



Monthly E-Newsletter



# January 2025 E-Newsletter

Volume XVII, Issue I

## JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

- Airport Commission**— Jan. 8, 2025, 12 PM, Airport, 440 Elton D. Brooks Blvd.
- Land Bank Authority**, Jan. 9, 2025, 2 PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.
- WWII Flight Training Base Committee**, Jan. 13, 2025, 12 PM, Airport, 440 Elton D. Brooks Blvd.
- City Commission Work Session & Meeting** - Jan. 13 & 28, 6 PM, Commission Chambers, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.
- Keep Douglas Beautiful** - Jan. 14, 9 AM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue.
- Recreation Commission** - Jan. 14, 11:45 AM, Central Square Complex - Magnolia Meeting Room, 200 S. Madison Avenue.
- Downtown Development Authority** - Jan. 15, 8:30 AM, Chamber of Commerce, 114 N. Peterson Avenue, Suite 205.
- Veterans Park Committee**, Jan. 15, 2025, 10 AM, Airport, 440 Elton D. Brooks Blvd.
- GICH Douglas Team** - Jan. 22, 3 PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.
- Historic Preservation Committee** - Jan. 23, 4 PM Work Session/4:30 PM Meeting, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.

For Full Calendar,

[CLICK HERE](#)



Above photo: CHS NJROTC presents the colors for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony.

On Friday, December 6, 2024, the Douglas-Coffee County Veterans Park Committee hosted its annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony at 10 AM at Cadet Park, located at 1 Airport Circle. This event emphasized the importance of honoring the servicemen and women who were killed or wounded during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which led to the United States' entry into World War II on December 7, 1941.

Mr. David "Red" Fehr, Jr. Vice Commander of VFW Post 5976, served as the Master of Ceremonies. The event began with a welcome from Mayor Tony Paulk, followed by a heartfelt prayer led by Dr. Carl McDonald, Chaplain of American Legion Post 515. The CHS NJROTC presented the Colors, while the CCA Chorus sang the National Anthem and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Mayor Tony Paulk



American Legion Post 515 Chaplain, Dr. Carl McDonald



CCA Chorus

After the Posting of Colors, Mr. Jeff Hennesy with the VFW Post 5976 introduced Kortlyn Bennett, the High School winner of the VFW Post 5976 "Voice of Democracy" essay contest. Mr. Henry Martin, Judge Advocate with the American Legion Post 515 introduced Konner Brooker, the 5th grade essay winner of the "What America Means to Me" American Legion Essay competition. Both winners read their essays to the audience. The CCA Chorus also performed a special song dedicated to veterans. Mr. David Fehr delivered a poignant speech about Pearl Harbor. To conclude the ceremony, CHS Band Director Steve Myers played Taps on his trumpet, the CHS NJROTC, and American Legion Post 515 lowered the flag to half-mast while a PT-17 plane flown by Mr. Chris Rounds passed overhead. The WWII Flight Training Museum was open for visitors to view the exhibits and learn more about the history of World War II and how Douglas played a major role in training WWII pilots. Special thanks to everyone who participated and attended the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony.



Vice Commander of VFW Post 5976, David Red Fehr



Mr. Jeff Hennesy, VFW Post 5976 and Kortlyn Bennett.



Mr. Henry Martin, Judge Advocate with the American Legion Post 515 and Konner Brooker.



# NEED HELP REMOVING JUNK?



Sign up now to participate in

## Clear Your Clutter

Keep Douglas Beautiful volunteers will assist citizens living within the city limits of Douglas dispose of large, unwanted brown and white goods.

**NOW accepting applications through 02-01-2025.**  
**Pickup Date: March 15, 2025 ~ 9:00AM - 11:30AM.**

Applications may be picked up at 302 S. Madison Avenue or downloaded from the website, [www.cityofdouglasga.gov](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov). Application deadline: 02-01-2025. Please mail or drop off the application to Keep Douglas Beautiful Committee, c/o City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue, Douglas, GA 31533.

