



District 1 – The city of Lafayette is upgrading the electric power supply to Syntec Industries, which will allow the company to add new manufacturing equipment and employ an additional 20 employees. During the last council meeting of 2015, city council voted to purchase three 2500 kilowatt transformers to increase Syntec's production capacity and employ 200 people at its facility. Funding for the transformers will come from the city's electric utility budget.

District 2 – The city of Gainesville is working to replace its street lights from high-pressure sodium lamps to energy-efficient LED technology. The conversion project, funded by the Georgia Power Company, will eventually replace nearly 1,800 street lights throughout the city. The LED lights will provide greater energy efficiency, public safety benefits and produce better light quality. "It (the safer technology) means the human eye can see better when it comes to street signs and pedestrians," said Georgia Power Spokeswoman Ashley Stukes. According to Stukes, the LED light is more directed on the roadway, which produces less glare and fewer dark spots. The LED technology will also use less energy to produce the same amount of light and deliver a significantly longer lifespan, said Gainesville Traffic Operations Superintendent Nick Burnett.

District 3 – 2016 marks the city of Hapeville's Commemorative 125th year. The city kicked off this celebration with the Hapeville Development Authority's announcement of the Solis Hotel. This will be the first new hotel on the east side of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport since the opening of the new International Terminal. This luxury hotel will be located near the new Porsche Cars North America Headquarters and the Porsche Experience Center in Atlanta. The Solis Hotel is scheduled to open in 2017.

District 4 – In December, Thomaston city officials broke ground on the city's Lake Thomaston Park project. The groundbreaking was for the new

lake was purchased by the city after Thomaston Mills closed and was enlarged to serve as a reservoir. The boathouse and amphitheater are expected to be completed by late summer. LaGrange recently created a tax allocation district (TAD) to assist with the expansion of LaGrange Mall. The TAD was also approved by Troup County and Troup County Board of Education. The TAD fits into the city's effort to attract new retail and restaurant growth.

District 5 – In April 2015, the city of Bogart received the Georgia Trust's Excellence in Rehabilitation award for its efforts to restore the city's historic agricultural center. Built in the 1930s to house Bogart High School's Agricultural and Home Economics programs, this building originally contained two classrooms, a teaching kitchen, workshop and canner. From 1980-2013, it was used by a church group when elected officials decided to begin renovations. In recent years, the Bogart began pursuing a restoration plan and used SPLOST revenues to turn the schoolhouse into a community centerpiece. Both of the original classroom spaces were rehabilitated, with one classroom furnished as it could have been in the 1950s, and the other containing exhibits on the history of the community. The workshop and canner spaces were outfitted to serve as council chambers and a special event space. City officials dedicated the building in August 2015 and they currently offer weekly tours in partnership with the local Historical Society.

District 6 – The National Main Street Center selected the city of Milledgeville, along with six other U.S. cities, as a part of the launch of their community revitalization pilot program. These cities will serve as demonstration sites for National Main Street Center's refreshed approach to comprehensive community revitalization and preservation-based economic development. Three of the center's community revitalization experts will visit Milledgeville later this month for an initial site visit. The visit will include an assessment of the organiza-

tional landscape and market dynamics of city's downtown, as well as community visioning workshops to gather input that will help articulate the strategies that will guide the revitalization initiative.

District 7 – The city of Camak will soon have a new city hall facility. Work began in December 2015 to build a new 20-by-30 foot extension onto the existing fire house. Currently, the city is unable to hold meetings with more than six participants without relocating due to the small, 120 square-foot space. The new extension will be ADA compliant and will serve as a polling center for municipal elections. The new city hall will cost around \$35,000 and should be complete by the beginning of April, weather permitting. About \$20,000 of that cost will be paid using funds raised through Railroad Days, a local Camak festival. The remainder will come from the city's general fund.

District 8 – The city of Montezuma was recently awarded \$42,058 in interim funding assistance from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Immediate Threat and Danger Program. The funds will be used to assist the city address an area of a collapsed building and stabilization of the surrounding buildings. The Immediate Threat and Danger Program provides 50 percent matching funds for activities with urgent community development needs where existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community. Funding for the Immediate Threat and Danger Program comes from the state's federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

District 9 – The city of Hazlehurst welcomed residents to refurbished local parks with new playground equipment. These entertaining enhancements were funded by local SPLOST dollars. City officials, employees and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) members worked closely with Korkat to select equipment for the parks and saved thousands of SPLOST dollars by utilizing city employees for the installation. The city received a large donation of wood chips from locally owned Beasley Forest Products to use as safety surfacing around the newly installed equipment. Improving the city parks was instrumental in ob-

taining additional grant funding from the state to pave and resurface the walking track at Mary McLean Park. Hazlehurst continues to work hard to make upgrades and repairs to each of its three parks with new equipment, painting and remodeling of each of the park's picnic pavilions and the newly resurfaced basketball court at Weatherly Park.

District 10 - The city of Donaldsonville's Fire and Rescue Department will be getting a new building. The city has issued contracts to architectural firm, Donofro & Associates, to transform the former Donaldsonville Motor facility. The proposed site was surveyed and the building was measured. Now, acquisition of the property is underway. The architectural firm was selected at the November 2015 city council, and in December 2015 the firm met with city staff members for a kickoff to begin the design, use and layout of the property.

District 11 - Students in Wiregrass Technical College's Automotive Collision Repair program took advantage of the needed repairs to three Valdosta Fire Department vehicles. These students' hard work on the vehicles provided valuable real-life experience and class credit. The effort was an excellent teaching tool while saving Valdosta taxpayers a significant amount of money by only requiring the purchase of parts. The students worked on a 2003 Ford 350 Super Duty Truck and two 2008 Ford Crown Victoria cars.

District 12 - The city of Guyton recently received a 2015 Community Development Block Grant of more than \$430,000 from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The city will use the money on drainage and sewer upgrades. After several years of planning and working, the city has recently dedicated a Memory Garden at the end of the walking trail along Georgia Highway 17. The garden's slogan is: "Some were born here. Some died here. All are honored here." Guyton is selling garden bricks to honor and remember residents. More than 50 bricks have already been purchased and engraved.



A modernized park in Hazlehurst funded by SPLOST dollars.



The city of Guyton's recent dedication of their new Memory Garden.