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REGIONAL CALENDAR

- June**
- => 22 Council Mtg., Pearson
 - => 23 Clerks Mtg., Douglas
- July**
- => 4 Independence Day
 - => 5 Holiday
 - => 27 Council Mtg., Pearson



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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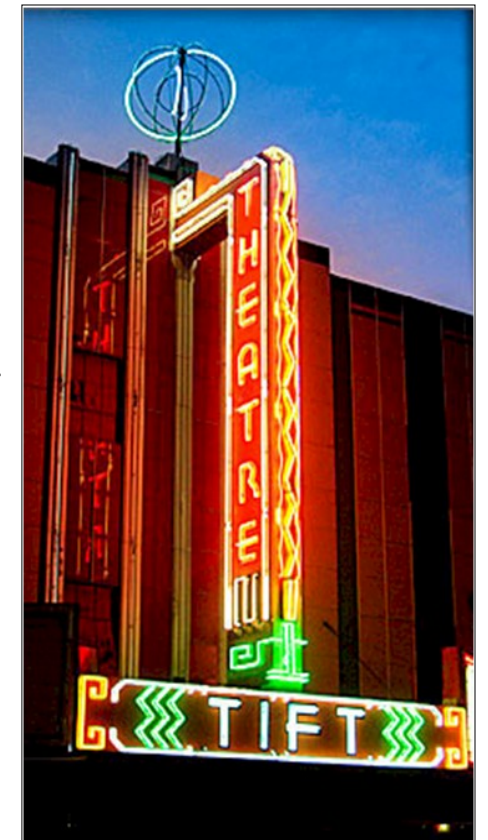
SGRC Assisting Five Local Governments With Energy Efficiency And Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Projects

The SGRC is working diligently to assist five local governments in implementing their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) programs. The grants were awarded to 64 communities this past March by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) which received \$13.3 million in EECBG funds as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The EECBG programs for the cities of Tifton and Waycross and the counties of Ben Hill, Brooks, and Clinch are being administered by the SGRC. Each program will focus on the retrofitting of public buildings to increase energy efficiency, thus saving taxpayer dollars.

The Cities of Tifton and Waycross as well as Brooks and Clinch Counties will utilize the EECBG funding to replace inefficient heating and air conditioning (HVAC) units, lighting, and insulation. Ben Hill County will replace inefficient HVAC units and lighting in several county-owned facilities. In addition, each local government will promote energy efficiency through operator training by sending at least one employee for Building Operator Certification. This certification will offer training on the efficient operation of utilities in public buildings.

Construction of the energy retrofit improvements should begin within 60-90 days.



One of the buildings slated for energy efficiency retrofits in Tifton is the historic Tift Theatre.



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Area Agency On Aging
Contact: Wanda Taft

The Southern Georgia Area Agency On Aging And Satilla Community Services Hold 1st Annual ADRC "Art and Soul" Open House and Art Show

The Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging and Satilla Community Services joined forces on May 19 to hold the 1st Annual Southern Georgia ADRC "Art and Soul" Open House and Art Show. The event, which was held at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission office in Waycross, provided professionals and individuals dealing with issues related to aging or disability the opportunity to learn more about the ADRC program.



Residents from Baptist Village, along with artwork they submitted to the art show.

The art show showcased designs created by persons in the community with developmental disabilities and by residents of Baptist Village Retirement Community who suffered strokes. Awards were presented to the most outstanding entries. The open house introduced the community to the ADRC, the AAA's Aging and Disability Resource Connection. The Southern Georgia ADRC network, which includes Satilla Community Services and many other agencies within the community, serves as a one-stop shop for those searching for programs specifically designed to provide assistance to older adults and individuals with disabilities.

ADRCs are intended to serve as highly visible and trusted places where people of all incomes and ages can get information on a full range of long-term support options and to provide a single point of entry for access to public long-term support programs and benefits. To find out more about ways in which the ADRC can help you, contact Polly Wilson, ADRC Coordinator, at 1-888-732-4464.

The AAA would like to give special thanks to Baptist Village Retirement Community for allowing residents to participate in the program and to attend the event, Ed Sapp's Florists for donating floral arrangements, and the Brantley County High School Culinary Program for their catering services.

Information Technology
Contact: Vance Roberts

The City of Valdosta begins Cisco Unified Communications Deployment

The SGRC Data Processing Center in conjunction with AD-CAP Network Systems is beginning to replace the City of Valdosta's legacy PBX based voice telephone infrastructure with a Cisco Unified Communications Voiceover IP (VoIP) system. The new system will provide significant operational and productivity benefits by creating a single architecture that integrates data, voice, and video communications using a full suite of IP telephony services and endpoint devices.

