

CLG TRAINING OFFERED IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Certified Local Governments (CLGs), or communities that have adopted a historic-preservation ordinance and complete design review, are guided by Historic Preservation Commissions (HPC). The Commission members, appointed by their respective local governments, must have expertise and interest in historic resources. In addition, HPC members are required to complete annual training to remain current with the state's Certified Local Government Program requirements.

Georgia's Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources provides 2-3 training events each year. Some of these training events are sponsored and provided by a local government. On **Friday, December 13, 2019 from 9am-4pm**, a HPC training will be hosted by the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACC) in coordination with HPD. This training is a good opportunity for Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) local governments to include HPC members, elected officials and others to learn more about historic-preservation ordinances and best practices for CLGs.

The training will be held at the ACC Planning Department's Auditorium located at 120 W. Dougherty in Athens. **Reservations are required prior to December 6, 2019** and a \$5 registration fee—due upon arrival. Reservations can be made by emailing **Amber Eskew** at ambreskew@accgov.com or calling (706) 613-3515.

CAMERA READY GUIDEBOOK AVAILABLE

The **Georgia Camera Ready** program connects local communities with the state's Film Office and, more broadly, the motion-picture industry. One of the purposes of Camera Ready is to promote and locate the filming of motion picture and television productions in places in Georgia that meet the film producer's needs. The NEGRC's communities are well-used and offer competitive locations for film and television productions.

All of the NEGRC's counties participate in the Camera Ready program. Each of these communities designates a Camera Ready representative to update film locations and act as a "Liaison" with the State. They also assist during movie-location scouting and actual filming. To help these representatives and new communities interested in Camera Ready stay informed about the program, an updated **Camera Ready Guidebook** is available as a resource. It was recently updated and made available and can be found online here: <https://cameraready.georgia.org/film/pdf/GeorgiaCameraReadyGuidebook.pdf>. The guidebook is also a good way for elected and local government officials to learn more about the details and best practices in hosting a film and/or television production in their community.

In FY19, 399 major productions were shot in Georgia; resulting in a 2.9 billion investment of the film industry in direct spending to the state's economy. Further information about the Georgia Film Office can be found here: www.georgia.org/film.

NEGRC STAFF ASSIST WITH OXFORD'S RETREAT

Last month, the City of Oxford held a day-long "retreat" at "The Center" in Covington with Mayor Roseberry, Oxford Councilmembers and City staff. Several guest speakers were included, providing updates on relevant topics. Mayor Roseberry requested NEGRC assistance in facilitating a SWOT analysis and planning session during the day. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director, and **John Devine**, NEGRC Principle Planner, conducted the sessions.

During the three and a-half hour program, City officials reviewed and updated their annual work program and discussed their community's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT). Councilmembers participated in two, individual groups that prepared responses and reported back to the full body—with Walker and Devine facilitating the input and recording responses.



Oxford Retreat with John Devine (right) presenting the City's work program

A good portion of the responses and discussion centered on the City's accomplishments over the last several years and priorities for the upcoming years. It also served to provide continuity as the City transitions to new leadership next year. A final report will be prepared by NEGRC staff and provided to the City.



Councilmembers participating in SWOT breakout session with Mayor Roseberry (background-right) and Matt Pepper, City Manager, background-left.

USDA "PROSPERITY SUMMIT" SCHEDULED FOR ELBERT COUNTY

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing a multi-regional "Prosperity Summit" to be held in Elberton on **November 18, 2019 from 9am-5pm** at the Athens Technical College's Elberton Campus located at 1317 Athens Hwy. USDA is directing this informative session to six NEGRC counties including: **Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, and Oglethorpe**. As rural counties, Elbert, Madison, and Oglethorpe will be 'targeted' for USDA's programs. The "Summit" is intended for county leadership, community leaders and organizations, and others interested in access to USDA programs and, specifically, involvement as a "Center of Community Prosperity."

