



# The Partner Connection

*The Newsletter of DCA*

**August 2012**



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**Save the Date!**  
**October 10, 2012**



Governor Nathan Deal announced that Celebrating Rural Georgia 2012 will be Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the **University of Georgia Tifton Conference Center**. Watch for details in the September newsletter!

**Rome, Georgia:**  
**A Thriving Rural Economy**

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### **Kevin Jones: Exceeding Excellence**



L-R: Nancy Dove, Director, Athens Office of Rental Assistance; Kevin Jones, Family Housing Counselor; Commissioner Mike Beatty.

Congratulations to Kevin Jones, this quarter's **Exceeding Excellence** winner! Kevin always goes the extra mile to provide customer service to his clients and coworkers. As a Family Housing Counselor in the Athens **Office of Rental Assistance**, Kevin recently scheduled a housing unit inspection prior to the tenant moving in the following day and discovered that the property owner had not completed the required repairs. Rather than advising the owner and tenant that he would return when the repairs were completed, Kevin rearranged his schedule for the rest of the day and remained at the unit until the repairs were completed, saving both the landlord and the tenant significant time and money.

Beyond providing excellent service to his customers, Kevin is a thoughtful and kind coworker as well. During the Rental Assistance Division's recent downsizing, the Family Housing Counselors had to readjust their caseloads, and in some instances, take on many new cases far from their original territory. Even though Kevin had the seniority to retain a caseload relatively close to the Athens office, he volunteered to take on the caseload with the highest amount of travel so that a younger Family



In May 2012, Georgia hosted a workshop called *Livable Regions and Communities in Appalachia*, sponsored by the **Appalachian Regional Commission**, **EPA**, **USDA** and the **National Association of Development Organizations** (NADO).

Rome **Main Street** Director Ann Arnold made a presentation on *Leveraging and Integrating Various Resources*, and it appears that NADO liked her story so much they've started a blog series called "Vibrant Rural Communities!" The Department, the **Georgia Cities Foundation** and ARC are all proud partners with the City of Rome in its downtown redevelopment efforts, and are honored to continue our work. To read this (great) story of hard work and perseverance, click **HERE**.

**Georgia Grown Showcase**  
**Saturday, September 15**  
**Atlanta Farmers' Market**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**



Join **Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black** at the **Georgia Grown** Showcase in September! Farmers and producers from all over the state will be on hand with everything from fruits and vegetables to plants and nursery items; meats and cheeses to grits and olive oil; specialty food items and honeys to breads and

Housing Counselor would be within a day's drive of her home, allowing her to spend far more time with her young family than she would have had with a more distant caseload.

We at the Department appreciate Kevin's kindness to his coworkers, and are honored to work with him. We also recognize his generous spirit and his willingness to help his clients, meeting their needs far beyond the realm of his daily workload. Thank you, Kevin, for your friendship and helpfulness. You're an inspiration to us all!

If you would like to nominate a DCA staff member for Exceeding Excellence, click **HERE**.

## **Governor's Water Supply Program Funds First Projects**

### **Governor's Water Supply Program**

On August 1, 2012, the **Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)** and the Department of Community Affairs awarded \$90,490,866 in loans and \$9,060,000 state direct investment (SDI) for eight water supply projects through the **Governor's Water Supply Program (GWSP)**.

"The Governor's Water Supply Program is a great example of the hard work, dedication and partnerships that are necessary to make big community development projects successful," says Commissioner Mike Beatty. "One state agency can't do it all, just like one local government can't do it all. Working together, from the state level down to the local level, is really the only way we're going to continue our successes in Georgia. I appreciate the work of all the partners that have brought the program this far this quickly." "The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Water Supply Task Force worked hard to develop a plan that helps local governments finance water supply infrastructure," said GEFA Executive Director Kevin Clark. "Today we're making our initial funding awards and we look forward to supporting more projects in the near future."

In January 2011, Governor Nathan Deal committed \$300 million to the GWSP over four years to align and mobilize the financial and technical resources of the State of Georgia. The GWSP assists local governments with developing new sources of water supply to meet future water demand forecasts. GEFA convened the Water Supply Task Force (WSTF) to provide expert guidance in the program's development and implementation. GEFA, DCA and other WSTF members completed a **report outlining program recommendations** for Governor Deal in December 2011. Throughout the spring of 2012, GEFA and DCA hosted workshops to assist communities seeking funding through the program.

The GWSP received fifteen applications from communities seeking \$195,595,758 for water supply projects during the first funding cycle. Local governments may apply in the second and third rounds of GWSP applications, scheduled to begin in January 2013 and January 2014, pending appropriations through the General Assembly.

For a complete list of funded projects (including project descriptions), **CLICK HERE**.

pastries; plus nuts, ice cream, barbecue sauces, spices and more - and of course, everything you'll find is Georgia Grown! Spend an hour or come for the whole day - this event is the perfect opportunity to see what the **Atlanta State Farmers Market** is all about in a family-friendly environment. Sheds 13-14 will be closed to through traffic, so families can park their cars, mingle with farmers and vendors, help themselves to free taste-tests, enjoy live entertainment, or take part in a cooking demonstration.