- ✓ Approved citizens will be notified at least two weeks before pick up date. Priority will be given to disabled and elderly (65 or older) residents.
- ✓ If possible, all items must be placed curbside for pick-up. **ONLY PLACE ITEMS AT CURBSIDE ONCE NOTIFIED THAT PICK-UP WILL OCCUR.**
- ✓ Acceptable brown and white good items include furniture, washing machines, refrigerators, dryers, stoves, microwaves, televisions, etc.
- ✓ All chemicals **MUST BE** drained from appliances. **NO** hazardous chemicals such as paints/solvents, household cleaners, pesticides or herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, or tires will be collected.

DUE TO THE LIMITED TIME ALLOWED ON PICK UP DATE, A LIMITED NUMBER OF PICKUPS WILL BE ALLOWED. HOWEVER, A COMPREHENSIVE LIST WILL BE KEPT IN AN EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO ALL CITIZENS REQUESTING THIS SERVICE. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS A CURBSIDE PICK-UP SERVICE FOR SELECTED APPLICANTS OFFERED BY KEEP DOUGLAS BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE.

Don't let junk take over your life—fill out an application for our once a year FREE junk removal service.

Email: [afussell@cityofdouglasga.gov](mailto:afussell@cityofdouglasga.gov), call (912) 383-0277, or download the application at

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

Keep Douglas Beautiful is a  
Keep America Beautiful Affiliate



Keep Douglas GA Beautiful

# 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!*

- Rigo Victoria—5 yrs. (Police)**
- Christian Mikell—6 yrs. (Finance)**
- Scott Gilbert—10 yrs. (I.T.)**
- Leon Whitley—18 Yrs. (Police)**
- Terry Fesperman—21 yrs. (Vehicle Mtc. Director)**
- Sheila Bivens—36 yrs. (Police)**

City Manager Charles Davis participated in a panel discussion in December on Mutual Aid at the Electric Cities of Georgia Annual Meeting. The discussion focused on valuable lessons learned from past storm experiences, which have taught cities how to prepare for unexpected events and recover from physical and financial losses. Key topics included the essential knowledge that crews need prior to providing assistance, city requirements, the consequences of total system losses, and the vital role of government collaboration in achieving full recovery.



Congratulations to the FISH Committee's "Spreading Holiday Cheer" contest winner, Alyssa Fussell with the Community Development Department.



*Santa paid a special visit to City Hall, sharing teddy bears and Christmas spirit with our employees! Special thanks to PetSmart Douglas for helping make this cheerful moment happen.*

*Pictured (L-R Front-Back): Ebonee Dobson (City Planner), Alyssa Fussell (Grants Administrator), Santa, Georgia Henderson (Community Development Director), and Wynetta Bolder (CityClerk).*



**Congratulations to Douglas Police Officer William Vickers on graduating from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in December!**



The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has designated an area in downtown Douglas as a Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas Legislation (R.U.R.A.L.) Zone. A map showing the area eligible for R.U.R.A.L. Zone incentives can be found on the city's website at [cityofdouglasga.gov](http://cityofdouglasga.gov). This designation enables the city to implement the R.U.R.A.L. Zone incentive program, which aims to stimulate investment, create jobs, and promote economic development in the historic downtown area. Accepting applications beginning January 1, 2025.

*Welcome to the Douglas, Ga*  
**R.U.R.A.L. ZONE**



*Are you ready to invest in your downtown property?*

**Apply for the 2025 DDA Facade Improvement Grant and you could be awarded up to \$10,000!**

**Downtown Development Authority of Douglas, GA**



**LAW ENFORCEMENT** *STARTS WITH Me!* **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

**SAFETY** *STARTS WITH Me!* **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

**Code Enforcement Officer** *STARTS WITH Me!* **Work with Your City. Grow with the City of Douglas.**

Retirement Program, Hospital & Life Insurance, Paid Vacation, Sick, and Holidays  
(912) 389-3494 | [www.cityofdouglasga.gov](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov)

**Apply TODAY!**

<https://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/jobs.aspx>



# WELCOME TO The City of Douglas

NEW BUSINESSES

TMC Apothecary, 901 W. Baker Hwy.

