



CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Chatham County Detention Center interesting facts:

- More than 1,800 inmates reside in Chatham County's Jail.
- There are approximately 220 female inmates.
- More than 300 of the inmates have mental health problems.
- Close to 90% of the inmates are being held on felony charges.



Sheriff's Note:

The Detention Center Expansion Project is now underway and I would like to take time to recognize thank those who have made this project possible. I would like to thank the Colonel and his staff—in particular Cpt. Ethan Davis, Cpt. Thomas Gilberg, Roger Martin, Yousuf Parveez, and Bobby Stinnett.

They have all spent a tremendous amount of time helping to design this jail expansion and now they will be the ones making sure we are getting a state-of-the-art, secure facility.

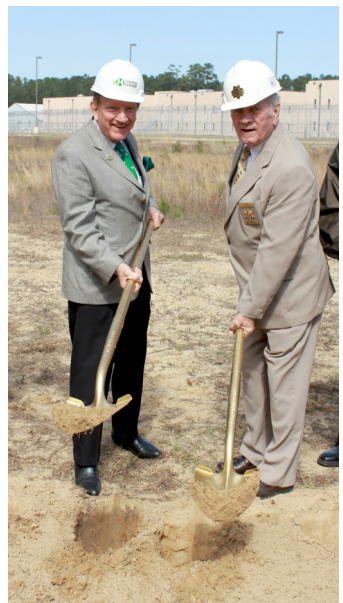
-Sheriff Al St Lawrence

The Sheriffic News

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Breaking Ground on Multi-Million Dollar Detention Center Expansion Project



Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis and Sheriff Al St Lawrence have been working together to fund and expand the overcrowded jail since 2004.

March 8, 2011 was a day many at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office have waited years for. More than 200 people gathered at the Chatham County Sheriff's Complex for the Detention Center Expansion Project groundbreaking.

The 400,000 sq.ft. expansion will nearly double the jail's inmate capacity. The administration building, medical, kitchen, laundry and warehouse facilities will undergo major renovations. New security and fire alarm systems will also be installed.

This is the largest capital improvement project in Chatham County's history. The \$109 million dollar project is being paid for by a Special Purpose Local Option Sales tax approved by voters in 2006.

Hunt-Mills was awarded the \$71

million construction contract. They say the project will take 30 months to complete.

Sheriff Al St Lawrence said not only will this project ease the overcrowding in his jail, but it will also serve as a economic boost to the local economy. Sixty-six percent of the construction work will be done by Savannah-area subcontractors.

Many of the Sheriff's deputies also attended the groundbreaking. For many of them construction can't start soon enough. The jail has been bursting at the seams for years, with the inmate population count hovering around 1,800.

"For them this is the light at the end of the tunnel," the Sheriff said.

Article by Michelle Gavin
Photos by Amber Jasso



Above: Major Thomas Smoak, County Manager Russ Abolt, Commissioner David Gellatly, Major Terry Enoch, Fr. Patrick O'Brien, Col. McArthur Holmes, Naiasha Wiggins, Undersheriff Donald Anderson, Chairman Pete Liakakis, Sheriff Al St Lawrence, Major John Wilcher, Major Howard Harn, Michael Savidakis, Matthew Barnes, D.J. McGlothorn, Dale Collier, Bishop Willie Farrell







Artist Rendering by L.R. Kimball



Arial photo of current Chatham County Detention Center



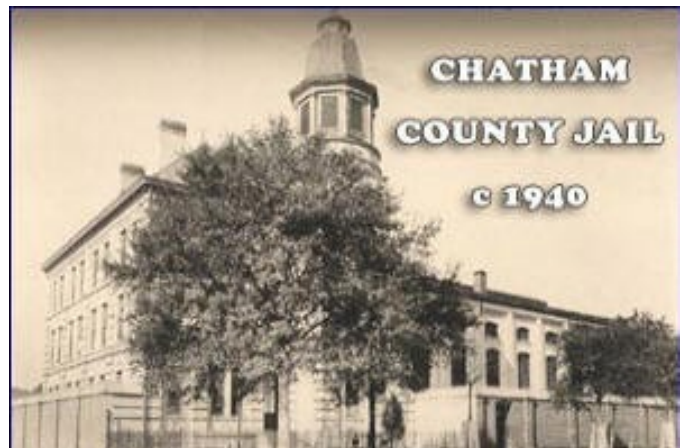
Arial photo of current Unit 5 and 1992 expansion underway



