



## 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

### Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Thank goodness for pretty days, the "aerial mapping project" is now proceeding ahead of schedule. We were starting to worry during January with all the cloudy days.
- ◆ Lots of new changes , especially in the Finance Department. Many of these changes will happen between now and July 1, 2015. Kudos to the Finance Department for all of their efforts, led by Becky Sievers, regarding new accounting software, bidding of services, banking services, auditing bidding, etc. Bill Chafin is very busy with our management staff preparing for the changes.
- ◆ It is great having such bright minds on our Council Boards, and Committees to direct our efforts.
- ◆ Another RLF loan was awarded in January. **Blairsville** Mayor Jim Conley heads the RLF committee and they have been quite busy since we took the program back.
- ◆ The Workforce Development staff and Board are also preparing for big changes with the WD changing to Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) in July. First everyone in the nation is trying to understand the new program of work and then to teach everyone else how it will work. We will see some changes on the WD Board around July.
- ◆ Reminder that the GMRC Quarterly City/County Managers meeting will be held in Sky Valley on April 1, 2015 at 10:00 am (site to be determined). Please mark your calendar and remember it is a dutch treat event. **SAVE THE DATE!**
- ◆ Please ask your legislators to place May 28, 2015 on their calendars for our Legislative Appreciation Dinner. It will be in Dawson County beginning at 6:00 pm.
- ◆ **GMRC Council Meeting and all Committee Meetings scheduled for 2/26/2015 have been **CANCELLED** due to anticipated inclement weather.**

### Employee Spotlight



Adam Hazell has been employed as the Director of the GMRC Planning Department since 2006. He previously lived in Griffin, Georgia where he also served as Planning Director for another Regional Commission. Adam is a Georgia Tech graduate with a B.S. in Architecture, a Certificate in Economics, and a Master's in City Planning. When not at work, Adam loves spending his free time with his children, Julia and Anders and his blue parakeet. He attends Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville. Adam is an avid reader and stays current on events, and loves to work crossword puzzles. In sports, he loves to cheer on the GT Yellow Jackets, but his passion is soccer where he supports the Arsenal F.C.

## Economic Development

- ♦ On behalf of **White County**, a CDBG-EIP application was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The application outlines a request for \$358,501 for the construction of road infrastructure improvements to benefit an expanding company in **White County**.
- ♦ On behalf of the **City of Toccoa** (lead) and **Stephens County**, a OneGeorgia EQUITY grant was submitted to the OneGeorgia Authority. The application outlines a request for \$200,000 in funding for the construction of water and sewer infrastructure improvements to benefit three expanding companies.
- ♦ On behalf of **Hart County**, an Immediate Threat and Danger application was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The application outlines a request for \$50,000 in funding for construction of water improvements to serve a low and moderate income neighborhood.

### **CDBG DEADLINE – APRIL 1, 2015**

- ♦ The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has recently announced that the deadline for submission of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) is **Wednesday, April 1, 2015**. The primary objective of the CDBG Program is for the development of viable communities through improvement of infrastructure, living conditions, housing, and the expansion of economic opportunities in cities and counties, principally for persons of low and moderate income. All units of general-purpose local government (cities and counties) that do not participate in HUD's CDBG Entitlement Program are eligible to apply. Eligible activities include the following: construction/rehabilitation of public facilities to include water and sewer facilities, storm drainage, and sidewalks; community facilities, such as mental health centers, adult learning centers, senior centers, etc., as well as housing rehabilitation and/or reconstruction. Please contact the Economic Development Department for more information or to determine your project's eligibility.

