

# In the REGION

## SGRC Executive Director Reelected as GARC President

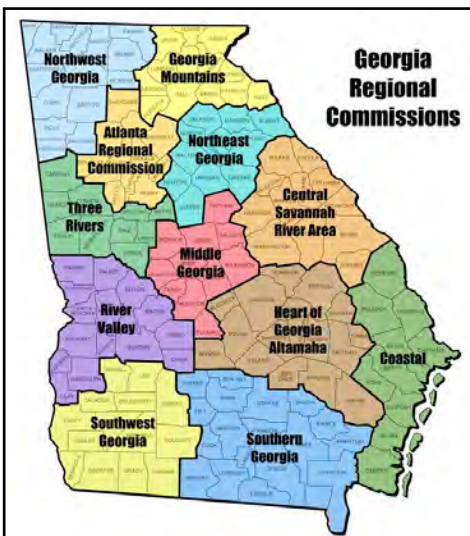
Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) Executive Director Lisa Cribb has been reelected to her second 2-year term as President of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC). GARC's purpose is to promote the regional efforts of Georgia's twelve regional commissions in their provision of services to local governments and related state and federal programs.

Cribb has served as Executive Director of the SGRC since 2015, having filled the role of Assis-

tant Executive Director for 15 years prior to that. Her career at the regional commission began in 1993 when she joined the agency as Director of Finance. Lisa holds a Bachelors of Business Administration from Valdosta State University and is a Certified Public Accountant. About her reelection as GARC President, Cribb stated, "I am honored to have been selected as GARC President for a second term. I appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me by the GARC Board, and I look forward to continuing to lead this organization."



**Lisa Cribb**  
**SGRC Executive Director**



*The Southern Georgia Regional Commission proudly serves Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties.*

# Geographic Information Services

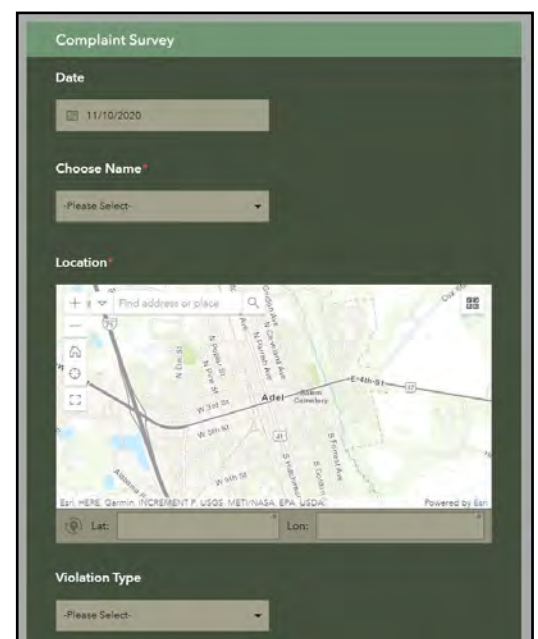
## GIS Solutions in the Field and on Your Phone!

In this era when information is so easily accessible, City and County departments are looking for a way to streamline daily tasks and GIS solutions can help with that. Using one or more specialized apps on a smartphone, employees can collect information as soon as it is seen. Apps allow employees to take a picture, record an address, and assign a value, all while in the field, which saves time and money.

Recently, the City of Adel approached the SGRC-GIS division looking for one such solution. The city wanted something that would allow city employees to work more efficiently in the field, keep track of time, and allow the city council to view the status of reported issues. To accomplish this, SGRC-GIS devised a multi-pronged approach and gathered it into a centralized internet platform. Initially, SGRC-GIS created a complaint form that could be accessed from any smart device or computer, so that city employees and council members can submit code enforcement issues. Next, SGRC-GIS created an ESRI Workforce application that allowed for seamless dispatching of the complaints and quicker response times from city employees. The complaints could also be viewed by code enforcement staff while out in the field, on smart phones, and by supervisors in the office. The City was able to see complaints/issues in real time and maintain records that followed the problem all the way through until completion or resolution. The final piece to this project was a solution that allowed code enforcement staff to keep track of the time spent working on each aspect of the job. SGRC-GIS built a web interface that enabled City staff to input time and location, which then allowed the supervisor to download Excel sheets to produce a report. For more information, contact Rachel Strom at [rstrom@sgrc.us](mailto:rstrom@sgrc.us).



