

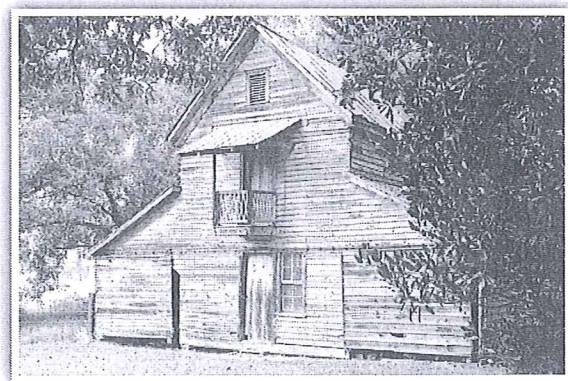
## HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT THE SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act. During the year, the NEGRC is showcasing successful preservation projects in our region to celebrate the anniversary. For the month of June, the Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm in Jackson County is featured.

Originally founded in 1799, the Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm is unique for both its well preserved historic buildings and for its continued use as a working, family farm. The property also functions as an outdoor agricultural museum operated by the Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm Foundation Inc., a non-profit organization. Comprising more than 18 original buildings ranging over 200 years in age, the Shields-Ethridge Farm is one of the region's most significant historic resources.

The property includes a cotton-gin, commissary, barns, and grist mill. The schoolhouse on the property, known as the "Bachelors' Academy," was built in 1909 for a cost of \$361. The clapboard building has two classrooms that open into a large meeting space. The metal roof and finial details make the schoolhouse a useful venue for school field trips and special events. Over the years, the Farm has benefited from many partnerships that have enabled the preservation of its buildings and, uniquely, the enhancement of a visitor's experience.

Through a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation, important farm documents are now available for access and research through the Digital Library of Georgia. The Appalachian Regional Commission funded an interpretive program that included development of a mobile application that allows visitors to participate in self-guided tours of the Farm (visit: [www.shieldsethridgefarminc.com](http://www.shieldsethridgefarminc.com)). The Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm has also received numerous awards, such as the Georgia Trust's award for Excellence in Stewardship, Georgia Centennial Heritage Farm designation, and a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award. On the third Saturday of each month, the farm hosts a "Cultivator's Market" with fresh produce and demonstrations at the blacksmith shop and grist mill. The commitment of the Foundation's Board of Directors and the Ethridge family to maintaining the integrity and legacy of the Farm is a true testament to the importance of historic preservation at the local level. The Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm serves as a great example of an intact historic farm that is open for public visitation.



*Historic Wheat House*

For questions about historic preservation projects or the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, please contact **Jordan Shoemaker**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at [jshoemaker@negrc.org](mailto:jshoemaker@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650.

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

### ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY BUSINESS RETENTION + EXPANSION PROGRAM - VERSION 2.0

In an effort to promote the Northeast Georgia region, the Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia will feature new and exciting economic development efforts across the region in the "Regional Economic Development Spotlight."

This month's Spotlight is the Athens-Clarke County Business Retention + Expansion Program. While Georgia offers several incentives to encourage business retention and expansion across the state, including tax credits and exemptions, many communities in Georgia have also enacted business retention and expansion programs at the local level. Athens-Clarke County has actively recognized that a successful economic development program must include a retention and expansion component to ensure that companies still feel the community's support and assistance--well after they are brought into the community. By supporting local businesses through a retention program, communities can help companies maintain or increase jobs, advance workforce training, preserve or increase the tax base, increase local



property tax values, enhance the community's image, and maintain or diversify the economic base. A successful retention program is also a great attraction tool, as companies looking to locate want to know that they will be assisted in the years following location decision.

The Athens Clarke County Economic Development Department's Business Retention + Expansion program is three-fold including annual Industry Appreciation dinners, a One-to-One Resource Pairing program which brings state and local economic development representatives face-to-face with management teams across the country to discuss opportunities and challenges, and a Business Walks program bringing together staff and elected officials to survey businesses. The first two phases of the program have already taken place this year, while the third phase, Business Walks, will begin later this year.

Economic Development efforts such as these are important not only to individual counties and municipalities, but to the region as a whole. Business Retention + Expansion Programs at the local level are important tools to promote the Northeast Georgia region to the State and Country to attract and retain lucrative businesses and industries.

For further information on Economic Development programs and incentives available to local governments, contact **Allison Roland**, NEGRC Project Manager, at [aroland@negrc.org](mailto:aroland@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650. Information regarding Athens-Clarke County's Economic Development Department is available at: [www.athensbusiness.org](http://www.athensbusiness.org).

## REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council **will not** meet in July. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 18th**. Information on that meeting will be forthcoming. We hope everyone will have a safe summer!

## 2016 B.J. SMITH COMMUNITY SERVANT AWARD RECIPIENTS HONORED

The 11th B.J. Smith Community Servant Award Ceremony, hosted by the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board (WDB), was held on Thursday, May 26th in Ila, Georgia. 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. He 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 experience program serving 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, the predecessor to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board, as the Madison County private sector representative. He was

actively involved as a director of the board of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and worked 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 wanted to honor his commitment to community service as well as his memory. The B.J. Smith Community Servant Award was established in February 2006 with the first awards presented in June 2006.

The 2016 B.J. Smith Community Servant Award winners each receive a \$1000 college scholarship. This year's winners are:

**Charon Woody** lives in Barrow County and is a 2016 graduate of Winder-Barrow High School. Charon will be attending Georgia State University, where he plans on majoring in Business Management (in the entertainment industry) with a minor in Game Design and Programming. His goal is to get a job at a major entertainment company and eventually starting his own company. He has volunteered through his church, Relay for Life, and March of Dimes. Charon did community service work through the Future Business Leaders of America club, where he also served as historian and a community service officer.

