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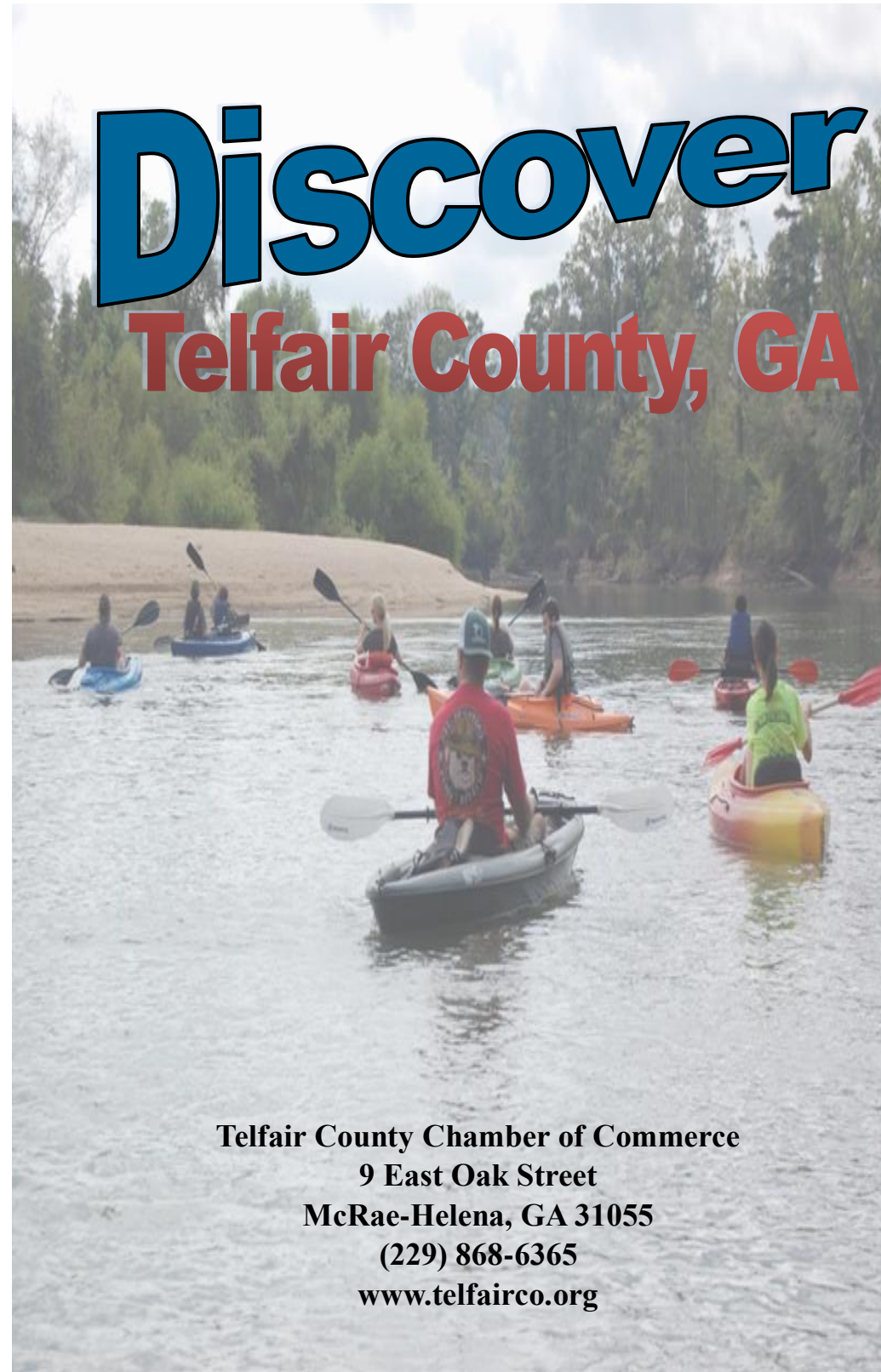
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Phone 404.656.7855

Discover Telfair County, GA



Telfair County Chamber of Commerce

9 East Oak Street

McRae-Helena, GA 31055

(229) 868-6365

www.telfairco.org

Telfair County, GA



TELFAIR COUNTY HISTORY

In 1807, Telfair County was the 35th county formed in Georgia. It was named after Governor Edward Telfair and primarily settled by Scottish Presbyterians from the Carolinas.