Phoenix Trailer Sales, 121 Gateway Drive

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE



The renewal deadline is **prior** to **March 1, 2025**. For information, please call (912) 389-3460.



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

Thank you, Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Eggs-N-Issues Breakfast with Georgia Legislators!



Pictured L-R: Representative James Burchett, Senator Blake Tillery, Representative Clay Pirkle, Representative Angie O'Steen, and Matt Seale (Economic Development Authority CEO).

**DOUGLAS**  
COFFEE COUNTY · GA  
chamber and economic development authority

Save the Date!

## 98TH ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Gene Chambers Entrepreneur of the Year | Small Business Partner of the Year | Industry Partner of the Year  
Community Partner of the Year | Jackie Wilson Women in Leadership Award | Community Spirit Award  
Garland Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award

## DUA DEADLINE EXTENDED



**GDOL**

The filing deadline to apply for federal **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)** to compensate for income lost directly resulting from **Hurricane Helene**, which affected the areas from September 24, 2024, through October 30, 2024, has been extended to **February 7, 2025**.

## Registration Deadlines for DCCPRD Sports

You can register now until the registration deadline for all sports, [www.cityofdouglasga.gov/athletics](http://www.cityofdouglasga.gov/athletics)

Baseball/Softball: January 31	Track: February 28
Swim: April 18	Spring Miracle League: March 14
Summer Programs: May 6	Golf & Tennis: May 30
Football: August 8	Fall Miracle League: August 8
Cheer: August 8	Soccer: August 8
Basketball: November 7	





# City of Douglas Bids



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ENGINEERING SERVICES

Deadline to Submit Proposal:  
January 22, 2025, 2PM

Bid opening immediately following at City  
Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue

MORE INFO

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



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Deadline to Submit Proposal:  
January 22, 2025, 2PM

Bid opening immediately following at City  
Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue

MORE INFO

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



**City of Douglas offices will be  
closed on January 20, 2025  
in observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

**Offices will reopen on Tues. Jan. 21 at  
8am. For non-emergency utility issues,  
please dial 3-1-1 or (912)384-3302.**



**JANUARY 4 & 18  
8:30AM-11:45AM @  
1011 SHIRLEY AVE.**

**CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN THE DROP-OFF LINE PRIOR  
TO 11:30 AM AND MUST UNLOAD ANY ITEMS THAT THE  
CLAM TRUCK CANNOT PICK UP.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (912)384-3302.**

THE COFFEE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

*presents*

# KING

FEDERAL  
HOLIDAY  
2025

## **MISSION POSSIBLE: MISSION POSSIBLE:**

PROTECTING FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY  
IN THE SPIRIT OF NONVIOLENCE 365

**SUNDAY, JAN 19TH, 2025 AT 6PM**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR 2025  
COMMEMORATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

AT YOUNG'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**710 SHIRLEY AVE DOUGLAS, GA 31533**

REV. DR. BOOKER T. ROSE, JR., PASTOR

*Speaker*

PASTOR RUEBEN SPEIGHT OF  
GREATER DESTINY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES INC.  
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

**MONDAY, JAN 20TH, 2025 AT 8AM**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR  
FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

**710 SHIRLEY AVE DOUGLAS, GA 31533**

**MLK YOUTH TRIBUTE  
& TALENT SHOW AT 10AM**

AT YOUNG'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
SOCIAL HALL

**710 SHIRLEY AVE DOUGLAS, GA 31533**

SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS THROUGH THEATRICAL SKITS (5-7 MINUTES)  
DANCE, OR SONG, AND COMPETE IN OUR CHURCH YOUTH DEPARTMENT CONTEST

*Happy Birthday Dr. King!*

(FOLLOWING YOUTH TRIBUTE)  
FREE FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS.



