

In the REGION

Lynn Platt Named 2021 RCI Georgia Family Caregiver of the Year

Lynn Platt of Blackshear was presented the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) 2021 Georgia Family Caregiver of the Year Award on November 1. Carrie Harris, Community Engagement Coordinator for the RCI said that each year three caregivers are recognized and honored in Georgia by the RCI. Harris said, “We want them to get the appreciation that they deserve and we want to celebrate them.” Each of the three statewide winners receives a check for \$1,000, a plaque from the RCI, a congratulatory letter from Mrs. Rosalynn Carter, and a lovely gift basket. Senior-Link was the sponsor for this year’s RCI Caregiver of the Year Awards and representative Eugene Bell was on hand to congratulate Lynn and represent Senior-Link.

Platt was nominated by the Southern Georgia Care-Net Coalition, which is operated by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission’s Area Agency on Aging (SGRC-AAA). Connie Miss is



Carrie Harris of RCI and Lynn Platt

the Southern Georgia Care-Net Coalition Coordinator and said, “Lynn is an extraordinary caregiver and has been taking care of her uncle, who was born with special needs, for most of her life. During this time, she has worked outside of the home, while also providing caregiving duties in the home and community.

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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.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Lynn Platt Named 2021 RCI Georgia Family Caregiver of the Year (continued)

Lynn has provided many unpaid hours of care for her uncle to have a full and happy life. For those who know Lynn, her energy seems boundless and she is always focused on helping others. We are delighted to be able to honor her today.”

SGRC-AAA Director Scott Courson said, “Through all of the stress that comes along with being a caregiver, Lynn has still maintained a servant’s heart and deep commitment to care for others. She embodies all that a caregiver should be. We were pleased to select Lynn as the Southern Georgia Care-Net 2021 Family Caregiver of the Year for our region and to nominate her for the RCI 2021 Family Caregiver of the Year for all of Georgia.”

In addition to being a wonderful caregiver, she is also the director of the Senior Center in Pierce County, which is operated by Action Pact, Inc. The SGRC-AAA is grateful to the following people for being present at the ceremony: Ophelia Hobbs, Family Member of Lynn Platt; Amy Hewett, Senior Nutrition Coordinator for Action Pact, Inc.; Stephanie Bell, Executive Director of the Pierce County Family Connection; and Karen Herndon, Senior Center Volunteer and the SGRC-AAA Aging Advisory Council Member for the City of Blackshear.



Lynn Platt & family member Ophelia Hobbs who attended the ceremony.



Lynn Platt & her uncle, Marvin



Geographic Information Services (GIS)

Southern Georgia Regional Commission Receives Health and Wellbeing Incentive Grant

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) has been selected by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to receive an Employee Health Promotion and Wellbeing 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. Rachel Strom has been named the SGRC's Health Promotion Champion for Fiscal Year 2022.



Rachel Strom

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. GMA offers wellbeing services to all member organizations through LGRMS, a not-for-profit agency operated jointly with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia. LGRMS-Health Promotion Services (HPS) along with GMA is committed to helping local governments engage in building comprehensive health promotions and wellness programs.

"We are pleased that GMA recognizes our interest in overall employee wellness," stated Rachel Strom, Health Promotion Champion. "This grant will assist us in implementing programs designed to educate, challenge, and encourage employees to live healthier lifestyles." Employees will be offered a confidential health assessment program, on site education opportunities, and a support system through meetings and social media.

The GMA-GMEBS is available to all GMA members. Currently, several cities, authorities, and regional commissions participate in the health plan.

Community and Economic Development



Local officials breaking ground for the new Unison Behavioral Health facility.

City of Douglas and Coffee County Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Adult Behavioral Health Facility

On November 3, 2021, the City of Douglas and the Coffee County Commission held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$1,188,400 Coffee County Adult Behavioral Health Facility on West College Park Drive in Douglas. This was made possible through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) written by the SGRC's Community and Economic Development Division, as well as participation from the City, County, Unison Behavioral Health, and Coffee County Regional Medical Center.

