



Pinnacle

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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Spring is springing around the prettiest region in the state of Georgia. We have noticed and noted many of our spring functions happening in this region. As we get information on them, we will be happy to post them on our GMRC website. Have someone send your notices to Marissa Smith at msmith@gmrc.ga.gov and she will place them on the website.
- ◆ Kudos to our Finance and Audit staff for working hard to get our new accounting software and FY16 audit ready for July 1, 2015. This takes lots of training and preparation, before the first number can be entered.
- ◆ Our Economic Development team has just returned from DC to learn new tasks expected by our Federal partners as we prepare for ARC, USDA, EDA and other grants. Dates, schedules, rules and such seem to change annually.
- ◆ Faith Bryan has informed me that we have now completed the aerial photography part of this huge project. Next is to prepare the deliverables for the 25 communities in four regions. These are expected to be completed and distributed by October, 2015. Many compliments that we hit the important date of April 1, so the photos were done during leaf off season. This proved to be a challenge due to the ice, snow, and cloudy days we dealt with. Taking photos in the Hartsfield-Jackson airspace between large jets landing and taking off was exciting to say the least.
- ◆ Our Workforce Development team is busy getting ready for summer programs for youth and adults. Also, John Phillips is extremely busy with determining what will change when the new WIOA change goes into effect in July. This is a large amount of effort of the WD staff. Busy time for sure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
April 30	3:30 pm	WD Board	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
	5:00 pm	CLEO Board	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
	5:30 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
May 28	6:00 pm	GMRC Council's Legislative Appreciation Dinner	Dawson County—Location TBA
June 30	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City of Gainesville—Location TBA

Economic Development

- ◆ On behalf of the **City of Cornelia**, an application was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for CDBG funding for sewer infrastructure improvements within a designated Target Area of the city.
- ◆ On behalf of **Hart County** (lead applicant) and the **City of Hartwell**, a Community Development Block Grant-Employment Incentive Program (CDBG-EIP) application was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The application outlines a request for \$500,000 in CDBG-EIP funding for wastewater pretreatment facility improvements to serve Lake Foods, a food processing business located in unincorporated **Hart County**.
- ◆ An ARC grant was submitted on behalf of the **City of Cornelia** for the city's water and sewer line relocation project to facilitate an expanding business.
- ◆ Congratulations to the following communities in Region 2 for securing Recreational Trails Grant funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources:

City of Maysville – Nature Trails at Maysville City Park

Hart County – Hart County Trail

White County – Yonah Preserve Multi-Use Trails

Union County – Byron Herbert Reece Connector Trails

Information Services

- ◆ The cities of **Dawsonville** and **Maysville** have requested assistance with Zoning Map updates.
- ◆ Acquisition is Complete!!! The last section, west of Hartsfield – Jackson Airport, was completed on April 1st. It was not an easy task as the pictures below depict. The pilots had to position themselves as to not cause any problems with the commercial air traffic. Processing the orthoimagery and LiDAR is the next phase of the project. As of April 3rd – Quantum Spatial had completed 64% of the overall LiDAR processing and 2% of the overall Orthoimagery processing. Pictometry has shipped hard drives to the counties of Henry, Baldwin, Stephens, Bartow, Banks and Fayette with the oblique imagery. Pictometry software training will begin shortly for those counties.



Employee Spotlight



Cheryl Smith is a graduate from West Hall High School and Lanier Technical College. She began working for the WIA program in 2010 as a Billing Specialist and has trained to work in many aspects of the Finance Department since October 2011. Cheryl is very active at Corinth Baptist Church where her husband Mark is the Youth

Pastor. When Cheryl is able to steal away from her busy family schedule of church, her daughter Mallori's cheerleading activities, and her sons Mason's love of music, she is headed to the beach. At home, she enjoys crafts, embroidery, and making items with wood pallets. Cheryl's guilty pleasures include Dr. Pepper and chocolate.



