Some of what you will find in this edition!

A year in review for the 14 county region …page 3
We continue our It is History column! …page 15
We continue our Keeping it Local Honey column this quarter featuring local beekeepers …page 16

From the Executive Director…

Robert McDaniel
SWGRC Director

In October we were treated to two legislators and great orators, Congressman Austin Scott and Senator Freddie Powell Sims. This was at our Annual Legislative Reception.

In November, SWGRC Staff and Council Members; Benny Watts Jones, Charlie Williams, Al Hutchins, and Freddie Speight, attended the Annual GARC Conference at St. Simons Island

Call and inquire about the training and support we offer to our cities, counties and citizens of Region 10. We have a staff with years of experience and a large knowledge base of our communities. They are eager and ready to help with your grants and training that is available to your city or county. We are offering a seminar on the Legal Ins & Outs of Zoning in Georgia. The speaker is David C. Kirk. Space is limited.

Have a safe holiday season.

For our digital readers, click on the blue text, red text, or photographs for hyperlinks to learn more!

Commissioner Gretchen Corbin of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs at the GARC Conference

Serving the following counties: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth
Kudos kiddos

This quarter’s Kudos for the December edition of The Messenger goes to the students and faculty at John Johnson Elementary School in Bainbridge. Last edition of this newsletter featured the push for local agriculture to be the choice of local people and how the Georgia Department of Agriculture has begun the “Georgia Grown” initiative. This includes the creation of more farmer’s markets and local produce stands.

Developing programs and goals within a community that includes the youngest of citizens is good community development. These students will be a productive parts of their community. The future looks bright for our cities and counties with such programs being implemented in the schools.

The original plan was not to have the students participating in the Farmer’s Market in downtown Bainbridge. Originally, the garden began as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) project. What do you do when all of a sudden you find out your students have green thumbs? You take the opportunity for another teachable moment and take their bountiful harvest to the local Farmer’s Market!

The second grade students grew pumpkins, peppers, beans, tomatoes and sunflowers! They participated in the Farmer’s Market three weekends, with each homeroom responsible for a weekend. They made $500 that will go back into the program. A winter garden of potatoes and carrots are planned and they are learning about crop rotation and composting.

The Second Grade teachers of these students are Deedi Eubanks, Amy Waddell, and Karen Ragan.

Employee Spotlight

Brenda Wade joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in 1995. the majority of her experience has been with the local governments in the region. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Albany State University. Brenda manages and monitors expenditures for various federal and state funded grant programs, prepares monthly financial reports and closeout procedures related to each grant. Brenda also works closely with RC’s Planning staff. Brenda resides in Mitchell County with her husband. In her spare time she enjoys interior designing/decorating.

Visit us at http://www.swgrc.org
Headlines from 2014 in District 10:

**Deal to visit Leesburg for groundbreaking of bypass**

Leesburg — Gov. Nathan Dean will be the first sitting governor to visit Leesburg Thursday when he will participate in the groundbreaking for the North Leesburg Bypass.

**Threat of icy roads forces local closures**

**Too much at stake**

Local opposition to natural gas pipeline

**The Cairo Messenger**

A greener downtown Cairo comes to life

**Power project**

County commission continues corridor talks

**Regional Youth Ctr. To Be Located Here**

Terrell County received some good news this week with the announcement of allocation of almost $13 million in state monies for a Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) to be located here.

State Rep. Gerald Greene of Cuthbert reported that the state has appropriated $2.7 million for design and construction renovation for a Regional Youth Detention Center that will be placed.

"And it will afford an opportunity to help take care of young people who need it. I am pleased that it will be in Terrell County, and be a facility for our young people. It will also be a help for the various judges in the area as well," Rep. Greene stated.

"Public safety of the citizen of Terrell County is always a top priority and this new facility will not only be good for the young people but also for the community," Rep. Greene added.

**Georgia State Patrol Announces Aviation Unit in Camilla**

The Georgia State Patrol announced the formation of an aviation unit in Camilla.

**County kicks the EMS can**

Original plan to decide on EMS options delayed

**Restoration project**

Metcalfe store work reviving memories

**Lake view?**

New season are budding at Spring Creek Park
December

3rd-5th CDBG Recipient Workshop in Macon, GA. Macon Marriott. Call Brenda Wade at 229-522-3552 x1606.

5th Assistance to Firefighters Grants-Deadline Call Kerrie Davis as soon as possible before this date at 229-522-3552 x1619 or kdavis@swgrc.org

10th District 10 Clerks Meeting and Luncheon at the Whetherbee Planetarium in Albany, Georgia. 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. RSVP by December 8th to Heather White at 229-522-3552 x1602 or hwhite@swgrc.org. Lunch provided.