***Pictured above is the City of Adel Code Enforcement program platform and pictured below is the complaint form.***



# Information Technology (IT)

## The SGRC-IT Division Shares Information on Charity Fraud

Many people make charitable donations in the holiday season. It is natural to get into a giving spirit this time of year—especially considering the issues that this country has faced in the year 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a number of legitimate charities that do a great job using donations for their intended purpose to help those affected by the virus. Unfortunately, there are also plenty of cyber criminals out there waiting to catch people off guard and capitalize on their generosity.

Nationwide, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies have received reports of scammers fraudulently soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19. They are leveraging the COVID-19 pandemic to steal money, personal information, or both. Those who would donate should be aware that the scammers are out there.

Charity scams often occur when a scammer poses as a real charity or uses the name of a real charity to solicit money from donors. One should be careful about giving money to any charity that calls for donations and be wary of calls about a donation pledge that one does not remember making. Additionally, the names and numbers that appear on caller ID displays are not always accurate and can be deceptive. Scammers often spoof an organization's phone number. It is always best to research the organization's telephone number and call directly to verify. Finally, one should not give in to being pressured or rushed to donate as these tactics are strong indicators of a scam.

For more information on how the SGRC-IT Division may help, please contact Larry Adams by telephone at (229) 242-1988 or via email at [ladams@sgrc.us](mailto:ladams@sgrc.us).



# Transportation and Environmental

## Understanding Public Transit Funding

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides financing of the construction, operation, and maintenance of public transportation systems to local governments and transit authorities throughout the US. In Georgia, FTA typically provides grants to local public transit systems through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and funds are dispersed to counties, cities, transit authorities, and Regional Commissions to fund various transit planning, capital, and operations expenses and projects. The following are the grant programs that are most used in the SGRC region for transit: (5303) Metropolitan transportation planning; (5304) Rural transit planning; (5307) Urban Public Transit Grants; (5311) Rural Public Transit Grants; (5310) Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities.

The federal transit funds are utilized throughout the year to provide operations services and/or capital according to the grant guidelines set forth by GDOT. For example, the 5311 grant program funds can be used to make capital purchases and fund operational expenses for rural public transit. The SGRC is currently applying for Regional Public Transit funding and, although counties can participate individually, the SGRC has requested that all counties participate in the regional application that the SGRC will submit. Counties can participate in the one application by signing an Authorizing Resolution and submitting it to SGRC by December 7, 2020. When GDOT awards the 5311 funds, counties can choose to opt-in to participate in a regional public transit system or to participate in an individual public transit system within their county (as long as funding is awarded).

The SGRC utilizes 5304 funding to plan for rural public transit programs either on a county or regional basis. Past reports can be found on the SGRC website. Likewise, the SGRC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta urban area, uses 5303 funds to assist the City of Valdosta in planning for urban public transit and to support the overall functions of the transportation planning throughout Lowndes County. The City of Valdosta will be using 5307 funds to begin its public transit system in the coming months.

As the operator of the Georgia Department of Human Services Coordinated Transportation program, the SGRC utilizes 5310 funds to provide no-cost rides to eligible clients (mostly seniors and persons with developmental disabilities) access to medical appointments, grocery stores and pharmacies, and even trips that enhance their quality of life. Anyone interested may call a local senior center, the SGRC's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (888) 732-4464, or Megan Fowler at (229)333-5277 to determine eligibility and to learn how to schedule a trip.

# Local Government Services

## Local Government Services Shares Information on Development of Regional Impact (DRI)

Large scale projects (as defined in the Thresholds table on pp. 6-7) with anticipated regional effects are required by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 to be reviewed as Developments of Regional Impact (DRI's). The current rules regarding DRI's (GA DCA Chapter 110-12-3, effective March 1, 2014), establish the procedures by which DRI's are to be reviewed.

The first step in the DRI process is initiated by consideration of action on a development project that meets or exceeds the DRI thresholds for the development type. SGRC planning staff are available to answer questions regarding the process and the role of the local government, the Regional Commission, and the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in the DRI review process. Sufficient detail about the proposed project is necessary from the developer to determine if the project will trigger the need for a DRI review.

