

BOGART – PROUD PAST, PROMISING FUTURE

The City of Bogart, with an estimated population of 1150 persons, is located mostly in Oconee County with a portion extending into Clarke County. Originally named for the influential Creek-Seminole Leader **Osceola**, the City was renamed Bogart in honor of a respected railroad agent after it was learned that another Georgia community was known by the same aforementioned Native American name. Many early settlers arrived during the Land Lottery of 1820. When the railroad line from Athens to Atlanta was built in the 1890's, life flourished in Bogart, and the City was incorporated in 1905. At one time, the City had a thriving bank, mercantile store, boarding house, drugstore, railroad depot, three cotton gins, post office, blacksmith, school, several churches, and grist mills. Today's City Government is led by Mayor **Terri Glenn**, and Councilmembers **Janet Jones**, **John Larkin**, **Pamela McNair**, and **David Nunn**, along with City Clerk **Diane Craft**. Given the City's location, significant development will continue to occur within its boundaries.



Downtown Bogart



Community Center



Historical Agricultural Center



COUNCIL MEMBERS SEATED

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council welcomed two new members at its January meeting. Athens-Clarke County Mayor **Kelly Girtz** was seated along with Elbert County Commission Chairman **Lee Vaughn**. Both assumed their current office earlier in the month. Mayor Girtz previously served on the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County representing District 9 and succeeded **Nancy Denson**, who served the maximum two terms as provided for in the local Charter. Chairman Vaughn previously served one term on the Elbert County Board of Commissioners, and succeeded **Tommy Lyon** who retired from public service.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOVE HONORED

Executive Director **Jim Dove** recently completed a four-year term as President of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC). He is shown here with current GARC President **Lisa Cribb** (Southern Georgia Regional Commission) accepting an award for his years of service to the organization.



**NORTHEAST GEORGIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
THE YEAR IN REVIEW
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

Number served through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Formula Funds

	Number Served	Dollars Spent
Adults	591	\$2,239,154
Youth	600	\$1,586,894
Dislocated Worker	65	\$ 351,175
Total	1,256	\$4,177,223

**Performance Outcomes
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

Adult	
2 nd Quarter Employment Rate	71.4%
4 th Quarter Employment Rate	70.9%
Median Earnings Per Quarter	\$6,375+
Credential Attainment	81.9%

Dislocated Worker	
2 nd Quarter Employment	64.6%
4 th Quarter Employment Rate	83.35
Median Earnings Per Quarter	\$6,746
Credential Attainment	79.2%+

Youth	
2 nd Quarter Employment Rate	87.3%+
4 th Quarter Employment Rate	87.6%+
Credential Attainment	87.4%+

Overall Program Performance*	
Adult	96.6% / Met Performance Goal
Dislocated Worker	98.9% / Met Performance Goal
Youth	113.8% / Exceeded Performance Goal

* Overall Program Performance calculated by averaging the individual indicators for each program.

+ Exceeded negotiated percent

Source: TCSG Office of Workforce Development

Number Served by County

County	Adult	Youth	Dislocated Worker	Total	Employers
Barrow	64	67	11	142	9
Clarke	172	177	15	364	42
Elbert	16	24	0	40	1
Greene	21	26	1	48	8
Jackson	69	72	6	147	15
Jasper	3	24	0	27	1
Madison	32	34	5	71	3
Morgan	12	17	1	30	4
Newton	95	62	10	167	12
Oconee	20	22	5	47	12
Oglethorpe	9	20	1	30	1
Walton	73	52	7	132	8
Returning Citizens				24	
Disability Initiative				14	
Other (in-state)	5	3	3	11	70**
Other (out of state)					43***
Total	591	600	65	1,256	229

** Number of employers in other counties in Georgia hiring WIOA trainees

***Number of employers in other states hiring WIOA trainees

NEGSWMA WARMING UP NEXT TO THE FIRE

It's perhaps not widely known that the City of Greensboro is home to the world's first aluminum recycling facility that produces flat-rolled aluminum products from used beverage cans. This facility provides up to 125 full-time jobs and serves as an important contributing business in the NEGRC region. The existing company, Novelis, was originally known as Alcan and operates a large facility just off I-20. This processing facility melts and reforms metal cans every day. Accounting for half of all soda cans bought in the U.S., Novelis recycles more than 65 billion cans annually, which translates to a speedy pace of 1.2 million pounds per week!

The Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority (NEGSWMA) recently had the opportunity to tour the facility and learn about this crucial step in the recycling process. Starting out, Novelis receives large cube bails of crushed cans from numerous sources around the Western Hemisphere including Brazil, Canada, and the United States. Once received, the cans are separated through a series of shredders and smelters meant to granulate the metal and remove all ink contaminants. These shredders traverse the facility in a two story maze that leads to further processing. Once most of the contaminants are separated, the metal is pre-heated and loaded into a furnace burning at temperatures in excess

of 1,200° Fahrenheit! The furnace concentrates pools of liquid metal used to form new blocks of solid aluminum weighing 54,000 lbs. These are then shipped one at a time to other facilities to be formed into products for the automotive and beverage industry.

The scale of the Novelis facility can be lost by the size of operating equipment coupled with numerous turns and crosswalks. Its importance, however, is not lost. Creating new aluminum blocks out of recycled cans takes a mere ten percent of the energy that mining new ore requires. As our population continues to grow, recycling materials such as this will become an ever more crucial function of our societies. The NEGSWMA greatly enjoyed being able to experience such a unique process in our region and look forward to continuing education on the importance of recycling and solid waste management.

For questions or information about the NEGSWMA, contact **Mark Beatty**, NEGR Project Specialist, at mbeatty@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.



Group touring facility

AGING PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD

Two Public Hearings were recently held on the State Fiscal Year 2020 Area Plan for the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging. The Planning and Service Area includes Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties. The Public Hearings were held at Athens Community Council on Aging on December 3rd; and Jackson County Senior Center in Jefferson on December 5th.

These hearings are held to inform Northeast Georgia residents of the Aging Services' Plan for State Fiscal Year 2020, and to provide citizens with an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to the Northeast Georgia Planning and Service Area.

Attendees received an overview of the Area Agency on Aging, the State Fiscal Year 2020 Planning Budget, and the Aging & Disability Resource Connection.

Other services reviewed were the Senior Community Services Employment Program, Adult Day Care, GeorgiaCares, Elderly Legal Assistance Program, Community Care Services Program, and Senior Center Services.

During the Q&A portion of the hearings, topics discussed were how much can you earn working while receiving Social Security benefits; how to get an emergency response system; how to get a service animal; and services offered by the Elderly Legal Assistance Program.

For further information on the State Fiscal Year 2020 Area Plan Public Hearings or the services discussed, contact **Peggy Jenkins** at pjenkins@negrc.org or (706) 583-2546, Ext. 101.

WIOA SUCCESS STORY

Edwin Vergara-Gomez graduated from Cedar Shoals High School in 2017 and hoped to attend college, but he did not think it was possible due to financial reasons. After learning of opportunities available through WIOA and Athens Technical College, he enrolled in the Bridge to Success Program and learned he was eligible to attend college through WorkSource Georgia's Youth Program.

Mr. Gomez earned certifications from both the Diesel Electric Systems Technician and Diesel Truck Maintenance Programs and quickly found full-time employment at Roll-Off Systems in Statham as a Truck Maintenance Technician.

WorkSource funds paid for his tuition, books, tools and transportation, which helped him become certified in several areas without accruing any student loan debt. He says he is grateful for the doors that have been opened for him through Athens Tech and WorkSource NEGA. His job with Roll-Off Systems afforded him the opportunity to obtain his CDL license, and continues to allow him to learn more about diesel vehicles and machines.



Mr. Gomez

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

The NEGR's Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division will be conducting "Plan Implementation Meetings" (PIM) over the next several months for the following counties and their municipalities: Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison and Oglethorpe. These meetings require the attendance of the chief elected official and other appropriate local government staff. The purpose of these meetings is generally for PGS staff to assist local governments in effective use of their comprehensive plans and to promote good planning practices. The meeting also offers an opportunity for PGS staff to identify ways the NEGR can assist in implementing the plans.

These meetings have been held in years past, and they are typically held jointly with the county and municipalities. Separate meetings, however, can be scheduled if requested. Last month, these meetings were announced in a letter from **Burke Walker**, NEGR Director of PGS, and sent to the above mentioned, chief elected officials. PGS staff will be following up with named counties to schedule a convenient time and location to conduct these meetings. PGS staff is looking forward to coordinating and conducting these meetings over the next two to three months, and appreciate the efforts and time of each local government.

For information about these meetings, contact Mr. Walker at bwalker@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.



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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS FEBRUARY

13	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Solid Waste Management Authority	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	9:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
21	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
26	8:30 a.m.	WIOA Youth Committee	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,