Present were Mayor Tony Paulk, City Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham, City Manager Charles Davis, Unison Board Member JoAnne Lewis, Unison CEO Dr. Glyn Thomas, Coffee Regional Medical Center CEO Vicki Lewis, GA Department of Community Affairs' Kelly Lane, SGRC's Michael Jacobs, and others.

Once completed, in approximately six months, this facility will provide outpatient services for adults with mental health illnesses and substance abuse disorders from not only the City of Douglas & Coffee County, but also from area counties. This facility will benefit 951 people, of which 98.53%, or 937, are low to moderate income.

Community and Economic Development

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn Recognizes Local CDBG Recipients and Officials

Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Christopher Nunn attended the SGRC Area Officials Appreciation Dinner at The Farm in Adel on October 26 and recognized local Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients which included the City of Adel, the City of Broxton, the City of Douglas, Bacon County, Cook County, and Ware County. Also recognized were the Tift County Development Authority for a \$500,000 OneGeorgia Equity Award, the City of Homerville for RuralZone Designation, and the City of Waycross and Cook County for PlanFirst Designation.

Governor Brian Kemp announced in September that sixty local governments would be awarded \$43 million in CDBG funds to help improve their communities. The SGRC Community and Economic Development Division prepared six of the seven awarded CDBG applications in this region.

Following are pictures from the SGRC Area Officials Appreciation Dinner held at The Farm in Adel.



City of Adel - \$710,713 – CDBG for Neighborhood Revitalization

Continued on the next page

Community and Economic Development

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn Recognizes Local CDBG Recipients and Officials (continued)



City of Broxton - \$592,227 – CDBG for Water Improvements



**City of Douglas - \$637,875 – CDBG for Housing Revitalization
\$400,000 Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP)**

Continued on the next page

Community and Economic Development

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn Recognizes Local CDBG Recipients and Officials (continued)



Bacon County - \$737,315 – CDBG for Street Paving and Drainage Improvements



Cook County - \$653,312 – CDBG for Street Paving and Drainage Improvements

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Community and Economic Development

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn Recognizes Local CDBG Recipients and Officials (continued)



Ware County - \$750,000 – CDBG for Street Paving and Drainage Improvements



Tift County Development Authority—\$500,000 OneGeorgia Equity Award

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Community and Economic Development

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn Recognizes Local CDBG Recipients and Officials (continued)



City of Homerville – Rural Zone Designation



City of Waycross – PlanFirst Designation



Cook County – PlanFirst Designation

SGRC News

Scenes from the 2021 Area Official's Dinner




Local Government Services

SGRC– Local Government Services Division Announces Due Dates for Surveys and Reports

Local governments and authorities in Georgia have a series of annual reporting requirements. In order to maintain eligibility for grant funding and to be in compliance with the performance standards established in the Regional Plan, the information to the right and on the next page regarding financial, service delivery, and administrative practices is required to be submitted annually. In addition to updating local government contact information, this also includes the Government Management Indicators (GOMI) Survey and Report of Local Government Finance (RLGF) for all local governments. The Hotel/Motel Tax Report is only required for local governments who impose a Local Hotel-Motel Excise Tax. Lastly, the Debt Issuance Report is due within 60 days of debt issuance by a local government.

Planning staff are available at (229)333-5277 to answer any questions regarding these required surveys and reports.



Office of Research
2021 Schedule of Surveys & Reports

If you need assistance or have any questions/concerns about DCA local government and authority reporting requirements, please email DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov

Local Governments
Municipal, County, and Consolidated Governments

Report/Survey	O.C.G.A. Reference	Primary DCA Contact Person*	Date Due to DCA
Local Government Contact Information Link to DCA Local Government Officials Contact Update	N/A	Norma Allen (404) 679-3132 norma.allen@dca.ga.gov	As-Needed – Available year-round, to be updated as changes occur
Government Management Indicators Survey (GOMI) Link to GOMI Survey	§ 36-81-8	Norma Allen (404) 679-3132 norma.allen@dca.ga.gov	June 30, 2021
Wage & Salary Survey Link to Wage & Salary Report	N/A (voluntary)	Norma Allen (404) 679-3132 norma.allen@dca.ga.gov	June 30, 2021
Hotel/Motel Tax Report (FY20/FY21) <i>Only required for Local Governments imposing a Local Hotel-Motel Excise Tax</i> Link to Hotel-Motel Tax Report	§ 48-13-56	Jackson Lilly (404) 679-3105 jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov	Within six (6) months of local government's fiscal year end <i>Certain jurisdictions granted 90-day COVID-19 Extension – See Page 2</i>
Report of Local Government Finances (FY20/FY21) Link to RLGF Documents	§ 36-81-8	Jackson Lilly (404) 679-3105 jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov	Within six (6) months of local government's fiscal year end <i>Certain jurisdictions granted 90-day COVID-19 Extension – See Page 2</i>
Debt Issuance Report Link to Debt Issuance Documents	§ 36-82-10	Jackson Lilly (404) 679-3105 jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov	Within 60 days of debt issuance (Applies to all debt issues >\$1M)

*Officials needing a local government's CICOID & Password to access reports should email DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov

Local Authorities

Report/Survey	O.C.G.A. Reference	Primary DCA Contact Person*	Date Due to DCA
New Authority Registration <i>*Only Local Authorities registering with DCA for the first time*</i> Link to New Authority Registration	§ 36-80-16	Norma Allen (404) 679-3132 norma.allen@dca.ga.gov	As-Needed – Available year-round, to be updated as Authorities are created
Annual Authority Registration and Financial Report (AARF) (FY20/FY21) Link to Annual Authority Registration and Financial Report	§ 36-81-8	DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov	Within six (6) months of authority's fiscal year end
Debt Issuance Report Link to Debt Issuance Documents	§ 36-82-10	Jackson Lilly (404) 679-3105 jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov	Within 60 days of debt issuance (Applies to all debt issues >\$1M)

*Authority officials needing User ID & Password to access reports should email DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov

12/18/2020

Transportation and Environmental

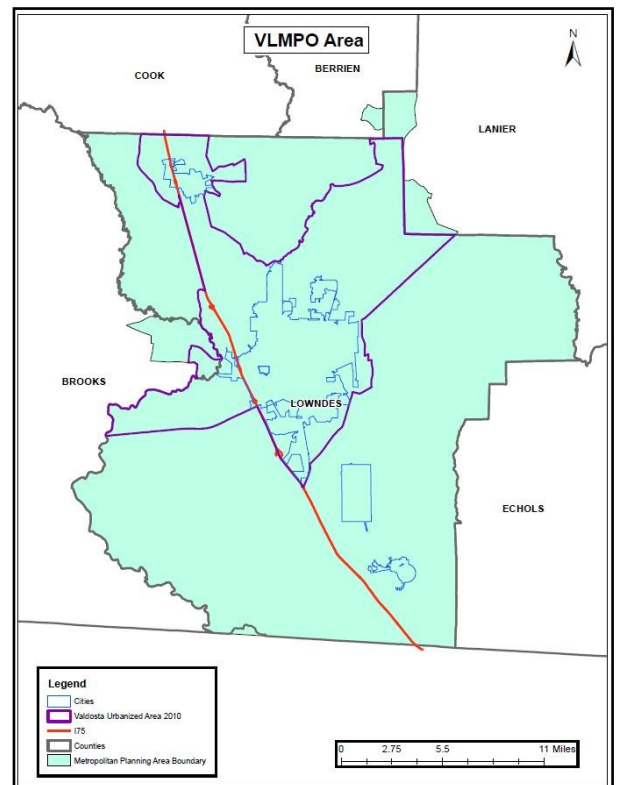
SGRC Transportation Division Shares Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Unified Planning Work Program Update

The Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization's (VLMPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is being updated for Fiscal Year 2023. The UPWP is an annual document that lists the planning activities for the upcoming fiscal year and provides fiscal information regarding how MPO funds will be spent to help achieve the vision, goals and objectives of transportation initiatives and planning processes of the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO.

