

# WATERWAYS

*Promoting the Development of Affordable Water and Wastewater Facilities, Activities and Resources to Improve the Quality of Life for Low-Income Rural Residents of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida*



Water Is Life®

## *Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.* *“The Original Water Project”*

### **Bay Aging Receives Grant from Southeast RCAP**

By: Vincent Smith, Vice President of Development for Bay Aging

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

145 Campbell Avenue, SW  
P. O. Box 2868  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
Phone: (540) 345-1184  
Fax: (540) 342-2932  
Web: www.southeastrcap.org



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With HUD shrinking the budget for 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program, construction materials going up, and increasing utility fees—finding part-



Allyn Gemerek, President BA, Joe Curry, Lancaster Board Member, Jimmy Carter, Lancaster Board Member, Albert Pollard, State Delegate, Vincent Smith, VP Property Development BA, Hope Cupit, President/CEO Southeast RCAP, & James Norman, VA. State Manager, Southeast RCAP

ners and additional sources of funds to **close budgeting gaps** is a necessity to complete projects. Bay Aging had this issue with Tartan Village Phase II, and Southeast RCAP was there to help with a \$100, 835 grant which allowed us to begin these 19 much needed apartments. This is not the first time Southeast RCAP has supplied funding for a Bay Aging project.

Below is a listing of the assistance Bay Aging has received from Southeast RCAP over the years:  
**\$16,200** – 27 units at Winters Point (West Point)  
**\$18,000** – 64 units Daffodil Gardens (Gloucester)  
**\$73,500** – 22 units Tartan Village Phase I (Kilmarnock)  
**\$93,500** – Adult Day Break in Gloucester  
**\$40,000** – Adult Day Break in Reedville

**\$59,793.81** – Monroe Hall for a new well and sewer  
**\$360,500** – Mt. Olive for a new well and sewer

**Southeast RCAP** funds have help improve the lives

of many residents on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

Southeast RCAP has committed an additional \$40,000 this year (2010) for 12 new units for Port Town Village Phase II (Middlesex) for apartments.

Bay Aging used a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through their 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program for \$2,321,100 that along with the \$100,835 from Southeast RCAP, to build 19 apartments for low income seniors 62 years and older in Kilmarnock. Construction began in October of 2009 and even with the heavy rains we had this winter, the project is still on schedule to be completed in October of 2010. We will begin intake for residents within the next 30 days.

#### Inside this issue:

Reflections from Hope F. Cupit, President & CEO	2
ARRA/Stimulus Funds Distributed to Rural Communities in SC	2
Dungannon, VA Drinking Water Plan Chlorination	3
Tom Brooks School Apartments in Shenandoah County	4
VISTA Volunteer Program Summer Associates	5
A Hobson Father's Homecoming	6
ARRA Technitrain Program Helps Southeast RCAP Clients	7

## Reflections from Hope F. Cupit, President & CEO



I had the pleasure of being among one of many panelists at Congressman Periello's conference organized by his office, titled *"Economic Growth in the 5th - Insider Tips to Build Competitiveness."*

Congressman Periello's goal for the conference was to introduce localities to various resources on the federal, state and local levels for attracting and growing local businesses. He also wanted to share up-to-date information on funding opportunities, and to brainstorm innovative approaches to building competitive advantage in communities in the 5th District.

The conference lasted roughly three hours on April 19, 2010. There were several breakout sessions that covered federal funding opportunities for local economic growth, infrastructure needs in the 5th District **(with a focus on water and broadband service)**. There was also some discussion on how to enhance small business growth opportunities.

As quoted by the Congressman, *"This is about jobs, and the partnership with our economic development professionals has been simply awesome,"* said Perriello. *"We are bringing together local job creation teams with public and private funding resources to invest in our region."*

The sessions involved discussions on how localities can access resources for project development as well as how to build capacity in order to empower their communities to locate productive funding streams.

I was delighted to represent Southeast RCAP at this very informative event. and inform the localities of what we have to offer.

## ARRA or Stimulus Funding Distributed to Rural Communities in South Carolina



USDA Rural Development has obligated over \$48 million in grants and \$28 million in loans in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to over 14 rural communities in South Carolina.

Some of these are current or past Southeast RCAP projects such as Talatha Rural Community Water Company, Goucher Rural Water Company and Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority. These funds will be used to repair, replace or upgrade water and wastewater systems.



The State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF), managed by the primacy agency, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has selected 11 Drinking Water Projects and nine Clean Water Projects for funding using ARRA

funds. Many of these are current, past or future Southeast RCAP projects such as Elloree, Harleyville, and West Pelzer in South Carolina. Pipes, valves and tanks will be replaced with larger ones. ARRA funds will also be used to run new water lines from the Lake Marion Regional Water plant near Santee to The Towns of Holly Hill and St. George, SC. These new lines will provide exceptionally clean water and will replace old town wells.

