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REGIONAL CALENDAR

MAY

=> 25 Ocilla Legislative Day, Ocilla
=> 27 RC Council Mtg., Pearson
=> 31 Memorial Day, Holiday



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Cities, Counties Receive Grants for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy

Sixty-four communities in Georgia have earned grant funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, which is administered by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA). EECBG funds totaling \$13.3 million were available to small-to-medium sized cities and counties through GEFA as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Seven local governments in the SGRC region received EECBG funding.

- => Energy efficiency programs and incentives for residential and commercial sectors
- => Energy efficiency retrofits for local government facilities
- => Energy code compliance and training; and
- => Renewable energy installations.

Of the seven EECBGs awarded in the SGRC region, five were written and submitted by SGRC staff. They were: Ben Hill, Brooks, and Clinch Counties and the Cities of Tifton and Waycross. (See accompanying table for local project descriptions and award amounts.)

"Investment in energy efficient infrastructure creates jobs, promotes economic development and increases our citizens' quality of life," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "Financing renewable energy projects encourages good stewardship of our environment."

"Many local governments throughout Georgia are investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that will directly benefit their communities," said GEFA Executive Director Phil Foil. "I'm pleased that the EECBG program is helping local governments save energy."

EECBG funds for local governments were awarded following a competitive application process. Out of 84 applications, GEFA funded 57 projects benefiting 64 communities. General activities receiving EECBG funding include:

Applicant	Project Summary	Funding Awarded
Ben Hill County	Replace inefficient HVAC units and lighting in six county-owned facilities. In addition, the county will send one building maintenance employee to training for building operator certification. Energy savings resulting from the retrofits will be captured and set aside for future retrofits for other public facilities.	\$201,244
Brooks County	Three building retrofits at the County Courthouse, County Administration and Agriculture buildings to include HVAC and insulation upgrades, building operator certification training for one county employee.	\$139,187
Clinch County	Building retrofits and building operator certification training.	\$24,970
City of Douglas	Government building energy efficiency upgrades for the Martin Center, City Hall, and the City Airport terminal building.	\$293,327
City of Folkston	Retrofit the city's waste water treatment plant with energy efficient aerators.	\$300,000
City of Tifton	HVAC upgrades at the three historic buildings and provide building operator certification training.	\$299,970
City of Waycross	Government building retrofits. Energy savings resulting from the retrofits will be captured and set aside for future retrofits for other public facilities, building operator certification training for staff.	\$250,800



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Area Agency on Aging

Contact: Wanda Taft

Bacon County "Saves the School" And Help Seniors

It was a perfect solution to two issues

t h a t tugged at the hearts of many residents of Alma. The old Bacon County Primary School was in danger of being demolished, and the Bacon



Seniors at the new Bacon County Senior Center welcome Charlton County seniors to a St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 17.

County Senior Center needed a new home. However, thanks to a coordinated effort among area residents, local officials, and state legislators, a piece of Southern Georgia history was saved, and Bacon County

seniors now have a new home.

It all started when a group of seniors who had attended the school as children joined forces with local residents and created the "Save the School" committee. As a result of their efforts, the group received CDBG funding to transform the old school into a new senior center. Representative Jack Kingston, Senator Greg Goggans, Representative Tommy Smith and Roger Boatright, Chairman of the Bacon County Commission, provided invaluable support during the project.

According to Chairman Boatright, the newly renovated building is in the process of being transformed into a complex that can be enjoyed by the local community and by people passing through Bacon County. "The facility will include a welcome center, the Chamber of Commerce, a sports hall of fame, and a museum of local history," Boatright said. "Office space is also going to be rented out, so the complex will actually pay for itself."

The Bacon County Senior Center had operated at 5th Street in Alma since 1994, and

in that time attracted many senior residents with its activities, exercise programs and socialization opportunities. In fact, the program became so successful that it outgrew its facility and was in immediate need of additional space.

According to Chris Williams, Bacon County Senior Center site manager, the new facility provides 6,000 square feet of space, about twice the space available in the old building. "We now enjoy a dining room that seats 100, an arts and crafts room, a library with computers, a movie and exercise room, and a very large kitchen," said Williams. "Walls of expansive windows bring lots of light into the center and brighten everyone's day. The seniors are delighted."

The newly-renovated center opened its doors on March 4. To celebrate, a group of seniors from the Charlton County Senior Center traveled to Alma on March 17 to join the Bacon County seniors in a St. Patrick's Day luncheon. One senior who attended spoke for everyone when she said, "Our Senior Center is more than a building...(It) provides a chance to reach out to others in need, be active in our community, and make new friends."

Loan Services

Contact: Michelle Frey

Loan Board Approves \$2.8M in New Loans to Area Businesses

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission Loan Board of Directors met April 13th in Douglas, Georgia.

The Loan Board approved three SBA 504 loans for a total project amount of \$1,020,000. The SGRC/SBA percentage participation is 40%, or \$420,000 (including debenture costs). In addition, the board approved two Revolving Loan Fund Loans for a total project amount of \$1,768,040. The SGRC participation in those loans totals \$772,242. Staff also reported on packaging and closing an SBA 7a loan for \$758,000. SBA 7a loans do not require Loan Board approval.



