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Terri Lupo	Keith Stone	Randy Crenshaw	
Gary Strickland			

REGIONAL CALENDAR

AUGUST

- => 5 GARC, Macon
- => 19 SEGA Financial, Waycross
- => 25 Clerks Mtg., Omega
- => 26 Marty Retirement, Valdosta
- => 27 SGRC Council, Pearson
- => 29-1 NADO, Chicago

SEPTEMBER

- => 3 Lace Retirement, Waycross
- => 7 Labor Day
- => 8 MPO Policy Cmt., Valdosta
- => 9 City/County Mgrs. Mtg., Tifton
- => 16 GARC, Macon
- => 23 Council Training, Pearson

OCTOBER

- => 1 GARC, Macon
- => 7-9 ACCG, Atlanta



AUGUST ■ 2009

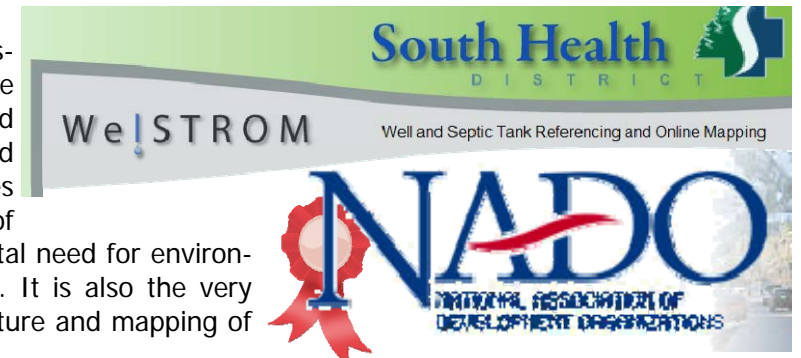
Valdosta
 (229) 333-5277
 Waycross
 (912) 285-6097

www.sgrc.us
 sgrc@sgrc.us

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION RECEIVES NADO'S 2009 INNOVATION AWARD

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission's collaborative effort with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and the South Health District has been recognized by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) as one of the top creative projects in the nation. The We!STROM – Well & Septic Tank Referencing and Online Mapping project has earned the Southern Georgia and the Middle Georgia RC's one of NADO's top honors, the 2009 Innovation Award.

Through a partnership with South Health District and environmental health inspectors, the installation and details of private wells and septic systems has been recorded and mapped in a database spanning 10 counties in South Georgia. We!STROM is comprised of web-based databases and maps that fill a vital need for environmentalists at both the local and state level. It is also the very first regional, web-based system for the capture and mapping of well and septic tank installations.



The website has two components— mapping and traditional database. The mapping side of the site, developed by the Southern Georgia RC, enables septic system permitting officials to conduct a pre-visit survey of conditions in and around each property. Existing well and septic installations, wetlands, flood hazard areas, recharge areas, public utilities, parcel boundaries, and much more data are available on the mapping side of the site. Furthermore, inspectors will be able to query any of this data on the map and see their results on the map.

On the database side of the site, created by the Middle Georgia RC, health inspectors are able to populate the database with newly inspected installations and record a variety of information such as water table depth, type of system, contractor, and latitude/longitude. When a new entry is made via the website, it is verified for accuracy and then it is mapped. The website is secure and is not accessible by the general public.

Since its implementation last year, the We!STROM project has seen much success and has recently been expanded to include usage by health inspectors in the Coastal Health District.



327 W. Savannah Avenue
 Valdosta, Georgia 31601

1725 S. Georgia Pkwy, West
 Waycross, Georgia 31503

Loan Services

Contact: Michelle Frey



Pictured L-R: Tom Carroll, Sunset Farms co-owner/operator; Michelle Frey, RC Loan Program Director; Rick Lightsey, Sunset Farms Plant Manager; Frank Underwood, Sales Manager; and Jimmy Carroll, Sunset Farms co-owner.

