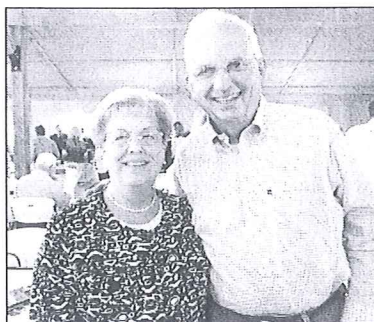


## APPALACHIAN FOOD GUIDE UNVEILED

***Bon Appetit Appalachia!***, a guide making it easier for food lovers to locate culinary-related destinations, was unveiled at a gathering on August 28<sup>th</sup> at The Barn at Jaemor Farms. State legislators, staff of Regional Commissions, local governments, and associated organizations heard from speakers promoting the Guide as an economic development tool serving the Appalachian regions of 13 states. Attendees heard from **Molly Thebold** of the Appalachian Regional Commission, DCA Commissioner **Gretchen Corbin**, Agriculture Commissioner **Gary Black**, and **Kevin Langston**, Deputy Commissioner of DECD, among others. There are 24 Georgia sites listed in the new Guide including the Shields-Ethridge Farm in Jackson County. In addition to the locations on the map, a website has hundreds more food destinations listed including several in Northeast Georgia. Commissioner Black stated, "This is an economic development tool for Georgia to create jobs, to generate economic activity, and to share what is so genuine and what is so good about Georgia." Commissioner Corbin emphasized, "It's our honor to work with the Appalachian region in Georgia to actively promote our economy, heritage, history, and environment." The program was followed by a luncheon featuring locally grown and produced foods from the state's 37 Appalachian counties. NEGRC was represented by Executive Director **Jim Dove**, Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**, and Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker**. Additional information may be obtained by visiting <http://visitappalachia.com/>.



L-R: Saralyn Stafford, Director Dove,  
DCA Commissioner Corbin



Mrs. Beck with Agriculture  
Commissioner Black



Mr. Walker and Susan Chaisson

## NADO HOLDS ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Executive Director Dove attended the Annual Training Conference of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), ***Changing the Game for Regional Economic Development***, held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> in Denver. He was among nearly 650 attendees from 45 states representing 220 organizations. The agenda was packed with informative speakers and topics. There were breakout sessions on the new OMB Super Circular, Indirect Costs, Entrepreneurial Communities, Understanding and Using Social Media, Aging and Workforce Programs, and Good Governance. In addition, there was a plenary session featuring **Kim Jordan**, Co-Founder and CEO of New Belgium Brewing, who shared the employee owned company's management practices, as well as the thought process it went through in selecting Asheville, North Carolina as home of its east coast operations. The conference ended with a presentation on the impact of changing population demographics. The conference also featured a luncheon presentation by The Honorable **Jay Williams**, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. In conjunction with the Annual Training Conference, Dove attended the final NADO Board meeting for the ending Fiscal Year and the initial Board meeting of the new Fiscal Year. He is now serving a seventh term on the NADO Board of Directors.

## PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED

In accordance with the NEGRC Bylaws, each County nominates a Private Sector Representative to serve a one year term. Nominees are chosen by the leadership of those counties and submitted to the Council for consideration. Those nominees were approved by the Council at its August meeting and are as follows:

**Ernie Graham, Barrow County**  
**Lamar Houston, Clarke County**  
**Bill Palmer, Elbert County**  
**Valerie Duvall, Greene County**

**Josh Fenn, Jackson County**  
**David Dyer, Jasper County**  
**Roy Gandy, Madison County**  
**David Bentley, Mogan County**

**Frank Turner, Newton County**  
**Amrey Harden, Oconee County**  
**Jesse Johnson, Oglethorpe County**  
**Harry Knight, Walton County**



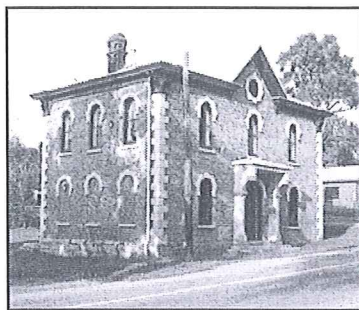
## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2015 GEORGIA TRUST AWARDS

