

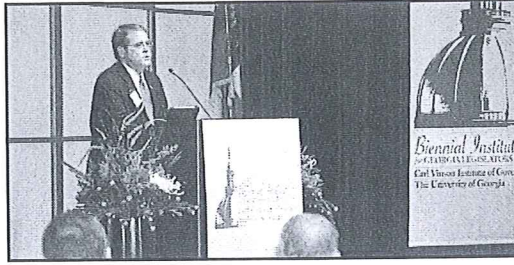
TRAINING CONFERENCES HELD

On December 2nd – 5th, ACCG and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) hosted the 2014 Newly Elected Commissioners Conference at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education at the University of Georgia. State law requires all newly elected County Commissioners to attend this training prior to taking office. It provides Commissioners with the tools and resources needed for their role as leaders and decision makers and offers them an opportunity to network with other county officials. Executive Director **Jim Dove** was invited to participate in a panel discussion, and he and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** hosted the GARC Exhibit at the Resource Fair Reception.

On December 7th – 9th, the 29th Biennial Institute for Georgia Legislators was held at the same location, and was sponsored by the Georgia General Assembly and CVIOG. New and veteran legislators count on the Biennial Institute to provide information and training that will help them make better-informed decisions for Georgia. A recognized event on the state's political calendar since 1958, the event provides legislators with valuable time for learning, networking, and exploring state issues prior to the upcoming session of the General Assembly. As a public service and outreach unit of the University of Georgia, CVIOG has been helping governments become more efficient, effective, and responsive to citizens since 1927. Through training and development, customized assistance, application of technology, and studies relevant to government operations and decision making, the Institute has the expertise to meet the needs of governments throughout Georgia. Mr. Dove, Ms. Beck, and Middle Georgia RC Deputy Director **Brent Lanford** were present at the GARC Exhibit throughout the Conference.



Scenes from conferences



CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS COMMISSION

A Chinese delegation, hosted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), visited the Regional Commission on December 5th. The 18-member delegation, along with an interpreter and two members of the CVIOG faculty, were given a presentation on the Regional Commission history and structure; planning, workforce development, and aging issues. The presentation was led by Mr. Dove, Ms. Beck, and Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker**. A highlight of the presentation was a tour of the administrative offices. Officials from China have now visited NEGRC on seven occasions. The group will enjoy exploring Athens, shopping, and a trip to Washington, D.C. prior to returning home in late December.



RURAL AND HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION

As part of the NEGRC's administrative contract with GDOT, a Rural and Human Services Transportation (RHST) Plan was developed for the twelve-county region in 2012. This coordinated transportation plan presents the need for greater access to transportation in the region and identifies steps that can be taken to meet this transportation need. The plan was developed with input from local, regional, and state stakeholders.

With a growing population and shifting demographics, Northeast Georgians increasingly require transportation to access daily needs and responsibilities, such as health care, employment, education, and shopping. Simultaneously, human services transportation providers (the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Community Health (DCH)) are faced with a growing aging population. A demographic analysis of populations traditionally reliant on transit yields the following:

- Seniors – Forecasted to become 18% of the region's population by 2035
- Low-income households – Poverty in the region exceeds the national average of 14%
- Disabled persons – 18% of the region's population
- Persons without vehicles – Approximately 7% of the region's population

Existing rural public transit in the region is found in Jackson, Elbert, Greene, and Morgan Counties and the City of Social Circle, with funding assistance from the Federal Transit Administration's 5311 Rural Transit Assistance Program. In addition to the geographic limitations of RHST service in the region, the Plan identifies the following gaps in service:

- Lack of services to most new development areas;
- Few transportation choices at universities and colleges outside of Athens;
- Regional key activity centers poorly served by transit, and;
- Regional employers poorly served by transit.

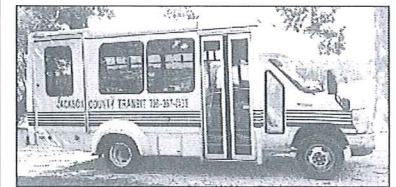
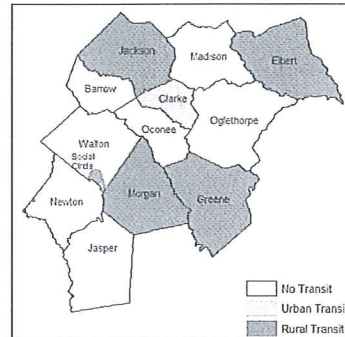
To address these factors, the RHST Plan suggests coordinating rural public transportation with existing human services transportation to enable efficiencies in service and administration, reduce capital costs, and provide potential cost-savings. The four counties in Northeast Georgia that offer rural public transportation coordinate this service with their DHS transportation. Each of these counties administers the service differently, depending on their needs, resources, and the unique attributes found within each county.

