

CITY OF JEFFERSON HOLDS RETREAT

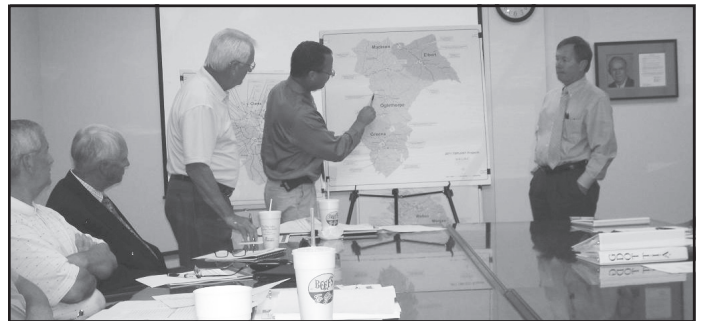
For the second consecutive year, Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** facilitated the annual retreat of the Jefferson Mayor and Council. The session was held on Saturday, June 18th at the Jefferson Civic Center. After a review of goals set at the 2010 session, the Mayor and Council engaged in discussion on a number of critical items including communication, budget review, meeting agenda/schedule, new and expanded revenue sources, and consideration of a new organizational chart. The group then focused on goals and priorities for the next twelve months.



Jefferson Mayor and Council

ACTIVITIES ON TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2010 CONTINUE

Georgia Department of Transportation Planning Director **Todd Long** forwarded a list of potential transportation projects for the region, unconstrained by funding, on June 1st. The list was based on projects previously submitted by local governments throughout the region; however, some of the original projects were deleted and others added. On that same date, the Regional Transportation Roundtable Executive Committee began a two-day review of the list with representatives from city and county governments in the region. The purpose of the review was to gain more information and to learn of local priorities. The Executive Committee followed up with an additional meeting on June 13th to further the review. The next meeting will be held at the Walton County Government Center on July 6th at 5:00 p.m.



RTR Executive Committee at work

REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council **will not** meet in July. The next meeting will be held on **August 18th at noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on that meeting will be forthcoming.

DOVE HONORED

Executive Director Dove was presented with the 2011 Joe Lane Cox Excellence in EMS Award during the State EMS Awards Banquet in Forsyth on May 19th. Dove, who has chaired the Northeast Georgia EMS Council since 1990, was recognized for contributions made in emergency medical services over the past two decades. The Cox Award, named for the Mayor of Dawsonville and public servant in Dawson County for more than twenty years, has been presented annually since 1997 by the North Georgia EMS Council to the individual "who unselfishly donates his or her time and efforts to continue the improvement of EMS in Georgia EMS regions and at the state and national levels." During his tenure as Chairman, Dove has worked to promote the development of trauma centers in Georgia, where currently one half of the hospitals in Region 10 are either designated trauma centers, or have applied for trauma center designation. He has also facilitated discussions with county leaders and hospital administrators to provide for a smooth transition of zoning issues with EMS providers.



Dove (c) accepting award

In addition, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council presented Dove with a plaque following an exemplary annual evaluation at its meeting of June 16th. The plaque reads "**presented for excellence in organizational leadership and regional strategic planning, with appreciation for dedicated service to the region and state.**"



Jim Joiner, Executive Director Dove, and Mott Beck

NORTHEAST GEORGIA COMMUNITIES RECEIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The Newton County Industrial Development Authority was awarded a \$350,000 OneGeorgia Authority Economic Development, Growth and Expansion Fund (EDGE) grant in May 2011 to assist with the acquisition of machinery and equipment to benefit SKC, Inc.

SKC, Inc is an existing company located in the City of Covington manufacturing a variety of Skyrol® brand polyester films. Skyrol® films are sold to customers who utilize the films in their processes and end products predominantly in the energy, petrochemical, fibers, films, telecommunications, life sciences, consumer products, trading and finance sectors. The project includes the acquisition of equipment to be located within a new manufacturing facility dedicated to the burgeoning U.S. solar panel industry. The project will result in the creation of 120 jobs and \$100,000,000 in private investment as well as supporting the renewable-energy industry sector.

The Newton County project also contributed to the State of Georgia receiving a 2011 Silver Shovel Award by Area Development Magazine, a national trade magazine. Georgia was one of nine states to receive such an award, based on submissions from the fifty U.S. states' top ten job creation and investment projects.

Additionally, the Development Authority of Jefferson was awarded a \$300,000 OneGeorgia Authority Economic Development, Growth and Expansion Fund (EDGE) grant in early June 2011 to assist with the acquisition of machinery and equipment to benefit Syx Distribution, Inc., a leading retailer of brand name and private label products including personal and notebook computers, consumer electronics and accessories, technology supplies and industrial products. The project includes the acquisition and installation of machinery and equipment related to distribution, retail and call center operations at a 458,000 SF facility located in the City of Jefferson. The project will result in the creation of 400 jobs and \$13,000,000 in private investment.

The OneGeorgia Authority's EDGE Fund is a specialized incentive tool used to enhance Georgia's competitiveness in attracting significant economic development projects. EDGE funds may be used for the purchase of publicly owned assets such as land and site development; infrastructure improvements; and publicly owned/privately leased assets, such as land, buildings & machinery and equipment.

