



Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

REGIONAL NEWS

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DOTHAN, ALABAMA 36302

WWW.SEARPCD.CORP

SPRING 2010

No One Left Behind - "Generations on Line"

Travel the universe; have a wealth of worldly information at your fingertips; hear the latest news; or stay in touch with everyone you know without ever buying a postage stamp or purchasing an airline ticket. Everyone is capable of navigating



Peer coach Hazel Anderson helps Andalusia Mayor Earl Johnson have fun with GoL.

the Internet, sending emails, or making a computer a useful tool with the assistance of a friendly peer coach. You are not too old to begin learning!

Since the inception of "Generations on Line (GoL)" we have coached over 163 local senior learners in 143 sessions. The oldest learner was a youthful age of 89 and did not have a problem, but those are numbers and there is so much more to this program.

Walk into the room and the faces tell the story. The day I walked into Rose Hill Senior Center, Ms Gloria Marble told me she was back in her home town of Ohio visiting the amusement park where she had spent many hours as a child. Sheer delight could be seen on her face. On many Tuesdays or Thursdays you will find Ms. Marble at Rose Hill Senior Center's computer lab, or should we say in another state visiting. Others in the session have their own agendas. Mike Schmitz, Mayor of Dothan, said "We are very pleased to have this program at Rose Hill Senior Center and the Library and being offered to our seniors. It is wonderful to see them learning how to use the Internet and email. This technology helps keep minds active and is now available with a coach to guide and help seniors learn in the comfortable environment of Rose Hill and the Library. This is an amazing opportunity for local seniors and it is free."

The Enterprise Senior Center has been online since January and has had the greatest number of



Dothan Mayor Mike Schmitz amazes peer coaches Delores Bradley and Laura Hodges-Scott with ease of using GoL.

participants go through the computer program. When Mayor Kenneth Boswell of Enterprise was asked about his thoughts concerning the program he stated



Enterprise Mayor Kenneth Boswell easily gets the hang of GoL with help from peer coach Nancy Williford.

"The free computer training offered to the Senior Citizens of Enterprise and the surrounding areas is vital during times of constant change and technology. Continued on Page 9

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Tom Solomon
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The 2010 Census: Why It Is Important to Us All

In March and April, U.S. Census forms are being delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico either by mail or delivered by census takers. The 2010 Census form only contains a few short questions to be answered and submitted back in a postage paid envelope. When you receive your census form in the mail, fill it out and mail it back promptly. The 2010 Census contains the following questions:

Name
Sex
Age
Date of Birth
Hispanic Origin
Race
Household Relationship
If You Own or Rent

The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2, mandates that a census of the population be taken every ten years and was originally created by Thomas Jefferson with the first census undertaken during the term of President George Washington. However, the census is important to all of us for several reasons. First of all, the census determines among other things how our tax money is spent and how many seats are allocated in the U.S. House of Representatives. Did you know that over \$400 billion will be spent directly related to the results of the 2010 census? The community you live in will be affected by its share of these funds, it may or may not receive, based on the accuracy of the 2010 census data. Census data also has a direct impact on community and economic development planning by identifying the number and types of job skills in a particular community. This has a major influence on where new businesses will locate and create jobs and investment in your community.

It is estimated that failure to count a resident living in a community costs that community about \$1,500. Inaccurate counts can cause a community to lose potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct benefit funding. It is vitally important to our region that all citizens be counted in the 2010 census. An accurate count of the population is the basis for many important decisions that will be made affecting our daily lives involving political, economic and social matters.

Please participate accurately and promptly when you receive your census form or a census taker visits your home. The benefits to our region will be well worth the effort.

SEARP&DC Welcomes New Board Members



**Councilman Paul
Russell**



**Mr. Vann Bradshaw
Geneva County**



Pictured L-R: Mr. Carl Bush, Henry County; Dr. Dianne Marshall, Dale County; Ms. Danielle Reed, Geneva County; Mayor Mike Schmitz, City of Dothan; Mr. William Birdsong, Geneva County

The Commission is pleased to welcome these members to the SEARP&DC Board of Directors. We look forward to serving the region together. Thank you for your commitment to regional service.

Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC) Recognizes Senator Roger H. Bedford, Jr. and Representative John F. Knight as Outstanding Legislative Leaders



Pictured L-R: John Clyde Riggs, Executive Director Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission, Camden; Senator Roger H. Bedford, Jr.; Danny Corbett, AARC Consultant; Bill Tucker, Executive Director Central Alabama Regional Planning Commission, Montgomery; Representative John F. Knight; Tom Solomon, Executive Director, SEARP&DC, Dothan.

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils recently recognized Senator Roger H. Bedford, Jr. of Russellville and Representative John F. Knight of Montgomery for their outstanding leadership in the Alabama Legislature. Senator Bedford and Representative Knight have been strong supporters of the Alabama Association of Regional Councils and the many programs delivered to Alabama citizens through the AARC. Senator Bedford serves as the Finance and Taxation-General Fund Committee Chairman and Representative Knight serves as the Government Appropriations Committee Chairman. The AARC is proud to recognize both Senator Bedford and Representative Knight for their many years of outstanding service to AARC and the Citizens of the State of Alabama.

Saving Energy = Money for Local Governments

Saving energy means more money for two of our local governments. The Houston County Commission and the city of Ozark were recently awarded economic stimulus grants to save energy and reduce utility bills by making improvements to their facilities. Each was awarded \$250,000 under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. The program was created to help local governments improve the energy efficiency of buildings and vehicles, reduce fossil fuel emissions and create or retain jobs.

Houston County will be upgrading lighting fixtures in the county's administration building, health department, farm extension office, courthouse, and community corrections facility. In addition, the project will include the installation of a dehumidification system in the county administration building. The dehumidifier will help to reduce the humidity in the building therefore alleviating mold problems, increasing air quality, and providing for better and drier air. According to Sean

Curtis, Houston County Maintenance Manager, the proposed project will create approximately 11 temporary jobs and save \$81,969 in utility costs per year. **Mr. Curtis stated, "Making these improvements is a good investment and will save the county on energy costs in the future."**



The city of Ozark's project will include the replacement of an old heating and air conditioning system at East Gate Business Park with 20 mini heat pumps. The East Gate Business Park was recently converted to a small business incubator center by the city of Ozark and currently houses three businesses. The project will also include the installation of

individual meters for each of the 20 heat pumps, one for each business space in the building. This improvement will allow each individual business to be responsible for the electricity they use instead of dividing the electricity bills into equal parts. **Mayor Billy Blackwell stated, "We are thrilled to receive economic stimulus funding to assist with such a needed project. This will lead to further economic development for our city by encouraging small and emerging businesses to locate in the East Gate Business Park."** The improvements will save \$20,076 in annual heating and cooling costs and create six temporary jobs.

The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission assisted the Houston County Commission and the city of Ozark with preparation of the application and will be assisting with the project administration.



Emily Waters, Economic Development Director
Emily can be reached at 334-794-4093 ext. 1414 or ewaters@searpc.org



SEARP&DC Remembers Jessie Moring



On December 16, 2009 friends and family gathered at Pinckard Methodist Church to pay their final respects to Mrs. Jessie Moring. Mrs. Moring was the face of the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. She faithfully served as our receptionist from April 1, 1997 until her death in 2009. Jessie was a wonderful coworker and good friend. She is greatly missed by the staff and all those who interacted with her daily. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, her two sons Charles and Craig Moring, and daughter Cynthia Nowell and many other family members.

"Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11: 25-26

City of Florala Utilizes Recovery Funding for Improved Streets

The City of Florala is almost complete with the implementation of several segments of street improvements in north-west sections of the city. The city first submitted a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) in 2008 for potential funding, but the application did not receive funding that year.

In 2009, ADECA announced the availability of supplemental CDBG funding (CDBG Recovery Fund) that was received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that was commonly known as “stimulus funding”. The project met the eligibility requirements under the program and was already designed for bid, which was very important as one major component of the Recovery Fund was for projects to be “shovel ready”. The project application was submitted in June 2009 and received notification of award in August 2009. The City of Florala project was one of 16 in Alabama to receive funding out of 115 applications.

The project has improved West

5th Avenue (between Highway 55 and West 7th Avenue), West 6th Avenue (between West 5th Avenue and Martin Luther King Street), and Juniper Street



Mayor Robert Williamson and Scott Farmer, SEARP&DC



Councilman Marvin Williford and Scott Farmer, SEARP&DC

(between 12th Avenue and Industrial Park Road). The city is working on adding the portion of Martin Luther King Street between 12th Avenue and Industrial Park Road to the project.

