From the Executive Director

The Planning Department of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission is working tirelessly to meet the deadlines to apply for Community Development Block Grants and Community Home Investment Program Funds. Communities who are applying for the Community Development Block Grant (C.D.B.G.) include Arlington, Bronwood, Calhoun County, Funston, Newton, and Poulan. Those communities seeking funds for their citizens in the form of a Community Home Investment Program (C.H.I.P.) Grants are Coolidge, Dawson, Dougherty County, and Meigs. Planners are also very busy completing a Redevelopment Fund Grant for the city of Arlington, a Housing Preservation Grant for Southwest Georgia, and an Immediate Threat and Danger Grant for the cities of Poulan and Meigs.

Other grants that are being applied for as well include City of Albany Public Service Grant Assistants to Firefighters Grant Program that is being applied for on behalf of Baker County.

Our Planners are also working on a Leadership Conference, City of Albany Capacity Building Workshops, the 16th Annual Housing Conference, Urban Redevelopment Plan for the city of Pelham and a Revitalization Area Strategy.

Call our staff today at 229-522-3552 if you would like to see how to participate in these programs and how to start preparing now for the next cycle.
March

31st **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission new Regional Commission Council Member Training** from 2:30 pm until 5:00 pm at the SWGRC Offices at 181 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia. For more information please contact Heather White at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602.

31st **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting** in Camilla, Georgia at 181 East Broad Street. Dinner is at 6:30 pm and is provided for Council members and their guests. The official meeting begins at 7:00 pm. For more information please contact Heather White at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602.

April

15th **Deadline for GMA Municipal Hall of Fame Nominations.** Criteria can be found on the GMA Website [http://www.gmanet.com/News-Grant-Opportunities/Breaking-News/GMA-Municipal-Hall-of-Fame-Nominations-Now-Being-A.aspx](http://www.gmanet.com/News-Grant-Opportunities/Breaking-News/GMA-Municipal-Hall-of-Fame-Nominations-Now-Being-A.aspx) and as well as nomination forms and a list of Hall of Fame Inductees from previous years. For any more questions contact Bill Thorton at 678-686-6230.

28th **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting** in Camilla, Georgia at 181 East Broad Street. Dinner is at 6:30 pm and is provided for Council members and their guests. The official meeting begins at 7:00 pm. For more information please contact Heather White at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602.


May

10th **15th Annual Housing Conference.** 8:00 am – 3:00 pm The subjects discussed will be Prison Re-Entry Housing, Veterans and Homelessness, Overcoming Barriers, Legal Issues, and much more. For more information contact Kim Brooks at kbrooks@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552. This event will be held at the James H. Gray, Sr. Civic Center at 100 W. Oglethorpe Blvd., Albany, Georgia 31701. The registration fee is $25 per person.

26th **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting** in Camilla, Georgia at 181 East Broad Street. Dinner is at 6:30 pm and is provided for Council members and their guests. The official meeting begins at 7:00 pm. For more information please contact Heather White at hwhite@swgrc.org or 229-522-3552 x1602.

June

24th-28th **GMA Annual Convention** will take place at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center. Online registration opens at 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 15th. To download a paper registrations visit: [http://www.gmanet.com/Training-Events/Annual-Convention.aspx](http://www.gmanet.com/Training-Events/Annual-Convention.aspx)

**Helpful Information**

**What is an Entity?**
In SAM, your company/business/organization is referred to as an “Entity.” You register your entity to do business with the U.S. Federal government by completing the registration process in SAM.

SAM is the official free, government-operated website – there is NO charge to register or maintain your entity registration record in SAM.

**What do I need to get started?**

**DUNS Number**
You need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to register your entity in SAM. DUNS numbers are unique for each physical location you are registering.

If you do not have one, you can request a DUNS number for free to do business with the U.S. Federal government by visiting Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) at [http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform](http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform). It takes no more than 1-2 business days to obtain a DUNS number.

**Taxpayer Identification Number**
You need your entity’s Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) and taxpayer name (as it appears on your most recent tax return). Foreign entities that do not pay employees within the U.S. do not need to provide a TIN. Your TIN is usually your Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Solo proprietors may use their Social Security Number (SSN) assigned by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as their TIN, but are strongly encouraged to obtain a free EIN from the IRS by visiting: [http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/How-to-Apply-for-an-EIN](http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/How-to-Apply-for-an-EIN). Allow approximately two weeks before your new EIN is ready for use when registering in SAM.

