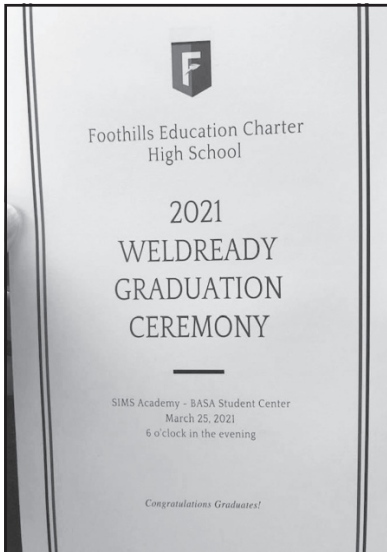


## "WELDREADY" FOR SIXTEEN (16) AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

March 25, 2021 was a special day for sixteen students at the Foothills Education Charter High School's Barrow Campus. These youth completed a ten week WeldReady course and they passed their AWS welding certification. These students also earned one CTAE credit. Foothills Education Charter High School provides students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma during non-traditional hours. This is a great partnership between WorkSource Northeast Georgia/NEGRC and Foothills Education Charter High School. The training was delivered on the WorkSource Northeast Georgia's eight-bay, welding-training trailer. The students also earned OSHA-10 certification, forklift certification, FirstAid CPR/AED certification, and more. This training was supported by Caterpillar and Kubota Industrial Equipment. A special thank you to Barrow County School System/Sims Academy of Innovation and Technology, Lanier Technical College Winder Campus and Workforce Innovators, Inc. for their support as well.



*The program from the WeldReady event*



*Graduates from the WeldReady Program*

## THE GEORGIA TRUST CALLS FOR "PLACES IN PERIL" NOMINATIONS

The Georgia Trust is calling for nominations to the annual *Places in Peril* list which highlights historically significant properties that are threatened. The *Places in Peril* program raises awareness about threatened sites and encourages owners, individuals, organizations, and communities to employ preservation tools, partnerships and resources necessary to preserve the properties in peril.

Sites named to the list must be subject to a serious threat to their existence or historical, architectural, and/or archaeological integrity. Nominees must have community support and demonstrable level of community commitment and support. Submissions are due June 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please visit [www.georgiatrust.org/our-programs/places-in-peril/](http://www.georgiatrust.org/our-programs/places-in-peril/) and for assistance in nominating a property, please contact **Lydia Joffray**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at [ljoffray@negrc.org](mailto:ljoffray@negrc.org).

*A previous "Places in Peril" property in Maxeys, Georgia*





COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021

In tough times, communities find strength in people and people find strength in their communities. In the past year, we've seen this time and again in the Northeast Georgia planning and service area as friends, neighbors, and businesses have found new ways to support each other.

In Northeast Georgia, older adults are a key source of this strength. Through their experiences, successes, and difficulties, they have built resilience that helps them face new challenges. When communities tap into this, they become stronger too.

Each May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older Americans Month. This year's theme is *Communities of Strength*, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that builds strong, resilient communities.

Strength is built and shown not only by bold acts, but also small ones of day-to-day life—a conversation shared with a friend, working in the garden, trying a new recipe, or taking time for a cup of tea on a busy day. When we share these activities with others—even virtually or by telling about the experience later—we help them build resilience too.

This year, the fourteen senior centers in the NEGRC will celebrate Older Americans Month by encouraging senior center participants and the local community to share their experiences. Together, we can find strength—and create a stronger future.

Below are some ways to share and connect:

- ❖ **Look for joy in the everyday:** Celebrate small moments and ordinary pleasures by taking time to recognize them. Start a gratitude journal and share it with others via social media, or call a friend or family member to share a happy moment or to say thank you.
- ❖ **Reach out to neighbors:** Even if you can't get together in person right now, you can still connect with your neighbors. Leave a small gift on their doorstep, offer to help with outdoor chores, or deliver a home cooked meal.
- ❖ **Build new skills:** Learning something new allows us to practice overcoming challenges. Take an art course online or try a socially distanced outdoor movement class to enjoy learning with others in your community. Have a skill to share? Find an opportunity to teach someone, even casually.

- ❖ **Share your story:** There's a reason storytelling is a time-honored activity. Hearing how others experience the world helps us grow. Interviewing family, friends, and neighbors can open up new conversations and strengthen our connections.

When people of different ages, backgrounds, abilities, and talents share experiences—through action, story, or service—we help build strong communities. And that's something to celebrate! Please join the fourteen senior centers of the Northeast Georgia region in strengthening our community – by joining a virtual event or engaging on social media activities.

If you or someone you know would like to participate, contact your local senior center to join activities for Older Americans Month celebration.

