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REGIONAL CALENDAR

April

- => 20 Moody JILUS, RC
- => 22 Good Friday, SGRC Holiday
- => 26 SGRC Council Mtg., Pearson
- => 27 MPO, RC
- => 30- May 2 ACCG, Savannah

May

- => 4 GMA Listening, Nashville
- => 5 GARC, Macon
- => 14 Echols Carrot Festival
- => 19 Commission on Regional Planning, Atlanta
- => 24 SGRC Council Mtg., Pearson
- => 25 EDPros, Nashville



in the REGION

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A leader in the development of local and regional programs since 1963.

Valdosta
(229) 333-5277
Waycross
(912) 285-6097

www.sgrc.us
sgrc@sgrc.us

Southern Georgia AAA's ADRC Joins Community to Present First Annual Ware County Autism Awareness Day



AAA staff member Polly Wilson (left) and Marsha Stacy (right) helped to "light up" First Annual Autism Awareness Day with blue balloons.

Kim Gibson, Ware County Parent Mentor, had a vision of bringing everyone in the community together to learn more about autism. On Saturday, April 9, that dream turned into a reality when staff from the Southern Georgia Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) joined forces with Kim and over 20 local agencies, healthcare professionals and education specialists to present Ware County's First Annual Autism Awareness Day.

Polly Wilson, ADRC Specialist (photo, left), and Marsha Stacy, Kinship Care Specialist (photo, right) worked closely with Kim to plan activities and develop marketing materials to promote the event.

The pair represented the ADRC at Saturday's event by providing information to parents about the vast resource database available through the Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging (AAA). They also greeted parents and handed out blue balloons to the children in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day's "Light It Up Blue" campaign (www.lightitupblue.org).

In addition to information booths for parents, there were plenty of children's activities available including an inflatable slide, a go-fish booth, a reading circle and face painting. Food and drinks were provided by the Jaycees and the Pepsi-Cola Company.

Kim and the rest of the volunteers were pleased with the community support and the turnout from parents and families. "Overall, the parents truly appreciated our effort to bring attention to what they live every day," said Kim. "It was an awesome day, and we couldn't have asked for better weather."

According to Polly, "the ADRC was excited to be a part of this special event. Not only did we have a chance to promote autism awareness, but we also were given an excellent opportunity to promote the ADRC and the services that we provide. We're really looking forward to next year's event!"



327 W. Savannah Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

1725 S. Georgia Pkwy, West
Waycross, Georgia 31503

Workforce Investment
Contact: Marcia Gaskins

Nursing Students Funded By WIA

Practical nursing students of the Wiregrass Technical College Ben Hill-Irwin Campus were honored during a pinning/capping ceremony at WGTC on March 10, 2011. WIA funded the training. WIA is a federally funded scholarship given to a limited number of qualified applicants each semester. WIA focuses on training/retraining individuals for new job opportunities. Applicants must intend on returning to the workforce once they have completed their training program. For more information about the WIA program contact Kaye Clayton (229) 468-2055 or email: kaye.clayton@wiregrass.edu at the Ben Hill-Irwin Campus or Debbie Haskin (229)333-5271 debbie.haskin@wiregrass.edu at the Valdosta Campus.



WIA nursing students(L-R)- Back: Wayne Walsh, Irwinville; Justin Coleman, Ocilla; Matthew Jones, Fitzgerald; and Lloyd Tony Brown, Fitzgerald. Front: Kristy Perry, Tifton; Jessica Fletcher, Ocilla; Tabatha Smith, Tifton; Donna Sumner, Fitzgerald; Johnna Jowers, Douglas; and Christian Cook, Fitzgerald. Not pictured, Gloria Eversson, Ashburn.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Completed

On April 1, Community Development Staff Completed 15 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for projects that include street paving and drainage, water, and sewer improvements, and several building construction projects. Awards will be announced in September of this year.

Loan Services
Contact: Michelle Frey

SGRC LOAN BOARD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission recently appointed Alphonso (Al) Whitfield III of Ware County and Marvin M. Deen of Bacon County to the SGRC Loan Board.