The scope of the project will consist of deploying over 250 Cisco VoIP phones, multiple call processing servers, voicemail system, automated attendant, as well as soft phone, call center, and call reporting software. This tightly integrated unified suite of devices and applications will allow city employees to communicate using voice, real-time presence information, email, voicemail, and instant messaging in ways that will facilitate collaboration and greatly increase responsiveness to the needs of the citizens of Valdosta.

Loan Services
Contact: Michelle Frye

Equinox Chemicals SBA's 2010 Small Business Exporter of the Year



Thanks to the SBA, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, and Flint Community Bank, 2010 was a banner year for Albany-based Equinox Chemicals and its president, Mark Grimaldi. On May 5, Mr. Grimaldi accepted Georgia's Small Business Exporter of the Year Award from Terri Denison, director of the SBA's Georgia District. That same month, the SGRC's Certified Development Company received approval from SBA for a 504 loan to allow

the company to finance a \$3 million expansion of their plant. The expansion will create 20 to 40 jobs. Earlier in the year, the SGRC assisted the company in obtaining an SBA 7a loan guaranty to refinance debt on equipment. Both the 504 and the 7a were in participation with Flint Community Bank.

Since 2003, Mark Grimaldi has grown Equinox Chemicals from a two-person operation with one customer to a global chemical research and manufacturing company with 34 employees and a significant customer base around the world.

Under Grimaldi's leadership, Equinox Chemicals has developed major customers for its products in over a half dozen countries including France, Italy, Germany and South Korea. At the same time, he expanded his product line by specializing in the development of organic molecules used in pharmaceuticals, food, flavor, industrial coatings, polymers, alternative fuels, and other specialty chemicals.

Geographic Information Systems
Contact: Chris Strom

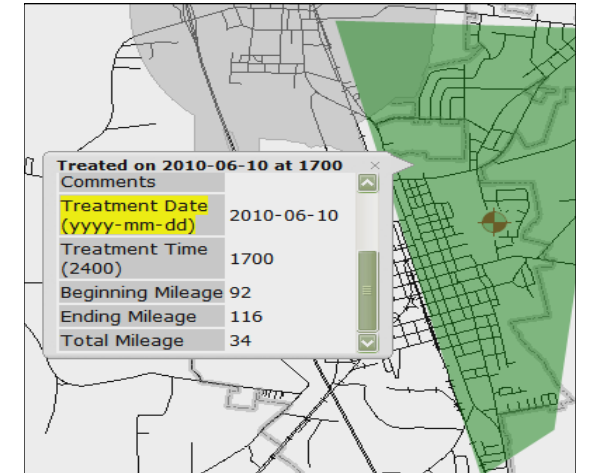
City of Adel Takes Delivery of First-of-a-kind Database

In this newsletter a few months ago, you may remember reading about new GIS technologies the SGRC has deployed that allow communities to build their own GIS data with nothing more than an internet browser. And, just last month, this article illustrated how the GIS program can help communities to combat the mosquitoes as the weather warms up.

The City of Adel and SGRC partnered up combine these two ideas into a first-of-it's-kind database for the community's mosquito program. This Larvacide, Adulticide, Nuisance Database and Mapping



(LANDM) application allows the City to interact with a map to input information about every nuisance complaint and treatment application throughout the entire mosquito season. Using nothing more than Internet Explorer, City staff are able to record the geographic extent of every treatment. Furthermore, the City can query this database to produce maps and tabular



results that assist with meeting inspection and record-keeping requirements as well as helping to plan for mosquito control as the season progresses and for future years.

The City of Adel is the first to utilize this GIS method of record keeping but will surely not be the last. The benefits of this go well beyond record-keeping. As with any GIS data, it allows users to see their issues in a whole new light. LANDM can provide communities with an opportunity to capture that valuable spatial data which can be used to improve mosquito prevention and response.

For more information or a demonstration of this exciting new tool, contact the SGRC-GIS department.

Workforce Investment
Contact: Marcia Gaskins/Cindy Eblin

Douglas Summer Youth Orientation

Earlier this year, the Georgia Department of Labor made available \$33 million for summer jobs for youth ages 14-18. These funds were distributed statewide via the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and were earmarked specifically for employment for youth during the summer months.

The Southeast Georgia WIB received approximately \$550,000 and the South Georgia WIB received approximately \$950,000 to pay wages for a total of 475 youth in the eighteen county region. From June 7th through August 13th, these young people will be employed in various positions at both public and private businesses. Some of the occupations for which these youth will be trained include medical records transfer, park assistant, child care assis-

tants, recreation worker, office clerk, landscaping/grounds-keeping, personal care aide, library assistant, and floral designer.

Recently, Stanley Lott of the Douglas Career Center, Georgia Department of Labor, and Roberta Lovett and Elizabeth Baldwin of the Workforce Development Division of the SGRC provided pre-employment workshops for youth from Atkinson and Coffee counties. Information provided covered topics such as work ethic, reporting time worked, conduct on the job, job interview tips, etc. These workshops were repeated in all eighteen counties in the region.

