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REGIONAL CALENDAR

MARCH

⇒ 7-12 USS Georgia Flag Project
⇒ 27 Board Mtg., Adel

APRIL

⇒ 16-18 EDA, New Orleans
⇒ 21-25 GMA Cities Week
⇒ 24 Board Mtg., Adel
⇒ 26-29 ACCG, Savannah

May

⇒ 4-6 GARDC, Brasstown



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South Georgia RDC and Moody AFB Initiate Joint Regional Planning Project

On March 1, the South Georgia RDC and the U.S. Air Force initiated a regional planning project involving three counties surrounding Moody AFB. The joint Land Use Study (JLUS) will be a joint effort of Lowndes, Lanier and Berrien Counties to address land use and encroachment concerns resulting from the current and future development of the base's neighboring communities. The study's purpose is to safeguard the installation's military mission without degrading the public health, safety and welfare of the surrounding communities and ensuring that local economic development can prosper.

Overseeing the development of the JLUS will be a Policy Committee comprised of local elected officials, private sector individuals, and installation leaders. Assisting in the planning effort will be a Technical Committee made up of local planning and administrative officials from the three areas and Moody.



Once completed, the JLUS study will include recommendations regarding future land use planning, zoning ordinances, housing development, school location, communication tower location and height restrictions, building codes, and other development issues to ensure compatibility between the mission of Moody AFB and the development needs of the area.

RDC staff members Marty LeFiles, Sherry Davidson, and Julia Shewchuk review the JLUS work scope with John Leigh (second from left), U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, and Robert Jefferson (third from left), Director of Planning Moody AFB.



327 W. Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

Information Technology Services

Contact: Vance Roberts

**City of Valdosta and South Georgia RDC
Installing New Network Equipment**

The City of Valdosta and the South Georgia RDC have jointly purchased new network equipment including a Cisco ASA5510 firewall which will be used as a network gateway device for better security. Cisco 2811 series routers will help separate manageable VLANS (Virtual Local Area Network) for our clients and Cisco 3560 series switches will improve overall performance of the network and prevent bottlenecks from developing on your mission-critical servers and high-end applications.

Currently we are installing new Cisco switches and routers that will improve reliability, speed and security. By upgrading our network backbone equipment, The City of Valdosta and South Georgia RDC will ensure the highest traffic quality to all our clients. Our new routers and switches will allow higher uptime, higher network availability and lower network latency. The new Cisco system will also help improve data flow from one department to the next.



The South Georgia RDC ITS department is confident that these new advancements in our technology will help us provide first class service, through better, faster, and highly secured networks.

Loan Program

Contact: Michelle Frey

**Loan Program Assists in the Relocation
of Quality Daycare and Learning Center**

Owners Jerome and Brenda Findley of Quality Day care and Learning Center plan to relocate to a larger building with the help of South Georgia RDC and Citizens Community Bank of Hahira. With the help of the SBA's 504 Program, the purchase of a larger building will allow the daycare to better serve the different age groups and their individual needs. Quality Daycare and Learning will continue to provide a pleasant, safe, and educational environment for the children, while maintaining the trust and relationship that they have worked so hard to earn in the past 10 years.



The current facility was built in 1991 and has operated under the name of The Little People Daycare Center. The building is approximately 5,000 square feet with a lot size of 1.2 acres. The daycare center has 85 to 90 children and 15 employees. The new location has five instructional/teaching rooms, office, multiple storage room, multiple bathrooms, a full kitchen, laundry room, mechanical room, storage area, and large fenced in playground.

Community and Economic Development

Contact: Sherry Davidson

**Tift County Comprehensive
Plan Update**

The Planning team at the South Georgia RDC has been working hard along with the citizens and staff of Tift County to write the first portion of the 2028 Greater Tift County Comprehensive Plan Update. Over the past few months, many hearings and meetings have been

held with a Technical Advisory Committee, a Stakeholders Committee, and a Steering Committee in order to insure the plan is one written by the people of the County and its municipalities. The first section is the Community Assessment. This portion is an assessment of the current state of the county and municipalities. The next step in completing the plan will be to

work on the Community Agenda. The Community Agenda is the most important part of the 2028 Tift County Comprehensive Plan Update. Based on the findings of the Community Assessment and the input gathered through the many Public Participation meetings, this document provides the Vision for Greater Tift County's future and it provides the a community based plan to implement that vision. The Community Agenda also priorities the key issues and opportunities

that Greater Tift County wants to address in the next 20 years, provides a list of policies which will direct the making of day-to-day decisions through the Unified Land Development Code and provides a detailed Short Term Work Program that outlines what specific actions Greater Tift County will implement over the next 5 years.



Geographical Information Systems

Contact: Chris/Rachel B. Strom

**SPRING TIME BRINGS
MOSQUITOES**

The Spring season brings with it the annual community festivals, children playing in our parks, and lots of outdoor activities for everyone across our region. It also brings a few sprinkles of rain and although a nice spring shower is refreshing, it also creates the opportunity for pesky mosquitoes to begin their assault against our outdoor enjoyment.



SGRDC-GIS has assisted local governments with devising mosquito trapping, monitoring and treatment methods for the past few years with some great results. Using GIS, we can help you devise more efficient routes for blanket spraying of your community therefore reducing mileage and fuel costs. Or, we can help identify areas where at-risk populations co-exist with known mosquito habitats such as wetlands, storm drains, and other areas. This method will result in a more surgical treatment of your mosquito problems and help not only reduce mileage and fuel, but also reduce your material costs.

So when you swat that first mosquito of the season, think about us and know that we're ready to help.

The Rural Geospatial Innovations consortium (of which we are a member) suffered a funding setback last year due to the removal of earmark project funding by congress. This coming fiscal year, it looks like that funding will be restored and bring approximately \$130,000 of pilot project and outreach funding back to our region. If you'd like more details, just give us a call and we can explain the positive impacts that this will bring to our region.



Workforce Development

Contact: Marcia Gaskins

**Paxen Youth Completes Work
Readiness Class**

The Paxen, Inc. WIA Youth Program recently completed a Work Readiness Class, which was held at the Performance Learning Center in Valdosta. The Work Readiness Class curriculum facilitates the acquisition of life, academic, and employability skills. Youth are encouraged to re-engage in secondary school and obtain their high school diploma. Pre-employment/work maturity skills, i.e., job search, completing applications, resumes, interviewing skills, appropriate behavior and attire, self esteem, goal setting, time and stress management are included in the curriculum, in addition to career exploration. Topics are practice-oriented and activity-based. Business volunteers are invited to speak to the class about the hiring process, and students make on-site visits to are employers to explore different careers and observe how businesses operate.



Left to right: Alexandria Dean, Heather Jones, Shelbie Preston, Kathleen Collins, Niesha Webb, Trinisha Baty, Tiffany Miller and Alexandria Wilson

...Each year your GIS team helps to spread the word about GIS success in the region. This year, several of our team members will be attending the annual Southeast Regional Users Group GIS conference in Jacksonville, FL. We will present on various topics at this conference and will continue to show off the great GIS efforts across our region.