***If you or someone you know is interested in vendor space, contact Paul or Stephanie in the Atlanta Market Office at 404-675-1782.***



Commissioner Beatty is pleased to announce that four new **12 for Life Workplace** sites will join the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Corrections, and Southwire Company in providing opportunities to at-risk high school students:

- Georgia Student Finance Commission
- Technical College System of Georgia
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- City of Atlanta

**GPK Community** programs in Clarke, Putnam, and Coffee counties begin their second years this month. Additionally, GPK Community is developing a partnership with the **Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education** to pilot high school programs in Union and Chattooga Counties beginning in 2013. For more information out Great Promise Kids contact Lori Bodine at

## Stronger Economies Together in Rural Georgia



The Department, USDA Rural Development, Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, Southern Georgia Regional Commission and Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Commission have selected two regional teams for the **USDA's Stronger Economies Together (SET) program**:

- **Southwest Georgia SET Team**, (including Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Macon, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Tift and Worth Counties)
- **East Central Georgia Initiative (ECG)** (including Montgomery, Treutlen, Toombs, Johnson and Emanuel Counties)

SET will help teams develop new approaches to strengthen and enhance regional economic development activities by providing tools, training and technical assistance promoting quality of life and economic strength in rural economies.

Georgia's SET communities will receive:

- Strategic planning training for the regional team
- Database tools specifically designed to help the regional teams examine the critical drivers of their region and identify emerging growth sectors and regional competitive advantages
- Technical assistance and educational support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Community Affairs, Regional Commissions and Fort Valley State University Extension
- Educational and information-sharing opportunities with other SET program participants around the country.

For more information on Georgia's SET program, contact Joy Moten Thomas at [thomasb@fvsu.edu](mailto:thomasb@fvsu.edu)

## UPCOMING EDUCATION, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND DEADLINES



**HomeSafe Georgia** can help unemployed or underemployed homeowners make their mortgage payments on a temporary basis. Please encourage citizens in need to attend one of the following information events to learn about the qualification requirements, or to find information online at [www.homesafegeorgia.com](http://www.homesafegeorgia.com)

August 18 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, Family Resource Fair, **Decatur High School** Performing Art and Sports Center

August 18 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, **DeKalb County Foreclosure Prevention and Intervention Workshop**, Greater Travelers Rest, Decatur

August 21 and 23, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, **Carrollton DOL Career Center**

[lori.bodine@dca.ga.gov](mailto:lori.bodine@dca.ga.gov) .



## Reapportionment Documents Now Available

The Office of Research has updated its documents to reflect the new State House, State Senate, and Congressional Legislative Districts changed in the 2012 Legislative Session; as signed by Governor Nathan Deal and as reflected by the Georgia General Assembly - **Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office** on July 9, 2012. Click the following links for copies of **Local Governments by State House Districts**, **Local Governments by State Senate Districts** and **Local Governments by Congressional District**, or see the **Office of Research webpage** for a complete list of publications, surveys and reports.



[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).

Landlords can register in a five-minute process or work with DCA staff to

August 21, 1:00-7:00 PM, **Fairburn Youth Center**

August 23rd , 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, **Veterans' Career Fair & Diversity Job Expo**, Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton

August 24th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Fort Valley & New Hope International Church Job Fair, **Fort Valley State University** Student Amenities Building

August 28th and 30th 1:00 - 4:00 pm, **LaGrange DOL Career Center**

August 28th 1:00 - 4:00 pm, **Griffin Veterans Career Expo**, Kiwanis Club of Griffin.

## Continuum of Care Planning Meetings

The Department is hosting **Continuum of Care** planning meetings for all interested parties during August 2012. We invite homeless providers and other interested parties to comment and assist with planning to address housing needs within their region.

Please contact the local host only if you have special needs or if you need directions. You do NOT need to register for these workshops.

**Albany: Wednesday, August 22, 2012**, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, **Arthur Kay Williams Micro Business Enterprise Center**, 230 South Jackson Street, Albany, GA. Contact: Ms. Mary Washington at (229) 483-7650.

**Valdosta: Wednesday, August 22, 2012**, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, **City Hall Annex** - Multi-purpose Room, 300 North Lee Street (across from City Hall and adjacent to the new Lowndes County Judicial Administrative Complex). Contact: Ms. Debra Miller at [dmiller@valdostacity.com](mailto:dmiller@valdostacity.com), or by phone at (229) 259-3522.

**Dalton (Whitfield County): Thursday, August 23, 2012**, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, **Dalton City Hall Council Chamber**, 300 W. Waugh Street, Dalton, GA 30720. Contact: Ms. Jennifer Shearin, [JShearin@dwcdc.org](mailto:JShearin@dwcdc.org), or by phone at (706) 876-1630.

**Macon (Bibb County): Monday, August 27, 2012**, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, **River Edge Community Service Board**, Macon Health Complex, Assembly Room, 175 Emery Highway, Macon, GA. Contact: Ms. Cynthia Patterson at [cpatterson@river-edge.org](mailto:cpatterson@river-edge.org).

The Continuum of Care Program promotes community-wide goals to end homelessness by:

- providing funding for efforts to quickly rehouse homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families
- minimizing trauma and dislocation to those persons
- promoting access to, and effective use of, mainstream programs
- optimizing self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Please contact Housing Trust Fund staff for more information: John Bassett (404-679-3170 or [john.bassett@dca.ga.gov](mailto:john.bassett@dca.ga.gov)); Jonathan Cox (404-679-0571 or [jonathan.cox@dca.ga.gov](mailto:jonathan.cox@dca.ga.gov)); or Tina Moore (404-327-6870 or [tina.moore@dca.ga.gov](mailto:tina.moore@dca.ga.gov)).

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AWARDS

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).

[GeorgiaHousingSearch.org](http://GeorgiaHousingSearch.org) is 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.



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

## July 2012

### Region Five

- Joint Development Authority of Jasper County, Morgan County, Newton County and Walton County
- \$13.75MM in OneGeorgia EDGE funds
- \$1.14 Billion in private investment
- Creates 1,463 jobs
- Assist with the location of Baxter Healthcare Corporation, a healthcare manufacturing and distribution facility.

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