Southeast RCAP has received training on how recipients of ARRA funds can register and report on the use of these funds. We have contacted ARRA funding recipients and offered to assist with the electronic registration and reporting on the new website [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov). We plan to assist those who request it.



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## Dungannon, VA Drinking Water Plant Chlorination

By: Jo Ann Ray, Rural Development Specialist



Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains lies the quaint town of Dungannon. The town's name was derived from a village in northern Ireland. The population of Dungannon is approximately 317 people, of which 25.1% live below the poverty line. The Low-Moderate Income (LMI) levels are 60% with roughly a 7% minority.

Dungannon has had many problems over the years with its water and wastewater system throughout the town. One of the two existing wells has had some high turbidities and has been offline during some rainy periods (turbidity is caused by sediment, minerals and other particles such as organic matter being stirred up to give the water an opaque, milky or muddy appearance). The plant's membrane filtration system was built in 1999-2000, but has high filter run times due to poor source water. Seeking a solution, the town has already replaced expensive filter modules. Also the gaseous chlorination system needs to be modified since corrosion is a problem in the pump house.

The corrosive nature of the gaseous chlorination system has degraded the pipes, fittings, valves and meters. The town is planning on changing the system a to liquid chlorination system, which will mitigate this problem. EPA and other mandates will be changing in the future to have liquid chlorinators replace gas systems, so Dungannon will be in compliance with those future requirements.

Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) Ray has helped the town apply for Southeast RCAP funding to make the switch to liquid chlorination. Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. is currently working on the engineering report for the treatment plant improvements. In addition, TAP Ray will assist the Town with an Emergency Response Plan.





By: James Norman

The initial request for assistance with the Toms Brook School Apartments project came from Mike Rush, Director of Housing for PEOPLE INCORPORATED. PEOPLE INCORPORATED is a long-time partner Community Action Agency with Southeast RCAP. PEOPLE INCORPORATED has the Community Development Corporation status. Southeast RCAP Virginia Program Manager James Norman made the initial site visit and assessment on January 20, 2010 along with Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) Joann Ray.

Southeast RCAP staff members met with project construction supervisor Phil Lemieux and toured the Toms Brook Elementary School. It is being proposed for renovation into 23 affordable housing rental units. Southeast RCAP's role in the project is to provide financial assistance for the taps and laterals associated with water and sewer upgrades. Also, Southeast RCAP is providing assistance with the CDBG application, which is a chief source of financing. Assistance is also being rendered in preparing an application to Southeast RCAP's Loan Fund for project financing as well.

As part of their assessment, Norman and Ray collected photos of the school as it exists now. Additional information was obtained from Toms Brook Mayor Phillip Fauber and Postmaster Leta Strickler. These two individuals are key contacts for the school's history. They not only attended school there, but later returned to be teachers also. The school is rich in local history.

The proposed renovation will involve a mix of 13-three bedroom, 6-two bedroom, and 4-one bedroom apartments. All units will be rented for less than 50% of the area median rent. Eight units will be rented to families making 60% or less of the median income range, and the other 15 will be reserved for families making 50% or less of the area median income. One unit will be fully accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The shell of the school and overall footprint must be maintained in the process. The school sits immediately on your right as you drive into town on US Route 11 north from Woodstock.



*James Norman Inspecting the Toms Brook Project*

It is iconic in the local community. The project not only will go a long way toward providing affordable housing for low-median income families, but will also provide a much needed boost to the local economy through construction jobs. The project certainly falls within the guidelines of Southeast RCAP's goals for assisting small rural communities. Southeast RCAP is providing its Technical Assistance through the OCS grant.



## VISTA Volunteer Program Summer Associates



By: Lauren Mason, VISTA Manager

On June 7, 2010 Southeast RCAP welcomed three new volunteers to the Roanoke office. Rebekah Hertzberg, Maria Morran, and Anya Work will be serving as VISTA members with the 10 week Summer Associate VISTA program.



*Maria Morran, Rebekah Hertzberg  
and Anya Work (?)*

In May, Southeast RCAP applied and was approved for three Summer Associate VISTA Volunteers. The Summer Associate project is a 10 week program which allows existing VISTA sponsors to request additional volunteers for short, specific projects. These three young women will be working mainly on finding additional funding and sprucing up some of our current marketing materials.

Ms. Hertzberg, a graduate of Drury University in Missouri, will be working primarily on projects for the Volunteers for Communities program. Her degree in English and previous experience in grant writing for a

non-profit organization will assist her making a significant contribution to Southeast RCAP and Volunteers for Communities. She will be researching and applying for grants as well searching for potential sponsorships for the program. She will also be working on some of the marketing materials for the VFC program.

