

## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ADOPTED

Meeting in regular session on August 17<sup>th</sup>, the Council of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission adopted the 2017-2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. The CEDS document examines the region's character, top industrial sectors, and strong clusters to derive economic strategies for Northeast Georgia. Additional information is drawn from a comprehensive analysis of regional economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats developed through input from more than 350 local stakeholders. Using this data, the CEDS Committee (comprised of representatives from each of our 12 counties) developed the CEDS Action Plan. This Plan is intended to guide economic development efforts across the region.

In the Action Plan, action items and strategies surrounding them are intended to reinforce and grow the region's nuanced economy while identifying methods to strengthen the region's economic resilience. Action items are as follows:

- Develop and implement public information and marketing for the region.
- Support and encourage local entrepreneurs and artists.
- Public – private – non-profit partnerships to address local weaknesses and threats.
- Foster a skilled and dedicated workforce.
- Establish information systems and partnerships to face environmental threats.

Chapter 4 of the CEDS contains the full Action Plan including tasks, key facilitators, and performance measures for the action items and strategies. The complete CEDS may be found at [negrc.org/resources.php](http://negrc.org/resources.php).

## JACKSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RETREAT

**Jim Shaw**, Jackson County Private Sector Representative to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC), requested that Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** facilitate a retreat for the Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council. The session was held on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the headquarters of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation in Jefferson. Attendees in addition to Mr. Shaw included **Matt Benson, Joe Hicks, Jim Hix, Ronnie Hopkins, Scott Martin, Roy Plott, Kevin Poe, Jennifer Scott, James Wascher, and Dylan Wilbanks**. The group discussed the current economic development structure in the County, along with present and anticipated results. Attendees also discussed future possibilities associated with the economic development role, along with funding considerations. Finally, a concise Action Plan was outlined.



*Economic Development  
Council Members*

## BOSWELL TO CHAIR STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

On Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, by unanimous decision, the State Transportation Board elected its new executive leadership team. **Jamie Boswell** was named Chairman, **Ann R. Purcell** was named Vice Chairman, and **Tim Golden** was named Secretary. The new positions are effective immediately.

Chairman Boswell of Athens represents the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and has served on the Board since 2013, most recently as Vice Chairman. He serves on five committees and previously chaired the Property Utilization Committee. He is a business and civic leader; president and owner of a group of insurance, real estate and appraisal companies; and graduate of the University of Georgia. As Chairman, Boswell will serve as ex officio member of all committees.



Jamie Boswell

## SPOTLIGHT STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to **Kimberly Faust**, who was recently featured as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Spotlight Student for the Month. Ms. Faust had worked in the medical field for several years as a phlebotomist. Once her son got a little older, she decided to upgrade her skills and become a Registered Nurse. She attended Piedmont College; and in the fall of 2015, she was accepted into the Nursing program after completing core classes.

Ms. Faust's journey was one of commitment and perseverance. She was eligible for WIOA funding, which covered \$6,000 towards tuition. She was also eligible for a travel allowance, which helped out tremendously since her classes were on the Demorest campus of Piedmont College, and she resides in Athens. Ms. Faust did her externship at University Hospital in Augusta, where she was offered a job. She graduated from Piedmont College in May 2017. She passed her R.N. exam at the end of May, and began her new career as a Registered Nurse at University Hospital, working in the E.R. Congratulations Ms. Faust, on a job well done!

For further information on WIOA, contact **Carol R. Cofer** at (706) 369-5650 or email at [crayburn@negrc.org](mailto:crayburn@negrc.org).

Ms. Faust



## BEWARE OF NEW SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Social Security Administration (SSA) recently issued a fraud advisory about a new scam targeting beneficiaries. SSA has received reports from around the country about beneficiaries receiving calls from scammers impersonating SSA employees, saying the beneficiary is owed a 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase of their Social Security benefits. In order to get the increase, victims must give their personally identifying information such as name, date of birth, and Social Security number, parents' names, etc. Once they have this information, the scammers use it to contact SSA and request changes to the victim's direct deposit, address, and telephone information to divert their social security benefits.

