



JANUARY 2024 / VOL. XVI, ISSUE I

Little Libraries Ribbon Cutting at Wheeler Park

**JANUARY 2024  
CALENDAR**

- Airport Commission** – January 3, 12PM, Airport
- Air Base Preservation & Development Committee** – January 8, 12PM, Airport,
- City Commission** – January 8 & 22, 6 PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.
- Keep Douglas Beautiful** – January 9, 9 AM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.
- Recreation Commission** – January 9, 11:45 AM, Central Square Complex
- Land Bank Authority** – January 11, 2 PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.
- Mayor’s Youth Council** – January 16, 6 PM, City Hall
- Downtown Development Authority** – January 17, 8:30 AM, Chamber of Commerce, 114 N. Peterson Avenue, Suite 205
- Veterans Park Committee** – January 17, 10 AM, Douglas Municipal Airport
- Planning Commission** – January 18, 6 PM, City Hall
- GICH Committee** – January 24, 3 PM, City Hall,
- Historic Preservation Committee** – January 25, 4PM, City Hall

The Keep Douglas Beautiful Committee, Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce, and City of Douglas held ribbon cuttings for the Little Libraries located at Eastside Park, Wheeler Park, Madison Ave Park, and Emma Ward Park on December 5 and December 12, 2023. The Little Libraries initiative hopes to promote literacy and foster a sense of community throughout Douglas.

Retired educators and neighborhood volunteers are needed to help support this initiative by assisting with maintenance and stocking of books for the project. If you are interested in helping with the Little Libraries in your neighborhood park, please contact Dinitra Williams (912) 331-9398 or Christian at (912)383-0277.

Special thanks to Little Libraries partners: City of Douglas, Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce, Coffee County Community Foundation, Douglas Lions Club, Black Stone Builders, Douglas Utilities Department, Haley Randleman with Coffee County Middle School 8th grade art students, Rebecca Waldroup with George Washington Carver Freshman Campus 9th grade art students, Coffee County Schools, and the Douglas community.



Little Libraries project was spearheaded by Christian Mikell (Douglas Grants Administrator) and Jeffery Ingram (Douglas Customer Service Asst. Director). Pictured: Little Library at Eastside Park with (L-R) Jeffery Ingram, Darlene Salazar (KDB Vice President), Christian Mikell, and Dinitra Williams (KDB President).



**Christmas Joy**

**The Community Toy Drive Committee teamed together with Shop with A Cop to provide Christmas joy to over 150 children this year.**

**Special thanks to Southwire, Douglas Police Department, Douglas Fire Department, City of Douglas, Douglas Lions Club, and everyone who supported the Community Toy Drive.**



[CLICK HERE](#)



FOR THE FULL CALENDAR

# Employee Anniversary Spotlight

Here's our **OUTSTANDING** employees that are celebrating employment anniversaries of 5 years or more with the City of Douglas during the month of January. We say thank you for your service to the citizens of Douglas!

**Leon Whitley—17 Yrs. (Police Department)**

## Milestone Job Anniversaries



**Christian Mikell—5 yrs.  
(Community Development)**

**Terry Fesperman—20 yrs.  
(Director, Vehicle Maintenance)**



**Sheila Bivens—35 yrs.  
(Police Dept.)**



On Friday, December 8, 2023, Sgt. Miguel Lopez and Corporal Brittany O'Steen with the Douglas Police Department graduated from Command College at Columbus State University with their Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration. Congratulations!!



Welcome to the new Downtown Development Authority Executive Director, Megan Rabun! The Downtown Development Authority of Douglas, Georgia looks forward to the energy and expertise Megan brings to the organization. As Executive Director, she will play a crucial role in fostering economic development, enhancing the downtown area, and supporting local businesses. We can't wait to see all the great things that are going to be happening in Downtown Douglas!!




