

GET INTO THE ACT.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
MAY 2015

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Older adults are a vital part of our society. Since 1963, communities across the country have shown their gratitude by celebrating Older Americans Month each May. The theme of this year's celebration is "Get into the Act," to focus on how older adults are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others.

The theme also reflects on the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Older Americans Act into law in July 1965. Since that time, the Act has provided a nationwide aging services network and funding that helps older adults live with dignity in the communities of their choice for as long as possible. These services include home-delivered and congregate meals, caregiver support, community-based assistance, preventive health services, elder abuse prevention, and much more.

By promoting and engaging in activity, wellness, and inclusivity, more Americans than ever before can "Get into the Act." Older Americans Month offers an opportunity to emphasize how older adults can access the home and community based services they need to live independently in their communities. It is also an occasion to highlight how older adults are engaging with and making a difference in those communities.

Now is the time to **Get into the Act** to make the benefits of community living a reality for more older Americans. Together we can promote healthy aging, increase community involvement for older adults, and tackle important issues like the prevention of elder abuse. Discover Older Americans Month: Visit <http://acl.gov/olderamericansmonth>

Contact the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging by visiting <http://www.eldercare.gov/> or calling **1-800-474-7540** to find ongoing opportunities to celebrate and support older Americans.

PLANNING SESSIONS/RETREATS HELD

Three planning sessions/retreats were facilitated recently by Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**. On February 23rd, a session was held for the Winder Housing Authority at the Community Center. Participants amended the current Mission Statement and then worked to draft a Vision Statement. Core Values were identified prior to identification of goals to be addressed in the coming year.

The Barrow County Board of Commissioners held a Strategic Planning Retreat on March 20th at Sims Career Academy. A review of items identified in the previous year's retreat was undertaken, along with review and discussion of the five-year Capital Improvement Program, the FY16 Budget Calendar, millage rate philosophy, long-term goals, discussion of various policies, and the anticipated 2018 SPLOST referendum.

The City of Jefferson Mayor and Council held its annual Planning Retreat on March 26th at the new Jefferson Station meeting room. Key points of discussion included downtown development, economic development, Parks Creek Reservoir, public works, internet/data connectivity, fire services, civic center, and governance and administration.



Winder Housing Authority



Barrow County





City of Jefferson

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, May 21st at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

PGS FACILITATES "NEWTON COUNTY TOMORROW" MEETING

The Planning & Government Services Division (PGS) of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) facilitated a meeting of the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization, "Newton County Tomorrow", on April 7th at Oxford City Hall. The Board, which includes local elected and appointed officials, citizens, and other representatives, and which is chaired by Oxford Mayor and NEGRC Council Secretary **Jerry Roseberry**, requested that staff provide information on local, regional, and state planning processes; review NEGRC assistance available to local governments; and facilitate a question-and-answer session.

After a welcome from Mayor Roseberry, PGS Director **Burke Walker** delivered a presentation about the NEGRC and provided state and regional background information related to local planning requirements, elective and recommended work, and regional context. Senior Planner **John Devine** followed with a brief review of the purpose of local government planning and how communities can use the planning process to their advantage. Devine then posed a series of questions based on planning, collaboration, and implementation. The resultant discussion provided the newly-formed board with the opportunity to share their experiences and opinions while listening to and learning from their peers.

The program proceeded with an opportunity for the local press, members of which were present during the meeting's entirety, to ask Board members their own questions about the future of planning and collaboration in Newton County. The majority of questions focused on the state of the "2050 Plan" and how the Board planned to move

forward. Finally, an open interview and discussion activity allowed the Board, local media, guests, and the NEGRC facilitators to discuss the day's events in individual and small-group conversations.

PGS staff is available to provide information on local plans and their implementation as well as facilitate meetings for local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other groups. Please contact PGS Director Mr. Walker (bwalker@negrc.org) for additional information.



Mr. Devine addresses attendees

LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE-BARROW COUNTY CAMPUS TOUR

On Tuesday, March 24th, **Lisa Maloof**, Dean of Business & Computer Technology at Lanier Technical College (LTC), provided staff of NEGRC Workforce Development and several partner agencies a tour of the new Barrow County Lanier Technical College campus. Classes began in January 2015 at this new location. As part of the tour, Mrs. Maloof pointed out a banner announcing that Lanier Technical College won Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) 2014 College of the Year.

The first stop was the Medical Assisting Program and the Certified Nursing Assistant Program. The Healthcare Wing was designed to meet the growing demand for certified professionals in the medical field with additional labs and classrooms. Throughout the campus we were equally impressed with the architectural design, showcasing floor to ceiling windows, allowing natural sunlight to warm up the building. The building itself is being featured in architectural industry publications.

LTC has a dual enrollment program with Sims Academy which allows high school students to earn college credits while simultaneously earning their High School Diploma. We observed some high school students in the Automotive Technology Program, learning the fundamentals, and getting prepared for a career in the automotive service and repair profession.

