Congratulations to Dougherty County on receiving the 2016 Community Home Improvement Program Grant. Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Grants Administrator Brenda Wade and Planning Director Barbara Reddick worked tirelessly to submit the CHIP application this spring. Dougherty County’s CHIP grant will help qualified local homeowners with housing repairs.

The Planning Department and our Grants Administrator Brenda Wade deserve congratulations for the award of 2016 CHIP (Community Home Improvement Program) funds to Dougherty County. Now we are encouraging communities to look into a new grant for Brownfields. If you are unaware if you have brownfields you can read more about the criteria on page 6 of this publication. The Brownfield grant requires no match and successful applicants can be awarded up to $200,000. Contact our planners today to see what can be done for you.

If you would like to get copies of our guest speakers presentations or contact information you can visit our website where they are now available at www.swgrc.org.
Save the Date

* Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. The information below was true at the time of printing. Please call the contact listed to confirm.

**September**

**29th (Thursday) Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting.** Council and their guests share a meal at 6:30pm. Business meeting begins promptly at 7:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission’s large conference room in Camilla, Georgia. For any questions call Heather White at 229-522-3552 x1602 or email hwhite@swgrc.org.

**October**

**27th (Thursday) Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting.** Council and their guests share a meal at 6:00pm. Business meeting begins promptly at 7:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Camilla Depot in Camilla, Georgia. For any questions call Heather White at 229-522-3552 x1602 or email hwhite@swgrc.org.

---

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

Grant applications are normally due annually in January. Those communities interested in submitting an application, please contact Kimberly Brooks @ kbrooks@swgrc.org or 229.522.3552 ext 1615.

For more information about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant [www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grant](http://www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grant).

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**Staff Kudos**

**Reddick Promoted to Planning Director**

SWGA Regional Commission staff member Barbara Reddick has been promoted from Senior Planner to Planning Director.

The official announcement of her promotion was at the May SWGA Regional Commission Council Meeting.

Ms. Reddick has recently celebrated her 16 year anniversary working at Regional Commission. She has multitudes of projects going on at any time and executes them effortlessly, professionally, and efficiently.

She works tirelessly with the 44 cities and 14 counties that the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission serves.

Ms. Reddick holds a Masters of Public Administration Degree from Albany State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Valdosta State University.

Prior to coming to the RC, she worked in an administrative capacity in healthcare and social services. She currently serves on the Mitchell County Board of Education.

Ms. Reddick resides in Mitchell County with her husband Robert.
Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH)

(Reprinted from Georgia Department of Community Affairs website)

The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) is currently accepting applications for community participation through September 9, 2016. GICH offers communities a three-year program of collaboration and technical assistance to help communities create and launch locally-based plans to meet their housing needs.

The GICH initiative provides a three-year program of training, technical assistance and facilitated collaboration for community housing teams. The teams are comprised of local non-profits, city and/or county government, housing authorities, local lenders, real estate professionals, chambers of commerce, local school boards, and other key players in the housing arena and normally consist of 15 to 20 people. Each participating community’s housing team then develops and implements a local housing plan, with the organizations represented on the team taking the lead on the appropriate parts of that plan.

The Initiative consists of three major program components. First, the Initiative provides participating communities with the opportunity to participate in a series of facilitated retreats. Over the three-year period, the community housing teams attend six retreats. These retreats are modeled on the National League of Cities’ successful Affordable Housing Program. This model allows the teams to work in a focused retreat setting, while learning and interacting with the housing teams from the other communities. Broad community representation and dedicated member participation on the housing team is vital to developing and implementing an effective housing plan.

Participating communities are encouraged to send their full housing teams to each retreat. In reality, it is not always practical for every member to travel to each retreat. In fact, the team may have members that never attend the retreats, but participate in local meetings and events. It is imperative, however, that each team has a core group of 8-12 members that are dedicated to attending the retreats for the full three year program. Lack of continuous participation of at least several members is detrimental to the team’s success. GICH can be used as one tool in a community’s housing tool box. There are four cities in Region 10 that are GICH alumni: Sylvester, Colquitt, Moultrie and Thomasville.

