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Ray City Community News

Vol. 3 No. 1

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Ray City Community News



Vol. 3 No. 1

January February March
Published by Ray City Community Development Council

Quarterly

CDC Update

By George Skinner

Caboose Project - The attractive Christmas trees and lighting in front of the caboose were made possible by a donation from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Volunteer Fire Department. The many hours of volunteer work by numerous community citizens have resulted in giving you an idea of what the restored caboose will look like from the outside. There is still much work to be done to complete this project, including landscaping the grounds and several small details on the outside of the car.

The inside will be completely redone with sheetrock ceiling and walls above a chair rail, paneling below a chair rail, and carpet on the floor. The inside work is about 60% complete at this time.

We estimate this project to be finished by the end of April, 1992, and should be one of the more impressive restored caboose projects that we have seen. The interest expressed in this project and the many citizens that have donated their time and energy speaks well of our community pride and concern in improving our town.

Adopt-A-Highway Project - The Adopt-A-Highway Project was started in October within the city limits of our four major highways. Appreciation is expressed to the First United Methodist Church of Ray City and the First Baptist Church of Ray City for their commitment in keeping these major highways through our city clean of litter. Both churches will pick up litter again in January for their second quarters responsibility. To those citizens



involved in this work, thank you for setting a good example of responsible citizenship.

Senior Citizens Program - Phyllis Giddens, Valdosta State College student intern, completed her fall quarter work with the community senior citizens in mid-December. She did a great job and made a lot of good friends during her stay in Ray City. It appears that we will not be able to secure an intern student for the winter quarter which began in January. However, the Senior Citizens are organized and will continue their regular activities. The past three Valdosta State College intern students have worked closely with

our senior citizens for the past nine months. Their efforts have been appreciated by our senior citizens.

Community News - The last three issues of the Ray City Community Newsletter have been edited by Terri Staines with Sherrie Graham assisting. The quality of their work is excellent. Their dedication and enthusiasm in getting each issue out on a timely basis and done with professional quality is recognized and appreciated. Thank you, Terri and Sherrie, for your outstanding efforts in making the Ray City Community Newsletter available to our community.

The "Center" Of Activity

by: Terri Staines

The Senior Citizens Center continues to be a hub of activity for the senior members of the Ray City community. The Nutrition Program, which provides well-balanced meals for the elderly, continues to meet the needs of our senior citizens. Other activities are Tuesday night Bingo, Wednesday Craft Day, and covered-dish suppers. Now an adult literacy class is being conducted at the Center each Tuesday from 1:00 - 3:00 PM by Jane Garrison.

Mrs. Juanelle Wilson continues her superb job as coordinator. While managing the Nutrition Program, she also plans events and invites special guests to share pertinent information of interest to senior citi-

zens. In September, a quilt and an afghan, handmade by Nutrition Program participants, were donated as door prizes for the Agency for Aging Conference held in Savannah, Georgia. In October, Don Williams from United Bank in Nashville was the luncheon guest of the Center and spoke to them about sensible banking. Also, Dr. Chuck Ballard, Professor of Sociology from Valdosta State College, brought one of his sociology classes to the Center to have a look around and ask questions. In November, commodities from the Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority (EOA) began being distributed from the Center. December sparked the crafters into making Christmas gifts, assisted by crafter Jenny St. John. Anne Robertson, head of the EOAs Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), instructed seniors on how to gain credit for volunteer work. The new year was kicked off in style with a bazaar. Crafts are still available for sale. The proceeds will be used to install a telephone in the Center.

Mrs. Wilson invites everyone interested to visit us and look us over. The doors are open at 9:30 AM and the coffee is on. One may also call her at 455-2501.

We Want Your News

The Ray City Community Newsletter is YOUR vehicle of communication whereby you may be informed about events in your community that affect your life. In addition to news, it is also a source of announcement where you and your fellow community members can share your pride of accomplishments, honors, and awards gained by you and your family members who are also Ray City community residents. Unfortunately, there is a limitation on contributions; please save your birthday, anniversary, and graduation announcements for the local newspapers.

The Newsletter is published quarterly - Winter (Jan-Feb-Mar), Spring (Apr-May-Jun), Summer (Jul-Aug-Sep), and Fall (Oct-Nov-Dec). Contributions must be submitted no later than the beginning of the month prior to publication. They must be plainly written (be specific), and have a telephone number where the contributor can be reached should any questions arise. Good quality color photographs or black and white glossies may be submitted along with the announcement. However, do not under any circumstances submit a one-and-only photograph or an original, for it could be inadvertently lost or damaged. The photo will be returned in a timely manner.

Ray City Community News is for you and about you. We welcome your comments and suggestions on making this the best Newsletter in these here parts.

