

Executive Director's Report



- Congratulations to Andrea Newsom who has officially been promoted to Finance Director! Andrea has been with the GMRC since December 2011 and upon Becky Siever's retirement in late 2016 has been fulfilling the role as Interim Finance Director. Andrea has hit the ground running this year and has done a tremendous job in preparing the FY 2018 budget!

- We have recently signed the contract to begin work on the MAP-21 Project. Through the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC), the project is to partner with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Information Technology Outreach Service (ITOS) to provide planning and GIS-based services for GDOT in compliance with mandates imposed by the Federal Surface Transportation Act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Faith Bryan will be overseeing the project for the GMRC and will require data validation and/or capture of specific road characteristics identified through federal legislation.
- The Georgia Assembly successfully passed two bills relating to local governments and/or regional commissions:
HB73 (Downtown Revitalization Tax Credit), which provides for tax credit incentives to promote the revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns by encouraging investment, job creation, and economic growth in long-established business districts.
HB 183 (Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council), which recreates the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council under the Department of Community Affairs; to provide that all documents and data of the current Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council that is under the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources shall be transferred to the new council under DCA.
- An accurate and complete census count is important to your community. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) operation is the one and only opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the Census address list, which will serve as the foundation for the 2020 Decennial Census. DCA is conducting an informational workshop on **May 8, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the GMRC office, 1310 W Ridge Road, Gainesville, GA. For more information and to register for this workshop, please contact Lisa Westin at lisa.westin@dca.ga.gov
- Daniel Martin and I recently met with Joel Katz of Congressman Doug Collins' office and Andrew Seaver of Senator David Perdue's office to talk about many important topics affecting our local governments, including the President's Budget Blueprint. It was a great meeting and we look forward to a constant line of communication with our congressional staff and offices.
- Please mark your calendar for our Annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner, which will be held on May 25, 2017 at 6:00pm at the **Dawson County** Junior High.
- Speaker David Ralston recently announced that Representative Terry Rogers has been appointed to the Georgia House Rural Development Council. This council, which was created during the recent legislative session, will work with rural communities to find ways to encourage economic growth. We look forward to working with him in this capacity.
- Congratulations to North Georgia Technical College who recently broke ground on their new Industrial Technology Center on the **Clarkesville** campus. The 45,000 square foot building will house a CNC Machine Tool Program, Air Conditioning Programs, as well as a general industry lab so that existing industry can do customized training.

Sincerely,

Heather J. Feldman

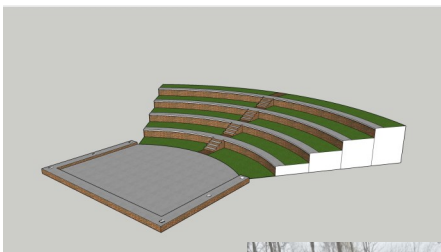
Heather J. Feldman
Executive Director

Economic Development

- Congratulations to the following communities in the Georgia Mountains region on being awarded funding through the **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**:
City of Lula: Nature Trails Project
City of Toccoa: Lake Toccoa Recreational Trail Project
Union County: Helton Creek Falls Rehabilitation Trail
- Important changes are being made to the Georgia RTP program. The program will go to a biennial (every other year) application and grant award process beginning in Fall 2017, with the grant awards to be made in 2019, and the next funding cycle announced in Fall 2019. The maximum grant award amounts will also be increased above the current \$100,000 level. A full list of program changes are expected to be released soon by DNR.
- On behalf of **Lumpkin County** and **Habersham County**, two Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications were submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for expansions at each of their respective Senior Centers.

Planning

- The *Towns County Joint Comprehensive Plan* has been adopted by **Towns County** and the **cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris**.
- **Lumpkin County** has adopted the update to their *Comprehensive Plan*.
- The **City of Dahlonega** has adopted the update to their *Comprehensive Plan*.
- **Union County** has adopted the update to their *Comprehensive Plan*.
- **Franklin County** is amending the Land Use element of their *Comprehensive Plan*.
- The GMRC is assisting the **City of Maysville** with the design of *an amphitheater for their City Park*.



Information Services

- GMRC released a Request for Proposal for the 2018 Aerial Photography/LiDAR Project. Proposals were due April 17th with six vendors responding. During the week of April 24th, the RFP Review Committee will meet to evaluate the proposals received. Please see GMRC Aerial Photography and LiDAR Project Map on page 4.
- Updated the Official Zoning Map for the **City of Homer**.
- Staff met with **City of Maysville** to update the Official Zoning Map, Voting Wards Map, and discuss city owned cemetery.

2020 Census LUCA Promotional Information Session

In preparation for the 2020 Census, the US Census Bureau will be conducting a series of promotional workshops around the State of Georgia in coordination with the Regional Commissions. The workshop for the Georgia Mountains Region will be held at our office in our training room on May 8th from 9am to 11am.

