetheless proceed now. Deferring to the future is not fiscally wise since costs will undoubtedly go up.

### Unopposed Candidate for District 2

**Whitey Hunt:** Sewage treatment is a necessary, costly and regulated service the City is responsible for. The costs of steel, concrete and fuel are continually rising and sewer plant construction costs will only increase. Postponing or re-bidding this project would result in higher bids. The new sewage plant will be funded with bonds paid back over 25 to 30 years. In servicing more debt than originally planned, the City will need to adjust sewage revenues. The City is considering a bid that seems a good fit for Madison's needs. Recent design modification has reduced the costs by 12% while maintaining EPD requirements and allowing for growth. Reducing costs where possible and adjusting sewage revenues is a reasonable solution for a needed investment.

## Book Review

### *The Bush Survival Bible* Gene Stone, 2004

Have you ever wondered, "What in the heck am I gonna do until Dubya gets out of office?" If so, Gene Stone's *The Bush Survival Bible* may be just the book for you!

Stone's delightful, tongue-in-cheek tome presents "250 Ways to Make it Through the Next Four Years Without Misunderestimating the Dangers Ahead, and other Subliminal Strategies."

Dedicated to "everyone who voted for John Kerry," Stone and a selection of other like-minded writers give the reader a

plethora of 'quick fixes.' From suggestions as simple as "New Drinks To Get You By" (Old Fashioned Family Values) to the more extreme "Countries to Move To" ("a Bush-free environment"), Stone has something for every Bush-bashing, Cheney-chomping liberal!

This user-friendly, book is peppered with quotes and "Bushisms" that will make you smile, grimace or laugh out loud. Stone recalls many infamous Dubya quotes like: "*Too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many ob-gyns aren't able to practice their love with women all across the country.*" And retells jokes: "*At a party a man came up to Texas governor George W. Bush and said, 'Have you heard the latest George W. Bush joke?' Gov. Bush said, 'I am George W. Bush!' The man said, 'Oh, I'll tell it slowly.'*"

"By the number" advice abounds: "6 Tips to Maintain Your Sanity," "9 Groups to Join," "7 Modern Virtues to Live By," etc. The writers also suggest books to read, music to "transport you to another world" and "13 Ways to Pass as a Republican" (as if you'd want to!). In other words, there's a little something for everyone in this easy-to-read "self-help" book. For about \$10 bucks, it's a bargain at Tall Tales Book Shop! Support your local bookseller! It would make a great Christmas gift for all the Democrats on your list!

Babs Johnston

## Michael's Mouth

To those who voted for Bush...  
How does it feel to know that the man you elected to lead us after we were attacked went ahead and put a guy in charge of FEMA whose main qualification was that he ran horse shows?

[www.michaelmoore.com](http://www.michaelmoore.com)

### GA Sec'y of State Candidate: Debate in Watkinsville

With many months until the 2006 election, over 50 voters took advantage of an advance look at three candidates for GA Sec'y of State on Oct. 6 at the Oconee County Courthouse. Eight Democrats from Morgan Co. attended.

**Scott Holcomb**, a securities lawyer in Atlanta, offers years of wartime military service, overseeing the Bosnian election, and a commitment to public service.  
[www.scottholcomb.com](http://www.scottholcomb.com)

**Carol Jackson**, business-owner of Cleveland, GA, offers over 20 years of public service as a former Superior Court Clerk and three-term State Senator.  
[www.CarolJacksonCampaign.com](http://www.CarolJacksonCampaign.com)

**Shyam Reddy**, a corporate lawyer in Atlanta with a master's degree in public health, was born and raised in Dublin, GA, and offers a "new brand of Southern Democrat".  
[www.shyamreddy.com](http://www.shyamreddy.com)

### Executive Committee of the Morgan County Democratic Committee

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**Ted Arnold** Chairman  
**Avery Jackson** Vice Chair  
**Lindy Burnett** Secretary  
**Emmie Smock** Treasurer  
**Ruth Bracewell** Previous Chairman  
**Patsy Harris** Newsletter Editor

*The Voice is the official publication of the Morgan County Democratic Committee for its members, subscribers and friends.*

**For information, contact:**

Patsy Harris  
1801 Sugar Creek Trail  
Buckhead, GA 30625  
(706) 342-1011  
[patsydudney@yahoo.com](mailto:patsydudney@yahoo.com)

### NPR's The Capitol Steps

coming live to the  
Madison-Morgan Cultural Center Jan '06!  
Call 342-4743 for tickets.

### OBAMA's Democratic Message ...a progressive new era...

"According to the storyline that drives many advocacy groups and Democratic activists - a storyline often reflected in comments on this blog - we are up against a sharply partisan, radically conservative, take-no-prisoners Republican party. They have beaten us twice by energizing their base with red meat rhetoric and single-minded devotion and discipline to their agenda. In order to beat them, it is necessary for Democrats to get some backbone, give as good as they get, brook no compromise, drive out Democrats who are interested in "appeasing" the right wing, and enforce a more clearly progressive agenda. The country, finally knowing what we stand for and seeing a sharp contrast, will rally to our side and thereby usher in a new progressive era."

<http://obama.senate.gov/blog>

### Check out these websites:

[www.algore-08.com](http://www.algore-08.com) [www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com)  
[www.opportunityforgeorgia.com](http://www.opportunityforgeorgia.com) [www.hopelessperdue.com](http://www.hopelessperdue.com)  
[www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org](http://www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org)  
[www.cumberlandcountydems.com/downloads/clipart.html](http://www.cumberlandcountydems.com/downloads/clipart.html)  
[www.georgiaparty.com/party\\_resources/campaign.asp](http://www.georgiaparty.com/party_resources/campaign.asp)



391 S. Main St.  
Madison, GA 30650