Fall Quarter Calendar Of Events Senior Citizens Center

by: Bettie Langford

November 3, 1991

Williams family reunion

November 15

Wedding reception for
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cooper

November 28

Camon family reunion

December 6

Ray City School Christmas Dance

December 21

Christmas party for city employees,
city officials, volunteer firemen,
and families

December 23

Meeting held by the
Save Our School Committee

December 25

Mary Daily family reunion

You are reminded that every Thursday night at 7:30 PM the Ladies Auxiliary plays bingo.

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Ray City Homecoming Committee

Scholarship Pageant

The Tift County Forestry Unit is proud to announce plans for the Third Annual Miss Pine Seedling Scholarship Commodity Pageant to be held in Tifton. The pageant will be held at the Rural Development Center on February 21 and 22. The deadline to enter is January 31, 1992.

The pageant is open to girls from all surrounding counties. Age groups are as follows: Teeny Miss - ages 1 - 3, Tiny Miss - ages 4 - 6, Little Miss - ages 7 - 9, Junior Miss - ages 10 - 12, and Teen Miss - ages 13 - 15. A queen and four runner-ups in each age group will be named. Optional categories will be Prettiest Dress and Most Photogenic.

Queens will receive a round crown, monogrammed banner, trophy, silver engraved tray, gold scepter, crowning pin, and a savings bond. Runner-ups will receive trophies, silver engraved trays, and nosegays. Queens will have the opportunity of promoting the Forestry Commodity the upcoming year with Smokey the Bear.

Smokey the Bear will be on hand at the pageant. The pageant will begin at 7:00 PM each evening and the admission will be \$4.00. Anyone interested in entering the pageant may call 386-2681.



A Honey Of A Runner-Up

Congratulations to Miss Julie Nazworth, daughter of Roger and Dianne Herring of Ray City. She was the first runner-up in the 1991 Miss Honey Bee Pageant held in Hahira in October.

Soil "Cleaning Plant To Be Built In Ray City

by: Terri Staines

In the coming year, a facility specifically designed to clean petroleum contaminated soil will be built in Ray City. To be located just off South Pauline Street outside the city limits, Soil Remediation, Inc. will be built and operated according to strict state Environmental Protection Department (EPD) specifications.

Mayor Frank Studstill points out that no toxic waste will contaminate our community. The best interests of the community were kept in mind when environmental specialists were consulted before the plant site was agreed upon. Ray City was chosen as the site for the remediation plant when Moody AFB announced the closing of its facility.

Contaminated soil will be brought in from all over the state. Soil Remediation, Inc. will also dig and transport contaminated soil to its facility for processing. A tonnage fee will be charged for all processed soil.

How is the soil cleaned? Simply stated,

the soil will be burned at approximately 400 F. The clean soil will be used as road base and in asphalt. Because the soil is only contaminated and not a waste itself, no state permits will be necessary for the process.

Mayor Studstill, who will also be the plant manager for Soil Remediation, Inc., states the new facility will benefit Ray City by providing much needed jobs for its citizens and an environmentally safe and necessary service for our community as well as our state.

Mailing List

If you are reading this Newsletter but did not receive it in the mail, that is because you live outside the mailing radius of Ray City. Receiving your copy of the Newsletter is easy - just write your name on a 3 X 5 card and mail it to me: Terri Staines, Rt. 2 Box 480, Ray City, GA 31645. Or, drop the card off at City Hall. Either way, your name will be added and you wont miss another issue.

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1991 Homecoming Committee Report

by: Pierce Hannah, Chairman

The 1991 Homecoming Committee has come to an end. The City Council will elect a new chairperson who will select new committee members.

As chairman, I've decided to step down so someone with new ideas may come in. Being on the committee involves a lot of time and planning, and I want to get involved in something different - maybe do a little fishing and visit my family up home in Augusta, Georgia.

Being chairman has been a very rewarding and exciting experience. I was able to make friends with a lot of new people and help Ray City enjoy life with good clean entertainment. The people who served with me these last two years deserve all the credit as they are the ones who put all the time, effort, ideas and suggestions into the events. A special thanks goes out to all of them for their time, friendship, help and hard work.

During our October festival, the weatherman tried to hinder us with a little rain Saturday morning. The arts and crafts display was not successful, but the rest of the activities went as planned. The arm wrestling, horseshoe tournament, horse show and street dance were very successful. All the food vendors sold out before the day was over.

There was approximately \$600 in the treasury at the start of 1990. The Homecoming Committee gave the Ray City Volunteer Fire Department \$500 to purchase much needed equipment and materials. The Recreation Department was also given \$500 for repairs and the purchase of new sports equipment.

This year, the 1991 Committee ended the year with over \$1,300 in the treasury. This money will be used by the 1992 Committee for its activities. All receipts and expenses are in City Hall for anyone to review.

If you are interested in helping with this years activities, you should contact City Hall or any council member.



THE CITIZENS OF RAY CITY coming together to help restore the Caboose. The Caboose is expected to be completed by April 1992. A project like this takes patience, volunteers and most of all teamwork.