Generally, city governments are asked to take on the responsibility of preparing the application and assuming the role of lead organization during the application process and three year program. Any incorporated municipality in the state of Georgia may apply, except municipalities which are not listed as Qualified Local Governments by DCA. In cases where another local government entity (county government or local housing authority) would be more appropriate as the lead organization, that entity may apply with approval of the selection committee. Communities interested may contact Malisa Thompson at (404) 326-1048 or for more information on the GICH program go to: http://www.fcs.usg.edu/fhce/gich.
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Speakers

Now you can find resources our guest speakers provided at our events on the swgrc.org website. Just click on the tab **Speakers and Materials** and then choose from the menu which speaker’s materials you need. Available now are Holly Hunt’s Small Business Credit Initiative, Alison Souther Goldey’s Landbank presentation, Rhonda Gordon’s Golden Triangle presentation, Chelsea Carter’s Safe Routes to School and our newest addition, Henry Lee Everson’s Georgia Power Presentation on Solar Power. Please visit this valuable resource for your communities.

swgrc.org

Staff Attends Notary Class

The Decatur County Clerk of Court, Cecilia Willis, offered notaries or those interested in becoming notaries a free mini seminar in September presented by the Georgia Superior Court Clerks’ cooperative Authority.

Director of Communications Mike Smith covered topics from the proper ways to notarize a document to the scope of a notary’s duties.

Essential information for Notaries can be found at [https://www.gscca.org/notary-and-apostilles/notaries/general-notary-information](https://www.gscca.org/notary-and-apostilles/notaries/general-notary-information). This site will also inform potential notaries of fees, qualifications and training information.

The Powerpoint and contact information for the speaker is on our website at [http://www.swgrc.org/speakers-and-materials/](http://www.swgrc.org/speakers-and-materials/).

If you would like to attend one of these trainings contact Heather White at 229-522-3552 x1602 or hwhite@swgrc.org.

**Congratulations Southwest Georgia!**

Many of our beautiful towns and counties have received Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for infrastructure improvements. This is a great accomplishment for Region 10!

**Congratulations:**

Arlington—Boston—Bronwood—Cairo—Camilla—Donalsonville—Ellenton—Leesburg—Pelham Poulain—Thomas County

MIKE SMITH
Director of Communications 
& Compliance Officer

t: (404) 327-8753
f: (404) 327-7877
mike.smith@gscca.org
www.gscca.org
1575 Century Blvd. Suite 100 Atlanta, GA 30345
In 1839 the Georgia Historical Society was founded in Savannah. In 1839 there were 85 members. Their mission was to “collect, preserve, and diffuse the history of the State of Georgia and of America generally.” In 2010 the Georgia Historical Society opened an office in Atlanta. This is in addition to the Savannah campus and the Jepson House Education Center. To read what amazing things the Georgia Historical Society has accomplished last year go to this website to read their Annual Report for 2015: [http://georgiahistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/annual-report-2015.pdf](http://georgiahistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/annual-report-2015.pdf). You can reach their web page at: [http://georgiahistory.com/](http://georgiahistory.com/).

You may notice historical markers all around Georgia. The Georgia Historical Society has administered this program since 1998 and has placed 200 of them. They have a searchable database for all of their markers. If your community is interested in a historical marker for a location in your city, town, or county you can find out the guidelines on their website. The due date for applying for a marker is September 1st of each year. A committee will review all applications and make the applicant aware of their decision after the Review Meeting. A marker can cost anywhere from $2500 to $5000 depending on whether the applicant will qualify for and offset any of the cost of the marker project.

The Georgia Historical Society is a great resource for research. The Georgia Historical Society Research Center has ‘more than 4 million manuscripts, 100,000 photographs, 30,000 architectural drawings and 15,000 rare and non-rare books not to mention thousands of maps, portraits, and artifacts.’ Their website allows you to search their catalogs, search digital images and search archival collections online in the comfort of your office or home.

Georgia history is fascinating and rich. Explore the Georgia Historical Society’s web page and see what you can find out about your city, county or your state of Georgia.

[Photo credit: Michael Rivera]
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA HOUSING TASK FORCE

HOUSING IS FOR EVERYONE

REGIONAL HOUSING FAIR

2 AWESOME SESSIONS
POST PURCHASE
• How to Increase Home Value?
  • Maintenance of Home
  • Rehab
PRE-PURCHASE
• Credit Building
• Reestablishing credit
• Fair Housing
• Loans

The Regional Housing Fair will:
1. Provide informational resources to homeowners & potential homeowners.
2. Provide information on how to transition from public housing to homeownership.
3. Provide information on how to establish, repair or re-establish your credit.