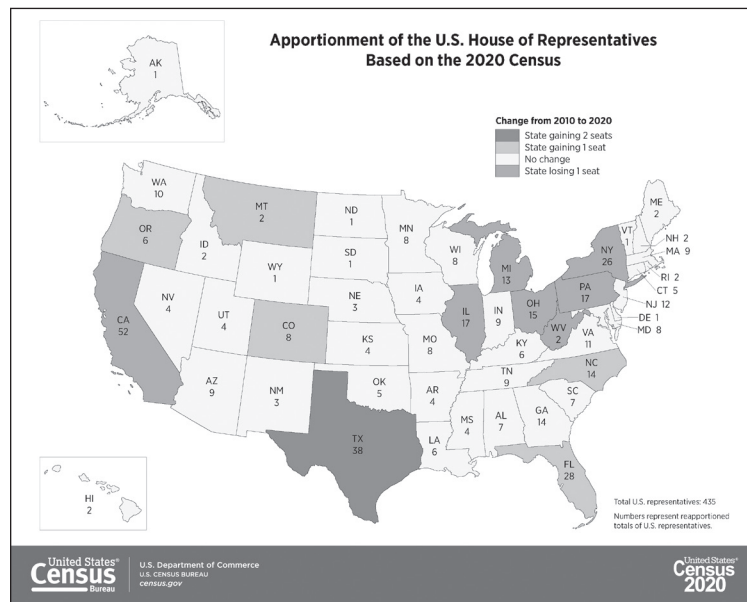
Barrow .....	Candice Hardie .....	770-307-3025
Clarke .....	Allyn Rippin .....	706-549-4850
Elbert.....	Rebecca Stephens .....	706-283-2033
Greene.....	Kia Huff .....	706-453-7463
Jackson.....	Kathy Branyon.....	706-367-5101
Jasper.....	Tracy Norton.....	706-468-7507
Madison .....	Kelsey Tyner .....	706-795-6250
Morgan.....	Mary Nunn .....	706-342-1614
Newton .....	Freda Reed .....	770-784-2174
Oconee.....	Merry Howard.....	706-769-3979
Oglethorpe .....	Delores Pelewski .....	706-743-8848
Walton .....	Vickie Gasaway .....	770-267-6589
Social Circle.....	Patricia Javis.....	770-464-1700
Loganville.....	Rae Bentley .....	770-466-3620

## CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES 2020 CENSUS APPORTIONMENT RESULTS

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2020 Census state population counts and apportionment results. While Georgia's population increased 10.6% to over 10.7M residents, it was not enough to get an added congressional seat. Five states gained one seat in the House of Representatives (Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon), the State of Texas gained two seats, and seven states lost a seat (California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia). For more information and corresponding maps, visit: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/dec/2020-apportionment-data.html>.

Local Census 2020 data releases have been pushed back due to the extended data collection timeline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Census Bureau has indicated local data releases

should begin by August/September; however, availability will vary by geographic location and release dates are expected to extend into December. Contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Specialist, at [jmcbrayer@negrc.org](mailto:jmcbrayer@negrc.org), for questions about the 2020 Census or the upcoming redistricting process.



## BOGART CELEBRATES STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Bogart celebrated a ribbon cutting for its downtown streetscape project on May 26, 2021. The event was held outdoors and celebrated the hard work and efforts towards constructing the downtown streetscape improvements. Parking, sidewalk construction, and infrastructure improvements were made to support the downtown businesses. Many of the improvements enhance the experience of pedestrians to improve accessibility and safety while walking in the downtown area.



Mayor Jones (center) and other Councilmembers cutting the ribbon for the streetscape project in downtown Bogart.

**Mayor Janet Jones** welcomed attendees with **John Larkin**, Mayor Pro Tem, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Pastor Obie Bradford** giving the Invocation. In her remarks, Mayor Jones credited former mayor **Terri Glenn** for her efforts in “getting this beautiful project started.” A portion of the project’s funding was provided through SPLOST and also in attendance were **John Daniell**, Chairman of the Oconee Board of Commissioners, **Mark Saxon**, Oconee County Commissioner Post 4, and **Chuck Horton**, Oconee County Commissioner Post 2. The NEGRC provided technical assistance to the City early in the project’s development with advisement on Master Planning. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director, attended the ceremony at the request of Mayor Jones.

## NEGRC HOSTS NEW COUNCILMEMBER ORIENTATION

The NEGRC is hosting a New Councilmember Orientation on May 12, 2021 from 10:00am-noon at the NEGRC’s Headquarters in Athens. The orientation is intended to provide new Councilmembers (or existing ones) with information about the NEGRC, the Council, and staff programmatic operations. For attendees, it is a good opportunity to learn more about the NEGRC’s services and how it can assistance its member local governments. The program will also cover Regional Commissions statewide and their role in delivering state and federal programs. Each of the NEGRC’s Programmatic Divisions Directors (Area Agency on Aging, Planning & Government Services, and Workforce) will present about their specific services within the twelve-county service area.

There is no cost to attend but **RSVP is required by May 10, 2021** to Julie Ball by email: [jball@negrc.org](mailto:jball@negrc.org). The program is geared towards new Councilmembers but also open to othe Councilmembers interested in updated information. Safety precautions related to COVID-19 with masks and social distancing will be followed for the meeting.

Our offices will be closed on  
Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> for  
**MEMORIAL DAY**

*Honor America’s Heroes*



305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605

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*Update*

**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**MAY**

11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board	Virtually
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	New Council Member Orientation	NEGRC Atrium
20 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trump's Catering
26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA Meeting	NEGRC Atrium
31 <sup>st</sup>	All Day	Closed for Memorial Day	