Some of What You Will Find in this Edition!

The Safe Routes To School program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity...page 3

Great Promise Partnership teams up at risk of not graduating youth with mentor companies ...page 6

We continue our Keeping it Local column this quarter featuring local agriculture and the push to market it to local consumers...page 16

In response to a tough job market, we share the outlook for various career fields. Is your career field on the “hot list”?....page 17

We continue our It is History column this quarter featuring the Zebulon in Cairo and the round Police Station in Donalsonville...page 15

From the Executive Director...

Fall is here and that means it is time for our Legislative Reception! Each year our Southwest Georgia Legislatures are invited to a our October meeting so that we can get a chance to thank them for all they do for our counties, cities, and citizens. I anticipate an enjoyable evening for everyone.

Please don’t forget to get your applications in for your CDBGs or contact us for information on applying for your CDBGs now. They do take a bit of time to prepare correctly and thoroughly.

Robert McDaniel
SWGRC Director
Congratulations and Kudos!

Downtown Bainbridge received the top award for their economic development, organization, promotions, and design at the annual Georgia Downtown Conference Awards of Excellence. The DDA has been working on branding and promoting its downtown area for quite some time. Along with revitalization projects, all of these efforts have not just paid off with the crystal trophy and a $500 award, but the biggest reward, a downtown area that all of the citizens can enjoy and be proud of.

The Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority is Amanda Glover. She has been at the helm for 15 years, nurturing the downtown Bainbridge area to the excellence it is recognized for today. Ms. Glover has earned level one certification as a Georgia downtown development professional. She has plans to work her way up to the highest certification level. If her success with the Bainbridge Downtown area is a reflection of her determination, she should have no problem reaching that goal soon.

The next time you go through Bainbridge, or better yet make a special trip to Bainbridge, visit the downtown area (which the locals refer to as “The Square”) and enjoy the trendy shops, historical buildings, art gallery, museum, brick streets, programs in the park, and delicious food establishments. You will soon discover that when Governor Deal said that downtown areas are the heart of a community, he was spot on.

Bainbridge Downtown Development Authority Vision and Mission:

Vision: To create a desirable, vibrant and thriving shopping atmosphere by encouraging community awareness on the importance of downtown as the most vital economic force in the city.

Mission: The mission of the Downtown Development Authority is to enhance our community identity and heritage, to foster a center of activity and to ensure economic stability for the heart of Bainbridge. This mission is achieved by utilizing the Main street 4-point approach: Design, Promotion, Economic Restructuring and Organization.

Employee Spotlight

In 2005 Laura Davis decided to make Moultrie, Georgia her home. She was originally from Indiana. Laura joined Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in December 2007 in our Non-Emergency Transportation Department as the Accounting Supervisor and currently works in the Accounting Department as Payroll Coordinator/HR Assistant. Her work history includes extensive experience in billing and accounts payable. Laura processes payroll, accounts payable, performs HR and other accounting functions. Laura currently resides in Colquitt County with her husband and two children. In her spare time she enjoys crafting and scrapbooking.

Laura Davis, Accounts Payable
The Safe Routes To School program allows children in communities to bike and walk to school safely. Whether it requires new sidewalks, safety education, or signage, this program will partner with the schools and communities to remedy anything keeping children from biking and walking safely.

Chelsea Carter is the Southwest Georgia Territory Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator. We were fortunate to have her attend one of our SWGRC Council Meetings and present information to the Council Members from our 14 County/44 City region. You can find the information below.

This program began in 2005 and was originally part of a 5-year transportation Bill. The program is funded by $16.9 million dollars of funding provided by the SAFETEA_LU at the federal level.

Partners participating in the Southwest Regional Commission Area include:
- Albany Area YMCA
- Albany Safe Communities, Baker County K-12, Baker County School System, C.A. Gray Jr. High School
- City of Albany, City of Albany Police Department
- City of Moultrie, City of Sylvester, Cox Elementary School, DCSS Police Department, DCSS Safe and Drug Free Schools, DCSS School Nutrition Services
- Dougherty County School System, Dougherty County School System-Child Nutrition, Dougherty County School System-Department of Transportation
- Dougherty County School System-Police Department
- Dougherty County School System-Safe and Drug Free Schools, Lake Park Elementary School, Moultrie Chamber of Commerce, Moultrie-YMCA, Norman Park Elementary School, Phoebe Putney Health System-Network of Trust, R.B. Wright Elementary School
- Radium Springs Middle School, Sherwood Acres Elementary School, Sunset Elementary School
- Sylvester Road Elementary School, Willie J. Williams Middle School, and Worth County Middle School.