THE COFFEE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

*presents*

# KING

FEDERAL  
HOLIDAY  
2025

THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO AWARD TWO \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS.

A \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE GIVEN TO A 2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WHO IS PLANNING TO ATTEND A FOUR- YEAR ACADEMIC COLLEGE OR A TECHNICAL COLLEGE/SCHOOL.

THESE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC POTENTIAL (80 OR ABOVE OR EQUIVALENT GPA) AND HAVE THE WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

THE APPLICANT MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 COFFEE COUNTY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION. PARTICIPATION INCLUDES PERFORMING ON THE PROGRAM, SINGING IN THE CHOIR AND ATTENDING THE YOUTH CELEBRATION ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2025

FINALLY, ALL APPLICANTS MUST WRITE AN ESSAY TO ACCOMPANY THEIR APPLICATION. STUDENTS WILL WRITE THEIR ESSAY ON SITE, ON SATURDAY JANUARY 18, 2025 FROM 12PM-2PM AFTER THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED, APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ESSAY PORTION OF THE APPLICATION.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION: THE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS UPON ENTRANCE TO COLLEGE OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 2025.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY JANUARY 10, 2025.**

THE LINK FOR THE APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS IS: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MLKJR2025](https://tinyurl.com/mlkjr2025)  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS, PLEASE CONTACT  
AMANDA BENNETT OR CHENITA GAMBLE AT [COFFEEMLKCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:COFFEEMLKCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM)

*FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FESTIVITIES CONTACT: MRS. IRENE MURRAY (912)309-9292  
COMMISH KENTAIWON CARTER- DURHAM (912)292-7225 OR MRS. ROSEMARY NIXON (912)381-4485*



# PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Douglas Downtown Local Historic District Designation & Education Session Invitation  
The City of Douglas would like to designate the Downtown Douglas District as a local historic district.

1st Reading:

Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, located at 302 S. Madison Avenue, Douglas, Georgia.

2nd Reading & Public Hearing:

Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., also at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Avenue, Douglas, Georgia.

Citizens Education Session:

Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at City Hall, located at 302 S. Madison Avenue, Douglas, Georgia.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CITY PLANNER OFFICE, (912) 389-3433.

# PUBLIC HEARING

Off-Site Alcohol Consumption at 601 S. Gaskin Avenue (Off-Site Consumption Advertisement Requirements O.C.G.A.3-1-2)

Notice is given that N & B 1 Food Mart LLC, d.b.a. S & P Food, a convenience store located at 601 S. Gaskin Avenue in Douglas, Georgia 31533 has applied for an off-site consumption/ retail license to sell beer & wine products. The business is owned by N & B 1 Food Mart LLC in Douglas, Georgia. The corporate officer is Roshni Patel, of Tifton, Georgia, Owner and Manager.

This application will be heard by the City Commission during a regular meeting on January 28, 2025, 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave, Douglas Georgia 31533.

After the public hearing, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners will vote to approve or deny the alcohol license application. Anyone interested in the said application should appear on the above-stated date.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE, (912) 389-3460.

# PUBLIC HEARING

## Certificate Of Appropriateness For 904 North Madison Avenue & 908 North Madison Avenue

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) of Douglas has received two (2) Certificate of Appropriateness applications .

One (1) for 904 N. Madison Avenue and one (1) for 908 N. Madison Avenue. These applications will be considered by the City Commission, followed by a Public Hearing on January 13, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave, Douglas, Georgia 31533. After the public hearing, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners will vote to approve or deny the alcohol license application. Anyone interested in the said application should appear on the above-stated date.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CITY PLANNER OFFICE, (912) 389-3433.