Loan Program Assists Sunset Farm Foods Expansion

Sunset Farm Foods, Inc. broke ground for the expansion of its meat processing and packaging plant in Valdosta on August 3rd. The Southern Georgia RLF Loan Program in

participation with the Bank of America is assisting the company with the financing. The approximately 8,000 sq. ft. expansion on Madison Highway includes increased refrigerated shipping space and enhanced employee facilities. In addition, new equipment will be purchased to provide for a new packaging line.

Sunset Farm Foods was founded by the Carroll family in 1918 and has been in continuous operation for 91 years. The company is a South Georgia area landmark.

Thanks to Bill Twomey for Service as Loan Board President

After six years of dedicated service, Bill Twomey, Cook County Manager, stepped down from the office of President of the Southern Georgia Loan Board. Mr. Twomey will remain on the Loan Board where he has served since being appointed as Chairman in 2002. At the time of his appointment, Mr.

Twomey was the City President of Cook Community Bank and had been in the banking industry since 1994. In addition, amongst his many other community activities, Mr. Twomey serves on the Cook County Economic Development Commission. The Regional Commission greatly appreciates Mr. Twomey's many years of volunteer service on the Loan Board.



Bill Twomey

The Loan Board's Vice President, John Holcombe, Jr. of Colony Bank, was elected to the position of President in June 2009. David Sumner, Mercury Insurance of Valdosta, was elected Vice President.

The Loan Board is in the process of reorganizing after the recent dissolution of the South Georgia and the Southeast Georgia RDCs and the subsequent formation of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.

Community & Economic Development

Contact: Sherry Davidson

Southern Georgia Regional Commission Accepting Nominations For Regional Resources

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) is developing a plan for the protection and management of Regionally Important

Resources (RIR) in the South Georgia region. We are accepting nominations for resources of environmental or historical significance. Designation as a RIR does not make an area off-limits to development or create a new regulatory requirement. It does suggest that these areas should have an enhanced level of management and careful consideration should be given to new development in the area. For more information, visit www.sgrc.us or contact Angela Wall for designation of Natural Resources at 229-333-5277, e-mail: awall@sgrc.us; or Michael Jacobs for designation of Historical Resources at (912) 285-6097, e-mail: mvjacobs@sgrc.us

Workforce Investment

Contact: Marcia Gaskins/Cindy Eblin

Summer 2009 Youth Work Experience Program

The two workforce boards administered by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission received Recovery Act funds to implement a summer youth work experience program in the region. The program was the largest summer program operated in the region in ten years. The program targets economically disadvantaged in-school and out-of school youth aged 14-24. The youth worked 30-40 hours/week at public and private worksites for an average of six weeks. The youth were paid \$7.25 per hour. The youth learned valuable



Noelle Boulay and Mrs. Ortiz, Work Readiness Instructor

lessons that will enhance their future employability. The youth were a real asset to local businesses during the busy summer months.

The Summer Youth Work Experience Program is operated by the South Georgia and Southeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board staff and service providers. The program is designed to provide employment training to WIA-eligible youth. Work experience equips youth with pre-employment, work maturity and job retention skills. It also promotes the development of positive work habits and basic work skills. Young people in this training program acquire knowledge and skills needed to become productive, self-sufficient, independent citizens.

The Southern Georgia region served 520 youth in 18 counties. Over \$1.3 million were disbursed throughout the 18 counties this summer. The program began on June 1, 2009. There will be more information on youth worksites in future articles.

In a smaller version of the youth work experience program, 55 youth aged 14 & 15 in five

of the region's counties attended work readiness classes for six hours/day, five days/week for three weeks. The youth had to pass competency-based tests in order to successfully complete the program. One of the classes was held in Lanier county at the high school. All of the students did a great job. Congratulations to the students for all their hard work.



