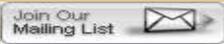




March 2013



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Appalachian Regional Commission Supports Appalachian Studies



(L-R) Commissioner Mike Beatty, Mrs. Shirley Miller, Senator Zell Miller and Kathy Cox, President of Young Harris College.

The **Appalachian Regional Commission** awarded \$2,000 to the Zell and Shirley Miller Library at **Young Harris College** to support the study of the character and history of the Appalachian region in Georgia. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia ARC office are establishing the "Zell Miller Appalachian Hero Award" with the assistance of the ARC regional partners and Young Harris College. This award will be presented annually to recognize significant

NEWS AND EVENTS

Atlanta's Auburn District Named Newest Opportunity Zone

The Department and Invest Atlanta recently announced the newest **Opportunity Zone** in Atlanta, in the Sweet Auburn Historic District.

Commissioner Mike Beatty noted that the **City of Atlanta** has ten other OZ designations, generating over 1900 new business licenses and over 180 new jobs, but the Auburn Avenue designation shows another aspect of DCA's work. Commissioner Beatty continued, "The Georgia General Assembly created the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council**, chaired by Senator Emanuel Jones, to promote the legacy and teaching of Dr. King, and it's housed at DCA. This Council has sought ways to partner with local communities to bring the power of Dr. King's legacy to bear on improving our communities, and supporting an Opportunity Zone in the Sweet Auburn Historic District was a great way for the Council to begin that effort."



Commissioner Beatty celebrates the Auburn Avenue Opportunity Zone.

"By creating an Opportunity Zone in the Auburn District, we give businesses an additional incentive to invest in an area that is rich in history and potential," said Mayor Kasim Reed. The Opportunity Zone comes at an important time for the Auburn Avenue community. The Sweet Auburn District has been listed as endangered by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, in part because the area needs a more robust business community to ensure a thriving area worthy of Sweet Auburn's rich history.

For more information about Opportunity Zones, contact Joanie Perry at joanie.perry@dca.ga.gov. For more information about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council, contact John Turner at john.turner@dca.ga.gov.

contributions to the Georgia mountain region.

Downtown Day at the Capitol 2013



Members of the **Georgia Downtown Association** gathered at the Capitol Tuesday, March 12, 2013 to meet with legislators and Governor Deal. The hard work of staff, elected officials and board members in Georgia's downtowns is leading to great successes in terms of redevelopment and economic development.

The Department supports downtown development through the **Main Street and Better Hometown** technical assistance programs, and funding programs like the **Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund** and the **Redevelopment Fund**. In 2012, Georgia's Main Street and Better Hometown communities:

- rehabilitated 385 buildings in downtowns
- Saw 523 new businesses open in downtowns
- Created 2,669 new jobs in downtowns

For more information on supporting growth and businesses in Georgia's downtowns, contact Billy Peppers at billy.peppers@dca.ga.gov.

Beatty and Isakson Share Podium at NCHSA Conference

At the National Council of State Housing Agencies annual legislative conference in Washington DC, Commissioner Beatty introduced Senator Johnny Isakson as he delivered a US Senate update to the conference.

Senator Isakson, a new member of the Senate Finance Committee, praised Housing Finance Agencies and their affordable housing programs, particularly the **Housing Tax Credit**. Isakson said that the Housing Credit has done an outstanding job since its creation in 1986, and he praised the states for their administration of it.



Senator Johnny Isakson addresses the NCSHA in Washington, DC.

As Georgia's Housing Finance Agency, the Department manages the Housing Credit program, provides down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, promotes affordable housing options statewide, and manages the **HomeSafe Georgia program**, providing mortgage payment assistance to Georgians who face unemployment or underemployment due to the national recession.

For more information about Georgia's housing programs, contact Don Watt at don.watt@dca.ga.gov.

Americorps Program, DCA Board Member Honored by Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta

At its recent annual awards ceremony, **The Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta** recognized the Americorps program at **Inner Harbor** as the Volunteer Team of the Year; and recognized DCA and Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism board member **Simon Bloom as Board Member of the Year.**



Simon Bloom and Inner Harbor Americorps members.

