



## Pinnacle

1310 W. Ridge Rd.  
P.O. Box 1720  
Gainesville, GA. 30503  
(770) 538-2626  
[www.gmrc.ga.gov](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov)  
Editor: Marissa Smith

### Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

#### Interim Executive Director's Report



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Executive Director. I am following in the footsteps of Danny Lewis, who upon his retirement, has left behind a legacy of accomplishment for the Regional Commission. I'm looking forward to building upon this foundation of the incredible groundwork that has helped create a powerful organization and region. It is with great pleasure that I get to work daily with our extraordinary communities, council, and staff of this organization. I just celebrated my 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary working at the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, and this has been among the most rewarding work of my career, and I am honored to be trusted with this new role for the organization.

Working together, the GMRC team will continue to carry out the mission of the GMRC to be a regional leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our cities and counties on issues critical to economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability of the region. We are dedicated to advancing the general welfare and prosperity of the area through intergovernmental cooperation and harmonious coordination of local, state, and federal programs and resources and will continue to partner with our member governments to pursue opportunities for our member governments particularly in the areas of planning, economic & community development, transportation, information technology, and human services.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working with each of you.

Sincerely,

*Heather Feldman*

Heather J. Feldman

Interim Executive Director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION/HOST
August 25	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	Forsyth Conference Center Forsyth Co/Forsyth C.O.C.
	5:30 pm	GMRC Search Committee	
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
September 29	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	White County
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
October 27	4:00 pm	WD Board Meeting	Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega
	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
November 17	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	City of Dawsonville
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	

## Planning

- ◆ The **GMRC** is asking for nominations of properties to be considered as part of a *regional brownfield assessment* for 2017. This project will help communities with vacant industrial properties with suspicion of on-site contamination develop clean up and reuse strategies to aid in attracting private redevelopment. If you have a site you suspect to be a qualified brownfield please contact Adam Hazell at [ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov).
- ◆ The GMRC is completing a *Conceptual Master Plan* for the Sautee-Nacoochee Center in **White County**. This plan sets out their vision for renovation of outdoor areas and the installation of new amenities as the campus strives to increase their use and appeal as an arts and cultural hub in the Georgia Mountains Region. Once complete the Center will use the plans to coordinate their expansion and to aid in funding.



**SAUTEE NACOOCHEE CENTER  
CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN**

**The GMRC Offices will be closed  
Monday, September 5, 2016  
in Observance of Labor Day**

## Economic Development

- ◆ The following ARC Pre-Applications were submitted:
  - Sautee Nacoochee Community Association – Marketing App
  - Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association – Museum & Video Updates
  - City of Gainesville** – Broadband Infrastructure
  - Hall County** – Healan’s Mill Land Acquisition
  - The Foxfire Fund, Inc. – Mobile Application
  - City of Hiawassee** – Strategic Plan
  - Union County** – Notla Water
- ◆ The **City of Hartwell** received \$150,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant funding for the **Hartwell** Railroad Street Farmers Market.
- ◆ The **City of Toccoa** received \$46,295 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant funding for sound system improvements to the Schaefer Center.
- ◆ GMRC staff has completed the 2016 Annual Update for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Regional Plan and is now available for public review. Please contact our office at 770-538-2626 or visit our website at [www.gmrc.ga.gov](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov) to view the document.
- ◆ **Stephens County** was awarded Community Development Block Grant-Employment Incentive Program grant funding in the amount of \$340,000 for a public rail spur.

## Information Services

- ◆ GMRC staff presented the Cemetery Project to the **City of Oakwood** Council during their work session on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Council heard about the project at hand and the processes used in the field and of office. A total of 853 graves were inventoried.

Of significance there were:

- 1 – Clergy
- 4 – Masons
- 1 – Physician
- 1 – WWI Veteran
- 20 – WWII Veterans
- 2 – WWI & WWII Veterans
- 3 – Korean War Veterans
- 5 – Vietnam War Veterans.

- ◆ USGS is accepting grant applications for their 3DEP program. This program is to apply for grant funding to acquire LiDAR data. The USGS is interested in the Chattahoochee Watershed area and FEMA is interested in Fannin County. If you are interested in obtaining more information regarding this program, please contact Faith Bryan at [fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov).

### Workforce Development

- ◆ The Youth Department celebrates with Medical As-  
sisting Graduate
- ◆ The Summer Work Program had a 100% completion  
from participants
- ◆ Youth Department Staff is working with the Depart-  
ment of Juvenile Justice and presenting overviews at  
the courthouse for potential applicants
- ◆ Youth Department Staff held workshops in **Union  
County**
- ◆ Participated in Parent Resource Fair in **Hall County**
- ◆ New programs beginning with agency partners:  
Lanier Technical College, North Georgia Technical  
College, and Athens Technical College to enhance  
employment and work place skills, as well as train  
for targeted occupational skills programs.
- ◆ Eight residents from the Arrendale Transitional Cen-  
ter in **Alto**, graduated from the Welding Program. Of  
the eight graduates, four started work in the welding  
field on August 1.

### Success Story

I used to work as a teller at a bank in **Gainesville, GA**. I knew I wanted to become a nurse ever since I was a little girl. Before I started the nursing program, I was unaware of how I could financially afford college, child-care, gas, books, and daily living expenses. Before WIOA, I felt hopeless and unable to attain my goal. I heard about WIOA from a classmate, then I applied and my life changed completely!

Without the program I would have struggled immensely! The program was an assurance to me in regards to child-care, books, and gas funds. The campus I attended was over 45 minutes away, and had classes at least three times a week. The University of North Georgia is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among public regional universities in the South. The faculty is great; they are welcoming, provide the education required to become a successful nurse, and are always willing to help.

The WIOA case managers are more than happy to help. They communicate in a fashionable manner, and are a great support system. Thanks to the services provided through WIOA, some of the financial burden throughout the nursing program was relieved and it allowed me to fulfill my dream.

I am currently employed as a registered nurse on a Medical Surgical floor. Many opportunities arose upon graduation. I graduated May 6, 2016 and began working June 27, 2016.

Follow your heart; do not doubt your capability of being successful. There is assistance available. Do not give up on your dream. If you can believe in yourself, you are already succeeding.

*Mariela Escalera*

### Career Coaches

- ◆ A total of 28 individuals registered for WIOA services while on board the Career Coaches breaking the previous record by 6 people.
- ◆ A Resume Workshop was held for participants of the **Hall County** Treatment Court Program, **Dahlonge** Day Reporting Center and Salvation Army of **Hall County**.
- ◆ The Career Coaches were invited to set up at The Place of **Forsyth** to provide assistance to individuals seeking Resume Assistance/Career advice, and tuition assistance information in hopes of returning to school.
- ◆ An Overview Fast Track Session was held for six individuals at the **Hall County** Correctional Institute.
- ◆ There were 10 inmates involved with the Dog Rescued Program at Colwell Probation Detention Center in **Blairsville** and were provided resume guidance/ career research tips, and WIOA registration assistance.

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	102	597
Total Job App	25	93
Total Resumes	65	422
Total Interviews	0	4
Total Interest Survey	17	344
Total Training Sessions	0	4
Total Testing	1	1
Total Typing Assessments	0	39
WIOA Info	72	754
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
Public Relations	1	495

### RESPONSES PER COUNTY

Banks—0	Lumpkin—13
Dawson—3	Rabun—8
Forsyth—27	Stephens—24
Franklin—19	Towns—8
Habersham—18	Union—46
Hall—95	White—15
Hart—3	Other—4

# July Council Meeting