*Congratulations to the OHS Trojan Football team players, coaches, parents, cheerleaders, band, auxiliary, and Coffee County fans!* 




**SAFETY**  Commit to Your City with a Rewarding Career. Now hiring Firefighters. 

Apply online at [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs) or stop by City Hall located at 302 S. Madison Avenue. (912)389-3494

*ONE CALL TO CITY HALL*  
Dedicated to Serving You



**HAVING NON-EMERGENCY UTILITY ISSUES? DIAL 3-1-1 OR 912-384-3302**

CITY OF DOUGLAS  
CUSTOMER CARE CENTER



**CITY UPKEEP**  A Bright Career. A Bright Future. Right at Home.  Now hiring Maintenance Workers in Parks & Recreation.

Apply in person at City Hall or online at [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs). For more information: (912) 389-3494



**LAW ENFORCEMENT**  Make an Impact in Your Community. Now hiring Police Officers. 

Apply online at [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs) or stop by City Hall located at 302 S. Madison Avenue. (912)389-3494



**Miracle League Spring Baseball Registration**  
Jan. 2—May 10, 2024  
at the Parks & Recreation Office  
(200 S. Madison Avenue) or  
Click [HERE](#) to register online.  
FMI: (912) 384-5978

# WELCOME TO *The City of Douglas*

**NEW BUSINESSES**

WJ Moore Properties, 1044 Kaden Lane  
Georgia Waxing Company, 321 S. Peterson Ave.  
Delorice's Florist, 200 S. Peterson Ave.  
Postnet, 512 S. Peterson Ave.

**Business License Questions?  
Call (912) 389-3460**



*Thank you for doing business  
in Douglas-Coffee County!*



**Still Waters Outreach**  
2699 Hwy 221 North, Douglas  
Phone: 912-260-3145.

## SPOTLIGHT ON *City of Douglas Businesses*

SEA SHELLS  
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

COMING SOON!

**COMING SOON!**  
**SEASHELLS SEAFOOD  
RESTAURANT**  
317 S. PETERSON AVE.



**THANK YOU AND WE APPRECIATE YOU FOR INVESTING IN  
DOUGLAS AND COFFEE COUNTY!**

**Deliciously  
yours.**  
**Publix Grand Opening!!**

WED, JAN 17, 2024 AT 7 AM

Publix at Douglas Square

1329 S. Peterson Avenue Douglas, GA 31533

Going

**TIME TO  
RENEW YOUR  
BUSINESS  
LICENSE**

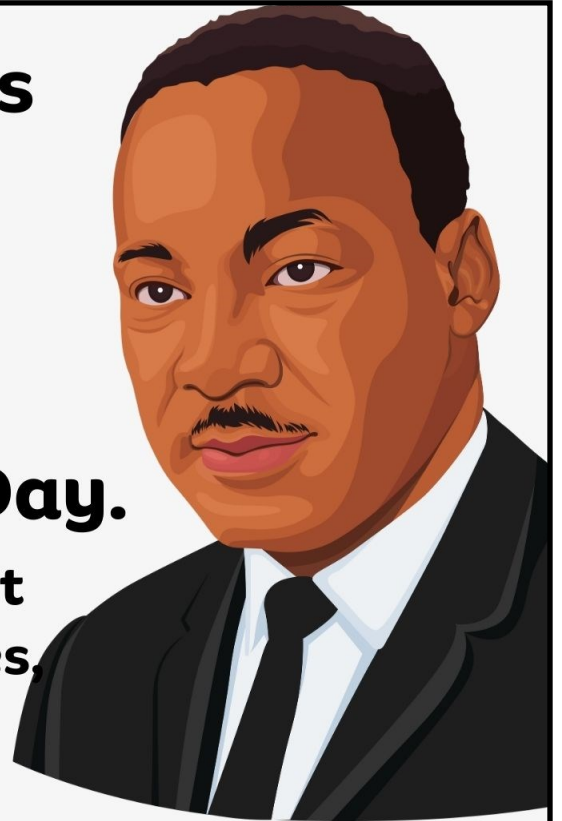
Renewal deadline is  
prior to March 1, 2024.

For information,  
please call  
**(912)389-3460**



**City of Douglas offices  
will be closed on  
January 15, 2024  
in observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

**Offices will reopen on Tues. Jan. 16 at  
8am. For non-emergency utility issues,  
please dial 3-1-1 or (912)384-3302.**



# City of Douglas Bids



## INVITATION TO BID

### NEW '23/'24 CREW CAB TRUCK

Bid ##66812-24-00011

Deadline to Submit:

January 8, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Bid Opening Immediately Following:

@ City Hall - 302 S. Madison Avenue.

FMI: [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids)

## Invitation to Bid

### LUPO LANE SIDEWALK & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

TIA Project - SGRC 086

Deadline to Submit:

January 11, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Bid Opening Immediately Following:

@ City Hall - 302 S. Madison Avenue.

FMI: [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids)

## Invitation to Bid

### FY 24 WATER- WASTEWATER SUPPLIES

#66812-24-0014

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:

FEBRUARY 12, 2024, 2:30 P.M.