We invite your Chief elected official/Administrator AND your technical/GIS staff to attend this free LUCA Promotional Information Session where you can learn more including:

- purpose of LUCA and ways it can benefit your community
- what is new for LUCA this decade
- the LUCA schedule
- developing a plan for your LUCA review
- an overview of the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)

During the month of July, the Highest Elected Official for your City or County will receive an invitation letter and registration form to participate in the LUCA program. GMRC will be receiving funds through the Department of Community Affairs, to assist you with the LUCA process. There will be no additional cost to your City or County. **If you would like for GMRC to process the US Census Bureau's residential address list for your jurisdiction, it is very important that you designate GMRC as your LUCA Liaison or Designated Reviewer on the registration form.** Without this designation, GMRC will be unable to assist you.

Please register for any of the training sessions by clicking on the link below:

<https://form.jotform.us/DCA/2020lucatraining>

If you have any questions about the LUCA program or what GMRC can do to assist your local government with the 2020 Census, please contact either Faith Bryan at 770-538-2614 or Brandon Carlock at 770-535-5458.



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Gainesville, GA 30503

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Georgia Mountains

Career Coaches

- **White County** Mountain Education Charter High School invited the Career Coaches to conduct a resume training session in which 10 students participated.
- In partnership with Goodwill, the Coaches were invited to attend a Job Fair in **Dawsonville** held at the Goodwill Career Center. A total of 16 individuals utilized the services offered by the Career Coach.
- East Hall High School held a Mock Interview Day and the Career Coaches participated in the event. It was a busy day, as 371 East Hall Students performed career assessment surveys on board the Career Coaches.
- Resume training sessions were held for **Stephens/Habersham County** Probation Office, **Dahlonega** Day Reporting Center, Parent Accountability Court (**Dahlonega**), and **Dawson County** Treatment Court - 12 participants were assisted.
- The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Job Fair was held this month in **Gainesville** and 39 individuals received assistance by the Career Coaches.
- The GHITC Transition Fair was held at the North Hall Community Center - 187 students from **Hall County** received assistance and performed career assessment surveys.

Career Coaches

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	106	191
Total Job App	23	26
Total Resumes	135	156
Total Interviews	0	0
Total Interest Survey	30	42
Total Training Sessions	1	1
Total Testing	1	1
Total Typing Assessments	0	1
WIOA Info	154	198
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
Public Relations	14	25



Career Coach Visits Good Samaritan Food Bank

Do you need assistance during your job search or additional training to update/upgrade your skill set? Help is currently available, please inquire within!



Visit our Mobile Career Coach to:

- ◊ Search and Apply for Jobs Online
- ◊ Create Resumes and Cover Letters
- ◊ Take Career Surveys and Assessments
- ◊ Learn and Practice Workforce Skills

All services provided free of charge!



**1220 McEver Road
Gainesville, Georgia 30504
Wednesday, April 26th, 2017
(and) Friday, April 28th, 2017
9:00 AM—11:00 AM (both days)**

RESPONSES PER COUNTY

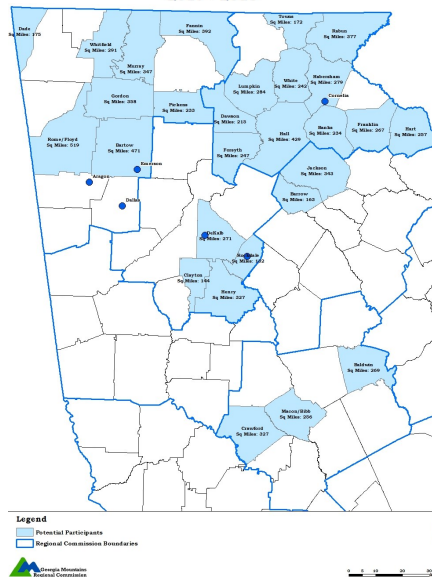
Banks—4	Lumpkin—16
Dawson—115	Rabun—2
Forsyth—38	Stephens—15
Franklin—16	Towns—20
Habersham—30	Union—2
Hall—179	White—15
Hart—6	Other—6

- 742 individuals received services which amounts to 1441 responses on board the Career Coaches this month - This is the largest single Month Ever in both people and responses!
- If you exclude the GHITC Transition Fair and East Hall High School Mock Interview day, the Career Coaches assisted 184 persons and had 325 responses performed.
- If you look at activity of the Career Coaches since 2013:
184 = 9th busiest month by people
325 = 11th busiest month by number of responses

Event and Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION/HOST
April 27	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Lavonia Depot—City of Lavonia
May 8	9:00am	LUCA Info Meeting	GMRC Office
May 25	4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Workforce Investment Board GMRC Council Meeting Legislative Appreciation	Dawson County Junior High School Dawson County/Dawson Co BOE
June 29	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Hall County
July 27	4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Workforce Investment Board GMRC Council Meeting	Rabun County
August 31	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City of Gainesville
September 28	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	White County
October 26	4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Workforce Investment Board GMRC Council Meeting	Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega
November 16	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City of Dawsonville
December 1	6:00 pm	GMRC Annual Meeting	Dillard House Conference Center

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Aerial Photography and LiDAR Project
2017 - 2018



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