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REGIONAL CALENDAR

August

- => 18 Area Clerks, Lakeland
- => 23 SGRC Council, Pearson
- => 24 Area Aging, Nashville
- => 24 GARC, ED Pros, Macon

September

- => 1 GARC, Macon
- => 5 Labor Day
- => 21-23 GEDA, Savannah
- => 27 SGRC Council, Pearson

in the REGION



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Region's Chief Elected Officials, Economic Development Pros Attend Meeting in Nashville

A large crowd was in attendance at the quarterly meeting of the Regional Economic Development Professionals (EDPros) held on August 5th in Nashville. Numerous Mayors, Chairmen, and Economic Development Professionals were on hand to hear Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Mike Beatty, who was the guest speaker.

Commissioner Beatty's address touched on the vision of DCA and the growing partnership between his agency and the Regional Commissions. In addition, the Commissioner discussed the reorganization of the OneGeorgia Authority and the establishment of the Center for Rural Policy that will soon be located in Tifton. Commissioner Beatty also encouraged the 50 attendees to mark their calendars for the Celebrating Rural Georgia Conference that will be held in Tifton in mid-October. He also introduced Lynn Ashcraft who was recently named the new Team Georgia Manager for Region 11. Ms. Ashcraft stated

that she was looking forward to working with all of the local governments in the region.

Also on the agenda were Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) staffers Michelle Frey and Kimberly Hobbs. Ms. Frey reviewed the SGRC's Loan Program 2011 Annual Report and noted that the loan program had closed nine loans totaling \$3.8 million. Ms. Hobbs reported that the Community & Economic Development division was currently overseeing 52 open or pending projects in the 18-county region, totaling \$21.5 million in grant funds.



BHT Director Dawn Morrison and DCA Commissioner Mike Beatty.



The EDPros meeting was hosted by the Berrien County Development Authority, the Berrien County Chamber of Commerce, and the Nashville Better Home Town program. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dawn Morrison, Better Hometown Director, presented Commissioner Beatty a gift basket filled with products from Nashville/Berrien County.



327 W. Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

1725 S. Georgia Pkwy, West
Waycross, Georgia 31503

Area Agency On Aging
Contact: Wanda Taft

**AAA's Bowling 4 Seniors Tournament
A Big Success**

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) held its first Bowling 4 Seniors tournament at Tift County Lanes in Tifton on Saturday, July 30. The tournament was intended to raise awareness in the community about the needs of seniors and to raise funds to provide assistance to these individuals.

"The turnout for the event was outstanding," said Wanda Taft, Director of Aging Services. "People from Tifton and surrounding areas pitched in and helped us make this event a huge success. We raised over \$6,000 which will be used to assist needy older adults in the AAA's 18-county region. Sometimes seniors need assistance with things that can't be paid for with state or federal funds, and in those cases, we depend on fundraiser money to fill the gaps. We're already planning next year's event, so make plans now to join us in 2012!"

The 2011 Bowling 4 Seniors committee was made up of Penny Covington Womble, Connie Covington Booth, Ramona Covington Bennett, Melba Scarbrough, City of Tifton's Main Street Promotions Coordinator Fran Kinchen, and Marsha Stacy, AAA Kinship Care Specialist.

"After their mother suffered a stroke, the Covington family found home healthcare services through the AAA. When

they realized they could do something to help the AAA meet the needs of even more seniors, they presented the idea for this fundraiser," continued Taft. "The AAA is fortunate to have come in contact with such a generous family and fortunate to have such a committed staff of employees who go the extra mile for clients."

To kick off the event, Tifton Mayor Jamie Cater welcomed the crowd and thanked everyone present for their support. Three local teams received trophies for their winning scores, and all bowlers received goody bags and T-shirts for their participation.

Sponsors of the tournament included Altamaha HomeCare Inc., Diversified Resources Inc., Thornhill Lawn Care, Tift Regional Medical Center, Wendy's of Tifton, Covington Motors, Labor Finders, Paulk Insurance, Tift ResCare and Workmen's Circle Credit Union.



