

OFFICERS NAMED AND NEW COMMITTEES ASSIGNED

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) Council held its regular monthly meeting at the Athens Holiday Inn on August 18th. At that time, officers were elected for a two-year term. Jefferson Mayor **Jim Joiner** will serve as Chairman, Walton County Commission Chairman **Kevin Little** as Vice Chairman, and Newton County Private Sector Representative **Frank Turner** as Secretary. Chairman Joiner has also made the following committee assignments.

Audit & Finance

Frank Turner, Chair
 Stenette Brooks
 Melvin Davis
 Anthony Dove
 Larry Guest
 Amrey Harden
 Harold Horton
 Kathy Morgan
 David Nunn
 Bud Sanders
 Greg Thompson
 Russ Yeany
 Evans Brinson, Staff

Planning & Local Gov't. Services

Tommy Lyon, Chair
 Louise Adams
 Andy Ainslie
 Hunter Bicknell
 Nancy Denson
 Ron Faust
 Julian Jackson
 Kay Lee
 Tom Mayers
 Roy Roberts
 Jerry Roseberry
 Joe Walter
 Burke Walker, Staff

Personnel

Kevin Little, Chair
 Roy Gandy
 Charles Hill
 Jim Mercer
 Glenn Newsome
 Buddy Ouzts
 Fred Perriman
 Flemmie Pitts
 Larry Postell
 Chip Thompson
 Glenn Wright
 Jim Dove, Staff

Program of Work

Lamar Houston, Chair
 Charlie Crawford
 Ernie Graham
 Harry Knight
 Vince Lewis
 Billy Nalls
 Bill Palmer
 Billy Pittard
 Joel Seymour
 Shane Short
 Danny Yearwood
 Mott Beck, Staff



*Secretary Frank Turner and Vice Chairman Kevin Little with Past-Chairperson Stenette Brooks
 (Chairman Jim Joiner had a prior commitment.)*

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS SCHEDULED

The Northeast Georgia Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR) has scheduled a series of public meetings to be held during September. The Transportation Investment Act of 2010 presents an opportunity to provide financial assistance in meeting present and future transportation needs. The legislation created twelve special tax districts in which a one per cent sales tax can be levied for ten years, if approved by voters in that district. Money raised in a district is used only for projects in that district. An Executive Committee, including five members of the RTR and three legislators, met on numerous occasions in an effort to draft a list of proposed projects to be considered

for funding through a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST). That list was presented to the RTR on August 10th for consideration, and a final list must be approved no later than October 15th. In order to gain input and present the list to interested parties, three meetings have been scheduled in the region. The meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- September 8th** - **Oconee County Civic Center
Hog Mountain Road**
- September 13th** - **Crawford Depot
U.S. 78**
- September 22nd** - **Georgia Perimeter College – Bldg. 2N
239 Cedar Lane, Covington**

The public is invited to attend. Formal presentations will not be given; those interested may visit during the two hours allotted to view maps, offer comments, and discuss specific projects with members of the RTR. For further information, please contact **Jim Dove** or **Mott Beck** at **(706) 369-5650**.

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, September 15th at noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

MADISON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Madison County is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year with presentations by local historians and others, a Bicentennial Celebration on September 24th in Memorial Park and a re-enactment of the first board of commissioners' meeting. The county was named for U.S. President **James Madison** and was the thirty-eighth to be formed in Georgia by a legislative act on Dec. 5, 1811, with the land being taken from portions of Clarke, Elbert, Franklin, Jackson and Oglethorpe counties.

After the American Revolution, settlers were encouraged to migrate to the new counties by the State's "Headright Grant" system; each settler was granted acreage based on number of "heads" in his family. Georgia's Revolutionary War soldiers were also awarded bounty grants as payment for their loyal service. Several forts were built in Madison County during this time, including Hillhouse Forge near Comer, Hillhouse Furnace near Rogers Mill, Jones Station (later named Fort Lamar), and Black Station near Black's Creek and the Hudson River. The earliest permanent settlement was in the Paoli area, where a cemetery contains the remains of some of the county's earliest settlers, including ancestors of Madison County's most famous resident, Dr. **Crawford W. Long**, who pioneered the use of ether as an anesthetic. His birthplace still stands on Crawford W. Long Street in Danielsville; and a statue of the physician adorns the grounds of the historic courthouse, which was built in 1902.

