

COMMISSIONER CARL PENNAMON TRIBUTE

[The following letter was sent to the NEGRC by Jasper County Chairman, Bruce Henry]

Dear Mr. Walker,

It is with great sorrow that I inform you of the passing of our beloved Commissioner Mr. Carl Pennamon on Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Carl Pennamon, served as District 1 Commissioner for Jasper County Board of Commissioners; which encompasses West and South Monticello in Jasper County.

He was first elected as Commissioner for this District in 1985 and has served this district faithfully for 36 years. Carl had a passion for change and serving his community. He was among the longest serving Commissioners in the State of Georgia. Over the last several decades, Mr. Pennamon supported opportunities to provide jobs locally and regionally with various civic initiatives.

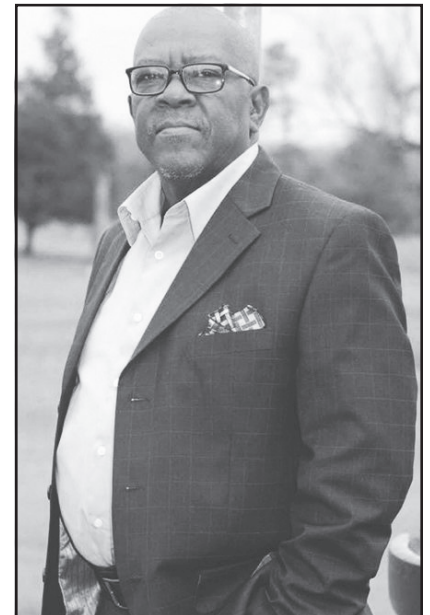
Mr. Pennamon served as Chairman of the Board for Jasper County Commission on several occasions. He also served his community on the following Authorities and Boards; Jasper County Recreation Authority, Jasper County Board of Health, The Hospital Authority, North East Georgia Regional Commission and Four County Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton and Walton Counties. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge #329.

Mr. Pennamon leaves to cherish his memories; his loving wife of 32 years, Valerie Evette Pennamon. Four sons and one daughter; 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

As his tenure showed his dedication to the community he was raised in, and chose to raise his family in; such was his dedication to his church. He was a faithful member of St. James A. M.E Church located at 514 Funderburg Drive in Monticello, GA.

Mr. Pennamon was a true example of a dedicated Public Servant. His passing leaves a huge void in our community. We will forever cherish his memories and the sacrifices he made for the citizens of Jasper County and Monticello, Georgia.

Sincerely,
Bruce Henry, *Chairman*



Carl Pennamon, 1951–2020.

GEORGIA CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This year marks an exciting new way of celebrating the “Georgia Caregivers of the Year”.

In October, the Rosalynn Care Institute of Caregiving (RCI) will celebrate Georgia Caregivers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this recognition will move to a virtual format, but RCI is no less excited to honor and congratulate the incredible men and women who serve as caregivers in the State of Georgia.

RCI will recognize the CARENET Regional Caregivers of the Year, as well as Georgia Caregivers of the Year in each category: Volunteer, Para-Professional, and Family.

The Caregiver of the Year Award is designed to recognize the selfless acts, compassion, empathy, effort and extraordinary commitment of caregivers towards those who need their care. And though RCI cannot wait to be together again in person, RCI believes it's essential to honor those that sacrifice their own resources, time, comfort, providing care, or must have provided care within the past year.

Each regional CARENET will submit one Regional Winner in each of the three categories: Volunteer, Para-Professional, and Family. The state winner will be selected from the regional winners by the Rosalynn Carter Institute team.

The Volunteer, Para-Professional, and Family winners of the Georgia Caregiver of the Year awards will receive:

- A gilded rose
- A message from Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter
- A check for \$1,000

The Northeast Georgia CARENET will honor the Regional Caregiver of the Year and all nominees during the month of November. Please check the NEGRG website (www.negr.org) and the NEGRG Facebook page for more information on the local winners and nominees.

THE PGS DIVISION LAUNCHES NEW INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT. FOLLOW US @NEGRG_PGS

Last month, the Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division joined the social media world by launching its new Instagram account:



@negrp_pgs is a one-stop shop where you can learn about current PGS collaborations, projects, and initiatives; meet the PGS staff; and receive important information regarding funding opportunities, programs, and other happenings at the local, regional, state, and federal level. The account will serve as a new mode to highlight local success stories, disseminate information, and interact with our local communities. The PGS Division is

excited to join the social media world! Follow us **@negrp_pgs** to learn more.

PLACEMAKING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Place-based economic development is a bottoms-up, holistic approach to community visioning and planning. The goal is to enhance the quality of life in a community and create a more inclusive, less-divisive environment. Communities are experiencing a paradigm shift in economic development, changing from an impersonal, auto-oriented society to pedestrian-scale developments with a variety of transit options that spark person-to-person interactions.

Place-based economic development has three main focuses: diversity, equity, and inclusion. Planning in placemaking should include stakeholders from multiple aspects of the community, including business leaders, faith-based organizations, local associations, elected officials, and residents. There are several opportunities available to local communities to provide technical assistance and funding for Placemaking Economic Development.

The Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative is a three-year place-based economic development program, facilitated by the Georgia Cities Foundation. The program focuses on providing technical assistance, facilitation, and education to cities and counties. As part of the program, a diverse community team, composed of local residents and other stakeholders, identifies projects that reflect the unique cultural and historic character of the community. The program also provides participating communities with networking, peer learning, and incentives to help identify their community assets and develop a locally-based/placemaking strategy.

The USDA, Rural Development Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge offers federal funding for place-based economic development. The goal of this grant is to create places where people want to live, work, and play, and to create greater social and cultural vitality in rural communities. Applicants for this grant should be prepared to develop or have developed a placemaking plan in partnership with public and private partners with the focus of revitalization of economic vitality and quality of life impacts. Utilizing placemaking techniques and innovation, the outcome of the project should be to create spaces with a mix of uses, establish effective public spaces, expand broadband capability, incorporate multiple transportation and housing options, preserve historic structures, and/or incorporate a respect of community heritage, arts, culture, and creativity, recreation, and green space.

For more information visit the **Georgia Cities Foundation Placemaking Collaborative**, the USDA's **Rural Placemaking**

Innovation Challenge, or contact **Lydia Joffray**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at ljoffray@negrc.org.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STAFF COMPLETE TRAINING THROUGH AMERICAN DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT NETWORK (ADEN)

Rhonda Keeter, NEGRC Workforce Development Program Director, and Kim Meadows, NEGRC Career Advisor Project Manager, recently completed the ADEN (American Disability Employment Network) Core Training. After their successful completion of the training, Rhonda and Kim will assist individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits, who are seeking to return to work or begin working for the first time, through the Social Security Administration's "Ticket to Work Program." This program allows individuals who are receiving Social Security disability benefits to work for up to 9 months, without losing their benefit, to ensure that they can successfully return to work. This program also serves the needs of employers who want to diversify their workforce and hire persons with disabilities.

Kim will work with the participants to find employment, retain employment, understand their benefits, as well as ensure that proper accommodations are made. Rhonda will be working on the financial aspect of the program. We are excited to add this program to the services provided in Northeast Georgia and Workforce Development. Additional information and/or questions can be directed to **Kim Meadows**, NEGRC Career Advisor Project Manager, at 706.369.5703 or email: kmeadows@negrc.org.

GEORGIA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In early September, Governor Brian Kemp announced the award of nearly \$41 Million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to 58 Georgia communities. Georgia's CDBG grant program is funded by allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The CDBG program focuses on "benefiting low- to moderate-income people by providing resources for livable neighborhoods, economic empowerment, and decent housing." Three Northeast Georgia projects were awarded in 2020, including a senior center expansion in Oconee County, drainage and street improvements in the City of Monroe, and sewer improvements in the City of Social Circle.

Over the past decade, Georgia's CDBG program has invested in health care facilities that have helped more than 35,000 Georgians gain access to improved health services, provided resources for critical water and sewer improvements serving more than 177,000 residents in rural areas, supported the construction or enhancement of community facilities to serve more than 16,000 youth and senior citizens, and helped to create more than 6,100 new jobs through the Employment Incentive Program.

More information regarding Georgia's 2020 CDBG awards is available on DCA's website under "Newsroom."

Requests for NEGRC assistance with preparing CDBG applications are due by early October of each year. To request technical assistance or for more information on CDBGs, contact **Eva Kennedy**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services, at ekennedy@negrc.org. Congratulations to Oconee County and the cities of Monroe and Social Circle!



ARC ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF THE APPALACHIA NONPROFIT RESOURCE CENTER

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recently launched its **Appalachia Nonprofit Resource Center**, a virtual training hub intended to help the Appalachian region's nonprofit organizations successfully navigate the COVID-19 crisis. Teams from regional nonprofits are invited to apply for dedicated technical assistance coaching that focuses on long-term operational sustainability during the coronavirus pandemic. Topics include: short-term financial management, long-term financial management, mission and operations, and fundraising. Each training module will be offered in two separate sessions, one beginning in November 2020 and the other in early 2021. In addition to training, the Appalachia Nonprofit Resource Center will also publish a curated collection of resources open to all nonprofit operations, regardless of participation in the technical assistance coaching program. All of the center's services are provided free of charge. Applications to participate in the center's technical assistance coaching courses are due **Friday, October 9, 2020 by 5 p.m. ET**. For more information on the Appalachia Nonprofit Resource Center and applicant eligibility, visit the website: <https://www.arc.gov/news/appalachian-regional-commission-opens-appalachia-nonprofit-resource-center-as-virtual-training-hub/>





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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS OCTOBER

5 th - 8 th		DCA Fall Conference	Telephonic
7 th	9am-3pm	Georgia Rural Prosperity Summit 2020 (Tifton)	Virtual and in-person
13 th	8:30am	NE Georgia Workforce Development Board	TBD
15 th	11am	NEGRC Council Meeting	Telephonic

Please check the NEGRC website for the latest information concerning meetings in October or call the NEGRC at (706) 369-5650.