The old Montgomery Street jail, 1978-1993

History of Chatham County's Jails

- For 90 years the jail was located on Habersham Street next to the current Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department. Its capacity was approximately 300 inmates and averaged about 270 inmates daily.
- In 1978 the jail moved to Montgomery Street next to the Chatham County Judicial Complex. This facility had an inmate capacity of 381. It was soon overcrowded and the federal court issued an order that set a maximum amount of inmates allowed.
- In 1988 the current jail's Unit 5 was built to ease overcrowding.
- In 1991 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the rest of the current jail. The Sheriff, his staff, deputies and inmates moved in February 3, 1993. At that time there were about 700 inmates. The 1,225-bed facility was supposed to meet Chatham County's needs until 2010. In March of 1997 the jail was already overcrowded with 1,230 inmates.
- March 8, 2011 a groundbreaking was held for the Detention Center Expansion Project. It will add 400,000 sq. ft. and 1,136 more inmate beds—nearly doubling the current capacity. The CCSO jail will then be classified as a mega-jail and one of the largest in the country.
- If the Jail ever needs to be expanded again, the infrastructure will already be in place.



The old Habersham Street jail, 1888-1978

If Only They Knew in 1991 What We Know Now...

Just four years after the jail was built it was overcrowded with inmates



Right: In 1991 County Manager Russ Abolt attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Walter Mitchell, Jr. Sheriff's Complex. Left: Former Sheriff Mitchell, Lt. Shawn Taber and former Jail Administrator Gary Blake kept track of the construction progress.

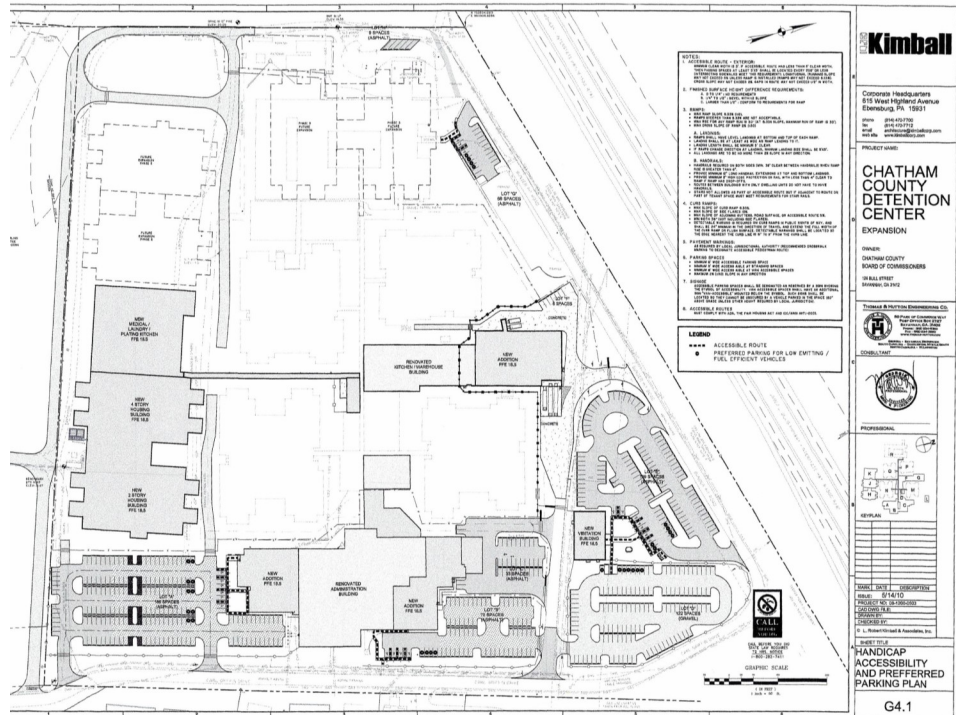
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Established in 1953, L.R. Kimball is among the nation's leading professional service companies offering its clients architectural and structural design services, civil and environmental engineering expertise, communications technology solutions and consulting. L.R. Kimball employs nearly 500 at 10 locations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Thank you to everyone who made the Groundbreaking Ceremony such a huge success!

Gretchen Derryberry

Stephanie Parker

Janell Rhett-Belton

Stephanie King

Rhonda McCullough

Beverly Thompson

Brian Gorby

Cory Harper

Carmen Pilecek

Maj. John Wilcher

Maj. Tommy Smoak

Cpt. Herb Harley

Cpt. Brian Counihan

Lt. Wanda Williams

Sgt. Steve Collins

Cpl. Terry Voisine

Cpl. Felicia Williams

Pvt. Ron Robinson

Fr. Patrick O'Brien

Bishop Willie Farrell

Parveez Yousuf

Pete Nichols

Chatham County Detention Center Expansion Project Groundbreaking