A completed DRI Information Form, available on the DCA website, assists staff in the process of determining if the proposed development is a DRI. The Regional Commission has five days to determine if a project is a DRI, once a fully completed DRI Information form has been received from a local government.

The remainder of the DRI process is prescribed by the DRI rules and includes notice to affected parties, a 15-day comment period, and the drafting of a DRI Report by the Regional Commission. The materials presented in the DRI Report are advisory; the local government has the right to determine if the proposed development is appropriate. Any comments received by the Regional Commission during the comment period are included in the final report. Additionally, the Regional Commission assesses how the proposed development would likely impact adjacent jurisdictions and how the project relates to the policies, programs, and projects in the Regional Plan and Regional Resource Plan.

For additional details and localized assistance, SGRC Planning staff are available at (229) 333-5277.



*Echols County, Georgia (before COVID-19)*

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# Local Government Services

## Local Government Services Shares Information on Development of Regional Impact (DRI) (continued)

**DRI Threshold Table**

<b>Developments of Regional Impact Development Thresholds</b>		
<b>Type of Development</b>	<b>Metropolitan Tier</b>	<b>Non-Metropolitan Tier</b>
(1) Office	Greater than 400,000 gross square feet	Greater than 125,000 gross square feet
(2) Commercial	Greater than 300,000 gross square feet	Greater than 175,000 gross square feet
(3) Wholesale & Distribution	Greater than 500,000 gross square feet	Greater than 175,000 gross square feet
(4) Hospitals and Health Care Facilities	Greater than 300 new beds; or generating more than 375 peak hour vehicle trips per day	Greater than 200 new beds; or generating more than 250 peak hour vehicle trips per day
(5) Housing	Greater than 400 new lots / units	Greater than 125 new lots / units
(6) Industrial	Greater than 500,000 gross square feet; or employing more than 1,600 workers; or covering more than 400 acres	Greater than 175,000 gross square feet; or employing more than 500 workers; or covering more than 125 acres
(7) Hotels	Greater than 400 rooms	Greater than 250 rooms
(8) Mixed Use	Gross square feet greater than 400,000 (with residential units calculated at either 1800 square feet per unit or, if applicable, the minimum square footage allowed by local development regulations); or covering more than 120 acres; or if any of the individual uses meets or exceeds a threshold as identified herein	Gross square feet greater than 125,000 (with residential units calculated at either 1800 square feet per unit or, if applicable, the minimum square footage allowed by local development regulations); or covering more than 40 acres; or if any of the individual uses meets or exceeds a threshold as identified herein
(9) Airports	All new airports, runways and runway extensions	Any new airport with a paved runway; or runway additions of more than 25% of existing runway length
(10) Attractions & Recreational Facilities	Greater than 1,500 parking spaces or a seating capacity of more than 6,000	Greater than 1,500 parking spaces or a seating capacity of more than 6,000
(11) Post-Secondary School	New school with a capacity of more than 2,400 students; or expansion by at least 25 percent of capacity	New school with a capacity of more than 750 students; or expansion by at least 25 percent of capacity

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# Local Government Services

## Local Government Services Shares Information on Development of Regional Impact (DRI) (continued)

**DRI Threshold Table (continued)**

<b>Developments of Regional Impact Development Thresholds</b>		
(12) Waste Handling Facilities	New facility or expansion of use of an existing facility by 50 percent or more	New facility or expansion of use of an existing facility by 50 percent or more
(13) Quarries, Asphalt & Cement Plants	New facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent	New facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent
(14) Wastewater Treatment Facilities	New major conventional treatment facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent; or community septic treatment facilities exceeding 150,000 gallons per day or serving a development project that meets or exceeds an applicable threshold as identified herein	New major conventional treatment facility or expansion of existing facility by more than 50 percent; or community septic treatment facilities exceeding 150,000 gallons per day or serving a development project that meets or exceeds an applicable threshold as identified herein.
(15) Petroleum Storage Facilities	Storage greater than 50,000 barrels if within 1,000 feet of any water supply; otherwise, storage capacity greater than 200,000 barrels	Storage greater than 50,000 barrels if within 1,000 feet of any water supply; otherwise, storage capacity greater than 200,000 barrels
(16) Water Supply Intakes/Public Wells/Reservoirs/Treatment Facilities	New Facilities	New Facilities
(17) Intermodal Terminals	New Facilities	New Facilities
(18) Truck Stops	A new facility with more than three (3) diesel fuel pumps, or containing a half acre of truck parking or 10 truck parking spaces	A new facility with more than three (3) diesel fuel pumps, or containing a half acre of truck parking or 10 truck parking spaces
(19) Correctional/Detention Facilities	Greater than 300 new beds; or generating more than 375 peak hour vehicle trips per day	Greater than 200 new beds; or generating more than 250 peak hour vehicle trips per day
(20) Any other development types not identified above (parking facilities)	1000 parking spaces or, if available, more than 5,000 daily trips generated	1000 parking spaces or, if available, more than 5,000 daily trips generated