11th Youth Summit Planning Meeting at The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Contact Kerrie Davis at 229-522-3552 x1619 or kdavis@swgrc.org

11th Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Monthly Council Meeting. The business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. For more information please contact Heather at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602.

19th EPA Brownfields Grand Deadline. Contact Kerrie Davis at kdavis@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1618 before December 1st if you want to apply.

January

13th 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Grant Writing Workshop (lunch provided) 181 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. For questions contact Kerrie Davis at 229-522-3552 x1618 or kdavis@swgrc.org. $25 registration fee.


29th Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Monthly Council Meeting. The business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. For more information please contact Heather at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602

February

10th Housing Task Force Meeting in Moultrie for Contractors. Please contact Kerrie Davis for information—Kdavis@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552.

18th 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. The Legal Ins and Outs of Zoning in Georgia, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. featuring David Kirk, FAICP. For more information call Heather White at 229-522-3552 x1602 or hwhite@swgrc.org. Registration fee $20, includes lunch. Do not wait to register there are a limited amount of seats!

19th 2015 Youth Summit For more information contact Kerrie Davis at kdavis@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1619.

26th Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Monthly Council Meeting. The business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. For more information please contact Heather at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602.
Twas the night before Christmas and all through the Commission
Barbara and Kerrie were finding money for cities and counties,
   Much like a magician,
Steve was busy writing a plan,
   If your looking for something of the Comprehensive kind,
He is your man!
Grants were being written,
   With excitement and care,
Hope for Senior Centers, Water Towers and Community Centers that
   Money would be there.
Meanwhile in G.I.S,
Santa visited Jeff and Heidi
   Looking for a map to deliver his toys,
He said usually the reindeer had a good sense of direction,
   But lately were flighty.
Brenda had a few tricks up her sleeve,
   New roofs, new heat, new doors for all of her CHIP clients this Christmas Eve.
   When up on the roof sounded like a click clack,
   But the sound was not on the roof,
   It was Laura and Michelle upstairs,
   They don’t know what it is to slack!
On Kimberly, Helen, juanita and Heather,
   Bring cheer and happiness,
   To all of our cities and counties together.
Robert and Suzanne gave the team a whistle
   And home for the holidays, they were out like a missile.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Offices will be closed December 24 at noon, December 25 and 26 so our staff can enjoy time with their families. We will reopen December 29. Call us!

Visit us at http://www.swgrc.org
Meet Our Interns

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission is proud to be part of the Mitchell County High School Intern Program.

Through real world work experience in a professional setting these interns hope to enhance existing skills and learn new skills for their future careers.

**Mentoring** is very valuable to young adults who are about to embark on their life journeys. It not only teaches them new skills but it teaches work ethics and builds confidence.

**Ms. Jontravia Huntley** is in her Junior Year at Mitchell County High School. Her parents are Latisha Huntley, John Bradley and Eldrick Dennis. Her favorite class is History. She would like to become a lawyer and perhaps a **forensic scientist**. She has participated in FFA, Tennis, Eagles New Crew, Cheerleading, and Student Council.

**Mr. Kendarius Silas** is the son of Gale and Kenneth Silas. He is in his Junior year at Mitchell County High School. His favorite subject is Chemistry. He aspires to attend the Naval Academy or Clarke Atlanta University. He would like to be a **Navy Seal**. He is a member of JROTC.

**Ms. Kwezeta Butler** is in her Junior Year at Mitchell County High School. She would like to obtain a degree in **Criminology**. She is presently studying 3D Animation and Spanish Education. She is the captain of the marching band and has been a member of Prime star and the Robotics Club.
This is a workshop that covers the diversity of donors, key search engines, and writing one’s individual grant or idea in what ultimately will constitute a winning grant. Please join as to learn the intricate details of grant writing.

$25.00 Registration Fee

Who should attend:

◆ SWGA Regional Partners Network Inc.
◆ Nonprofit Agencies
◆ Local Governments
◆ School Systems

January 13, 2015
10:00 AM — 2:00 PM (Lunch Provided)

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, GA 31730

If you are interested in attending, contact:
Kerrie Davis at (229) 522-3552 or E-mail at kmodules@swgri.com

A part of the Southwest Georgia Regional Partners Network Inc.
College and Career Preparation 2015 Youth Leadership Summit

For more information on the 2105 Youth Summit contact Barbara Reddick (bredrick@swgrc.org) or Kerrie Davis (kdavis@swgrc.org) at 229-522-3552.

The Brochure and Application Form are on the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Website. Either click the logo to the right of this text or type in your web address bar http://www.swgrc.org/youthsummit-2015/ You must register to participate!