**Steps for Registering**

1. Type [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) in your Internet browser address bar.
2. Create a SAM Individual User Account (be sure to validate your email address), then Login.
3. Select “Register New Entity” under “Register/Update Entity” on your “My SAM” page.
4. Select your type of Entity. Definitions are in the Glossary to the right.
5. If you are registering in SAM.gov so you can apply for a Federal financial assistance opportunity on Grants.gov, and are not interested in pursuing Federal contracts, you will have a much shorter registration path. To chose this “grants only” path:
   - Select “No” to “Do you wish to bid on contracts?”
   - Select “Yes” to “Do you want to be eligible for grants and other federal assistance?”
6. Complete the “Core Data” pages:
   - Validate your DUNS information.
   - Enter Business Information (TIN, etc.) This page is also where you create your Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN). Write the MPIN down as it will serve as a password for you in other government systems. You will need it for your Grants.gov registration.
   - Enter your CAGE code if you have one. But remember, CAGE codes are tied to DUNS numbers and cannot be reused. Don’t worry if you don’t have a CAGE code for the DUNS number you are registering; one will be assigned to you after your registration is submitted. Foreign registrants must enter their NCAGE code before proceeding.
   - Enter General Information (business types, organization structure, etc.) about your entity.
   - Provide your entity’s Financial Information, i.e. U.S. bank Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Information for Federal government payment purposes. Foreign entities do not need to provide EFT information.
   - Answer the Executive Compensation questions.
   - Answer the Proceedings Details questions.
7. Complete the “Points of Contact” pages:
   - Your Electronic Business POC is integral to your Grants.gov registration and application process. Your Government POC will be used by other government systems, such as CAGE, when they contact you. List someone with direct knowledge of this registration for both of those POCs.
8. Make sure to hit [Submit] after your final review. You will get a Congratulations message on the screen. If you do not see this message, you have not submitted your registration.
   - There are two external validation steps, one with the IRS and another with CAGE; after you submit, you will receive an email from SAM.gov when your registration is active.

Please give yourself plenty of time before your grant application submission deadline. Allow up to 7-10 business days after you submit before your registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize your information.

For help registering in SAM, contact the supporting Federal Service Desk (FSD) at [https://www.fsd.gov](https://www.fsd.gov/)
### Events for Southwest Georgia

#### Chamber of Commerce Listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber of Commerce</th>
<th>Listing Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Albany</strong></td>
<td>Cairo-Grady</td>
<td>229-377-3663</td>
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<td>Calhoun County</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colquitt-Miller</td>
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<td><strong>Donalsonville-Seminole</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Colquitt-Miller</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thomasville-Thomas</strong></td>
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<td>229-226-9600</td>
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<td><strong>Moultrie</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sylvester</strong></td>
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</table>

**Now through May 6**  
Kippy Hammond “Foreign Influences”  
Renowned oils and pastels artist that spent nearly 20 years in France creating art. Her collection will be at the Colquitt County Arts Center at 401 7th Ave. SW in Moultrie, Georgia. For more information call 229-985-1922.

**Now through April 14**  
A.E. Jenkins: Connection to the Past  
311 Meadowlark Drive. This will be 20 modern portraits of African Americans of the Albany area. AE Jenkins is a local photographer who as been a photographer in Albany for decades. Call 229-439-8400 for more information.

**March 26**  
Easter Egg Hunt at Kolomoki at 205 Indian Mounds Road. Call 229-724-2150 for more information.

**April 1—November 4**  
Downtown Thomasville will feature their First Friday Music Concert Series  

**April 17**  
13th Annual Mayhaw Century Bike Ride in the city of Colquitt, sponsored by The Colquitt Miller county Chamber of Commerce. All levels of riders are invited. 966 Phillipsburg Road. Call 229-758-2400 for more information.

**April 21-23**  
95th Annual Rose Show and Festival in Thomasville. Call 229-228-7977 for more information.

**May 5-May 7**  
Great Southern Music Festival in Ochlocknee. Call 229-221-5467 for more information.
**Baker County** named from Colonel John Baker who died in 1792. He was considered a hero of the American Revolutionary War.

**Calhoun County** named for John C. Calhoun who was a U.S. Congressman and a U.S. Senator as well as a vice President of the United States originally from South Carolina.

**Colquitt County** named for Walter Terry Colquitt who was a Methodist pastor and a U.S. Senator.

**Decatur County** named for Commodore Stephen Decatur who was a naval hero of the actions against the Barbary Pirates in the early 19th century. Downtown Bainbridge had a very large hotel named the “Commodore” that has been restored and now houses apartments upstairs and wonderful shops at the street level.