The UPWP has five main categories that the activities to be undertaken will address. These categories are: Program Administration, Public Involvement, Comprehensive Planning/Research, Transportation Systems Planning, and the Business Plan. The first four categories listed focus on planning activities and the parties responsible for carrying out the initiatives. Within each of these categories are subcategories that provide detailed projects and administrative tasks to be completed. These detailed projects and daily activities are focused on creating and maintaining a safe, efficient transportation network as well as transit activities. This can include an array of projects, from analyzing transit data to preparing for electric vehicle and smart infrastructure technology. The last category, the Business Plan, provides information about current unfunded projects and future planning activities that are integral to carrying out the core function of the VLMPO.

The VLMPO has been on schedule with implementing and completing various transportation initiatives and projects from the Fiscal Year 2022 UPWP. For Fiscal Year 2023, VLMPO staff, committees and planning partners will continue to focus on implementing various transportation initiatives and creating key planning documents that will help to increase the quality of life in the VLMPO area through maintaining a reliable transportation network.

As a result of the 2000 Census, in 2003, the VLMPO was established pursuant to federal law to address transportation planning within Lowndes County and the urbanized portions of Berrien, Brooks, and Lanier Counties, including



VLMPO Region Map

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Transportation and Environmental

SGRC Transportation Division Shares Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Unified Planning Work Program Update (continued)

the municipalities of Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park, Ray City, Remerton, and Valdosta.

The VLMPO is staffed by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Transportation and Environmental Department to perform the day-to-day functions of transportation planning activities within the VLMPO planning area. The Policy Committee (PC), comprised of elected officials and other decision makers from each participating jurisdiction, provides final decision-making authority and leadership

for the VLMPO. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) provide insightful input to the Policy Committee on transportation issues.

In 2003, Governor Purdue designated the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC), an 18-county regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency, to host the VLMPO and provide staff support to this planning effort. This legislation and required agreements, such as the Memorandum of Understanding, ensures that a "continuing, cooperative and comprehensive" (referred to as "3-C") planning process involving federal, state and local agencies, as well as citizens and other affected stakeholders is upheld.

Small Business Lending

SGRC Small Business Lending Program Assists One Stop 5, Ray City with RLF Loan

Neel Patel has owned and operated One Stop 5 at 925 Patten Avenue in Ray City for nine years. He has successfully built a strong customer base with repeat customers in a small town that has little competition. He has extensive experience managing convenience stores as he owns and manages not only One Stop 5, but also One Stop 6 at 883 Patten Avenue in Ray City and One Stop 4 at 5112 Clyattville-Lake Park Rd. in Valdosta.

A recent Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan was for the purchase of the 925 Patten Avenue property which he had been leasing. With SGRC Lending's assistance, in participation with Skip Long of Commercial Banking Company, Mr. Patel was able to purchase the building, renovate it, and purchase new equipment. Two jobs were created.

For questions on the SGRC Lending Division, contact Michelle Frey at mfrey@sgrc.us or at (229) 333-5277.

