

# In the REGION

## OneGeorgia Grant Awarded to Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority

The SGRC recently assisted the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority (DCCIA) in securing OneGeorgia Equity Grant funds to construct capacity building activities in its new industrial park, The Park at Satilla. This project will provide street, drainage, water, and sewer improvements. In addition, the DCCIA is funding site preparations on Tract 1, making it a pad-ready site. The capacity building improvements will provide the essential infrastructure that is needed for successful industrial recruitment and job creation.

The Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority was awarded \$500,000 in OneGeorgia funds to construct street, drainage, water, and sewer improvements in its new industrial park, The Park at Satilla. In addition to OneGeorgia Equity Grant funds, the DCCIA has committed \$659,991 and the City of Douglas has committed \$373,822. The total project cost for the capacity building activities is \$1,533,813.

The OneGeorgia Equity Fund provides financial assistance to rural communities to help build the necessary infrastructure for economic development. Equity funds are also available as loans for several different types of projects, such as constructing speculative buildings in order to attract additional industries to the region. For more information, contact Kimberly Hobbs at (229) 333-5277.



The Park at Satilla will be developed here.

*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.*

# Planning & Transportation

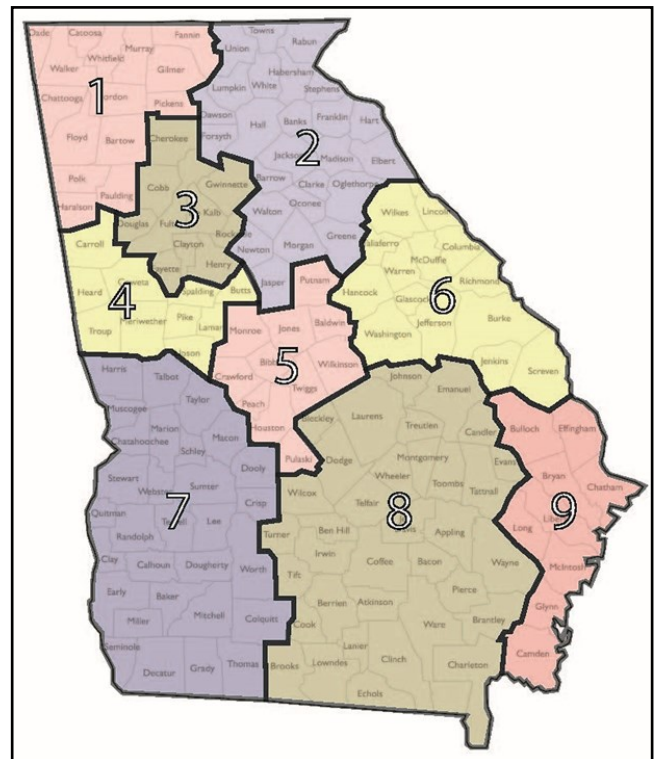
## Matt Martin's Service to the Georgia Planning Association

Matt Martin has served as the Planning Director for the City of Valdosta since 2010. Prior to working for the City of Valdosta, he worked as a private planning consultant, as a planner for the South Georgia Regional Development Center (now the SGRC) and as a planner for the City of Fort Myers, Florida. He has also served as the District 8 Director for the Georgia Planning Association (GPA) for the past 10 years. The State is divided into 9 GPA Board member districts, per the map below. Of note, some of the districts encompass more than one regional commission territory.

Matt's tenure as District Director ended on December 31, 2022, as he did not seek reelection to this post. SGRC Planning and Transportation Director, Elizabeth Backe is the incumbent District 8 Director on the GPA Board, beginning her two-year term on January 1, 2023. Elizabeth spoke last month with Matt about his role as District 8 Director:

*Elizabeth:* Matt, as you near the end of your term as the District 8 Board member for GPA, what are your thoughts about the role of planners, both to our respective communities where we live and work and to the profession as a whole?

*Matt:* As urban planners, we are called upon to not only render our best service, but also to give back to the local communities that we serve. For many of us, this means putting in extra time and going above and beyond the minimum that is required. This is mainly because we see the extra "needs" of our community and feel a sense of civic obligation. However, we must try to remember that we are part of an important profession that is also its own community, and that it is asking for our service as well. For some it is easy and



**District Map for the Georgia Planning Association**

**continued on next page**

# Planning & Transportation

## Matt Martin's Service to the Georgia Planning Association (continued)

others it is hard, but we should all look for ways to give back to our profession -- whether it be through teaching, mentoring, helping with conferences or other gatherings, or even participating in the vital discussions that shape the future of our profession and the others that come behind us. We all have something to give, and we all have the ability to learn from others.