Telfair is located in south central Georgia, 154 miles southeast of Atlanta and 70 miles south of Macon.

The population is around 16,500 spreading over five cities: McRae-Helena (county seat), Jacksonville, Lumber City, Milan and Scotland with several unincorporated communities.

Climate and Country-Side Views

Telfair has four beautiful seasons. Winters are mild with an average high of 55° F while summers are warm with an average high of 93° F. Spring and Autumn are transitional with temperatures leaning to the warm side.

The mild climate throughout the year provides unlimited opportunities for recreation. Telfair's creeks and rivers provide for bountiful fishing and water activities. Hunters delight in the dove, quail, wild turkey, deer and small game.



The county's rural roads provide a pleasant mixture of gently rolling hills dotted with our number one natural product - pine trees and other country-side views. In the Summer, the sweet fragrance of honeysuckle adds to a delightful evening ride.

Safe & Secure



PUBLIC SAFETY

Feeling safe and secure for your family is important to Telfair County.

Telfair has 24-hour security offered for residents and visitors within the county provided by the Sheriff and his deputies, city police officers and the Georgia State Patrol along with the local fire departments.

Jacksonville, GA

Jacksonville, Georgia is named for General Andrew Jackson and was the first county seat government of Telfair County.

Between 1807 and 1812, court was held in various homes. In 1812 a courthouse was erected on the site of the present Methodist Church. In 1871, the county seat was moved to McRae.

Jacksonville was an important part of the Blackshear Trail which followed the Altamaha and Ocmulgee River from Darien to Fort Hawkins.

It was also the center of a large and wealthy plantation economy. Jacksonville was a landing for freight and passenger traffic on the river for some years before and after the War between the States.

The southern part of the City is bordered by the Ocmulgee River.



Lumber City, GA

Lumber City, Georgia was incorporated on September 3, 1889.



In the 1800's, Lumber City was a thriving town due to the tremendous amount of lumber and other products being shipped by steamboats to Brunswick and Darien, GA down the Ocmulgee River. Also, steamboats on the Ocmulgee River made connections with Southern Railroad in Lumber City. It was once known as the Artesian City due to the numerous artesian wells.

Lumber City is also home of the historic train trestle. This historical structure can be seen from Hwy 341, just south of Lumber City as you cross the Ocmulgee River.

It is not clear as to the date of construction of this landmark, but it could have been as early as 1910. This once was a rotating bridge which allowed for the passage of the steamboats that travelled the Ocmulgee River. The trestle was operated from the shed on top of the structure where the operator could see activities along the river and the rail tracts. The bridge no longer rotates but is still used on a daily basis for rail traffic.

McRae-Helena, GA

The City of McRae became the county seat in 1871 and was incorporated on March 3, 1874. It was named after Daniel Murphy McRae, a Scotsman, who was known for aiding in Telfair's county seat being moved from Jacksonville to McRae.

The City of Helena was incorporated on January 1, 1890. It was known as a small friendly town.

On January 1, 2015, McRae and Helena made history as the first city-to-city merger in decades. The two sister cities, known as the City of McRae and the City of Helena, is now known as the City of McRae-Helena. The city's new name dates to the time when the local school

system was known as McRae-Helena Schools. By consolidating, the two cities will be able to provide better services for their citizens.



McRae is also known as a crossroad city due to the fact that five major highways cross in the city.

McRae-Helena has a replica of the Statue of Liberty that is one-twelfth the size of the original.