# PUBLIC HEARING

## Off-Site Alcohol Consumption at 1626 Peterson Avenue (Off-Site Consumption Advertisement Requirements O.C.G.A.3-1-2)

Notice is given that OM Shiv 9 LLC, d.b.a. T & M Food Mart, a convenience store located at 1626 Peterson Ave S. in Douglas, Georgia 31533 has applied for an off-site consumption/ retail license to sell beer & wine products. The business is owned by OM Shiv 9 LLC in Douglas, Georgia. The corporate officer is Jagdish Patel, of Douglas, Georgia, Owner and Manager.

This application will be considered by the City Commission, followed by a Public Hearing on January 13, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave, Douglas, Georgia 31533. After the public hearing, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners will vote to approve or deny the alcohol license application. Anyone interested in the said application should appear on the above-stated date.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE, (912) 389-3460.

# PUBLIC HEARING

**On-Premise Alcohol Consumption at 1645 Peterson Avenue (On-Premise Consumption Advertisement Requirements O.C.G.A.3-1-2)**

Notice is given that La Mansion Mexican Restaurant & Bar LLC, DBA as La Mansion Bar & Grill, a restaurant located at 1645 Peterson Ave S. in Douglas, Georgia 31533, has applied for an on-site consumption license to serve liquor, beer, and wine products. The business is owned by La Mansion Mexican Restaurant & Bar LLC of Douglas, Georgia. The corporate officers are Nancy Duran, of Brunswick, Georgia, Corporate Officer, and Raul Duran, of Leesburg, Ga, Manager.

This application will be considered by the City Commission, followed by a Public Hearing on January 13, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave, Douglas, Georgia 31533. After the public hearing, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners will vote to approve or deny the alcohol license application. Anyone interested in the said application should appear on the above-stated date.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE, (912) 389-3460.**

# PUBLIC HEARING

The Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission has received an application to rezone two (2) parcels of land located at 2002 and 2004 Ocilla Road totaling 13.47 acres from General Commercial (G-C) to Light Industrial (M-1). The applicant wishes to rezone to M-1 to continue future construction for such permitted uses in the M-1 district and to be compliant with the current Zoning Code of Douglas.

**1st Reading:**

**December 23, 2024, 6pm at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave,**

**2nd Reading & Public Hearing:**

**January 13, 2025, 6pm, at City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CITY PLANNER AT OFFICE AT (912) 383-0277**



# RESIDENTIAL JUNK DROP-OFF 2025 DATES



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

**You MUST be in the drop-off line prior to 11:30AM. Customers must unload any items that are not on a trailer and/or items that the clam truck cannot pick up.**

**This is a RESIDENTIAL drop-off collection only for City of Douglas residents (must live in city limits).**

- 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.

## 2025 DATES

**JANUARY 4 & 18**

**FEBRUARY 1 & 15**

**MARCH 1 & 15**

**APRIL 5 & 19**

**MAY 3 & 17**

**JUNE 7 & 21**

**JULY 19**

**AUGUST 2 & 16**

**SEPTEMBER 20**

**OCTOBER 4 & 18**

**NOVEMBER 1 & 15**

**DECEMBER 6 & 20**

**(912) 389-3450**

**WWW.CITYOFDOUGLASGA.GOV**



# 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 26, 2025, 5 PM.**

Applications will be accepted from January 1st-September 26, 2025, 5pm. for Enterprise Zone designation commencing in the following year (2026) 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.

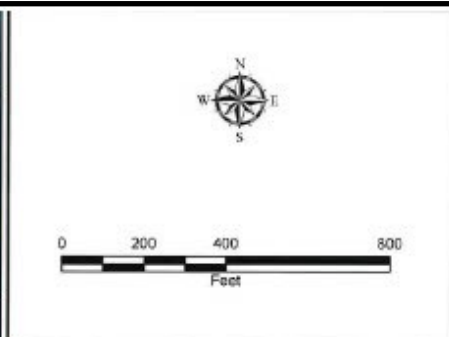
**If you think you may qualify for these tax credits and would like more information, please contact Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director by email [ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov](mailto:ghenderson@cityofdouglasga.gov) or call (912) 383-0277:**

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.