If you do not see your organization or local schools on the Partnership List, please contact the Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator for our area:

Chelsea Carter
Chelsea@SafeRoutesGA.org
(404) 387-9579
## Save the Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 25</strong></td>
<td>Southwest Georgia Regional Commission’s Environmental and Natural Resources Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at the Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. Call Steve O’Neil at 229-522-3552 x1616 or Jeff Hamilton at 229-522-3552 x1622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 25</strong></td>
<td>Southwest Georgia Regional Commission’s Human Services Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room at the Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. Call Barbara Reddick at 229-522-3552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 25</strong></td>
<td>Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Meeting convenes at 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 30</strong></td>
<td>Leadership and Communication Training 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla Georgia 31730. 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.  Jenny Robbins, Georgia EMC; Community Development Consultant, encourages current and emerging leaders, elected officials, organizational directors, human resources</td>
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### October

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 4</strong></td>
<td>Call In To Connect 2014  230 South Jackson Street, Albany, Georgia 31701  10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.  Individuals can call a dedicated line and receive referrals for assistance with foreclosure prevention, fair housing counseling, credit counseling, and resources and information for first time home buyers while on the phone, in person and/or through follow-up appointments.  The call line is 229-420-4600.  For more information call Barbara Reddick at 229-522-3552 x1618.  see page 6 of this newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 15</strong></td>
<td>Affordable Care Act Lunch and Learn  -  Call Barbara Reddick at 229-522-3552 x1618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 23</strong></td>
<td>Affordable Care Act Lunch and Learn  -  Call Barbara Reddick at 229-522-3552 x1618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 22-23</strong></td>
<td>CHIP workshop in Cordele at Lake Blackshear  Call Brenda Wade at 229-522-3552 x1606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 30</strong></td>
<td>Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting convenes at 7:00 p.m.</td>
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### November

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 18</strong></td>
<td>CDBG Deadline for Project Identification!!!  Call Barbara Reddick at 229-522-3552</td>
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### December

Traditionally the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting for November and December are combined. The meeting date and time will be announced at the October 29 meeting. Call Heather after November 1 at 229-522-3552 for this information. Council members will be notified and the meeting date will be published as usual.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Staff wishes you and your family a safe, happy holiday season filled with many moments that will make happy memories.
We have bid a farewell to Ms. Linda Hayward. Ms. Linda was sent to us by SWGA Workforce 44 for 10 weeks so that she could gain experience to enter the work force and find permanent work. Ms. Linda worked for Cooper Tire for 10 1/2 years before they shut down. She then attended Albany Tech and earned a degree in Business Administration Technology. She is ready to begin her new career wherever that may take her.

When Ms. Linda is not dazzling folks with her customer service or data entry skills she enjoys cooking and spending time with her family. Her favorite time of year is coming quickly—Thanksgiving. It is a time to spend with her family and cook her specialty, collard greens!

She said she enjoyed this job and working with the good people at the Regional Commission.

Call In To Connect

After a very successful Call In To Connect event in 2013 we offer you Call In To Connect 2014. Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. individuals can call a dedicated line and receive referrals for assistance with foreclosure prevention counseling, fair housing counseling, credit counseling, and resources and information for first time home buyers, while on the phone, in person and/or through follow-up appointments.

The Regional Collaboration will be hosting this telethon-style counseling event. The event is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (D.C.A.) and the Southwest Georgia Regional Collaborative.

Foreclosure Prevention
First Time Homebuyers
Credit Counseling    Home Repair
Rental Assistance

October 4, 2014      10am-2pm     229.420.4600
230 South Jackson Street     Albany, GA 31701

SWGJA Workforce 44 Internship at SWGRC

We have bid a farewell to Ms. Linda Hayward. Ms. Linda was sent to us by SWGA Workforce 44 for 10 weeks so that she could gain experience to enter the work force and find permanent work. Ms. Linda worked for Cooper Tire for 10 1/2 years before they shut down. She then attended Albany Tech and earned a degree in Business Administration Technology. She is ready to begin her new career wherever that may take her.

When Ms. Linda is not dazzling folks with her customer service or data entry skills she enjoys cooking and spending time with her family. Her favorite time of year is coming quickly—Thanksgiving. It is a time to spend with her family and cook her specialty, collard greens!

