

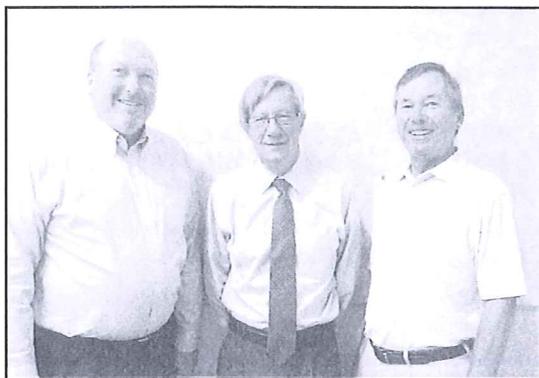
BROWN RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF NEWTON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Josephine Brown, Newton County Senior Center Director, retired on June 30th after a career spanning 45 years. Ms. Brown graduated college as a Language Arts major and was approached about setting up a Senior Services Center in Newton County. Initial funding for the project was allocated through the Community Action Agency, and State Senator **Don Ballard**, Covington Mayor **W.L. Dobbs**, and Newton County BOC Chairman **Jack Morgan** proved to be instrumental in supporting the program. Ms. Brown said that meals were served daily to 25 homebound individuals and 40 persons at the Center at the onset. Today, meals are delivered to 125 homebound seniors with 195 persons attending various activities at Turner Lake Senior Center on an average day. NEGRC Executive Director **Jim Dove** stated, "Ms. Brown has demonstrated a caring attitude toward seniors in carrying out her duties over the past 45 years. But in addition to that, she truly loves Newton County and all its citizens. She will be missed at the senior center, but I feel certain she will continue to engage in activities which provide for the betterment of the entire community."



APPALACHIAN SUMMER BOARD MEETING HELD

Executive Director **Jim Dove** attended the Summer Board Meeting of the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) held July 17th – 19th in Chillicothe, Ohio. The group discussed the ongoing strategic planning effort of the DDAA, along with its budget and work program for the upcoming year. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Federal Co-Chairman **Earl Gohl** and Executive Director **Scott Hamilton** were in attendance and addressed the Board, as did **Dan Neff**, Director of ARC's Local Development District efforts. ARC is a federal-state partnership which began in 1965 and includes 13 states. The DDAA is comprised of the 73 district programs (such as NEGRC) in those states. In our region, four counties – Barrow, Jackson, Madison, and Elbert – are designated as part of Appalachia. Dove is Immediate Past President of the DDAA.



L-R: John Hemmings, Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl, and Jim Dove



ARC Executive Director Scott Hamilton with DDA Board Members

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT: RUSTY WARNER NAMED NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR IN ELBERT COUNTY

The Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton and Bowman hired **Rusty Warner** as the new Executive Director for Economic Development in a called authority meeting on April 19th. Warner comes to Elbert County by way of the City of Norcross where he served as Economic Development Manager from 2007-2016. Warner seeks to ensure that Elbert County is a thriving, sustainable community both

now and in the future and will work to promote the County and its two municipalities to help encourage future development. Warner is also eager to assume the Elbert County position on the Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia (JDANEG) Board of Directors to help promote not only Elbert County, but the Northeast Georgia region as well.

To learn more about the Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton & Bowman, visit www.gowithelbert.com. For further information on Economic Development in the Northeast Georgia region or on the Joint Development Authority, contact **Allison Roland**, NEGRC Project Manager, at aroland@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.

SUMMER 2016 WIOA WORK EXPERIENCE

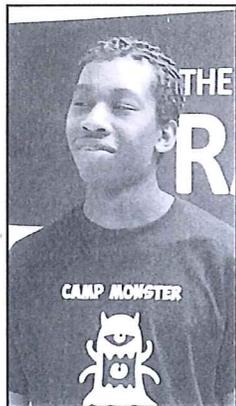
Ninety youth from the WIOA In-School Youth Program participated in the Summer Work Experience program. There were a total of 75 worksites in our 12 county area, which included non-profit agencies, local governments, and some private sector businesses. New worksites included Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation, Jasper County Pre-School, Madison County Library, and The Tree House in Barrow County. There were additional efforts made to develop worksites that would provide exposure to specific career interests of the students such as Monroe Pediatrics, Young-Levett Funeral Home, and Superior Hair Designs. The Work Experience activity operated for a five-week period from June 6th through July 9th. Participants worked up to 30 hours per week, and were paid \$7.25 per hour.

Ninety-eight per cent of participants successfully completed the Summer Work Experience activity. Twenty-four students successfully secured employment on their own prior to the Summer Work Experience, which is one of our goals. In addition, seven students were hired at their worksites after the completion of the experience, although a number of additional worksite supervisors expressed an interest in hiring their participants pending additional funding.

