

PICTURESQUE JEFFERSON

Jefferson, a 200+ year old community, is located a half hour from Athens and an hour north of Atlanta along Interstate 85. It was founded in 1800 and incorporated in 1806. With a population of approximately 10,000, it is the Jackson County Seat. Like many small towns in the south, Jefferson has gradually made the transition from primarily agriculture, to a balance of commercial and industrial interests. The City's leadership is working to maintain Jefferson's small town character while encouraging development of a diverse economy that employs the growing local workforce. This effort is aided by the Jefferson City School System, highly ranked in terms of student achievement and SAT scores. The City offers a broad range of extracurricular activities including Community Theater and an award winning Recreation Department. The City is also recognized for its excellent Mainstreet Program. The most notable historic feature in the City is the Crawford W. Long Museum. Dr. Long performed the first surgery using ether as an anesthetic in Jefferson on March 30, 1842. The progressive City Government is led by Mayor **Steve Quinn** and Councilmembers **Mac Gramley, Jon Howell, Steve Kinney, Don Kupis, and Mark Mobley**.



Jefferson High School



Crawford Long Museum



The Arena



Martin Institute Mural



Historic Courthouse

NEGRC COUNCIL ADOPTS BUDGET/ PROGRAM OF WORK

The Council of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, meeting in regular session on June 21st, adopted the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and the accompanying Program of Work. The \$13.4 million balanced budget was presented by Audit & Finance Committee Chairman **Amrey Harden**. A highlight in the new budget is funding made available for the development, design, and launch of a new website. Considering the amount of federal and state dollars to be received, the leveraging effect of local funds is significant...for every dollar contributed in local dues; the region will receive \$21.01 in federal and state funds. Executive Director **Jim Dove** presented the Fiscal Year 2019 Program of Work. He invited Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker** and Workforce Development Director **Carol Cofer** to present major work components from their respective divisions. The Area Plan, developed by our Area Agency on Aging, was previously adopted and is included in the Program of Work. The Program of Work is a fluid document and is amended throughout the year to reflect special project requests submitted by local governments.



BOC Prioritizing Goals

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will be held on **Thursday, August 16th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

JACKSON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

The Annual Strategic Planning Retreat for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was held at the Fire Training Center on Wednesday, June 20th. Facilitated by Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**, the session covered a variety of topics. Discussion focused on prior year accomplishments, economic development update, review of county finances, multi-purpose agricultural facility, EMS, pay and benefits, staffing, public development, and proposed roundabouts. The session wrapped up with the identification and prioritization of future goals. Attendees included Chairman **Tom Crow** and Commissioners **Chas Hardy**, **Jim Hix**, **Ralph Richardson**, and **Marty Seagraves**, as well as County Manager **Kevin Poe**, County Clerk **Ericka Johnson**, Public Development Director **Gina Roy**, and Finance Director **Trey Wood**.



Board of Commissioners with Manager Kevin Poe

2018 GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) hosted its annual convention in Savannah from June 22nd - June 26th. The convention included local government trainings, policy meetings and many opportunities for networking. The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) participated in the conference's Exhibit Hall with Regional Commission staff hosting the booth. The GARC booth had participation from seven Regional Commissions with Executive Directors and staff including **Burke Walker**, NEGRC; **Patti Cullen**, RVRC; **Chris Strom**, SGRC; **Laura Mathis**, MGRC; **Michael Strickland**, CSRARC; **Lloyd Frasier**, NWGRC, and **Heather Feldman**, GMRC. The booth was open on Saturday and Sunday with numerous NEGRC Council members visiting as well as Mayors and Councilmembers from the NEGRC's member governments.

Of particular note at this year's conference, Auburn Mayor and NEGRC Councilmember **Linda Blechinger** was inducted as GMA President at Monday's Awards Luncheon. Mayor Blechinger previously served in numerous positions at GMA including as a member of the Association's Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Chair of the Community Development Policy Committee and the Legislative Policy Council. She was also Chair of GMA's Federal Policy Council. She is very active in the Barrow County community and is on the Board of Directors for the Barrow Chamber of Commerce, the Piedmont Rape Crisis Center, Economic Development Barrow County and Literacy Barrow. Mayor Blechinger was the driving force for the "Whistle Stop Shops" in the City of Auburn that serve as a model for other communities. Mr. Walker, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services, attended the GMA luncheon and swearing-in ceremony. Congratulations Mayor Blechinger!