She said she enjoyed this job and working with the good people at the Regional Commission.
Great Promise Partnership

is everything it’s name implies. Originally sponsored by the D.C.A., The Great Promise Partnership is now an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Along with its sponsors, this organization is working with at risk young adults that are at risk of not earning a high school diploma. They promise these youth that if they continue working towards that diploma, they will in turn support their aspirations for higher education, service in the military or entering the workforce after graduation. This program was modeled on the Southwire Company’s 12 for Life program. This program allows teens 16 and older to spend part of the day and school and part of the day at a job site. The benefit is on–the-job training at real entry-level jobs, mentoring, life and career skill sessions. Students also have the opportunity to earn pay raised based on job and academic performance, attendance, and behavior.

What are the criteria?

♦ Students at risk of dropping out of high school
♦ Students who qualify for free or reduced priced lunch
♦ Students without major or consistent behavioral problems
♦ Students showing high potential but who don’t typically qualify for other programs
♦ For 12 for Life Workplace, students must also be at least 16 years old and eligible to work in Georgia.

Mike Beatty is the President & CEO of Great Promise Partnership, Inc. since August 2013. He was formerly the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Mike Beatty has history as an educator and a businessman which combined with the service in the Department of Community Affairs, gives him the optimal background to take the helm of this movement. We were fortunate to have him bring his Great Promise Partnership message to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission’s August meeting.

For more information contact GPP by calling 404-694-0328 or http://gppartnership.org

For our digital readers, click on a link below:

History

Success Stories

Getting Involved
Can you imagine your life without your mobile phone or the internet? Well, for most of us the answer would be “no”. The Digital Economy is critical to our economy! The Digital Economy is the network of economic and social activities that are enabled by information and communication technologies such as internet and mobile devices. Communities that have skilled labor and broadband technology services (ICT) now rank higher than other major programs, only labor costs and roads are above them (See Chart).

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission is in the final phase of developing a Digital Economy Plan for Region 10. Your input is needed as we continue to collect data to assess our region’s broadband access and develop a strategy to leverage resources to close these gaps. The purpose of the plan is to improve the well-being and health of residents and viability of businesses. We know that this will spur economic development for all residents.

Please help if you are in the following counties (Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth) by going to the link below and completing the survey. It will only take about 10 minutes to complete! Once the data is collected and analyzed a plan will be developed and the final results will be published on our website (www.swgrc.org) by the end of the year.

The survey is available on line:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KMNMKWX

For more information about the Digital Economy Plan or this survey, please contact Barbara Reddick at (229) 522-3552 x1618.
Why GIS?

Local governments nationwide are discovering that GIS provides **proactive, accurate solutions** in a multitude of areas. Access to accurate, up to date information is more vital now than ever before. All government departments can take advantage of GIS and be up to date with necessary information across the board. GIS provides spatial data **support to all departments**, including tax appraisers, building and zoning, recreation, utilities, public works, and public safety and both law enforcement and fire, to name a few. GIS provides **better data management** through an organized means of **managing assets**. Paper and CAD based maps can only provide a visual representation of where tax parcels, electric utilities, gas, water, sewer, etc. are located geographically. Additional information such as meter sizes, appraisal values, and last known maintenance dates about these features, you will have to consult another source of information, quite possibly in another office or even a different building. A GIS attaches attribute data to these features and combines the spatial information with database information, so that anything a user would like to know about a particular features is obtained with the push of a button.

**Call Heidi or Jeff at 229-522-3552 or visit the SWGRC GIS Website at [http://www.swgrcgis.org/](http://www.swgrcgis.org/)**

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**Sample Plans**

**Basic**
- City/County boundaries
- Future Land Use
- Zoning Districts

**Public Interest**
- Municipal buildings (city hall, fire, police, recreation parks, post offices, other buildings of governmental interest)
- School administration buildings and facilities including elementary, middle, high, charter, and private schools, trade schools and colleges

**Infrastructure**
- Wastewater and Facilities
- Potable Water and Facilities
- Transportation Networks (bridges, control signals, signs, transit routes)

**Economic**
- Enterprise Zones
- Brownfields
- Redevelopment Districts

**Emergency Management**
- Patrol Areas
- Crime Hot Spots
- E911 Address Point Locations

**Utility**
- Electrical
- Telephone
- Cable Television
- Natural Gas
- Communication Towers
- Sewer Water
- Waste Providers (routes)

**Governmental**
- Census Tracts
- Educational Districts
- Jurisdictions
- Judicial Districts
- Political Districts
GA DCA 2013 Homelessness Report

The good news, there was a 15.1% decrease in homelessness from 2011 on the night of January 28, 2013. The devastating news, there were at least 16,947 people who were still homeless on that night.

