

## BOGART PROFILE: A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEGRC

Over the years, the City of Bogart has worked closely with the Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division in several community development projects. Bogart is located on the Oconee/Clarke border with a little over 1,000 residents. While a small community, it retains an historic downtown and offers community facilities through its recreation park and branch public library.

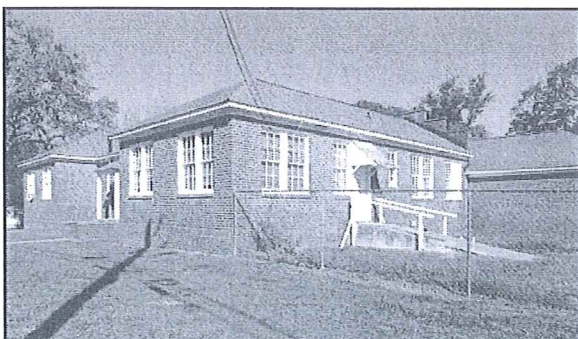
PGS staff first began working with the City's elected officials in identifying opportunities for community revitalization and development. One example of this assistance was to provide guidance in addressing the City's need to improve pedestrian access and related infrastructure improvements. The City, more generally, wished to use SPLOST funds to link the downtown to other areas of the City including their recreation park. PGS Staff advised the City of the need for a long-range streetscape plan that was eventually developed by a consultant. PGS staff subsequently worked with the City and a consulting engineer to explore the feasibility of upgrading wastewater infrastructure in the downtown.

Most recently, PGS staff was asked by Mayor **Terri Glenn** to assist in planning the rehabilitation of an historic school owned by the City but vacant and without a dedicated use. PGS staff provided advisement and oversaw a selection process to engage the services of a Preservation Architect to develop a rehabilitation plan. After a competitive selection process, the rehabilitation plan was developed; and, last month, the construction was completed based on the rehabilitation plan and its subsequent construction documents. Although not funded by any historic preservation grants or funding, the City followed historic preservation guidelines and standards. By doing this, the school retained its historic character while allowing a new and needed use. The completed project serves as an excellent example of how to preserve historic properties for public use. It also underscores the benefits of using design professionals selected on a project specific basis.

The rehabilitated school will serve as a multi-use community center; allowing for interpretative and museum space for the historic school, City Council meetings, and rental space for special events. One particularly challenging aspect of the project was to allow for handicap access and compliance with ADA without destroying the school's historic character. The architect's innovative accessibility solution involved reconfiguring secondary spaces that were non-character defining. It also created a unique interior (ramped) approach within the building that is entered through an exterior entrance with a contemporary, distinguishing design. An improved yet historically appropriate landscape was also designed by a landscape architect. The historic school provides pedestrian access to the City's park and downtown, and connection to its streetscape improvements.

The City's longstanding relationship with the NEGRC began almost ten years ago when Councilman **T.L. Turman** first contacted the NEGRC for available assistance. He later visited the Regional Commission to learn more about services and subsequent involvement with several PGS staff. The Bogart Historic School Rehabilitation project specifically provided an opportunity for PGS staff to work directly with Mayor Glenn and Councilmember **Linda Turman**. While completed, it is only one part of the City's revitalization plan. The City, over the upcoming years, will continue to implement streetscape and sidewalk improvements to build on their continued successes for community revitalization.

For information about community development, revitalization plans, or historic preservation projects, please contact **Burke Walker**, Director of PGS, at (706) 369-5650 or email: [bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org).



*Historic Bogart School*



## 2014 B.J. Smith Community Servant Award Winners Honored

The 9th Annual B.J. Smith Community Servant Award Ceremony, hosted by the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB), was held on Thursday, May 29th in Ila. B.J. Smith served in many roles as a community servant. Prior to his active Board involvement in Madison County, he served as a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service beginning in 1972 and was stationed at the Athens Ben Epps Airport. While with the Weather Service, he had his first experience with the local area's Summer Youth Work Program where he served as a worksite Supervisor of JTPA summer youth participants. After retiring from the weather service in 1990, he joined the Northeast Georgia Private Industry Council, predecessor to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board, as the Madison County private sector representative. He was actively involved as a member of the Board of Directors of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and served on the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Smith felt that providing people with the tools necessary to ensure their own successes was much more fruitful than providing temporary handouts. After his passing in March 2005, the Workforce Investment Board voted to honor his commitment to community service as well as his memory. The B.J. Smith Community Servant Award was established in February 2006, and the first awards were presented in June of that year. The 2014 B.J. Smith Community Servant Award winners each receive a \$1000 college scholarship. Information on this year's winners follows.

