

## WINTERVILLE – CITY OF MARIGOLDS

The City of Winterville, with a population of approximately 1100, was incorporated in 1904. Since 1991, when unification of Athens and Clarke County occurred, it has been the only municipality located wholly within the County. Its history dates back to the 1700s when land grants brought settlers to the area. The first railroad in Georgia also brought a cluster of housing to the area, near Six-Mile Station. Residents attribute the Town's name to a family of three brothers, who came to the community from Germany thanks to the railroad. The Town saw its peak of economic activity in the 1920s with five general stores, a drugstore, bank, two cotton gins, two garages, and two grist mills. In 1970, a few residents desiring to boost community morale initiated the annual Marigold Festival, an event that continues to draw visitors and raise funds to improve the community. A recent achievement for the Town was a successful application resulting in a grant award from the Fox Theatre Institute to help fund interior improvements to the Winterville Auditorium. Winterville's progressive leadership includes Mayor (and NEGRC Council Member) **Dodd Ferrelle** and City Councilmembers **Mark Farmer**, **Brenda Keen**, **Gary Snow**, and **Mary Quinn**.



*Community Garden Mural*



*Historic Bank*



*Winterville Center*



*Historic Depot*

### REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.



## WATERFIRST PROGRAM MOVES TO GEFA

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) is now administering the WaterFirst Program. For the past 15 years, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has managed the program. The transition to GEFA will bring new and exciting opportunities for WaterFirst to grow and expand.

Other than joining GEFA, the program functions will not be affected. The designees and applicants will not experience disruptions to the program or its benefits.

**WaterFirst** is a voluntary partnership between local governments, state agencies, and other organizations to recognize communities that are committed to water resource stewardship. WaterFirst communities demonstrate excellence in watershed assessment, stormwater master planning, wastewater treatment and management, water supply planning and protection, water conservation, and water reclamation and reuse. There are 37 WaterFirst communities throughout the state of Georgia.

For additional information, visit [gefa.georgia.gov/waterfirst](http://gefa.georgia.gov/waterfirst).

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP HOSTED BY DCA

As you may know, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is the community development arm and affordable housing agency for the State of Georgia. With over 65 programs, navigating the resources that DCA has to offer can be challenging. To give you a brief overview of some of the most asked about resources and the most utilized programs, DCA will host a Regional Workshop on **Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Jackson EMC facility in Hull**. Speakers will include program consultants and office directors from the Atlanta office, and they will cover a wide variety of Community Development and Finance topics. The cost to attend is \$20.00 and includes a lunch. Feel free to invite local staff, elected officials, authority/chamber board members, and anyone else that may benefit from the workshop. Please register by Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> using this link: <http://form.jotform.com/DCA/region-5-dca-workshop>.

### CONDENSED AGENDA

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome / Overview</b>
<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Community Development Sessions</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch (Provided)</b>
<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Wrap-Up / Adjourn</b>

If you have any questions, please contact **Beth Eavenson**, Region 5 Representative at **(404) 387-6977** or email **Beth.Eavenson@dca.ga.gov**.

## GMA RURAL BROADBAND SUMMIT

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) will host a one-day statewide Rural Broadband Summit to share information with local officials about rural broadband planning in Georgia. Participants will learn from experts and peers about cultivating a broadband planning

approach that engages stakeholders and mitigates risk, as well how to assess federal agency resources for technical assistance and infrastructure. Through the session, participants will obtain a roadmap for planning a broadband infrastructure project. The meeting is ideal for municipal and county elected and appointed officials including Mayors, County Commissioners, City and County Managers, City and County Clerks, public works staff, and City and County Attorneys.

The Summit will be held on **Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Carey W. Martin Conference Center, Houston Healthcare Properties, 233 N. Houston Avenue, Warner Robins 31093**. There is no cost to attend, and online registration is available on the GMA website at [gmanet.com/RuralBroadband](http://gmanet.com/RuralBroadband).

For additional information contact **Becky Taylor** at **(678) 686-6276 - [btaylor@gmanet.com](mailto:btaylor@gmanet.com)** or **Pam Helton** at **[pamelton@gmanet.com](mailto:phelton@gmanet.com) - 679-686-6275**.

## FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

Did you know that one in four Americans aged 65+ falls every year? Every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall; every 19 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall. Falls result in more than three million injuries treated in emergency departments annually, including over 850,000 hospitalizations and more than 29,000 deaths. In 2015, the total cost of fall injuries was \$50 billion. By 2020, the annual direct and indirect cost of fall injuries is expected to reach \$67.7 billion. In addition to pain and suffering, and the high cost of rehabilitation, falls with or without injury also carry a heavy quality of life impact. A growing number of older adults fear falling and, as a result, often self-limit activities and social engagements. Resulting limitations can result in further physical decline, depression, social isolation, and feelings of helplessness.

Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging, local senior centers, and older adults will observe **Falls Prevention Awareness Day** on the first day of fall, **September 22**. Georgia, along with forty seven other states have joined 70 national organizations, professional associations, and federal agencies that comprise the Falls Free™ Coalition to raise awareness of the dangers of fall-related injury and death among older adults. Falls Free™ seeks to provide hundreds of thousands of older Americans with the resources and education needed to reduce their risk of injury. Studies show that a combination of interventions can significantly reduce falls in the older adult population. Experts recommend a physical activity regimen with balance, strength training, and flexibility components; in the case of a history of falls or balance and gait difficulties, consulting with a health professional about getting a fall risk assessment; having medications reviewed periodically; getting eyes checked annually; and making sure the home environment is safe and supportive.