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Ray City Packers 9-10 Football Champs; Win Triple Crown

By Eugene Shearl

The Berrien County Athletic Association's 9-10 year old football season came to an exciting conclusion last October as the Ray City Packers claimed a hard-fought 6-0 victory over the Alapaha Steelers to clinch the league title in the final game of the season.

Both teams began the championship game with identical records of 7-1, with each team losing only to the other in earlier meetings. The final and defensive game was a hard fought defensive struggle. Ray City's explosive offense, led by the rushing tailback Elliott Ryan and quarterback Trent Exum, and the passing combination of Exum to receiver Aaron Shearl, had outscored earlier opponents by a lopsided margin of 213-24. But this potent offense was held in check by a fired-up Alapaha defense until late in the game.

The scoreless deadlock was finally broken with 3:56 left in the game when Packer running back Elliott Ryan blasted through the Alapaha defenders for a 63 yard touchdown romp. Ray City failed to convert the extra point, and following the kickoff. Alapaha proved they were down, but not out of this ball game. Behind the rushing of Ty Andrews, the Steelers charged back downfield to the Ray City 26 yard line. Finally, the stingy Packer defense, led by inside linebackers Carl Stalvey and Jarad Chumbley, dug in and refused to give up another yard. Alapaha was forced to turn the ball back to the Packers with 1:44 remaining.

The clock could not move fast enough for the Packers' coaches and fans, as their team was unable to make a first down on the ensuing series of plays, and had to give the ball back to the Steelers on the Ray City yard line with only 36 seconds remaining in the game.

Alapaha's Ty Andrews made things more interesting on the very next play, as he burst into the Packer's Defensive secondary. A saving tackle out-of-bounds by Ray City linebacker Daryn Snipes stopped the clock with 6 seconds remaining, and the game was still undecided. With the

entire ball park on their feet, one final deep pass was launched by the Steelers toward the Packer end zone, but it was batted down by a host of Ray City defenders to secure the victory as time expired.

Last spring, the Ray City 9-10 team won the BCAA youth basketball title, then continued their winning ways by also capturing the BCAA 9-10 baseball crown this summer. This football championship capped a "Triple Brown" season for these young Ray City athletes.

The Packers were coached by Carroll Exum, assisted by Gene Shearl and Brent Exum. The Steelers were coached by Mark Dixon and David Roberts.



RAY CITY PACKERS 9-10 FOOTBALL CHAMPS (Kneeling L-R) Carl Stalvey, Nick Clisby, Elliott Ryan, Aaron Shearl, Ryan Adams, Chad Crews, Justin Clements. (Standing L-R) Jarad Chumbley, Trent Exum, Cain Staines, Sinaka Sanders, Ken Walsh, Donald Ford, Daryn Snipes. (Coaches L-R) Gene Shearl, offense, Carroll Exum, head coach, Brent Exum, defense.

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Ray City School Alumni Dribble For Dollars

by: Terri Staines

Ray City School Alumni faced a tough opponent on the basketball court at Berrien High School gym on Saturday, January 11th. The Alapaha School Alumni bounced over Ray City and slam-dunked the victory for the Alapaha ladies and mens teams, the scores being 26-38 and 71-52 respectively. This was the first game in a 2 game fund raiser series sponsored by the eighth grade Booster Club from each school. The second game will be played in Alapaha on Saturday, February 1st at their gym.

The proceeds from the games will help finance class trips for the eighth graders in each school. Ray City took the proceeds from the first game for their trip to the historical district in Savannah. Alapaha will also use the proceeds from the last game for their class trip.

Alumni players and coaches graduated from their schools on or before 1980. The "fans" overwhelmingly supported and encouraged their teams while the team members enjoyed a taste of the good ole days of comraderie and aching muscles.

Let's support our school by supporting our Alumni on February 1st!



Do You Recognize These Ladies
They Are Two Of "Our Own."

Did You Know?

by: Betty Shearl

Did you know?

*That the Gold Rush in California in 1849 increased the population of California from 20,000 to 107,000 in eleven months?

*That the country of France was the first to salute the United States flag on February 14, 1778?

*That the worlds largest railroad yard is in Winnipeg, Canada?

*That the tune Yankee Doodle is centuries older than the Revolutionary War? The tune originated in Southern Europe in the Middle Ages.

*That the Oxford Sparrow takes naps in flight?

*That the Chinese have used fingerprints for the signing of documents for more than 3,000 years.

*That Lake Eyre in Australia covers 3,600 square miles and has an average depth of four feet when it has water?

*That the year 2000 is a leap year, but 1900 was not? A century year is not a leap year unless it is evenly divisible by 400.

*That the most abundant element on earth is oxygen, and silicon is the second most abundant?

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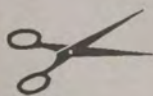
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