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Ray City Community News

Vol. 2 No. 4

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Ray City Community News



Vol. 2 No. 4

October November December
Published by Ray City Community Development Council

Quarterly

CDC Update

By George Skinner

Parking Lot Project--I'm sure you have noticed the added improvements made to the downtown parking lot and adjacent parallel street since our last issue of Community News. The recent improvements include DOT's resurfacing of the area, painting parking and street lines, and the installation of concrete parking bumpers and concrete benches.

Three very attractive litter containers are being constructed of metal and wood that will be permanently installed in the parking lot. This will conclude the original landscape project that was funded by a \$5,000 Local Development Fund Grant. The planning phase of this project was started about eighteen months ago and has involved numerous hours of work by more than fifty community volunteers. Not only has our town benefited from this project, but the community volunteers have enjoyed the fellowship and common purpose of working together to improve the community we all share.

Landscape Project Competition Grant--You were advised in the last issue that Ray City had been awarded a \$2,500 grant for being selected First Place Winner in a state-wide competition with the above mentioned landscape project. The local Community Development Council has approved plans for the utilization of these funds with the Mayor and Council's concurrence. These plans include the erection of a split-rail cedar fence, which has already been installed, and five ornamen-

tal-pole street lamps on the west side of the parking lot. The lighting project should be completed within the next thirty to forty-five days, and will result in a finished project in the parking lot that we can all take pride in. We anticipate that some grant funds will be remaining at the conclusion of the lighting project and will be available for use on the caboose project or for some additional landscape plantings next spring.

Caboose Restoration Project--Everyone should be aware that Ray City has received a \$8,300 Community Development Grant to restore the caboose located adjacent to downtown Main Street. Work was started on September 10 when all the inside metal boxes, tanks, seats, etc., were cut out with a torch and removed from the caboose. On Saturday, September 21, a group of community volunteers leveled the caboose by raising the rails with railroad jacks. The Caboose Restoration Committee will be meeting before you receive this issue of Community News to finalize the restoration plans. Community volunteers with special skills have already committed to directing certain tasks such as plumbing, electrical wiring, carpentry work, heating and cooling installation, sand blasting, painting, etc.

This project will begin moving along fairly well at the beginning of cooler weather, and will be enjoyable to participate in as well as to observe the progress. It would be great to be able to decorate the finished project for Christmas along with the newly developed parking area. That's not a pre-

continued on page 2

Octoberfest

The arrival of autumn brings many anxiously awaited events like the leaves changing from green to gold, shorter days and longer nights, and cool crisp air that relieves the sultry summer days. With the month of October upon us, it's time to take a breather from our hectic schedules and relax. The two day event planned by the Homecoming Committee called Octoberfest will give us all an opportunity to enjoy ourselves and take a little time out to enjoy the beauty around us. Following is a schedule of events.

Friday, October 11th

Gospel Sing - 7:00 till 10:00 p.m. Local groups to perform. Held in Senior Citizens Center, Della Purvis, chair-person

Saturday, October 12th

Arm Wrestling Contest - 12:00 until 9:00-11:00 -- weigh in. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place in each division. \$5.00 entry fee. Held in Senior Citizens Center. Jimmy Sammons, chair-person.

Horse Show - 1:30 until 12:30 -- Registration begins. Six events, ribbons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and high point trophies for each division. \$1.00 per entry per event. Held behind Frank Studstill's home. Donna Sue Stalvey, chair-person.

Horse Shoes - 3:00 until. Singles and doubles. Trophies for 1st and 2nd in both divisions. \$1.00 entry fee. J. D. Cone, chair-person

Street Dance - 8:30 - 11:30 p. m. Entertainment by "Mirage." Held in parking lot of Senior Citizens Center. Pierce Hannah, chair-person.

CDC Update

diction, but would be a nice goal to shoot for. The completion of this project, including landscaping of the lot, will tie in nicely with the other landscape work already completed and should make a very desirable impact on the beautification of our little town.

Senior Citizens Program--A good bit of information concerning the community Senior Citizen activities will appear in a separate article in this issue. At the risk of duplication, I'll make two brief points.

Ms. Phyllis Giddens reported to work as Director of Senior Citizen Activities on Wednesday, September 18. She is a senior at Valdosta State College majoring in sociology and is completing a fall quarter internship in Ray City. Her work hours at the Senior Citizens Center will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday nights starting at 6:00 p.m. for bingo and a monthly covered dish supper. You are encouraged to stop by the Center and meet Phyllis and welcome her to our community.

