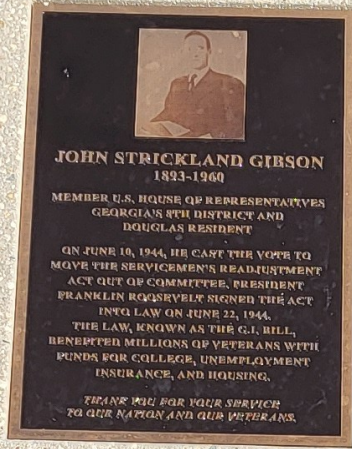




Monthly E-Newsletter

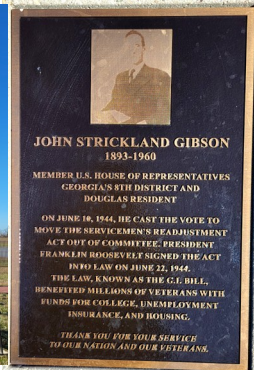


January 2026 E-Newsletter

Volume XVIII, Issue I

Above photo: John Gibson Memorial at Veterans Park

In October 2024, the Community Foundation of Coffee County awarded a \$12,500 grant to the City of Douglas to assist with improvements at Douglas-Coffee County Veterans Park (440 Elton D. Brooks Blvd.). These funds supported several meaningful upgrades, including the installation of the John S. Gibson Memorial, a brick walkway leading to the Fallen Soldier Statue, re-painting of the insignia in the middle of Veterans Park, planting two trees beside the memorial, and the addition of eight metal benches placed on concrete pads.



The City of Douglas and Veterans Park extend their sincere appreciation to the Community Foundation of Coffee County for its generous support and dedication to honoring our nation's veterans through these impactful projects.

[MORE INFO](#)

Congratulations to the City of Douglas for earning its 4th consecutive PlanFirst Designation!!



At the City Commission meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2025, Daniel Gaddis, Planning & Program Director at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), formally presented the City of Douglas with its historic fourth consecutive PlanFirst designation. Read more about what this means for future growth in Douglas, [HERE!](#)



L-R: Georgia Henderson (Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director), Daniel Gaddis (Planning Outreach Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs), Mayor Tony Paulk, and Commissioner Edwin Taylor.

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

- Land Bank Authority** - January 8, 2:00PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.
- WWII Flight Training Base Committee** - January 12, 12:00PM, Airport, 440 Elton D. Brooks Blvd.
- City Commission Work Session & Meeting** - January 12 & 27, 6:00PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.
- Keep Douglas Beautiful Board** - January 13, 9:00AM City Hall, 302 S. Madison
- Airport Commission** - January 14, 12:00PM, Airport, 440 Elton D. Brooks
- Veterans Park Committee** - January 21, 10:00 AM, Airport, 440 Elton D. Brooks
- Historic Preservation** - January 22, 3:00PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.
- Planning Commission** - January 26, 10:00 AM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.
- Downtown Development Authority** - January 28, 8:30AM Chamber of Commerce, 114 N. Peterson Ave. Suite 205
- GICH Committee** - January 28, 3:00 PM, City Hall, 302 S. Madison Ave.

To view the full calendar,

[CLICK HERE](#)



Christmas Tree Decorating Contest



Congratulations
to
Douglas
Municipal Airport
as our winner!!



RESIDENTIAL JUNK DROP-OFF 2026 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.

2026 DATES

January 3
February 7 & 21
March 7 & 21
April 18
May 2 & 16
June 6
July 18
August 1 & 15
September 19
October 3 & 17
November 7 & 21
December 5 & 19

 (912) 389-3450

 WWW.CITYOFDOUGLASGA.GOV



Apply TODAY!

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



CITY UPKEEP

STARTS WITH Me!

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. For more information: (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

LAW ENFORCEMENT

STARTS WITH Me!

Make an Impact in Your Community. Now hiring Police Officers.

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

CAREER GROWTH

STARTS WITH Me!

Now hiring for Gas Distribution Tech III

Apply online at www.cityofdouglasga.gov or in person at City Hall location at 302 S. Madison Avenue, (912) 389-3494.

Fire Safety

STARTS WITH Me!

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

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

GETTING YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO!

