

ELDRIN BELL
CHAIRMAN
WOLE RALPH
VICE-CHAIRMAN
GAIL B. HAMBRICK
COMMISSIONER
SONNA SINGLETON
COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL L. EDMONDSON
COMMISSIONER

Clayton County
Board of Commissioners



MEDIA ALERT

**For Immediate Release:
January 6, 2011**

**Media Contact:
Jamie Carlington
770-477-3211**

OFFICIAL STATEMENT
by
Mary Byrd, Director
Senior Services Department

RE: Clayton County Senior Services Change in Fees

"Clayton County like most counties and individuals in this country has been hit hard economically in the last few years. Revenues from taxes and fees are lower and costs are higher. Additionally, these economic realities have forced cuts at all levels of government including the state of Georgia which has in turn reduced funding significantly for a number of city and county programs. Senior Services received a reduction in grants directly affecting the services at the senior centers. The county has looked at a number of ways to fund the current level of services. Some of the options considered included cuts in programs and/or an increase in fees. In December the Board of Commissioners approved new membership fees for the senior centers. Those new fees were effective as of January 1, 2011, and have drawn criticism and threats of lawsuits from some parties. It is the desire of Clayton County and its senior citizens centers to continue to provide high quality affordable services to the seniors of our county. However, we must also face economic reality and the cost of those services must be covered. We will continue to accept new members at the January 1, 2011 rates while the Board continues to evaluate what other actions are necessary. We will report to you once those decisions are made."

###