

BARROW COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE EFFORTS UNDERWAY

The Barrow County Board of Commissioners recently passed a resolution to utilize a review committee to study and make recommendations regarding the County's existing charter. The effort will be facilitated by Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and **Jim Grubiak** and **Dave Wills** of ACCG. The organizational meeting of the Committee was held on April 19th, and **Ray Newman** was elected Chair. Other members include **Bob Akin, Chris Bailey, Pat Graham, Scott Hang, John King, David Mann, Shirley Segars, and Ken Young**. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the Barrow County Board of Commissioners at its June 14th meeting. Prior to that, meetings will be held in Winder, Auburn/Carl, Bethlehem, Statham, and Braselton.



*Original members of Charter Review Committee (L-R Bottom - Bailey, Akin, Newman; Top - Hang, Segars, Mann, King)
Note: Graham and Young were appointed at organizational meeting.*

NEGRC PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

University System of Georgia Chancellor **Henry M. (Hank) Huckaby** was named recipient of the Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian Award at the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. The Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the May meeting of the Council. Mr. Huckaby was recently named to his current post and has enjoyed a distinguished career in state government. He has taught at the college level and has served in a number of key administrative positions within the University System of Georgia. These include working in the area of admissions early in his career at Georgia State University and Gordon College. Later he served as Director of the Fiscal Research Program at Georgia State, Director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, and Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration at UGA. He also served in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, first as a Senior Policy Coordinator and then as Director from 1991 to 1995. He also served as Interim Chief Financial Officer for Governor Sonny Perdue during Perdue's transition period. On two occasions he headed key state agencies. From 1977 to 1980, he was Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, and from 1980 to 1991, he was Executive Director of the Georgia Residential Finance Authority. He recently resigned his seat as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives to accept his current position.

Also honored at this event as Local Government Administrator of the Year was Monroe City Manager **Julian Jackson**. Mr. Jackson has served in that position since March 2000 and is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities of seven operating departments with over 225 employees. The annual operating and capital budgets he prepares and administers total \$46.4 million. He served multiple terms as Walton County's Municipal Representative to the NEGRDC Board of Directors, and is currently an Associate Member of the NEGRC Council.

For the first time, Bicycle Friendly Northeast Georgia Awards were presented in conjunction with this meeting. Planning and Government Services staff worked with the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force to develop this program to celebrate the local governments, organizations, and businesses that encourage bicycling and bicycle commuting in the region. The application was available for two weeks

in late March/early April, and award levels were determined by the total number of points scored. This year, **Oxford College of Emory University** was designated at the Gold level, while **Georgia Bikes!** was designated at the Bronze level.

Finally, RC Chair **Stenette Brooks** was honored for her service during the past 30 months. She completed the unexpired term of a former Board Chair before being elected to a full two year term. She joined the former NEGRDC Board in 1998 as Morgan County Private Sector Representative. For many years, she was a very active member of our Program of Work Committee before serving as Secretary and Vice Chair. She received her Undergraduate and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degrees from the University of Georgia, and has been in practice for more than three decades.



*Distinguished Northeast Georgian
Hank Huckaby
(Courtesy of Oconee Enterprise)*

Monroe City Manager with Director Dove



(L) Peter Sherrard, Oxford College (R) Brent Buice, Georgia Bikes!



Chairperson Stenette Brooks

NORTHEAST GEORGIA COMMISSIONERS ASSUME LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Oconee County Commission Chairman **Melvin Davis** was installed as President of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) during the Annual Meeting of that organization held in Savannah April 30th through May 2nd. Currently serving a third term as Chairman of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners, he also Chairs the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority (UOBWA) and is a past Chairman of the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center Board. Chairman Davis also serves as a member of the State Workforce Investment Board and the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board. In addition, Walton County Commission Chairman **Kevin Little** was installed as 3rd Vice President of ACCG. He is currently serving a third term as Chairman of the Walton County Board of Commissioners and is Secretary of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. Elbert County Commission Chairman **Tommy Lyon** will serve on the ACCG Board of Managers as 5th District Representative, and Greene County Commissioner **Bud Sanders** will Chair the ACCG-Georgia Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund Board of Trustees. The Northeast Georgia Region is well represented among ACCG Committee leadership. Jackson County Chairman **Hunter Bicknell** is serving as Chair of the Revenue and Finance Committee, while Oglethorpe County Chairman **Billy Pittard** is serving as Vice Chair. Newton County Chair **Kathy Morgan** is Vice Chair of the General County Government Committee. All are extremely active as members of the NEGR Council. Installation of officers and Board members was conducted by Secretary of State **Brian Kemp**. Congratulations to all!



ACCG President Melvin Davis

WIA SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

The NEGRC WIA Summer Youth Work Experience Program will begin on June 13th. Youth, ages 14-19, may work up to 30 hours a week and will earn \$7.25 per hour. Approximately 300 youth will be working this summer in the 12 Northeast Georgia counties. These youth are already enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in-school year round youth program.