Our Senior Citizens are having a monthly covered dish supper. They have decided to extend an invitation to the entire community to share in the upcoming covered dish supper which will be on Tuesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. A gospel singing group will be present to provide entertainment for the evening. Please place this date on your calendar and bring your covered dishes and family for a nice evening out with good community-wide fellowship.

Adopt-A-Highway Program--The Adopt-A-Highway Program was introduced to you in the last issue of Community News. The Lakeland-Adel Highway has been adopted by the First United Methodist Church of Ray City. The Nashville-Valdosta Highway has been adopted by the First Baptist Church of Ray City. The sections of highway involved in this project extend from the downtown intersection outward to the city limits on each of the highways. Our obligation includes picking-up litter on these road right-of-ways once a quarter for twelve months. This project will be done on a Saturday morning after the first of October. The dates will be planned and announced by the two churches.

This community project will not only



L-R Phyllis Giddens, current fall quarter intern; Dr. Chuck Ballard, professor of Sociology at Valdosta State College; and Patty Fourakers, summer quarter intern.

help to clean up our town, but should make our citizens more aware of the need to help keep our community clean by not littering. It's a natural community project to follow the landscape and beautification work already started. You are encouraged to join in and support the Adopt-A-Highway Project in Ray City.

Walking Track Project--Ray City was the recipient of a grant to construct a walking track to be located in the city park adjacent to the Senior Citizens Center. Councilman Grady Green accepted the responsibility of overseeing the construction and development of this project. The

track is nearing completion and is becoming a very nice addition to the city park. Upon Mr. Green's request, a group of volunteer citizens recently set out forty-one crepe myrtle trees around the walking track and in front of the Center. The track is now lighted, which allows early morning and night walking. Concrete benches have also been installed. The track is being used by a good number of community citizens, both young and old. The track is providing an extra dimension to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of our community.

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Ray City Homecoming Committee

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Della Purvis, Co-Chairman	Frank Studstill
Willie J. Doe	Victor Souza
Mrs. Bessie Doe	

Did You Know That...?

by: Betty Shearl

-- Shortly before the first World War, the Ray City Brass Band was organized and directed by R. Glenn Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. P. Johnson. The bandstand was located across the street from Earl's Grocery. Concerts were held on special occasions and on each Sunday afternoon.

-- James A. Swindle excelled at the game of baseball. He played in and managed several semi-pro and amateur teams before joining the Troy, Alabama professional team in the Alabama State League. Mr. Swindle went on to achieve quite a name as a professional baseball player.

-- Ray's Mill, the predecessor of the city of Ray City was located about one mile east of the present city on Ray's Mill Pond Road. Mr. Thomas M. ray operated the mill which was generated by water from the pond and used to grind meal and hominy grits from corn.

-- Perry T. Knight, State Representative from Berrien County, introduced the bill to change the town's name to Ray City. This bill became law on August 16, 1909.

-- The home of Mrs. Katherine (Miss Pinky) Vaughn housed the offices of the city's first doctor, Dr. Charles X. Jones. Jones Street bears his name; Trixie Street was named for his wife, Trixie Ann.

-- The Ray City Methodist Church was organized by Brother F. D. Ratliff on October 29, 1910. The land for the church building was donated by R. D. Swindle, father of Henry A. and R. P. Swindle.

-- Mr. L. F. Giddens, better known as "judge", served the town as mayor, city clerk, and Justice of the Peace. He was also Ray City's longest standing barber. Mr. Giddens' daughter, Mrs. Ida Lou Fletcher resides in Ray City on North Street.



Workers assemble split rail fence as part of the beautification project along Paralled Street parking lot.



Work day at the recreation park. L-R Charles Wilson, David Miley, Pearce Hannah, Carroll Exum.

Halloween Carnival

The city of Ray City and the Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 26, at the Recreation Park. Time to be announced.