BID OPENING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING:

@ CITY HALL - 302 S. MADISON AVENUE.

[WWW.CITYOFDOUGLASGA.GOV](http://WWW.CITYOFDOUGLASGA.GOV)

## INVITATION TO BID

### FY 24 ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

#66812-24-0013

Deadline to Submit:

February 12, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Bid Opening Immediately Following:

@ City Hall - 302 S. Madison Avenue.

FMI: [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids)



**Saturday, January 6, 2024**

**8:30AM-11:30AM**

**1011 Shirley Avenue**

**(corner of Shirley and College Park Dr.)**

***Bare "Live" Christmas Trees Only***

***Live trees should be completely bare of any ornaments, decorations, lighting, tinsel, ribbon, etc. For more information, call Christian at (912) 383-0277.***



Keep Douglas GA Beautiful



# RESIDENTIAL JUNK DROP-OFF 2024 DATES



**LOCATION: 1011 SHIRLEY AVENUE / 8:30AM-11:45AM**

**You MUST be in the drop-off line prior to 11:30AM.**

This is a RESIDENTIAL drop-off collection only for City of Douglas residents.

- Proof of residency such as a utility bill is required.
- NO landlords or commercial businesses may drop off.
- Residents can drop off a full body pickup load or two utility trailers.
- MAX drop off is 2 loads

Acceptable brown and white good items include furniture, washing machines, refrigerators, dryers, stoves, microwaves, television, etc.

- Please drain all chemicals from appliances.
- NO hazardous chemicals such as paints/solvents, household cleaners, pesticides/herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, or tires.
- NO construction materials or commercial materials.

## **2024 DATES**

**JANUARY 6 & 20**

**FEBRUARY 3 & 17**

**MARCH 2 & 16**

**APRIL 6 & 20**

**MAY 4 & 18**

**JUNE 1 & 15**

**JULY 6 & 20**

**AUGUST 3 & 17**

**SEPTEMBER 7 & 21**

**OCTOBER 5 & 19**

**NOVEMBER 2 & 16**

**DECEMBER 7 & 21**

**(912) 389-3450**

**WWW.CITYOFDOUGLASGA.GOV**



City of  
*Douglas*  
Georgia

# PUBLIC HEARING

## Proposed Height Variance Application by Journey North for “Lupo Lane” Subdivision Development

The City of Douglas has received a request for a height variance for a multi-family (apartment), subdivision development by Journey North (developer), that will provide approximately 126 dwelling units. The location of the subdivision request is parcel 0117B 008, which is a vacant lot that lies between the Hunters Run Apartments 701 Lupo Lane and the former location of the Knollwood Tire & Wheel Warehouse Tire Shop 503 Lupo Lane.

A public hearing to discuss the variance will be held on

Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM

City Hall - 302 S Madison Avenue Douglas, GA 31533

For more information, call (912) 389-3433 or visit the Planner’s office located at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.



City of  
*Douglas*  
Georgia

# PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Douglas is considering applying to the Georgia DCA for a CDBG of up to \$1,000,000 (single activity) or \$1,250,000 (multi-activity). These funds must be used to primarily benefit low and moderate income persons.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the area of housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low and moderate income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing, which will be held at

5:30 P.M. on January 18, 2024, at The Lighthouse Church of God, 1303 Leader Street, Douglas, Georgia.

[www.cityofdouglasga.gov](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov)

# \*Attention\*

## Neighborhood Residents

- Does your plumbing leak?
- Does your roof need repairs?
- Is your electrical system unsafe?
- Are your windows drafty?
- Does your heating system leave you cold?
- Does your air conditioning leave you hot?

*If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you may qualify for the City of Douglas' FY 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Program.*

## Want to know more about this program?

Make plans now to attend the

## COMMUNITY MEETING & APPLICATION INTAKE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

**The Lighthouse Church of God  
1303 Leader Street, Douglas, GA  
6:00 P.M.**



**Discussions will be held concerning the housing needs of the residents of your neighborhood**

**Many areas of the program will be addressed:**

- **Eligible participants**
- **Application intake**
- **Eligible housing improvements**

**For more information concerning this meeting, call Michael Jacobs with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (912) 285-6097**

# \*Atención\*

## Residentes del vecindario

- ¿Se te escapa la plomería?
- ¿Su sistema eléctrico es inseguro?
- ¿Su sistema de calefacción le deja frío?
- ¿Su techo necesita reparaciones?
- ¿Tus ventanas están redactas?
- ¿Tu aire acondicionado te deja caliente?

