

2021 CENSUS BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY (BAS)

Has your local government's jurisdictional boundaries 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, the updates are vital to the success the American Community Survey (ACS), Population Estimates Program (PEP), and many other surveys. 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 will be mailing and emailing 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 2021. If you need assistance with completing your Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), please contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Specialist, at jmcbayer@negrc.org or 706-369-5650.

PRESERVING GEORGIA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCES

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation hosted a virtual workshop on December 10th entitled *Preserving Georgia's African American Resources*. Speakers included Melissa Jest, Coordinator for African American Programs at Georgia's Historic Preservation Division, and Keliyah Spann, Chief of Cultural Resources Division, Martin Luther King, Jr., N.H.P. The workshop highlighted best practices and methods of preserving vulnerable African American sites. While Georgia is a leader for National Register listings and Certified Local Governments (CLGs), less than 9% of these resources address the rich history and culture of African Americans in the state.

Resources connected to the history of African Americans tend to be more vulnerable to demolition and lack of preservation. This condition is because of patriarchal elements in our society and also because of documentation methods differing from those often required by National Register and the National Park Service's (NPS) methods. Instead of written or illustrated forms of documentation, African American history often relies upon oral histories and tradition. When communities seek to preserve these sites, a local advocate is needed to utilize a more grassroots approach and process to preservation.

The National Park Service (NPS) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have developed grant programs specifically targeting the preservation of African American resources. The National Park Service offers the **African American Civil Rights Grant Program** with no match required to document, interpret, and preserve sites and stories telling the story of struggle for African American Civil Rights from the transatlantic slave trade onwards. NPS also offers the **History of Equal Rights Grant** which, like the Civil Rights grants, can be used for preservation planning or brick and mortar projects. **Underrepresented Community Grants** through NPS can be utilized to conduct surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register, as well as the development of nominations to the National Register. This grant also does not require a match. The **Save America's Treasures Grant** is available for the preservation of collections or brick and mortar projects. The National Trust offers the **African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund** with awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000 and no match required to fund preservation for places such as sites, museums, and landscapes representing African American cultural heritage.

Statewide grant opportunities include the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's (HPD) Georgia Heritage Grant Program and Certified Local Government grants which can be utilized to preserve African American heritage. HPD also hosts the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network, a volunteer advocacy group. If you would like to pursue any of the above mentioned grants or the preservation of African American resources in your community, please contact **Lydia Joffray**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at ljoffray@negrc.org or 706-369-5650.

WORKSOURCE NORTHEAST GEORGIA CONGRATULATES GRADUATE

WorkSource Northeast Georgia recognizes Amy Poe for her recent educational achievement. Amy is a fall 2020 Lanier Technical College graduate in Radiologic Technology and she was also in the NEGRC's WIOA program. Equally impressive, Amy recently accepted a job with Northeast Georgia Health System in Braselton. CONGRATULATIONS AMY! For information about the NEGRC's WorkSource program, contact **Carol Cofer**, NEGRC WIOA Director, at ccofer@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.



Amy Poe (right), a recent graduate of Lanier Technical College.

NEWTON COUNTY OPENS SENIOR-CENTER EXPANSION

Last month, Newton County dedicated a 5,300 square-foot expansion to its Senior Center that was the culmination of many years of planning and community support. The new center is named the "**Josephine B. Brown Senior Center**" after the former Senior Center Director and long-time advocate for senior services in Newton County. **Chairman Marcello Banes**

of the Newton County Board of Commissioners presided over the ceremony with many elected officials, staff, and citizens speaking at the outdoor event.

Like most counties in the Northeast Georgia region, the numbers of senior citizens is rising and projected to increase dramatically in years to come. As a result, the demand for senior services is also on the increase as is the need for expansion of existing facilities. For many years, Newton County's citizens expressed their interest in expanding their senior center to meet this demand. Ms. Josephine Brown helped guide the Center and these efforts for 46 years that ultimately resulted in the Senior Center expansion's inclusion in the County's 2017 SPLOST; providing \$1.7 million in construction costs. The NEGRC's AAA program also provided funding for equipment, furnishings, and supplies for the new facility that totaled over \$52,000. For FY21, the NEGRC's AAA, in coordination with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), will support senior services with over \$298,000 in operational and program funds to Newton County. The expanded Senior Center now provides almost 12,000 square feet of useable space.

During her remarks, Freda Reed, Director of the Newton County Senior Center, thanked the community and especially Ms. Brown for her mentorship over the years and commitment to senior services. Also presenting at the ceremony were **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director, **Lloyd Kerr**, Newton County Manager, Newton County District #4 **Commissioner J.C. Henderson**, **Covington Councilmember Hawnethia Williams**, and **Keith Ellis**, former Newton County Chairman--among many others.

For information about the NEGRC's AAA programs and services, please contact **Peggy Jenkins**, NEGRC AAA Director, at (706) 369-5650 or email: pjenkins@negrc.org



Josephine Brown (center-background) speaking to attendees at the dedication with Chairman Banes (center-right), Commissioner Demond Mason (third from left) and Freda Reed (forth from left).



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION BEGINS PLAN UPDATE

This month, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will begin an update to its strategic plan. The update occurs every four to six years and the current plan covers the period from 2016-2020. The next update will involve the thirteen (13) states included in the ARC region. It, more specifically, will involve Regional Commission Executive Directors from those states that sit on the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Board of Directors.

A virtual meeting is planned for January 15, 2021 to begin this process and the plan update. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director, and **Heather Feldman**, GMRC Executive Director, will participate in this meeting representing Georgia's five ARC regions. As in past years, this focus group will examine what opportunities can be developed or created to strengthen and move the regions' economies forward for the period 2021-2024. The plan itself is a key tool that is used to help develop projects and direct investment within the ARC region. The current plan is available on ARC's website at www.arc.gov and searching "strategic plan." Any NEGRC local governments that wish to provide input or local perspectives into main challenges and opportunities for your community are invited to contact Burke Walker prior to January 15, 2021 at email: bwalker@negrc.org.

For other information about ARC and related opportunities, contact **Eva Kennedy**, NEGRC Director of PGS, at (706) 369-5650 or email: ekennedy@negrc.org.



SAVE THE DATE: NEW NEGRC COUNCILMEMBER/ELECTED OFFICIAL ORIENTATION

This month, many, newly elected officials will begin their service within the NEGRC area in holding their respective

public offices. Several of these individuals will also start their membership to the NEGRC's Council that meets on a monthly basis.

As a way to welcome and familiarize these new Councilmembers as well as other newly-elected officials to our organization, the NEGRC will conduct an *Orientation Workshop* in early February 2021. The Workshop's format will include presentations by the NEGRC's Executive Director and NEGRC Department heads. It will also provide for questions from attendees. The purpose is to familiarize attendees with the services offered by the NEGRC, its partner agencies, and staff. It is also an opportunity for participants to help the NEGRC learn more about your community needs. The workshop is, at this time, planned for virtual participation. There is no cost for the *Orientation Workshop*.

Further details will be provided in early January and pre-registration is available to those interested by emailing **Amber Bailey**, NEGRC Administrative Support Specialist, at: frontdesk@negrc.org or calling (706) 369-5650.





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REGIONAL MEETINGS JANUARY

1 st	All Day	New Year's Day	NEGRC Closed
21 st	11:00 a.m.	NEGRC Council Meeting	Teleconference
27 th	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA Meeting	NEGRC Atrium