



# The Partner Connection

*The Newsletter of DCA*

**October 2013**

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The Georgia Main Street Program is now on Facebook! Like us and see what's happening in downtowns from Blairsville to Brunswick.



**Congratulations, Laurel Hart!**

**The Atlanta Business Chronicle** named Laurel Hart, Housing Finance Division Director, to its inaugural **Who's Who Sustainability List**

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Board Meets in Rome



*DCA board members and staff met with City of Rome staff to learn about Rome's success with DCA's funding and technical assistance programs.*

On October 1 and 2, the Department of Community Affairs Board of Directors visited the City of Rome for a two-day meeting. Board members focused on the Department's community and economic development programs, and how successful communities combine financial and technical assistance to create places that are attractive and productive for their residents and conducive to new industry. Rome is an excellent backdrop for this focus, as the elected officials, staff and non-profit community have made use of a variety of DCA's programs in order to help them meet their community goals.



Under Laurel's guidance, Georgia's Housing Tax Credit program has incorporated green building principles into its competitive processes and has placed more than 1,800 units of affordable, certified-sustainable units. Thank you, Laurel!

### Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism Continues Fifteen AmeriCorps Programs



The Board of Directors of the **Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism** is pleased to announce that fifteen AmeriCorps programs are beginning a new year of service. Each program has a contract agreement with DCA and is beginning to recruit for new AmeriCorps members. This year, through DCA, the Georgia Commission will manage fifteen programs totaling \$3.5 million, supporting over 700 AmeriCorps Members. For more information on AmeriCorps programs in Georgia, please visit [www.servega.org](http://www.servega.org).



**4.250%**

Georgia Dream First Mortgage  
FHA/VA/RD/Conventional Uninsured

*Commissioner Corbin and Leamon Scott provided background information during the trolley tour.*

Commissioner Gretchen Corbin, Leamon Scott, Region One Manager, and Billy Peppers, Office of

Downtown Development, led the board on a trolley tour of the community, highlighting the work the city has done in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs over a ten-year period. Andy Johnson, the General Regional Manager of the Lowe's Regional Distribution Center, guided the board and staff on a tour of the new facility in north Floyd County, which is big enough to house 32 football fields and employs more than 500 citizens of northwest Georgia.

The City of Rome has partnered with the Department for technical assistance with a Resource Team visit, The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, becoming a WaterFirst community and creating an Opportunity Zone. The Department has provided financial assistance to help Rome meet its goals through CHIP funds, the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME funds, the CDBG program and EDGE funds.

We'd like to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following people:

- Staff of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce: Executive Director Al Hodge (also secretary of the DCA Board), Jo Ann Patty, Executive Assistant; Heather Seckman, Director of Economic Development; Ken Wright, Director of Business and Industry Services, and Blake Buford, Communications Coordinator.
- Staff from the City of Rome: Assistant City Manager Sammy Rich, Community Development Supervisor Bekki Fox, Downtown Development Director Ann Arnold, and Director of Environmental Services Eric Lindberg.
- Etowah Terrace Senior Residences and Mercy Housing Southeast
- Andy Johnson, Regional General Manager at the Lowe's Regional Distribution Center in Floyd County.

Their generosity and time provided our board members with an inside view of community development, economic development, and the importance of leadership in building a firm foundation to attract industry. They graciously shared their expertise and left no detail to chance during our visit, and truly defined the "southern hospitality" of which Georgia is so proud.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES

#### Celebrating Rural Georgia Conference:

**October 30, 2013**



**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Tifton UGA Campus Conference Center**

This year's Celebrating Rural Georgia event, sponsored by the Department of Community Affairs and the **Georgia Rural Development Council**, will feature a keynote address by Governor Nathan Deal, remarks by new DCA Commissioner Gretchen Corbin, and expert panels on three Georgia Rural Development Council policy initiatives:

with or without a Georgia Dream Down Payment Loan

For complete information, click [HERE](#).



[GEORGIAHOUSINGSEARCH.ORG](http://GEORGIAHOUSINGSEARCH.ORG)

Georgia citizens need quick and easy access to affordable housing options and we can help! Whether you are searching by price, number of bedrooms, or even proximity to work, school or transportation, finding a home that meets your needs is easier with

[GeorgiaHousingSearch.org](http://GeorgiaHousingSearch.org) - the key to linking tenants with landlords. We offer FREE property posting, bilingual assistance, and a toll-free number (877-428-8844) available to those without internet access.

Landlords can register in a five-minute process or work with DCA staff to register large-scale listings. For more information, please contact Ron Pounds at 404-327-6864 or [ron.pounds@dca.ga.gov](mailto:ron.pounds@dca.ga.gov).



- Digital Broadband
- AgriTourism
- Rural Access to Healthcare

Dr. Jeff Humphreys from the University of Georgia Selig Center for Economic Growth will present a commissioned study, "Evaluating Retiree Based Economic Development in Georgia," as our luncheon speaker.

**Registration is open**, and the \$20 fee includes a continental breakfast and an outstanding "Georgia Grown" lunch.

Use [this link to register](#), and scroll to October 30 under "Events."

We look forward to seeing you there!



DCA staff will be partnering with Department of Labor and other agencies to provide information on HomeSafe Georgia at the following events:

**Veterans Fall Fair:** October 23, 2013; 1-4 pm; Moody Field Club, Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta

**National Disability Recognition Expo:** October 24, 2013; 10 am - 1 pm; St. Philip AME Church Family Life Administration Center, 240 Candler Road, Atlanta

**Telfair County Job Fair/Career Expo:** November 5, 2013; 1-4 PM; Telfair County Recreation Building, 408 E. Oak Street, McRae

**Veteran's Appreciation Fair:** November 12, 2013; 2-5 PM; Carroll County Recreation Department, 1201 Newnan Road, Carrollton

For more information, please see the [HomeSafe](#) website.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

### September Financial Awards

#### Region Two

##### Rabun County

- \$300,000 in Employment Incentive Program (EIP) funds
- Leverages \$2 million in private investment
- Leverages \$200,000 in public (non-DCA) investment
- Creates 30 jobs
- Funds will be used for the purchase of machinery and equipment to benefit GAP Partners, Inc.

#### Region Three

##### Cherokee County Development Authority

As of September 30, **HomeSafe Georgia** has assisted over 4,200 individuals and families, committing over \$85 million in U.S. Treasury funding to help keep homeowners from foreclosure.



For previous issues of **The Partner Connection**, click on our logo or [HERE](#).

- \$400,000 in Regional Business Assistance (REBA) funds
- Leverages \$17 million in private investment
- Creates 300 jobs
- Funds assist the Cherokee County Development Authority in the location of Inalfa Roof Systems, Inc., a manufacturing facility in Cherokee County.

## Region Eight

### City of Vienna

- \$323,000 in Redevelopment Grant funds
- Leverages \$37,000 in private investment
- Leverages \$371,000 in public (non-DCA) investment
- Creates 2 jobs
- Part grant/part loan. The grant portion of \$227,724 will be used for façade easement improvements, architectural fees and grant administration of the Henley Building. The RDF loan of \$96,080 will be used for building renovations of the Henley Building in downtown Vienna.

## Region Eleven

### City of Quitman

- \$132,500 in EIP funds
- Leverages \$398,000 in private investment
- Leverages \$75,000 in public (non-DCA) investment
- Creates 20 jobs
- The funds will benefit Georgia Bottle Company, Inc., a manufacturer of extrusion blown molded bottles from polyethylene or polypropylene resin materials.