If you receive any communication that claims to be from SSA that seems suspicious, please contact your local Social Security office, or the toll-free customer service number at **1-800-772-1213** or the OIG office at **1-800-269-0271** or online via <https://oig.ssa.gov/report>.

## NEGRC COUNCIL ELECTS PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES AND CHAIRMAN ROSEBERRY APPOINTS COMMITTEES

The Bylaws of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission provide for Private Sector Representation from each of the twelve counties in the Northeast Georgia region. Nominees are chosen by the leadership of each of the twelve counties; and at the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the following persons were appointed (or reappointed):

- |                       |   |                          |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Tommy Jennings</b> | - | <b>Barrow County</b>     |
| <b>Lamar Houston</b>  | - | <b>Clarke County</b>     |
| <b>Bill Palmer</b>    | - | <b>Elbert County</b>     |
| <b>Lee Rhodes</b>     | - | <b>Greene County</b>     |
| <b>Jim Shaw</b>       | - | <b>Jackson County</b>    |
| <b>David Dyer</b>     | - | <b>Jasper County</b>     |
| <b>Bob Padilla</b>    | - | <b>Madison County</b>    |
| <b>David Bentley</b>  | - | <b>Morgan County</b>     |
| <b>Frank Turner</b>   | - | <b>Newton County</b>     |
| <b>Amrey Harden</b>   | - | <b>Oconee County</b>     |
| <b>Ronnie Boggs</b>   | - | <b>Oglethorpe County</b> |
| <b>Joyce Chambers</b> | - | <b>Walton County</b>     |

Also, the Council has four standing Committees; and every two years the new Chairman makes revisions. The revised Committees are:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Audit &amp; Finance</u></b> | <b><u>Planning &amp; Government Services</u></b> |
| <b>Amrey Harden, Chairman</b>     | <b>Tommy Lyon, Chairman</b>                      |
| <b>Jody Blackmon</b>              | <b>Andy Ainslie</b>                              |
| <b>Joyce Chambers</b>             | <b>Linda Blechinger</b>                          |
| <b>Lamar Houston</b>              | <b>John Daniell</b>                              |
| <b>Tommy Jennings</b>             | <b>Dave Dyer</b>                                 |
| <b>Lee Rhodes</b>                 | <b>Cary Fordyce</b>                              |
| <b>Roy Roberts</b>                | <b>Pat Graham</b>                                |
| <b>Jim Shaw</b>                   | <b>Howard Ledford</b>                            |
| <b>John Scarborough</b>           | <b>Bill Palmer</b>                               |
| <b>Jeffery Smith</b>              | <b>Carl Pennamon</b>                             |
| <b>Stone Workman</b>              | <b>Burke Walker, Staff</b>                       |
| <b>Alicia Page, Staff</b>         |  |
| <b><u>Personnel</u></b>           | <b><u>Program of Work</u></b>                    |
| <b>Kevin Little, Chairman</b>     | <b>Billy Pittard, Chairman</b>                   |
| <b>Ronnie Boggs</b>               | <b>Marcello Banes</b>                            |
| <b>Larry Guest</b>                | <b>David Bentley</b>                             |
| <b>Tate O'Rourke</b>              | <b>Rick Berry</b>                                |
| <b>Bob Padilla</b>                | <b>Phil Brock</b>                                |
| <b>Fred Perriman</b>              | <b>Tom Crow</b>                                  |
| <b>Roy Plott</b>                  | <b>Nancy Denson</b>                              |
| <b>Greg Thompson</b>              | <b>Dodd Ferrelle</b>                             |
| <b>Frank Turner</b>               | <b>Charlie Crawford (A)</b>                      |
| <b>Louise Adams (A)</b>           | <b>Harold Horton (A)</b>                         |
| <b>Buddy Ouzts (A)</b>            | <b>David Nunn (A)</b>                            |
| <b>Flemmie Pitts (A)</b>          | <b>Joel Seymour (A)</b>                          |
| <b>Jim Dove, Staff</b>            | <b>Mott Beck, Staff</b>                          |

The Chairman is an ex-officio member of each Committee. The Audit & Finance and Program of Work Committees meet every month prior to the Council meeting, and the other two Committees meet throughout the year on an "as needed" basis.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

In March 2014, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) published a revised set of minimum standards and procedures for local comprehensive planning. While local governments remain on five-year update schedules, these new rules were developed in response to county and city input and represent a significant departure from the previous standards.

