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REGIONAL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- => 8 GARC, Atlanta
- => 7-9 ACCG, Atlanta
- => 16 Transist CMTE, Valdosta
- => 22 Council Meeting, Pearson

NOVEMBER

- => 4-6 GARC Training, St. Simons



in the REGION

A publication of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission

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

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SOUTH GEORGIA COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS TO BENEFIT FROM OVER \$9.2 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS

In August and September, Governor Sonny Perdue announced over \$51 million in grant awards to 103 Georgia communities. These grant awards were for the state's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act (CDBG-R) program, and the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP).

Over \$5.6 million in CDBG funds, \$2.4 million in CDBG-R funds, and \$1.1 million in CHIP funds were awarded to local governments in the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's region. The CDBG monies were granted to Atkinson, Berrien, Coffee, Pierce, and Tift counties and the cities of Alma, Argyle, Douglas, Homeland, Homerville, Ocilla, and Quitman. The CDBG-R funds were awarded to Bacon and Coffee counties and the cities of Blackshear, Douglas, and Sparks. Ben Hill and Lowndes counties as well as the cities of Douglas and Tifton were named as CHIP recipients.



Seen above is one of the streets slated for improvement with CDBG funds in the City of Homeland. Upon completion of the project, residents will no longer be forced to navigate these dangerous road conditions.

The Southern Georgia RC's Community Development Division prepared nine of the seventeen approved CDBG/CDBG-R applications in this region. The following is a description of the awards in South Georgia:

- Alma - \$500,000/CDBG – Sewer Improvements
- Argyle - \$475,118/CDBG – Water Improvements
- Atkinson County - \$458,875/CDBG – Health Center
- Bacon County - \$443,232/CDBG-R – Drainage and Streets Improvements

- Ben Hill County - \$300,000/CHIP – Housing Improvements
- Berrien County - \$500,000/CDBG – Boys & Girls Club
- Blackshear - \$500,000/CDBG-R – Economic Development
- Coffee County - \$500,000/CDBG – Drainage and Streets Improvements
- Coffee County - \$500,000/CDBG-R – Drainage and Streets Improvements
- Douglas – \$210,000/CDBG – Housing Improvements
- Douglas - \$500,000/CDBG-R – Economic Development
- Douglas - \$281,605/CHIP – Housing Improvements
- Homeland - \$269,377/CDBG – Drainage and Streets Improvements
- Homerville - \$500,000/CDBG – Sewer Improvements
- Lowndes County - \$300,000/CHIP – Housing Improvements
- Ocilla - \$400,775/CDBG – Sewer Improvements
- Pierce County - \$497,711/CDBG – Drainage and Streets Improvements
- Quitman - \$800,000/CDBG – Multi Activity Program
- Sparks - \$500,000/CDBG-R – Water Improvements
- Tift County - \$500,000/CDBG – Drainage and Streets Improvements
- Tifton - \$300,000/CHIP – Housing Improvements

The CDBG, CDBG-R, and CHIP grant programs are administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and focus on improving living conditions and economic opportunities in cities and counties throughout the state.



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Community & Economic Development

Contact: Sherry Davidson

Southeast Bioenergy Conference 2009

On August 11-13, staff from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission attended the 2009 Southeast Bioenergy Conference at the UGA Conference Center in Tifton. The tone of the conference was set by Dr. Robert Zubrin (author of the book *Energy Victory*) who expressed the need for breaking the economic stranglehold that oil has on the US and World. Over the three-day event, speakers from across the nation discussed topics related to Ethanol and Biodiesel Production, Feedstock Options and Challenges, Alternative and Hybrid Vehicles, Solar and Wind Power Advancements, Evolutions in Farm and Forestry Equipment, and Careers in Renewable Energy. Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and Senator Johnny Isakson also spoke at the conference, outlining the roles that the State of Georgia and Washington D.C. were taking in regard to Alternative Fuels. Exhibitors from all over the southeast were on hand to display alternative fuel and energy saving technologies. Keep a lookout for information on the 2010 Bioenergy Conference that will be held in August of 2010. More information can be found at: <http://www.sebioenergy.org/>.



Information Technology Services

Contact: Vance Roberts

IT Department Holds Demonstration On New Software Version

The IT department has begun demonstrating the new version of the Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Payroll, Purchasing, Citizen Request, and Utility Billing systems to the area cities and counties. These systems are available in AVR PC programming and provide the user many tools to increase productivity. The most recent modification is the addition of recurring journal entries. This gives the user the ability to key in a journal entry one time into a file and copy that journal into their monthly journal as often as needed. Once the journal is copied, they only have to input the amount rather than keying in the entire journal entry each time. If you would like a demonstration of any of these systems, please contact the IT department at 229-242-1988.



Loan Services

Contact: Michelle Frey



SBA 504 LOAN ASSISTS ECG NETWORKS EXPANSION

ECG Networks has been in the technology business in Valdosta for over 10 years. Founded as a small technology consulting practice, the company has evolved into one of South Georgia's most respected information technology firms. ECG Networks offers a comprehensive suite of computer, telephone, and security solutions. Owners Robert Coop, Jeremy Colson, Derek Singletary, and Wane Bennett are committed to the small business market in South Georgia and North Florida.