According to Mayor Robert Williamson, the project has been very well received by the residents in the project area, as the street project “provides much needed improvements to streets in the Second District in Florala. It has been 35 to 40 years since these roads have been paved. The project has provided a huge improvement to the area and the curbing has improved the flow of water. We appreciate ADECA’s assistance to small communities.”

The City of Florala partnered with SEARP&DC on project application and administration, the Covington County Engineering Department donated engineering design and inspection services, and Moody Contracting, Inc. out of Opp for the project construction.



Scott Farmer,
Community
Development
Director

Scott can be reached at 334-794-4093 ext. 1412 or sfarmer@searpc.org

Senior Employment Teamwork Recognized



Barbara Knight, Florala Mayor Robert Williamson, Center Director Loretta Sasser, Richard DeVore

A bright smile, cheery greeting, a warm hug, these are just a few of the ways Center Director Loretta Sasser shows her love for the participants of the Florala Senior Center. After all, to her they are just one big happy family, a family which also includes the Senior Trainees assigned to work and train at the Center. Ms. Sasser is just one of many host agency supervisors across the region who have learned the value of older workers and treat them as individuals and not just “free labor.” Ms. Sasser and the City of Florala were one of 14 host agencies recognized for employing Senior Trainees during the 2009 project year. States Ms. Sasser, “A lot of them (Senior Trainees) need to work; they need training as well as the extra income. We just try to be of help and serve as advocates for all who come to the center.” Ms. Sasser’s comments were echoed by Florala Mayor Robert Williamson who lauded her for her efforts and efficient operation of the center. He felt the commendation was well deserved, adding, “When you surround yourself with good people, good things happen.”

Teamwork states Project Director Barbara Knight is definitely

a must in order for participants of the SCSEP (Senior Community Service Program) to achieve individual goals. Host agency assignments provide valuable work experience

and training necessary for older workers to compete for jobs in today’s workforce. “We are so fortunate to have concerned local officials and host agency supervisors who support their senior citizens. Ms. Sasser is truly a jewel and we have many others equally dedicated and supportive of their Senior Trainees.” During the past project year, 45 percent of jobs secured by program participants were due to

agencies recognized for employing Senior Trainees included Alfred Saliba Family Service Center-Early Head Start, City of Andalusia Leisure Services, Dothan Area Career Center, Eufaula Senior Center, City of Eufaula-Barbour Co. Transit, City of Florala Senior Center, Geneva County Family Services Center, Girls, Inc., Hawk-Houston Boys & Girls Club, Human Resource Development Corporation, Town of Newton Senior Center, City of Ozark Senior Center, Vivian B. Adams School, Wiregrass Area Food Bank and Wiregrass Transit Authority.

States Ms. Knight, “We recognize, due to limited budgets, not all host agencies will be able to hire their Senior Trainees. In these situations, supervisors can be a great help to Senior Trainees by encouraging and supporting them in their job search efforts.” Such was the case with Senior Trainee Aleane Moore who



Back Row (Left to Right): Executive Director Tom Solomon, Zaneta Daniels-Eufaula- Barbour Co. Transit, Toni Brown-Human Resource Development Corporation; Angie Kelly-Ozark Senior Center; Willie Mae Smith-Hawk Houston Boys & Girls Club; Lynn Ivey, Alfred Saliba Family Service Center-Early Head Start; David Hanks-Wiregrass Food Bank; Rebecca Tomberlin, Geneva County Family Services Center; Barbara Knight, Project Director. Front Row (Left to Right) Eula Mae Hall-Eufaula Senior Center; Myra Page-City of Andalusia and Mary Moyer-Newton Senior Center.

the efforts of our host agencies and supervisors. Supervisors were presented certificates of appreciation for their support and assistance during the annual host agency supervisors’ meeting held during the month of October 2009. Host

was nearing the 12 month durational limit for SCSEP assignments. Having previously supported the employment of one Senior Trainee (Mary Diggs) by the City of Florala,

Continued on page 8



New Early Head Start Classes to Open

The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission has received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to open Early Head Start (EHS) Classes in our Headland and Andalusia Head Start Centers. This funding while providing economic stimulus to our service area will further our mission to provide comprehensive early childhood services to these communities. Given that EHS is new to our service area, herein we will attempt to describe the program objectives and services, eligibility criteria, start-up plan, and how EHS will benefit our Head Start Program.