Ms. Morran, a current student at Hollins University, will be partnering with Ms. Anya Work, an English major and recent graduate of Hollins University, to research and write grants for the IPR program. Given the recent cuts in funding for the IPR program their contribution to the agency, if successful, could be substantial. Ms. Work's English degree as well as both women's education and excellent writing skills will contribute greatly to the grant writing process, as well as working in their favor in brainstorming a potential new tag-line for the agency.

The activities of these volunteers are intended to build the agency so that we attract more funding to IPR and more volunteers to the Volunteers for Communities program, which allows Southeast RCAP to provide needed volunteer work to rural communities and to attract communities who may need to make use of the water, wastewater, and housing services we provide. In addition, the creativity of the volunteers and new marketing materials may help to attract more private donations to the agency, which in turn will provide more opportunities to assist low-income rural residents in our service region.

The total grant amount from the Corporation for National and Community Service for this program is \$8,893.00 with an agency contribution of \$3,220.00. The minimal amount for this program covers living allowances for the volunteers, training materials, and travel reimbursement. Benefits for the volunteers for this program include the standard monthly living allowance and the choice between a small cash stipend or a small pro-rated education award.



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## A Hobson Father's Homecoming

By: Randolph Phillips, Rural Housing Specialist



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**Weathering the Storm** Out of the ground emerged the home that Howard Foster had looked forward to for so long. He is a man that knows construction, because he worked in shipbuilding for 40+ years as a welder and steelworker. Now he is retired, enjoying life with his nine children living nearby, grandchildren (“too many to count”) and is a practicing master gardener.

Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> happened to be the family Fathers Day celebration with children running around and excited to be at their granddad’s new home. Howard is both satisfied and thrilled to be back home again. Foster saw the construction progress and his dream house unfold during the constant barrage of wintry storms. This dream has become a reality on Mt. Lebanon Avenue in Hobson village Suffolk, VA.



*Steel Reinforced  
Concrete*

After the site preparations were made in January the steel reinforcing was delivered both for the foundation phase and again for the framing phase to add strength against the wind. These are just a few measures taken that prepares the house to repel storms. Weather tightness is another hallmark for Southeast RCAP housing reconstruction projects. You can always count on one thing—precipitation water flows constantly toward the ground. And as it travels, we are careful that it goes where we anticipate, not filling in cracks and gaps in the building’s exterior. Flashing and caulking are applied liberally to provide a quality weather barrier. Southeast RCAP inspects the structure for a sealed tight energy envelope that is well insulated. The homeowner can then enjoy the benefits of comfort and low energy bills.

Just as the steel reinforcing binds the house together to withstand the weight and weather, the same attention to detail goes into moisture protection. Attention is given to positive drainage and ventilation that safeguard the structure against moisture. Southeast RCAP uses accepted standard drainage pipes, gutters, moisture barriers, and pays special attention to ground slope to help manage ground water around the house perimeter. Finally, Southeast RCAP monitors these systems well after the construction is finished to make sure no problems are passed on to the homeowners. Low maintenance is always a big consideration from start to finish. Southeast RCAP takes advantage of current building products manufactured for low maintenance requirements. Gone are the days of painting window sills and frames every year to prevent rot, these windows are vinyl clad and weather tight. The siding and trim are also vinyl and aluminum.

Congratulations on your new home Howard.



*Howard Foster on His New  
Front Porch Steps*



*Low Maintenance Siding*

## DHEC Conducts a Ground Water Rule Workshop

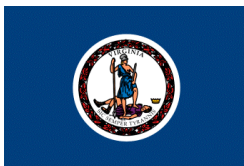
South Carolina DHEC Bureau of Water held a Ground Water Rule workshop at the DHEC central office in Columbia, SC. This was conducted by DHEC Bureau of Water Section Manager Richard Welch, P. E. and DHEC Engineer Rick Hiers, a former Southeast RCAP staff member. The Ground Water Rule is an EPA regulation that has been developed for several years. It went into effect on December 1, 2009. This workshop was attended by many small systems, some of which were current or past Southeast RCAP projects. The Southeast RCAP Regional Program manager, Robert Britts, attended. An extra copy of the Ground Water Rule manual was obtained and given to the Town of Holly Hill during a recent site visit. All ground water or well water systems have to sample for contaminants and take immediate action if certain contaminants are found. A Southeast RCAP project, the City of Bennettsville SC, took their first sample and a contaminant was found. A resample had to be taken and analyzed at an additional expense.

## ARRA Technitrain Program Helps Clients Throughout Southeast RCAP's Service Region

By: Russ Rice, Director of Regional Programs



Southeast RCAP received a sub-recipient award this May as part of a national RCAP grant from USDA-RD to give technical assistance to communities receiving recovery act funding. This new one year grant program is called Technitrain ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). It is similar to Southeast RCAP's longstanding Technitrain program, also funded by USDA-RD, in which technical assistance and training is administered to small rural communities for improvement to their water and wastewater systems. The Technitrain ARRA program, however, may only assist systems receiving ARRA funds for water and wastewater system upgrades.