JOIN US

Tuesday October 11, 2016
4 p.m.—7 p.m.

Southern Regional Technical College
15689 U.S. Highway 19 North
Thomasville, Georgia 31792

For more information, contact:
Sharon Edwards (sedwards.cotc@gmail.com) at
(229) 289-0032 or Kimberly Brooks
(kbrooks@swgrc.org) at (229) 522-3552
GEORGIA 2017
HOMELESS COUNT

In January 2017 the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will sponsor the state count of homeless and precariously housed individuals and families.

Cooperation with this endeavor would benefit your community by identifying housing needs, opening up funding for affordable housing initiatives and increasing public awareness for an issue that may not be obvious to many citizens.

To read the 2015 Homeless Count/Report visit the Georgia Department of Community Affairs website or use this direct link http://www.dca.state.ga.us/housing/specialneeds/programs/homeless_count.asp.

Who are the homeless population?

♦ People staying with friends or family in overcrowded situations
♦ Runaway youth staying with one friend or another
♦ People who can not afford housing and are living in a hotel
♦ People being released from institutions and treatment facilities.

Below listed are the Homeless Count Coordinators and their contact information for each county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Sondra Hampton</td>
<td>229-985-3610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>Sondra Hampton</td>
<td>229-985-3610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colquitt</td>
<td>Janet Sheldon</td>
<td>229-224-2536</td>
<td>229-416-4013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Olive Wedderburn</td>
<td>229-985-3610</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dougherty</td>
<td>Contact County Office</td>
<td>229-431-2121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>Sondra Hampton</td>
<td>229-985-3610</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grady</td>
<td>Jeanette Sickles</td>
<td>229-872-3260</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>Christi Dockery</td>
<td>229-759-6000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>Miller County CollaborativeFamily Connection</td>
<td>229-400-3635</td>
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<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Sondra Hampton</td>
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<td>Seminole</td>
<td>Sondra Hampton</td>
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<td>Terrell</td>
<td>Sondra Hampton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Contact County Office</td>
<td>229-225-4100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worth</td>
<td>Tom Whittington</td>
<td>229-776-8223</td>
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COMMUNITY PLANNING INSTITUTE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The next COMMUNITY PLANNING INSTITUTE will be held
November 17-18 at Villas by the Sea on beautiful Jekyll Island.

The CPI is sponsored by DCA’s Office of Planning and Environmental Management, in partnership with the Georgia Planning Association. This CPI will offer 2 classes:

Preparing and Implementing your Comprehensive Plan - a 2-day class that covers the local planning process- from preparing to implementing your comprehensive plan to improve your community.

Managing your Water Resources – a 1-day class that offers an overview of Georgia’s water resources and what local governments can do to wisely use and protect these resources.

Who should attend?
Elected Officials
Planning Commissioners
Zoning Board of Appeals members
Citizen Planners
Planning Officials

*Registration: $75/day early bird, ending November 1
$100/day after that date

Registration deadline is November 11.
Registration and hotel information available at
https://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/opqg.asp

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact: Adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov or (478)319-0433.
Georgia Economic Development Conference

The 2016 Economic Development Conference held in Buford, Georgia at the Lake Lanier Islands was attended by Regional Commission Senior Planner, Barbara Reddick. The conference was jammed packed with exciting learning activities and great speakers. There were a series of relevant topics from a Main Street/Downtown Development presentation by Jessica Reynolds to a presentation and discussion about Brownfields. Several best practices were presented to the group and presentations by several Georgia communities presented their successful ways of creative funding that can be used for downtown development.

Brownfields and a number of EPA Programs were discussed in great detail. The three speakers presented several Brownfield project examples from around the state. “This information will be extremely helpful in planning and working with our local governments” stated Barbara Reddick, Senior Planner.

Georgia tax experts were on hand to discuss the various incentives available to governments and others. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) updates were given and Regional Commissions were encouraged to utilize public private partnership to improve economic development efforts and maximize dollars. The meeting ended with an Economic Development Committee meeting and Executive Directors and Policy Members meetings. Plans are underway for next year conference.

What is a Brownfield?