The University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences Wellness Program, local senior centers and other community-based organizations serving older adults in the Northeast Georgia region are offering programs such as Matter of Balance and Tai Chi classes, to help older adults gain the strength, improved balance, and confidence to help them live healthier lives and preserve their independence.

For additional information on fall prevention, go to <https://www.ncoa.org/healthy-aging/falls-prevention/>. For more information on local Matter of Balance or Tai Chi Classes contact **Whitney Bignell** at **(706) 542-4067** or visit their website for upcoming workshops: <http://www.negahealthmatters.org/index.php/calendar-2/>.

## WORKSOURCE GEORGIA ACADEMY

NEGRC Workforce Development Division staff members **Carol Rayburn Cofer**, **Rhonda Keeter** and **Eileen Marchetto** and Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board Chair **Joe Vogt** attended the WorkSource Georgia Academy on August 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> held at the Classic Center in Athens. Over 375 persons from throughout the state attended the Academy which provided workshops on a variety of workforce development topics including: customer confidentiality, one-stop operations best practices, open meetings act requirements, the ticket-to-work employment network assisting persons with disabilities to return to work, business services connecting with TCSG economic development, WIOA performance, and apprenticeships.

For information on WorkSource Georgia Workforce Development programs available in the Northeast Georgia region, contact the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



L-R: Vogt, Keeter, Cofer and Marchetto

## DHS COMMISSIONER ADDRESSES NEGRC

**Robyn Crittenden**, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services, addressed the August 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. Commissioner Crittenden oversees a \$1.9 billion budget and 9400 employees who work to strengthen Georgia families and protect vulnerable children and adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. She was appointed to her current position in July 2015 after serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Georgia Student Finance Commission. During her tenure, Commissioner Crittenden has brought about significant changes in technology to enhance human services delivery to all Georgians. During her presentation, she emphasized the development of partnerships aimed at improving safety, health, independence and self-reliance. With an estimated 190,000 persons diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease living in our state in 2025, the Commissioner is working to establish memory assessment clinics in five locations. In addition, she is working to combat senior hunger. With one in four senior Georgians struggling with hunger issues, a state plan to address the situation is currently being developed, and a coordinator to implement the plan will be employed.

## NEGRC CONSIDERS COUNTY MANAGERS' MEETINGS

Last month, the NEGRC was approached by a county administrator to consider the possibility of convening regional, county manager meetings. In this discussion, several ideas were explored including hosting annual or quarterly meetings that would provide a platform for managers to discuss and learn about topics such as cybersecurity, joint procurement of goods and services, affordable housing, and many more topics of interest. In addition, these meetings would provide opportunities for managers to share "best practices," participate in continuing education seminars, and attend presentations from guest speakers on relevant topics. County managers could also include appropriate staff or others (e.g., city managers) whom they felt would benefit from these meetings. The over-reaching idea is that convening these meetings could benefit county managers by providing resources, support, and collaborations. To gauge interest in this possibility, the NEGRC's PGS staff is developing a survey for county managers. It will be sent directly to managers in September to solicit input regarding these potential meetings. There is a possibility the meetings could kick-off as early as October 2018. For additional information, please contact **Monica Sagastizado**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at [msagastizado@negrc.org](mailto:msagastizado@negrc.org) or **(706)-369-5650**.

## TRANSIT ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULED

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission is hosting a Rural Transit Roundtable on **September 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the E.H. Culpepper Conference Room at NEGRC headquarters**. Transit managers and staff are invited to participate in the conference to share, discuss, and learn "best practices" for providing out-of-district transportation services. Topics such as transportation services to employers, recreation, and shopping activities, as well as improvements in efficiency, will be discussed. This Transit Roundtable is a good opportunity for persons with any level of transit experience or others whom have a need for transportation services within their communities. To request a draft agenda and to register for the Roundtable, please contact Ms. **Sagastizado**. We look forward to seeing you!

## HOUSE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HOLDS AUGUST MEETING

The Georgia House of Representatives Rural Development Council, co-chaired by Representatives **Terry England** and **Jay Powell**, held a two-day session about state economic development, coordinated efforts, and incentives at the Athens Technical College Campus in Elberton on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The session began with opening remarks from Representative Powell followed by Dr. **Andrea Daniel**, President of Athens Tech. Dr. Daniel noted that the College is "solely focused on Workforce Development. It is our mission. It will stay our mission". Elbert County Chairman **Tommy Lyon** and Elberton Mayor **Larry Guest** welcomed those in attendance, as did representatives of Mainstreet/Elberton Downtown Development, Elberton Memorial Hospital, and the Chamber of Commerce. Additional speakers for the Wednesday afternoon portion of the meeting included: **Pat Wilson**, Commissioner Georgia Department of Economic Development; **Tom Croteau**, Deputy Commissioner Georgia Department of Economic Development; **Christopher Nunn**, Commissioner Georgia Department of Community Affairs; **Peggy Jolly**; **Kevin Shea**, Georgia Economic Developers Association; and **Jim Dove**, President Georgia Association of Regional Commissions. The Thursday morning agenda included **Amy Carter**, Rural Georgia Economic Development Commissioner; **Gary Black**, Commissioner Georgia Department of Agriculture; **David Bridges**, President ABAC; and **Saralyn Stafford**, Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Dove's testimony can be viewed by accessing [www.garc.ga.gov](http://www.garc.ga.gov).



Jim Dove



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# Update

## REGIONAL MEETINGS SEPTEMBER

18	10:00 a.m.	ADRC Advisory Council	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
18	1:30 p.m.	Emergency Medical Services	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
20	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
26	9:00 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
28	9:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors Meeting	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room



*Sincerely & Respectfully,*