Several topic areas will be considered in the "Summit" including: Economic Development, Innovation & Technology, Workforce, and Quality of Life. Within these are specific components that can be addressed through presentations by experts in their respective subject matter. There is no fee for the training "Summit" but registration is required. Contact Deborah Callahan at Deborah.Callahan@usda.gov or **(706) 552-2595** to reserve or for further information.

PLANNING & GOVERNMENT SERVICES STAFF ATTEND FALL DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

NEGRC staff from the Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division attended the DCA Fall Conference in LaGrange on October 15-17th. The three-day conference offered seminars on the 2020 Census, rural broadband, comprehensive planning, tax incentive zones, and other topics within DCA's scope of grant, loan, planning, and community development programs. PGS staff also attended Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) training workshops.

On Wednesday evening of the conference, the State of Georgia awarded over \$57 million dollars in grants to local governments at the DCA Awards Dinner. Seven NEGRC communities received 2019 Designations or Awards: **City of Commerce, City of Greensboro, City**

of Hoschton, Jasper County, City of Jefferson, Oconee County, and Oglethorpe County. The NEGRC congratulates these communities and encourages communities interested in state or federal funding, designations, or technical support to contact **Eva Kennedy**, NEGRC PGS Director, at ekennedy@negrc.org.

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

The Georgia Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills. The purpose of LIHEAP is to provide appropriate and timely financial assistance to:

- Low-Income eligible households;
- Energy crisis assistance to households experiencing heating or cooling emergencies that are life threatening;
- Provide long-term, low-cost residential weatherization assistance.

Starting November 1, 2019, local Community Action Agencies will begin scheduling appointments for senior citizens (age 65 and older) or those unable to leave their home due to health reasons. The program will open to the general public on December 2, 2019 and last until all funds are exhausted.

This program will pay a one-time payment of up to \$400 to an applicant's primary heating vendor. A person may be eligible for assistance if their household's total income is at or below the following:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1 person	\$23,776
1 people	\$31,092
3 people	\$38,408
4 people	\$45,724
5 people	\$53,040
6 people	\$60,356
7 people	\$61,727
8 people	\$63,099
For each additional member add \$1,372	

Applicants may apply for assistance at your local Community Action Agency, which are:

1. Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. serves Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Jackson, Madison, Oconee and Oglethorpe counties. Appointments can be made by calling (855) 636-3108 or go through internet scheduling at www.ndo.org/eap.
2. Overview, Inc. serves Greene, Jasper and Morgan counties. Appointments can be made by calling 478-453-4111.
3. Partnership for Community Actions serves Newton and Walton counties. Appointments can be made by calling 404-537-4300.

Applicants must bring the following information with them to their appointment:

- Proof of income for all household members for the past 30 days
- Proof of Social Security number for each person in the household
- Most recent Gas and Electric Bill for the household

- Proof of citizenship or legal immigrant status for each person in household

For more information on the program, contact the **Division of Family and Children Services** at **404-657-3426**.

MEDICARE'S OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Medicare's Open Enrollment runs **October 15 through December 7, 2019** and is the time of year when you can make changes to your Medicare coverage. Participants can make as many changes as needed to their Medicare coverage during Medicare's Open Enrollment. The last change will take effect on January 1, 2020. Eligible participants are encouraged to take action to make sure your coverage will meet your needs in 2020. Below are three tips for making changes during open enrollment:

1. Know the changes you can make during Medicare's Open Enrollment.
 - ▶ The changes you can make include:
 - ▶ Joining a new Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D Prescription Drug Plan
 - ▶ Switching from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan
 - ▶ Switching from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Original Medicare (with or without a Part D Plan)
2. Review your coverage for 2020
 - ▶ Medicare Advantage and Part D plans usually change each year. Make sure that your drugs will still be covered next year and that your providers and pharmacies will still be in the plan's network
3. Know who to contact if you have questions.
 - ▶ State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which in Georgia is called GeorgiaCares. Counselors can help you review your options and pick a plan that meets your needs. Please contact GeorgiaCares at 1-866-55AGING (1-866-552-4464), Option 4.
 - ▶ Medicare Advantage Plan/Part D Plan-contact your plan directly about your benefits, coverage or costs. If you do not receive your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) or Evidence of Coverage (EOC), contact your plan to request changes. You should also talk to your doctor and other medical providers to find out which plans they accept.
 - ▶ 1-800-Medicare or www.medicare.gov - Calling 1-800-Medicare or visiting www.medicare.gov are ways to find plans in your area or change your coverage during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period. Medicare will send you a new Medicare & You Handbook in the mail each fall containing information specific to your region.

It is important to remember that you should make any necessary changes to your Medicare coverage by December 7, 2019 in order for the changes to take effect January 1, 2020. If, in 2020, you need to change your Medicare coverage, you may have the opportunity to make changes if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or have Extra Help.

There is assistance available through GeorgiaCares that provides free, non-biased, one-on-one assistance in comparing your options and deciding on which plans best meets your needs. Contact **GeorgiaCares** at **1-866-55AGING (1-866-552-4464)**, Option 4. GeorgiaCares staff can

also be reached at the SHIP E-mail: **GeorgiaCares@dhs.ga.gov** or on their website at **www.mygeorgiacares.org**.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA REPRESENTED AT FALL 2019 SETA CONFERENCE

The NEGRC's Workforce Development Staff and Workforce Development Board Members recently attended the Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Fall Conference in Savannah, Georgia on September 8-10, 2019. SETA provides training and networking opportunities to professionals in the Workforce Development Industry and its partners. Speakers and presenters from across the country convened to provide workshops on: WIOA Administration and Performance, Serving Priority Populations including Veterans and People with Disabilities, Providing Services to Youth, Apprenticeships, Business Services, Financial, One-Stop System Operations and much more. Of particular note, the WorkSource Northeast Georgia staff presented 3 workshops: Kim Meadows and Olivia Wintz on "Outreach Strategies", and Carol Rayburn Cofer on the "How to Take the Training to the People" and ManufactureREADY programming. Of particular note was the WorkSource Northeast Georgia Industrial Mechanical Training Trailer on-site for tours in conjunction with the above workshop. Also, **Laurie Iski** of ACTION, Inc. participated in the pre-conference session on serving persons from targeted populations. Ms. Iski, more specifically, provided information on the Returning Citizens programming that ACTION, Inc. is providing in collaboration with local corrections facilities.



NEGRC staff and attendees at the SETA Fall 2019 Conference

Pam Jones, whom graduated from Athens Technical College with an Associate's Degree in Nursing, served as the closing speaker of the conference. Pam, whom resides in Morgan County, shared her workforce-development experiences and assistance provided by the NEGRC's Workforce Development staff and Athens Technical College staff. Attendees were able to network with other agencies and organizations, as well as interact with vendors/exhibitors to identify ways to better serve citizens of Northeast Georgia. Participants from the NEGRC included Workforce Development Board Chair **Joe Vogt** and the following Workforce Development Staff: **Carol Rayburn Cofer, Kim Meadows, Olivia Wintz, Arun Hariani, Rima Sullivan** and **Rhonda Keeter**. For information on workforce development activities in Northeast Georgia, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



Pam Jones and her husband, Paul, at the SETA Fall 2019 Conference

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS NOVEMBER

6 – 8th		GARC Conference	St. Simons - The King and Prince
15th	8:30 a.m.	Senior Center Directors Meeting	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
19th	7:00 a.m.	ADRC	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
20th	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA Council Meeting	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
21st	10:30 a.m.	NEGRC Council Meeting	Athens Holiday Inn
21st	8:30 a.m.	Youth Committee Meeting	NEGRC Small Conference Room
21st	8:30 a.m.	ADRC	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room
21st	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E. H. Culpepper Conference Room