Planning Services

- ◆ The **City of Maysville** has been awarded a \$100,000 recreational trails grant from the Department of Natural Resources for the trail in their new City Park.
- ◆ **Gainesville** and **Hall County** have submitted the annual update for their CIE for State and regional review.
- ◆ The Planning Department is assisting the Nacoochee United Methodist Church in identifying unmarked graves of slaves buried in the church's cemetery before 1865. In 2011, GMRC located 120 graves and were marked with iron crosses as permanent markers for each grave.



Workforce Development

- ◆ The Mobile Units have seen an overall increase in participants across the region. During the first quarter of 2015, the Career Coaches have assisted an average of 221 people per month. During this same reporting period 208 job searches have been performed, 196 job applications have been submitted, 210 resumes have been created or reviewed, 224 career interest surveys have been completed, and many area residents have received information about tuition assistance programs, or performed other career related tasks.
- ◆ The Career Coaches were invited to participate in two job fairs in March: the Northeast Georgia Career Expo held in Cumming, and the Veterans Career Fair held in **Toccoa**. During these events, the Mobile Units assisted over 50 area residents with various employment related inquiries.
- ◆ 206 Juniors representing each of **Hall County's** Public High Schools completed career assessments aboard the Mobile Units at the **Gainesville-Hall** Interagency Transition Council Career Expo.
- ◆ The Career Coaches held resume sessions for graduating students of North Georgia Technical College's campuses in **Blairsville, Clarkesville, and Toccoa**.
- ◆ **419** individuals came through the Mobile Training Units during the course of the month of March. This is the largest number to date!
- ◆ Six students completed and passed certification for CPR. One student was able to assist someone just a few days after receiving his certification. He helped a man who had a seizure and stopped breathing. The student was able to perform CPR and stayed with the man until the EMT arrived.
- ◆ The Youth Department participated in the **Hall County** Transition Career Expo and spoke with 120 students and held five "Dress for Success" workshops.
- ◆ Several youth staff developed and implemented the "Golden Ticket" program at Woody Gap school, working with seniors in career research and planning.
- ◆ Over the past six months, the Youth Department has held 40 Independent Living workshops in eight counties.
- ◆ Youth Department staff met with some **Hall County** judges to discuss services and programs available to youth who have been involved with the Juvenile Court System.
- ◆ The Youth Department visited with **Banks County** High School to speak with seniors regarding WIA services and programs that may be available to them.
- ◆ The Youth Department participated in the **Lumpkin County** Resource Fair.
- ◆ The intake staff did a great job processing customer files for the summer semester deadline of April 1, 2015. They continue to work to improve the intake process for potential customers. Ginger Little, Intake Manager will be accompanying the Youth Department on April 28, 2015 to explain the adult program at Woody Gap School. The fall semester deadline is July 1, 2015.

Category of Responses:	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	59	208
Total Job App	26	196
Total Resumes	122	210
Total Interviews	3	3
Total Interest Survey	219	224
Total Training Sessions	7	17
Total Testing	3	4
Total Typing Assessments	1	10
Total GMRC Info	78	189
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
GED assistance		0
TOTAL REPSONSES	518	1061



GMRC Council Meeting

March 2015 – Toccoa Falls College



Workforce Development Success Story



Mr. Mull represented NGTC in the CNC Technician category at SkillsUSA in March. He won 1st place at the State level and is now eligible to compete at the National level this June in Louisville

When I first started thinking about going back to school the first thing that came to mind was, how will I pay for it? The cost of tuition, books, and supplies started swirling through my head.

Getting help from WIA was a Godsend. This meant that worrying about the cost of my new career and life was taken to a minimum. All I had to do was make good grades, which I did with a passion.

I have had a 4.0 the entire time that I have been at North Georgia Technical College and graduated with Honors. Not only did I receive my diploma in CNC Technology, I was also able to get my CNC Specialist Certificate and I was accepted into the National Technical Honor Society.

I truly believe that the funding from GMRC-WD has helped me achieve this high recognition. No matter the question, everyone at the Gainesville office has always been so nice and helpful. Anytime someone has asked me about how I went about going to college the first thing I say is, "Start with GMRC-WD and WIA". Then I tell them all that was done for me.

- Allen Mull