

GREENSBORO – HISTORIC AND PROGRESSIVE

This is the third in a series highlighting municipalities in the region. A similar effort devoted to counties appeared in the past.

The City of Greensboro is located along and north of Interstate 20, 34 miles south of Athens and approximately 70 miles from Atlanta and Augusta. It is only five miles east of the beautiful shores of Lake Oconee. Greensboro (originally known as Greensborough) was founded in 1786 and named for Revolutionary War hero Nathanael Greene; it was incorporated in 1803.

Home to slightly greater than 3,400 residents, the proactive city government is led by Mayor **Glenn Wright** and five Councilmembers. City Councilman **Vince Lewis**, prior to assuming office, was the Speaker of the House's appointee to the NEGRC Council, and long-time City Manager **Larry Postell** served many years on the former NEGRDC Board of Directors.

Today, the historic shopping district features regionally known restaurants, antiques, art galleries, home décor, and gift shops. Greensboro is known for its progressive downtown development efforts, and is recognized as a National Main Street and Georgia Main Street Community. The City's Downtown Development Authority leads the way in efforts to promote and revitalize the central commercial district. In addition, the City's Historic Preservation Commission works to protect historic resources, while the Greensboro Tree Board advises the City on matters related to urban tree canopy. The Historic Courthouse, the Iron House, the "Gaol" (a Bastille-like jail that is one of the oldest such structures in Georgia), and many residences are located in the National Register of Historic Places.



Greensboro Scenes



REMINDER

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

DEAL ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

Gov. **Nathan Deal** has nominated **Gretchen Corbin** to serve as President and CEO of the Georgia Lottery Corp. following the announcement of current President and CEO Debbie D. Alford's departure. Pending approval of the Georgia Lottery Corp. Board of Directors, this change will take effect on January 1. Deal also nominated Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Deputy Commissioner **Matt Arthur** to fill the position of TCSG commissioner. Pending TCSG board approval, this change will take effect on January 1.

"The critical programs funded by the Georgia Lottery, including the HOPE Scholarship and Georgia Pre-K, help millions of children across the state earn a quality education from start to finish," said Deal. I am confident that the incoming leadership at the Georgia Lottery, as well as TCSG, will continue to do exceptional work in connecting students throughout Georgia with the resources and support needed to reach their fullest potential."

Ms. Corbin is currently the commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia. She was previously the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and deputy commissioner of the Global Commerce Division for the Georgia Department of Economic Development.



Mr. Arthur has served as the deputy commissioner of TCSG since January 2015. He was previously the director of education reform for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Arthur is a graduate of the University of Georgia and played on the 1980 national championship football team.

THREE NEGRC COUNCIL SEATS VACATED

Three vacancies on the NEGRC Council are to be filled in January. The vacancies are among representatives of municipal governments.

In Jackson County, leaders of the various cities will choose an elected official to fill the seat formerly held by Jefferson Mayor **Roy Plott**. He served one term as Mayor, and with distinction as a member of the NEGRC Personnel Committee.

In Oconee County, Watkinsville Mayor **Charles Ivie** passed away after a short illness in October. He also served one term as Mayor, and was an active member of the NEGRC Planning & Government Services Committee. Oconee municipal leaders will choose an individual to fill the vacant seat on the Council.

Finally, in Walton County, Monroe Mayor **Greg Thompson** is leaving office after serving three terms in that position. He was a member of the NEGRC Personnel Committee, and city leaders in Walton County will choose an official to fill that vacancy.

Information on new Council members will be provided in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AREA PLAN

Two Public Hearings on the State Fiscal Year 2019 Area Plan for the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging Planning and Service Area which includes Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties will take place on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Monday, January 8, 2018 at 10:00am at Madison County Senior Center, 1265 Highway 98 West, Danielsville, GA 30633; and**
- **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00am at Newton County Senior Center, 6183 Turner Lake Complex, Covington, GA 30014**

The purpose of these hearings is to inform Northeast Georgia residents of the plan for Aging Services for State Fiscal Year 2019 and to provide citizens an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to the Northeast Georgia Planning and Service Area. All interested parties are encouraged to attend these hearings. The Department of Human Services – Division of Aging Services is the sponsoring agent for programs or services offered in the planning and service area.

If additional information is needed, contact **Peggy Jenkins** at **(706) 583-2546 extension 101** or via e-mail at **pjenkins@negrc.org**.

JOB FAIR HELD FOR IMPACTED INVISTA EMPLOYEES

NEGRC Rapid Response Coordinator **Kim Meadows**, **Simisola Johnson** of the Georgia Department of Labor, and **Norris Smith** of the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Workforce Division were part of a team that hosted a job fair in November for employees impacted by the layoff announced by Invista in Athens-Clarke County. Employers from the area were on hand to interview impacted employees.

For further information on this and other workforce development efforts in the region, contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division/WorkSource Northeast Georgia at **(706) 369-5703**.

