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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARROW</td>
<td>21,354</td>
<td>29,721</td>
<td>46,144</td>
<td>69,367</td>
<td>107,798</td>
<td>151,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARKE</td>
<td>74,498</td>
<td>87,694</td>
<td>101,489</td>
<td>116,714</td>
<td>131,257</td>
<td>147,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELBERT</td>
<td>18,758</td>
<td>18,949</td>
<td>20,511</td>
<td>20,186</td>
<td>21,136</td>
<td>21,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENE</td>
<td>11,391</td>
<td>11,793</td>
<td>14,406</td>
<td>15,994</td>
<td>20,971</td>
<td>26,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACKSON</td>
<td>26,343</td>
<td>30,006</td>
<td>41,889</td>
<td>60,485</td>
<td>95,713</td>
<td>123,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JASPER</td>
<td>7,553</td>
<td>8,453</td>
<td>11,428</td>
<td>13,900</td>
<td>26,237</td>
<td>27,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON</td>
<td>17,747</td>
<td>21,060</td>
<td>25,730</td>
<td>26,120</td>
<td>34,796</td>
<td>41,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORGAN</td>
<td>11,572</td>
<td>12,883</td>
<td>15,467</td>
<td>17,888</td>
<td>24,787</td>
<td>31,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWTON</td>
<td>34,489</td>
<td>41,808</td>
<td>62,001</td>
<td>99,958</td>
<td>157,414</td>
<td>227,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCONEE</td>
<td>12,427</td>
<td>17,618</td>
<td>26,225</td>
<td>32,808</td>
<td>48,233</td>
<td>66,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGLETHORPE</td>
<td>8,529</td>
<td>9,763</td>
<td>12,635</td>
<td>14,899</td>
<td>20,620</td>
<td>26,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALTON</td>
<td>31,211</td>
<td>38,586</td>
<td>60,687</td>
<td>83,768</td>
<td>118,742</td>
<td>163,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>275,272</td>
<td>328,233</td>
<td>438,300</td>
<td>574,047</td>
<td>764,704</td>
<td>1,043,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
<td>5,463,105</td>
<td>6,478,149</td>
<td>8,186,453</td>
<td>10,069,700</td>
<td>12,119,262</td>
<td>14,687,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will meet on Thursday, September 18th 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 6th 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.

Serving the City and County Governments of Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties.
The annual strategic planning session for the Board of Commissioners was held on August 15th 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 CLUSA. 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.

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.
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@negc.org. For information about the Town of Braselton, visit their website at: 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 21st. At that time, Chairman Kevin Little made the following Committee assignments.

**Audit & Finance**
- Frank Turner, Chair
- Phil Brock
- Ed Bullard
- Anthony Dove
- Amrey Harden
- Lamar Houston
- David Nunn
- Roy Roberts
- Evans Brinson, Staff

**Planning & Gov't. Services**
- Tommy Lyon, Chair
- Andy Ansline
- Linda Bleichinger
- Nancy Denson
- Valerie Duvall
- Carey Fordyce
- Charles Ivie
- Bill Palmer
- Jerry Roseberry
- Burke Walker, Staff

**Program of Work**
- Billy Pittard, Chair
- David Bentley
- Ronnie Boggs
- Charlie Crawford
- David Dyer
- Keith Ellis
- Ernie Graham
- Harold Horton
- Josh Fenn
- 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 Ouuts
- Roy Pott
- Gene Trammell
- Greg Thompson
- Jim Dove, Staff

**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 format 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 10 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@negc.org.
Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS  
SEPTEMBER

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.  NEGRG 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,

[Signature]