

CNA GRADUATION GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Congratulations to the nine Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) who graduated from the Georgia Piedmont Technical College's (GPTC) Certified Nurse Aide Program on Tuesday, September 27th. These students completed eight weeks of instruction in all areas of certified nursing assistants training including patient hygiene, patient nutrition, CPR, First Aid, and monitoring patient vital signs. These students are now prepared to take the state Certified Nursing Aide certification exam.

Students completing the course were **Annette Acheampong, Shalice Critton, Chantell Grayson, Tanaishia Griffin, Jennifer Harvey, Vershawn Jenkins, Stephanie Williams-Johnson, Darleyne Sims, and Bianca Solano**. The instructors for the course were **Beth Wilson, RN; Pricilla Obi, LPN; and Verna Russ, RN**. Katrina Young, GPTC Director of Continuing Education, Department of Economic Development, provides oversight and direction for the program.

For further information on this CNA course, as well as other course offerings throughout the region, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



CNA Graduates

WINTERVILLE HOLDS PLANNING RETREAT

Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** facilitated a Planning Retreat for the City of Winterville on Friday, September 30th. The meeting was held at the newly renovated Community Center. The session included the Mayor and Council, along with key employees. After identifying the community's strengths and challenges, participants engaged in an exercise to determine priorities for action. These priorities included completion and implementation of the business corridor design plan, code updates, preserving the City's history, enhancements to public buildings, support for local schools, cooperating with parties interested in furthering senior housing opportunities, and enhancing City revenues. In addition, participants identified potential projects for inclusion in future SPLOST and T-SPLOST referendums. Mayor **Dodd Ferrelle**, a member of the NEGRC Council, indicated "the retreat exceeded expectations", and each of the participants expressed pleasure regarding the results.



Winterville Community Center



Retreat Participants

DOVE ATTENDS NADO CONFERENCE

Director Dove attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference held October 15th – 18th in San Antonio. He was among more than 600 attendees representing over 200 organizations throughout the United States. The conference agenda was filled with numerous interesting and informative sessions on matters ranging from rural entrepreneurship, a healthy workforce ecosystem, regional broadband development, creative public engagement methods, and collaboration to improve transportation and economic development, and OMB guidelines. A highlight of the conference was the keynote luncheon featuring The Honorable **Jay Williams**, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. Dove has been a member of the NADO Board of Directors since 2008.

NEGRC BEGINS 2017 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) UPDATE

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) serves as an Economic Development District (EDD) in partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. One of the responsibilities of the NEGRC is to prepare and update a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is intended to serve as a 'strategic blueprint' for the region based on stakeholder input from both public and private sector representatives. A main purpose of the CEDS is to guide and foster economic prosperity.

The NEGRC will update its CEDS in 2017 beginning with a kick-off meeting expected this December. Last month, each county chairman received a request to appoint two members to the 2017 CEDS Committee. One of these members is recommended to work in the private sector with individuals, firms, or industries. Other stakeholders are also encouraged to participate and invited to attend the upcoming CEDS meetings. The CEDS Committee is expected to meet four times from February through September in 2017. **Tommy Lyon**, Chairman of the Elbert County Board of Commissioners, will serve as Chairman of the CEDS Committee.

An updated CEDS will allow the Northeast Georgia region and its member local governments to remain eligible for EDA project funding through its Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. The CEDS process also will provide an opportunity to engage a wide range of community leaders in directing capacity-building efforts.

To learn more about EDA and the CEDS, visit: www.eda.gov/ceds. To review the NEGRC's 2012 CEDS document visit: www.negrc.org/resource-1.php?page_ID=1389969106. For general information about the CEDS Committee, contact **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services, at (706) 369-5650 or email: bwalker@negrc.org. For individuals or stakeholders wishing to be included on the CEDS Update distribution list, please email **Julie Ball**, NEGRC Program Assistant, at jball@negrc.org.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND WALKABILITY PROJECT FOR DDA DESIGN COMMITTEE

At the local government, department, work group, or nonprofit level, the Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division can provide strategic-planning assistance to groups looking for increased focus and capacity. Services can range from facilitation and communication exercises to development of organizational work programs and meeting management practices. PGS Senior Planner **John Devine** is currently involved in a two-phase process with the Design Committee of a Northeast Georgia community's Downtown Development Authority.

For the first phase, the Design Committee needed an improved strategic plan that meshed with the committee's charge and its main objectives as well as an overhaul of its meeting practices to increase efficiency and productivity. This brief undertaking comprised a visioning exercise and SWOT analysis during a committee meeting followed by NEGRC preparation of a no-frills strategic plan with 90-day, one-year, and three-year tasks and a model meeting agenda with accompanying best practices notes.