Two other Northeast Georgia Mayors were installed in important positions at the Conference. Commerce Mayor **Clark Hill** and Jefferson Mayor **Steve Quinn** were elected to the GMA

Board of Directors. Mayor Hill will serve as President of GMA's 5th District, and Mayor Quinn will serve as District 1st Vice President.

For additional information about GMA, visit: www.gmanet.com.



(L-R) Cullen, Mathis, Strom, Strickland, Walker



Installation of Mayor Blechinger

NEW ROUND OF SCHEDULED PIMS

Each year the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services Division (PGS) schedules meetings with six of its member counties to review and discuss local planning efforts and their comprehensive plan. These meetings, or Plan Implementation Meetings (PIM), require the attendance of the chief elected official and other appropriate staff (e.g., manager, planners, etc.). One purpose is to review the comprehensive plan's work agenda and offer NEGRC assistance in implementing the various activities, projects, etc. It is also an opportunity for NEGRC staff to provide information about our own Regional Plan and other programmatic opportunities.

For FY19, the NEGRC will schedule meetings with the following six counties: **Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison and Oglethorpe**. Each chairperson and mayor will receive a letter from Burke Walker, Director of PGS, announcing the need to schedule these meetings. In most cases, the PIM meetings are coordinated by the county to include the municipalities as a joint meeting. Sometimes they are scheduled over the lunch hour to accommodate schedules; however, they also can be scheduled before or after other meetings (e.g., mayors' meetings) for convenience and efficiency.

For these six counties, this is the second time for the PIM meetings; many chief elected officials are already familiar with their purpose and content. The NEGRC, for its part, is required to meet

with all of its local governments every other year in coordination with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). It is generally a good opportunity to update communities on various programs, tools and best practices for achieving community goals.

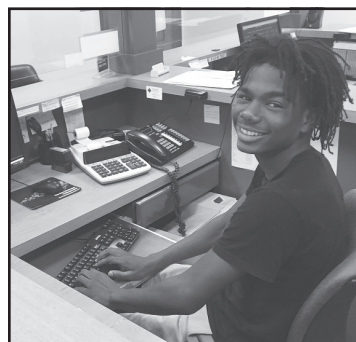
PGS staff will follow-up with these counties to discuss scheduling of the PIMs in the upcoming months following the written notice. If your local government has questions on these meetings or would like to assist PGS staff in making their arrangements, please contact Mr. Walker, Director of Planning & Government Services, or **John Devine**, NEGRC Principal Planner, at (706) 369-5650 or email bwalker@negrc.org and jdevine@negrc.org, respectively.

SUMMER 2018 WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Eighty-six youths from the WIOA In-School Youth Program participated in the Summer Work Experience program. There were a total of 62 worksites in the 12 county region, which included non-profit agencies, local government worksites, and some private sector businesses. Additional efforts were made to develop worksites that would provide exposure to specific career interests of the students, such as Razor's Edge Barber Shop, Growing Minds Primary Academy, and the Walton County Sheriff's office. The Program operated for a five-week period from June 4th through July 7th. Participants worked up to 30 hours per week, and were paid \$7.50 per hour. During the school year, these students participated in Job Readiness training workshops, and were able to apply what they learned during the Work Experience program.

During the Summer Work Experience, the NEGRC employs three summer youth program associates to assist with orientations, job placements, check delivery and monitoring of worksites. **Taylor Loggins** and **Madison Peters**, Masters of Social Work students from the University of Georgia, worked as summer youth associates for the program this year, with assistance from **Shamikia Barnes**, Cedar Shoals High School Guidance Counselor and ACTION Case Manager. The program was supervised by **Rima Sullivan**, WIOA Youth Program Coordinator and **Eileen Brown**, WIOA Youth Program specialist.

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



Demario Thomas



Christopher Starr



305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605

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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS
AUGUST

7	8:30 a.m.	WIOA Youth Committee	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
8	10:00 a.m.	Joint Development Authority of NEGA	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
8	1:00 p.m.	Solid Waste Management Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
16	3:00 p.m.	Firefly Trail Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	9:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,