FARES

COST TO RIDE
IN COUNTY ONE-WAY TRIP
0-10 miles - \$3.00
Over 10 miles - \$5.00

OUTSIDE COUNTY ONE-WAY TRIP
\$5.00 + .50 each mile over 10 miles

DISCOUNTS
Senior Citizens - 50% off normal fare (Any person 60 years and over)
Frequent Rider - 50% off normal fare (Any person paying for 10 trips within a seven-day period)

SERVICE HOURS
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

sgirc | REGIONAL TRANSIT

LLEVÁNDOTE A DONDE QUIERAS IR

TARIFAS

COSTO DE VIAJE
EN EL CONDADO, VIAJE DE IDA
0-10 millas - \$3.00
Más de 10 millas - \$5.00

FUERA DEL CONDADO VIAJE DE IDA
\$5.00 + .50 cada milla de más de 10 millas

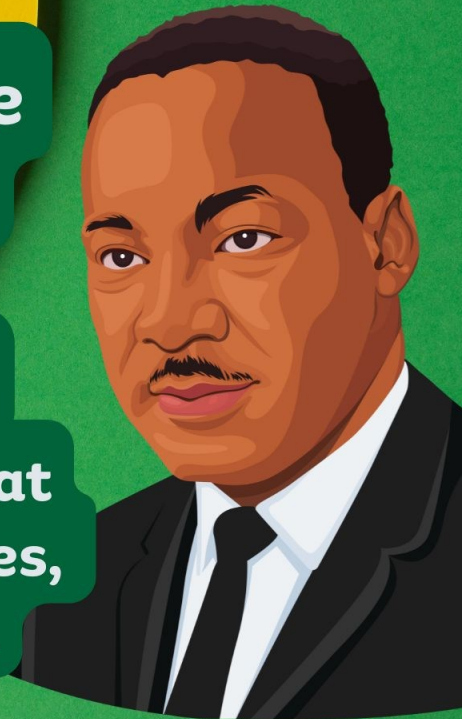
DESCUENTOS
Ciudadanos mayores: 50% de descuento en tarifa normal (Cualquier persona de 60 años o más)
Viajero frecuente: 50% de descuento sobre la tarifa normal (Cualquier persona que pague 10 viajes en un período de siete días)

HORARIO DE SERVICIO
Lunes - Viernes: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

sgirc | REGIONAL TRANSIT

City of Douglas offices will be closed on January 19, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Offices will reopen on Tues. Jan. 20 at 8am. For non-emergency utility issues, please dial 3-1-1 or (912)384-3302.



Post-Helene Tree Assessment

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND COMPLETE THE SURVEY FOR KEEP DOUGLAS BEAUTIFUL

Thank You!



WELCOME TO *The City of Douglas*

NEW BUSINESSES

Flores Brew & Company, 809 E. Baker Hwy.,
912-501-7596

GHP Management, Inc., 217 S. Madison Ave.,
912-384-1781

Jake Ray's Burgers & Bites, Mobile Vendor,
912-381-7841

Los Tres Agaves, 306 S. Peterson Ave.,
912-591-5620

McKinnon Appraisal Corp., 1204 Hampton Rd.
South Georgia Housing Center, 1010 Bowens Mill
Rd., 912-592-7630

Vision Cargo, 2141 N. Industrial Blvd., 912-381-
8984



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



RW Griffin Feed, Seed, & Fertilizer, Inc.
located in the historic Coca-Cola building in
Downtown Douglas.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE



The renewal
deadline is **prior** to
March 1, 2026.
For information,
please call
(912) 389-3460.



 cityofdouglasga.gov/businesslicense



Platform Douglas, 609 Lupo Lane,
912-387-4344

Contractor or Handyman?

Choose wisely when making home
repairs or upgrades.

Call Building Inspections & Permits for
more information, 912-389-3423.



**BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO
RENOVATE OR BUILD
WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS...**

CHECK WITH US!

Contact Building Inspections
& Permits at (912) 389-3423.

