

In the REGION

SGRC Announces Kimberly Hobbs as New Executive Director

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is pleased to announce Kimberly Hobbs as its new Executive Director. Ms. Hobbs began her career at the Regional Commission (formerly known as the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center) twenty-six years ago as the Public Relations Coordinator. After serving seven years in public relations, Ms. Hobbs transitioned to the Community and Economic Development Division where she worked as the Grants Specialist until being promoted to Division Director in July 2016.

As Community and Economic Development Director, Ms. Hobbs worked diligently alongside staff and local governments to promote community and economic development within the region. In July 2022, Ms. Hobbs was promoted to Deputy Executive Director of Governmental Services. In this role, she supervised the Planning, Transportation, and GIS Divisions, in addition to

overseeing the Community and Economic Development Division.

Ms. Hobbs holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University. She is a certified Economic



Kimberly Hobbs

Development Finance Professional through the National Development Council, a Georgia Certified Economic Developer, and is a graduate of the Georgia Academy of Economic Development as well as South Georgia LEADS.

In her new role, Ms. Hobbs will continue working alongside staff to ensure excellent service is provided to the local governments and citizens of Southern Georgia.

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.

Community and Economic Development

One Georgia Grants Awarded

The SGRC recently assisted the **City of Alma** and the **Brantley County Development Authority (BCDA)** in securing OneGeorgia Equity Grant funds.

The **City of Alma** was awarded \$2,498,218 to promote the Governor's Rural Workforce Housing Initiative. Funds awarded will be used for infrastructure to serve the 40-acre Teresa's Estate Subdivision. The project will construct water, sewer and street improvements to serve 24 new housing units within the subdivision. The project will also enable the construction of 36 more homes in phase two of the development.

Announced in the Governor's 2023 State of the State Address, the Rural Workforce Housing Initiative is helping to spur the development of critically needed workforce housing in communities across the state.



Current Home within Teresa's Estate Subdivision

Brantley County Development Authority (BCDA) was awarded \$500,000 for capacity building activities within the new Satilla Industrial Park. The project will provide street and drainage infrastructure improvements to the Park's 102.98 acres. The capacity building improvements will provide the essential infrastructure that is needed for successful industrial recruitment and job creation in Brantley County and the surrounding area.

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 on the Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Grant or the OneGeorgia Equity Fund, please contact Tonia Hendricks at (912) 285-6097.



Future Home of Satilla Industrial Park

Area Agency on Aging

SGRC-AAA Staff Holds Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Senior
Farmer's
Market

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging (SGRC-AAA) staff held a volunteer appreciation luncheon to honor its Senior Farmers Market volunteers at the SGRC on December 15th. Volunteers were recognized for their participation and achievements. For the 4th consecutive year, the SGRC-AAA served more seniors than any other AAA in the state. More than 4,700 seniors in Southern Georgia received a total of \$235,400 in produce. The program's success would not have been possible without the providers' and volunteers' dedication and support.



Pictured: Waycross City Manager Ulysses Rayford; AAA Program Managers Linda Gail, Erin Nose, Leischa Mathews; and Assistant Director of Aging Services Shawn Taylor.

♥ thank you ♥
for all you do



Pictured: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Attendees.

Lending

SGRC SBA 504 Loan Program Assists Bree's Daycare

The SGRC SBA 504 Loan Program recently assisted Bree and Travis Carter of **Bree's Creative Learning Childcare Center (BCLCC)** with the financing of a new 15,000 square foot building which will provide 24 hour/7 day a week childcare and early learning activities to up to 200 children per day and 50 at night. The expansion is designed to accommodate more working families that have non-traditional weekend and overnight working hours.

Bree's Creative Learning Childcare Center (BCLCC) is a locally owned State Licensed childcare and pre-school operated by Bree Carter and Travis Carter. The center currently serves up to 120 children per day in its childcare center and an additional 50 students per day in its preschool program.

The Southern Georgia Area Development Corporation's assistance was in partnership with Southwest Georgia Bank of Valdosta for the financing of the loan. Southwest Georgia Bank provided 50% of the loan while SBA provided 40%. The borrowers injected 10%. Total financing for the loan was \$2,365,000.



Geographic Information Services (GIS)

2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

Prepare now for the 2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)! The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Boundary and Annexation Survey annually to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas. The BAS provides state and local governments an opportunity to review the Census Bureau's legal boundary data to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct boundary, name and status information. Maintaining correct boundaries helps ensure that the Census Bureau assigns the appropriate housing and population counts to each government.

Be on the lookout for documents from the Census Bureau regarding the 2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey. A response from each of our local governments is required.



Why participate?

The federal government allocates more than \$2.3 trillion in federal funds annually for health, welfare, infrastructure, education, and other federal programs and services. **Maintaining correct boundaries helps ensure that the Census Bureau assigns the appropriate housing and population counts to each government so that governments receive funds appropriately.**

Need Help?

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission GIS Department can assist your community through and and/or all parts of the BAS process. Local Governments may even request that the SGRC GIS submit the digital annexation/de-annexation changes to the Census Bureau. For assistance please contact Rachel Strom, GIS Director at (229) 333-5277

Important Dates

- January 1, 2024 - Boundary updates must be legally in effect on or before this date to be reported in the 2023 BAS.
- March 1, 2024 - Boundary updates submitted by this date will be reflected in the ACS and PEP data estimates and in next year's BAS materials.
- May 31, 2024 - Boundary updates submitted by this date will be reflected in next year's BAS materials.

Contact the SGRC

Upcoming Events

SGRC Council Meeting

February 22, 2024 – 11:00 am

SGRC Valdosta Office

SGRC 101: An Opportunity to Learn About Your Regional Commission

February 22, 2024 – 1:00 pm

SGRC Valdosta Office

Workforce Development Board

February 20, 2024 – 11:00 am

SGRC Waycross Office

4th Annual South Georgia Healthcare Summit

February 21, 2024 – 9:00 am—3:30 pm

UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center



**SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

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