**Dougherty County** named for Charles Dougherty who was a judge from Athens, Georgia.

**Early County** named for Peter Early the tenth governor of Georgia.

**Grady County** named for Henry Woodfin Grady who was a famous orator and managing editor of the Atlanta Constitution.

**Lee County** named for General Richard Henry Lee who was considered a hero of the Revolutionary War.

**Miller County** named for Andrew Jackson Miller who was president of the Medical College of Georgia.

**Mitchell County** named for General Henry Mitchell who was considered a hero of the Revolutionary War.

**Seminole County** named after the Seminole Nation. It is the only county in our region named after a group of people and not a singular person.

**Terrell County** named after Dr. William Terrell, a former U.S. Congressman.

**Thomas County** named for General Jett Thomas, considered a hero of the War of 1812.

**Worth County** named for General William J. Worth who was considered a hero of the Mexican-American War.

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We're on the Web! [www.swgrc.org](http://www.swgrc.org)
It is time to keep a lookout for those fresh produce signs and enjoy a bounty of local produce on our tables. Also, for those that enjoy growing their own food it is time to plant seeds. To find providers of specific produce visit the Georgia Grown Website: [https://www.georgiagrown.com/find/seasonal_crops_producers](https://www.georgiagrown.com/find/seasonal_crops_producers).

You can also get safe canning and freezing tips from the University of Georgia Extension Service Website ([http://extension.uga.edu/index.cfm](http://extension.uga.edu/index.cfm)) so you can enjoy the local fare throughout the winter as well. Other things offered by their website are announcements of various workshops, pest and disease management, 4H program activities, how to get a green, thriving lawn, and much more.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture site ([http://www.agr.georgia.gov/](http://www.agr.georgia.gov/)) has links to Georgia Grown, the Market Bulletin, Georgia Market News, as well as information for agricultural programs including grants. This site also offers tips on keeping food safe. If you are one of the many people who are getting their own personal chicken coops you can see updates on Avian Influenza as well as other health alerts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker County</td>
<td>398 GA Hwy 37 SW Newton GA 39870</td>
<td>229-734-3015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>10971 Dickey Street Morgan, GA 39866</td>
<td>229-849-2685</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colquitt County</td>
<td>350 Bldg 1 Rm 132 Veterans Pkwy N. Morgan, GA</td>
<td>229-616-7455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur County</td>
<td>101 Ag Lane, Ag.Bldg. Bainbridge, GA 39817</td>
<td>229-248-3003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dougherty County</td>
<td>125 Pine Ave, Suite 100 Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td>229-436-7216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early County</td>
<td>14415 Magnolia St. Blakely, GA 39823</td>
<td>229-723-3072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grady County</td>
<td>65 11th Avenue NE, Agri-Center Cairo, GA 39828</td>
<td>229-377-1312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee County</td>
<td>107 Main Street, Govt. Bldg. Leesburg, GA 31763</td>
<td>229-759-6025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miller County</td>
<td>406 W. Crawford St., Ag Ctr Colquitt, GA 39837</td>
<td>229-758-4106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell County</td>
<td>4590 Hwy 37 East Camilla, GA 31730</td>
<td>229-336-2066</td>
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<td>Seminole County</td>
<td>426 N. Friendship Ave. Donalsonville, GA 39845</td>
<td>229-524-2326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrell County</td>
<td>955 Forrester Drive Dawson, GA 39842</td>
<td>229-995-2165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas County</td>
<td>227 West Jefferson St. Thomasville, GA 31792</td>
<td>229-225-4130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worth County</td>
<td>204 E. Franklin St. #9 Sylvester, GA 31791-3106</td>
<td>229-776-8216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UGA Extension contact:** 1-800-ASK-UGA1

**UGA Extension Website:** http://extension.uga.edu/index.cfm

*If you are reading this in our digital format you can click on the green county links above to get to the websites for the extension offices.*
The 2016 Southwest Georgia Youth Summit was the result of a collaborative effort of more than a dozen Southwest Georgia organizations. The Youth Summit was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Southwest Georgia RESA in Camilla, GA. The Summit brought together 120 youth in grades 11th and 12th from the 14 counties in Region 10. The theme for this year’s Summit was STEM: Beyond This Moment.

The Summit’s goal is to bring leadership training and other opportunities to Southwest Georgia for all students in the region. The high impact event was filled with motivational speakers and leadership activities to help youth succeed in the STEM field. Kimberly Brooks, Planner I with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission said “The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Regional Partners Network Inc. are committed to helping youth understand that they can be successful in their communities without leaving the area.” Youth attended sessions on leadership, financial aid, and STEM related projects. The day started off with Stephanie Burke, Dougherty County School System and Cumulus Broadcasting Announcer, encouraging the kids to follow their dreams. The teens were further motivated by Heather Broadway, Quality Manager for Caterpillar, to follow your dreams and pick the careers that you are passionate about and things you enjoy. Youth were able to see first-hand how they could impact the world by projects presented by Monroe Comprehensive High School students.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Sponsors for the 2016 Youth Summit were Ameris Bank, Waffle House, Bank of Camilla, A&J Enterprises, Kebos BBQ & More, Pelham Banking Company, Planters and Citizen Bank, Mitchell County High School, Southwest Georgia RESA, Flowers Foods, Proctor and Gamble, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Regional Partners’ Network Inc. and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Special thanks to all of our speakers for the event: Jenny Robbins, Georgia EMC; Angie Wilson, Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSEC); Keva Sweet-Quimbley and Noreen McGee, Albany Technical College SASET; The Electrolytes and The Aquaculturalists, Monroe Comprehensive High School STEM Cohorts.
USDA Value Added Grant Workshop