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's Planning and Government Services (PGS) Division staff worked directly with Newton County and the City of Jefferson in developing these two applications. Both projects represent private sector investments that improve local economies as well as the region as a whole. **Hasco Craver**, NEGRC Project Manager, worked closely with a range of governmental and private project partners in developing the applications over a period of six months.

For further information on NEGRC assistance with financial incentives available to local governments, contact **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services, at **(706) 369-5650** or email: **bwalker@negrc.org**.

FAITH & AGING CONFERENCE

The Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging in collaboration with CSRA CARE-NET, an affiliate of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, and the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging will host the 8th Annual Faith and Aging Conference on Thursday, August 18, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Augusta. The theme for this year's conference is "**The Diverse Nature of Caregivers: Who We Are and What We Do.**" The registration fee is

\$30 for Professionals, \$20 for Retired Persons, and \$20 for Caregivers, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Students.

The Conference is the event that brings faith communities, caregivers and community resources together. It offers caregivers and professionals the opportunity to network and learn from their peers, visit exhibitors with the latest products and services, and take advantage of the strengths of other organizations. Participants will also hear from some of Augusta's top speakers as they discuss the faith community's role in caring for the aging.

The registration deadline is August 11, 2011. For further information or registration forms, please call **(706) 210-2000** or toll free at **888-922-4464**.

2011 B.J. SMITH COMMUNITY SERVANT AWARD WINNERS HONORED

The 6th B.J. Smith Community Servant Award Ceremony, hosted by the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB), was held on Wednesday, June 1st in Ila. Mr. Smith served in many roles as a community servant. Prior to his active board involvement in Madison County, he served as a meteorologist with the National Weather Service stationed at the Athens Ben-Epps Airport beginning in 1972. While with the Weather Service, he had his first experience with the local area's summer youth work experience program serving as a worksite supervisor of JTPA summer youth participants. After retiring from the weather service in 1990, he joined the Northeast Georgia Private Industry Council, predecessor to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board, as the Madison County private sector representative. He was actively involved as a director of the board of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and worked on the economic development committee.

Mr. Smith felt that providing people with the tools necessary to ensure their own successes was much more fruitful than providing temporary handouts. After his passing in March 2005, the Workforce Investment Board wanted to honor his commitment to community service as well as his memory. The award was established in February 2006 with the first awardee(s) selected in May 2006 and presented in June of that year.

This year's award recipients are **Patrick Dawalt** of Athens-Clarke County and **Denzel Jones** of Monroe. Mr. Dawalt is a 2011 graduate of Clarke Central High School in Athens. He has been a part of WIA for two years, and has worked at the UGA 4-H Extension office for two summers. In addition to what he learned about the work world, his supervisors ensured he learned other life skills. He worked with Project Safe during his senior year and plans to work there again this summer. He plans to attend Piedmont College to pursue an Early Childhood Development Degree.

Mr. Jones is a 2011 graduate of Monroe Area High School. He was a drum major for the marching band and ran track. He attends Chestnut Grove Baptist Church, where he is President of the Youth and Music Ministry. Mr. Jones has been a part of the WIA in-school program for a year. He worked at the Performance Learning Center in Monroe last summer through WIA and plans to work there again this summer. He will be attending college in the Fall and plans on majoring in pre-dentistry.

In addition to a \$1,000 scholarship to assist with books, fees, tuition, or room and board during their freshman year, awardees

also received either a laptop computer or printer to assist with their studies.

For further information on the WIA In-school Youth Program, please contact **Danielle Ingels**, NEGRC WIA Youth Program Specialist, at **(706) 369-5703**.



Award recipients with Mrs. Smith

WIB CONTINUES TO PROVIDE 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 his anonymity.)

A resident of Barrow County, John was 32 years old when the company in which he was employed for 10 years decided to close its doors and move overseas. He worked on a production line making \$8.50/hour. When he was laid off, he only had a GED and no transferable skills that would assist him in obtaining another job. He had a wife, a five year old, a newborn, and a mortgage. John knew, that in order to provide for his family, he was going to have to go back to school and get an education. Unfortunately, he could not afford the cost of tuition and books. He then contacted the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) office, enrolled in their program, and was eligible to begin classes at Gwinnett Technical College. WIA paid his tuition and books and helped buy the tools necessary for him to complete his associate degree in Machine Tool Technology. Upon completion of this program and two weeks after graduation, John was able to re-enter the workforce using his degree and new skills at a starting salary of \$15.00/hour. He landed an exceptional job with a company working in a machine shop. Unfortunately, since that time, John has been laid off twice but has always been able to reenter the workforce quickly with additional experience and the help of WIA. John says, "I have no idea where my family or I would be if it wasn't for the help of WIA and the services they provide to help individuals help themselves."

In the 12 county Northeast Georgia area, 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 utilized the Northeast Georgia WIA for job search, career advisement, and retraining services. Most of the customers were laid-off from their jobs due to down-sizing or business closures in the area. WIA program participation rates have gone up 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 services available through the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board, contact **Carol Rayburn Cofer** at **(706) 369-5703**.

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS JULY

6	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Arts Development Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	2:00 p.m.	Aging Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	2:00 p.m.	UOBWA Operations Committee	Bear Creek Reservoir
20	3:30 p.m.	Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	9:00 a.m.	Firefly Trails Advisory Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
27	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,