Milan, GA



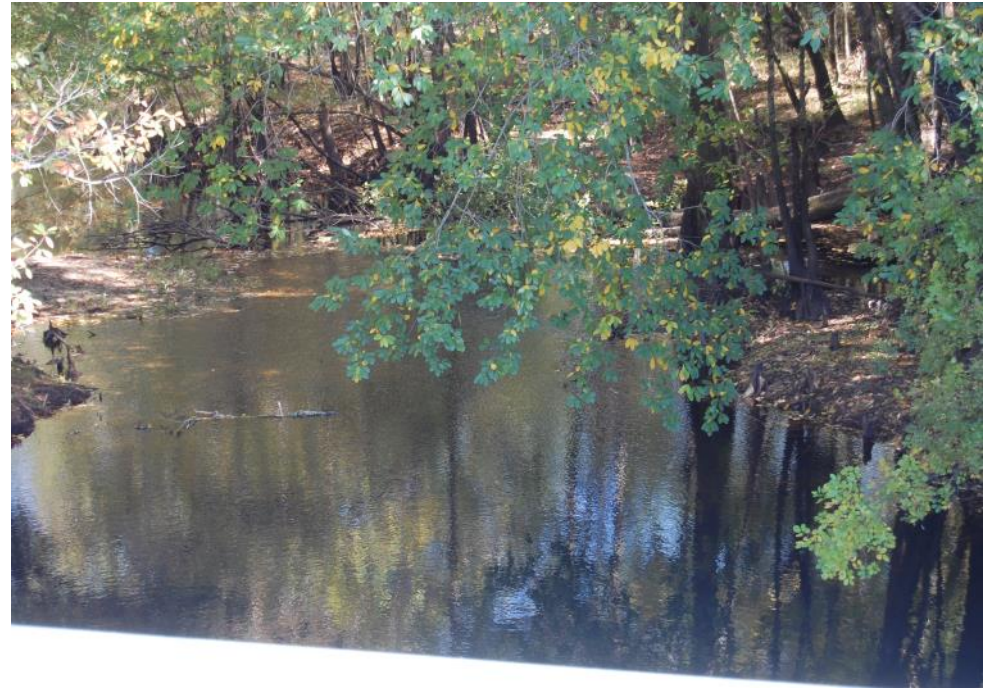
With the coming of the Seaboard Railroad in the early 1800's came the beginning of Milan, Georgia. A train depot was constructed in 1899. The Milan Depot was named by the wife of an executive of the railroad after she returned from a visit to Europe. The depot is still standing and has been refurbished.

Railroad transportation made it easy for farmers to ship their products to seaport cities. At one time, Milan had three cotton gins, sawmills and turpentine stills.

Part of the city is located in Telfair County and part in Dodge County. Milan is a serene and peaceful community surrounded by rich farmland.

Scotland, GA

Scotland was originally named McVille after the Civil War and was populated mostly by Spanish Presbyterians. McVille was chartered on September 23, 1881 and land was settled by Barnabus Livingston.



On August 9, 1911, it was chartered as Scotland, Georgia.

Gum Swamp, or as some know it, Little Ocmulgee river, follows the outer edge of Scotland where, at one time, thousands of logs were rafted down to Darien, GA. It was also one of the chief cotton markets of this territory.

Public Schools

The Telfair County Public School System pursues excellence by establishing a global learning environment for the student's success. Throughout the school system, programs and resources are in place to meet the needs of all students from Pre-K through 12th grade.



Telfair is fortunate to have top-quality teachers, staff and administrators who care deeply about the well-being of the

students and who work hard to create an environment that is safe, welcoming and academically rigorous for all students.



Technical College

Oconee Fall Line Technical College is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia. This technical college is dedicated to the economic and workforce development of Telfair County and the surrounding area by providing technical and continuing education, adult education and business and industry services.

They offer associates degrees, diplomas, technical certificates in a student-centered learning environment through traditional and distance learning modes of delivery.



A campus is located in McRae-Helena, Little Ocmulgee Instructional Center, as well as a campus in nearby Dublin.

Public Library

The Telfair County Public Library is a part of the Ocmulgee Regional Library System.