It’s time for the Annual Youth Leadership Program that is hosted by Regional Partners Network, Inc. and is open to 11th and 12th graders in Southwest Georgia.

The purpose of the Summit is to increase awareness and foster the development and growth of youth in Southwest Georgia.

Thursday, February 19, 2015
9:00 AM-2:00 PM
The Legal Ins & Outs of Zoning in Georgia

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
At The Camilla Chamber of Commerce Building “The Depot” across from The Regional Commission. 212 E. Broad St., Camilla, GA 31730.

Registration Fee: $20
Lunch Provided

To register:
Contact Heather White
hwhite@swgrc.org
Or 229-522-3552 ext: 1602

Space is limited ~ Register soon!

*When the seats are full there will be no more registrations accepted.

This interactive educational program is intended to give participants a fuller understanding of the legal foundations of planning and zoning in Georgia.

Topics to be covered include an overview of the concept of property rights; constitutional principles, such as due process and equal protection, relevant to land use and zoning decision-making; Georgia’s constitutional and statutory framework for planning and zoning, including State laws governing zoning procedures, conflicts of interest, and zoning actions involving wireless telecommunication facilities; Georgia law related to vested rights, judicial review of zoning decisions, and legal standing; recent developments in Federal and State Law affecting zoning actions; as well as practical advice for conducting hearings and taking action on zoning applications.
C.H.I.P., or the Community HOME Investment Program, awards funds to, among other things, provide down payment assistance or homeowner rehabilitation funding to eligible low-income and moderate-income households. Cities and Counties who are interested in this program can contact Brenda Wade at 229-522-3552 x1606. It is also time to submit your communities paperwork for the next round of CDBGs. For more information contact Brenda Wade or Barbara Reddick at 229-522-3552 x1606.

CDBGs are Community Development Block Grants. These funds are for assistance in “growing local economies”. For example, previous projects awarded to communities were a new water tower, remodeling of a youth center, and the building of a senior citizens center. Our staff grant writers have many years of experience and are detail oriented. Call today.

City of Arlington- Carmen Chubb, Mayor Marvin King, Gretchen Corbin, and Brenda Wade

City of Cairo/Grady County- Darlene Taylor, Brenda Wade, LaFaye Copeland, Gretchen Corbin, and Carmen Chubb

City of Camilla- Carmen Chubb, Bennett Adams ,Gretchen Corbin, and Brenda Wade

City of Cordele- Carmen Chubb, Rita Bass, Irene Cantrell, Gretchen Corbin, Edward Beach and Brenda Wade
2014 Award Recipients
Community HOME Investment Program

City of Colquitt– Brenda Wade, Carmen Chubb, Jerry Chapman, Gretchen Corbin, Wanda Hudson, and Brian Williamson

City of Donalsonville– Carmen Chubb, Brian Williamson, Darrell Hampton, Brenda Wade, and Gretchen Corbin

City of Sylvester– Carmen Chubb, Larry Johnson, Randy Hill, and Gretchen Corbin

Carmen Chubb is the Deputy Commissioner for Housing. In March she was awarded the SMITH’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brenda Wade is the Grants Administrator for The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. She has over 18 years of experience in grant administration. If your community is interested in the C.H.I.P. program, you can reach Brenda at 229-522-3552 x1606, or bwade@swgrc.org

Gretchen Corbin is the current Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Previously she was with The Department of Economic Development and more recently served as Deputy Commissioner for Global Commerce.

S.W.GA. Regional Commission
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 if there are any charges associated with it. There are also many local Christmas Parades that are not listed here. Please contact the local chamber for more information.

## Chamber of Commerce Listings

> all area codes are (229)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Area Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>434-8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bainbridge-DeKalb</td>
<td>246-4744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blakely-Early</td>
<td>723-3741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camilla</td>
<td>336-5255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo-Grady</td>
<td>377-3663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>835-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colquitt-Miller</td>
<td>758-2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donalsonville-Seminole</td>
<td>524-2588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moultrie-Colquitt Co</td>
<td>985-2131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelham</td>
<td>294-4924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomasville-Thomas</td>
<td>226-9600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvester-Worth</td>
<td>776-7718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrell</td>
<td>995-2011</td>
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## December

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

## January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First Day Fitness Challenge. Seminole State Park. 229-861-3137 $5 fee includes mini golf, and aqua cycle or kayak. Nature Hike Bingo during the hike!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>“Artist’s on Ashley” Exhibit at the Colquitt County Arts Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Rattlesnake Roundup in Whigham, Georgia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>“Notes from the Balcony: Romeo and Juliet in Music.” Thomasville Center For the Arts 229-226-7404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Thomasville Camellia Show. 1002 S. Broad St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>“Artist’s on Ashley” Exhibit at the Colquitt County Arts Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taste of Thomasville Food Tour! Every Friday from 10:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m. until July 17, 2015.