Early Head Start (EHS) provides services to prenatal mothers and children from birth to three years old. The program provides early, individualized child development to infants and toddlers and parent education services. Individualized plans are developed to provide needed services to pregnant women and mothers. Service plans are developed jointly by EHS staff and parents. The EHS program provides services or connects with other service providers to ensure that a comprehensive array of health, nutrition, education, career development, and other services are made available. The rationale for providing such service to lower income families is supported by professional studies that empha-

size the need for a nurturing learning environment for infants and toddlers.

Early childhood education research supports the need of EHS services, especially in low income families. Infants and toddlers cognitive and learning skills are enhanced by educational services, and show a marked decrease in angry behavior as they grow socially and emotionally in a nurturing environment. Studies have shown that those participating in Head Start programs excel on cognitive tests that measure pre-reading and reading skills, pre-writing and writing skills, math reasoning, and problem solving skills.

Early Head Start, like our regular Head Start, prioritizes enrollment of children from families that are at or below poverty level. While



this is the primary qualifying criteria, other factors such as disabilities and single parent family status are considered in the enrollment selection process. In order for Early Head Start to comply with state license regulations we

must also prioritize the age category since one class can contain only infants and toddlers from zero to two-and-a-half. The other classroom will contain toddlers and serve as a transition class to our regular Head Start. Under current federal regulations, those children must be re-qualified under the regular Head Start selection criteria. Therefore, transition to regular Head Start greatly depends on family income being at or below poverty level.

The start-up of any Head Start program involves compliance with extensive federal and state regulations. This is particularly true with Early Head Start as it requires costly renovations for classrooms specially designed to serve infants and toddlers. It is anticipated that our Early Head Start Program will start-up in June 2010 to provide home based services. The Home Based EHS Option requires weekly home visits by Head Start staff to direct prenatal care, linkage to needed community services, child development activities, and parent/infant activities. Upon completion of our classroom renovations, we will transition to the Center Based EHS Option. At that point, all of our Head Start program will provide services in a center based, classroom environment.

The availability of ARRA funding for Early Head Start expansion provided us an opportunity to move toward continuity of services for pre-kindergarten children. While Early Head Start classes serve infants and toddlers age zero to three, our regular Head Start classes will serve children age three to five. We are hopeful many of the Early Head Start chil-

Continued on page 12

Seniors Continued

Ms. Sasser assisted Ms. Moore with networking, resulting in her employment as a private sitter. Ms. Sasser commented, "I don't want them to just go back and sit at home. I want to give them what they need to go forward and be able to continue working when they leave here. I think it is a blessing for them to have such a program like this to help them find work." That, states Barbara Knight is teamwork, and it is exactly what SCSEP is all about. "When Senior Trainees are able to meet their employment goals, then SCSEP has met its goals."

Through host agency partnerships, community services are expanded, hours are extended and quality of services enhanced. Currently, SEARP&DC partners with approximately 64 government and non-profit agencies across the region. During 2009, Senior Trainees across the seven county region provided a total of 33,027 hours of community service. After gaining valuable skills through their training assignments, twenty-nine (29) Senior Trainees were able to obtain regular employment. SEARP&DC would like to thank all host agency supervisors for being a part of the SCSEP TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More.

Sponsored by SEARP&DC under contract with the Alabama Department of Senior Services and Senior Service America, Inc., the Senior Employment Program employs approximately 86 senior trainees in various public and non-profit agencies throughout Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston Counties.

Participants of the program are assigned to agencies within their communities where they work 19-3/4 hours per week and are compensated at the minimum wage rate. Participants must be age 55 or older and have income which does not exceed Federal Poverty Guidelines. Individuals or agencies interested in participating in the program should call Barbara Knight at (334) 794-4093 or 1-800-489-7606 ext. 1421.



Barbara Knight, Program Director

call (334) 794-4093 ext. 1422 or
1-800-489-7606 or
email bknight@searpc.org

New Metal Fabrication Company Will Open Soon in Cowarts

All Metal Roofing & Siding, held their ground breaking recently, and will soon open in Cowarts due to joint efforts from the Town of Cowarts, Houston County Commission, Houston County Industrial Development Authority, and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). The Town of Cowarts received a grant from ADECA through their Economic Development Fund Program for \$83,416.00 to provide an industrial access road for the metal fabrication business. All Metal Roofing & Siding committed to creating at least 15 jobs within the next year.