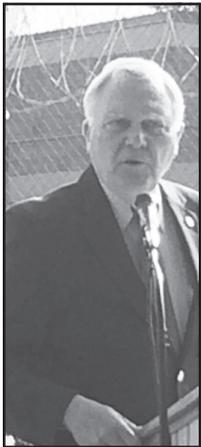


L-R: Johnson, Smith, and Meadows

GOVERNOR DEAL ATTENDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR WELDING TRAINING LAB

The Jackson County Correctional Institute (JJCI) recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new welding training laboratory. Governor **Nathan Deal** joined JCCI Warden **Johnny Weaver** and other Jackson County officials to officially open the four-bay training facility built in an existing building on the JCCI campus. The training will be offered to inmates who are within nine months of release from the facility. The 10-week 60 hour training course will be provided by instructors from Lanier Technical College. Upon release from JCCI, it is the expectation that the trainees will obtain employment in the welding field. Funding for the instruction is provided through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) federal workforce development funds. Management of these funds is provided by NEGRC Workforce Division/WorkSource Northeast Georgia. Oversight is provided through the volunteer Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board.

For further information on this or other WIOA training available in Northeast Georgia, please contact NEGRC Workforce Development Division/WorkSource Northeast Georgia at **(706) 369-5703**.



Governor Deal



Jackson County Officials

2018 CDBG APPLICATION CYCLE UNDERWAY

Last month, the **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** (DCA) hosted its annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applicants' Workshop in Macon. This workshop provided information and guidance in preparing Community Development Block Grants for the 2018 application cycle. The deadline for applications, this year, is **April 2, 2018**.

All local governments' chief-elected officials were informed of the workshop and the beginning of the application cycle. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services, and **Kaitlin Powers**, NEGRC Intern, attended the training in Macon. **CDBG grants** are one of the more complex and time consuming applications the NEGRC staff prepare. They require local surveys, local government financial commitments, Qualified Local Government (QLG) status, preparation of maps, and professional architectural/engineering studies, to name a few. This year, additional local

government requirements (e.g., SAM registration, conformance with Service Delivery Strategies (SDS), etc.) must be followed in order to remain eligible for funding. The grant-application process, in short, requires significant time (at least 3 months) to develop an application and its supporting materials.

The CDBG program itself provides financial assistance to local governments in improving public infrastructure (e.g., water and sewer facilities), public facilities, streets and drainage, and housing that benefit low to moderate income persons. The percentage of (low to moderate income) beneficiaries must be high (i.e., greater than 70%) for the proposed project to remain competitive with other statewide applications. NEGRC staff is available to discuss a potential project for a city and/or county and advise on CDBG competitiveness and the application process. Contact, if not already made, should be placed early in January—at the latest—to ensure adequate time for the application's development.

For information about eligibility of a local government project, please contact Mr. Walker at **(706) 369-5650** or email: **bwalker@negrc.org**.

ATHENS-CLARKE VOTERS PASS TSPLOST

The November 7th election saw voters in Athens-Clarke County, including Winterville and a portion of Bogart, overwhelmingly approve a local Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) referendum. After voters in only three of Georgia's twelve regions passed regional TSPLOSTs in 2012, the state provided an alternative for counties to pursue their own programs to fund projects of local interest for *transportation purposes*. As defined by the Official Code of Georgia, "transportation purposes" means and includes "roads, bridges, public transit, rails, airports, buses, seaports...and all accompanying infrastructure and services necessary to provide access to these transportation facilities, including new general obligation debt and other multiyear obligations issued to finance such purposes." (OCGA § 48-8-260)

As of this passage, Athens-Clarke is the only county in the Northeast Georgia region with an approved TSPLOST program. The final project list, with a total worth of \$109,500,000, includes \$25M for pavement rehabilitation, \$27M for greenways and the Firefly Trail, \$17M for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, \$5.5M in transit improvements, \$1.5M in airport matching funds, and over \$30M in place-specific assignments throughout the community (including set-asides for Winterville and Bogart). When completed, these projects will carry an estimated annual operating impact of \$1,035,000.

Countywide, the measure passed by 6,887 to 2,540 votes, or 74% to 26%, and some precincts showed approval rates exceeding 80% in various precincts (95% in one). The appointed Citizens Advisory Committee recommend a project list for finalization by the Mayor & Commission, and a community "vote yes" campaign accepted donations, provided signs to supporters, and paid for advertising.

Collection will begin in April 2018 as a 1% increase to the existing sales tax, giving Athens-Clarke County an 8% rate. Please contact Principal Planner **John Devine**, AICP, with any questions at **jdevine@negrc.org**.



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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS JANUARY

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|----|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9 | 8:30 a.m. | Workforce Development Board | Headquarters Atrium |
| 17 | 1:00 p.m. | Aging Advisory Council | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 18 | Noon | NEGRC Council | Athens Holiday Inn |
| 18 | 3:00 p.m. | Firefly Advocacy Group | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 24 | 9:30 a.m. | Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |



Sincerely & Respectfully,