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South Georgia Regional Development Center
327 W. Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

REGIONAL CALENDAR

May

- ⇒ 28 RDC Board Mtg, Adel
- ⇒ 28 DCA Mtg., Homerville
- ⇒ 30 Staff Picnic, Cherry Lake

JUNE

- ⇒ 3 GARDC, Macon
- ⇒ 20-23 GMA, Savannah
- ⇒ 25 Board Mtg., Adel
- ⇒ 28-30 EDPros/Policy, Brasstown
- ⇒ 30 Consolidation Board Mtg., Nashville

JULY

- ⇒ 4 Holiday

in the REGION



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A leader in the development of local and regional programs since 1963.

RDC HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DINNER



The South Georgia Regional Development Center Board of Directors held its annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, April 21st at Mike Dinnerman's Farm in Cook County, Georgia.

Local officials, state legislators, congressional office staff and guests were invited to the special dinner meeting to express the Board's appreciation for the legislators' hard work on behalf of the RDC and its local governments.

Information Technology Services
Contact: Vance Roberts

Spam - What is ?

Spam is the common name for junk mail that arrives each day in your email account in-box.

How did they get my address?

Spammers create their mailing lists in a number of ways. Commonly, they will build computer programs that scan the internet and steal email addresses that have been posted on message boards, and blog sites or spammers will also hack into computer and steal lists of web addresses. These lists can be found from your inter-



net provider, consumer sites on which you shop, or membership with whom you have registered.

Why do spammers spam? Most spammers choose this route for advertising because it is cheap. In fact, there are virtually no costs associated with it if they steal the mailing lists and write the ad themselves. Spam is also used in online fraud whereby the sender poses as a charity or other organization in need of funds. The goal of the email is to convince you, the receiver, to send a donation for a cause that does not actually exist.

Who does spam harm? Everyone. People who receive the spam waste time and energy as they wade through and delete the unwanted emails. These victims of spam also face the risk that the messages will carry viruses, trojan horses, or most commonly worms.

Spam also harms everyone who pays for his/her internet service. Spam takes up valuable space, meaning that ISPs and online services are using resources to transmit it. The cost of this can be blamed, in part, for the increase to internet subscription fees.

How to protect yourself? It now appears virtually impossible for an internet user to know which emails contain threats and which do not. This is especially true of chain spam, which is very popular with younger generations.

Virus protection software that scans and isolates email threat is the best solution to protecting yourself:

1. Unwanted messages are directly filtered from your in-box, stopping the threat before it even reaches you.
2. Emails from friends and colleagues are scanned for threats to prevent the unintentional opening of infected messages.

Loan Services
Contact: Michelle Frey

SBA Stimulus Package Impacts RDC Loan Programs

April Interest Rate on SBA 504 Loans Declines to Record Low - 5.25%

The Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 loan program is currently providing for April.

long-term, fixed rate financing for commercial real estate at the lowest interest rate since the program's inception. As a Certified Development Company, the South Georgia RDC is busy working with small business borrowers who are taking advantage of this record low interest rate to



SBA received \$730 million dollars under the stimulus package to make changes to both the 504 and 7a Loan Programs. Fees have been temporarily eliminated in both programs making it easier and less expensive for small businesses to get loans and giving lenders new incentives to make more loans. The 7a Loan program has increased the guaranty from 75% to 90% and eliminated the SBA Guaranty Fee. The 504 loan program has eliminated the CDC Processing Fee and the Third Party Lender Fee.

Valdosta Police Department Presents
RDC Staff with Challenge Coins

Valdosta Police Department Cmdr. Brian Childress and Lt. Jo Ann Rofulowitz presented members of the South Georgia RDC staff with challenge coins for their efforts to help the police department solve and prevent crime and improve efficiency in the department.

The GIS Department works with the VPD providing mapping updates for the Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) System in the police vehicles and crime analysis maps to assist with crime prevention and predictions.

The ITS Department assists the VPD with computerized records management, in-car ticket printer and digital docketing systems, and crime analysis statistics. Other services include the Digital In-Car Camera System, AVL System, In-car Ticketing System and hardware updates and maintenance.



L-R: Cmdr. Brian Childress, David Vondersmith, Rachel Strom, Lisa McAleer, Chris Strom and Lt. Jo Ann Rofulowitz

Geographic Information Systems
Contact: Chris/Rachel Strom

GIS Assist Local Government with Flooding Problems

Over the last few weeks, our staff has been busy assisting some of our local governments that suffered flood damage in early April of this year. During this period, many of them witnessed first-hand the value of GIS technology and how a little bit of good data goes a long way.

In Lowndes County for example, the locations of high water levels, road closures, and damage reports were all recorded as the waters rose and fell. This information was published, and updated daily in hard-copy form and on an internet map site so

that local government staff, citizens and GEMA and FEMA responders could easily monitor the situation and prepare responses for the days to follow. But beyond the immediate needs, this data can be utilized by FEMA to "ground-truth" their flood models which are used to identify flood hazard areas which could improve the accuracy of flood mapping in other parts of our nation.

In spite of all the damage and even a few very long days, this recent flooding event was still an opportunity. An opportunity to collect once-in-a-lifetime data that may pay off not just in the short-term for our communities, but for generations of decision-makers. We know it is difficult to think of mapping while in the midst of a disaster, but GIS can make a significant difference in the way your community responds and recovers. If you'd like to get a head start with disaster preparedness, give us a call. We're happy to work with you to identify where GIS can make a

GIS Software Classes Are Back!



We are happy to announce the return of our annual ArcGIS software classes which are FREE to our local governments. This year, classes will be held at Valdosta Technical Institute and during the week of June 22nd—26th.

If you would like more information or to sign up, please call or email us: gis@sgrdc.com

- June 22, 23 — GIS and ArcView Basics
- June 24, 25 — Advanced ArcView Techniques
- June 26 — Using ESRI's Free ArcReader software

Seating is limited so contact us soon if you want to participate

Workforce Investment

Contact: Marcia Gaskins

Additional Funding for South Georgia Area Dislocated Workers

The South Georgia Workforce Development Program (WIA) has received additional funding to serve the area's dislocated workers from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Workforce Development Program provides a variety of services for individuals who have been laid off, and are seeking training to update or learn new skills. Getting additional training can help individuals earn more money and receive better benefits-not just replace the wages from an earlier job. NOTE: There is some short-term training available but many training programs take one to two years to complete, and program participants can work part-time while attending school.



- * Interest and Aptitude Assessment
- * Career Exploration
- * Labor Market Information
- * Case Management Services
- * Transportation Stipend
- * Child Care Stipend
- * Financial assistance with books, supplies, etc training costs not covered by PELL or HOPE

The assessment tests, career exploration and labor market information services can help some individuals find the right career, with better pay and benefits. Case management services are on-going. One case manager will help guide the individual through all available services, up to and including enrollment into training. The Case Manager continues working with the individual all the way through training and at least nine months following training completion. The Case Manager acts as an advocate for the participant, and can provide as much (or as little) assistance needed during WIA participation.

For additional information call 229-386-7460 or 7461 (Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift & Turner) or 229-245-2487 (Brooks, Cook, Echols, Lanier & Lowndes)

WIA services include:

RDC Employee Recognized for 25 Years of Service

Marcia Gaskins was recognized for 25 years of service to the South Georgia RDC. Marcia is the Director of the SGRDC Workforce Development Program.



Marty LeFiles and Marcia Gaskins

The Workforce Development Program provides a variety of services for individuals who have been laid off, and are seeking training to update or learn new skills.

Congratulations!!