DCA Board member Simon Bloom dedicates a significant portion of his time to volunteer activities. As well as serving as the secretary of the Board of the Department of Community Affairs, he is now serving a second term on the board of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism, and is a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta.

Georgia's Codes Task Forces

The **Office of Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings** is hosting the 2013 meetings for the Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code, and Fuel Gas Code task forces.

If you have questions or would like to receive information on upcoming meeting dates for these Code Review Task Forces, please contact the Office of Construction Codes at **constructioncodes@dca.ga.gov** or 404-679-3118.



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.

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.

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.

The **Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism** administers the Americorps program, which provides volunteers for community service projects around Georgia. Inner Harbor in Douglas County is one of GCSV's oldest partners, participating in Americorps for the past thirteen years. The program serves emotionally disturbed youth, but the Americorps members find time to share their services with the larger community. As well as working with Inner Harbor residents, the members provide homework assistance and afterschool support to the Douglas County Boys and Girls Club. When Bartow County was struck by a tornado early this year, they spent more than 200 hours lending their hands to the recovery effort.

"Simon and the Inner Harbor Americorps volunteers are great role models for all of us," says Commissioner Mike Beatty. "They are examples of how we can all be involved in our community, in a variety of ways. I'm honored to serve with Simon through his work with the Department, and I'm proud of the work that the Inner Harbor Americorps volunteers do, wherever they see a need. Congratulations for a job well done."

For more information about the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism and Americorps, contact Amieko Watson at **Amieko.watson@dca.ga.gov**.

UPCOMING DEADLINES, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES

Community Planning Institute: Water Resources Management: February 21, 2013

The **Office of Planning and Environmental Management** is sponsoring a one-day educational opportunity for elected officials, local government staff, community volunteers and others interested in learning about how land use affects water supply and quality.



Join us in Savannah at the **Coastal Georgia Center** from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Tuesday, April 30, 2013. Click **HERE** for an agenda and registration information. For more information, contact Annette Henson at annette.henson@dca.ga.gov.

HomeSafe Georgia

The Department will provide information about how to apply to the HomeSafe program for mortgage assistance at the following events:



Veteran's Spring Career Fair 2013: March 21, 2013; 1-4 PM;
Valdosta Career Center, 221 South Ashley Street, Valdosta



Thanks to you, our readers, Constant Contact named The Partner Connection one of its 2012 All Star Award Winners!

We work to share the most current information about the Department of Community Affairs with you each month. If you have ideas or requests for information about DCA that you'd like to read here, click **HERE** to share them with us. We're here to partner with communities to create a climate of success for Georgia's families and businesses!



For previous issues of **The Partner Connection**, click on our logo or **HERE**.

2013 Spring Career Fair: April 16, 2013; 10 AM - 2 PM; **DeKalb Campus - Conference Center**, 495 North Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston

Salute to our Heroes Hiring Expo: April 18, 2013; 9 AM - 3PM; **VFW Post 2681 Marietta**, 140 Powers Ferry Road SE, Marietta

Operation Stand Down Columbus: April 27, 2013; 7 AM - 3PM; **Columbus Convention and Trade Center**, 801 Front Avenue, Columbus

As always, more information, eligibility requirements and applications are available on the HomeSafe webpage: <https://www.homesafegeorgia.com/>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

February Financial Awards

Region Three

Dunwoody Development Authority

- \$250,000 REBA Grant
- \$2.52MM in private investment
- Creates 173 jobs
- Assists in the location of a headquarters facility

Region Seven

Augusta-Richmond County

- \$400,000 EDGE Grant
- \$100MM in private investment
- \$140,000 in public (non-DCA) investment
- Creates 100 jobs
- Assists in the location of a chemical processing facility

Region Nine

City of Eastman

- \$32,969 in Immediate Threat and Danger funds
- Assists 1,830 people
- Provides financial assistance to replace components of a city well

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