*Elizabeth:* Did you consider running for another term on the Board?

*Matt:* I feel honored to have served on the GPA Board these past 10 years, but the time has come to pass the torch and give someone else this privilege and honor to serve our profession. I am certain that you will take up the task and be a contributing vital member.

For additional information, please contact SGRC Planning and Transportation staff at (229) 333-5277.



**Matt Martin and Elizabeth Backe at the Hahira Studies Open House**

## Welcome, Leischa Matthews !

The SGRC is pleased to welcome Leischa Matthews to the Area Agency on Aging Division. She has been hired as a Program Manager. Leischa previously worked in the legal profession with the State of Georgia and has worked in some form of state government for the past 20 years. Leischa has an Associate's Degree from South University.

Leischa said that she is excited to be working at the SGRC-AAA, and looks forward to new experiences that will come with working in the field of aging services. Leischa is a native of Riviera Beach, Florida and moved to South Georgia with her family in 2007. She and her husband live and worship in Pierce County.

Assistant Aging Director Shawn Taylor said, "We are very pleased to have Leischa join our team and we're are looking forward to working with her."



# Area Agency on Aging

## Shawn Taylor Named Assistant Director of Aging Services

Congratulations to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging (SGRC's AAA) employee Shawn Taylor! Shawn was promoted from Lead Aging Program Manager to Assistant Director of Aging Services. As Assistant Director of Aging Services, she will supervise, manage, and coordinate the tasks necessary to administer 30 AAA contracts. In addition to direct supervision of staff, administrative tasks in this role include the issuance of contracts in a timely manner, accurate implementation of AAA programs and contracts, and appropriate monitoring of contracted aging services.

Taylor has an extensive background in social services management at the Salvation Army and program management with SGRC's AAA since 2015. In her previous role as Lead Program Manager, Taylor demonstrated a high level of self-direction and exemplary performance in not only contract administration but also in her efforts as the Senior Hunger Coalition Coordinator and her role with the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for the Southern Georgia Region. Under her leadership, the SFMNP achieved *First in the State* status for the last two consecutive years, and 2023 should be no different.

SGRC's AAA Director Scott Courson said, "We are thrilled to have Shawn in this role as Assistant Director of Aging Services. She brings a great deal of energy and passion to her work. As a direct result of her efforts, many seniors in the Southern Georgia region are less food insecure. She is a positive force in our community and received accolades for her work in this state and others through her work with the National Association of Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (NAFMNP). We look forward to the great things that Shawn will do with this new challenge."

Congratulations, Shawn!



**Shawn Taylor, Assistant Director of Aging Services and Scott Courson, Director of Aging Services**

# Small Business Lending

## Small Business Lending Program Assists Enson Seafood GA, Inc.

Enson Seafood GA, Inc. is located in Pooler, Georgia, and was formed in November 2017. It is owned by Kong Fei Ni and DJS Holdings, LLC. Enson Seafood GA, Inc. operates a seafood processing, warehousing, and distribution business with services to area restaurants in Savannah, Georgia, and the Southeastern US area. Enson Seafood is a frozen food and specialty food supplier selling to restaurants, food markets, and similar retail operators in the company's service area. The company's product line includes frozen fish, shrimp, mussels, clams, seafood staples, along with Asian, ethnic, and general restaurant supplies. These items are selected from vendors both domestically and internationally with Enson Seafood GA., Inc also acting as a direct importer.



The business currently leases the project property, which is an industrial warehouse with 13 drive-up docks as well as refrigerated and freezer space to store and package shipments. The funding for this project is utilizing the SBA 504 loan program and involves the purchase of the industrial real estate and the purchase of refrigeration and warehouse furniture, fixtures, and equipment at the location. This project is a rent replacement transaction that will allow Ni and Enson Seafood Ga., Inc. to become an owner-occupied small business.

Southern Georgia Area Development Corporation partnered with The Bancorp Bank to fund the project. SGADC was able to offer a lower fixed rate for 25 years on their portion of the loan. For further information on Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Lending programs, please contact Lance Wilcher at (229) 333-5277 or via email at [lwilcher@sgrc.us](mailto:lwilcher@sgrc.us).



