

NEWTON COUNTY BREAKS GROUND

Newton County officials and over 100 friends and seniors gathered at Turner Lake Park on Friday, January 17th to break ground for the expansion of the Josephine B. Brown Senior Center.

"This is an awesome day for us," BOC Chairman **Marcello Banes** said, and "we're so excited about the new expansion here." He added, "This is going to provide so many different opportunities for so many seniors in our community. All of those nights you came out to the Commissioner's meetings... it is finally paying off."

The ceremonial groundbreaking signaled the beginning of construction for a \$ 1.7 million expansion which is funded by 2017 SPLOST dollars (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

Burke Walker, NEGRC Executive Director stated, "We are proud of Newton County and the work that they do for the seniors. This facility is one of the best in the Northeast Georgia region."

Freda Reed, Senior Center Director thanked former Executive Director **Josephine Brown** for entrusting her vision to her and Assistant Director, **Teresa Williams**, as well as thanked her staff, seniors and supporters for remaining steadfast in their pursuit of the expansion and renovation.



Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioner Schultz, Sheriff Brown, Lloyd Herr, County Manager, Josephine Brown, Freda Reed, Burke Walker and others dedicate new addition

BARROW COUNTY RESIDENT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF WIOA FUNDED TRAINING

From the time I was a child, I always dreamed of being a mechanic and, more specifically, I dreamed of being a diesel mechanic in the military. This dream began when I was very young while working on cars with my dad and only flourished the older I grew. Throughout high school while other teenage girls were taking classes such as early childhood development, culinary arts, etc, I was eager to go into automotive and construction. At sixteen my plans took a detour, as I became pregnant with my now three-year old son. I did not know where life was going to take me. All I knew was that I had to work and provide for my new family. I dropped out of high school and was working full time. A year went by before I pushed myself into getting my GED. While going to classes and

studying, I was approached by a team member that worked with ACTION, Inc. She informed me of the WIOA grant and an opportunity to go to the Medical Institute of Northeast Georgia and receive my certification in Medical Assisting. Up until that point, I had no thoughts of college and no interest or thought of going into the medical field. After talking with her more and receiving all the information, I thought even if I end up hating this and not doing it long term, it would give me something for the time being to help support my family. She helped me through every step of getting my GED and getting enrolled into school. In May of 2018, I started going to classes at the Medical Institute, received my books and study materials, and slowly began working my way to receiving my certification. With every class I attended, I became more and more interested in the medical field. I'm not sure exactly when it happened, but suddenly, I was in love with everything I was learning. I studied hard, was a mom during the day, going to school in the evenings, and working during the nights. Looking back I'm not sure how I did it, the lack of sleep, long hours of studying, and many exams, but I was driven with determination. ACTION, Inc. was by my side the entire way, not only giving me the amazing chance with school but helping me with child care, locating and coordinating clinicals, and even setting up a chance for me to work in the field and gain experience while still attending classes. Because of ACTION, Inc., the WIOA grant and their staff, at the age of 18 I was able to find a job at an amazing office, move into my own house, and buy a new car. My life's timeline may have been different than many others but ACTION, Inc. helped me in proving that no matter the circumstances, with determination and hard work, anything can be done.



Miranda Gaddis, CCMA

For information on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services available through ACTION, Inc. and other training providers and vendors, contact the NEGRC's Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**. Oversight of programs is provided through the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board.

CENSUS 2020: COMPLETE COUNT TOOLKIT

On January 6, 2020, **Rusty Haygood**, the Deputy Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, held an informational workshop in Athens regarding the distribution of material promoting the Census also known as the Complete Count Toolkit. Beginning in January, local Complete Count Committees (CCCs), ethnic organizations, non-profits, etc. will be able to download the toolkit at no cost. Interested communities and CCC's can visit www.census.gov and download ready-made newsletters, newspaper articles, posters, stickers etc. Additionally, some materials can be customized by groups with specific needs.

Mr. Haygood also announced that, starting March 12th, the Census Bureau will be mailing out the first notice to citizens to complete the Census online. Shortly after that, the State Complete Count Committee will begin a media campaign on all major television networks and ethnic media outlets. The State has a goal of 80% Census completion rate and, with local support, Georgia could surpass that goal. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Complete Count Toolkit, please feel free to contact **Eva Kennedy**, NEGRC Director of Planning and Government Services, at **706-369-5650** or ekennedy@negrc.org. You can also visit online: www.census.georgia.gov/contact-us.

