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PRESS RELEASE

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Department of Senior Services Brings SPARC Program to Community *One Stop Shop for Wellness Expos to be hosted at area senior centers*

Jonesboro- Clayton County's Department of Senior Services, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), along with various community healthcare partners will host health and wellness expos at two area senior centers on Friday, October 8 and Friday, October 29. Clayton County's second annual Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration (SPARC) event will kick off on October 8 with the first, "One Stop Shop for Wellness" expo taking place at the J. Charley Griswell Senior Center located at 2300 Highway 138 S.E. in Jonesboro, GA. The second SPARC wellness event is scheduled for Friday, October 29 at the Frank Bailey Senior Center, located at 6213 Riverdale Road in Riverdale. Seniors can attend both health and wellness expos from 10am – 2pm on both days.

The SPARC "One Stop Shop for Wellness" empowerment expos will include free blood pressure screenings, healthy mind and foot assessments, in addition to presentations on developing and maintaining a healthier lifestyle. Healthcare professionals will also be on hand providing flu, pneumonia, and tetanus immunizations for a nominal fee along with coordinating and scheduling mammograms at the county's state of the art outpatient imaging center, Spivey Station. For services that require a nominal fee such as immunizations, Medicare/Medicaid and some private insurance will be accepted. There will also be plenty of give-a-ways and door prizes available, along with free fruits and vegetable.

SPARC is a community program that brings preventive health care services to older individuals. According to the Director of Senior Services for Clayton County, Mary Byrd, the program was very well received last year in the county. "This is the second year that we have hosted the SPARC program in Clayton County. The positive response from our senior community was overwhelming. This type of health and wellness event not only provides a much needed healthcare service to our seniors but it also educates them on the importance of preventative healthcare. I'm delighted to have the program return to Clayton County."

Both SPARC health and wellness events are open to the public and to non-Clayton county residents.

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