Of the 16,947 people that were homeless on that night, 8,450 were unsheltered. 8,497 of the homeless were in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

93% of homeless respondents were living in Georgia when they first became homeless

70% had not worked for pay 30 days prior to survey.

53% of survey respondents self reported Food Stamp benefits were being received

51% of homeless respondents were African American

42% of homeless respondents were White

>40% of the unsheltered homeless have been in that position for over a year.

36% of survey respondents categorized as homeless indicated that they had been to the hospital emergency room in the past six months.

30% of survey respondents indicated that they had at least one disability.

25% about this many unsheltered homeless were female

10% of the homeless respondents were also veterans

<3% work full time.

The Remedy. According to the Department of Community Service’s Homeless 2013 report, solutions must include affordable housing coupled with employment or mainstream benefits.

GEORGIA’S 17,000 2013 Report on Homelessness Georgia DCA

A cropped out portion of the DCA map showing the increase/decreases of homelessness for the Southwest Georgia portion of the state of Georgia.
Homelessness is one of the social and economic issues that won’t just miraculously be erased by government, not even the most well-intentioned. Like many other issues it can be eased with grass roots local efforts such as the Still Waters Homeless Shelter in Bainbridge.

A great example is a faith based shelter and ministry to women and children that is in Bainbridge. A three woman team (Missy Rollins, Chief Executive Officer, Melba Burr and Jessica Allen) that run the shelter and give it its heart and soul has helped approximately 60 women get placed in their own homes and become more self-sufficient since May of 2013. There is support from The Friendship House, churches, and other members of the community. We are unable to name all of them in this article but by no means should it diminish their impact on this program.

The home that they have remodeled, furnished and decorated beautifully has 11 beds. Women seeking shelter may be displaced due to a recent release from prison, domestic issues, or other issues.

Melba Burr is the Resident Manager and she organizes schedules for the women in the house and manages the day to day tasks. The women are required to stay clean from drugs and take drug tests. They are allowed to stay for 90 days unless they are working hard towards their independence and need a little longer in that case they can extend their stay.

Missy Rollins, the director of this sanctuary for these women, says that they are praying hard that they can add another home which will give them rooms for 6 additional beds. One of the impressive things about this shelter is that they have a social enterprise that the women participate in. Jessica Allen is one of this three women team and she manages this endeavor-candle making. They do this in a separate building and operate under the name of The Refinery. Buyers of their candles may be local stores that they wholesale to. They also make candles for specials events such as weddings and most recently for a Ms. Georgia event. This is so successful they are hoping to make it a full time business and to provide full time jobs for some of the women.

The shelter has been fortunate to have two counseling interns and one student who needed to fulfill a practicum do so there. They provided classes to the women on co-dependency, conflict resolution, budgeting, job interviews, and resumes.

Some of these women are able to benefit from the various social services. A valuable resource of the shelter are local churches. Ms. Rollins said when they have a need they call the churches and the churches put the word out and parishioners will fill the need.

The residents are required to work a minimum of 5 hours of community service a week such as in the local soup kitchen, Humane Society or Salvation Army.

The women are required to search for jobs and utilize the Department of Labor. Four out of nine of their present residents found jobs within 30 days of entering the shelter.

Resources the women in the shelter may use to get on their feet and become independent and move into their own home, may also include Bainbridge College, the Department of Mental Health. And Georgia Pines. Georgia Pines “Aspire” program allows those with mental health issues to apply for vouchers for rent and furnishings.

Mrs. Rollins stated that in the last year or so that donations had gone down considerably but she is seeing an increase lately. This increase may allow them to expand into that second house so they won’t have the heartbreaking task of turning people away.

There are angels among us. Sometimes we don’t see what people are doing and who the heroes are in our cities, towns, and counties. Sometimes it is more valuable to donate that old furniture, clothing or other items to people that are working hard to re-establish themselves instead of getting a few dollars for it at a yard sale.

This shelter will inspire others.