## Workforce Development

- ♦ Started tutoring programs at **Flowery Branch High School** and **Johnson High School**
- ♦ One student in the College Assistance Program completed and graduated with an Associate's Degree
- ♦ One youth from Regional Youth Detention Center GED program began an internship in the WIA program
- ♦ Character Building and Work Skills workshops were held in **Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Stephens** and **Union Counties**.
- ♦ Youth Department met with Franklin Life Center in **Franklin County** to give overview of youth programs and services

## Information Services

- ♦ Presented GMRC's services and regional flyover project to the **Hartwell** Kiwanis Club in January
- ♦ Spoke to the Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Committee (GISCC) regarding the flyover project and how we were successful in gathering 25 participants for this project
- ♦ *Access North Georgia* produced an article on the flyover project. It can be found at <http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=284681>
- ♦ Assisting the cities of **Dawsonville, Cornelia, Mount Airy, Maysville** and **Clermont** with the 2015 BAS submittal to the US Census Bureau
- ♦ Stay tuned for a "facelift" on the GMRC website – [www.gmrc.ga.gov](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov)
- ♦ As of February 20<sup>th</sup>, Quantum Spatial has completed 100% of the overall LiDAR acquisition and 90% of the overall Orthoimagery acquisition. Pictometry has completed 100% of the overall oblique imagery acquisition.
- ♦ Any questions regarding any of the above projects, please contact Faith Bryan at (770)538-2614 or [fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov)



**Planning Services**

- ♦ **Franklin County's** *Comprehensive Plan update* has been approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- ♦ The **City of Canon** has approved their *Comprehensive Plan Update* for submittal for State review.
- ♦ The GMRC has begun working on the *joint comprehensive plan update* for **White County and the Cities of Cleveland and Helen**.
- ♦ During 2014, the GMRC assisted **Forsyth County** with *five development reviews* for compliance with the Metropolitan River Protection Act.
- ♦ **The City of Lavonia's** *Comprehensive Plan update* has been approved by DCA.
- ♦ Applications for communities seeking *DCA's PlanFirst designation* are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Workforce Development Success Story**

***"I was just an average American with a part-time job when my husband lost his job of 17 years and my job ended. I realized I couldn't find a good job without training, but had no money. I found out about WIA from a flyer I picked up at the University of North Georgia Continued Education Department. I was ready to apply for the Clinical Medical Assistant Certification they offered. WIA is an excellent program that can help many people better themselves. Today I am working as a medical assistant in a cardiovascular clinic. All the application paperwork for WIA eligibility is worth the end results".***

**Anonymous**



**Mobile Training Units**

- ♦ The Career Coaches (aka Mobile Training Units) are off to a great start in 2015! Just one short year ago, during January 2014, we provided resume guidance to 24 individuals. But during the same month in 2015, we provided resume guidance to 51 individuals. We have seen similar increases in the number of job searches performed and job applications submitted!
- ♦ Working in conjunction with the DOL, the mobile unit team participated in a successful hiring event, staffing four Home Depot locations in the region. Over 100 individuals attended the event, and the Career Coaches were instrumental in helping over 30 applicants complete the process online.
- ♦ The Career Coaches added a new host facility/partner during January. Our initial visit to the **Stephens County** Head Start was well attended.
- ♦ A Rapid Response event was held for Navitor in **Habersham County**.
- ♦ The mobile units also received an invite once again to help staff three local Wal-Mart stores in the **Cumming** Area!
- ♦ (For both hiring events, numbers will be reflected in the newsletter for March.)

RESPONSES	
Total Job Searches	94
Total Job App	54
Total Resumes	51
Total Interviews	0
Total Interest Survey	5
Total Training Sessions	8
Total Testing	1
Total Typing Assessments	9
Total GMRC Info	82
Total Unemployment Claims	0
Computer Trainings	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>304</b>

Numbers broken down by responses for the 304 individuals that came aboard the MTUs.

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks	3
Dawson	9
Forsyth	30
Franklin	16
Habersham	27
Hall	81
Hart	17
Lumpkin	0
Rabun	11
Stephens	59
Towns	23
Union	0
White	28
Other	0

Numbers broken down by responses for each GMRC County.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
February 26	4:30 pm	<del>GMRC Finance Committee</del>	Hall County—Hall County Government Office
	4:30 pm	<del>GMRC RLF Committee</del>	
	5:00 pm	<del>GMRC Executive Committee</del>	<b>CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER</b>
	6:00 pm	<del>GMRC Council Meeting</del>	
March 26	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Stephens County—Gate Cottage at Toccoa Falls College

## Around the Region

*Winter Weather 2015*