**Breanna Jackson** lives in Oglethorpe County and is a 2014 graduate of Oglethorpe County High School. She plans on attending Georgia Regents University in the fall, pursuing a degree in Occupational Therapy. Ms. Jackson has been involved at her church with many volunteer activities, has participated in the Relay for Life Cancer Society fundraiser, and each year she volunteers with HandsOn Northeast Athens. She has participated in the Oglethorpe High School Concert Band, track and field team, and the JV Basketball team.

**Ben Stephens** resides in Jackson County and is a 2014 graduate of East Jackson High School. He will be attending Athens Technical College in the fall, where he plans to pursue an Associate Degree in Networking. He has been involved with volunteer activities through his church, and has also volunteered with Special Olympics, the Boys and Girls Club, and Seamless Summer Food Program. Mr. Stephens was also involved with Jackson County Youth Leadership, Peer Mediation Team, ROTC and Band. He has served as a Color Guard for school football games and Veterans Day events.

**Xavier Harper** is a 2014 graduate of Jackson County Comprehensive High School. He will be attending Kennesaw State University in the fall, where he received a scholarship to play football. He will be majoring in Biology, with the goal of becoming a doctor. Mr. Harper serves as a Youth Leader at his church, and has volunteered at the Food Bank, the Red Cross Blood Drive, and the Panther Mentor program. He participates in delivering food to senior citizens and the needy in his community, and helped to organize a food bank. Mr. Harper was a member of the High School Track, Football and Basketball teams, and served as team captain. He was named to the Georgia All-Star football team, and was twice named as an all-state receiver.

**Jewel Strother** is a Clarke County resident and a 2014 graduate of Classic City High School. He completed High School in three years, and finished in the top third of his class. Mr. Strother will be attending Clayton State University in the fall, where he will be majoring in Communication and Media Studies, with a future goal of pursuing a career in Video and Film production. He has been dual enrolled at Athens Technical College this semester, taking courses in Chemistry and U.S. History. He plays the drums at his church every Sunday, helps students with homework at the Boys and Girls Club, and builds and maintains websites for youth-serving organizations. Mr. Strother was Vice-President of Community Services for Jobs for Georgia graduates, and coordinated service projects, such as feeding the homeless and picking up trash on the school campus.

These scholarships are presented to students currently enrolled in WIA programs within the 12-county region. Scholarship funds will assist with books, fees, tuition and related expenses during the recipient's freshman year of college. These scholarships will be coordinated with other financial assistance the student may qualify for (i.e. Hope grant/scholarship).

For further information on the WIA In-school Youth Program, please contact **Rima Sullivan**, NEGRG/WIA Youth Program Specialist, at **(706) 369-5703**.



*Mrs. Smith with 2014 Winners*



*L-R: Amrey Harden, Carol Cofer, and Howard Ledford*

### REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council **will not** meet in July. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 21, 2014 at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE GRANT APPLICATION

Applications for this year's **Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Program** were recently announced with a deadline for submission of August 1, 2014. The Garden Club of Georgia established the grant program to help support the preservation and restoration of the state's historic landscapes and gardens. As part of the grant program, the Garden Club of Georgia partners with the other organizations including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division, the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEC). Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local governments, and local garden clubs. The



grant program requires a 50/50 match with a maximum grant award of \$3,000. Proposed projects must be completed in one year and involve historically documented properties. They also must involve properties that are at least fifty years old and open to the public.

For questions about projects or applications, please contact Committee Chair **Joy Vannerson** at (770) 540-2764 or e-mail [joyvannerson@gmail.com](mailto:joyvannerson@gmail.com) or **Carole Moore**, HPD's Tax Incentives & Grants Coordinator, at (404) 651-5566 or e-mail [carole.moore@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:carole.moore@dnr.state.ga.us).



