

## NEGRC CONNECTS EDUCATORS AND BUSINESSES THROUGH EXTERNSHIPS

The week of June 6<sup>th</sup> was all about NEGA CONNECTS. Connecting 125 educators in 8 Northeast Georgia counties with 40 businesses and industries through a week-long educator externship program. Educators and businesses in Barrow, Clarke, Greene, Jackson, Madison Morgan, Newton, and Walton Counties connected with the educators being on-site at the participating businesses for 3 days combined with an orientation/kickoff day and a project report day at the conclusion. During the final day, the educators shared what they learned at the businesses and their plans for sharing the information on employment opportunities and lessons learned with their students as well as their colleagues. The externships also allowed the educators and the businesses to establish relationships which they both indicated would be continued throughout the school year in a variety of ways. This includes the businesses speaking to students and staff during the school year as well as serving as worksites for student work-based learning. The educators were paid a stipend for their participation during the week. The occupational areas of the externships were manufacturing, hospitality, and healthcare. Information by county is listed below:

### By the Numbers:

**Barrow County: 5 Externs** - Sponsored by Georgia Foundation for Public Education/Georgia Power

**Employer:** Wimberly Roots, Moreland Engineering, Carter & Sloope, Barrow County Sheriff's Office, Barrow County School System (IT Dept.)

**Clarke County: 23 Externs** - 17 sponsored by WorkSource NEGA (NEGRC), 3 sponsored by Georgia Power, 3 sponsored by Athens Clarke County Economic Development

**Employers:** ABB, Accurus, Authentic Brewing, Caterpillar, Classic Center, Engineered Fabrication Inc (EFI), Piedmont Health Athens, Pilgrim's Pride

**Greene County: 7 Externs** - 3 sponsored by WorkSource NEGA (NEGRC), 4 sponsored by Greene College and Career Academy

**Employers:** A2B Fulfillment, BSP Boiler & Steam Performance, ARC (America's Reclamation Company), Reynolds Lake Oconee, TRU by Hilton, Stair South, Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Lake Oconee

**Jackson County: 4 Externs** - Sponsored by WorkSource NEGA (NEGRC)

**Employer:** Kubota

**Madison County: 2 Externs** - Sponsored by WorkSource NEGA (NEGRC)

**Employer:** ABB

**Morgan County: 4 Externs** - 3 sponsored by WorkSource NEGA, 1 sponsored by Georgia Power

**Employers:** Bard Manufacturing, Mannington Flooring, Morgan Medical Center

**Newton County: 24 Externs** - Sponsored by Newton County School District

**Employers:** Michelin, Verescence, Holder Construction, Takeda, Clairon Metals Corporation, Nisshinbo, SGR Global

**Walton County: 56 Externs** - 15 sponsored by WorkSource NEGA (NEGRC), 41 sponsored by Walton County School District. Additional Sponsors: Walton County Foundation, Georgia Power and Development Authority of Walton County

**Employers:** Takeda, Caterpillar, Standridge Color Corporation, Leggett and Platt, IMMEC, Hitachi Astemo, Tucker Door and Trim, Walton EMC, City of Monroe Wastewater Treatment, Newton County Water and Sewer Authority

A special thanks to the 40 businesses for their engagement in the Summer 2022 NEGA CONNECTS!

For further information on the Educator Externship Program or other WorkSource NEGA (NEGR) programs/initiatives, please contact NEGR, Workforce Development at (706) 369-5703. Pictures below are from some of the externship sites.



Clarke and Madison County Educator Externs with some of the participating businesses as well as some of the sponsors



Greene County Educator Externs with some of the participating businesses



Jackson County Educator Externs



Walton County Educator Externs

## NEWTON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Newton County Senior Center is celebrating 50 years of service. During the year 2022, the Senior Center will be hosting events throughout each month to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The events will showcase the history and the future for the center.