The Library provides a variety of opportunities:

- Books & Periodicals for all Ages
- Youth Vacation Reading Programs
- E-Books
- Book Signings
- Genealogy Department
- Public Computer Terminals
- Reference Help
- Readers Advisory Assistance
- Public Meeting Rooms

Leisure Services

Leisure activities are another of Telfair County's favorite. The county has a full time Department of Leisure Services that coordinates recreational activities for the young and the young-at-heart.

Some of the activities include softball, basketball, baseball, volleyball and football.



These organized sports have hundreds of participants each year.



Cultural Activities

Cultural activities are prevalent in Telfair County. As with many small towns, church activities are an important way of life for Telfair with over 100 churches, some having originated in the mid 1800's. Most denominations are represented.



In addition, the Old South Georgia College, as it is affectionately dubbed, is a cultural center, currently known as the Telfair Center for the Arts and operated by the Pioneer Historical Society.



The South Georgia College Administration Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Concerts, dance recitals and chorus groups are just a few of the many activities provided.

Tours are available by appointment: (229) 868-7114; www.tcfta.com

Historical homes and sites are very prominent throughout Telfair.



Museums of History

These museums display items of historic agriculture, naval stores, timber occupations and modes of transportation. Items displayed relate to Telfair's communities, notable individuals and families, record setting hunting and fishing, Indians native to the area, historic schools and cemeteries.

The Telfair Museum of History is located on Forsyth Street in McRae-Helena. Tours are available by appointment (229) 868-7114;

www.phshistory.org



The Scotland Fest Museum of History displays items relative to the City of Scotland and is located on Main Street in Scotland. Tours are available by appointment (229) 868-2105.



Historic Tours

Telfair Driving Tour

The Pioneer Historical Society has published the “Telfair Driving Trail” guide. This tour takes you through Telfair County highlighting historic sites and structures of the county. A printed copy of the guide book can be purchased from the Pioneer Historical Society: (229) 868-7114; www.phshistory.org



Walking Tour

This tour of homes is an easy, self-guided tour of more than 30 of McRae-Helena’s homes and churches of the New South Era. The guide can be downloaded from www.telfairco.org.

Sugar Creek Plantation

In Telfair it is referred to as the Talmadge House but others know it as



Sugar Creek Plantation. It is the former home to two Georgia Governors: Eugene Talmadge and Herman Talmadge. This historic home, recently restored to its previous grandeur, is available to tour by

appointment: (229) 315-5546; www.sugarcreekplantation.com

Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale

Parades, festivals and other outdoor events are held throughout the year which includes the well-known Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale.

Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale is Georgia’s longest yard sale and takes place along Hwy 341 from Barnesville to the coastal area.



Over 200 miles of yard sales link peach-growing counties to the coastal area, with stops in nearly every community along the way.

The yard sale features vendors selling everything from antiques, locally crafted items and the traditional yard sale fare. Yard sales range from the official large multi-organizational sites to the official individual vendors.

Official yard sale dates and hours are the second Friday & Saturday in March; 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days.

www.peachestothebeaches.com



Fireworks Show

Each year on the Saturday following July 4, Telfair County celebrates Independence Day beginning with live entertainment and ending with an explosive Fireworks Show.



The Boy and Club Scouts perform a flag raising and flag retirement ceremony.

Lumber City Farm Day Festival



The Lumber City Farm Day Festival is held on Main Street in Lumber City, GA. This event is hosted by the Lumber City Woman's Club.

Farm Day originally began in the 1950's. Everyone looked forward to the streets being closed to traffic with fun things happening such as chicken and hog calling contests, sack races, catch the greased pig, beauty contests for the teens and the one teenage boys loved - pie eating contests. It got a little messy sometimes. Farm Day always ended with a square dance with the local musicians and a caller... "All join

hands and circle left, then swing your corner lady". Farm Day continued for several years but as times changed it was dropped for other activities.