*Si respondió que sí a cualquiera de estas preguntas, entonces puede calificar para el Programa de Revitalización de Vecindarios para el Programa de Revitalización de Vecindarios (CDBG, Por sus siglas en inglés) de la Ciudad de Douglas para el año 2024.*

**¿Quieres saber más sobre este programa? Haga planes ahora para asistir a la**

**REUNIÓN COMUNITARIA  
& INGESTA DE SOLICITUD  
JUEVES, 18 DE ENERO DE 2024  
La Iglesia de Dios Faro  
1303 Leader Street, Douglas, GA  
6:00 P.M.**



**Se llevarán a cabo debates sobre las necesidades de vivienda de los residentes de su vecindario**

**Se abordarán muchas áreas del programa:**

- **Participantes elegibles**
- **Admisión de aplicaciones**
- **Mejoras de vivienda elegibles**

**Para obtener más información sobre esta reunión, llame a Michael Jacobs con la Comisión Regional del Sur de Georgia (912) 285-6097**

# **PUBLIC NOTICE: EAST BRYAN STREET ROAD CLOSURES**

**BEGINNING JANUARY 2024, WORK WILL RESUME IN THE EAST BRYAN STREET AND PEARL AVENUE AREAS. AT VARIOUS TIMES AND DATES, ROADS LEADING TO OR FROM BRYAN STREET MAY BE CLOSED OR HAVE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC. DURING THE TIMESPAN OF THIS PROJECT, PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION AROUND CITY HALL, THE CE WEIR CENTER, YOUTH CENTER, GYMS, AND SATILLA REGIONAL LIBRARY AND TAKE CAUTION WHEN TRAVELING IN THESE AREAS DUE TO CONSTRUCTION AND POSSIBLE TRAFFIC CONGESTION. PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE WORKERS AND EQUIPMENT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROADWAYS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, (912) 389-3444**

## **The Douglas-Coffee County Land Bank Authority is seeking proposals for maintenance and/or repair of LBA Owned Property.**

**Vendors interested in providing maintenance and repair services must complete and submit a Vendor Accreditation Form. The form may be downloaded from the website, [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/LBA](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/LBA) and submitted via email to [afussell@cityofdouglasga.gov](mailto:afussell@cityofdouglasga.gov) or mailed to the Community Development Office, ATTN: Alyssa Fussell, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.**



**For more information,  
[www.cityofdouglasga.gov/LBA](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/LBA)**

DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY OF THE 2024 DCCPRD LEISURE GUIDE TODAY!

[www.cityofdouglasga.gov/recreation](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/recreation)



DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# Leisure Guide

2024

Dedicated to our most valuable assets: **OUR CHILDREN** • [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/recreation](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/recreation)

 [www.facebook.com/DCCPRD](https://www.facebook.com/DCCPRD)

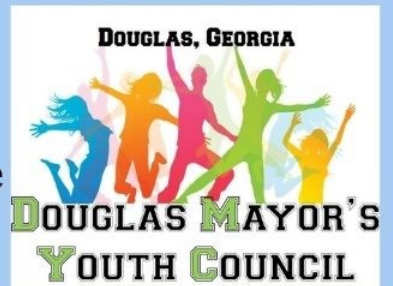




Join Us!  
Become a Youth  
Volunteer!



We need your  
passion and energy  
to make a difference  
in our community.



[www.cityofdouglasga.gov/youth\\_council](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/youth_council)

## Baseball and Softball Registration Ages 5 - 14

**Early Registration: Jan. 02 – Jan. 12**

**Cost: \$40 City/County, OOC \$80**

**Regular Registration: Jan. 15– Jan. 26**

**Cost: \$45 City/County, OOC \$80**

**Age Control Date: Sept. 1, 2024**

**FMI: (912) 384-5978 or**

**[www.cityofdouglasga.gov/athletics](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/athletics)**



# HOW TO PREVENT THE TOP 10 CODE VIOLATIONS



**ACCUMULATION OF JUNK**  
Do not use your yard for storage of unwanted items. Take advantage of the twice monthly free Junk Drop Off Days.

## TRASH RECEPTACLES ON RIGHT OF WAY



Trash receptacles should be placed/removed no later than 6am/6pm on the day of pickup. After pickup, receptable should be moved to back of home and out of sight.

## LEAF AND LIMB ON RIGHT OF WAY AND DITCHES



Schedule a day for your yard debris to be picked up by calling (912)389-3450.