# Area Map of the Parcels that are Identified in the RURAL Zone.

For a larger map view, click here [cityofdouglasga.gov/ruralzone](http://cityofdouglasga.gov/ruralzone)



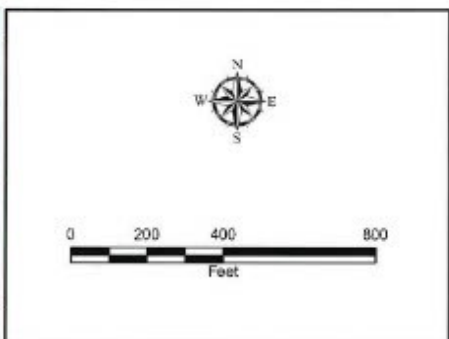
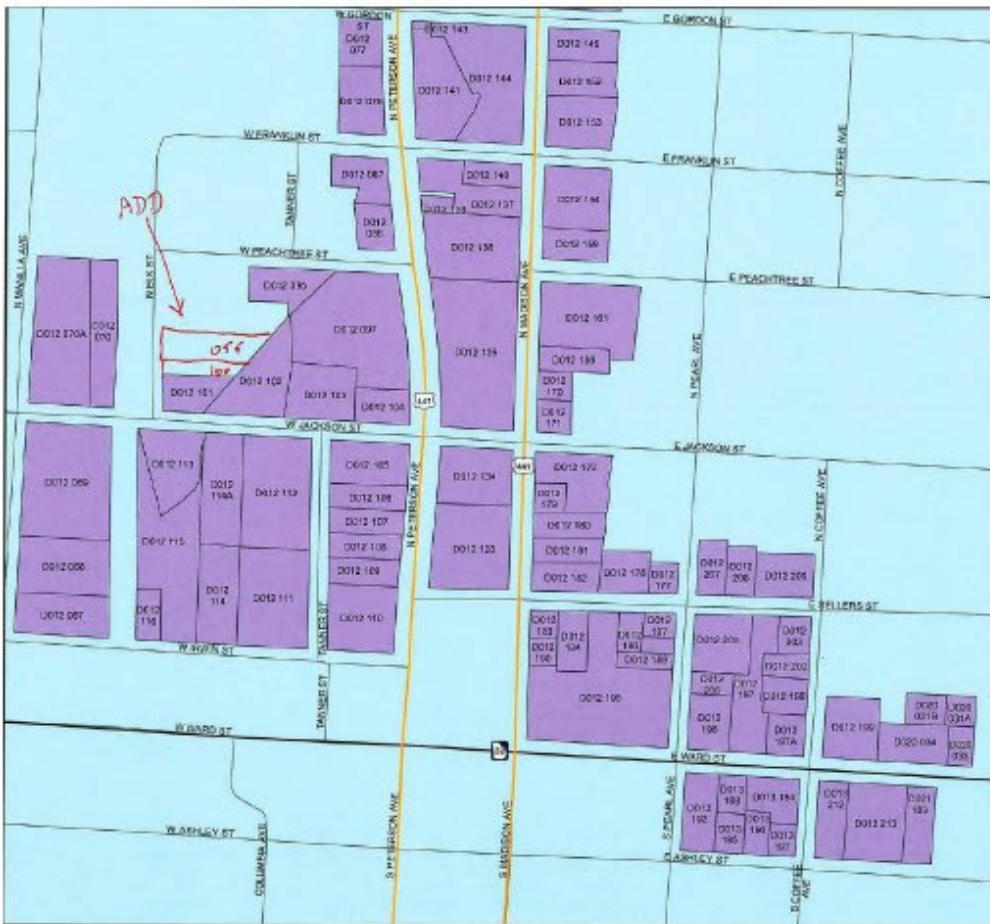
**Map Legend**

- State Routes
- US Highway
- Rural Zone Parcels
- City of Douglas

## City of Douglas Rural Zone Parcel Identification Map 5a of 7

Map created August 2024 for general planning purposes only. Refer all questions on data accuracy and availability to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.