The second phase of this project involves recommending walkability improvements for the downtown area to increase safety (real and perceived), promote patronage of local businesses, and create public space for community activity and interaction. The NEGRC and the Design Committee will examine ways to work within local and state transportation corridors, on existing city-held land, and, possibly, on other properties.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Devine at jdevine@negrc.org.

SPOTLIGHT: NOLAN'S CROSSROADS IN MORGAN COUNTY

The year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act, and all year, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission is celebrating successful preservation projects in our communities. For the month of November, we would like to highlight Nolan Crossroads in Morgan County.

Nolan's Crossroads is located in the vicinity of Bostwick at the intersection of Highway 83 and Nolan Store Road. The farm was once over 2000 acres in size, making it one of the largest tenant farming properties in the area. The property is privately owned, and features a commissary, tenant housing, and other small farm buildings. However, the main house is the jewel of the property. Built in 1905 by **James Alonzo Nolan**, the Nolan House is a two-story neoclassical home. It features a wrap-around porch supported by Corinthian columns. The house is currently unoccupied, which has resulted in some vandalism and deterioration. The Madison-Morgan Conservancy is actively working to protect and preserve the property. Nolan's Crossroads was

listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015. In 2016, it was added to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's list of Regionally Important Resources (RIR). RIRs are resources from across the region that deserve special attention in the planning process and in management and conservation practices. The NEGRC's 2016 updated list of RIRs included the addition of many historic properties, like Nolan's Crossroads.

For further questions on historic preservation projects or the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, please contact Project Specialist, **Jordan Shoemaker** at jshoemaker@negrc.org or **(706) 369-5650**.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF ATTEND SETA CONFERENCE

The Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Fall Conference was recently held in Biloxi, Mississippi. SETA provides training and networking opportunities to professionals in the Workforce Development Industry and its partners. In 2014, the new federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was passed. With pending implementation, Workforce Development staff was able to attend workshops at the SETA Conference that highlighted the new regulations. Speakers and presenters from across the country convened to provide workshops including WIOA Implementation, Serving Priority Populations including Veterans and People with Disabilities, Providing Services to Youth, information on Apprenticeships, On-The-Job Training Programs, and much more. In addition, Workforce Development staff had the opportunity to network with other agencies and organizations, as well as having interaction with vendors to identify ways to better serve citizens of Northeast Georgia. Attendees included board members **David Cagle** and **Brenda Lazarus**. Workforce Development staff attending included **Nan DeColaines**, **Kim Meadows**, and **Rima Sullivan**.

For information on workforce development activities in Northeast Georgia, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



Workforce Staff and Service Providers

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, November 17th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment for Medicare Part C and D begins October 15th, and you will have until December 7th to make your drug and health plan choices. With so many options available, choosing the right one is important. There is only one election period for both Medicare Parts C and D. After this time, plan changes can be made during the annual disenrollment period of January 1st - February 14th of each year. During the disenrollment period, you will only be allowed to leave a Medicare Part C plan and return to Original Medicare (Parts A and B) with the option of choosing a prescription drug plan.

Help is out there. If you want to join a stand-alone prescription drug plan (PDP), use the Plan Finder Tool on www.medicare.gov. The Plan Finder Tool compares plans based on the drugs you need, the pharmacy you visit, and your drug costs. If you want to join a Medicare Advantage Plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE to find out what plans are in your area. You can also call or visit the website of your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). In Georgia the program is called GeorgiaCares.

GeorgiaCares provides free, one-on-one assistance, so that callers can get personalized help as they compare their options and decide on which plans best meet their needs. GeorgiaCares urges everyone to review their coverage and make sure that any changes to the plan for 2017 will still meet their needs. If you do not want to make a change, you can remain in your plan from 2016 as long as the plan is still available. GeorgiaCares urges you to compare your plan as close to October 15 as possible so you will have plenty of time to make an informed decision. If you are interested in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you should talk to your doctors and other medical providers to find out which plans they accept.

For more information, contact GeorgiaCares at **1-866-55AGING (1-866-552-4464), Option 4**. Staff can also be reached at www.mygeorgiacares.org or at www.facebook.com/GeorgiaCares.

*The Northeast Georgia
Regional Commission Council
and Staff wish you
a Happy
Thanksgiving Holiday!*





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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS NOVEMBER

16	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission office will be closed November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Sincerely & Respectfully,