**Ellis Island: The Lost Mural Exhibit.** 100 Roosevelt Ave, Albany. Through January 3, 2015. FREE

## March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>River Town Days in Bainbridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taste of Thomasville Food Tour! Every Friday from 10:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m. until July 17, 2015.

**Ellis Island: The Lost Mural Exhibit.** 100 Roosevelt Ave, Albany. Through January 3, 2015. FREE
2014 SWGRC Legislative Reception

On October 30th the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission held its annual Legislative Reception to show our gratitude to Region 10 Legislators and all of the work they do for the constituents in the Southwest Georgia area.

We were honored to have U.S. Congressman Austin Scott and State Senator Freddie Powell Sims as our guests.
**Southwest Georgia Folks**

**Welcome** to Ms. Juanita Williams our receptionist from Experience Works! The new voice you may have heard answering our phones is Ms. Juanita.

Juanita Williams is new to Experience Works but is not new to Mitchell County. She is a life long resident of Mitchell County.

Previously, she worked as a security guard for Proctor and Gamble and as a detention officer for the Sheriff’s Department! Now she enjoys volunteer work and spending time with her grandchildren.

---

**Dentist**, Dr. Kent Simmons of Albany could be making national news in January. For a dentist, Dr. Simmons has a very sweet side business. He is a beekeeper and owner of Simmons Family Honey. According to the Albany Herald he is among 15 finalists that are anxiously awaiting the announcement that will happen January 8th in San Francisco on who are the national winners of a honey contest. According to Dr. Simmons, this competition goes way beyond the taste of the honey. He had to fill out a long questionnaire about where he locates his bees and whether or not he uses chemicals when raising them (which he does not).

Dr. Simmons has been a steward of bees not only in the way he raises them but in the community as well. Back in April he visited the second graders of Live Oak Elementary School in Dougherty County and brought some of his bees and taught them about the importance of bees in our communities. He has also been known to visit the schools to demonstrate the importance of oral hygiene.

Kudos to Dr. Simmons for not only being a great citizen of Southwest Georgia but for being a great citizen of the planet!

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**Did you know?**

According to the Mule Gazette of Calvary, Brendan Carter of Calvary, Georgia is Florida State University’s Chief Osceola! So when you watch a ball game that includes FSU look for Brendan and cheer him on (even if FSU is not your team).

Brendan is the 16th Chief Osceola. The idea of the mascot dates back to 1962 but did not become a reality until 1977 when Bobby Bowden took over.

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For 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.

For 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.
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

Ballard’s Obelisk

Around September in Moultrie an old tobacco warehouse was being demolished. When the building came down it revealed an old advertisement that was painted on the adjacent building. The advertisement was for Ballard’s Obelisk Flour. This flour was manufactured by Ballard & Ballard Co. of Louisville, Kentucky according to Alan Mauldin of the Moultrie Observer. The company was founded in 1880 and was in operation until the early 1950s when they sold out to the Pillsbury Company. The murals of the south are very charming but the ones uncovered from advertising are full of character and feel like a time capsule has been opened. The photo below is from the Moultrie Observer.

Flint River Store

This is a marking that is the last sign that identified the Flint River Store that was located at Clark Street and Broughton Street in Bainbridge. In the black and white photo below, the first building on the right is the Flint River Store. This photo was taken about 1905.

Historical Preservation does not just have a historical value to the local public but is a valuable part of tourism as well!
Readers may wonder how the *Keeping it Local* column would include beekeeping. Beekeeping has been found to have an impact on the economy and profound benefits for those who suffer allergies. Which many of us “locals” know pollen is a widespread health problem here in farm country, especially in the humidity of the deep south. It is believed that *eating honey* produced within a 50 mile radius of your location will alleviate allergy symptoms. “Ingesting pollen introduces the allergen into the body in a way that does not cause allergic reactions, giving your body a “boost” against the histamines that trigger allergies”, according to Eric Varnum, a Beekeeper from Donalsonville.

Many of us grew up knowing that the benefits of bees are to *pollinate* our flowers and make our plants more productive. A beekeeper was someone you would have to really hunt down if you could find one at all, to be able to maybe remove bees out of a tree near a house or out of the walls of the house itself. Now it does not take much to find a “beek” (the abbreviated term for beekeeper).

