

## NORTHEAST GEORGIA POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

Executive Director **Jim Dove** recently made two presentations, including one at our monthly Council meeting, regarding population trends and projections. The presentations resulted in numerous requests for a copy of those figures. As a result, a table follows which shows actual population figures by County from 1980 through 2010. These, of course, are taken from the U.S. Census of Population. Also shown, are projections developed by the Georgia Office of Planning and Budget for 2020 and 2030. We hope you find this useful and interesting.

JURISDICTION	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
BARROW	21,354	29,721	46,144	69,367	107,798	151,417
CLARKE	74,498	87,594	101,489	116,714	131,257	147,375
ELBERT	18,758	18,949	20,511	20,166	21,136	21,427
GREENE	11,391	11,793	14,406	15,994	20,971	26,134
JACKSON	25,343	30,005	41,589	60,485	90,713	123,728
JASPER	7,553	8,453	11,426	13,900	20,237	27,065
MADISON	17,747	21,050	25,730	28,120	34,796	41,029
MORGAN	11,572	12,883	15,457	17,868	24,787	31,090
NEWTON	34,489	41,808	62,001	99,958	157,414	227,537
OCONEE	12,427	17,618	26,225	32,808	48,233	65,828
OGLETHORPE	8,929	9,763	12,635	14,899	20,620	28,081
WALTON	31,211	38,586	60,687	83,768	118,742	153,053
TOTALS	275,272	328,233	438,300	574,047	796,704	1,043,764
GEORGIA	5,463,105	6,478,149	8,186,453	10,069,700	12,189,252	14,687,906

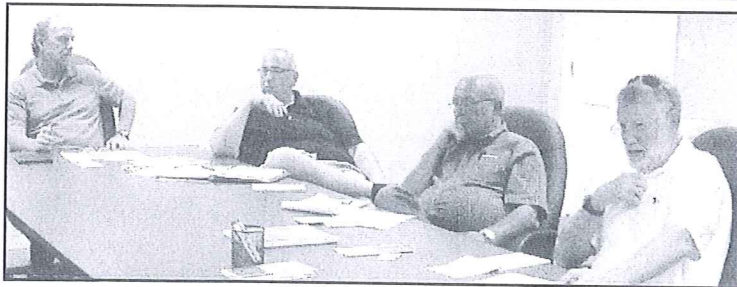
### REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will meet on **Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn.** Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## PAIR OF RETREATS HELD IN MORGAN COUNTY

At the request of Morgan County officials, two retreats were facilitated by NEGRC staff in August. Both were conducted by Mr. Dove and Ms. Beck. The first session, held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the County Administration Building, was conducted for the Morgan County Recreation Commission. Several crucial items were discussed including format of Commission meetings, the potential need for additional facilities and property, programs for seniors and special need participants, and possible new offerings by the Department. Attendees determined that items requiring attention in the near future include surveying needs associated with a community center, property acquisition possibilities, partnering with organizations serving a similar constituency, and visits to other jurisdictions to view facilities.

The annual strategic planning session for the Board of Commissioners was held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Camp Twin Lakes. Discussion focused on a number of topics including matters associated with public works, public safety, economic development, planning and zoning, utilities and energy, the local hospital, revenue enhancement, citizen involvement, and CUVA. The exchange of ideas led to several priorities being established. These include possible funding of additional equipment and personnel, work with Citizens' Committee to develop solid waste/recycling ideas, work with public safety departments on five year plan, explore additions to existing Agricultural Center, and others.



*Morgan County Recreation Commission retreat (above)  
Board of Commissioners retreat (below)*



range in the types of programs that include economic development, historic preservation, and transportation. All of these programs uniquely overlap and, in effect, contribute to meeting a collective community goal. Some of these activities are described below that, in some cases, involved assistance from the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division staff working closely with **Jennifer Dees**, Braselton Town Manager.

One of the early and most dramatic projects was the rehabilitation of the W.H. Braselton Home. This 1913 Neo-Classical styled residential house was preserved and adapted as a Town Hall in 1998. It continues to function as a public facility that contributes to the Town's overall historic character. The NEGRC provided initial technical assistance in the rehabilitation and advisement on the selection of a preservation architect to design the rehabilitation. While technically a "rehabilitation" project (i.e., adapted for a new use) it also had aspects of a "restoration" (i.e., returning a property to its original condition and/or appearance). It is one of the most unique historic city halls in Northeast Georgia.