Missy Rollins can be reached for more information at Friends Ministries Operation, P.O. Box 513, Bainbridge, Georgia 39818, or 229-254-6410. The Still Waters Homeless Shelter is on Facebook. Just recently, it was posted that two women, one with four children, were leaving the shelter!
Events for Southwest Georgia

You can click on the links to get more information about the events you are interested in. It is advised that before you travel to an event to call the appropriate venue or chamber to confirm the event is still going on and there are any charges associated with it. There are also many local Christmas Parades that were not listed here. Again, contact the local chamber for that information.

SEPTEMBER

19-20 Thomasville on Stage and Company presents “Picnic”  
117 South Broad St. Thomasville, Georgia

19-27 Dawson Fall Dinner Theatre Production, 152 Main St., Dawson, GA

27-28 Cheese Making 101: Intro to Cheese Making at  
Sweet Grass Dairy, 19635 US Hwy 19 N., Thomasville  
229-227-0752. Limited number of spots.

27 Water, Wings & Wildlife Festival at the Flint RiverQuarium in Albany 10 am– 5 pm

OCTOBER

3,4,10,11,17,18,24,25 Swamp Gravy Performance in the City of Colquitt, 158 E. Main St. (Cotton Hall) 758-5450 x106

2-4 Great Southern Music Festival in Ochlocknee, 2217 Maddox Rd. 229-221-5467

4 Swine Time in Climax, Georgia

4 Music Under the Magnolia featuring Doug Stone 2pm-10pm, Moultrie’s Courthouse Square FREE

4 Pelham Wildlife Festival Downtown Pelham 294-4924

10-12 47th Annual Thomasville Fly-In, 882 Airport Rd.  
229-403-1071

11-12 4th Annual Lake Seminole Open, 100 Boat Basin Circle, Bainbridge 229-243-8555 1st place=$10,000

11 100 Mile Peanut Picking Yard Sale The path of the yard sale is Unadilla, Vienna, Cordele, Sylvester, Moultrie, Berlin, and Quitman. Utilizing Hwys 41, 33, 133, 333 and 76

14 Sunbelt Agricultural Expo in Moultrie at Spence Field

18 Georgia Peanut Festival in Sylvester

18 Midway Country Music Festival-Cairo

18 Harvest Festival in Donalsonville 10am~until

23 Music of Love and Life in Thomasville, 600 E. Jackson St. 229-226-7404

24-26 35th Annual Boston Mini Marathon Festival, 109 N. Main St., Boston, Ga 229-498-6743

Chamber of Commerce Listings

– all area codes are (229)

Albany 434-8700

Bainbridge-Decatur 246-4744

Blakely-Early 723-3741

Camilla 336-5255

Cairo-Grady 375-3663

Colquitt-Miller 758-2400

Donalsonville-Seminole 524-2588

Moultrie-Colquitt Co 985-2131

Pelham 294-4924

Thomasville-Thomas 226-9600

Sylveste-Worth 776-7718

Terrell 995-2011
## NOVEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Calvary Mule Days</td>
<td>HWY 111 South, 229-498-6743</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>37th Annual Old South Day Festival in Ochlocknee</td>
<td>5020 Spence St., 229-574-5188</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Another Night of Bluegrass in Thomasville</td>
<td>144 E. Jackson St., 229-228-7977</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Historic Walking Tour – Donalsonville</td>
<td>6pm-7pm</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Movie on the Square “ A Dennis the Menace Christmas” in Moultrie</td>
<td>6:30 pm– 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Calico Holiday Arts and Crafts Show in Moultrie</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Symphony@the Museum-Montanari~D’Antonio Duo</td>
<td>at the Albany Museum of Art in the Main Gallery, 229-430-8933</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bainbridge Downtown Living History Tour</td>
<td>101 S. Broad St., 229-243-8555</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Cantus&amp; Theater Latte Da-All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914</td>
<td>210 N. Broad St, Thomasville 229-226-7404</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plantation Wildlife Arts Festival in Thomasville</td>
<td>600 E. Washington St., 229-226-0588</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>Moultrie Christmas Parade</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Lights! Lights! Thanksgiving Night</td>
<td>Moultrie from 6pm-8pm</td>
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## DECEMBER

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lights of River Oaks</td>
<td>195 River Oaks Dr. in Bainbridge</td>
<td>254-4598</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Spirit of Christmas</td>
<td>downtown Donalsonville at 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Christmas Parade</td>
<td>in Cairo, Georgia at 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>City of Sylvester Christmas Parade</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>229-776-8505</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Victorian Christmas in Thomasville</td>
<td>on Jackson Street and Broad Street, 229-228-7977</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Moultrie Christmas Parade</td>
<td>6pm-8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Albany Symphony Association Brave Elements-AIR-“Cirque de Noel”</td>
<td>7:30pm-9:30pm Albany Municipal Auditorium. Tickets $10- $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Christmas Tour of Homes</td>
<td>in Donalsonville 2pm-5pm</td>
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Opportunities for Future Clerks!