In 1995, a member of the Woman's Club said, "Lets have Farm Day again. I remember that it was so much fun." The fes-



tival is a two day event held on the Saturday and Sunday following Labor Day in September giving everyone memories that will last a lifetime with arts, crafts, food, entertainment, 1 mile fun run, 5K race, and ending with a Street Dance with a Band. www.lumbercityfarmday.org

Spanish Moss Festival



The Spanish Moss Festival is an arts and crafts festival surrounded by beautiful Spanish Moss trees at Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge.

The Festival features a wide variety of food and arts & crafts vendors along with train rides, amusement park activities and live entertainment.

During your visit you can rent canoes and bikes, take a hike on the walking trails, fish or play a game of golf on the 18-hole Wallace Adams Golf Course.

Lodge, lake-front cabins and camping rentals are available for your weekend stay. www.facebook.com/lo.spanishmoss



Milan Harvest Festival

Milan, GA celebrates the Harvest Season annually in November with old fashion fun during the Milan Harvest Festival.



Arts, crafts, kiddie rides and delicious food can be enjoyed

during this event. Live entertainment throughout the day ending with a live band where you can dance the night away.



Jingle Bell Walk & Christmas Night Out

The Jingle Bell Walk is held on the first Thursday of December and kicks-off the Christmas Holidays in McRae-Helena. Participants enjoy a stroll down Eighth and Oak Street wearing their funkiest Christmas socks and jingling their Christmas Bells.



Christmas Night Out... Tis' the Season for friends, family, fun and shopping the first Thursday night of December in McRae-Helena. At participating locations, you can visit with friends, make new friends, enjoy entertainment, visit with Santa, talk with Elves, makes S'mores, decorate a Christmas cookie, enjoy refreshments and SHOP, SHOP, SHOP!

Night Christmas Parade

The night Christmas Parade makes for a magical Christmas evening with floats, marching bands, dancers, cars & trucks traveling down Eighth and Oak Street where hundreds of people are lined up along the sidewalks to watch.

The parade is held the first Friday in December at 6 p.m.



Christmas in Lumber City & Lighting of the Tree

Christmas in Lumber City brings the spirit of Christmas to Lumber City and is hosted by the Lumber City Womens Club. Merchants and restaurants are open late and churches and civic organizations provide entertainment and activities.



The Lighting of the Christmas Tree is held at the Telfair Center for the Arts and is sponsored by the Pioneer Historical Society.



Ocmulgee River

The Ocmulgee River makes up the entire southern boundary of Telfair County. Along this boundary, the river flows generally in a west to east direction. This gentle arc forms what is known as the “Big Bend” of the Ocmulgee River.

The river is popular for sportsmen of all kind: canoeing, kayaking, fishing, camping and bird watching.

There are five boat ramps for public access to the river:

- ◆ Lumber City Landing
Located off Hwy 341, Lumber City
- ◆ McRae’s Landing
Located off Hwy 117 approximately three miles west of Lumber City
- ◆ Stave’s Landing
Located off Hwy 117 approximately eight miles west of Lumber City or eight miles east of Jacksonville
- ◆ Scuffle Bluff Landing
Located off Hwy 117 on the Horse Creek WMA approximately eight miles west of Lumber City and eight miles east of Jacksonville.
- ◆ Dodge’s Lake Landing
Located off Hwy 117 approximately twelve miles west of Jacksonville



Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area

Horse Creek Management Area is located on Hwy 117 approximately seven miles east of Jacksonville or ten miles west of Lumber City. There are 8,400 acres where hunters delight in the dove, quail, wild turkey, deer and small game. The area is plentiful in pine and hardwood.

The WMA offers an excellent opportunity to



view wading birds, songbirds, and many other non-gam species of wildlife.

Camping is available in the primitive campground. The

southern side of the WMA is bordered by the Ocmulgee River.

Telfair County is also home of the World Record Largemouth Bass caught in 1932 by George Perry at Montgomery Lake, an oxbow off the Ocmulgee River located on the WMA.