After the rehabilitation, the NEGRC continued to provide the Town with historic preservation assistance in researching and eventually nominating the community to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was prepared by PGS staff and approved in 2001. The historic district, when listed, included 52 contributing historic resources.

One of these contributing historic resources later became another rehabilitation project. The Town, in fact, is currently in the final stages of completing a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Redevelopment Fund (RDF) Program that was awarded in late 2011. The funding was used to rehabilitate the historic Braselton Brothers Store Complex and reorient the building's access. The recent realignment of S.R.124 caused the former entrance of the structure to become the rear façade of the building. Reorienting the building entrances permitted the new façade to be accessed by the realigned SR124. While the project might have been incited by the realignment of a state route, the funding also provided a much needed restoration of a historically significant yet deteriorating structure and has, or will soon, create as many as 29 jobs. The NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff assisted the Town in developing the approved CDBG-RDF application and administered the funded project during construction.

The Town also recently completed a \$1.1 million local streetscape project that included construction and installation of sidewalks, signage, pedestrian plazas, landscaping, street lighting, public parking and what is described by Braselton as a 'sensitive makeover' for its downtown. In a related transportation effort, the Town, in cooperation from GDOT and Jackson County, recently initiated a long anticipated road-widening and signalization project on S.R. 53. The approximately \$900,000 project includes widening the segment of S.R. 53 north of I-85 to Johnson Drive and installing two traffic signals: one at Chardonnay Trace and one at Braselton Parkway.

In late 2013, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced that Braselton, along with 18 other Georgia cities, will participate in the Main Street Start-up Program, which provides technical assistance to communities looking to improve their downtowns. Braselton is working during 2014 to meet state and national criteria to become designated Main Street program eligible for national accreditation by 2015. This designation helps to promote, market and preserve historic downtowns that typically serve as prime locations for small businesses and emerging entrepreneurs. The Main Street program, traditionally, has been a key community development tool widely used throughout the NEGRC region.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE: TOWN OF BRASELTON

Over the past 16 years, the Town of Braselton has worked closely with the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division staff in several efforts focused on the town's redevelopment. These efforts

Finally, Braselton is anticipating the opening of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Braselton campus in spring 2015. The anticipated 100-bed hospital will be the state's first net-new hospital, meaning not a relocation or replacement in almost 20 years. This project's economic impact and, specifically, its creation of new jobs also greatly benefit the Town and its ongoing redevelopment.

For further information on community and economic development programs and/or historic preservation programs, please contact **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning and Government Services (PGS), at (706) 369-5650 or email: [bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org). For information about the Town of Braselton, visit their website at: [www.braselton.net](http://www.braselton.net).

## CHAIRMAN LITTLE ASSIGNS COMMITTEES

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) Council held its regular monthly meeting at the Athens Holiday Inn on August 21<sup>st</sup>. At that time, Chairman **Kevin Little** made the following Committee assignments.

<u>Audit &amp; Finance</u>	<u>Planning &amp; Gov't. Services</u>	<u>Program of Work</u>
Frank Turner, Chair	Tommy Lyon, Chair	Billy Pittard, Chair
Phil Brock	Andy Ainslie	David Bentley
Ed Bullard	Linda Blechinger	Ronnie Boggs
Anthony Dove	Nancy Denson	Charlie Crawford
Amrey Harden	Valerie Duvall	David Dyer
Lamar Houston	Carey Fordyce	Keith Ellis
David Nunn	Charles Ivie	Ernie Graham
Roy Roberts	Bill Palmer	Harold Horton
Evans Brinson, Staff	Jerry Roseberry	Josh Fenn
	Burke Walker, Staff	Mott Beck, Staff

### Human Services

Melvin Davis, Chair  
Jody Blackmon  
Tom Crow  
Pat Graham  
Harry Knight  
Fred Perriman  
Flemmie Pitts  
Joel Seymour  
Jim Dove, Staff

