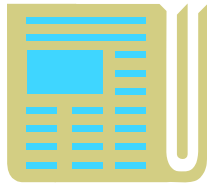




**Henry County Branch of the NAACP  
Newsletter  
February, 2008  
Website: [www.hc-naacp.org](http://www.hc-naacp.org)**



**Henry County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet**

February 29, 2008 is fast approaching – the date for the gala Freedom Fund Banquet for the Henry County Branch of the NAACP!!

As in the past, the event is to offer a glimpse into the recent past efforts of the organization while peering ahead into the mist of future goals and objectives of the group.

The keynote speaker will be Henry County Solicitor Chuck Spahos, expected to bring a fresh focus on the impact of the county court system on the lives of many county citizens.

The site of the commemorative event will be, as in the past, the Merle Manders Conference Center in Stockbridge, Georgia. Carrabba's Italian Grill will cater the event and offer something more than the “mystery chicken” fare sometimes served at similar events.

Beginning at 7 PM, the event will surely serve both to uplift and inform!



(Photo courtesy of the HENRY-HERALD)

## **MLK Parade – A Resounding Success!**

The bone chilling cold and wind did not deter the more than 400 participants in the 2008 Martin Luther King Day Parade in McDonough. In the chill of 20 degree weather, the aggregation formed at the Henry County Performing Arts Center at 9AM and marched off to the musical beats of the Woodland High School Band. Circling around the McDonough Square and winding its way back to the point of origin, the group seemed powered by the heat of its internal combustion engines of freedom.

As the throng snaked around the McDonough Square, dominated by the looming Confederate soldiers monument, a lonely trio was observed carefully adjusting a floral wreath that just so happened to be present at that place at that time. Irony and the march of time seemed to clash at that precise moment in the day.

The program inside the Performing was almost like church with the stars of the show being the performance by the Dutch Town Elementary School Choir and the Dutch Town Middle School Dance Troupe.

State Representative Howard Mosby spoke eloquently about the need for all to dig their respective shovels into the sometimes unyielding soil of racism and bigotry.

The parade and program was sprinkled with the presence of dignitaries like Mayor Billy Copeland of McDonough, School Superintendent Jack Parish, Fifth District Commissioner Johnny Basler, Henry County Police Chief Russell Abernathy, County Solicitor Chuck Spahos, and others.

Next year's festivities promise to be even better!

## **Henry County Police Launch Citizens Police Academy**

(Excerpted from the Henry County Board of Commissioners website)

In order to enhance the relationship between private citizens and law enforcement, the Henry County Police Department is offering a free, nine-week Citizens' Police Academy beginning on March 4, 2008. This is a rare opportunity for private citizens to obtain first-hand knowledge about law enforcement and public safety operations.

During the academy, participants will be exposed to a variety of topics in an assortment of settings, with an emphasis placed on "hands-on" subject matter to give everyone a more in-depth understanding of law enforcement. Topics presented include the following:

- Patrol Operations
- Criminal Investigations
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Radar Operation
- Traffic Accident Investigation
- Professional Standards
- Drug/Vice Investigations and DUI & Drug Recognition
- Juvenile Operations and Gang Task Force
- SWAT & Hostage Negotiations
- 911
- Child Abuse
- Sex Crimes
- Jail Operation
- Firearms Familiarization
- Much, much more

Students will also be mandated to ride along with Police Officers during normal patrol operations.

*Citizens participating in the program will gain a better understanding of law enforcement, which should help to dispel any suspicions and misconceptions while increasing police/community rapport. Conversely, the Henry County Police Department will become more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community. The nine-week academy is expected to help establish open lines of communication and cooperation between the department and Henry County citizens.*

Anyone 21 years of age and older may apply. Preference is given to Henry County residents and those who work in Henry County. Participants will be carefully screened prior to acceptance into the program, and those with a known criminal history will not be considered.

All classes, with the exception of the firearms course, will be held in the evening from 6pm until 8pm. The firearms course will be held on a Saturday. For more information about the Citizens' Police Academy, or to request an application, please call Ida Perez at 770-288-8285.

### **Henry County School Superintendent Finalists Named**

Finalists for the Henry County Schools Superintendent's position have been named.

After two rounds of interviews, Henry County Board of Education members chose Dr. Ethan Hildredth and Michael Surma (both current employees) along with an "outsider", Dr. Vickie Perdue Scott.

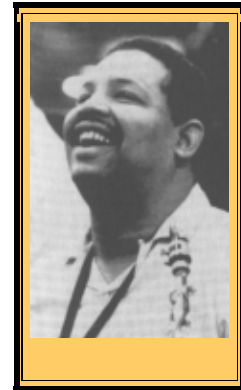
Hildredth is employed as the school system's assistant superintendent of administrative services, Surma is Chief of Staff for the school system, and Scott currently serves as Director for Grant Development for the Fulton County School System.

The Board is scheduled to make a final selection at its February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and is accepting community input prior to its final determination.

### **Who Am I?**

Born on September 15, 1928, I was an African-American jazz musician, band leader, and composer.

Originally nicknamed "Cannon" in high school for my large appetite, the nickname mutated into "Cannonball" and stuck. From a musical family in Florida, I was drafted into the U. S. Army in 1950. I became leader of the 36th Army Dance Band, led my own band while studying music at the U.S. Naval Academy and then led an army band while stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. In 1955, I sat in on a club date with bassist Oscar Pettiford and created such fervor that I was signed almost immediately to a recording contract.



I became a seminal influence on the hard-driving style known as hard-bop, and could swing ferociously at faster tempos, yet I was also an effective and soulful ballad stylist. I led my own band, which broke up when I was invited to join the Miles Davis Quintet in 1957. For two years, I recorded some of my best work on the landmark Davis albums "Milestones" and "Kind of Blue" within this sextet. I left the Davis band to reform my quintet in 1959, this time with my brother, Sam Jones, pianist Bobby Timmons and drummer Louis Hayes. I recorded for Riverside, for Capitol and then for Fantasy records.

I suffered a stroke while on tour and died in August, 1975. During the period when the growing development of polyrhythms and polytonality threatened to make jazz harder for non-musicians to appreciate, my band helped preserve the music's roots in a more readily understood sense. Both as the leader of my own bands as well as an alto and soprano saxophone stylist, I was one of the progenitors of the swinging, music that became known as hard-bop. I added a funky vocabulary of gospel and blues to the style of jazz, America's classic music.

*Who Am I?*

Last month's Who Am I figure: Robert Sengstacke, pioneering Chicago-based newspaper publisher and community activist.

### **Poetry Corner**

By Alonzo Bynum

Claim Jesus like you're his #1 fan,  
What's wrong? It's OK to hold his hand,  
It's OK to call his name, and remember his works.  
We can make a change....just remember he works,

No, we are not 1<sup>st</sup> and no, we are not the same.  
It all starts from birth, like I said, let's work to a make change.  
I know this sounds strange, but we can work in sync,  
Compared to forever, life is a blink.  
But it'll get better when we start from scratch,  
Like a group of good cookies out of a bad batch.  
Don't look back, we gotta look forward.  
Heaven is where we're going toward...