To implement the program, Southeast RCAP solicited proposals and advertised for Technical Assistance Providers. Melinda Spall, formerly employed by the Florida Geological Survey, will carry out the program in Florida. Larry Wallace, PE, will serve Virginia. A proposal was accepted from Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) to carry out the program in Maryland and Delaware. Cheryl Lewis and Dave Teel will implement the program in those states. Joe Langston, PE, Teresa Crisp, PE, and Scott Ehrhardt, PE of Dewberry and Davis, will serve North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina respectively.



Southeast RCAP's commitment to the Technitrain ARRA program will involve 70 project communities over a 12 month period. Approximately one quarter of the targeted communities will be located in "persistent poverty counties" as defined by USDA-RD. The technical assistance to be delivered to these communities will range from low levels to of aid to intense efforts depending on their individual needs.



On the most basic level, the program will help identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems in the communities. Applicants for ARRA and other USDA-RD funding will be aided in preparing applications for water and waste grants and loans, and in reporting and compliance requirements associated with those funding awards.



Finally, technical assistance and training will be administered to help them improve management, operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities. Nine training workshops will be conducted in the seven state region. Following the end of this short-term grant program in June 2011, Southeast RCAP is committed to continued assistance to the effected communities through its other support programs.



### Pictures from Southeast RCAP 41st Water Is Life Luncheon



# Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

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145 Campbell Avenue, SW  
P. O. Box 2868  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
(540) 345-1184  
www.southeastrcap.org



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## Southeast RCAP Agency Contact Information

*Hope F. Cupit*, President & CEO, (540) 345-1184, ext. 121 or [hcupit@sercap.org](mailto:hcupit@sercap.org)  
*Bill Griffin*, Director of Planning and Development, (540) 345-1184, ext. 120 or [bgriffin@southeastrcap.org](mailto:bgriffin@southeastrcap.org)  
*Stephen Kendrick*, Director of Finance, (540) 345-1184, ext. 128 or [skendrick@sercap.org](mailto:skendrick@sercap.org)  
*Dario Krolo*, Loan Manager, (540) 345-1184, ext. 113 or [dkrolo@sercap.org](mailto:dkrolo@sercap.org)  
*Lauren Mason*, VISTA Manager, (540) 345-1184, ext. 129 or [lmorgan@sercap.org](mailto:lmorgan@sercap.org)  
*Shawna Nelms*, Director of Housing & Special Projects, (540) 345-1184, ext. 117 or [snelms@sercap.org](mailto:snelms@sercap.org)  
*Doug Phillips*, Small Systems Specialist, (540) 345-1184 or [dphillips@sercap.org](mailto:dphillips@sercap.org)  
*Beth T. Pusha*, Director of Loan Fund Programs, (540) 345-1184, ext. 123 or [bpusha@sercap.org](mailto:bpusha@sercap.org)  
*Russell Rice*, Director of Regional Programs, (540) 345-1184, ext. 118 or [rrice@sercap.org](mailto:rrice@sercap.org)  
*Donna Robinson*, Director of Human Resources and Operations, (540) 345-1184, ext. 129 or [drobinson@sercap.org](mailto:drobinson@sercap.org)  
*S. Maxine Waller*, Volunteers for Communities Program Manager, (276) 699-6844 or [swaller@sercap.org](mailto:swaller@sercap.org)  
**Delaware** - *Deanna Campagnini*, Technical Assistance Provider, (302)856-7761 or [dcampagnini@firststatecca.org](mailto:dcampagnini@firststatecca.org)  
**Florida** - *Joan Douglas*, State Program Manager, (352) 379-9802 or [jdouglas@sercap.org](mailto:jdouglas@sercap.org)  
**Georgia** - *Jim Caldwell*, Technical Assistance Provider, (770) 499-9076 or [garcap@bellsouth.net](mailto:garcap@bellsouth.net)  
**Maryland** - *Joyce Delaurentis*, Technical Assistance Provider, (410) 479-1063 or [jdelaurentis@mrdc.net](mailto:jdelaurentis@mrdc.net)  
**North Carolina** - *Marshall Yandle*, Technical Assistance Provider, (919) 542-7227 or [yandle@ncrcap.org](mailto:yandle@ncrcap.org)  
**South Carolina** - *Bob Britts*, Regional Program Manager, (803) 731-0584 or [rbritts@sercap.org](mailto:rbritts@sercap.org)  
**Virginia** - *James Norman*, Virginia State Manager, (540) 345-1184, ext. 118 or [jnorman@sercap.org](mailto:jnorman@sercap.org)

