

 **JASPER COUNTY SENIOR CENTER**

**Senior Citizen Center receives a Community Development Block Grant…**

Jasper County learned they received a $750,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund an expansion and renovation of the Jasper County Senior Center in September, 2017.

Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson) announced that Senate District 25 will be receiving four awards through the CDBG program. The CDBG program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Two of the awards are for infrastructure improvements and two are for employment incentive program and redevelopment.

“I want to commend the hard work of DCA and our local communities for securing this necessary funding,” said Sen. Jones. “These projects and incentives will improve our existing infrastructure, furthering economic development and job creation within our local community and our region. I look forward to working with DCA to bring additional funding and projects to Senate District 25.”

In addition to Jasper County’s award, the City of Milledgeville will receive $678,277 for sewer improvements. Butts and Putnam Counties will both be receiving $500,000 for employment incentive programs and redevelopment.

The goals of the projects selected through the CDBG program are to create jobs and drive economic growth within Georgia’s small and rural communities. Funding for the projects is awarded on an annual basis and communities who receive funding must complete their project within two years of receiving the award.

The early timeline for the work at the senior center doesn’t have construction starting until next June, however it could be a little sooner. The county will have to match the CDBG with $22,500 of its funds.

In addition to more space in the building, there is landscaping planned and the front porch will be extended and a back porch added.

The seniors love to sit and rock on the porch, said Tracy Norton, Senior Center Director. She praised the county for its work in securing the grant.