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Essay Contest

"Why I Like Ray City School"

In the last issue, an essay contest, sponsored by the Community Development Council, for the 5th through 8th graders at Ray City School was announced. There were 34 entries from the two categories (5th-6th, category 1; 7th-8th, category 2). As part of the 1st place prize, the winning essays are published in this issue. Several rules were given to the students. The most important one was that they not put their name on or within their entry. This way the judges would not know whose entry they were judging. To all the boys and girls who entered the contest, you did a great job. Many thanks to the judges, Mrs. Geri Pope and Mrs. Jimmie Mobley. Following are the winners:

Category 1

- 1st place--Carl Stalvey, 5th grade
- 2nd place--Stephine Mathis, 6th grade
- 3rd place--Jared Rice, 6th grade

Category 2

- 1st place--Leanne Stalvey, 7th grade
- 2nd place--Brian Harrell, 8th grade
- 3rd place--Chris Horne, 8th grade

Honorable Mention--Erica Graham, 8th grade

Why I Like Ray City School

by Carl Stalvey

There are many reasons why I like Ray City Elementary School. The first reason is because it is small and has few students. Another reason is because my friends go there. A third reason is because the teachers are nice. The main reason is because everyone at Ray City School cares about you.

I like Ray City School being small because everyone knows you by name and you know them. I also like it because we all work, play, and learn together without fussing or arguing. If we have problems we are all close enough friends that we can work it out.

The second reason I like Ray City School is most of my friends go there. I enjoy seeing my friends every day. I like being able to learn with my friends and being able to play and talk with them.

The third reason I like Ray City School is because the teachers are nice. The teachers at Ray City School know and care for every one there. They are interested and willing to help you in any way they can.

They really want you to learn and have a good time while you are learning.

But the main reason I like Ray City Elementary School is because everyone there cares about you. Not only the teachers care about you, but the principal, teacher's aides, lunchroom ladies, bus drivers, and even the custodians care about you. Most importantly, all of the students care about each other.

I really like Ray City Elementary School because if you go to school there you are someone special because so many people care about you.

Why I Like Ray City School

by Leanne Stalvey

I like Ray City School because it's the best. It's small so you know everyone. The teachers know you personally, and it's big on sports. Also, they have all the other special employees they need to run the school.

I think small schools are better. The teachers have small enough classes to spend time with all the students. The teachers can take the time to explain a problem to any student. Another thing with small schools is that you know everyone. Everybody gets along. Also, you don't have to worry about who's class you'll be in or if

you'll be in the same class as your friends. You know you'll be in their class.

All the teachers know you. If you have a problem, you can go to them and know they'll take the time to help you. I couldn't pick the best teachers at Ray City. They're all the best, from Mrs. Register to Mrs. Creech. There's been many other teachers at Ray City, but I've had the best. Mrs. Register got me started. Then Miss Drawdy taught me to read, and I learned multiplication and division from Mrs. Charles. Mrs. Baxter taught me cursive. Mrs. Back kept me going. Then Mrs. Lloyd gave us a break from homework to get us ready for Mrs. Hughes and her notes. Mrs. Stoker teaches us all the math there is to know it seems. Then Mrs. Creech gets us ready for high school andddd the real world. I wouldn't change any of my teachers. I feel they've taught me the best I could have been taught. I'm glad I live in Ray City.

Now sports, we may not be number one in all of them but we certainly have the best school spirit. Our principal gives us a pep talk on the first day and doesn't give up. Coach Marcum coaches basketball and helps with football. He also teaches P.E. Mrs. Sheila faithfully helps the cheerleaders each year.

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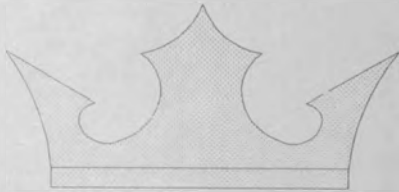
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Senior Citizens' Center - A Bustle Of Activity

Ray City School has other very important employees too. Mrs. Browning and Mrs. Miller are the Special Ed teachers. Mrs. Cornelius is our librarian. Mrs. Dasher teaches band, and Mrs. Creech does computer. Mrs. Mosier, Mrs. Fountain, and Mrs. Lassiter help do anything needed. Mrs. Chason, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Harrel, and Mrs. Jefferson serve us nutritious meals each day, while Mr. and Mrs. Leaf, the custodians keep our school in top notch condition. Mrs. Harnage, Mrs. Starling and Mrs. Webb safely gets us to and from school each day. Mrs. Emig, the school secretary, keeps our school running smoothly. Mrs. Watson, who is the principal, is not only everyone's boss, but their friend also.

So now you see why I like Ray City School. It's small, has friendly employees, the best school spirit, and still takes care of all the common school needs and more. Ray City School is simply the best!