The Houston County Commission agreed to provide over \$23,000 of in-kind services while the Houston County Industrial Development Authority also contributed funds for the project. Northstar Engineering Services are providing the engineering services for the project. Houston County Commissioner, Mr. Bobby Snellgrove stated "I am glad the Houston County Commission could partner with local communities like the Town of Cowarts in order to provide more economic development opportunities in the area." Mayor Randy Roland also stated that the Town is "Excited to have the new company locate in Cowarts." The company will supply metal products to commercial and residential customers and plans to open by May 1st.



For more information
Rachel can be reached
at 334-794-4093 ext 1411
or email
rarmstrong@searpc.org

SEARP&DC Welcomes Regional Planner, Andrew Windham



The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission is pleased to welcome Mr. Andrew Windham as Regional Planner. Mr. Windham is a 2005 graduate of Troy University with a Bachelor's degree in Geography. He came to SEARPDC from Fort Rucker Range Control office where he supported Range Operations utilizing GIS. He has five years progressive GIS experience in multiple industries such as utilities, military, and environmental. He also have a GIS certificate from Enterprise Ozark Community College. He is married to Tiffany and has two daughters, two and half year old Lilly Anne and seven month old Claire. Mr. Windham is a native of New Brockton, Alabama. "We are very excited about hiring Andrew and getting him more familiar with the needs of our local communities. We believe that Andrew's skills will allow us to expand our mapping capabilities to better support planning functions in the future" stated Mr. Scott Farmer, SEARP&DC Community Development Director. Welcome Aboard Andrew!

Generations on Line continued

Generations Online has allowed our seniors to receive training free of charge and I have heard several comments on the impact this has had on individuals. Some seniors are now able to email their relatives while others are shopping online without having to leave the comfort of their home. The Senior Service America, Inc. and the American Recovery Act have developed a great program that is helpful and very much needed. I am grateful that the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning Commission has been generous enough to host the program in the City of Enterprise and the response from our community has proven this program to be essential and appreciated."

Most recently, Andalusia Adult Activity Center started GoL online April 6. Andalusia Mayor Earl Johnson states, "It is a great opportunity for the City of Andalusia to help our seniors become proficient with Internet usage with the age of online

usage growing every day. It is becoming increasingly more important that we all know how to manage the World Wide Web. We greatly appreciate the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for helping us secure funding for this program."

This is not a class, it is an opportunity with friendly peer coaches. It is whatever you want it to be. The peer coaches are outstanding. Here in Dothan, they are Delores Bradley and Laura Hodges-Scott. In Enterprise it is Nancy Collier and in Andalusia it is Hazel Anderson. They take great pride in figuring out what participants want out of the one hour weekly session. To earn the certificate each completes a very basic segment on memories, email, searches, and links to sites of interest. The mouse becomes a friend at each participants own pace with the assistance of a coach.

More general information is available by contacting Penny Rotolo,

Project Coordinator at 334 794-4093 X 1410 or protolo@searpdc.org. To reserve a session, call the closest location to you: Dothan: Rose Hill Senior Center 334-797-1261 or Library 334-793-9767; Enterprise Senior Center 334-347-3513; Andalusia Adult Activity Center 334-222-6891. You only need to be 55 years or older. Don't hesitate, this opportunity won't last forever. Do it now! Encourage parents, grandparents, great-grandparents to come out and actively participate! *They will be pleased and amazed!*



Penny Rotolo
Human Resources
Manager

Penny can be reached at 334-794-4093 ext. 1410 or protolo@searpdc.org

Loan Administration Board Welcomes New Member



The SEARP&DC Loan Administration Board has a new member, Mr. Winston Jackson of Ozark. Mr. Jackson was recently appointed by the Dale County Commission.

Mr. Jackson is employed with Pea River Electric Cooperative in Ozark, serving as the Asst. Director/ Manager of Marketing and Member Services. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Dale County E-911 Board of Directors; Vice President of the Ozark Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Alabama Board of Directors; Past President and member of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Board of Directors and member of the Friends of Fort Rucker Board of Directors. Mr. Jackson also served on the Ozark City Council.

He is married to Barbara, who is currently employed with Dothan City School System.