For further information on services offered by the NEGRC Workforce Development Division, please contact **Rima Sullivan**, Youth Program Coordinator at (706) 369-5703.



Desmond Sims



Terrell Callahan



Kierra Clark

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, August 18th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

THANK YOU AMREY HARDEN!

Amrey Harden, Chairman of the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board, recently announced his retirement as President of Oconee State Bank after a 43-year career with the institution. This announcement impacts his representation on the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board (WDB) as the Oconee County private sector representative, as well as Chair of that board.

Mr. Harden was appointed to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board when it was formed in 2000 under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). His appointed role was the Oconee County private sector representative. However, he always looked at the bigger picture for the region, state, and nation. He was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board in 2006 and was re-elected to serve for several more terms. In addition to this assignment, Mr. Harden served on Georgia's Workforce Leadership Association (GWLA), the group composed of 19 Workforce Board Chairs throughout the state. At the time of his retirement, he served as Chairman of the GWLA. He also served on the State Workforce Investment Board as a business representative. Mr. Harden was an engaged board member and leader, and represented the local workforce area at state, regional and national meetings. In 2015, WIA transitioned to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Workforce Investment Board transitioned to the Workforce Development Board (WDB). Mr. Harden was actively engaged in ensuring that the local area was positioned to make this transition with as little interruption of services as possible to the citizens of Northeast Georgia. During this transition from WIB to WDB, NEGRC Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Athens Housing Authority Representative **Geraldine Clarke** transitioned to non-voting ex-officio board members.

In a letter written to the NEGRC Workforce Development staff, Mr. Harden noted, "I would like to express my gratitude to you for all that you have done for the people of Northeast Georgia". Workforce Development Director **Carol Cofer** stated, "Mr. Harden, there are not enough words to express our gratitude to you for what you have done for the people of Northeast Georgia and the state. Your service in helping create opportunities for the citizens to have access to quality workforce preparation, which in turn, assisted employers in meeting their workforce needs, is most appreciated. Your shoes will be hard to fill, and we will always remember the example you set both in leadership and in service." Mr. Harden will continue to serve on the Council of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority. Everyone at NEGRC wishes him and his wife Debbie all the best in his retirement.



L-R: Reg Woods, Howard Ledford, and Amrey Harden



Retreat Participants



Mr. Harden

LEXINGTON PLANNING RETREAT HELD

At the request of Lexington Mayor **Rick Berry**, a Planning Retreat including members from the City Council, Downtown Development Authority, Historic Preservation Commission, and County Government was held on July 21st at NEGRC headquarters. The session began with a presentation by **Leigh Burns**, Education and Outreach Coordinator at DCA, followed by information on planning and funding options given by **Burke Walker** and **Jordan Shoemaker** of the NEGRC staff. The meeting continued with in-depth discussion on the future of the former Lexington Presbyterian Church property and the Meson Trust. The session wrapped up with the compilation and review of additional items requiring attention. NEGRC will continue to assist the community regarding several matters discussed at the retreat. The retreat was facilitated by Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**.



Mrs. Burns addresses group

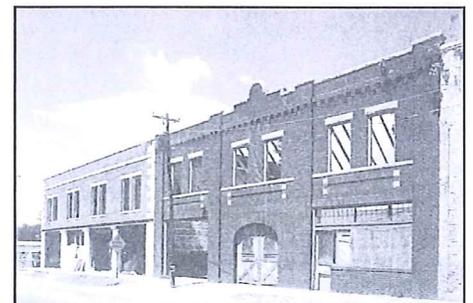
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: JASPER COUNTY AND CITY OF MONTICELLO

The year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act and, all year, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) is celebrating successful preservation projects in our communities. For the month of August, we would like to highlight downtown revitalization projects in the City of Monticello.

One of the most dramatic efforts was the "Monticello Governmental Center" that involved the rehabilitation of several downtown buildings for governmental use. One of these buildings was rehabilitated and partially reconstructed from a commercial building and reused as the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) office. This rehabilitation not only removed a blighted building from the downtown square but brought jobs to downtown. The NEGRC assisted the City in using the Community Development Block Grant-Redevelopment Fund (CDBG-RDF) program through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

The other dramatic project in Monticello was the addition to the historic courthouse. This addition followed preservation standards and guidelines and was undertaken by the Jasper County Board of Commissioners. The rehabilitation kept jobs in the downtown and also allowed for expanded office space for the county manager and other county staff.

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



Monticello governmental center prior to rehab

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS AUGUST

9	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Joint Development Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
18	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
18	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,