Pretty Maids

It was a night brightly colored with sequined taffeta and chiffon gowns, lace and bows, and pretty maids all in a row. The 1991 Homecoming Beauty Pageant brought out Ray City's beauties of all ages to compete for the coveted titles. Congratulations to Julie Nazworth, Miss Ray City; Hope Meeks, Jr. Miss Ray City; and Brittany Antulov, Little Miss Ray City.

From The Postmaster's Desk

When mailing letters and/or packages to city residents, remember to use their post office box number. For county residents, use their route and box number.

Local Stamp Club Organized

Anyone interested in joining the Ray City Stamp Club should telephone or write David Miley at 455-2593, % P. O. Box 206, Ray City, Georgia 31645.

College Internship - Every three months or so, the Senior Citizens who attend activities at the Center have the opportunity to acquire a new friend. An intern program, co-sponsored by Valdosta State College and the city of Ray City, provides a student to work at the center each quarter. Through this program, sociology majors get on-the-job training while organizing and directing activities for the Center, in addition to getting college credit for their work.

The intern this past summer was Mrs. Pattie Fourakers from Pinetta, Florida. Mrs. Fourakers built on the foundation laid by Miss Patricia Folsom, the first intern to work at the center, by adding several new activities and services for the Senior Citizens. In addition to field trips, the participants enjoyed craft demonstrations, took instructions in counted cross-stitch and macrame, and also organized a quilting club. She even brought her father along to sharpen the ladies' scissors. An important service arranged was for the Georgia Home Health Services to provide free blood pressure checks on a regu-

lar basis. Mrs. Fourakers said, "I've provided a focus and have done a lot of listening."

On August 27, the Senior Citizens sponsored a farewell/appreciation supper for Mrs. Fourakers at the Center. In her farewell speech, she remarked about her internship, "It was not a job, it was FUN!" She praised the citizens for their cooperation and community spirit. She added, "I hope I've given something back." Mrs. Fourakers graduated on August 17, 1991, from Valdosta State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She began her new job as a social worker at the Geriatric Residential Treatment Center in Madison, Florida on September 3.

It was apparent by the many parting gifts and hugs that the senior members of the Ray City community have indeed found a new friend. Her replacement is Ms. Phyllis Giddens, who began her work at the Center on September 18.

Nutrition Program - Proper nutrition for the elderly is a real concern that is being addressed in Ray City. A Senior Citizen's nutrition program sponsored by

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the Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc., through the South Georgia Council on Aging, provides properly balanced meals to the elderly members of our community. Mrs. Juanelle Wilson is the site manager and coordinates all areas of the program so that on Monday through Friday of each week as many as 45 people eat a healthy, well-balanced meal. To be eligible to participate in the program, one must be at least sixty years of age and must go to the Center to have a health and welfare profile done by Mrs. Wilson. This is *very important*, Mrs. Wilson says, as each meal is specially prepared to meet individual dietary needs. If a person has an ailment that requires a restrictive diet, then a special meal is prepared and delivered to the site with that individual's name on it. The home-bound are also included in this program at this time provided they live with the city limits.

The meals are prepared daily in Valdosta and delivered to the Center. One must call Mrs. Wilson by 11:00 a.m. the day before they plan to eat at the site. The charge for the meal at the site is \$2.04, and \$2.20 for home-bound deliveries.

If you are interested in this nutrition program or know of someone who would benefit from it, contact Mrs. Wilson at the Center, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 455-2501.

No Thumb-Twiddling Here - Mrs. Juanelle Wilson, who is also director of activities at the Center, has planned some very beneficial, supportive services for the Senior Citizens in addition to the activities being directed by the college intern. Seminars on home protection, astute banking, and much more enlighten and guide our senior members in areas where they are often taken advantage of or just have not given much thought.

For the young at heart, a slumber party was held on Friday, September 27.

Community Covered Dish Supper - The community of Ray City is cordially invited to attend a Pot Luck Supper on Tuesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center, hosted by the Senior Citizens. The supper will be followed by a gospel sing.

Volunteer Service - Do you have free time you would like to use in a rewarding service? According to Juanelle Wilson,



Activity day at the Senior Citizens Center.



Time to eat! Ray City's "Nutrition Program" for Senior Citizens.



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Activities Director, there are many areas of service at the Center. Give her a call at 455-2501. She'll place you among one (or more) of the many activities taking place daily at the Center.