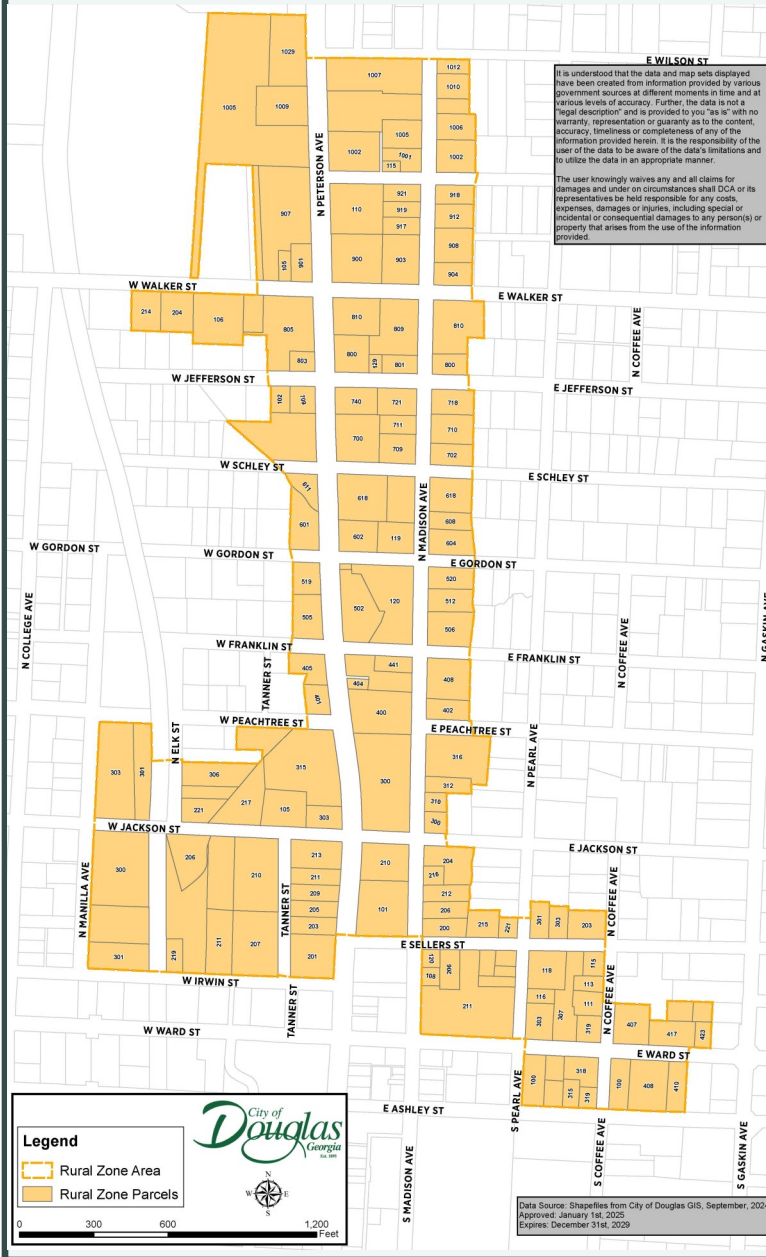


Skintastic Skin Spa, 501 W. Ward Street,
912-383-0005

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

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. 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, 2026.

▶▶ LEARN MORE



Congratulations to DPD Officer Flores who has successfully completing the Custom Canine Unlimited Drug Detection and Tracking K9 Handler Course!



Congratulations to Ofc. M. Spangler and Ofc. J. Calderon (top left) for earning the Top Shot Award, to Sgt. M. Cater (top right) for receiving both Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year, Investigator B. O'Steen (bottom left) was honored with the Chief's Commendation Award, and Ofc. J. Zuniga (bottom right) received the Community Service Award.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to Shop with a Cop! The DPD, DFD, and partnering agencies had an amazing time celebrating with the kids and their families. We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas! More photos from the event are on the [Coffee Co. Sheriff's Dept. FB page!](#)



City of Douglas Bids

MORE INFO



INVITATION TO BID FY'26 WWTP CLARIFIER DRIVE REMOVAL, REBUILD, AND REINSTALLATION

Bid: #66812-26-0013

Deadline to Submit Bid:

January 27, 2026 at 2:30PM

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

MORE INFO

www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids



INVITATION TO BID FY'26 ASBESTOS ABATEMENT & DEMOLITION BID

Bid: #66812-26-0014

Deadline to Submit Bid:

February 3, 2026 at 2:00PM

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

MORE INFO

www.cityofdouglasga.gov/bids



Residential Junk **Drop-Off** Day

February 7 & 21, 2025- 8:30am - 11:45am

@ 1011 Shirley Avenue (corner of Shirley and College Park Dr.)