Worksite solicitation packets were mailed on April 27th to local governments and related agencies and other non-profit organizations. Serving as a worksite provides local organizations an opportunity to expose WIA eligible youth to career opportunities

that exist for them in their local community. Participants will be under the supervision of the local worksite supervisor in the community. Examples of previous worksites include chambers of commerce, hospitals, local government offices, day care centers, boys and girls clubs, and recreation parks.

NEGRC will provide a program orientation in each county at the end of May or early June to orient worksite supervisors as to their responsibilities under the WIA Summer Youth Component. The program expectations and the provisions of the worksite agreement will be emphasized. A "Worksite Supervisor's Handbook" is given to each supervisor to reference all policies and procedures of the WIA Summer Youth Program. Worksites will have an opportunity to interview potential participants at the Participant Orientation. This enables the worksite to choose those workers best suited to their needs.

The WIA program will pay the youth's wages and will cover them under workmen's compensation insurance. This is an opportunity to help the youth in your community to participate in the local workforce. For further information, please contact **Danielle Ingels**, Youth Program Specialist, at **(706) 369-5703**.

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, June 16th at noon at the Athens Hoiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

The Northeast Georgia Elder Rights Team is encouraging everyone to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2011 by learning to spot and report abuse. This is an international observance, and Georgia is joining other states, countries and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) in recognizing, honoring and raising awareness of disabled adults and persons 65 and older who suffer in silence because of abuse, neglect or exploitation. People worldwide will be wearing purple to show that elder abuse is a global problem.

According to national studies, only seven percent of elder abuse cases are reported, leaving 13 elders to suffer for every one older adult who finds help. Many people assume that most elder abuse happens in the nursing homes but in reality, 90% of elder abuse cases involve family members, friends, and paid in-home caregivers. This complicates the reporting process. Victims may feel affection for their abusers and seek to hide the mistreatment from others. Abuse takes many forms including physical, emotional, sexual, financial exploitation, neglect, and self-neglect. Any older person can be abused regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and geographic location.

Reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation occurring in the community should be made to the Georgia Department

of Human Services Adult Protective Services Central Intake Unit toll-free at **1-888-774-0152**. Anyone can report abuse. Law enforcement, financial institutions, and medical and human services personnel are among those required by law to report suspected cases of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation to APS. In instances where harm or threat of harm is imminent, emergency medical and/or law enforcement should be contacted by calling 911 as a first response. To report abuse in a nursing home or personal care home, contact the Georgia Department of Community Health Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division at **404-657-5728** or **1-800-878-6442**. To learn more about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, visit **www.inpea.nt**.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD PROVIDES NEEDED ASSISTANCE

(The following is illustrative of efforts in which our Workforce Investment Division is involved. Only the first name of the client is used to protect her anonymity.)

Ofelia and her husband owned a drywall business in Commerce. When the housing market went under, many of their customers went bankrupt; and Ofelia and her husband closed the business. Ofelia knew she needed to return to school; and since she always wanted to help other people, she knew right away she wanted to enter the Medical Assistance program. Ofelia was able to receive HOPE, but was struggling to find money to pay for her books and gas. She was driving from Jefferson to the Lanier Tech satellite campus in Winder every day. She heard about the WIA program through some of her classmates and decided to give the program a call. WIA enrolled Ofelia in January 2010. She said, "I felt very lucky and fortunate to receive WIA". The program provided her with assistance with gas, books, uniforms and the equipment that was required for class. Ofelia's last day of class was December 16th, and she started her new career and job on December 20th. Ofelia is now a Medical Assistant at the Tri-County Internal Medical facility in Buford, Ga. Ofelia enjoys her new career and recognizes that she could never have finished if it wasn't for the support and help from the WIA program.

In the 12 county Northeast Georgia region, the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB), through the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, provides a variety of services made possible by funding through the WIA. Last year, over 3,094 Northeast Georgia residents made use of job search, career advisement, and retraining services offered through the Northeast Georgia WIB. Most of the customers were laid off due to down-sizing or business closures in the area. WIA program participation rates have increased by 200% in Northeast Georgia in the past two years. Over 240 different employers hired persons who had received retraining assistance utilizing WIA funds.

For additional information on the services available through the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board, contact **Carol Rayburn Cofer** at **(706) 369-5703**.

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS JUNE

6	10:00 a.m.	Planning Advisory Committee	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
8	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Solid Waste Management Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
9	10:00 a.m.	Athens Line	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	2:00 p.m.	UOBWA Operations Committee	Bear Creek Reservoir
16	10:00 a.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	Noon	NEGA Regional Commission Council	Athens Holiday Inn
17	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
28	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,