### Personnel

Emily Eisenman, Chair  
Louise Adams  
Roy Gandy  
Larry Guest  
Jesse Johnson  
Buddy Ouzts  
Roy Plott  
Gene Trammell  
Greg Thompson  
Jim Dove, Staff

## JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENT UTILIZES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT FUNDS

**Michelle Pursley** is a resident of Jackson County. She was employed as a secretary at R & W Sanitation in Jefferson until April 2011 when the company decided to close the plant. Ms. Pursley said, "for the first time in 23 years, I didn't have a job to go to." Her husband was employed and her daughter was in college, but the family didn't make enough money for Ms. Pursley to return to school. She wasn't eligible for HOPE or PELL and had no other means of paying tuition if she returned to school. Ms. Pursley heard about the WIA program while completing paperwork at the Georgia Department of Labor and gave us a call. She has always been a nurturing person and wanted to do something in a field that would allow her to help people.

Workforce Development staff met with Ms. Pursley, and in January 2012 she was enrolled at Lanier Tech in the Medical Assistance Program. She said, "If it wasn't for WIA helping pay my gas to travel from Jefferson to Winder every day, paying my tuition and books, uniforms, physicals

and state board certification tests, I would have to quit school. There was just no way possible that I could afford it." She finished her program of study in August 2013, and began working for Dr. **Mathew W. Ryan** as a Chiropractic Assistant in January 2014.

In the 12 county Northeast Georgia Region, the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB), through the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, provides a variety of services made possible by funding through the WIA. Last year, over 3,094 Northeast Georgia residents utilized the Northeast Georgia WIA for job search, career advisement, and retraining services. Many of the customers were laid-off from their jobs due to down-sizing or business closures in the area. WIA program participation rates have gone up 200% in Northeast Georgia in the past two years. Over 240 different employers hired persons who had received retraining assistance utilizing WIA funds.

For additional information on the services available through the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board, contact **Carol Rayburn Cofer** at (706) 369-5703.

*WIB Chair Amrey Harden  
with Mrs. Pursley*



## NEW GIS TOOL AVAILABLE TO NE GEORGIA COMMUNITIES

The NEGRC, in conjunction with the other eleven RCs in the state, participate in a contractual agreement with a GIS software company known as ESRI. As part of this agreement with ESRI, the NEGRC subscribes to a monthly fee-based service known as Business Analyst Online (BAO). This web based economic development tool combines GIS technology with extensive demographic, consumer spending, and business data to give detailed information about customers, their lifestyles, and buying behavior. BAO has the capability to quickly and efficiently run over 100 different reports from various site locations and evaluate over 66 different market segments. This subscription has the most recent available demographics from the U.S. Census and ESRI estimates, business data from Dun and Bradstreet, crime data, aerial photography, traffic data, and so on. These reports can be run at a macro level (e.g., region wide, a particular county, a selection of counties, a particular city, or a selection of cities) or on a micro level (e.g., a specific address or site). Reports are generated in a streamlined, industry standard form which makes reading, interpreting, and presenting the information easy. This information is well suited for reports, presentations, or various informational requests (e.g., RFIs).

The NEGRC Planning and Government Services (PGS) Division is now pleased to offer this service to its member governments, developers, citizens, and anyone who wants to have a comprehensive look at what is going on throughout the region, individual communities, or specific properties. Reports can be ordered for up to ten sites per order. We also offer subscriptions from three to twelve months with unlimited reports.

For further information about how to order these reports and pricing structure, please see the PGS section of NEGRC's website. For further questions about the service, or for sample reports, please contact **Kenny Gilbert**, GIS Planner at [kgilbert@negrc.org](mailto:kgilbert@negrc.org).

*Update*

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**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**SEPTEMBER**

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3	9:30 a.m.	Joint UOBWA Operations/Engineering	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
9	10:00 a.m.	ADRC Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
10	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Joint Development Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
10	1:00 p.m.	Solid Waste Mgmt. Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	10:00 a.m.	CareNet	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
18	12:00 p.m.	NEGRC Commission Council	Athens Holiday Inn
18	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
19	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
24	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

*Sincerely & Respectfully,*