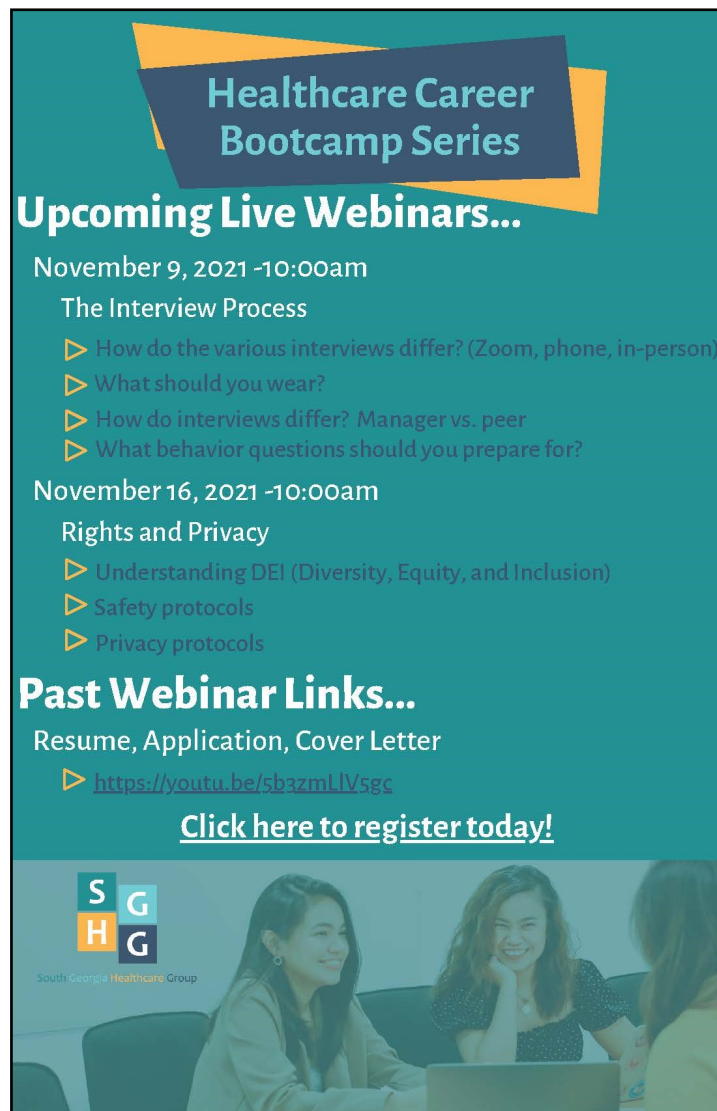


One Stop 5 at 925 Patten Avenue in Ray City

Workforce Development

South Georgia Healthcare Group (SGHG) Conducting LIVE Webinar Series

The South Georgia Healthcare Group (SGHG) is conducting a LIVE Webinar series to increase awareness of the Allied Health Pathway for Region 11. The series started by discussing the basics of employment with Human Resource professionals from the Healthcare employers in the SGRC area as panelists. On October 26th, they discussed the applicant's resume, cover letter, and application. On November 9th, they discussed the interview process and how to prepare for the various interviews. This portion of the series concludes on November 16th with discussions on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the workplace setting, along with safety and privacy protocols within healthcare. For more information, contact Amy Jones at ajones@sgrc.us.



Healthcare Career Bootcamp Series

Upcoming Live Webinars...

November 9, 2021 -10:00am
The Interview Process

- ▷ How do the various interviews differ? (Zoom, phone, in-person)
- ▷ What should you wear?
- ▷ How do interviews differ? Manager vs. peer
- ▷ What behavior questions should you prepare for?

November 16, 2021 -10:00am
Rights and Privacy

- ▷ Understanding DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)
- ▷ Safety protocols
- ▷ Privacy protocols

Past Webinar Links...

Resume, Application, Cover Letter

- ▷ <https://youtu.be/5b3zmlIV5gc>

[Click here to register today!](#)

SGHG
South Georgia Healthcare Group

South Georgia Healthcare Group logo and photo of three women in a meeting.

Contact the SGRC

**SGRC Council 2021
Meeting Schedule**
Meeting Locations TBD

**November – No meeting
(combined with December meeting)**
December 9, 2021 – 11:00 am



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(229) 333-5277

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

SGRC-AAA Welcomes New Employee



*Christy Joyner
ADRC Counselor*

The SGRC is pleased to welcome Christy Joyner to the Area Agency on Aging Division. She has been hired as an Aging and Disability Resources (ADRC) Counselor. Prior to coming to work with the SGRC, Joyner worked 20 years as the Director of Client Services for Altamaha Homecare. She said, "I am beyond excited to be here with you all." Joyner said that when she is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. Her hobby is crocheting. Welcome, Christy!