**INOPERABLE/ UNREGISTERED VEHICLES**  
Inoperable/unregistered vehicles should be kept in a garage or storage facility. Call for removal options. (912)389-3460

## OVERGROWTH OF WEEDS AND GRASS



Grass needs to be kept cut under 12 inches. This keeps away unwanted nuisance animals and trash.

## UNLAWFUL DUMPING

Properly dispose of large, unwanted items at the landfill not on private property or dead end roads.



## LOUD MUSIC/NOISE

Play your music at a reasonable level so that it does not disturb others.



## DUMPSTER DIVING/ SCAVENGING

Do not look in dumpsters for unwanted items that have been discarded.



## UNSECURE VACANT PROPERTIES

If your property is vacant, be sure to secure entrances to keep unwanted guests away.



## CONSTRUCTION ITEMS ON RIGHT OF WAY AND DITCHES

Take all construction items to the landfill located at 1219 Landfill Rd.



# COMMON ANIMAL CONTROL VIOLATIONS

## DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

Please keep your dogs on leashes and be sure a competent person has control of the animal.



## UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT

Do not restrain or anchor an animal by means of tether, chain, cable, rope or code unless the owner is tending to the animal needs such as cleaning living quarters, feed, and water.





# ENTERPRISE ZONE MUNICIPAL TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The Enterprise Zone Municipal Tax Abatement Program was established by the City of Douglas, in accordance with the State of Georgia Enterprise Zone Employment Act of 1997, to incentivize revitalization of geographic areas experiencing high levels of disinvestment, underdevelopment and economic decline. The program offers abatement of municipal ad valorem (property) taxes for a ten-year period on business, commercial, and residential properties located within the designated geographic area, when property owners successfully achieve and maintain one of the following criteria. (See back for Douglas Enterprise Zone Areas or <https://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/304/Enterprise-Zones>)

- ◆ **Job Creation** – A business or service enterprise within an EZ must create and maintain a minimum of five (5) new full-time equivalent jobs at the time of application to receive tax abatement. The five jobs must be new positions above and beyond the existing/prior positions employed by the business, thereby reflecting the creation of five “additional jobs.” The five new jobs must not have a pre-determined end date, include a regular work week of 30+ hours or more, and have the same benefits provided to similar employees. The five jobs must be maintained throughout the ten-year period of abatement in order to maintain tax exemption. Additionally, qualifying business or service enterprises must make improvements to the property.
- ◆ **Land Improvement (Construction/Rehabilitation)** – A business, service enterprise, or other party carrying out new residential construction, residential rehabilitation, or other rehabilitation of an existing structure within an EZ such that the value of the improvement(s) exceeds the value of the land by a ratio of five to one by the Coffee County Tax Assessors valuation.
- ◆ **EZ-Approved Residential Property - Home Ownership Purchase** – To encourage home ownership in EZ areas, initial home buyers purchasing EZ-approved residential properties for primary residency, and where the property developer has met the five to one increase in value of the property, shall be eligible to obtain tax abatement for this same property. A Notification of Sale of EZ Approved Residential Property/Home Owners Application form with new home owner information and necessary proof of sale documentation is required.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Once property tax abatement is granted, the incentive remains in effect for the full ten-years, regardless of the expiration of the Enterprise Zone area designation. However, failure of EZ applicants to accomplish the applicable criterion stated above can result in revocation of the tax abatement and recapture of any and all abated taxes or other incentives granted. EZ applicants must show verifiable proof to document compliance with EZ program requirements. Applicants approved for EZ Job Creation incentives must provide proof annually of the maintenance of these jobs to the City of Douglas’ Office of Community Development no later than 30 days following the close of each calendar year in which taxes were abated.

**TO BE CONSIDERED FOR TAX ABATEMENT INCENTIVES IN THE UPCOMING CALENDAR YEAR, THE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT CITY HALL, 302 S. MADISON AVE. NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, 5 PM.**

Applications will be accepted from January 1st September 27, 2024 for Enterprise Zone designation commencing in the following year (2025) Applications received after this date may be submitted, but will not be considered for the upcoming year.

For more information, please call the Office of Community Development at (912) 383-0277 or email [ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov](mailto:ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov).

# Rural Zone Tax Credits

for Property Purchase, Building Rehabilitation, and Job Creation

## Douglas

**Are you** considering purchasing a building in downtown?

**Do you** already own a building and are interested in renovating it?

**Perhaps** you are a new business that has created jobs or an existing business that has recently added new employees.

If any of these seem applicable to you, you may be eligible for State Income Tax credits for your business if it is located within the City of Douglas' Rural Zone.