Left-Right Kvonne Oliver, Shane Clark, Sakeithia Foster, and Justin Thomas



Left-right: Cheyenne, Hendley, Kimberly Thomas, Noelle Boulay, Kvonne Oliver, Tyshone Gaines, Sarah Pearson, David Corden, Quadree Thomas, Sakeithia Foster, Cedequa Pye, and Justin Thomas. Not pictured Shane Clark.

Geographic Information Systems

Contact: Chris Strom

Countdown to Census 2010

As this article is being written, there are only 234 days left until the 2010 Census officially begins. In an effort to help the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) to prepare, many of our communities participated with the SGRC in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) last year. The first phase of this project involved the capture and reporting of every address in those communities. The second phase is about to begin and there is not much time to complete it.

This last half of LUCA work involves reviewing the USCB's comments about each and every one of those addresses sent to them, and filing any appeals to them if our communities/we disagree with the USCB's opinion of the validity of any address.

Beginning in October, SGRC will begin receiving these databases with the Census Bureau's comments. From there, SGRC staff will produce a list of addresses that were not accepted by the Census Bureau (if any) and work with the appropriate communities to ensure that every address is included in the 2010 count.

If you would like to know more about the LUCA project or just need to check in with us about the status of your community with regards to LUCA, just let us know.



Area Agency On Aging

Contact: Wanda Taft

2009 Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program Serves Over 700 In Southern Georgia

The Georgia Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, launched in 2006, has become a vital benefit to seniors in Georgia. The program's goal is to improve seniors' access to and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables while promoting Georgia agriculture and local farmers. The program serves low-income Georgians aged 60 and older.



Seniors are encouraged to eat 5-13 servings of fruits and vegetables each day; however, many seniors simply cannot afford to purchase or are unable to shop for fresh produce.

In a recent Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services survey of senior center participants, only 30% of Georgia seniors reported consuming the minimum recommendation of 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

According to Bridget Delaney, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Wellness Coordinator, "Colorful fruits and vegetables provide nutrients needed by seniors to stay healthy. A diet that includes fresh fruits and vegetables can help reduce the risk of some types of cancer and chronic diseases such as diabetes. The focus of the AAA Wellness Program is to encourage seniors to eat healthy and stay active."

The 2009 Senior Farmers' Market Program was such a success because of the dedicated work efforts of AAA staff, senior center site managers, and local farmers. The site managers were able to assist clients with completing applications, and in many cases, arranging transportation to area mar-

kets. They also made sure that produce was delivered to home delivered meal clients who participated in the program. In addition, local farmers traveled, significant distances in some instances, to area senior centers in order to provide the produce for the markets. In addition, Anne Wheeler, Director of Health Promotion with the Southeast Georgia Health District, provided an informative nutrition education session during several of the area markets.

The program enabled 705 local seniors in the AAA's 18-county area to obtain produce vouchers valued at \$20 each. AAA staff conducted eleven local "markets" reaching clients of 19 senior centers during June and July. In order to utilize the remaining vouchers, additional markets will be held during August at local housing authorities.

The program operates as a partnership between the Division of Aging Services, the WIC Program, Southern Georgia AAA, Southeast Georgia Health District, area senior centers, and local housing authorities.

Information Technology Services

Contact: Vance Roberts

IDENTITY THEFT

The FBI says identity theft continues to be one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States, and has ranked as one of the top consumer concerns for the past several years. It involves crimes using an-

other individual's personal identifiers, which are acquired through various means, including computer fraud and mail box theft. Identity thieves need only obtain your name, address, and bank or credit card account numbers, or your social security number, to take over your identity. The thieves can then change your address, open new accounts at banks and credit card companies in your name, and deplete your funds, running up huge credit card balances and generally

creating havoc with your good name and credit rating. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has produced a multimedia presentation that provides information on steps consumers should take to secure their computer and protect themselves from identity theft, as well as action consumers should take if they become a victim of identity theft. The website is: <http://edgecastcdn.net/0003F/anon.vodium/fdic/identitytheft/index.html>