At the center of the revision is the concept of a "Basic" plan to be prepared by Regional Commissions at no cost to local governments. It consists of the following required elements: Community Goals, Needs and Opportunities, and Community Work Program. Based on community attributes, your jurisdiction may be required to include special focus elements on Land Use (for communities with zoning), Transportation (those included in a Metropolitan Planning Organization's boundary), Housing (HUD CDBG entitlement communities), and/or Economic Development (Georgia Job Tax Credit Tier 1 communities). Local governments wishing to contract the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) to develop comprehensive plans will be quoted fees for these additional elements as well as any further requested work, such as a customized and more robust stakeholder-involvement process.

The NEGRC strongly recommends that cities and counties engage in unified planning processes (i.e., joint plan). Even with the unified process, NEGRC staff is often able to produce separate documents for each jurisdiction. In some counties, not all local governments have the same plan update deadlines; we are happy to work with all communities contemporaneously to realign schedules and continue to promote collaborative planning in the future.

The NEGRC will notify all local governments in writing of upcoming planning deadlines as a way to ensure retention of Qualified Local Government Status (QLG). Due to the heavy demand of comprehensive-plan assistance, local governments are encouraged to request NEGRC assistance as early as possible.

For questions regarding the new planning rules and "Basic Plan" development, please contact Principal Planner **John Devine**, AICP, at **(706) 369-5650** or [jdevine@negrc.org](mailto:jdevine@negrc.org).

### REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will be held on **Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## NEGRC COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS

Meeting in regular session on August 17<sup>th</sup>, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council elected officers for two-year terms. Incoming Chairman **Jerry Roseberry** received the gavel from Immediate

Past Chairman **Frank Turner**. As Mayor of Oxford, Mr. Roseberry has represented Newton County on our Council as Municipal Representative since July, 2009. The new Vice Chairman is Oglethorpe County Chairman **Billy Pittard**, a member of the Council since January, 2009. Elbert County Private Sector Representative **Bill Palmer**, Council member since August, 2011, was elected as Secretary. The Oath of Office was administered by Mr. Turner, and he expressed confidence that the trio will serve NEGRC well during their terms.



L-R: Roseberry, Turner



L-R: Pittard, Roseberry, Turner

## GEORGIA TRUST ANNOUNCES 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation recently announced their 'call for entries' for the 2018 Preservation Awards. These awards recognize significant contributions in preserving Georgia's historic resources. The awards can be made to various entities including: local governments, non-profit organizations, public institutions, private firms, and individuals. The Georgia Trust also provides awards in the following six categories that conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*:

- Restoration
- Rehabilitation
- Sustainable Rehabilitation
- Preservation
- Stewardship
- Preservation Service

Entries and projects must be located in Georgia, completed, and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Nomination forms are due to the Georgia Trust by **Monday, November 6, 2017**. A fee of \$50 is required for all entities besides governmental entities and non-profit organizations. The nomination form is available at <http://www.georgiatrust.org/images/preservation/2018nominationform.pdf>.

Specific questions about the nominations can be directed to **Danielle Meunier**, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Communications Coordinator, at 404-885-7814 or email: [dmeunier@georgiatrust.org](mailto:dmeunier@georgiatrust.org)

For information about historic preservation and NEGRC assistance, contact **Jordan Shoemaker**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at **(706) 369-5650** or email: [jshoemaker@negrc.org](mailto:jshoemaker@negrc.org).



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# Update

## REGIONAL MEETINGS SEPTEMBER

13	12:30 p.m.	NEGA Solid Waste Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
19	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
21	3:00 p.m.	Firefly Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
27	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



*Sincerely & Respectfully,*