**SGRC** SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION



**Map Legend**

- State Routes
- US Highway
- Rural Zone Parcels
- City of Douglas

## City of Douglas Rural Zone Parcel Identification Map 5b of 7

Map created August 2024 for general planning purposes only. Refer all questions on data accuracy and availability to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.

**SGRC** SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

# 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).

# Protect People, Pets, Pipes, & Plants from cold weather



## People

Minimize time outdoors.  
Prepare for power outages.  
Check on elderly & other vulnerable people to make sure they're ok.



## Pets

Keep your pets warm, dry & indoors as much as possible.  
Ensure their food & water doesn't freeze.  
Limit outside time & keep them bundled up.



## Pipes

Insulate pipes if possible.  
Open up sink cabinets to expose pipes to heated air.  
Disconnect hoses & turn off water to sprinklers.



## Plants

Know their temperature thresholds.  
If possible, cover them before the cold weather sets in to help retain some heat.

## Cold Impacts: Vulnerable Populations



### NEWBORNS



### ELDERLY



### CHRONIC ILLNESS



### OUTDOOR WORKERS



### UNHOUSED

Everyone is at risk from the dangers of extreme cold, but these groups are more vulnerable than most. Age and certain conditions make the body less able to regulate temperature.



Dress in loose layers and cover all exposed skin



Consume hot foods and warm drinks, but avoid caffeine and alcohol



Limit or avoid time outdoors



Check on family, friends and neighbors

# 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.

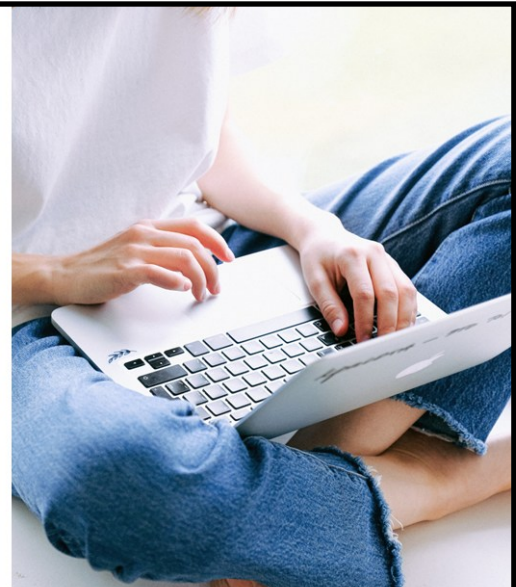
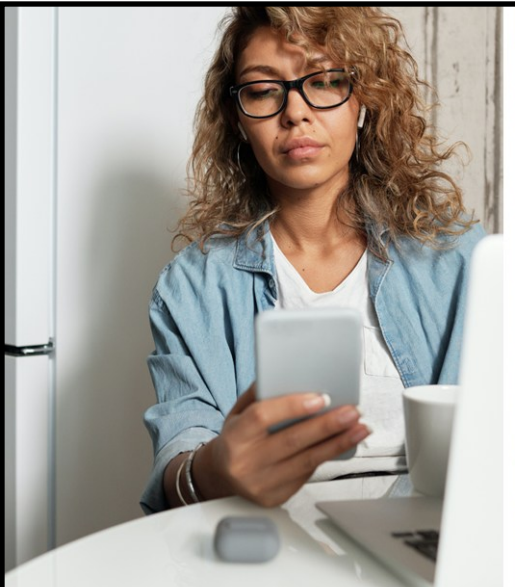


**When outside, keep them bundled up.** Limit outside time, and thoroughly clean (including paws) when bringing them in



weather.gov





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<https://douglasga.municipalonlinepayments.com/douglasga>