**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 or dial 311.

SPOTLIGHT ON

City of Douglas Businesses



Thank You!

SPECTRUM DISTRIBUTION

1615 KELLOGG DRIVE

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN
DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY,
GEORGIA!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR INVESTMENT IN DOUGLAS AND COFFEE COUNTY!

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 Feb. 9, 2026.
Pickup Date: March 7, 2026 ~ 9:00AM - 11:30AM.**

Applications may be picked up at 302 S. Madison Avenue or downloaded from the website, www.cityofdouglasga.gov. Application deadline: 02-09-2026. 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 one week 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: drpaulk@cityofdouglasga.gov, call (912) 383-0277, or download the application at

www.cityofdouglasga.gov/kdb

Keep Douglas Beautiful is a
Keep America Beautiful Affiliate



Keep Douglas GA Beautiful



CENTRAL SQUARE, MEETING ROOMS, WEIR CENTER, & YOUTH CENTER BUILDING RENTALS



Important Notice: Upcoming Renovations at Central Square

The Douglas-Coffee County Parks & Recreation Department will soon begin major renovations at our Central Square facilities. This will affect the availability of: Both Gyms, Meeting Rooms, Weir Center, and the Youth Center. Due to the uncertain renovation schedule, rentals will now be offered month-to-month only.

Here's how it works: You can book now for January 2026 and the next month will open for booking around the 3rd week of the current month. (Example: January rentals are open now; February will likely open around the 3rd week of January.)

We know this may cause some inconvenience, and we truly appreciate your patience and understanding. These renovations are essential to keep our facilities safe, modern, and enjoyable for everyone!

We also want to let you know that the heating system at Central Square Gym (the big gym) is currently out of service. Unfortunately, repairs are not scheduled to be completed until March 2026. During basketball games and other events, the gym may be cooler than usual, so please dress warmly and make sure your kids are bundled up too! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at (912) 384-5978. Thank you for your understanding and continued support!
— Douglas-Coffee County Parks & Recreation



CENTRAL SQUARE GYM "B" HEATING ISSUE

Registration Deadlines for DCCPRD Sports

You can register now until the registration deadline
for all sports, www.cityofdouglasga.gov/athletics

Baseball/Softball: January 30

Track: March 6

Swim: April 10

Spring Miracle League: March 13

Summer Programs: May 5

Golf & Tennis: June 5

Football: August 14

Fall Miracle League: August 14

Cheer: August 14

Soccer: August 14

Basketball: November 6

FMI: (912) 384-5978



PLEASE JOIN THE

Sunny Senior club

Thursdays each Month

2026

We gather at the Art Center South Entrance Door
on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays

MUST BE 50 YEARS OR OLDER TO JOIN and
must join at Main Office member fee
for 1 year starting January 2nd will be
\$15.00 per a member

YELLOW DAY: IN
MAY

SUNNY DAY 3rd
Monday Trip Day

LINE DANCE Every
Monday/Friday

BINGO 1st (10:30am to 12:30pm)
BINGO Starts at 11:00am

ARTS 2nd

CRAFTS 3rd

GAME DAY (cards, etc.) 4th

ART CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL Karin
OFFICE# 912-383-7332 / CELL# 912-850-0344



JOINING FEE:
\$15.00 FOR
YEAR

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 25, 2026, 5 PM.

Applications will be accepted from January 1-September 25, 2026, 5pm. for Enterprise Zone designation commencing in the following year (2027) 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.