This free workshop is presented by USDA Rural Development, The University of Georgia’s Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development, and The Center for Innovation Agribusiness. Thanks to our partners at Georgia Farm Bureau.

What does the Value Added Producer Grant program do?
The VAPG program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the goals of this program. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on Grants.gov.

- **Planning grants** can be used to develop feasibility studies, business plans, marketing plans and legal evaluations.
- **Working capital grants** can be used to purchase inventory, office equipment and supplies; pay salaries, utilities and office rent; cover legal and accounting costs; conduct marketing campaigns; and develop branding and packaging materials.

Who Can Apply: Independent producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and producer-owned business ventures, including non-profit organizations.

Maximum Grant Amount: $75,000 for planning grants; $250,000 for working capital grants

Topics:
- Learn the ins and outs of the program from Al Burns with the USDA.
- Hear from successful grant writers about what is required.
- Hear about feasibility studies and business that may be required from Kent Wolfe with UGA.
- Hear about services provided by the Center for Innovation Agribusiness from Sara Cook.

Location: Georgia Farm Bureau Headquarters
1620 Bass Road, Macon, GA 31209
http://www.gfb.org/

Date: March 31st, 2016
Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm
Cost: *There is no cost to attend this event.*

Please RSVP by contacting one of the following individuals as seating is limited and its first come first serve but walk-in are welcome.

| Al Burns, Renewable Energy Coordinator USDA |
| Cell: 229-220-5067 |
| Office: 229-382-0273 ext. 109 |
| al.burns@ga.usda.gov |

| Kent Wolfe, Director, Ctr. for Agribusiness and Econ. Dev. |
| Office: 706-542-0752 |
| Cell: 706-688-9858 |
| kwolfe@uga.edu |

| Sarah Cook, Project Manager Center of Innovation for Agribusiness |
| Cell: 229-454-0612 |
| scook@georgia.org |

"Georgia Grown" "UGA Extension" "FARM BUREAU GEORGIA"
2016 Annual Housing Conference

Tuesday, May 10, 2016
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Breakfast, Lunch, and Training Materials Provided
$25 per person

Sessions Offered:
Prison Re-Entry Housing
Veterans & Homelessness
Overcoming Barriers
Legal Issues
...many more

www.swgrcplanning.org

Conference to be held at:
James H. Gray, Sr. Civic Center
100 West Oglethorpe Boulevard
Albany, Georgia 31701

For Additional Information:
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
181 E Broad Street
Camilla, Georgia 31730
229.522.3552
kbrooks@swgrc.org
QUICK PICS

The Planning Department doing what they do so well—processing grants and meeting those deadlines!

2016 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Council Appointees

Baker County
Matt Bryan
John Spann
Eddie Hopkins
Calhoun County
Charlie Williams
VACANT
Bennie Watts Jones
Colquitt County
Paul Nagy
Ferrell Ruis
Dollie Crumley
Henry Crumley
Decatur County
Dennis Brinson
Vacant
Revon Miller
Pete Stephens
Dougherty County
Anthony Jones
Tommie Postell
Allen Baggs
Raymond Breaux
Vacant
Early County
Charlie Sol
Al Hutchins
Freddie Speight
Grady County
Ray Prince
Jim Sellers
Joe Walden
Lee County
Rick Muggridge
Dwight Hickman
Chad Griffin
Glenda Battle
Miller County
Jerry Bush
Carlos Williams
VACANT
Mitchell County
Ben Hayward
Danny Palmer
Nathaniel Keaton
Seminole County
Brenda Peterson
Mitchell Blanks
VACANT
Terrell County
Ernest Johnson
Ed Wade
Jack Powell
Thomas County
Elaine Mays
Terry Scott
Donnie Baggett
Jennie Crittenden
Worth County
Mike Cosby
Randy Hill
Karen Rackley
Governor’s Appointment
David Mosely
Courtney Brinson
Vacant
Lt. Governor’s Appointment
Vacant
Speaker of the House Appointment
Vacant
Your Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Staff