# Geographic Information Services (GIS)

## SGRC GIS Acquires New LiDAR Data for 13 Counties

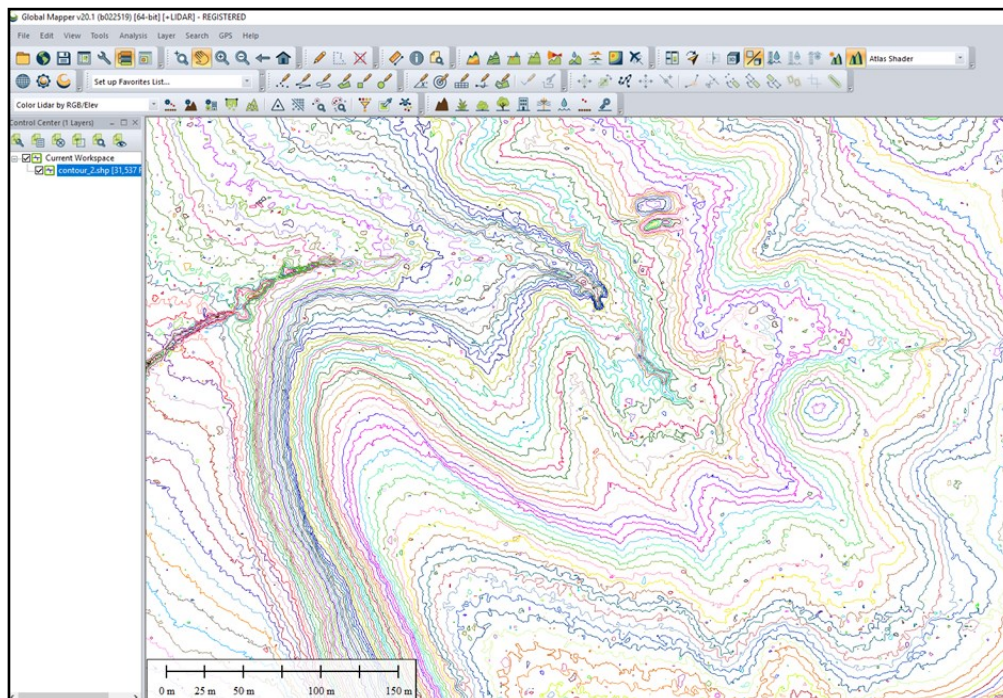
The GIS Department recently acquired LiDAR data through the statewide 3DEP grant initiative for 13 counties in the SGRC region including Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Pierce and Ware counties. The SGRC-GIS Division has two pieces of software that will allow it to create data from this LiDAR or point cloud data; Global Mapper Software and ArcGIS Pro.

LiDAR is elevation data obtained from a laser scanner attached to an aircraft. The data contains thousands of point locations with return times that can then be used to create very detailed elevation data, a digital elevation model DEM, among other items.

Below is a screenshot of Global Mapper Software showing 1' contours in a section of Lowndes County.

The point cloud data is classified, which means the points have values. Besides contours, other items can be created from the point cloud data including building footprints and water bodies. Software operators can also create point data such as poles, trees, and powerlines (which are a series of points). Finally, three dimensional (3D) representations of buildings, trees and powerlines can also be created.

For questions about this project, contact SGRC-GIS Division Director Rachel Strom at [rstrom@sgrc.us](mailto:rstrom@sgrc.us).



**Global Mapper Software showing 1' contours in a section of Lowndes Co.**

# Workforce Development

## WorkSource Southern Georgia Announces 3rd Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit

On Wednesday, February 22, WorkSource Southern Georgia and WorkSource Southwest Georgia will hold the 3rd Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit. Organizers would like to thank the generous sponsors listed below for their support to help increase the healthcare pathway for rural South Georgia. Registration is now open for anyone who would like to attend the event. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-south-georgia-healthcare-summit-tickets-506411359007>

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS of the 3rd Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit

#### PLATINUM



#### GOLD



#### SILVER



#### BRONZE



# Contact the SGRC

## SGRC Council 2023 Meeting Schedule

**February 23, 2023 – 11:00 am**

The Venue in Pearson

**March 23, 2023 – 11:00 am**

SGRC Waycross Office

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – 11:00 am**

The Venue in Pearson

**May 25, 2023 – 11:00 am**

SGRC Waycross Office

**June 22, 2023 – 11:00 am**

The Venue in Pearson

~ July- No Meeting ~

**August 24, 2023 – 11:00 am**

SGRC Waycross Office

**September 28, 2023 – 11:00 am**

The Venue in Pearson

~ October- No Meeting ~

\*Area Officials Appreciation Dinner

**October 26, 2023** (subject to change)

~ November- No meeting ~

(combined with December meeting)

**December 7, 2023 – 11:00 am**

SGRC Valdosta Office

(subject to change)



**SOUTHERN GEORGIA  
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

## 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:

**(912) 285-6126**

Email:

**[sgrc@sgrc.us](mailto:sgrc@sgrc.us)**

Web Address:

**[www.sgrc.us](http://www.sgrc.us)**

Facebook:

**[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC)**

**[SouthernGeorgiaRC](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGeorgiaRC)**