DOUGLAS ENTERPRISE ZONE AREAS

Properties north of W. Irwin St., south of W. Franklin, between N. Daughtry Ave. and N. Elk St.
Established October 2021

Properties north of E. Jackson St., south of McNeal Dr., between N. Madison Ave., and N. Dewey Ave.
Established October 2021

Properties north of Pine St., south of E. Ross St., between S. Pearl Ave. and S Gaskin Ave.
Established October 2021

Properties north of W. Baker Hwy., south of W Bryan St., between S. Grady Ave., and S. Elk St.
Established October 2021

Properties north of E Baker Hwy., south of Spooner Rd., between Lakeview Ave. and Lupo Ln.
Established October 2021

Properties north of E Baker Hwy., south of Spooner Rd., between Lakeview Ave. and Lupo Ln.
Established October 2021

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

KING FEDERAL HOLIDAY 2026

**MISSION
POSSIBLE²**

*"From Dream
To Reality!"*

SUNDAY, JAN 18TH, 2026 AT 6PM

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR 2026
COMMEMORATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE**
AT HIGHTOWER MEMORIAL TEMPLE H.O.G.S.I.C

303 E COLLEGE PARK DR. AVE DOUGLAS, GA

BISHOP RANDOLPH D. SCOTT, PASTOR

Speaker

PASTOR REGINALD CORDY OF
SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, DOUGLAS, GA &
SALEM FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, FITZGERALD, GA

MONDAY, JAN 19TH, 2026 AT 8AM

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

1008 S COFFEE AVE DOUGLAS, GA

**MLK YOUTH TRIBUTE
& SEMINARS**

AT HIGHTOWER MEMORIAL TEMPLE H.O.G.S.I.C

303 E COLLEGE PARK DR. AVE DOUGLAS, GA

Happy Birthday Dr. King!

(FOLLOWING YOUTH TRIBUTE) FREE FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS.

**GAINES CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH SOCIAL HALL
1008 SOUTH COFFEE AVE DOUGLAS, GA 31533**

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

KING

**FEDERAL
HOLIDAY
2026**

**THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO AWARD
(2) \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS.**

**A \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE GIVEN TO A 2026 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 19TH, 2026**

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST WRITE
AN ESSAY TO ACCOMPANY THEIR APPLICATION.
STUDENTS WILL WRITE THEIR ESSAY ON SITE, ON
SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026 FROM 10AM- 12NOON**

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 2026.**

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY JANUARY 3, 2026.

**Application Submission Link will open on December 8, 2025.
The link for the application submissions is: <https://tinyurl.com/mlkjr2026>**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS. PLEASE CONTACT IRENE MURRAY, AMANDA BENNETT OR CHENITA GAMBLE AT
mlkjrcoffeecounty@gmail.com**

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FESTIVITIES CONTACT: MRS. IRENE MURRAY (912)309-9292
ELDER KENTAIWON CARTER- DURHAM (912)292-7225 OR MRS. ROSA MARY STREET (912)381-4485**

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 and nfpa.org/winter.

www.VisitDouglasGA.org

Happy NEW YEAR

May this New Year bring
you success, joy, and all
your dreams come true!



2026 EVENTS

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Chocolate Crawl
Downtown Douglas | 02/07 |
| Blessing of the Crops
CE Weir Center | 02/27 |
| Spring Open House
Downtown Douglas | 03/07 |
| Wings & Things Festival
Douglas Municipal Airport | 03/21 |
| 99th Annual Awards
Central Square Gym | 03/26 |
| Adventure Awaits
Downtown Douglas | 04/25 |
| Final Fridays
Downtown Douglas | Apr-Sep |
| Taste of the Town
Downtown Douglas | TBD |
| Gopher Tortoise Festival
Downtown Douglas | 10/03 |
| Holiday Open House
Downtown Douglas | 11/27 |
| Christmas Parade
Downtown Douglas | 12/11 |

And much more - stay tuned!



Douglas - Coffee County Library Saturday, January 10th @ 10:30AM



Karen Land—writer, public speaker, and three-time participant in the 1,049-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race across Alaska—and her Alaskan husky, Noggin, will be coming for a program in your Douglas-Coffee County Library.

2025 is the 100th Anniversary of the 1925 Serum Run—remember Balto and Togo? Celebrate these brave dogs and mushers with Karen and Noggin at your public library.



