

## COVINGTON-NEWTON COUNTY

Recently, Newton County-Covington received a Livable Center's Initiative (LCI) grant to study a 4-mile long and approximately ½ mile wide section of U.S. Highway 278 through Newton County and the City of Covington. The study area includes Covington's historic downtown. The purpose of this LCI project is to determine the best ways to rehabilitate and enhance this corridor thereby enhancing its sense of place, livability and economic vitality. They wish to create an improved environment for the citizens of Covington and Newton County to live, recreate, work, shop, and dine locally. The study period for this LCI grant will continue until December 2005, at which time the community will be presented with recommendations for improvements to this already developed corridor.

As their Signature Community initiatives, the City of Covington and Newton County propose to begin implementation of the study's recommendations for improvements to this important corridor, continuing the transportation, land use and economic development programs currently underway as part of the LCI study. They intend to take advantage of all the benefits attached to Signature Community, particularly the technical assistance from DCA and other state agencies, improved rating for certain grants, and the reduced loan rates made available to Signature Community participants. This proposed initiative will potentially involve technical assistance from DCA's Housing Finance Division, the Community Development and Finance Division and the Office of Planning and Quality Growth, as well as GDOT, GEFA and other partner agencies.