**Kentira Rucker** lives in Elbert County, and is a 2016 graduate of Elbert County Comprehensive High School. Kentira will be attending the University of Georgia, majoring in Biology. Her goal is to further her education by attending Emory University Medical School and becoming an Anesthesiologist. Kentira has volunteered with "Meals on Wheels", March of Dimes, SafeHouse Ministries, and adopted a local child for Christmas through the A-Child Shining Star program. She is a member of the Beta Club, served as Senior Class Secretary for the Student Council, is a member of the National Arts Honor Society, and Future Business Leaders of America. She also lettered in varsity sports in basketball for four years, and cheerleading for one year.

**Jamari Myrick** lives in Jasper County and is a 2016 graduate of Jasper County High School. Jamari will be attending Middle Georgia State University and entering the regional transfer engineering program. After completing his core course requirements, he will transfer to Georgia Tech, where he will complete his Electrical Engineering Degree. Jamari has volunteered with the remodeling of his church, the Jasper County Food Bank, "Seuss on the Loose" reading programs for children, Jasper County Back to School rallies, and Family Connection's Christmas parties for special needs children. He is a member of the Technology Student Association, and participated in two of their state conferences. Jamari also lettered in varsity football for four years, and has served as team captain.

These scholarships are presented to WIOA students currently enrolled in the WIOA In-School Youth program within the 12-county region. The scholarships 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, Scholarships, etc.).

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



*B.J. Smith Award Winners with Ms. Gladys Smith*

## CVIOG OFFERS MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) is offering a new training program to provide comprehensive management and leadership skills tailored to local government staff. The program is offered in partnership with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) whom will host the classes at its headquarters in the E.H. Culpepper Board Room. The "Management Development Program" includes twenty (20) all-day classes held over the course of seven (7) months. The program is tailored for department heads and mid-level managers who seek additional skills and training in managing staff and providing general leadership.

The registration fee for the training is \$1,700 and includes the 20 days of instruction and all course materials. The training sessions will be held on dates from August 2016 through February 2017, with class sessions from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For registration and related information, contact **Walt McBride** at [mcbride@uga.edu](mailto:mcbride@uga.edu) or **Chrissy Marlow** at [cmarlowe@uga.edu](mailto:cmarlowe@uga.edu). Training information is also available on the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's webpage at [www.cviog.uga.edu/mdp](http://www.cviog.uga.edu/mdp). An information flyer also can be found on the NEGRC's website at [www.negrc.org](http://www.negrc.org).

## WIOA IN-SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM GRADUATING SENIORS

As this is the season for high school graduations across the region, it is also the time when 77 high school seniors throughout the 12 county region are graduating from their high schools and the WIOA In-School Youth Program. This program is operated by

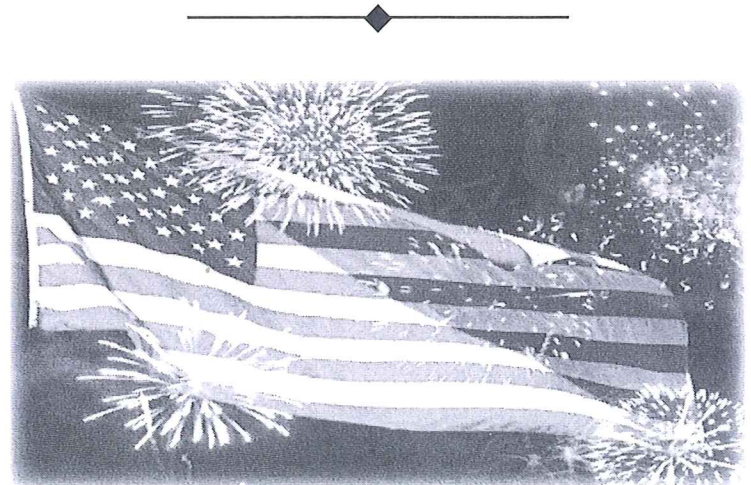
ACTION, Inc. under the oversight of the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board.

Members of this group of graduating seniors have been awarded scholarships valued at over **\$670,000**. The schools they plan to attend include Columbia University in New York, Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Ferrum College in Virginia, Clark Atlanta University, Benedict College in South Carolina, University of Nevada in Las Vegas, and Tuskegee University in Alabama, just to name a few. Congratulations to these seniors as they seek out their next horizon!

## GMA HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) held its 2016 Annual Convention on June 24th – 28th at the International Trade and Convention Center in Savannah. This year's theme for the convention was "**Cities in Play**". Approximately 1,500 city officials and others gathered to map out legislative plans for the upcoming year, discuss issues affecting Georgia's municipalities, and to network with other city leaders. The Municipal Training Institute was held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, followed immediately by the Opening General Session. There were a number of interesting sessions offered on matters related to planning, economic development, environmental issues, utilities, federal policy issues, and others. Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker** represented NEGRC at the meeting and assisted with the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) exhibit.

Created in 1933, GMA is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. It is a voluntary, non-profit that provides legislative advocacy, education, employee benefits, and technical consulting services to its members. The current membership totals more than 520 municipal governments, accounting for more than 99% of the state's municipal population. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors composed of city officials.



**Have a Safe and Happy July 4th!**



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**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**JULY**

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12	11:30 a.m.	CareNet	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	1:30 p.m.	Aging Advisory	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
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



*Sincerely & Respectfully,*