Madison County has always existed primarily as an agricultural community, and that remains true today. In 1860, 84% of the county's population farmed, according to the GaGen website. Eventually the agricultural base of the county began to diversify and cotton, beef, dairy and oats were grown. Agribusiness dominates the local economy today, with poultry, egg and beef cattle farms of particular importance.

Madison County is considered a rural county, with six small towns dotting the landscape. Danielsville, the county seat, is named after Revolutionary War General **Allen Daniel**, whose gravesite is located north of the town. Other towns are Comer, Colbert, Carlton, Hull and Ila. All except Ila grew up along the railroad, experiencing growth and prosperity during the days when cotton was king.

According to the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Carlton, incorporated in 1892, once held the distinction of having two names. The depot was known as Berkley, to avoid confusion with Carrollton, a city in west Georgia. The post office, however, retained the name given the town in honor of Congressman **H.H. Carlton**, a legislator who exerted his influence to keep the train running through the town instead of bypassing it on the route from Athens to Elberton.

Comer, formerly known as "Honey Pond," was later named for **Reuben Comer** and the Comer family who were large landowners in the area. Perhaps its most influential residents and developers were **James Polk Gholston** and his sons Will and Knox, who built a large hotel, stores and a bank, and developed several successful businesses, including livery stables and later a car lot. The family also established a trust fund for Comer Elementary School.

Comer is Madison County's most populous town, and certain areas are designated as an historic district. Comer's Historic Downtown Area has undergone several restoration and revitalization projects, including a travel museum and meeting facility. The Madison County Fair, sponsored by the Comer Lions Club in September and the town's Christmas Parade in December, are annual highlights.

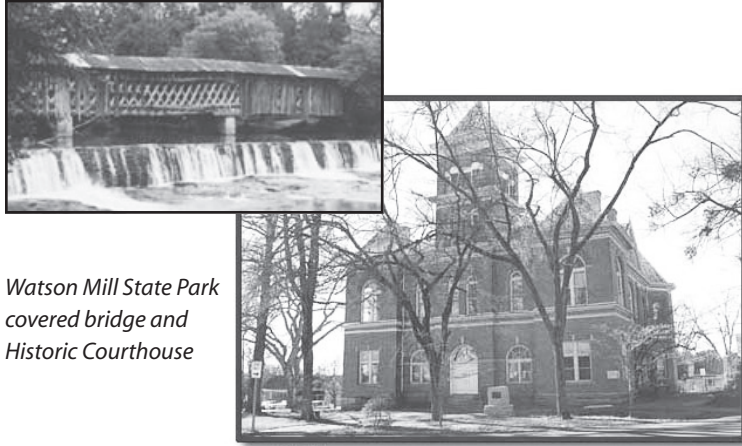
Located on land once inhabited by Native Americans, at a point where five principal roads once converged, Colbert was known as "Five Forks" when it was incorporated in 1900. Nine years later its name was officially changed to honor **James Fletcher Colbert**, a prosperous and colorful citizen who contributed much to the growth of the town. Downtown Colbert is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors from across the Southeast travel to Colbert each summer for its annual Fourth of July celebration and parade. Colbert is known as "the city of Red Cannas," because of the bright summer blossoms that adorn the downtown area.

Hull, called the "well city," is the closest Madison County town to Athens. It was incorporated in 1905, and has become a "bedroom community" for persons who commute to businesses in Clarke County, or to classes at UGA or Athens Technical College. The town grew up around a local watering hole for horses and other livestock.

Located at the western end of the county, Ila was the last Madison County town to be incorporated in 1910. Its history,

however, goes back to the Revolutionary War when the historic outpost of Fort Lamar flourished near the town's present site, and served as a trading post as well as refuge.

Madison County's population today is 28,120, according to the 2010 census.



