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Randy Crenshaw

REGIONAL CALENDAR

March

- => 22 SGRC Council Mtg. Meeting, Pearson
- => 30 Moody, JLUS, RC

April

- => 26 SGRC Council Mtg., Pearson
- => 30- May 2 ACCG, Savannah



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\$1.3 Million in EDA and CDBG-EIP Funding Will Create Manufacturing Jobs In Adel

The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced an \$811,500 grant to the City of Adel to make water and roadway improvements to serve the Osceola Steel Company's new micro-steel mill. The facility will use innovative technologies to recycle steel scrap into products used in road and building construction. The project is expected to create 105 jobs and generate \$70 million in private investment. In addition to the EDA funding, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has awarded \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program (CDBG-EIP) funds for the infrastructure improvements.

In commenting about the EDA grant award, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez said, "The Obama administration is committed to helping America's regions make investments in innovation that advance our global competitiveness and create the industries and jobs of tomorrow. This EDA investment will support the innovation infrastructure being employed to expand the southern Georgia manufacturing base."

The EDA grant aligns with the Agency's priority to advance public/private partnerships, global competitiveness and environmentally-sustainable development. President Obama highlighted the need to advance the clean energy economy to bolster the nation's manufacturing sector in his 2011 State of the Union address. "The city of Adel is delighted to have been awarded the EDA and CDBG-EIP grants. The infrastructure that will be installed utilizing these funds will enable a new industry to create 105 jobs that will greatly benefit Adel, Cook County, and the region," said Richard Barr, Mayor of Adel. "The creation of jobs in a community generates ripples of prosperity and produces positive economic impacts, both direct and indirect. We are excited about this project and its impact on our community's future."

The EDA and CDBG-EIP investments include the installation of a water main and construction of an asphalt road at the Osceola Steel Company's new micro steel mill in the city of Adel, which will operate 430,000 tons of steel per year. Once completed, the manufacturing facility will create jobs for equipment and machine operators, mechanics and electricians, as well as supervisory, administrative, and engineering positions.

The grant applications were prepared and submitted by the staff of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, and each will be administered by the SGRC.



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Area Agency On Aging

Contact: Wanda Taft

Southern Georgia AAA Staff Members Complete Boston University Certificate In Aging Program

In 2010, the Georgia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (G4A) agreed to provide scholarships through Boston University's Social Work Program to 25 local AAA staff members interested in the field of geriatric treatment and



Southern Georgia

AAA staff members Laura Sapp, RN, CIRS-A, Gateway Supervisor, and Claire Larson, Program Manager, entered the program as part of the group sponsored by G4A, and both recently received the Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW) Certificate in Aging.

In order to earn a Certificate in Aging, each participant is required to complete 3 core courses and 2 elective courses, along with a pre and post-learning assessment, pass an online assessment, and complete an online evaluation for each course. Courses offered include Geriatric Assessment, Mental Health and Aging Issues, Suicide Prevention among Older Adults, and Diversity and Cultural Competence in Aging.

According to Boston University, the Certificate of Aging program offers relevant information for all individuals with an interest in aging, from those just entering geriatrics to others with more ex-

perience in the field. Claire has been employed by the AAA for 9 years but says that participating in the program allowed her "to gain a better insight into aging programs" with which she was previously unfamiliar.

Laura acknowledges that, even though she has years of experience in aging, she gained a new perspective from her training. "The courses highlighted many of the challenges we are facing in aging and will help me to choose appropriate educational opportunities for AAA staff so that we are prepared for the future," Laura said.

The partnership between G4A and Boston University has been a successful venture with more than half of participants completing the program by mid-January. In the future, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) will be working closely with Boston University to develop curriculum and a certificate program for case management.

Loan Services

Contact: Michelle Frey

Loan Program Assists Dr. Laura Efav Center of Healing and Wellness

Dr. Lora Fulp Efav is a primary care physician who has been a resident of Tifton since 1996. She graduated from the Medical College of Georgia and began her own private practice Center for Healing and Wellness, LLC in 2002. Her practice has been very successful and continues to grow. She specializes in whole body medicine and uses many natural remedies in her course of treatment. In recent years, she has added an IV clinic and began a program to reach out to terminally ill patients.

Dr. Efav is currently leasing her office building on Old Ocilla Rd. and has requested funding to construct a 7,445 square foot office in Cypress Pointe Professional Park. The new office will allow her more space to accommodate more patients in the IV clinic which is the only one south of Macon. Cypress Pointe Professional Park is located on Kent Road in the vicinity of Tift Regional Medical Center. The SGRC RLF loan program and Ameris Bank of Tifton financed the construction of the new building.



Information Technology

Contact: Vance Roberts

IT Department Develops New Web Application For Valdosta Police Department

The Valdosta Police Department has deployed web application developed by the IT Department to allow citizens to report certain non-emergency crimes from the internet. The report is then made available to supervisors at the Police Department to review and follow up on if necessary. Once a report has been reviewed the citizen



Community and Economic Development

Contact: Sherry Davidson

Local Governments to Submit Transportation Projects

All of the local governments in the Southern Georgia Region are encouraged to submit regional transportation projects to the Regional Commission by March 30, 2011 to be included on the *Unconstrained Investment List* that will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR) later this summer.

