

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) CONVENES IN WASHINGTON

Last month, NEGRC staff attended the annual conference of the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) in Washington, D.C. held from March 12-15, 2023. This conference is attended by all the thirteen states that make up the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) area. The entire ARC area includes 423 counties, four of which are within the NEGRC region. The DDAA conference is held jointly with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and provides many informative technical and training sessions.

NEGRC staff attending the conference included **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director, and **Mark Beatty**, NEGRC Planning & Government Services (PGS) Director. The DDAA Board of Directors met on Sunday that Walker attended, representing Georgia's 37 ARC counties. During the conference and DDAA Business meeting held on Monday, Federal Co-Chair **Gayle Manchin** addressed the DDAA membership and ARC attendees. Mrs. Manchin, during her remarks, indicated how this is an important time for ARC and with an abundance of opportunities. During this meeting, Burke Walker was reappointed to represent Georgia on the DDAA Board of Directors. Also from Georgia, **Heather Feldman** of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission serves as a DDAA Officer and 1st Vice President.

Last year, ARC provided investments in Georgia to support several strategic areas including: Regional Cultural and Tourism, Community Leaders & Capacity, Community Infrastructure, and Workforce Ecosystems. The total project investment in 2022 was \$11.1 million with 16 projects funded, 70 jobs created or retained, and 260 household/businesses served with infrastructure.

ARC is currently offering several new programs including: ARISE, Ready Appalachia, and others. Other, more established programs can provide financial support for infrastructure projects as well as tourism initiatives. For more information on these programs, visit www.arc.gov or contact **Mark Beatty**, NEGRC PGS Director, at mbeatty@gmail.com. Information about the DDAA can be found at www.appalachiandevlopment.org and NADO at www.nado.org.



Gayle Manchin, ARC Federal Co-Chair, presenting at the DDAA Conference.



Burke Walker (left) and Mark Beatty (right) of the NEGRC.



ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin (second from right) at the DDAA/NADO Conference and the five attending Regional Commissions' Executive Directors from Georgia.

THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE RECEIVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

The City of Winterville is one of eight Georgia municipalities to receive a federal subgrant awarded by the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to support Historic Preservation activities. The 2022 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant will be used to support a Historic Resource Survey of the Local Historic District, a key responsibility of a Certified Local Government (CLG). The survey will be used to evaluate the historic resources located within the district. The Historic Preservation Fund grant was written and submitted by the NEGRC's Planning and Government Services (PGS) Division staff, as requested by the City of Winterville.

For information on historic preservation programs or funding, contact **Lydia Joffray**, NEGRC Historic Preservation Planner, at ljoffray@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650. Congratulations to the City of Winterville!



The historic Winterville Train Depot, c. 1890 also known historically as "Winter's Station" is included in the Winterville Historic District. The City's historic resources developed between 1841-1953 on both sides of the Georgia Railroad line—now used as the "Firefly Trail."

NEWTON COUNTY PLANS A NEW SENIOR CENTER

Newton County's senior population is rapidly growing and has become one of Georgia's fastest-growing counties for seniors. The Newton County Board of Commissioners recognized these increases for senior housing and services and how it affects the exiting Senior Center located at 6183 Turner Lake Road NW in Covington. The county also understands that varied activities and programs for seniors are essential to its mission of providing a safe, well-planned community that respects and values an informed citizenry, embraces diversity, preserves natural resources, and cultivates economic and social opportunities.

On November 8, 2022, Newton County voters responded to this need and approved continuing the 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for 2023. Included in the 2023 SPLOST project list is \$4 million for a new Senior Center located in the county's western portion that includes Commission Districts 2, 3, and 4. When completed this new Senior Center, and the existing facility on Turner Lake Road, will serve the County's growing senior population into the future.



APPLY NOW FOR DESIGNATION AS A PLANFIRST COMMUNITY!