Donations Needed - The Senior Citizens Center is a nonprofit organization which relies solely upon state and federal grants to keep it running. Although many needs are met through funding, another source must meet the rest. That source is donations from the community. Your center is in need of several items which would benefit the people for whom the center was acquired. Among the list of items needed are office furniture, card tables, small bookcases, and a photo copier. If you have items you think the Center could use, call Mrs. Wilson at 455-2501.

Senior Citizens' Center Events

by Bettie Langford

Sunday, October 6 - Sirmans family reunion.

Friday, October 11 - Octoberfest Gospel Sing 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 12 - Guthrie family reunion, Arm wrestling competition.

Saturday, October 19 - Westberry family reunion.

Sunday, October 20 - Lee family reunion.

Saturday, October 26 - Garner family reunion.

Sunday, October 27 - Miller family reunion.

Sunday, November 3 - Williams family reunion.

Sunday, November 24 - Simpson family reunion.

Thursday, November 28 - Camon family reunion.

Every Tuesday night - Senior Citizens Bingo, 7:30 p.m.

Every Thursday night - Ladies Auxiliary Bingo, 7:30, all proceeds go to benefit the community and Volunteer Fire Department.

For more information, call City Hall at 455-2501.

Down Home Cookin'

That's what you'll be eating when you stop by the Down Home Country Cafe, formerly known as Wood's Soda Shop, on Main Street. The new owners, Jimmy and Pat Wood, are excited about their new business venture and are working hard to make their restaurant a place where you'll feel right at home.

At present, only the grill is open. But, they offer a lip-smacking breakfast and lunch that will hit-the-spot. In just a few months, the Woods plan to expand next door to include a complete kitchen and spacious dining room. On the menu will be steak, shrimp, and prime rib.

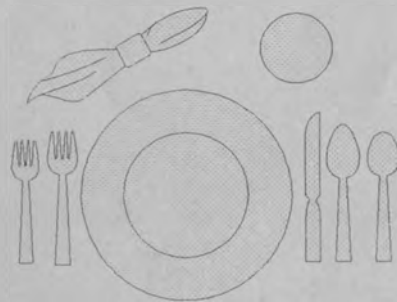
Jimmy, a Ray City native, has been back in town only a couple of years after spending over twenty-seven years in Atlanta. Working as a general contractor, he built restaurants for a living. He says now it's time he's operating one.

When you drop by the cafe, you'll immediately notice a change in the interior's appearance. The Woods plan to redesign using antiques and memorabilia from the 40's and 50's era, so that one visiting the cafe will feel they have stepped back in time. However, the focal point of the cafe will be the Victory Soda Shop. When res-

toration is complete, one may once again enjoy ice cream, floats, and soda pop from the fountain.

"Business is good," Jimmy explains, speaking appreciatively of the Ray City community's patronage. He said he saw a need in Ray City for a pleasant place where the family could go for some good, down-home cooking. Jimmy, Pat, and "Granny" Ray are working very hard to satisfy that need.

Store hours are: Monday - Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Thursday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. They are closed on Sundays.



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Sports Shorts

Congratulations to the coaches and children from Ray City who demonstrated their athletic prowess during this past baseball and softball season. The Expos (boys) and Rockets (girls) finished the season with identical records: First place in the Association, first place in the All Star South Region Play-offs, and third place in the All Star State Championship.



RAY CITY EXPOS front row L-R are: Barry Jones, Randy Smith, Tom Futch, Nick Clisby. Back row L-R are: Coach Gene Shearl, *Aaron Shearl, Chris Mathis, *Daryn Snipes, *Head Coach Carroll Exum, *Trent Exum, *Elliott Ryan, Andrew Clayton, Coach Walter Snipes. *All Star team members.

Neighborhood Watch

A neighborhood watch is being organized in Ray City. If interested in participating, call City Hall at 455-2501.



RAY CITY ROCKETS girl's softball team, front row L-R are: Amber Peters, Chaka Ward, Beth Browning, Tracey Woods, Amanda Shearl, *Teresa Browning. Back row L-R are: Coach Connie Shearl, Aisha Ward, *April Garner, *Coach Jimmy Browning, Yolanda Miller, *Gabrielle Jammes, *Crystal Tomlinson, *Coach Debbie Browning. (Not pictured: Pam Barron, Cotricia Thompson, *Patience Bumgardner.) *All Star team members.

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