THE MARTIN THEATRE UPCOMING SHOWS

**JAN
20**

A TASTE OF IRELAND
THE IRISH MUSIC & DANCE SENSATION



ELVIS: THE ICON

FEATURING ULTIMATE ELVIS COTE DEONATH

**FEB
27**

**APR
11**

SPANK THE 80s

THE ULTIMATE 80s TRIBUTE BAND EXPERIENCE



GENE WATSON

WITH SPECIAL GUEST JORDAN POOLE

**MAY
2**

109 E ASHLEY STREET
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
WWW.THEMARTINCENTRE.COM

**SCAN TO BUY
TICKETS!**



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



Press Release

ATLANTA

Flu activity is widespread and severe in Georgia, and cases are likely to increase following the holidays and as Georgians return to work and school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also projects a severe flu season. If you have not gotten a flu shot yet and have no medical conditions preventing you from doing so, the Department of Public Health strongly urges you to take advantage of the health benefits the flu vaccine provides as soon as possible.

The CDC recommends that individuals over the age of six months receive a once-yearly flu vaccine – not just for their own protection, but to protect others around them who may be more vulnerable to the flu and its complications, including the elderly and immunocompromised. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies that protect against flu to develop in the body, so now is the time to get a flu shot. Even if you get the flu, the vaccine can help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and, in extreme cases, death. You may consult with a healthcare professional (such as a licensed medical doctor, nurse, or other practitioner) if you have questions about the flu shot.

The flu vaccine is widely available at public health departments, doctors' offices, grocery stores, neighborhood clinics, and pharmacies.



Read Full Release:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/press-releases>



Need help with your Energy Bill?

action pact may be able to help!

<http://myactionpact.org/eap>



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

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
404-679-4840 or
800-359-4663
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

Departamento de Asuntos Comunitarios de Georgia
404-679-4840 y
800-359-4663
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.

GEORGIA MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE REFINANCE LOAN PROGRAM UPDATE

**THE GMA PROGRAM HAS EXPANDED ITS REFINANCE
LOAN ELIGIBILITY TO ASSIST MORE HOMEOWNERS!**

Previously, applicants were required to have purchased their primary residence before January 1, 2020. That requirement has now been removed and extended to include homes purchased on or before **May 11, 2023**.



APPLY WHILE FUNDS LAST!

VISIT [GEORGIAMORTGAGEASSISTANCE.GA.GOV](https://georgiamortgageassistance.ga.gov)



1-877-519-4443



GMA@DCA.GOV



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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

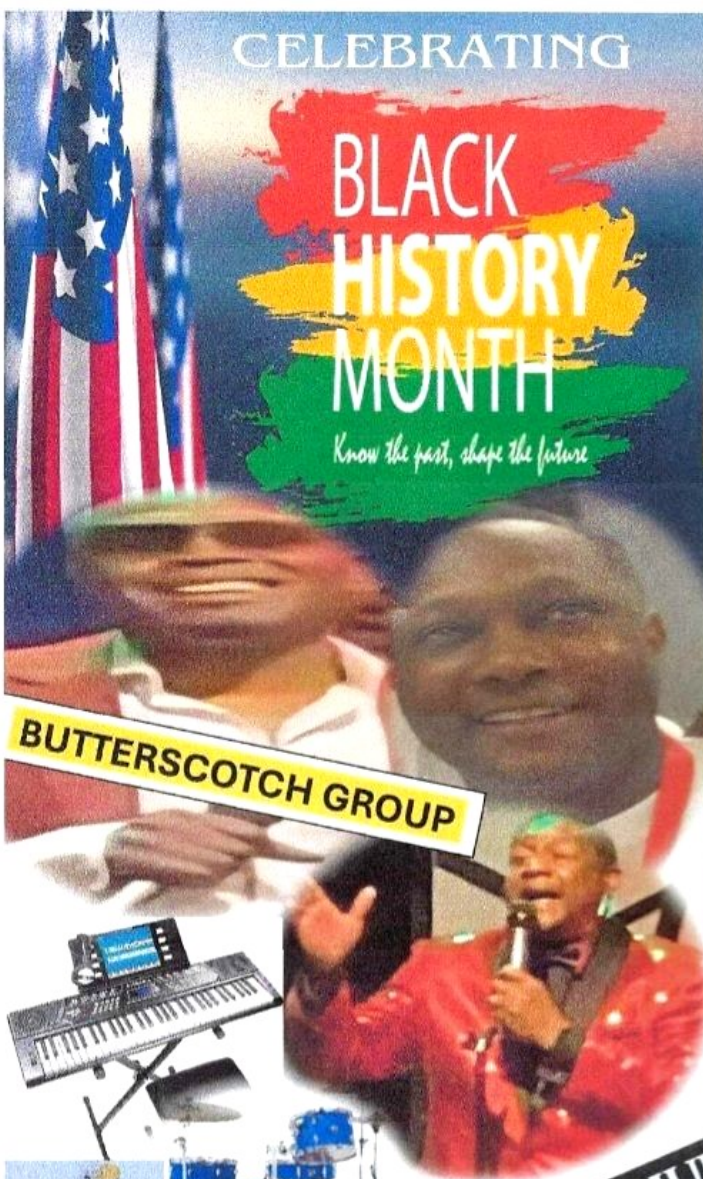
NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Governs This Program?" You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information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