Bee Keeping has become a widespread hobby as well as a mission. The bee population is being very threatened by beetles, mites, and by chemicals used in gardens and crops. Farmers are realizing that the rapid plummeting of the bee population is having an effect on their harvests. Farmers and beekeepers have come together in many situations and have worked in a symbiotic relationship. The farmers allow the beekeepers to put their hives along the fields so that the crops will get pollinated and have an increased yield. In return, the bees get plenty of pollen and are able to *produce honey* and become viable and increase in population. The only catch is the farmer must agree not to use pesticides and must find natural ways to control weeds and fertilize. It is a win-win situation. This allows the farms to also boast that their product is organic. According to Eric Varnum, “As farmer’s increased demand in pollination services continue to rise, the number of beekeepers is nearly static. Many are ‘hobbyists’ and only have enough hives to produce a little honey. Associations are needed so that many hobbyist beekeepers can come together to meet the high demand for pollination services, boosting economic impacts of agricultural-based communities.”

In the spring and summer months there are noticeable demands for workers in the beekeeping industry locally, according to the Georgia Department of Labor website.
According to Reader’s Digest:
There are almost 20,000 known species of bee. Only female bees can have the necessary equipment to sting but females of many bee species cannot sting; Male bees do little or no work in the nest and females do most or all of the work. According to the Utah County Beekeepers Association the queen may lay 600-1500 eggs each day during her 3 or 4 year lifetime. Honey bees fly at 15 miles per hour, Honey bees’ wings stroke 11,400 times per minute and this is what makes their buzz sound. They travel up to 3 miles from their hive for food. Honey bees are responsible for pollinating approximately 80% of all fruit, vegetable and seed crops in the U.S. They have five eyes and they have hair on their eyes! Honeybees never sleep! To make one pound of honey, the bees in the colony must visit 2 million flowers, fly over 55,000 miles and will be the lifetime work of 768 bees. Honey is the ONLY food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life, including water. Honey never spoils. It would take about 1 ounce of honey to fuel a bee’s flight around the world. Out of 20,000 species of bees, only 4 make honey. At least 2 members of the SWGRC Council are Bee Keepers and one employee of the SWGRC are bee keepers! Can you guess who? See page 19!

Are you now thinking you may be interested in becoming a Beek?

If you are thinking of joining the world of bee keeping here are some tips:

- Always be a steward of the environment an advocate of the bees.
- Research, research, research and understand what it takes.
- Join an organization such as The SOWEGA Beekeepers.
- Find a seasoned bee keeper to be your mentor.
- Visit other’s hives and help them with their upkeep to see if you really want to do this.
- Learn all about the honey bee and their routines.
- Obtain all of your equipment needed well in advance of receiving bees.
- Once you feel you are prepared, have an experienced ‘Beek’ evaluate your readiness.

Martin Edwards is a beekeeper from Baconton, Ga. He and his son Harrison (pictured lower right) have hives in several bee yards located throughout Mitchell County. Martin started keeping bees five years ago with three hives. Since then he has increased his numbers to maintain about 30 hives for honey production. For the coming year he plans on increasing further in order to provide hives for pollination as well as queen rearing. “Harrison began helping last year when he was seven years old. He wanted money to buy a toy and I told him he could earn it by helping me feed the bees. Since that time he helps anytime we need to go to the apiaries. He has gradually taken on more tasks voluntarily as he becomes more comfortable around the bees. It’s a great opportunity for us to spend time together outdoors.”
We are here for jobs of all sizes!

**Have Tax Parcel Maps updated?**
Call Heidi Penny
229-522-3552 x1621

**CHIP**
Call Brenda
229-522-3552 x1606

**CDBG Grant Info**
Call Barbara
229-522-3552 x1618

**Update our listing in the Digital Directory?**
Call Heather
229-522-3552 x1602

**Is our Hazard Mitigation Plan Current?**
Call Steve
229-522-3552 x1616

**Housing Task Force Info**
Call Kerrie
229-522-3552 x1619

**How can the SWGA Regional Commission benefit us?**
Call Robert
229-522-3552 x1609

**Youth Summit**
Call Kerrie or Barbara
229-522-3552 x1619

**Need extra maps for other departments**
Call Jeff
229-522-3552 x1622
**2014 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission**

**Council Appointees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baker County</th>
<th>Dougherty County</th>
<th>Glenda Battle</th>
<th>Max Beverly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connie Hobbs</td>
<td>Clinton Johnson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Donnie Baggett</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Spann</td>
<td>Billie Jo Fletcher</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alfred Bryan</td>
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<td>Eddie Hopkins</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<tr>
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Your Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Staff

Robert McDaniel, Executive Director
Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director

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