

BUSINESS BRIEFS



GMA 2nd Vice President and Vienna Councilmember Beth English, along with Metter Mayor Billy Trapnell, GMA president, present Lake Park with the Certified City of Ethics designation. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cities recognized for adopting ethics ordinance

ATLANTA — Six Georgia cities were recognized as “Certified Cities of Ethics” at the Georgia Municipal Association’s (GMA) Annual Convention June 27, bringing the total number of Certified Cities of Ethics in Georgia to more than 200.

The cities of Adairsville, Cordele, Lake Park, Millen and Quitman along with the town of Sharpsburg are the latest additions to the program.

The voluntary program, developed by a panel of business and govern-

ment leaders, encourages cities to adopt and adhere to a set of key ethical principles and a comprehensive model ethics ordinance. The ordinance guides city officials’ conduct in areas such as financial disclosures, conflicts of interests and outside employment.

The ordinance also contains strong penalty provisions – including public reprimands, fines and removal from office – for city officials who violate the ordinance.

A panel of attorneys reviewed the ordinances to determine if they comply with the criteria set by GMA. The cities received a plaque and are now authorized by GMA to use a “Certified City of Ethics” logo on city stationery, road signs, city vehicles and for other uses.

Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to its 510 member cities.