The following Directors were present at the meeting:

- Gene Crews, Southeastern Bank, Brantley
- Mike Cave, Branch Banking & Trust, Ware
- John Flythe, Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Co. Econ. Dev., Ben Hill
- John Holcombe, Colony Bank, Lowndes
- Chris McCard, South Georgia Banking Co., Turner
- Charles Perry, Perry Funeral Chapel, Turner
- David Sumner, Mercury Insurance, Lowndes
- Bill Twomey, County Manager, Cook

Information Technology Services

Contact: Vance Roberts

Why Do You Need A Computer Antivirus Program?

Obviously the short answer to the above question is to protect your computer. Please trust me, it goes well beyond that, as you will soon learn.

If a virus infects your computer, in some cases it can actually use your computer to send itself to others. You will not know this is happening until you start getting emails from your friends and relatives wanting to know why you are sending them a virus. Some viruses can even send files from your computer to others, this could prove to be very embarrassing—do not let this happen to you. If you do not have an antivirus program on your computer, one that gives frequent updates, then you are not only leaving yourself unprotected, but also everyone that is in your address book. I recently saw where one of these viruses got into an address book then sent itself to others using the email addresses of the people that were in the address book. In other words if this happened to you and you had Grandma's email address in your book, emails containing the virus could be sent out saying it was from Grandma. People start calling Grandma to see what the heck she is doing.



Geographic Information Systems

Contact: Chris Strom

S. W. A. T.ing Mosquitoes? You can with GIS!



Those four letters stand for Special Weapons And Tactics (S.W.A.T.). While they are normally applied to law enforcement, we have some special weapons and tactics of our own to help S.W.A.T. mosquitoes in your communities.

It is the same thing every year; with the warming temperatures come all the usual springtime treats. New life to our flower beds and gardens, bees and butterflies, and then, those pesky mosquitoes! What comes next is easy to guess. The phones begin to ring at local government offices with requests to spray, dunk, and otherwise treat neighborhoods to keep the pests at bay.

One of the ways in which we have used GIS for this issue is to map mosquito trap locations and geographically chart the mosquito populations by species for each week of the mosquito season. The benefit to this method is that you, as a decision-maker, have an unbiased and fact-based tool to help you make decisions about manpower, treatment methods, and the locations you place emphasis on. You can also begin to compare these trap results with other map layers to identify possible sources of your mosquito problems.

Yet another way GIS has been applied to the problem is with recordkeeping in a geographic context. When a complaint is called in from citizens about mosquitoes, call takers in the community can go to an online map, place a mark on the map that indicates an active complaint and record details like date, caller name, etc. By presenting this list in the form of a map, the person responsible for treatment can easily see

where treatment is required. Once complaints are addressed and treatment has been performed, these calls can then be marked as completed.

At the end of the week, month, or season a report can be generated that illustrates the details of each call and its subsequent treatment. Because this data accrues on the map and can be combined with other layers, it begins to paint a picture of problem areas and any possible sources or breeding grounds for the pests.

If you have an idea about how we can help improve your mosquito swatting technique or just want to see it in action, give us a call. We are happy to help you put GIS on the frontline in your charge against mosquitoes.

Once they hatch, mosquitoes do not fly far from home, which means if you identify breeding grounds you will have adult mosquitoes!



Congratulations!!

Janice McKinnon of the Planning Division of the Waycross Office of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission received her Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in commencement ceremonies at Georgia Southwestern University in Americus, Georgia. Janice has been with the Regional Commission since December, 2004. Janice lives in Pearson, GA. Congratulations, Janice.

Workforce Investment

Contact: Marcia Gaskins/Cindy Eblin

Moultrie Tech Tifton Nursing Grads Top Nation's Test Average

Moultrie Technical College's Tifton campus practical nursing program graduates from Fall Quarter 2009 finished their first step.

Students are required to submit an application to the Georgia State Board of Nursing as well as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, or NCSBN. Following graduation from their respective colleges, aspiring practical nurses must then pass the difficult National Council Licensure Examination [NCLEX], or "boards", which is administered by the NCSBN. The exam covers all

aspects of professional nursing practice, specifically focusing on patient education, the nursing process and patient care.

Test-takers must pass the exam before they are allowed to begin working as licensed practical nurses, or LPNs. The NCLEX has a national passing average of just over 75 percent within the last 12 months.

According to results released in February, Moultrie Tech's recent class of Tifton Campus nursing graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate, surpassing their counterparts nationwide by 25 percent.

Congratulations to the entire class, including the five WIA students.

Anyone interested in finding out about WIA services can contact Cindy Baker (WIA Services Coordinator) at Moultrie Technical College 229-217-4166. Anyone interested in a career in practical nursing can contact

instructor Danny Warren, RN, BSN, at Moultrie Tech's Tifton campus at 229-391-2600 or can log onto the college website at www.moultrietech.edu for more information.



MTC Tifton practical nursing graduates pictured, left to right, prior to their candle lighting ceremony in December 2009, are Tonya Nipper (WIA), Alicia Vazquez, Susan Waldrop (WIA), Emily Moore, Laureen Dzapsku (WIA), Karla Erskine (WIA), and Christine Connell (WIA).