Mobile App

**Benefits of a disaster loan**

- Up to \$2 million to cover physical damage and financial losses
- Low fixed rate interest with terms up to 30 years
- No payment and no interest for 12 months
- No need to wait for insurance to settle before applying
- Funds available to build back better and protect against future disasters (Mitigation)

**What you need to apply for a disaster loan**

- Email addresses and contact information for all applicants
- Social Security numbers for all applicants/owners, and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN)
- Financial information, e.g. income and monthly expenses
- A complete copy of the most recent Federal income tax return (this can be provided later)
- Insurance information, if available

**Ways to apply**

- Scan the QR Code
- Visit [sba.gov/disaster](http://sba.gov/disaster)

**For Additional Information**

- Call (800) 659-2955 (dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services)
  - To locate a Recovery Center for assistance with your loan application
  - To check the status of your loan application

A Message from Hope For Coffee:  
As we embrace continued recovery in 2025, more Mission teams are on the way. You can help provide needed materials for mission team work. Checks can be mailed to Hope for Coffee, PO Box 71, Douglas, Ga 31534. Give through CashApp at \$shopeforcoffee. For more information, visit the Hope for Coffee Facebook page or email [info@hopeforcoffee.org](mailto:info@hopeforcoffee.org).





# Downtown Douglas

Downtown Development Authority of Douglas, GA

## Excellence Awards

Presented by First National Bank of Coffee County

*We are Coffee Strong*

**100% of PROCEEDS**

Downtown Douglas Facade Improvement Grant Program



Downtown Development Authority of Douglas, GA

# DOUGLAS

COFFEE COUNTY • GA

chamber and economic development authority

## 2025 POWER LUNCH SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Thursday, February 27, 2025

**Annual Meeting | March 27, 2025**

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Thursday, May 22, 2025

**NO JUNE MEETING**

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Thursday, October 23, 2025

**NO NOVEMBER MEETING**

Thursday, December 4, 2025

**12 PM | Douglas Golf & Country Club**

*for strong coffee*



## DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

# WINGS & THINGS

## FESTIVAL & FLY-IN

**MARCH 22, 2025 • 9 AM - 4 PM**



# THE MARTIN THEATRE UPCOMING SHOWS

DEC  
19

A NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS WITH  
**JOHN GLOSSON**



**DERRICK DOVE**  
& THE PEACEKEEPERS

JAN  
25

MAR  
8

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS**  
A QUEEN CELEBRATION



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS**

APR  
5

MAY  
9

**MARK WILLS**



**DRIVIN N CRYIN**

MAY  
17

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the Date!

February 7, 2025  
@ Coffee Middle School

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&  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
[www.nighttoshinedouglas.org](http://www.nighttoshinedouglas.org)



# JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART

Written & Performed by Mike Wiley



**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2025**



## THE MARTIN THEATRE

109 E ASHLEY STREET • DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

Doors Open at 6:00 • Show Starts at 7:00

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

Made Possible By



Georgia Department of  
Community Affairs

## The Georgia Fair Housing Act



**Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity**  
404-656-1736 or  
800-473-OPEN  
[www.gceo.state.ga.us](http://www.gceo.state.ga.us)

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs**  
404-679-4840 or  
800-359-4663  
[www.dca.ga.gov](http://www.dca.ga.gov)

### 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 Department of  
Community Affairs

## La Ley de Vivienda Justa de Georgia



**Comisión de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Georgia**  
404-656-1736 y  
800-473-OPEN  
[www.gceo.state.ga.us](http://www.gceo.state.ga.us)

**Departamento de Asuntos Comunitarios de Georgia**  
404-679-4840 y  
800-359-4663  
[www.dca.ga.gov](http://www.dca.ga.gov)

### ¿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>



# 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>



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ASSISTANCE?**

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ASSISTANCE  
TODAY**

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HERE TO  
HELP!**

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*[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