Last Updated January 2020

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Know the past, shape the future



BUTTERSCOTCH GROUP



ANGELO DURHAM

MARCUS FUSSELL

STACY DAVIS

CLASS CHALLENGE

SPONSORS

YOUR CLASS WILL BE

LISTED ON THE

PROGRAMS

CLASS OF ____.

CLASS SPONSORS AND

****CLASS CHALLENGER****

CLASS OF ____.

LISTED ON THE PROGRAMS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

****THE BUTTERSCOTCH GROUP****

(OUR HOME GUYS OF DOUGLAS, GA)

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

6:30 P.M. (YOUTH Program)

9TH GRADE ACADEMY

J.D. MURRAY GYMNASIUM

1020 SOUTH GASKIN AVE.

DOUGLAS, GA.

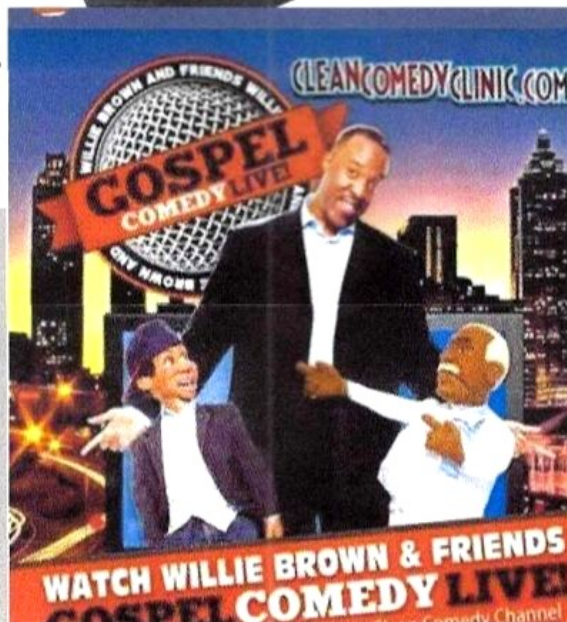
MORE INFO. TEXT: 912-381-1172

CASH APP: \$TMAS2026

COMMUNITY EVENTS
1ST PROGRAM 3:00 P.M.
2ND YOUTH PROGRAM
6:30 P.M.



REV. EDWARD GLOVER



MOTHER ALICE MCFATTEN
"MS. HOLLYWOOD!"

FOR INVITE ONLY

TINNITUS, HEARING & BRAIN HEALTH WORKSHOP

The Early Treatment of Hearing Loss
and Tinnitus with Modern Treatment



February 17th • 11:00am



RSVP Required | Light lunch will be served

Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce Conference Rm
114 Peterson Ave. N., Douglas GA

(directly under Smile Doctors Orthodontics, beside Fireside Pizza)

Who this event is for:

1. If you are over the age of 50
2. If you have experienced Tinnitus, or ringing/buzzing/chirping in the ears
3. If your doctor has ever told you that you were diabetic
4. If you have high blood pressure
5. If you sometimes have difficulty hearing
6. If you are retired without a driving purpose
7. If any of the above apply to you, a loved one, or neighbor we look forward to seeing you and them at this Education Event

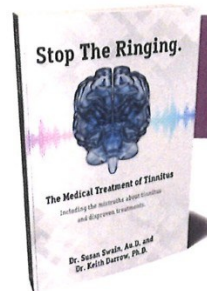
Learn From Guest Lecturer
Audiologist and Clinic Owner

Dr. Susan Swain, Au.D., M.Aud., B.A.