According to a recent I Compass Survey, the opportunity for those wishing to be clerks when exiting school is looking promising.

This particular field does not exactly expand since the number of cities and counties pretty much remain the same. The issue is the present clerks are beginning to age out and retire. According to the survey 60% of deputy clerks are in the 30-49 year old range. While this is not retirement age, it will certainly begin opening up opportunities to future professionals. At municipalities over 65% of clerks are 50 and over.

The job opportunities are a reason for the next generation of clerks to celebrate in this slim job market and on the flip side, it is news that the municipalities and the Counties need to take quite seriously.

Training is a major concern. Right now training is required by the state of Georgia, as mentioned in the previous edition of this newsletter. It may be time to look at perhaps some internships and training before the next generation leaves school to make sure we have highly qualified candidates for this pool of opportunities.

The survey was given across North America to over 15,000 clerks. In our Southwest Georgia area, the clerks can tell you that there are challenges in this field and continued education is very valuable.

For more information on continued education if you are a clerk, contact Jawahn Ware or Ella Fast through their contact information below.

For more information on County Clerks meetings, Jawahn Ware is the District 10 Director and can be reached at 229-431-2121 or jware@dougherty.ga.us

For more information on City Clerks meetings, Ella Fast is the District 10 Director and can be reached at 229-668-0023 or ella.fast@moultriega.com.
Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Planning program at the Southwest Georgia RC started in the mid 1970s. Its purpose is to assist the local governments and interested citizens of the region with anything related to the preservation of buildings, places, sites and neighborhoods. A variety of services are offered. These include:

- National Register Nominations
- Grant Writing
- Historic Resource Surveys
- Downtown Revitalization Strategies
- Design Assistance
- Tax Incentive Assistance
- Historic Preservation Commission Guidance
- Development of Local Regulations
- Mitigation/Documentation Guidance

To find out more about how we can assist your community contact Steve O’Neil at 229-522-3552 x1616
The fact that the agricultural industry is simply responsible for providing us with food in the grocery stores is an understatement of the impact it has on our economy and employment rates. The employment opportunities from Seed Production, to truck drivers, to farm workers, to farm equipment producers, At the beginning of the summer Businesses that feature locally grown produce, restaurants, jelly, jam manufacturers, peanut butter/peanut manufacturers, nuts, cotton. Jobs that begin in the field and end in a restaurant, retail store, grocery store, or manufacturing plant. According to the Farm Bureau of Georgia website “Agriculture contributes more than 71.1 billion annually to Georgia’s economy.”

There is now an initiative called “Georgia Grown”. Georgia Grown is a program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. This brings together consumers and growers no matter how large and small the farm. Grants were available encouraging counties to promote their agriculture through roadside produce stands and farmer’s markets. The Georgia Grown program has 5 goals; 1. Eat Georgia Grown, 2. Buy Georgia Grown, 3. Visit Georgia Grown, 4. Wear Georgia Grown, 5. Sponsor Georgia Grown.

Click on the below link to find seasonal produce in your area!

JUST BECAUSE SUMMER IS OVER DOES NOT MEAN THE SEASON FOR FRESH PRODUCE IS OVER HERE ARE SOME FALL CROPS!

Field Peas Cabbage Sweet Potatoes Cauliflower Greens Peanuts Onions Pumpkins Squash Peppers... oh my!
# Labor in Georgia... the HOT list!

According to the Georgia Department of Labor Website, and their [Georgia Career Planner](#) the following is a list of careers that are expected to grow by 100 openings a year and are marked as being “HOT”:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Network Architects</td>
<td>Database Administrators</td>
<td>Computer Support Specialists</td>
<td>Clinical, Counseling &amp; School Psychologists</td>
<td>Educational, Vocational, &amp; School Counselors</td>
<td>Medical &amp; Public Health Social Workers</td>
<td>Health Educators</td>
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<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>Paralegals &amp; Legal Assistants</td>
<td>Health Specialties Teachers, Postsec</td>
<td>Business Teachers, Postsec</td>
<td>Instructional Coordinators</td>
<td>Elementary School Teachers, Exc Spec Ed</td>
<td>Middle School Teachers, Exc Pec &amp; Voc Ed</td>
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<td>Spec Ed Teachers</td>
<td>Kindergarten Teachers, Exc Spec Ed</td>
<td>Vocational Teachers, Postsec</td>
<td>Graphic Designers</td>
<td>Public Relations Specialists</td>
<td>Producers &amp; Directors</td>
<td>Coaches &amp; Scouts</td>
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<td>Dentists</td>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>Family and General Practitioners</td>
<td>Internists</td>
<td>Physical Therapists</td>
<td>Surgeons</td>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
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<td>Medical &amp; Clinical Laboratory Technologists</td>
<td>Dietitians and Nutritionists</td>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>Dental Hygienists</td>
<td>Radiologic Technologists &amp; Technicians</td>
<td>Respiratory Therapists</td>
<td>Real Estate Sales Agents</td>
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LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION TRAINING

Tuesday, September 30, 2014
9am — 3pm
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia 31730

Jenny Robbins (Georgia EMC; Community Development Consultant)

Jenny Robbins represents Georgia's Electric Membership Corporations in the South Georgia area by providing education, training, leadership development, meeting facilitation and strategic planning to community groups involved in community and economic development. Facilitates portions of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development Curriculum Committee.

Ms. Robbins seeks to improve the quality of life and economic vitality in member EMC communities through out South Georgia by providing facilitation, strategic planning, and leadership development services.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
• CURRENT & EMERGING LEADERS
• ELECTED OFFICIALS
• ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS; CEOs)
• HUMAN RESOURCE PERSONNEL
• BUSINESS LEADERS
• Non-Profit Organizations

Interested in developing great leaders?
Does your organization lack communication skills?

Attend this training and unlock the keys to effective leadership and communication skills.

Registration Required. No Cost To Attend. Lunch will be provided.

Sponsored By: Georgia Electric Membership Corporations (EMC); Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC); Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA); Regional Partners Network, Inc. (RPN)

For More Information, contact:
Barbara Reddick or Kimberly Brooks at 229.522.3552
bredick@swgrc.org; kbrooks@swgrc.org
## 2014 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

### Council Appointees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Baker County</strong></td>
<td>Connie Hobbs</td>
<td>John Spann</td>
<td>Eddie Hopkins</td>
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<td><strong>Calhoun County</strong></td>
<td>Charlie Williams</td>
<td>Betty Murdock</td>
<td>Bennie Watts Jones</td>
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<td><strong>Colquitt County</strong></td>
<td>Johnny Hardin</td>
<td>Ferrell Ruis</td>
<td>Dollie Crumley</td>
<td>Henry Crumley</td>
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<td><strong>Decatur County</strong></td>
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<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Revonn Miller</td>
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<td><strong>Dougherty County</strong></td>
<td>Clinton Johnson</td>
<td>Billie Jo Fletcher</td>
<td>Raymond Breaux</td>
<td>Demetrious Love</td>
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<td>June Merritt</td>
<td>Al Hutchins</td>
<td>Freddie Speight</td>
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<td>LaFaye Copeland</td>
<td>Jim Sellers</td>
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<td>Rick Muggridge</td>
<td>Dwight Hickman</td>
<td>Robert Ramsey</td>
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<td>Kreg Freeman</td>
<td>Carlos Williams</td>
<td>Luther Clearman</td>
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<td>Ben Hayward</td>
<td>W.D. Palmer, III</td>
<td>Benjamin Brooks</td>
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<td>Brenda Peterson</td>
<td>Darrell Hampton</td>
<td>Virginia Harrison</td>
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<td><strong>Terrell County</strong></td>
<td>Lucius Holloway</td>
<td>Christopher Wright</td>
<td>Jack Powell</td>
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<td>Elaine Mays</td>
<td>Max Beverly</td>
<td>Donnie Baggett</td>
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<td>Karen Rackley</td>
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http://onlinesurvey.1and1.com/surveys/5865DC72-A796-47A5-B5E5-8E51B28E731/cea7e8d9-7a58-4c5b-891d-89fd2c1364a6/