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327 W. Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

REGIONAL CALENDAR

AUGUST

⇒ 12 Clerks Mtg., Hahira, GA
⇒ 28 RDC Board Mtg., Adel, GA

SEPTEMBER

⇒ 1 Labor Day Holiday
⇒ 3-4 GARDC, McRae, GA
⇒ 10 Ec. Dev. Pros Mtg., Adel, GA
⇒ 18 JLUS Regional Public Mtg., 5:30, Lowndes County
⇒ 25 RDC Board Mtg., Adel, GA
⇒ 26 JLUS Technical Committee Mtg., 10:30, RDC

in the REGION



AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER ■ 2008

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A leader in the development of local and regional programs since

SGRDC Assists Downtown Development Authority Of Tifton In Receiving \$50,000 Grant

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss and Stone Workman, state director of USDA Rural Development, presented a ceremonial big check for **\$50,000** to Mayor Jamie Cater, for the Downtown Development Authority of Tifton.



The South Georgia Regional Development Center prepared the application for the Rural Development funds. The awarded funds will be used for downtown revitalization, including enhanced parking, lighting, landscaping and removal of overhead utilities. It is estimated this project will create or save 10 jobs.

“Projects like this one help the business community and that helps us all,” Workman said. “By making it easier and more pleasant for people to shop, we encourage them to spend where they live.”

The project is funded through the Rural Business Economic Development grant program, which supports projects that stimulate the economy or create jobs.

Area Clerks Dedicate Meeting To Bellflower

A recent meeting of the area’s city and county clerks in Hahira was dedicated to the memory of Hahira City Clerk Diane Bellflower, who passed away suddenly in June. Hahira Mayor Wayne Bullard welcomed the clerks to Hahira, and following a catered lunch sponsored by the city, Hahira Police Chief Terry Davis made a presentation on how to prevent identity theft. Teresa Bolden, Valdosta City Clerk, and Brenda Stalvey, Echols County Administrator and Clerk and current President of the Association of County Clerks, updated the group on various issues affecting cities and counties. With support from the RDC, the area’s clerks meet regularly throughout the year to exchange ideas and discuss current issues.



Community & Economic Development

Contact: Sherry Davidson

NON-QUALIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has released a list of its loan and grant programs that will be withheld from Non-Qualified Local Governments. They are as follows:

- ⇒ Appalachian Regional Commission Business Development Revolving Loan Fund
- ⇒ Appalachian Regional Commission Economic Development Grant Program
- ⇒ Better Home Town Program
- ⇒ Bond Allocation Program
- ⇒ CDBG Loan Guarantee Program (section 108 Program)
- ⇒ Capital Felony Expense Program
- ⇒ Community Development Block Grant
- ⇒ Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DD RLF)
- ⇒ Employment Incentive Program (EIP)
- ⇒ Immediate Threat and Danger Grant
- ⇒ Life Sciences Facilities Fund
- ⇒ Local Development Fund
- ⇒ Local Jail Improvement Grant
- ⇒ Main Street Program
- ⇒ OneGeorgia Programs (EDGE and Equity)
- ⇒ Redevelopment Fund Program

- ⇒ Regional Assistance Program (RAP)
- ⇒ Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) Program

Additionally, the following loan and grant programs operated by other agencies will also be withheld from non-Qualified Local Governments:

- ⇒ Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
- ⇒ Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Incentives Grant
- ⇒ Land and Water Conservation Fund Recreational Trails Program
- ⇒ Historic Preservation Fund Grant
- ⇒ Georgia Heritage Grant

Other state agency programs and funding will be tied to QLG certification in the near future. You will be notified as the list is updated.

You may check the status of your local government at <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/>. If you have any questions, believe your community is incorrectly included on this list, or need assistance, please contact: jshewchuk@sgrdc.com.

Information Technology Services

Contact: Vance Roberts

City of Fitzgerald Gets New City Hall and Computer Equipment

The City of Fitzgerald moved into a new City Hall on September 5th equipped with new computer equipment on which the city will be running its AVR systems for Accounts Payable, Payroll, and General Ledger. These systems will give the city employees much more user-friendly access to the RDC's iSeries computer.



RDC Employee Recognized for 15 Years of Service

John Holcombe, Sr. was presented his service award at the July Board of Directors meeting for 15 years of service to the South Georgia RDC. John works in the Loan Department as a Loan Officer.



Pictured above (l-r) Assistant Exec. Director Marty LeFiles, Loan Board Vice Pres. John Holcombe, Jr., Loan Program Dir. Michelle Frey, Loan Officer John Holcombe, Sr., Chairman Lamar Royal and Executive Director John Leonard.

Congratulations John!!

Geographic Information Systems

Contact: Chris/Rachel B. Strom

SGRDC-GIS Completes New National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Web-based Inventory

SGRDC-GIS is always looking to get you the most out of your investments in GIS and with that in mind, we've been busy participating in a nationwide GIS data inventory over the last month.

Your pieces of the nationwide GIS puzzle are important and we want to make sure that if anyone is looking for spatial information, we can be identified as a source for it in our region. Being able to locate data about our communities is especially important when FEMA or DHS may be involved or when your inclusion in future federal projects depends upon your data being available.



That's why SGRDC-GIS was the first RDC GIS program in the state to complete the new National States Geographic Information Council's (NSGIC) web-based GIS inventory. This inventory tool, at www.gisinventory.net, is intended to capture details about spatial data across our nation for the reasons mentioned above and to assist all GIS users across the country in finding data they need.

Over the last several weeks, we've been busy inputting a long list of the spatial data we hold here for our communities along with details about each data layer such as publication data, frequency of update, scale, attributes and so on. Participation in this inventory does not mean that your data is available to everyone instantly, it just serves as a reference for those seeking data. When a seeker finds data listed for your community that they want, they must still contact us or you and acquire it. This means that your data is still secure and won't easily fall into the wrong hands....

Workforce Development

Contact: Marcia Gaskins

Summer 2008 Youth Work Experience Program

Each summer, the Georgia Labor Commissioner presents each Workforce Development Board in Georgia with enough funds to operate a small work experience program for youth aged 14-18. The youth work 30-40 hours/week at public and private worksites for about six weeks. The youth learn valuable lessons which will enhance their future employability, and can be a real asset to their worksite during the busy summer months.

The Summer Youth Work Experience Program is administered by the South Georgia Regional Development Center WIA staff. The program is designed to provide employment training to WIA-eligible high school youth. Work experience provides 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 South Georgia service area received enough money to serve 28 youth and the program began June 9, 2008. These youth were assigned to local public sector worksites, including but not limited to:

- ⇒ Public Libraries
- ⇒ Boys and Girls Club
- ⇒ Housing Authority
- ⇒ QUOLA



The students worked six weeks and earned \$6.55 an hour for a 40-hour work week. The program ended July 19, 2008. Overall, the youth were appreciative of the work skills they learned in their workplaces, but most importantly, they earned valuable work experience that should enhance their future employability.

GIS continued

....If you'd like to see what data we have listed in our inventory, go to www.ga.gisinventory.net and click the status map. When it displays, use the legend on the right side of the map to explore what we've input and you'll see that our region is definitely on the map!