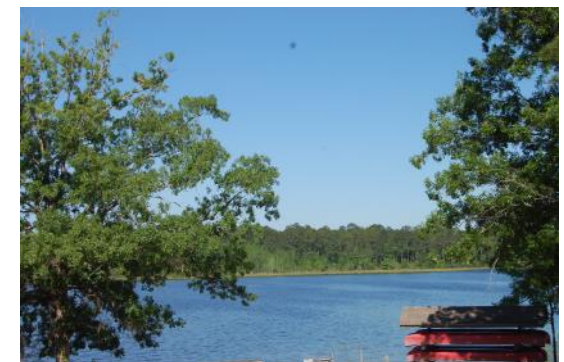
Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge

Little Ocmulgee State Park, known locally as 'Little O', scattered with live oaks, Spanish Moss, sand hills and tall southern pine trees makes for a relaxing destination for families to spend an enjoyable time hiking, playing tennis, golfing and lake activities.



Amenities include:

- * Lodge
- * Cabins
- * 18-hole Golf Course
- * Nature Trails
- * Playgrounds
- * Splash Pad
- * 265 Acre Lake for Fishing & Canoeing
- * Group Shelters
- * Picnic Area



Municipal Contacts

Municipal Contacts

City of Jacksonville
P.O. Box 7
Jacksonville, GA 31544
(229) 833-6901

City of Lumber City
33 Main St.
P.O. Box 489
Lumber City, GA 31549
(912) 363-4942

City of McRae-Helena
25 S. First Ave.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6051
www.mcrae-helena.org

City of Milan
2 Mt. Zion St.
P.O. Box 87
Milan, GA 31060
(229) 362-4290

City of Scotland
969 Main St.
P.O. Box 197
Scotland, GA 31083
(229) 868-2315

County Offices & Development Authority Contacts

Telfair County Sheriff's Office
19 E. Oak St.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6621 (non-emergency)
Emergencies Dial 911

Board of Commissioners
91 Telfair Ave. Suite B
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-5688

Superior Court
19 E. Oak St. Suite C
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6525

Tax Commissioner
91 Telfair Ave. Suite G
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6545

Registrar
91 Telfair Ave.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-2023

Development Authority of
Telfair County
9 E. Oak St.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6365

Probate Court
19 E. Oak St. Suite A
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6038

Magistrate Court
19 E. Oak St
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6772

Tax Assessor
16 S. Second Ave.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-2896

Landfill
98 Landfill Lane
Jacksonville, GA 31544
(229) 833-4620

City of Milan Development
Authority
2 Mt. Zion St.
P.O. Box 87
Milan, GA 31060
(229) 362-4250

Education Contacts

Public School System

Board of Education
212 Huckabee St.
P.O. Box 55240
McRae-Helena, GA31055
www.telfairschools.org

High School
458 S. Third Ave.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6096

Middle School
3 W. Hwy 280
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-7465

Elementary School
532 E. Oak St.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-7483

Pre-K
212 Huckabee St.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-5414

Technical College

Oconee Fall Line Technical College
www.oftc.edu

South Campus
560 Pinehill Rd.
Dublin, GA 31021
(478) 275-6589

Little Ocmulgee
Instructional Center
140 N. Third Ave.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-7834

Headstart Program

Helena Headstart
1301 Homer Ave.
McRae-Helena, GA 31055
(229) 868-6234

Other Contact Information

- Amerigas (229) 868-2721
- AT&T (877) 757-6500
- Chamber of Commerce (229) 868-6365
- Community Service Center (229) 868-5966
- Cooperative Extension Office (229) 868-6489
- Department of Family & Children Services (229) 868-3030
- Department of Labor (478) 374-6994
- Department of Driver Services (678) 413-8400
- Department of Natural Resources (912) 685-2145
- Georgia Natural Gas (877) 213-1053
- Georgia Power (888) 660-5890
- Georgia State Patrol Post 16 (229) 868-3074
- Health Department (229) 868-7404
- Library (229) 868-2978
- Little Ocmulgee EMC (912) 568-7171
- Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge (229) 868-7474
- Recreation Department (229) 868-5895
- Social Security Administration (888) 655-6438
- Windstream (866) 445-5880