MADISON COUNTY AWARDED GEORGIA HERITAGE GRANT

Madison County has received a Georgia Heritage Grant for \$10,000 from the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The awarded funds from this grant are to be used for the preservation of the Madison County Courthouse. The Courthouse sits in downtown Danielsville, Georgia, in the Courthouse Square. It was built in 1901 and was designed by the J.W. Golucke and Company. The location served as the courthouse for Madison County until 1996 when the county-level courts relocated a quarter mile away to 91 Albany Avenue in Danielsville. The building underwent previous renovations from 2003 to 2004 and currently houses the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.



A Georgia Historical Marker outside the historic Madison County Courthouse in Danielsville, a historic building listed in the National Register of Historic Places

The Georgia Heritage Grant program has existed since 1994 and has provided over \$3 million to local governments and nonprofit organizations. The money from the grant is to go to historic resources (including cemeteries, schools, and courthouses). To receive adequate funding, \$22 of every \$35 paid for the historic preservation license plates goes directly

into the grant program. Since the introduction of the Georgia Heritage Grant Program, 14,000 plates have been purchased or renewed. The Georgia Heritage Grant is competitively awarded and applications must meet a variety of historic preservation standards. The Madison County Courthouse is already on the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places and the project aligns well with HPD's mission.

For questions regarding HPD funding and other preservation-related efforts in Northeast Georgia, please contact the NEGRC Planning & Government Services Division at **(706) 369-5650**.

BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY (BAS) FOR THE UNITED STATES CENSUS

Has your boundary changed in the past year? Then let the NEGRC know! The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) annually to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas. The survey allows for counties and municipalities to update information about the legal boundaries and names of all governmental units in the United States. Boundary updates complete the Census Bureau's geographic framework for data collection, tabulation, and dissemination. In addition, they are vital to the success of the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey (ACS), Population Estimates Program (PEP), and many other Census-produced datasets. The federal government allocates more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually for health, welfare, infrastructure, education, and other federal programs and services. Responding to the BAS ensures that your local government receives the funds for which it is entitled and has the best data available for its decision-making processes.

The U.S. Census Bureau mailed and emailed an annual response letter to all federally recognized tribes with a reservation or off-reservation trust land, counties (and equivalent areas), incorporated places, and minor civil divisions (MCDs) in January 2020. The Census Bureau must receive responses to the 2020 BAS before March 1, 2020 to be included in the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Population Estimates Program (PEP). If you need assistance with BAS, please contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Specialist, at **jmcbayer@negrc.org** or **(706) 369-5650**.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION COMPLETES ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's (NEGRC) Workforce Development Division completed its annual

WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Program Review in January 2020. This review is conducted by the state WIOA administrative entity, the Technical College System of Georgia's Office of Workforce Development. This process entails a comprehensive review of programmatic, compliance and financial scope with TCSG OWD staff on-site for 4 days culminating in a written report outlining any findings, observations or notable practices. In the review for the Program Year 2018, there were no findings issued to the NEGRC.

For information on WIOA funded services/training in Northeast Georgia under the WorkSource Northeast Georgia brand, please contact the Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.

DCA QUARTERLY REPORTING INFORMATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires local governments to submit several reports and financial data every year. These submissions are the responsibility of individual, local governments and, when submitted and accepted, allows for eligibility for state funding, designations, loans or other programs administered by DCA.

As a way to help communicate any delinquent reports, DCA is, and will continue to, provide quarterly updates to the NEGRC. Once received, these lists will in turn be communicated to the respective NEGRC local governments by NEGRC staff. Another update on reports is that the "Report of Local Government Finance" (LGF) is due within six months of the conclusion of the local government's fiscal year. For FY2019, the submission deadline runs until June 30, 2020.

For the state's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, compliance with reporting requirements are at the time of the grant's submission through the review period and grant award. The report is an especially important for any local governments intending to submit a 2020 CDBG application.

The most recent quarterly report lists twenty-two (22) NEGRC local governments delinquent on one or more of the following reports: LGF, Government Management Indicators (GOMI) and Hotel-Motel Excise Tax information. Inquiries and/or questions about existing delinquencies can be made by emailing DCA at **DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov**. The NEGRC will notify local governments by email about any existing delinquencies as a way to avoid any eligibility issues for DCA's programs.





305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR. STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATHENS, GA
PERMIT NO. 502

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS FEBRUARY

5 th	1:00 p.m.	Aging Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
12 th	12:30 p.m.	Solid Waste Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20 th	12:00 p.m.	NEGRC Council Meeting	Athens Holiday Inn
20 th	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21 st	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
26 th	8:30 a.m.	AAA Senior Center Serv-Safe	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room