The tour ended in the state Welding and Joining Technology Department. Graduates will earn a credential (certificate, diploma, or associate degree) from Lanier Technical College, and be prepared for an opportunity to apply for employment at companies such as Caterpillar and Baxter. The Lanier Technical College Barrow Campus is located at 965 Austin Road, Winder, off Highway 316 and Highway 53.

For further information on the employment preparation opportunities at Lanier Technical College in Barrow County or other training opportunities, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



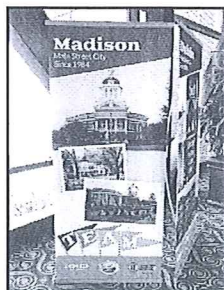
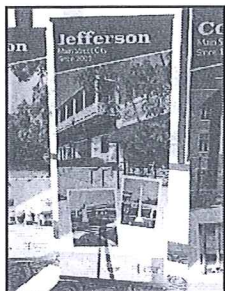
NATIONAL MAIN STREETS CONFERENCE

On March 30th - April 1st, Georgia was host to the 2015 National Main Streets Conference, held at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta. Beginning in 1980, Georgia served as a pilot state for the Main Street start-up program. Since this time, Georgia has grown to 96 member communities with 13 located in Northeast Georgia. The Georgia Main Streets Program is housed within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) who also sponsored the conference. The program focused on economic development through the strengthening of historic downtowns. By utilizing a four point approach, the Main Streets Program has been able to leverage success throughout the country. The four points of focus include organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. Overall, the Main Streets Program has been instrumental in merging the principles of economic development, historic preservation, and tourism in order to revitalize America's downtown, commercial centers and promoting small-business development.

Very visible at the National Conference were several large, display banners from Northeast Georgia's cities including: **Braselton** (member 2015), **Jefferson** (member 2001), **Monroe** (member 2009), and **Madison** (member 1984). A number of communities also donated baskets to the silent auction benefitting the Georgia Downtown Association for scholarships to next year's conference in Milwaukee. The NEGRC's cities were well represented at the conference with attendees including, among others, **Jennifer Dees** of Braselton, **Beth Laughinghouse** and **Vick Starnes** of Jefferson, and **Mike Miller** of Social Circle. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services, attended and also received one of eighteen competitive, national scholarships from the National Park Service's Certified Local Government Program for the conference registration (visit NPS at: <https://www.facebook.com/HHPreservltNPS>). **Jordan Shoemaker**, PGS Intern, attended and served as volunteer throughout the conference.

The opening plenary session was held in dramatic fashion at the historic Fox Theater. It included a welcome presentation from Governor **Nathan Deal** followed by comments from DCA Commissioner **Camila Knowles**. In Commissioner Knowles' remarks, she praised DCA's **Billy Peppers** and staff for their outstanding job in assisting with the conference's planning.

If you have any questions concerning the Main Streets Program, please contact Mr. Walker at (706) 369-5650 or email at bwalker@negrc.org.



GEORGIA TRUST AWARDS PRESENTED IN ATHENS

Each year the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation receives nominations for preservation projects from across the state for the following categories: Excellence in Rehabilitation, Excellence in Restoration, Stewardship, and Preservation Service. The awards are intended to recognize individuals, organizations and local governments that have made a significant contribution to historic preservation through individual projects and/or service.

This year, three Northeast Georgia cities receiving awards at the April 17th ceremony included the **Town of Braselton**, **City of Bogart**, and **City of Porterdales**. Braselton received an award in Rehabilitation for their efforts in rehabilitating the W.H. Braselton Store into adapted retail and commercial spaces. This project was also supported through financial assistance from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and its Community Development Block Grant Redevelopment Fund that was prepared and administered by the NEGRC's Planning and Government Services (PGS) Division. Bogart also received a Rehabilitation Award for Construction in rehabilitating a former agriculture school house into a multi-purpose government complex. It is also available for public use for special events. The NEGRC's PGS staff assisted Bogart during the initial planning stages of the project and in the procurement and selection of a qualified preservation architect. Lastly, the City of Porterdales received an award for Rehabilitation in adapting the former Porterdales Memorial Gym into an outdoor venue space. This project involved extensive stabilization and adaptation to the building after its destruction from a five-alarm fire. Instead of razing the building's walls, the City wanted to preserve the remaining elements and site for continued use by the community. The NEGRC's PGS staff worked with the City following the fire in writing a grant application to engage a Preservation Architect and Structural Engineer to perform a building assessment to determine the feasibility of its rehabilitation. After the study, the City engaged a Preservation Architect to perform the stabilization work, with landscaping and hardscapes installed by the City.

The awards were presented at the Seney-Stovall Chapel and received by all three communities. It was also attended by Mr. Walker. Nominations for 2016 awards will be available in summer 2016 through the Georgia Trust (visit: www.gatrust.org). For information about the awards and to see previously awarded projects visit: <http://www.georgiatrust.org/preservation/preservationawards.php>.

For information on historic preservation or guidance on rehabilitation or restorations, please contact Mr. Walker.



Left: Porterdales gym

Below: Braselton Brothers Store





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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS
MAY

12	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Investment Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
21	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
27	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

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Sincerely & Respectfully,