Map of designated Rural Zone boundaries are located at <https://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/261/RURAL-Zone>

### Tax credits you may be eligible for:

#### The Job Tax Credit

- For a new business owner that creates at least 2 new jobs or an existing business that hires at least 2 new employees
- At least two net, new full-time equivalent jobs (*an aggregate of employee worked hours totaling 40 hours per week between two or more employees*) must be created to qualify
- Equal to \$2,000 per new full-time equivalent job per year, up to 5 years and not to exceed \$200,000 total or \$40,000 per year

#### The Investment Tax Credit

This credit is for investors who purchase a building within the designated Rural Zone. The credit is equivalent to 25% of the purchase price, not to exceed \$125,000 total or \$25,000 per year. At least two net, new full-time equivalent jobs must be created and maintained at the property location to qualify for the investment credit.

#### The Rehabilitation Tax Credit

This credit is to offset development costs associated with the rehabilitation of a property located within a designated Rural Zone. The credit is equivalent to 30% of the qualified rehabilitation costs, not to exceed \$150,000 total or \$50,000 per year. At least two net, new full-time equivalent jobs must be created and maintained at the property location to qualify for the rehabilitation credit.

**If you think you may qualify for these tax credits and would like more information, please contact Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director by email [ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov](mailto:ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov) or call (912) 383-0277:**

**Name**

**Title**

**Address**

**Website**

**Email**

**Phone**

The Douglas Rural Zone program, designated in 2020, is a collaboration between the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

# Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 6** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [usfa.fema.gov/winter](https://usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [nfpa.org/winter](https://nfpa.org/winter).

# DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS



Even with a natural fur coat, **winter can be deadly** for your pets unless proper care is given.



**Keep them warm and dry,** and indoors whenever possible.



**Provide plenty of food and water.** Dehydration is especially dangerous in winter.



**When outside, keep them bundled up.** Limit outside time, and thoroughly clean (including paws) when bringing them in



weather.gov



## REMEMBER TO CHECK & PROTECT THE 4 P'S DURING WINTER WEATHER

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**Cold  
Weather**

**AHEAD**

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*Students vs. Faculty*

# DONKEY BASKETBALL

FRIDAY 5 JANUARY 2024 • 6:00 PM  
CITIZENS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
GYMNASIUM

**ADMISSION \$10**

**KIDS RIDE FREE AT HALFTIME**



**2024 King Federal Holiday  
"Continuing the Dream"**

**MLK COMMEMORATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024, 6 pm**

**Hightower Memorial temple**

**Representative Al Williams, Keynote Speaker**

**MLK FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

**Gaines Chapel AME 8 am**

**Monday, January 15, 2024**

**MLK YOUTH TRIBUTE**

**J. D. Murray Gym 10 am – until**

**Men's Scholarship Benefit Game Included**

**CONTESTS**

**Grades 1-5: POSTERS**

*Construct a poster that would illustrate the theme. You may use any computer printouts or any cutouts from magazines or newspapers to make display on a poster board or trifold project board. Turn in at Gaines Chapel AME Church 1008 S. Coffee Ave. on or before Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 12 pm to 7 p.m. IF YOU WIN, YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT THE ONE-DAY MLK CELEBRATION TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD, Monday, January 15, 2024 at J.D. Murray Gym, Freshman Campus at 10 am. (There will be two-different categories). For more information, call or text 912-309-9292.*

**Grades 6-8: Essay**

*Dr. King believed in non-violence and received the Nobel Peace Prize in October 1964. Share with us in 200 words or more- times or experiences where you played the role of the peacemaker. Send your essay to this email, [irfussell@yahoo.com](mailto:irfussell@yahoo.com), on or before January 12, 2024. You will be judged on being relevant, being specific, appropriate spelling and grammar, word choice and creativity.*

**Grades 9-12**

*Do the same as the grades 6-8 except write and explain in 300 words or more when you played the role of the peacemaker. You may send it to the same e-mail above on or before January 12, 2024.*

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SHIRTS**

*Shirts are available. The shirt is in blue with red and white writing. If you are interested call, Mary Edwards at 912-501-9431, Rosemary Nixon at 912-381-4485, Irene Murray at 912-309-9292 or Anterius Vickers at 912-327-2728.*