(Left to right) Penny Covington Womble, Melba Scarbrough, Ramona Covington Bennett, Ms. Nancy Covington, Tifton Mayor Jamie Cater, Connie Covington Booth and Sam Booth



AAA staff members (seated) Wanda Taft, Glenda Lang, Bridget Delaney, Marsha Stacy (standing) Marie Hiers, Scott Courson, Vickie Wainright, and Sabrina Carver

Community and Economic Development
Contact: Sherry Davidson

**Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR)
Executive Committee Selects Projects**

After a series of meetings the Southern Georgia Regional Transportation Roundtable Executive Committee selected a draft Constrained Investment List to submit to the entire Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR) at their next meeting on August 23, 2011. The draft Con-

strained list contains nearly \$495 million of transportation investments throughout the region. Each county has at least one project and the Executive Committee attempted to equitably split revenues amongst all jurisdictions according to population and projects of regional importance. It is now up to the RTR to review the projects and make any changes before the project list is presented at a series of public meetings to be held in September.

The RTR will have a final vote on the selection of projects no later than October 15, 2011. For more information on the projects considered visit our website at www.sgrc.us/transportation or call Corey Hull at 229-333-5277.

Geographical Information System
Contact: Chris Strom

**ArcView Training Classes
Scheduled for September**

It's time again for our annual GIS software training classes. September 12—14, 2011 we will host beginning ArcView and Advanced ArcView classes. Both classes will be taught with the latest version of ArcGIS 10. These classes will be held at Wiregrass Technical College in Valdosta and registration for the class is \$260 per student. Class limit is 15 seats so don't wait to register.

To register for the class, please contact Michael Rivera at 229-333-5277 or mrivera@sgrc.us.

Got a GIS software question?

From time to time, even the most savvy GIS users have questions. When that time comes for you, remember we're here to help and give us a call. If we need to, we can even share your computer screen so we can see your issue first hand and get you back on track in no time.



Ben Hill County GIS data hits the web !

In late July, Ben Hill County took delivery of their first interactive web mapping application. This application was built for the County by SGRC GIS and features many layers from the County's GIS inventory. Among them are voting districts, parcel boundaries, zoning classifications, aerial photography and many other layers.

This new web application will allow citizens to access information and answer questions they would normally have to request in-person and is therefore expected to reduce traffic in some of the county offices. Another benefit of this web application is that it reduces software expenses for county departments who need to access GIS data layers. The county's new web mapping application can be found at www.sgwebmaps.com/benhill

If a web mapping application could benefit your community, or just want to know more, please give us a call.

Loan Services
Contact: Michelle Frey

**Dr. Larry Black Jr. DMD & Dr. Eric Castor DMD Valdosta
Family Dentistry Assisted by Loan Program**

Valdosta Family Dentistry is owned by Dr. Larry M. Black Jr. DMD and Dr. Eric A. Castor DMD. Both are U.S. Military veterans and are graduates of the Medical College of Georgia. Both operate their own independent practices – Quitman Family Dentistry and Lakeland Family Dentistry. Valdosta Family Dentistry was created to provide high quality affordable dental care to people of all ages in the Valdosta area and surrounding counties. Valdosta Family Dentistry is a full service general practice. They are one of the few area providers that began taking the insurance plans for most of the larger area employers. They file insurance and coordinate benefits for their patients which set them apart from many of their competitors. They have requested funding to expand their practice by purchasing a suite adjacent to their current location. The new suite will allow them to see more clients and provide better service. They are located at 2935 N. Ashley St., Suite 130, Valdosta. The SGRC RLF loan program and Bank of the Ozarks (formerly Park Avenue Bank) of Valdosta financed the purchase and renovations of the building. There were five jobs created.



Information Technology
Contact: Vance Roberts

Department of Revenue Offers New Service

The Department of Revenue is offering a new service to verify that businesses have paid their state tax and assure that municipalities are receiving their portion. In order to take advantage of this service, there is a new Business License System that will include the ability to transmit to the DOR. This system also streamlines the payment process and assures that a business pays for delinquent licenses prior to renewing for the current year. If you would like more information on this or any system, please call Judy Camp at 229-242-1988.