Most communities in Region 10 have at least one brownfield. The term Brownfield is used in planning to describe land previously used for industrial purposes or some commercial uses. Such land may have been contaminated with hazardous waste or pollution (petroleum, controlled substance, asbestos) or is feared to be so. Once cleaned up, the area can become host to a business development such as a retail park, or any other commercial use.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission is currently seeking communities that have brownfields and would like to participate in the Regional Brownfield Area Wide Grant Opportunity (BF AWP). The grant will be used to identify and assess brownfield areas in the region for cleanup and redevelopment. We are organizing for next year’s grant competition. The maximum amount for each community is $200,000 and no match is required. The RC will write and administer the two year grant and provide fiscal, administrative and programmatic oversight. Communities interested in applying for the Brownfield AWP Grant or would like more information about identifying brownfields should contact Steve O’Neil by email at soneil@swgrc.org or by phone at 229.522.3552 ext. 1616.
# 2016 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Appointees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baker County</th>
<th>Dougherty County</th>
<th>Miller County</th>
<th>Thomas County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Moore</td>
<td>Anthony Jones</td>
<td>Jerry Bush</td>
<td>Elaine Mays</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Spann</td>
<td>Tommie Postell</td>
<td>Carlos Williams</td>
<td>Terry Scott</td>
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<td>Eddie Hopkins</td>
<td>Allen Baggs</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td>Donnie Baggett</td>
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<td>Calhoun County</td>
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<td>Mitchell County</td>
<td>Jeanie Crottenden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Williams</td>
<td>Erica Savage Wilson</td>
<td>Ben Hayward</td>
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<td>Danny Palmer</td>
<td>Mike Cosby</td>
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<td>Bennie Watts Jones</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Keaton</td>
<td>Randy Hill</td>
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<td>Colquitt County</td>
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<td>Seminole County</td>
<td>Karen Rackley</td>
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<td>Paul Nagy</td>
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<td>Governor’s Appointment</td>
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<td>Ferrell Ruis</td>
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<td>David Mosely</td>
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<td>Dollie Crumley</td>
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<td>Courtney Brinson</td>
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<td>Henry Crumley</td>
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<td>Norma Gilpatrick</td>
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<td>Dennis Brinson</td>
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<td>Ernest Johnson</td>
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<td>Revonn Miller</td>
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<td>Ed Wade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy Poppell</td>
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<td>Jack Powell</td>
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| Early County       | Grady County         | Lee County          | Pelham              |
| Charlie Sol        | Al Hutchins          | Rick Muggridge      | 229-294-4924        |
| Freddy Speight     | Ray Prince           | Dwight Hickman      |                    |
|                    | Jim Sellers          | Chad Griffin        |                    |
|                    | Joe Walden           | Glenda Battle       |                    |

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<th>Chamber of Commerce Listings</th>
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<td>229-434-8700</td>
<td>229-377-3663</td>
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<td>229-723-3741</td>
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<td>Camilla</td>
<td>Colquitt-Miller</td>
<td>Thomasville-Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>229-336-5255</td>
<td>229-758-2400</td>
<td>229-226-9600</td>
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</table>
OWE MORE ON YOUR MORTGAGE THAN YOUR HOME IS WORTH?

A new, limited-time, federally funded initiative may be able to help.

Underwater Georgia is a new federally funded state program for Georgia homeowners who owe more money on their mortgage than their home is worth. For eligible applicants, the program may be able to provide a one-time payment of up to $50,000 to the mortgage lender to reduce the principal balance on the home. To qualify, a homeowner must file a pre-application by October 18, 2016.

To qualify
- The property must be your primary residence (and only home) and purchased prior to January 1, 2012.
- The total amount owed on all mortgages on the home must be $250,000 or less and mortgage payments have to be less than 90 days past due.
- Total gross household income must not exceed 140 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- The property must have a total loan to value (LTV) ratio of at least 110 percent.
- You cannot have received assistance previously through HomeSafe Georgia.

To apply
- Visit underwatergeorgia.org. There, you can review full program requirements and complete a pre-qualification quiz, which will help you determine whether you are likely to qualify.
- Submit a pre-application by October 18, which asks for your contact information and details including when you purchased your home, its value and mortgage balance and more.
- A random selection process via a third party will be conducted among pre-applications submitted. Representatives from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs will contact homeowners selected and work with them directly to complete a full application, which also includes submitting supporting documentation.

underwatergeorgia.org
Toll free at 1-877-519-4443
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
underwatergeorgia@dca.ga.gov

REPRESENTANTES DE HABLA HISPANA ESTÁN DISPONIBLE.
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Helen Williams  
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Your Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Staff