Recently, the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division staff met with **Misty Burns**, Transit Director in Jackson County, and learned what this county is doing to make transportation accessible to its citizens:

Jackson County has offered public transportation since the early 1990's. A few years ago, the system became threatened because of costs associated with keeping it in operation. That's when Ms. Burns became Transit Director. Under her guidance, public transportation merged with DHS transportation in the county, enabling a more efficient system, with shared buses, drivers, technology, and administration. Now, the system operates 1,500 trips per month, and has become financially self-sufficient. By coordinating public and DHS transportation, Ms. Burns is able to use DHS revenue and collected fares as a match for 5311, and

GDOT provides help with capital purchases. Ridership has increased three times since 2012, with passengers relying on the buses to get to work in and out of the county, from Kubota Industrial Equipment in northern Jackson County to the Goodwill Career Center in Athens-Clarke County.

The NEGRC will continue working with communities across Georgia that offer public transportation services to better understand the array of coordination methods that are utilized. A forum will be hosted at the NEGRC in 2015 to showcase RHST work from around the state and provide local governments interested in providing public transportation to their citizens with knowledge and guidance to get started. For additional information on rural public transportation, please contact **Theresa Owen**, NEGRC Planner, at towen@negrc.org.



CLG GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Applications for the next cycle of Certified Local Government (CLG) grants were recently announced by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources. Eligible applicants include communities designated as CLGs. There are currently 13 CLGs in the NEGRC region. A CLG is a community that has adopted a historic-preservation ordinance, designated a local historic district, and participates in design review by an appointed Historic Preservation Commission.

A range of eligible grant activities exist, with priority going for historic-resource surveys and National Register district nominations. Awarded projects require a 40% local match. The deadline for applications is **February 2, 2015**, and awards will be announced in **April 2015**. Visit HPD's website under "Economic Incentives" then "Grants" at www.gashpo.org; or for additional information, contact **Carole Moore** at (404) 651-5566. For information on CLGs in the NEGRC region or historic preservation activities for CLGs, contact **Mr. Walker** at (706) 369-5650 or bwalker@negrc.org.

MAXEYS HOLDS NATIONAL REGISTER MEETING

Last month, the NEGRC's PGS Division participated in an informational meeting for Maxeys' efforts in researching its history for the purpose of listing the Town in the National Register of Historic Places. The Maxeys' Community Club and its Historic Interest Group hosted the meeting to inform residents about the potential nomination. The NEGRC's **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services, and **Jordan Shoemaker**, PGS Intern, provided a presentation that detailed the historical research to date, the benefits of National Register listing, and the location of historic properties in Maxeys.

At the meeting, several maps were reviewed that showed all National Register listings in the NEGRC region as well as the number of historic properties identified in Maxeys. In attendance were **Mayor Bill**

Winkle and **Councilmember Beth Andrews**, as well as former Mayor **John Stephens**. **Bill Cabiness**, Vice-President of the Community Club, introduced Mr. Walker who spoke during a pot-luck meal in the historic Maxeys' Community Center. Ms. Shoemaker was later introduced by Mr. Walker to describe the maps and the historic properties she had documented in the proposed district. The meeting also served as a work session where the needs for additional information and assistance from the Historic Interest Group were reviewed. The group's efforts, to date, have been coordinated by **Barbra Cabiness**, a long-time Maxeys' resident, who wants to involve as many residents as possible.

PGS staff, for its part, expects to continue to assist Maxeys in 2015 with assistance in further research efforts. Once the needed histories are collected, a Historic District Information Form (HDIF) will be prepared by PGS staff for submission to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division (HPD). If the HDIF is approved by HPD, a required public hearing will be conducted by HPD that will officially notify property owners in the proposed district. The meeting in December, while not required, was intended to engage residents and determine continued interest in the National Register nomination process. These types of meetings have proved very useful by NEGR staff in other successful National Register District nominations--such as the Elberton Residential District. Communities are also well served by these informative meetings as the entire nomination process can take up to two years to complete.