The *Unconstrained Investment List* is a listing of regional projects that the RTR and its Executive Committee will review and select projects from that will be presented to the voters

as a part of the proposed 1% sales tax referendum for regional transportation in the summer of 2012.

Local governments are asked to submit projects on the 'Project Submission Form' available on the SGRC website at www.sgrc.us/transportation. All projects submitted must meet the eligibility criteria also found on the website. In general the projects must serve a regional transportation purpose. Local governments are encouraged to contact SGRC staff to ask questions about submitting these projects. All project forms must be submitted to the SGRC no later than March 30, 2011. If you have questions please contact Corey Hull or Janice McKinnon at 229-333-5277.

...continued from IT

will receive an e-mail with a permanent case number for reference.

Similar systems have been implemented in other cities and have provided a reduction in the number of calls an officer has to respond to in person. This program will not only reduce the workload of officers, but it will provide a convenient way for citizen to report an incident from home.

Geographical Information System

Contact: Chris Strom

GIS Staff Learns Python Programming Language



Our GIS program staff are constantly striving to create opportunities that our regional governments can take advantage of. Many times, these opportunities are in the form of project innovations such as online GIS editing tools, new data capture methods and other ways of helping you get more bang for less buck. To accomplish this, we are also continuously learning about the latest tools and finding ways to put them to work. In the last couple of months, we have invested in

learning Python programming language. While the technical benefits of this achievement are numerous, the end result is that your regional commission is one of a very few in the state that can now speak this programming language. Furthermore, for you-our customers, it means that we can assist you with the creation of customized tools and buttons within your GIS software that significantly reduces mundane and repetitive tasks that you or your staff may perform in the GIS environment.

So if you get tired of clicking the same buttons in the same order to get the same product using your out-of-the-box

ArcGIS software, give us a call. We can make getting to the end result a lot easier and quicker for you.

GIS Software Maintenance- Why?

Many of our customers call us with this question. Here's the top 3 reasons your ArcGIS software maintenance is important to budget for and keep up.

- Yearly maintenance entitles you to the latest software releases.
- Our GIS program is always building/maintaining data in the most current version. For you/your staff to be able to use some of it, we need to be on the same version.
- You get free technical support from ESRI.

If you're not sure what version you are using and if your software maintenance is current, give us a call.

Local Government Assistance

Contact: John Leonard/Lisa Cribb

Lisa Cribb and Wanda Taft Walk Away With SGRC Wellness Challenge

Don't challenge Lisa Cribb or Wanda Taft to a contest unless you're ready to be on your toes, literally. In February, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission held its "Stepping Your Way to Living Well" wellness challenge which pitted 26 two-person teams against each other as part of a health education and awareness program.

The contest required each team to focus on several health goals for a 4-week period. The goals included keeping a food journal, eating 5 servings of fruits or vegetables, practicing a daily stress

reduction exercise, monitoring blood pressure, consuming 25 grams of fiber, drinking 64 ounces of water and walking at least 7,500 steps each day. The winning team was determined by calculating total points for the month-long contest.

Although all teams involved showed great dedication and resolve in meeting their well-

ness goals during the challenge, the team of Cribb and Taft took the lead by accumulating an incredible 1,078,427 total points which included



Wellness Warriors Wanda Taft (left), Director of Aging Services, and Lisa Cribb (right), Assistant Executive Director, won the SGRC's "Stepping Your Way to Living Well" wellness challenge by walking a whopping 1,078,216 steps!

1,078,216 steps! The team of Angela Wall and Whitney Biggers came in second with 788,908 steps and a total of 789,129 points.

According to Area Agency on Aging Wellness Coordinator Bridget Delaney, organizer of the event, even though the contest is over, staff members continue to benefit from the knowledge they gained from it. "The wellness challenge was designed and implemented to educate SGRC staff about the importance of physical activity, stress management, health screenings and proper nutrition," Bridget said. "By the end of the four-week challenge, staff members had really taken charge and made the program their own. Many staff members are continuing to walk and watch their diets, and that's exactly the outcome we had hoped to achieve!"

Workforce Investment

Contact: Marcia Gaskins

Turner County WIA-Paxen Students Complete Job Readiness Program

Turner county completed the WIA-Paxen Job Readiness program on March 8, 2011 in record time. The students and instructors agreed to meet four days a week until completion. The students reported they really enjoyed the program, especially the groups and interpersonal skills curriculum. As a program celebration the enjoyed a pizza party with celebratory cupcakes as well as were presented with certificates of completion. This particular program was reestablished this program year and was a success. Both staff an students report that they look forward to next year and continually inform others in the school and community about the benefits of the youth program.



Turner County Participant - Left to right: Mrs. Shepard, Kelsey Royal, Shabrekia Vail, Cyntoria Sheffield, Shanquavia Hamilton, Amecca Hunt, Tondriell Pew, Ashley Wade, Ms. Lott, Latonya Yarell, Whitney Thompkins, Samantha Neerry, Front: Shabrekia Rogers, Lamesha Gaskins