Mr. Whitfield is the owner of Vital, Inc. a management consulting firm in Waycross, Georgia. He served on the Atlanta Development Authority Business Improvement Loan Fund Committee for a number of years.



Mr. Deen is the owner of Deen Investments, Inc. He is a retired Funeral Director and has been a small business owner in Alma, Georgia for a number of years.



Information Technology
Contact: Vance Roberts

City of Ashburn Uses New Order System for Utility Department Calls

The City of Ashburn began using a new Work Order system in April. As customers report problems, they can input the information and print work orders for the Utility Departments. Upon completion of the work order, they can input the assigned employee and their comments and remarks about the job. Inquiries into this information will allow management to create Excel spreadsheets of the work done by an employee, by a department, or at a specific service address for a particular date range.

Geographical Information System
Contact: Chris Strom

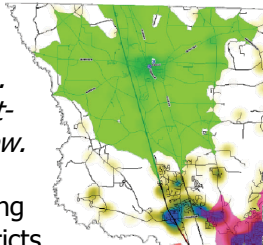
GIS for Response Analysis



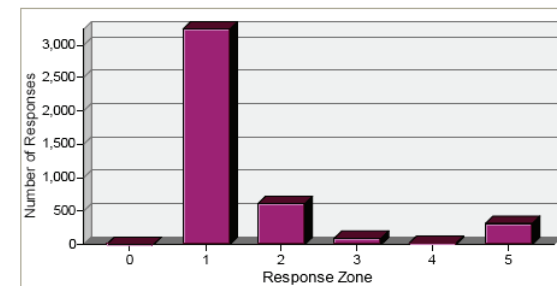
Fire and EMS responders see each day the difference that a single minute or a single mile can make to those who need their help. In protecting life and property there are plans and protocols to ensure the most efficient and safe response to any situation is delivered. As our communities grow and change, so do some of those plans. That's where GIS can help remove guesswork by measuring past response performance or analyzing "what-if?" scenarios.

With GIS, past response locations can be mapped and illustrated as hot-spots to show you where your concentrations of service are located. In addition to that, calculated drive times can be over-layed to show what concentrations might be outside an ideal response time.

The green area in the map indicates a calculated 6-minute response time from an EMS station. Blue-green areas below it are outside of an ideal 6 minutes window.



Most emergency response planning is centered around response districts. While ideally a district should be serviced by a primary response unit, the real world will no doubt require that sometimes units cross boundaries to backup one another. When response locations are combined district boundaries, GIS allows you to see (as in the graph below) how many times each district required a response from secondary units.



Got an idea on how this could help you? Give us a call !

Community and Economic Development
Contact: Sherry Davidson

SGRC Completes Draft Unconstrained Investment List for Transportation Investment Act

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission recently completed its review of the projects submitted by local governments for the Draft Unconstrained Investment List for the Transportation Investment Act, a proposed 1% sales tax for transportation improvements. From local governments in the Southern Georgia Region more than 350 projects were submitted requesting a total of more than \$2.7 billion dollars.

The request includes all projects and phases, from highway design to transit operations. These projects are available for viewing on the SGRC website at www.sgrc.us/transportation, click on TIA Info under Quick Links. These projects were submitted to GDOT on April 13th where each will be reviewed for eligibility against the Regional Eligibility Criteria. Around June 1, 2011, GDOT will present the Final Unconstrained Investment List to the Executive Committee of the Regional Transportation Roundtable whose task it is to select a fiscally constrained listing of projects to present to the entire Roundtable and ultimately the voters. If you have any questions please contact Corey Hull at chull@sgrc.us or 229 333-5277.



Solid Waste Implementation Strategy Updated

Local Governments are required to update their Solid Waste Implementation Strategy ever five years, which awards them eligibility for a package of incentives including solid waste grants, loans and permits from DCA, DNR/EPD and GEFA. Three of our local governments; Atkinson County, Berrien County, and Turner County have submitted updates and have been awarded letters of eligibility from DCA. These updates should provide a framework for making sound decisions regarding their long-term growth and development.