Each year, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation requests nominations for exceptional preservation projects that contribute to individual communities and the state. Nominations can also include individuals whom have contributed in stewardship or preservation service. Eligible projects must conform to Preservation Standards and Guidelines and be completed in the last three years. The award categories are **restoration, rehabilitation, stewardship, and preservation service**. Restoration projects generally involve construction and/or conservation work to a property that accurately depicts its original condition or appearance. Museum projects typically fall within this category. Rehabilitation projects, on the other hand, involve adapting an historic building or landscape to a new, contemporary use. Converting a downtown commercial building into loft apartments is an example of rehabilitation. Further explanation pertaining to these categories is available on the Georgia Trust's award nomination form.

Nominations typically come from local governments, public institutions, historical societies, and design professionals (e.g., architects). The nomination process requires completion of an application that can be found at [www.georgiatrust.org](http://www.georgiatrust.org) and **due on November 10, 2014**. Potential applicants can visit the National Park Service's website to evaluate a project's adherence to the Preservation Standards and Guidelines at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/standguide/index.htm>.

Over the years, the Northeast Georgia region has received numerous Georgia Trust Awards. Last year, Oglethorpe County received an award for the rehabilitation of its historic jail. The jail is currently operated by Historic Oglethorpe as a museum in Lexington. Of particular note, this year's award winners will be recognized in April 2015 in Athens at the Georgia Trust's Spring Ramble.

For information on historic preservation, contact **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services, at (706) 369-5650 or email: [bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org). For questions about the nomination process, contact the Georgia Trust at (404) 885-7817.



Historic Oglethorpe Jail

### REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## DIGITAL ECONOMY PLANNING PROCESS NEARING COMPLETION

Under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Georgia Technology Authority received \$5.2 million to facilitate a State Broadband Initiative. A portion of these funds was set aside for the development of regional Digital Economy Plans (DEPs) with Georgia's Regional Commissions. At NEGRC, the Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division has led this planning effort.

The Northeast Georgia Digital Economy Plan includes an analysis of available digital assets, broadband infrastructure, technology utilization, and related economic and workforce data for the 12-county region. Through data collection and extensive stakeholder outreach, the following four Strategic Focus Areas were identified:

1. **Incorporate digital technology plans into the local comprehensive planning process.**
2. **Adopt "dig once" policies for local adoption.**
3. **Develop regional coordination and sharing agreements for technologies and infrastructure.**
4. **Identify specific training and education needs at the organization/agency level, and develop programs to address those needs.**

Project Manager **Nina Kelly** presented the first draft of the Digital Economy Plan to the PGS Committee of the NEGRC Council on August 21st, and comments and suggestions from the public were solicited through August 29th. Review of the draft DEP by the Georgia Technology Authority is currently underway. The PGS Division staff is available to assist governments and authorities with strategy implementation. Detailed recommendations are included on pages 46-48 of the revised plan document, now posted under the Planning & Government Services tab of the NEGRC website at [www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org).

*"Dig once" policies or ordinances refer to requirements designed to reduce the number and scale of repeated excavations for the installation and maintenance of broadband utilities in public right-of-way (ROW).*

*U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration*

## GEORGIA WORKFORCE LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION

Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board Chairperson, **Amrey Harden** and NEGRC Workforce Development Director, **Carol Rayburn Cofer**, attended the Georgia Workforce Leadership Association (GWLA) meeting August 21-22, 2014 at the Lodge at Callaway Gardens. The Board Chairs and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Directors from the 19 workforce areas met to discuss issues and needs related to the operation of Workforce Investment Act program activities. Mr. Harden also serves as Chair of GWLA.

With passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act on July 22, 2014, there was discussion of that legislation and the impact of its implementation on July 1, 2015. **Wendell Dallas**, State Workforce Investment Board Chair, **Ben Hames**, Deputy



Commissioner of Workforce Development, Georgia Department of Economic Development and **Connie Carter**, US Department of Labor Region 3 staff participated with the group providing information on initiatives underway as well as thoughts on the implementation of the WIOA. **James Wilburn**, with Georgia Tech's Veterans Transition Initiative, provided valuable information on opportunities to connect with returning veterans and to assist them in the re-entry into the civilian workforce.