Watson Mill State Park covered bridge and Historic Courthouse

Photo: Keith Hair

2011 ELDER RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

Northeast Georgia's 2nd annual Elder Rights Symposium will be held on September 8, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Oconee County Civic Center, 2661 Hog Mountain Road in Watkinsville. Two keynote speakers will talk about Elder Abuse, which is a growing, underreported problem. **Randy Thomas**, retired law enforcement officer from South Carolina, and **Nathaniel Wright**, Assistant District Attorney of Chatham County, Georgia will be featured. In addition, Dr. **Leisa Easom** of the Rosalynn Carter Institute will talk about Caregiver issues and **Mark Franklin**, Attorney with the Elder Legal Assistance Program of Georgia, will discuss rights of the elderly in family and institutional settings. There will also be a panel discussion with a local Judge and local law enforcement. Breakfast and lunch are included in the \$15 registration fee. The Oconee Area Resource Council, the Athens Community Council on Aging, GeorgiaCares, and the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging host this event. For further information or to register, please contact **Chris Hill** at the Athens Community Council on Aging at (706) 549-4850 or by email at chill@accaging.org.

REGIONAL PLAN 2035 QUESTIONNAIRE

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) is collaborating with area stakeholders to develop *Plan 2035*, the long-range plan for the 12-county Northeast Georgia region. Two of three main regional plan elements (the Regional Assessment and Stakeholder Involvement Program) have been completed and approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and development of the final element, the Regional Agenda, is currently underway. The Regional Agenda will include a regional vision, a list of refined issues and opportunities, and strategies for implementing selected guiding principles identified by stakeholders.

NEGRC has created an online questionnaire for the purpose of obtaining widespread public input on programs, policies, tools, and other mechanisms for achieving the regional vision. The questionnaire will be available through Friday, September 9, 2011 on the Planning & Government Services Division's "News and Documents" website at <http://negrc.org/planning.php>. Please contact **John Devine** at jdevine@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650 with any questions.

2011-2012 PLANNING & GOVERNMENT SERVICES EDUCATION SERIES

Mark your calendars for these exciting programs offered free of charge to local government representatives!

September 28, 2011

Transportation & Infrastructure Planning in Northeast Georgia

Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff and local government representatives will present information on transportation and infrastructure planning, followed by an American Planning Association audio/web conference entitled, "Infrastructure, CIP & Alternative Transportation." A total of 1.5 Certification Maintenance (CM) credits are available to attendees.

Time: 3:00 – 5:30pm

Place: NEGRC Atrium, 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605

Cost: FREE

Registration: Contact Julie Ball, Planning Assistant, at jball@negrc.org or 706.369.5650 by September 23, 2011 to reserve your place. Space is limited to 40 attendees.

October 12, 2011

Capitalizing on Solar Energy in Northeast Georgia

Representatives from the Appalachian Regional Commission and a local government will discuss opportunities for solar energy capture and use in the Northeast Georgia region, followed by an American Planning Association audio/web conference entitled, "Planning for Solar Energy." A total of 1.5 Certification Maintenance (CM) credits are available to attendees.

Time: 3:00 – 5:30pm

Place: NEGRC Atrium, 305 Research Drive, Athens GA 30605

Cost: FREE

Registration: Contact Julie Ball, Planning Assistant, at jball@negrc.org or 706.369.5650 by October 7, 2011 to reserve your place. Space is limited to 40 attendees.

Stay tuned for details on future programs:

November 2011 – Regional Tourism Planning
February 2012 – Solid Waste Planning
March 2012 – Northeast Georgia Food Systems
April 2012 – Brownfield Redevelopment
May 2012 – Reinventing Planning Departments
June 2012 – Historic Preservation

There will be no programs scheduled for December or January. Visit our website at www.negrc.org for news on these upcoming programs.

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS SEPTEMBER

14	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Solid Waste Management Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	9:00 a.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	Noon	NEGA Regional Commission Council	Athens Holiday Inn
16	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	2:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	2:00 p.m.	UOBWA Operations Committee	Bear Creek Reservoir
28	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,