

## PGS DIVISION HOSTS GIRL SCOUTS BIKE SAFETY RODEO

On August 19th, NEGRC PGS staff led a Bike Safety program for Girl Scout Brownies and Juniors, who are girls in second through fifth grades. It was held outside at the Jackson County Historic Courthouse in the City of Jefferson. Thank you to Jackson County for offering this great space for our program!

The event kicked off with an equipment overview. NEGRC staff provided girls and their parents with an overview of clothing and equipment needs for biking and then taught them how to properly fit their bicycle helmets. After that, it was off to the rodeo to learn and practice some bike safety skills! The girls practiced riding on the right side of a street, both with and without a bike lane, and walking their bikes across a crosswalk. They also learned bike hand signals for stopping and turning, demonstrated safely passing another bike rider, and discussed ways to "See and Be Seen" by drivers.

This program was made possible through a planning contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation to the NEGRC. NEGRC can lead trainings anywhere in our region regarding complete streets, pedestrian or bicycle safety, or related topics. If you're interested in setting up a training for your community, please reach out to **Mark Beatty**, Director of the Planning & Government Services Division at **(706) 369-5650** or **[mbeatty@negrc.org](mailto:mbeatty@negrc.org)**.



*Girl Scouts learning how to safely ride along the side of North Avenue with and without the presence of a bicycle lane.*



*PGS Community Planner, Carol Flaute, providing the kids with "See or Be Seen" lighted bracelets and thanking everyone for participating in a fun day of learning.*

## GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GHRAC GRANT FUNDING

The Greene County Historical Society was recently awarded \$3,600.00 for the purchase of preservation materials for its collections. The funding was provided through the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) ReGrant Program and will assist the Historical Society with making its records and other materials available to the public. **Lydia Joffray**, Historic Preservation Planner, provided grant writing and advisory services for this project.

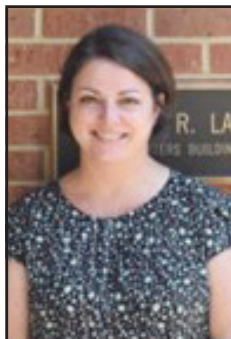
Founded in 1976, the Greene County Historical Society has worked in conjunction with Greene County to maintain important documents pertaining to the history and residents of the county, including some of the County's own records. The Historical Society

also oversees the Greene County History Museum which displays some of the material culture and artifacts maintained by the Historical Society.

The pandemic dealt a blow to the Historical Society with the loss of Historical Society president, **Joel McRay**, and the restriction of Society meetings. The funds from the GHRAC Grant program will enable the Historical Society to digitize, catalog, and preserve the materials in its care while also providing a rallying cause for its membership and volunteers.

## NEW STAFF PROFILE – JODY GRAICHEN, HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNER

The PGS Division has welcomed a new staff member for the Historic Preservation Planner position, **Jody Graichen**. Her focus will be on assisting local governments with their Certified Local Government (CLG) status, performing updates to historic preservation ordinances and design guidelines, performing environmental reviews as they relate to historic and cultural resources, and other planning efforts at the local and regional levels. Jody has a Bachelor's degree in History and Journalism from Miami University and a Master's degree in Public History from the University of South Carolina. In her free time, she loves road trips, reading, and spending time with her family. We are excited to have her as part of our team!



*Jody Graichen on her first day at the NEGRC*

## NEWTON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER EXPANSION GRAND OPENING

On September 14th, 2023, NEGRC staff had the pleasure of attending the Newton County Senior Services Expansion Grand Opening. County Commissioners, faith leaders, senior center staff, senior center members, and community partners attended the event. **Freda Reed**, Newton County Senior Services Director, led the ceremony. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission was recognized for its support of the senior center expansion. NEGRC Executive Director **Burke Walker** had the opportunity to speak to the group. He expressed his gratitude for the work of the senior center staff and the support of elected officials and community members. **Josephine Brown**, former senior center director, spoke to the group as well. She expressed she has waited for her vision to come to fruition for 57 years: "57 years ago, I had a dream...that we wanted a place that seniors could come to that provided a home-like atmosphere. To reinvent themselves."