# Area Agency on Aging

## SGRC-AAA Will Hold Virtual Area Plan Public Hearing December 8, 2020

On Tuesday, December 8, 2020, the SGRC-AAA will hold a virtual annual Public Hearing. A virtual meeting format will be used as a safety precaution to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Meeting participants will be able to call in to the Zoom Meetings platform using an internet capable device or a telephone. While it is customary to hold two Public Hearings per year in order to garner information from various locations in the service area, the nature of a virtual meeting will allow participants to call in all at once from every city and county in the region.

Scott Courson, Director of Aging Services said, “We are looking forward to holding a virtual Public Hearing for our service area in order to explain the purpose of the public hearing, as well as the area plan purpose, development process, and overarching Division of Aging Services (DAS) goals for older Georgians for SFY 2020 - 2023. We value input from senior citizens, family members, caregivers, service professionals, and community partners. We are looking forward to engaging them in some good conversations regarding the needs in their respective areas.”

Official press releases in local newspapers will extend an invitation to anyone from the local communities in the SGRC-AAA service area to participate in the meeting and to provide input on how aging services can best meet the needs of the area’s elderly population. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting.

The following is information about the meeting, title, date, time, Zoom Meeting Link, telephone call-in number, and meeting ID and Passcode:

**Title of Zoom Meeting:** Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging - Public Hearing

**Date and Time:** Dec 8, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Register for the Zoom Meeting at:** <https://sgrc-aaapublichearing2021.eventbrite.com>

**Join Meeting by telephone only:** +1 (929) 436-2866

**Meeting ID:** 810 7279 3737

**Passcode:** 548867

For more information about the Public Hearing, to receive an email with the Zoom link, or to get help with the call, email [krodgers@sgrc.us](mailto:krodgers@sgrc.us) or call Kimberly Rodgers at (912) 285-6097.



# Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

## SGRC-AAA Launches Southern Georgia CARE-NET Coalition

On November 4th, the SGRC-AAA, in partnership with the Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI), held the first Southern Georgia caregivers' network (CARE-NET) coalition meeting. The meeting was held in a virtual format and there were over twenty-five registered participants. The CARE-NET is a coalition of family and professional caregivers collaborating together to improve services for caregivers in their community. Carrie Harris, Program Support Coordinator for the RCI was the presenter for the meeting and shared information with participants on how the CARE-NET can benefit all caregivers, including family, friends, paid in-home staff, or medical professionals. The Southern Georgia CARE-NET will meet quarterly and will work to bring the caregiver issues and needs related to this area to the attention of the RCI and other advocates to work toward improved services and supports for caregivers.

Betty Bryant, LMSW is the lead person for Southern Georgia CARE-NET. To learn more about the coalition and how to get involved, contact her at (912) 285-6097 or [bbryant@sgrc.us](mailto:bbryant@sgrc.us).



## Cook County Senior Center Coordinates Senior Health Event

On October 9th, Debra Buckholts, Director of the Cook County Senior Center, in partnership with the Cook County Family Connection Coalition and the Cook County Health Department, held an event for senior citizen clients. Zoe Myers, Executive Director for the Cook County Family Connection said, "We gave each senior 50 pounds of canned foods, healthy snacks, and assorted produce including: sweet potatoes, onions, apples, oranges, and bananas." Nurses from the Cook Health Department also offered drive-through flu shots and health information. Cook County senior citizens were happy to participate and expressed their thanks for the event.