One of the unique aspects of Maxeys' efforts is the amount of research the community has previously collected. **Linda Helmsley**, a participant in the group, previously conducted oral histories of many of Maxeys' residents. Previously recorded audio recordings also exist with recollections from older residents that will be transcribed and reviewed for possible inclusion in the historical narrative. One of the primary purposes of the National Register process is to document a community's history to a very high standard while establishing a permanent, archival record. (Note: The NEGRC maintains copies of the region's National Register nominations). A lot of Maxeys' history would be otherwise lost, or unrevealed, without this National Register effort.

For further information regarding the National Register and/or historic preservation programs, please contact Mr. Walker.



NEGA CARE-NET HONORS REGIONAL CAREGIVERS

When someone falls ill or is disabled in some way, that individual may come to rely on the assistance of others in a variety of ways. Those who provide that assistance are called caregivers. There are family caregivers who assume this responsibility out of a sense of love or duty. There are individuals who have made their career in caregiving. Then there are the volunteers who generously give of their time through acts of kindness and support to others in their community.

Each year NEGA CARE-NET receives nominations of individuals in three categories, Family Caregiver, Para-Professional Caregiver and

Volunteer Caregiver. The 2014 NEGA Regional Caregivers of the Year winners are:

Rev. Marie Fuller Davis, of Covington, was nominated for the Family Caregiver award. Rev. Davis has divided her time between Georgia and Florida caring for two sisters who suffered from terminal illnesses. Although one of her sisters passed away recently, she still travels the highways every few months to give respite time to her other sister's children. She also devotes her time to a 97 year old church member and her daughter who still works as an educator to support the family. Rev. Davis was employed by the Newton County Senior Services before giving her life completely to her ministry. She is the founder of the Saint Paul Caregiver's Ministry. She is not only a beacon of light for the caregivers in her church and community, she is also a comfort for those who are experiencing the turmoil of an illness or aging. Rev. Davis is extraordinary because of her sacrifices for family and those she comes into contact with and because she is compassionate in giving of her time.

Angela Booze, of Athens, was nominated for the Para-Professional Caregiver award. Ms. Booze is certified as a Phlebotomist, Medical Assistant and a Nursing Assistant. She uses her skills to care for sick ones in her family, members of her church and she volunteers at a local food bank in her spare time. She is credited for turning a really bad situation for a wonderful couple that she works with into a completely improved environment which now includes the support from their child. She provides excellent care to her clients and is always willing to take assistance and feedback from other ResCare HomeCare staff. Ms. Booze does her job each day with a smile on her face making the clients feel safe and secure.

Linda Moss, of Athens, was nominated for the Volunteer Caregiver award. Ms. Moss has been a volunteer with St. Mary's Hospice since 2007. She also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, St. Mary's Hospice House, and Kennestone Hospital and their Assisted Living Facility. In her spare time, she works in the school system assisting children with disabilities and children from broken homes. Ms. Moss' exceptional work ethic has built trust with the St. Mary's Hospice staff to the point that she is the main 'go to' person. She is a very compassionate and caring volunteer. She will sit with families and comfort them as well as the patients. She will do anything asked of her and more. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

The regional winners' information was sent to the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) for the state competition. From the regional winners, a selection committee chooses one state winner for each of the three categories. **Angela Booze** was selected as the **2014 Georgia Para-Professional Caregiver of the Year by the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving**. She was honored during a Gala Awards Banquet on October 23, 2014 in Americus. The gala was a part of the 2014 RCI National Summit Supporting the Unsung Heroes Behind our Heroes. All NEGA regional caregiver nominees and winners were recognized during the **NEGA CARE-NET's 4th Annual Caregiver Celebration** that was held at the Central Presbyterian Church on November 11, 2014. The event was sponsored by the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging, RCI, ResCare HomeCare, AARP, St. Mary's Health Care System, Edward Jones, Athens Community Council on Aging/GeorgiaCares, Mary Kay, and WXAG-1470AM. Speakers during the event included **Elaine Larkin** with RCI and **Dale Bell** with the Veterans Administration Community Outbased Clinic in Athens. For information on the NEGA CARE-NET or to nominate a caregiver for the 2015 Caregiver of the Year Awards, please contact **Michele Kelley** at (706) 369-5650 or by e-mail at mkelley@negrc.org.

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **January 15, 2015 at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.



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Update

**REGIONAL MEETINGS
JANUARY**

13	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Investment Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
15	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	1:30 p.m.	Aging Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
28	9:30 a.m.	UOBWA	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

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Sincerely & Respectfully,