For further information on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs in Northeast Georgia, please contact Workforce Development Director **Carol Rayburn Cofer** at (706) 369-5703.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE: CITY OF BOWMAN

Over the past two years, the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services Division (PGS) has assisted the City of Bowman in several efforts relating to economic development, historic preservation, and transportation planning. Bowman is located in western Elbert County at the intersection of S.R.172 and S.R.17. It is distinguished by its small, historic downtown. The downtown square also contains numerous commercial buildings, some of which house retail establishments. One of the commercial buildings on the square is owned by the city but remains vacant and in a deteriorated condition. In addressing this building's redevelopment needs, PGS staff assisted the City in selection of a preservation architect to prepare a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR). The PAR was needed to better understand the building's conditions, rehabilitation costs and potential uses. The PAR was also recently used to support the development of an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) application prepared by PGS staff.

The commercial building itself contains two separate spaces that can be used for separate or mixed uses. The purpose of a potential rehabilitation is to eliminate a glaring vacancy in the downtown that detracts from the existing businesses and location of new businesses. Several potential uses have been identified that include a retail space and a permanent location for their existing library. Both of these uses could attract visitors and activity into the downtown square. Without the building the downtown square would lose some of its historic character.

PGS staff has also worked with the City in preparing a Safe Routes to School Plan that sought to improve pedestrian accessibility and safety near a former school and into residential areas and the downtown. The Plan also incorporated an assessment and recommendations for bicycle accessibility and safety within the town. After completion, this plan was provided to the City to serve as a guide for future transportation improvements.

The NEGRC also provided technical assistance in nominating the Bowman Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination includes the historic downtown as well as residential properties with a period of significance between 1879-1964. The nomination was prepared by local residents in coordination with the City. It was officially approved by the Georgia National Register Review Board in August 2014. Listing in the National Register will provide eligibility for state and federal tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic properties, notably income-producing properties (i.e., commercial) in the downtown.

Many communities face building vacancy and blighted conditions in their downtowns. These conditions hinder the location of new businesses yet offer opportunities for revitalization. Downtowns, more generally, offer great locations for small businesses and entrepreneurs that support local and state economies. Bowman's approach to layering economic development, transportation planning and historic preservation to address a common, community goal was an innovative solution for Bowman, and perhaps other communities. PGS staff is continuing to assist the City in this regard by facilitating strategic planning for the downtown square that will involve local stakeholders. For further information on assistance by the PGS Division, please contact Mr. Walker.



*Historic Downtown Bowman*

## FALL 2014 SETA CONFERENCE

The 2014 Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference was held September 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery, Alabama at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel. SETA is a professional development organization providing training and staff development to frontline staff from eight southeastern states. There were over 500 attendees and more than 40 interactive training sessions from which the conference attendees were able to choose. Sessions included topics covering the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Youth Programming, Strategic Planning, Washington News, and Employer/Business Relations. **Shamikia Barnes** and **Jon Ryce**, employees of ACTION, Inc. and a provider for the NEGRC WIA Youth Program, conducted a workshop entitled "Developing the Future through Proactive Case Management". NEGRC staff attending were **Rhonda Keeter**, **Arun Hariani**, **Rima Sullivan**, **Kim Meadows** and **Susan Wilson**, along with Workforce Investment Board (WIB) members **Reginald Woods** and **Lori Rios**. They attended numerous workshops and had the pleasure of participating in a question and answer session with **Portia Wu**, USDOL ETA Assistant Secretary and **Les Range**, USDOL ETA Regional Administrator.



*L-R: Ms. Rios, Mr. Ryce, Ms. Barnes*



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**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**OCTOBER**

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7	8:30 a.m.	NEGRC Youth Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
13	2:00 p.m.	ADRC – Georgia Cares	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
14	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Investment Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	1:00 p.m.	NEGRC Aging Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	NOON	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
16	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

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*Sincerely & Respectfully,*