Both the Greene County Office of Tourism and the Greene County Office of Economic Development have exciting news to share! New logo designs for both departments have just been introduced and are the cornerstone of a fresh and dynamic reintroduction to the community. An eye-catching bumper sticker that will easily identify the area is on its way to being available to the public as well as a user friendly interactive website. Work is underway to develop a weekly newspaper column that will detail all of the undertakings currently happening from the Office of Economic Development. As soon as all decisions are finalized it will be announced on the social media channels. Greene County has a treasure trove of natural and economic resources to share with the community and visitors alike. They are delighted to be working with business owners and community leaders to showcase their beautiful community.

Local residents as well as visitors can stay informed of all of the latest happenings with newly introduced social media sites for both departments. Facebook followers can find Visit Lake Oconee as well as the Greene County Office of Economic Development. Both sites are also on Google Plus. Followers can link to additional social media outlets directly from the Facebook pages. Visit Lake Oconee is also on Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest, and the Economic Development Office can be followed on LinkedIn. Local businesses are encouraged to interact and send relevant information to share to [sue@bondcreativegroup.com](mailto:sue@bondcreativegroup.com).

## CITY OF MADISON ADOPTS TDR ORDINANCE

In May 2014, the Mayor and Council of the City of Madison voted unanimously to adopt a Transferable Development Rights (TDR) ordinance, an innovative development tool that allows landowners the ability to waive the right to develop their land and to transfer those development rights to a different parcel of land.

TDR programs vary from community to community in their structure and operation. Central to most TDR programs is the identification of "sending" areas and "receiving" areas. Eligible landowners in designated "sending" areas are able to voluntarily sell their developmental rights to developers seeking to build in designated "receiving" areas. A third party manages the process, overseeing the development rights transactions. In Madison, the City will serve this role.

The City of Madison's 2009 Greenprint Plan identified potential "sending" areas prioritized for protection of environmental, historic, or agricultural resources. The Mayor and Council selected the West Washington Gateway neighborhood in the Downtown Urban Redevelopment Area (DURA) as a pilot "receiving" area. Thus, denser development will be steered away from resources listed in the 2009 Greenprint Plan to areas identified for increased residential density on the City's Future Land Use Map. According to **Christine McCauley**, Executive Director of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy, "Madison's TDR ordinance has the potential to protect 54 acres of resources designated as important to the City residents and to aid growth of much needed alternative housing opportunities, eventually including rental, workforce, and retiree options."

The City of Madison is the first community in the 12-county Northeast Georgia region to successfully adopt a TDR ordinance. For more specific information on the City's pilot TDR program, contact **Monica Callahan**, City of Madison Planning Director, at [mhcallahan@madisonga.com](mailto:mhcallahan@madisonga.com).

## NEGRC COLLABORATES WITH HPD ON INTERNSHIP

NEGRC and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division (HPD) are collaborating this summer in providing a summer internship for an historic preservation student. Last month, the NEGRC and HPD selected **Jordan Shoemaker** to serve an eight week internship to participate in several projects within the region.



Ms. Shoemaker has completed her first year of studies as an historic preservation graduate student in the University of Georgia's Master of Historic Preservation Program. She is also a candidate for a Master of Arts degree from the University of Mississippi with a concentration in American History and the Civil War. Ms. Shoemaker is originally from Oconee County, attended Oconee High School and later graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in History.

The internship is sponsored by HPD through a \$1,500 stipend and as a way to provide enhanced historic preservation assistance in light of budget reductions in the State's Regional Preservation Planner program. Ms. Shoemaker is currently assisting the Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff on several projects, including research for a National Register nomination in Elbert County, design guidelines for historic districts, and environmental review research for several grant projects. **Leigh Burns** of HPD and Mr. Walker developed the Scope of Work for the internship that is intended to provide 'real' experiences and involvement with the NEGRC's local governments and communities. The internship, more broadly, is seen as a unique way to enhance a longstanding relationship between state, regional, and local partners. Ms. Shoemaker will work two days a week from the NEGRC's headquarters within the PGS Division.

NEGRC is pleased to have this opportunity and welcomes Ms. Shoemaker to the staff. For information on historic preservation projects, please contact **Mr. Walker** at (706) 369-5650 or email at [bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org).



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**REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**JULY**

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1	10:00 a.m.	Regional Tourism Study Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Aging Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
23	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

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*Sincerely & Respectfully,*