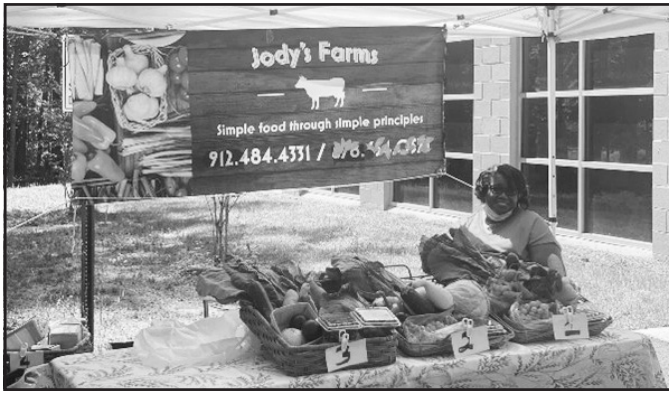
In April, events included Senior Hunger Awareness. On April 28, 2022, the Nonprofit Board for the Senior Center hosted a Farmer's Market in which 125 seniors received produce. Jody's Farms of Rutledge, Georgia is a local farmer that provided the produce. The NEGR's Aging Director, **Peggy Jenkins**, and Quality Assurance Manager, **Toshia Lewis**, attended the farmer's market to support the event and assist as needed.

The Newton County Senior Center provides a variety of services to support the senior citizens of Newton County. Services range from meals, ceramics, arts and crafts, quilting, sewing, exercise and dance, drama, traveling, and many more. To learn more about the Newton County Senior Center and the services offered at the Center please call **770-787-0038**.



Jody's Farms participates in Newton County's 50th Seniors Anniversary Celebration by delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to the participants.





*Peggy Jenkins, AAA Director, assists with fruits and vegetables*

## ELBERTON'S HISTORIC BAILEY BUILDING REHABILITATION NEARS COMPLETION

*Note: This is a follow-up article from a project previously included in the November 2021 NEGRC Newsletter.*

On May 31, NEGRC staff participated in a project walk-through to view the progress of rehabilitation of the 6,500-square-foot John P. Bailey Building, located on the downtown square of the City of Elberton. It is believed to be the oldest surviving building located in downtown Elberton. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, the first floor of the building is estimated to have been built around the 1840's. At some point between then and 1885, a second story was added to the building. In 1885, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show a "Masonic Hall" occupying the second floor, while two general merchandise stores occupied the first floor. The building had fallen into disrepair in recent decades and was purchased by the City of Elberton's Downtown Development Authority in 2018. Façade and structural improvements were significant, and the building's refreshed look seemed to have a positive reaction from pedestrians and drivers passing by.

Phase 1 of construction is expected to be complete by August 2022 and will provide Elberton Square with two new commercial spaces; apartments will be added to the second floor in a later phase of construction. This project is funded by the City of Elberton and through \$750,000 in grant funds from the Community Development Block Grant Redevelopment Fund (CDBG-RDF), awarded in 2020. The NEGRC provides grant writing and administration assistance in coordination with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

NEGRC staff assisting on the project are **Mark Beatty**, NEGRC Planning & Government Services Director, and **Lydia Joffray**, Historic Preservation Planner. This collaborative effort will introduce opportunities for new businesses and positions for low- to moderate-income residents in Elberton. If you would like to learn more about funding opportunities for the redevelopment of historic buildings or blighted areas, please contact **Mark Beatty** at [mbeatty@negrc.org](mailto:mbeatty@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650.



*Newly accessible alley providing access to public parking behind the building. This alley was previously inaccessible due to an accessory building that was vacant and unoriginal to the site.*

*Rehabilitated façade of the historic Bailey Building as seen from the Elberton Square. Central access to the second floor was re-established, accompanied by two new storefront entrances. The original Masonic Square and Compasses emblem was kept as an ode to the building's past.*



*One of two stabilized interior commercial spaces, facing the rear of the building. Each space is approximately 1,500 square feet and will provide a customizable retail opportunity.*



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# *Update*

## **REGIONAL MEETINGS** **JULY**

4 <sup>th</sup>	ALL Day	Independence Day	NEGRC Closed
27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA Meeting	NEGRC