# Workforce Development

## SGRC-Workforce Development Division's Amy Jones Slated to Lead SGRC Wellbeing Program

The SGRC has been selected by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to receive an Employee Health & Wellbeing Incentive Grant. GMA awards this grant to recipients statewide to promote worksite programs that are designed to enhance the health and wellbeing of employees and family members.

Grant awards are made to members of the Georgia Municipal Association-Georgia Municipal Employee's Benefit System (GMA-GMEBS) Life and Health Insurance Fund, underwritten by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, and are based on an organization's commitment to employee health and demonstrated collaboration with other community groups and organizations engaged in health promotion.

As part of the grant process, each grant recipient designates a Health Promotion Champion to develop a workplace health promotion action plan and to attend a Local Government Risk Management Services' (LGRMS) Health Promotion Champion Training workshop. Amy Jones has been named the SGRC's Health Promotion Champion for FY 2021.

Workplace wellbeing programs have a demonstrated track record of improving employee health and quality of life while also reducing medical claims and improving workplace morale. The GMA offers wellbeing services to all

member organizations through LGRMS, a not-for-profit agency operated jointly with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

"We are pleased that the GMA recognizes our interest in employee health and in managing health care costs," stated



**Amy Jones**

Amy Jones, Health Promotion Champion. "This grant will assist us in implementing programs designed to educate, challenge, and encourage employees to strive for healthier lifestyles." Employees will be offered a confidential health assessment program using a Health Risk Appraisal, with blood pressure screening and health improvement feedback.

The GMA-GMEBS is available to all GMA members. Currently, several cities, authorities, and regional commissions participate in the health plan. All cities, authorities, and regional commissions participating in the GMA-GMEBS are eligible to apply for the Health & Wellbeing Incentive Grants on an annual basis.

# Small Business Lending

## SGRC Small Business Lending Shares Information on SBA Debt Relief

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of its coronavirus debt relief efforts, the SBA will pay six months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all current 7(a), 504, and Microloans in regular servicing status as well as new 7(a), 504, and Microloans disbursed prior to September 27, 2020. This relief is not available for Paycheck Protection Program loans or Economic Injury Disaster loans. It will be automatically provided as follows:

- For loans not on deferment, SBA will begin making payments with the next payment due on the loan and will make six monthly payments.
- For loans currently on deferment, SBA will begin making payments with the next payment due after the deferment period has ended, and will make six monthly payments.
- For loans made after March 27, 2020 and fully disbursed prior to September 27, 2020, SBA will begin making payments with the first payment due on the loan and will make six monthly payments.
- SBA has notified 7(a), 504 and Microloan Lenders that it will pay these borrower loan payments. Lenders have been instructed to refrain from collecting loan payments from

borrowers. If a borrower's payment was collected after March 27, 2020, lenders were instructed to inform the borrower that they have the option of having the loan payment returned by the lender or applying the loan payment to further reduce the loan balance after SBA's payment.

Rex Dorsey, Director of Small Business Lending for the SGRC said, "Borrowers do not need to apply for this assistance, but they do need to be aware of it and contact their lender if they have any questions regarding this payment relief."

For more information on the CARES Act or other COVID-19 relief for small businesses, please contact the SGRC Small Business Lending Division at (229) 333-5277.



# Contact the SGRC

## SGRC 2020 Council Meeting Schedule

December 10, 2020 – 11:00 am

Location: Virtual



## SGRC Council 2021 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Locations TBD

January 28, 2021 – 11:00 am

February 25, 2021 – 11:00 am

March 25, 2021 – 11:00 am

April 22, 2021 – 11:00 am

May 27, 2021 – 11:00 am

June 24, 2021 – 11:00 am

**July - No Meeting**

August 26, 2021 – 11:00 am

September 23, 2021 – 11:00 am

**October - No Meeting**

October 28, 2021 -

Area Officials Appreciation Dinner  
(subject to change)

**November – No meeting**  
(combined with December meeting)

December 9, 2021 – 11:00 am  
(subject to change)

## Valdosta Office

1937 Carlton Adams Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31601

You can reach us by phone:  
**(229) 333-5277**

You can reach us by fax:  
**(229) 333-5312**



## Waycross Office

1725 South Georgia Parkway West  
Waycross, GA 31503

You can reach us by phone:  
**(912) 285-6097**

You can reach us by fax:  
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