In need of more space, the company gave up its lease and purchased an existing building located at 4069 Inner Perimeter Road. The expansion was financed by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission through a Small Business Administration 504 loan in participation with First State Bank and Trust of Valdosta. The expansion will create three new jobs.

Southern Georgia Regional Commission Employee Recognized For 15 Years Of Service

Charlotte Turner was recently recognized for 15 years of service to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. Charlotte works at the SGRC computer center in Valdosta.



Charlotte Turner & John Leonard, SGRC Executive Director

Charlotte is a Senior Programmer/Analyst. She develops and maintains customized computer applications for SGRC's local governments, primarily the City of Valdosta.

Congratulations!!!

Area Agency On Aging

Contact: Wanda Taft

Alzheimer's Seminars Provide Guidance To Area Families and Caregivers



Sandra Haymon, Ph.D.

In September, the Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging welcomed Dr. Sandra W. Haymon to speak about Alzheimer's disease to residents of Douglas, Tifton and Valdosta. Dr. Haymon, popular author and speaker, is an expert on the tremendous burden that Alzheimer's disease can place on families and caregivers.

Dr. Haymon's presentations addressed the emotions commonly felt by those who suffer with the disease, their caregivers, and their family members. She also offered advice on how to say goodbye before and after a loved one passes.

According to the speaker, her goal is to provide a greater understanding of "the multitude of social and economic choices faced

by an entire generation while balancing their own needs and the needs of elderly loved ones." She also addressed the substantial effect that the Baby Boomer generation will have on the healthcare and Medicare systems.

Dr. Haymon was asked what motivated her to begin her work in this area and what she hoped to achieve. She responded, "Thirteen years ago, I had two adults in diapers. At that time, there was no information on Alzheimer's or how to be a caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's." However, when she was approached by a colleague who was being inundated with calls about the topic, she agreed to conduct a seminar "from the point of view of someone living it." There was such an interest that she was asked to write about the subject.

Dr. Haymon says that because much of her work has stemmed from personal experiences with her own parents, her desire has

always been to help those who are in similar situations. She says that she enjoys providing others resources and guidance on what to expect and how to provide the best care for their loved ones.

The seminars attracted crowds of people who are struggling with the pressures of caring for loved-ones suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Numerous attendees said that they could personally identify with many of the situations that Dr. Haymon refers to in her presentations. One attendee, Ms. Francis Brown of Douglas, said, "I thoroughly enjoyed tonight. Dr. Haymon has taught me so much."

"There are approximately 78 million Baby Boomers in the U.S. today," Dr. Haymon stated. "On January 1, 2008, 10,000 people a day began turning 62. On January 1, 2011, 10,000 people will be turning 65 every day and will become eligible for Medicare benefits for the 18 years that follow."

Dr. Haymon's publications include *My Turn: Caring for Aging Parents and Other Elderly Loved Ones - A Daughter's Perspective* (1996), and her new book, *Baby Boomers - Sandwiched Between Retirement and Caregiving*. Dr. Haymon's presentations were sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, along with the assistance of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging, Cypress Pond Assisted Living At Home, Cypress Pond Assisted Senior Living, Maple Court Senior Residence, and Valdosta-Lowndes Senior Citizens Center.

Local Government Assistance

Contact: John Leonard/Lisa Cribb

Deep South Solid Waste Authority To Disburse \$600,000 to Members

Recognizing the dire financial straits that all local governments are facing in today's economy, the Board of Directors of the Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority has authorized a revenue sharing program to disburse nearly \$600,000 of the Authority's current funds to its six member local governments: Lowndes County, Berrien County, Lanier County, City of Valdosta, City of Nashville, and City of Lakeland. According to Authority Chairman Richard Lee, "these funds are intended to provide financial assistance to the member governments in sustaining and/or enhancing their existing solid waste management programs and activities. In light of the tight budgets that we are all having to grapple with, the Authority felt it appropriate at this

time to allocate these funds back to the members."

According to the program's guidelines, the funds may be used to reimburse the members for solid waste activities during the current fiscal year, but must be utilized by December 31, 2010. The allocation of the funds is based on a weighted formula that takes into account the members population and solid waste tonnage currently being disposed at the Veolia Environmental Services landfill in Lowndes County.

The Deep South Authority was formed in 1996 with the assistance of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, which has provided staffing to the Authority since its inception. Originally formed to build and operate its own Subtitle D landfill, the Authority opted in 2002 to sell its land and operating permit to Veolia and entered into a fifty-year agreement with Veolia that guarantees an extremely low tipping fee for the members and a royalty fee to the Authority for each ton of solid waste disposed of in the

landfill, regardless of origin.

Presentations of "Big Checks" representing the awarded funds are now underway to each members' governing authority. On September 14, representatives of the Authority and the SGRC presented the Lanier County Board of Commissioners their check for \$30,000, and on September 22, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners received their check in the amount of \$176,117.78. The remaining checks to be presented are: City of Nashville, \$30,000 on September 28; City of Valdosta, \$336,233.04 on October 8; Berrien County, \$14,997.03 on October 13; and City of Lakeland, \$10,000 on October 13.



SGRC Staff & Lanier County Officials