Communities that successfully implement their local Comprehensive Plan can now apply to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for designation as a PlanFirst Community. **Applications for the 2024–2026 designation period are due May 15th, 2023.**

What are the benefits of PlanFirst designation? Participation in the PlanFirst program brings significant recognition and rewards to the community for a three-year period, including statewide recognition as an exemplary community, the ability to apply for CDBG grants annually, bonus points on specific other DCA funding programs, and hands-on assistance from DCA staff to help implement community-work program activities.

Is my community eligible to apply? Any size of a community may apply. An eligible applicant must be a Qualified Local Government, have an approved and adopted Service Delivery Strategy, be current on all required reports to DCA, and have met the Minimum Performance Standards set by their Regional Commission. **Before applying, you must inquire with DCA's Office of Planning (planning@dca.ga.gov) by April 15th regarding your historic performance status and prerequisites.**

What does "clearly demonstrate success" mean in implementing the Comprehensive Plan? DCA is looking for communities that can show they have a history of public involvement with the development of the plan, active engagement in plan implementation, and proven progress with achieving the community's stated vision or goals. Applications are evaluated against four broad performance measures:

community vision and goals, community leadership, community participation in plan development, and successful plan implementation.

For more information and to access application forms, please visit <https://www.dca.ga.gov/local-government-assistance/planning/local-planning/planfirst>.

For information concerning local, comprehensive planning, contact **Mark Beatty**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services (PGS) at mbeatty@negrc.org or **(706) 369-5650**.

2023 CENSUS BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY (BAS)

Has your city or county boundary changed in the past year? If so, 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 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 of 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 it is entitled to 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 counties (and equivalent areas), incorporated places, minor civil divisions (MCDs), and federally recognized tribes with a reservation or off-reservation trust land in January 2023. The deadline to report boundary changes to be included in next year's BAS materials is **May 31, 2023**. If you need assistance with completing your Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), please contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Planner, at jmcbayer@negrc.org or **706-369-5650**.

'A POINT ALONG THE PATH' IN AN ELBERT COUNTY YOUTH'S JOURNEY

A recent success story for the NEGRC's Workforce Division is found in **Zoe Harris**, whom enrolled in the WIOA/ACTION, Inc. High School Youth program as an Elbert County Comprehensive High School sophomore. She worked with her Elbert County

Career Coach, Ms. Thornton, on developing post-graduation plans and ensuring that she graduated from high school. Under the WIOA program, Zoe participated in the Summer Work Experience programs, where she learned valuable job skills and developed communication skills. Zoe also participated in ACTION Inc.'s workshops, including job readiness, financial literacy, and college preparation.

Zoe is currently a senior at the University of Georgia, majoring in Health Promotion with a minor in Gerontology. She is also the first in her family to attend college. Zoe expects to graduate in May with a 3.8 GPA and has been accepted into Augusta University's Master of Science in Nursing Program. Her career goal is to become a nurse practitioner. She is gaining relevant work experience currently as a Health and Well-being intern at St. Mary's Healthcare System in Athens.

There are many contributing organizations and scholarships that made Zoe's success possible including: the NEGRC's WIOA Program, ACTION, Inc., Zell Miller Scholarships, and others. Through this support network, she is graduating from college debt-free.

Zoe recently spoke to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board, where she shared her experiences with the WIOA/ACTION, Inc. programs. She thanked the Board for their support and said, "WIOA has been a huge contributing factor in my personal and professional life." The NEGRC's Workforce Division and Board is proud of Zoe's accomplishments and look forward to seeing what the future holds in her medical career.



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For information about the NEGRC's WIOA programs, contact **Carol Cofer** at crayburn@negrc.org or **(706) 369-5703**.

Zoe Harris presenting to the NEGRC's Workforce Development Board at its February meeting held at the Department of Labor's (DOL) Career Center in Athens.

REMINDER! NEGRC NEWSLETTER GOING ELECTRONIC JULY 1ST

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REGIONAL MEETINGS APRIL

13 th –14 th	All Day	GMA Spring Training	Athens
19 th	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trumps Catering
19 th	1:30 p.m.	Aging Services Advisory Council Meeting	NEGRC