Mr. Jackson states "It is a great honor and privilege to serve on the Loan Administration Board of the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission."

Loan Administration Board Recognition

Long time Loan Administration Board members, Mr. Herman Jackson of Ozark and Mr. William (Bill) Benton of Dothan recently rotated off the SEARP&DC Loan Administration Board. In recognition of their service to the Board, the Commission presented them with plaques. Mr. Jackson is a retired educator who served over 34 years in the field of public education. Mr. Benton is recently retired from the South Alabama Regional Airport where he served as Director since 1998. In addition, Mr. Benton is retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Benton were both faithful members of the Loan Administration Board for several years. The Commission extends its sincere thanks to Mr. Jackson and Mr. Benton for their service to the regional economic development efforts with the Commission's loan programs serving southeast Alabama.



Left to Right: Tom Solomon, SEARP&DC; Herman Jackson; Rachel Armstrong, SEARP&DC; and Emily Waters, SEARP&DC



Mr. Bill Benton and Ms. Emily Waters, SEARP&DC

Save the Date

● **May 21 - Houston County Relay for Life to Benefit the American Cancer Society**

● **June 10 - SEARP&DC Board Meeting**

● **September 9 -SEARP&DC Annual Meeting to be held at the Daleville Convention Center**

● **September 9 - SEARP&DC Board Meeting**

● **October 19-22 - AARC Training Conference. Marriott Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL. For more information visit www.alarc.org**

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SEARP&DC Attends SANS Orlando!

SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) Institute was founded in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization.

The SANS Institute's mission is to teach practical knowledge and hands-on skills that can be applied to real world, everyday scenarios. Wikipedia says, "Information security means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction." There is no better place to learn how to do that than at a SANS training event. At the SANS Orlando training event more than 1000 information technology and IT security professionals gathered to obtain cutting edge knowledge on how to protect important print, electronic, confidential, private and sensitive information or data from unauthorized access, use, misuse, disclosure, destruction, modification, or disruption. SANS has been cited as the best professional training program in 2009 and 2010 by SC Magazine.

Mrs. Sarah Hesters, IT Administrator for SEARP&DC was able to attend the training through grant funding obtained from the Department of Transportation, due to the expansion of the Wiregrass Transit program to include GPS systems in the buses. "The training event was very informative and provided me with the skills to better protect the Commission and its assets" stated Mrs. Hesters. This summer Mrs. Hesters plans to take the Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) test to obtain the Global Security Essentials Certification (GSEC). According to SC magazine GIAC certification is held in high regard because it measures specific knowledge areas instead of general purpose information security knowledge.

To find out more about SANS and GIAC please visit www.sans.org or www.giac.org.



SANS Attendees at work

Wiregrass Transit Authority

Stimulus Funds Starting to Flow

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus bill) Wiregrass Transit Authority was granted almost \$1.34 million dollars. We began seeing some of the results of this in the last quarter but have now finally started to receive some of the funding.

We have begun to install and implement Mobile Data Terminals and GPS locators on all of our busses. Right now, we have just installed them on our newer

busses and the ones that we are going to retain after we receive the rest of our stimulus vehicles. This provides a simple interface for the driver and provides our management staff a huge capability to provide real time updates to our busses as schedules and passengers needs change.



We are still awaiting the delivery of our other 12 new busses. They will be identical to our previously

purchased new bus and will give the fleet a new "look".



By this summer we are truly hoping that we will have completed all of our stimulus procurements and will have all of our new equipment in service and supporting our citizens.



John Sorrell
WTA Manager

John can be reached at 334-794-4093 ext. 1431 or transit@searpdc.org.

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Early Head Start Continued

dren can experience an uninterrupted transition to regular Head Start. Those children will receive the greatest benefit from our program and will enter public school kindergarten better prepared to learn.

We conclude that Early Head Start expansion will create the infrastructure and foundation for a stronger Head Start program. Initially we will be serving 32 infant/toddlers for EHS (Andalusia having 2 classes and Headland having 2 classes with each class enrolling 8). The addition of Early Head Start will create eleven new positions. As funding becomes available we hope to grow the EHS program and open classes in our other Head Start Centers. Early Head Start is the foundation for the future of those children and families having the greatest need.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6



Ron Holliman,
Head Start Program
Director

Ron can be reached at 334-794-4093 ext.1404
rholliman@searpdc.org

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