The 2,973 square feet expansion includes a banquet room and event space, a classroom, and enrichment lab. There is also

large gazebo outside, automatic entryways, and an automatic water fountain. The area is easy to navigate and can accommodate large groups. The large windows allow the sun to pour in, and senior center members to enjoy views of the lake. The expansion was made possible by a \$1.125 million in SPLOST funding. This is the second expansion for the Newton County Senior Center.

The senior center staff welcomes community members to visit and learn more about their programs. They offer a variety of opportunities for seniors in Newton County, including exercise classes, quilting, crocheting, ceramics, computer classes, line dancing, bingo, and more. The center is located at 6183 Turner Lake Road, Covington, GA



*Director Freda Reed (center-left) addressing attendees with Chairman Baines (center-right) presiding.*



*Burke Walker, NEGRC Executive Director, at left and Megan Vogt, NEGRC ADRC Senior Manager at right attending the Grand Opening.*

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING NEW STAFF MEMBER JULES FRANCOIS

In September, the Northeast Georgia Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) welcomed **Jules Francois** to the team as the Nursing Home Transitions coordinator. The

Nursing Home Transition program supports individuals who are in a nursing facility, are at risk for long-term placement, and wish to return to their community. Mr. Francois will assist an eligible person with transitioning from the nursing home into the housing of their choice. Nursing Home Transition program services include home modifications, medical supplies, assistive technology, peer support, household setup including groceries, furnishing, personal support services, and more.

Mr. Francois was born in Haiti and came to the United States when he was 7 years old. He received his bachelor's degree at New Jersey University. He is fluent in Creole and speaks a little French. Mr. Francois worked in New Jersey at CPC Behavioral Healthcare, a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, as a Case Manager for over 15 years. He worked with individuals who had mental health diagnoses and substance abuse disorders. He relocated to Georgia two years ago to be closer to family members, and to take care of his mother. Upon his transition to Georgia, he was hired by the Department of Human Services - Adult Protective Services department to investigate abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and individuals with disabilities. Mr. Francois brings a wealth of information and experience to the Nursing Home Transitions team, and we are glad he has joined us.



*Jules Francois, NEGRC Nursing Home Transitions Coordinator*

For information on this and other training programs offered through WorkSource Northeast Georgia, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



*Training participants with certificates including Seth Rogers, Jimmy Martinez and Gianni Campus (from left to right). (Allen Shepherd, Jr. not shown).*

## BARROW COUNTY STUDENTS COMPLETE WORKFORCE TRAINING

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's (NEGRC) Workforce Development Division partnered with the Georgia Poultry Federation and Lanier Technical College to offer a 5-week ElectroMechanical Welding Academy for students who had recently graduated from Barrow County schools. Four students participated in the training. Topics covered included basic electricity, mechanics, blueprint reading, OSHA 10, industrial forklift, and welding. The students also toured Harrison Poultry Company, a major employer in the Barrow County area.

Funding for this training was provided through the U.S. Dept. of Labor (DOL) and Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) Workforce Opportunities Rural Communities (USDOL ARC WORC) grant that was awarded to NEGRC in September 2020. Barrow County is one of four Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) counties in the NEGRC ([visit:www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov)).

Pictures are from the graduation ceremony which took place on August 18, 2023 at the Lanier Technical College's Barrow Campus in the Terry England Conference Room.



# Update

## REGIONAL MEETINGS OCTOBER

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8 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Regional Solid Waste Mgmt. Authority	Atrium
10 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	NEGA Workforce Development Board	Atrium
11 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	NEGRC Transit Development Plan – Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1	Atrium
11 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	NEGRC Transit Development Plan – Public Input Meeting #1	Atrium
18 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 p.m.	Ageing Services Advisory Council	Large Conference Room
19 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trumps Catering