



## ACCG REGIONAL MEETING IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Last month, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) began holding regional meetings within the state's twelve Regional Commission areas. The final meeting is scheduled in the NEGRC's area on **November 16, 2022 from 10am-noon in Athens** at UGA's Livestock Arena Classroom. Registration is required with \$15 per attendee (excluding legislators).

The agenda includes informative topics presented by **ACCG Executive Director Dave Wills** and other ACCG staff. One important component of the meeting is the review of the ACCG's 2023 Legislative Agenda and Priorities in preparation for the upcoming legislative session.

ACCG requests that registrations come from individual county staff responsible for scheduling with ACCG. In addition, counties wishing to invite their respective legislators should contact Beth Brown at **bbrown@accg.org**. The address for the meeting in Athens is: 2600 South Milledge Avenue. Athens, Georgia 30605.

## THE CITY OF WINDER AWARDED \$1 MILLION IN CDBG FUNDS

The City of Winder was recently awarded \$1,000,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) for sewer and stormwater-infrastructure improvements in the East Stephens Street Neighborhood. The project includes the construction of a new detention pond to serve the neighborhood, re-establishing the right-of-way gradient to improve runoff, replacing water and sewer lines, and installing and repairing sidewalks. These improvements will directly benefit 247 persons in the project's target area, of whom 86% are low- to moderate-income. The target area includes Georgia Avenue, Griffith Street, Park Avenue, Capitol Avenue, E. Kimball Street, E. New Street, and MLK, Jr. Drive. The NEGRC Planning and Government Services Division assisted Winder with grant writing and will serve as the grant administrator of the project. The estimated timeline for completion is September 2024.

For questions regarding the CDBG funding program or NEGRC assistance, please contact **Mark Beatty**, PGS Director, at **mbeatty@negrc.org** or (706) 369-5650.



*The Winder Multi-Infrastructure project will address stormwater drainage issues, such as those seen here on Georgia Avenue.*

## APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) ONEAPPALACHIA AND READY APPALACHIA

On October 17-19, the NEGRC's Planning and Government Services (PGS) staff attended the Appalachian Regional Commission's "OneAppalachia" conference. The conference focused on economic development and capacity building in the Appalachian region. It included training focused on tourism development through small businesses and outdoor recreation, broadband development, cross-state collaboration, and substance abuse recovery networks.

Additionally, ARC announced a new community capacity-building initiative called READY Appalachia, offering flexible funding to organizations in four key economic development pillars: nonprofits, community foundations, local governments, and Local Development Districts, and free training to the Appalachians that work for them. Participants in each READY Appalachia learning track would access ten weeks of cohort-based learning, skill development, and grant opportunities to increase their capacity to solve pressing issues and create positive economic change. Across all learning tracks, particular emphasis will be placed on serving Appalachia's most underrepresented communities, including economically distressed areas, counties targeted by the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities, and marginalized populations.

The NEGRC is designated as the Local Development District serving the four counties that are included within the multi-state ARC region: Barrow, Elbert, Jackson, and Madison. To learn more about ARC resources, contact **Mark Beatty**, PGS Director, at [mbeatty@negrc.org](mailto:mbeatty@negrc.org) or **(706) 369-5650**.



*The ARC OneAppalachia conference was held at Rocky Gap State Park and Resort, Maryland*



*Mobile workshop focusing on small business production and outdoor recreation*

## ELBERT COUNTY SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR RETIRES

On October 5, 2022, Elbert County and staff from the NEGRC's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) celebrated and sent warm wishes to **Rebecca Stephens**. She retired after serving as the Elbert County Senior Center Director for over 17 years. Rebecca always went beyond her duties to serve the senior community. She served as the senior center director, but she would often roll her sleeves up and help with meal preparation, serving meals, delivering meals, activities, trips, and anything else that was needed to support the senior citizens of Elbert County. In addition, Rebecca would seek resources for clients needing home modifications and refer those needing ramps to a local church group that would build the ramps.

On August 26, 2022, Rebecca officially retired from Elbert County Senior Center to enjoy the "golden years." After two days into retirement, however, she began substitute teaching at the local, primary-school system. Rebecca has the heart to serve others and continues to serve the underserved through



her new activities as a substitute teacher. The NEGRC's Area Agency on Aging, wishes to thank Mrs. Rebecca Stephens for her dedicated service and wish you a happy retirement and success in your new endeavors!



*Peggy Jenkins, Northeast Georgia AAA Director (left), presented Rebecca Stephens (right) with a plaque for her dedicated service.*

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STAFF ATTEND LOCAL CAREER FAIR

**Rima Sullivan**, NEGRC's WIOA Youth Program Manager, participated in a Career Fair at Cedar Shoals High School in Athens. Almost 500 Students received information about different colleges, training programs, tuition assistance, and military options.

The NEGRC's Workforce staff regularly participate in career fairs throughout the region; providing outreach in training, education, and workforce development.



*Rima Sullivan at the NEGRC's Worksource Georgia resource table in Athens*

The Northeast Georgia  
Regional Commission  
Council and Staff  
Wish You a Happy  
and Safe Thanksgiving!





305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605

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*Update*

## REGIONAL MEETINGS NOVEMBER

2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	GARC Conference	St. Simons Island
9 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	Solid Waste Authority	NEGRC Atrium
16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	ACCG Regional Meeting	Athens
17 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trumps
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	
30 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m.	UOBWA Meeting	Bear Creek Water Reservoir & Treatment Plant