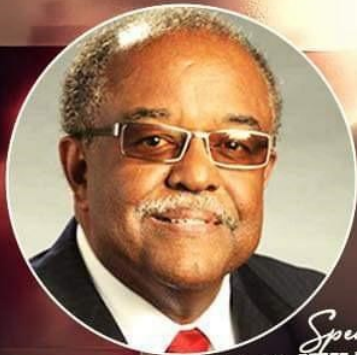
**MLK JR. SCHOLARSHIP**

*Two scholarships will be awarded this year. Each scholarship is \$1000 (four-year college diploma or two-year technical certification). The link for the application is <https://tinyurl.com/mlkjr2024> or text 912-309-9292 for further information.*

COFFEE COUNTY, GA MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

STARTS AT  
6:00PM

**14**  
**JAN**  
*Sunday*



*Speaker*  
**REPRESENTATIVE AL WILLIAMS**  
OF MIDWAY, GEORGIA



**MARTIN LUTHER KING**  
*Commemorative Worship Service*



**HIGHTOWER**  
memorial temple  
303 E COLLEGE PARK DR,  
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

**CONTINUING THE DREAM!**

STARTS AT  
8:00AM

**15**  
**JAN**  
*Monday*

**MARTIN LUTHER KING**  
*Fellowship Breakfast*

**Gaines Chapel**  
**AME Church**

1008 SOUTH COFFEE AVE  
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

COFFEE COUNTY, GA. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS



# MLK

## YOUTH TRIBUTE



# Happy Birthday DR. KING

(FOLLOWING YOUTH TRIBUTE)

STARTS AT  
10:00AM

# 15 JAN *Monday*

FREE FOOD AND  
REFRESHMENTS

CONTINUING THE DREAM!

# MLK Men's Scholarship BENEFIT BASKETBALL GAME

FEE TO ENTER IS \$100

FUNDS WILL GO  
TOWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$1000  
WILL BE GIVEN TO A QUALIFYING STUDENT  
FOR 4-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAM  
OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

# J. D. MURRAY GYM FRESHMAN CAMPUS

1020 SOUTH GASKIN AVENUE DOUGLAS, GA 31533

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

MRS. IRENE MURRAY (912).309.9292 COMMISSIONER KENTAIWON CARTER- DURHAM (912).292.7225 MRS. ROSA MARY STREET (912).381.4485

# A NIGHT OF SOUTHERN ROCK!

**RETRO**  
CONCERT SERIES



**THE MARTIN CENTRE**  
DOUGLAS, GA  
themartincentre.com

**SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 13, 2024**

**DOORS 6PM**  
**SHOW 7PM**

## SWAMP MUSIC A TRIBUTE TO SKYNYRD



[ATRIBUTETOSKYNRYD.COM](http://ATRIBUTETOSKYNRYD.COM)

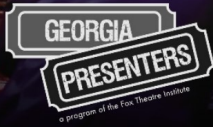
[DERRICKDOVE.COM](http://DERRICKDOVE.COM)

[RETROCONCERTSERIES.COM](http://RETROCONCERTSERIES.COM)



# JOHN COLTRANE

THE BEAUTY OF STRUGGLE



**SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 2024**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM • SHOW STARTS AT 7:30 PM**



**THE MARTIN CENTRE**

109 E ASHLEY STREET • DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

[WWW.THEMARTINCENTRE.COM](http://WWW.THEMARTINCENTRE.COM)

visit  
**DOUGLAS**  
COFFEE COUNTY • GEORGIA



*Paulk Vineyards*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Saturday, January 27th  
6:30 PM

## VALENTINE'S POUR + POUR

Thursday, February 8th  
6:30 PM

## WILDFLOWER HAT BAR BRUNCH

Saturday, February 24th  
10:30 AM

## SOUTH GEORGIA WINE FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 9th  
10:00 AM-6:00 PM

PAULK VINEYARDS | 1788 SATILLA RD, WRAY, GA 31798

**10 NIGHTS SHINE**  
 SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

GracePointe Church & First Baptist Church

**SAVE - THE - DATE**

**HEART 2 HEART CHARITY RUN**

**5K-10K-WALK**

**GENERAL COFFEE STATE PARK**  
 Nicholls, GA 31554

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**08:30 AM**

912-383-6988  
 wellness247.org

Wellness247 CRMCO  
 COFFEE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**The Georgia Fair Housing Act**

**Have you been discriminated against under the Fair Housing Act?**

If you think your fair housing rights have been violated, you may write, fax, or telephone your complaint to the Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity (GCEO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). You have a year to file, but you should file as soon as possible. Include:

- Name & address
- Name & address of the person your complaint is against
- Address or other identification of the housing involved
- Short description of the incident
- Date(s) of the incident

For more information, link to <https://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9096/FairHousingBrochure>

**Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity**  
 404-656-1736 or  
 800-473-OPEN  
 www.gceo.state.ga.us

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs**  
 404-679-4840 or  
 800-359-4663  
 www.dca.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**La Ley de Vivienda Justa de Georgia**

**¿Ha sido discriminado según la Ley de Vivienda Justa?**

Si usted cree que sus derechos de equidad para la vivienda han sido violados, puede escribir, enviar por fax o comunicar por teléfono su queja a la Comisión de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Georgia (GCEO, por sus siglas en inglés) o al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés). Tiene un año para presentar su queja, pero debe presentarla tan pronto como sea posible. Incluya:

- Nombre y dirección
- Nombre y dirección de la persona contra la que hace su denuncia
- Dirección u otra identificación de la vivienda involucrada
- Breve descripción del incidente
- Fecha(s) del incidente

Para obtener más información, enlace a <https://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9097/fairhousingbrochurespanish>

**Comisión de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Georgia**  
 404-656-1736 y  
 800-473-OPEN  
 www.gceo.state.ga.us

**Departamento de Asuntos Comunitarios de Georgia**  
 404-679-4840 or  
 800-359-4663  
 www.dca.ga.gov



# Rehabilitation Tax Incentives

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Promote economic development
- Encourage heritage tourism
- Support sustainability

## THREE TYPES OF INCENTIVES

- Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit
- Georgia Preferential Property Tax Assessment
- State Income Tax Credit for Rehabilitated Historic Property

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Certified structure
- Follow Secretary for Interior Standards for Rehabilitation
- Meet substantial rehabilitation test

## Program Overview

Georgia's Historic Preservation Division (HPD) offers financial assistance supporting historic preservation projects through three tax incentive programs. The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program is administered by the National Park Service through each State Historic Preservation Office and is available to income-producing properties. The federal income tax credit is 20% and is not capped. The Georgia Preferential Property Tax Abatement and State Income Tax Credit for Rehabilitated Historic Property are available to both private residential properties as well as income-producing properties. The abatement program freezes the county property tax for more than eight years while the income tax credit of 25% is capped at levels depending on how the building will be used after rehabilitation.

Need help with your Energy Bill?

**action pact** may be able to help!

<http://myactionpact.org/eap>



**NEED MORTGAGE  
ASSISTANCE?**

**APPLY FOR  
ASSISTANCE  
TODAY**

**WE ARE  
HERE TO  
HELP!**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

*[www.GeorgiaMortgage  
Assistance.ga.gov](http://www.GeorgiaMortgageAssistance.ga.gov)*



# Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants

## What does this program do?

**Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes or provides grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.**

## Who may apply for this program?

To qualify, you must:

- **Be the homeowner and occupy the house**
- **Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere**
- **Have a family income below 50 percent of the area median income**
- **For grants, be age 62 or older and not be able to repay a repair loan**

### What is an eligible area?

Generally, rural areas with a population less than 35,000 are eligible. Applicants may check the address of their home to determine eligibility online.

### How may funds be used?

- Loans may be used to repair, improve, or modernize homes or to remove health and safety hazards.
- Grants must be used to remove health and safety hazards.

### How much money can I get?

- Maximum loan is \$20,000.
- Maximum grant is \$7,500.
- Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$27,500 in assistance.

### What are the terms of the loan or grant?

- Loans can be repaid over 20 years.
- Loan interest rate is fixed at 1%.
- Full title service is required for loans of \$7,500 or more.
- Grants have a lifetime limit of \$7,500.
- Grants must be repaid if the property is sold in less than 3 years.

- If applicants can repay part, but not all of the costs, applicants may be offered a loan and grant combination.

### Is there a deadline to apply?

Applications are available year round as long as funding is available and are processed in the order they are received.

### How long does an application take?

Approval times depend on funding availability in your area. Talk to a USDA home loan specialist in your area for help with the application.

### How do I get started?

Contact a USDA home loan specialist in your area.

### What governs this program?

- The Housing Act of 1949 as amended, 7 CFR, Part 3550
- HB-1-3550 - Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants Field Office Handbook

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**NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Governs This Program?" You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](http://rd.usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

Last Updated January 2020