Member: American Academy of Audiology (AAA), Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), Georgia Academy of Audiology (GAA).

Civic Organizations: Camellia Garden Club, Waycross Service League (sustainer), Past President of the Ware County Exchange Club, Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce Board Member.

Certifications: Certified Dementia Practitioner, Certified Tinnitus Practitioner (TPA).



**FREE GIFT FOR
ALL ATTENDEES**

**FREE Copy of
Dr. Swain's New Book,
Stop The Ringing.**

Reserve Your Seat at: www.HearingPlusEvents.com
or Call (912) 816-4074

HEART2HEART CHARITY RUN

Saturday, February 28, 2026



Coffee Regional Medical Center
1101 Ocilla Road, Douglas GA 31533



Advanced Registration ends Wed, Feb 25th @ 11:59pm;
Early Packet Pickup Thurs, Feb 26th (2pm-7pm) at the Wellness Center!

10K starts at 8:15am — 5K starts at 8:30am — 1 Mile Fun Run & Walk starts at 7:45am.

Online registration visit: www.itsyourrace.com

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

DOB: ____ / ____ / ____ AGE: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Shirt Size: Yth _____ A _____

To receive finish line photos a Cell Phone Number and Cell Phone Carrier (AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, etc.) is needed. Also make sure your bib is on the front of your shirt.

Cell: _____ Cell Carrier: _____

Make Checks Payable to: **CRMC Cardiac Rehab Scholarship.**

Mail to: **CRMC Wellness Center, 200 Doctors Drive, Suite 222, Douglas, GA 31533.**

In consideration of the acceptance of this event entry, I, on behalf of myself (or if event participant is a minor under eighteen (18) years of age, in my capacity as parent or legal guardian of event participant), and on behalf of my and/or my minor child's/ward's heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, personal representatives, and next of kin, do hereby forever release, hold harmless, and discharge Coffee Regional Medical Center, Inc., including its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, and successors, as well as all event sponsors, volunteers, and associates including the City of Douglas (collectively the "Releases") from any and all liability for injuries and/or damages that I and/or my minor child/ward might sustain in connection with participating in this event. Should any such claim, demand or lawsuit arise or be asserted in any way whatsoever related thereto, I will indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Releases from any and all costs, expenses, or liability including, but not limited to, the cost of any settlement or judgment made or rendered against the Releases, together with all costs of court and other costs or expenses incurred in connection with any such claim, demand, or lawsuit, including attorney's fees. I understand that participating in this event is a potentially hazardous activity, which may cause serious injury and/or death. I agree to abide by any decision of an event official relative to my ability and/or the ability of my minor child/ward to participate in the event. I am assuming, on behalf of myself and/or my minor child/ward, all risks associated with participating in this event, including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather (including extreme temperatures), traffic, and the conditions of the road/running surface and equipment (including the equipment used in the obstacle course), all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Furthermore, I hereby grant full permission to Coffee Regional Medical Center, Inc. and/or event sponsors to use my name and likeness (and/or that of my minor child/ward), as well as any associated photographs and/or video/audio recordings, as they relate to participation in this event, for any legitimate purpose, including marketing and promotional materials.

Prices increase each month – register early!

10K Run

Dec- \$35, Jan- \$40, Feb- \$45

5k Run

Dec- \$25, Jan- \$30, Feb- \$35

1 Mile Walker

Dec- \$12, Jan- \$15, Feb- \$20

1 Mile Fun Run (youth ages 5-10)

Dec- \$12, Jan- \$15, Feb- \$20

*** Virtual 5k or 10k Run —register online with instructions & fees ***

2 XL Shirt add \$2.00

3 XL shirt add \$3.00

Charitable Donation

Day of race fee will be \$5 additional to February fee.

Participant Signature or Legal guardian of Youth under age of 18

Date

Move More, Sit Less!

Get at least
150 minutes
of aerobic
physical activity
every week.



#GetMoving

DPH

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH