



Pinnacle

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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Looking forward to serving with our new GMRC officers beginning the first of July (this is for a two year term)

Dean Scarborough, Chairman
Stephens County

James Grogan, Vice Chairman
City of Dawsonville

George Wangmann, Secretary
City of Gainesville

Sam Norton, Past Chairman
City of Dahlonega



- ◆ Thanks to Sam Norton who has served as our Chairman for the past two years. He has been a great Chairman, and a great Chairman with which to serve.
- ◆ **Stephens County** has announced a new German company who will employ 200 individuals will locate in **Toccoa**. Great to see good things coming to good folks who work very hard. Congrats to **Stephens County** and the **City of Toccoa**.
- ◆ Our Geographical Information Services (GIS) Department is beginning to receive the deliverables from the recent aerial photography project. Great news and very timely.
- ◆ Faith Bryan hosted a very large group of GIS professionals earlier this month concerning the DOT program.
- ◆ The shelter for the two mobile training units has been installed and landscaped/grassed this week. Glad to get this project completed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
June 25	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee GMRC Council Meeting	City of Gainesville—Civic Center
July 3	—	GMRC OFFICE CLOSED	In Observance of Independence Day
July 30	3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	WD Board Meeting GMRC Executive Committee GMRC Council Meeting	Forsyth County—Forsyth Conference Center
August 27	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	City of Hartwell—Location TBA

Economic Development

- ◆ On behalf of **Stephens County**, a Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program (CDBG-EIP) Grant application was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The application outlines a \$340,000 funding request for approximately 1,700 LF of Rail Spur to serve Southeast Metals and Recycling.
- ◆ The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will be accepting pre-applications now until the close of business on **August 15, 2015**. ARC can provide matching funds for infrastructure, asset-based development, education, and training projects in the Georgia Mountains Region. Projects with direct and committed economic benefit (job creation and/or retention, private investment, etc.) will be given top priority and all projects must, at a minimum meet one of the four ARC goals. Please contact Heather Feldman at 770-538-2610 or hfeldman@gmrc.ga.gov if your community is interested in applying.
- ◆ **Hart County** and the **City of Hartwell** received a Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program Grant funding in the amount of \$500,000, for public sewer improvements to benefit Lake Foods LLC. Congrats to all who worked on the project!!
- ◆ On Friday, May 29, 2015, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Executive Director, Scott Hamilton made a tour through Georgia and stopped in the **City of Toccoa** where he visited with many members of the **Toccoa** and **Stephens County** community. ARC is a federal-state partnership that works for sustainable economic and community development in Appalachia.

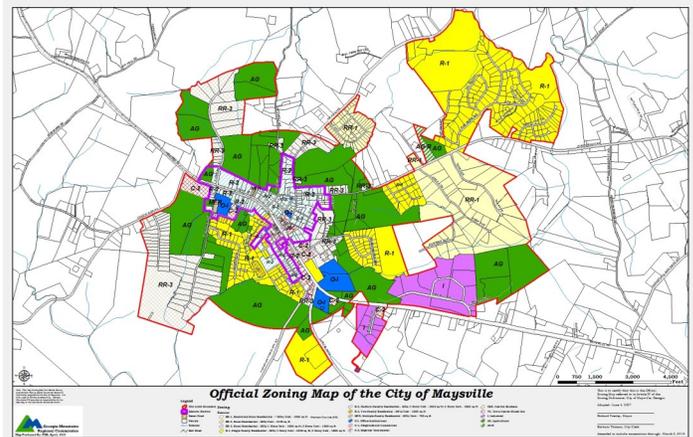


Pictured Left to Right:

Terry Carter, Mayor, **City of Toccoa**
 Scott Hamilton, Executive Director of ARC
 Gail Fry, City Councilwoman
 Billy Morse, City Manager
 Danny Lewis, GMRC Executive Director
 David Austin, City Councilman

Information Services

- ◆ On June 8th, GMRC hosted the Georgia URISA Sub-Chapter meeting. Twenty-seven attendees from around the State participated in the event. Our speaker, Rob Hathcock with Georgia Department of Transportation, presented Maximizing Road Funding for Local Government. The topic included discussion on the MAP-21 project and LMIG funding and accurate reporting.
- ◆ As of June 12th, Quantum Spatial has completed 97% of the LiDAR processing and 15% of the Aerial Photography processing. GMRC received LiDAR datasets for the counties of Cobb, Fayette, **Forsyth**, Henry and **Habersham**.
- ◆ GMRC staff recently completed the Voting Wards Map for the **Town of Clermont** and Zoning Map update for the **City of Maysville**.



Employee Spotlight



Nancy Smallwood moved to Georgia from the state of Washington. She received her Bachelor's degree from UGA. Before coming to work for GMRC, Nancy was employed with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She has been an integral part of the Economic Development Department for four years this November. When not at work, Nancy is involved with activities in her **Forsyth County** community or with **Cumming** First United Methodist Church. However, she also spends as much time as possible at the lake or the beach with her husband, Michael. Nancy also has three boys who are all in college. Andrew attends Georgia Southern, and her twins, Nathan attends Southern Poly and Brantley is at UGA.

Workforce Development

- ◆ Workforce Development had 30 youth participants to graduate from High School throughout the 13 county region.
- ◆ Youth Staff held four Career Planning Workshops in **Hall County** with approximately 300 students in attendance and three workshops in **White County** with approximately 30 students in attendance.
- ◆ Youth overviews held in **Stephens County, Dawson County** and **Hall County**, meeting with approximately 50 young people.
- ◆ Youth Staff attended and participated in the **Hall County** Project Search graduation
- ◆ Youth Staff visited 26 participating worksites in preparation for the 2015 Summer Work Experience Program
- ◆ Youth Staff met with Department of Juvenile Justice representatives
- ◆ Our Intake Manager Ginger Little, provided an Overview at the **Hall County** Correctional Institution in Gainesville on June 10th. She assisted three individuals that are currently incarcerated and who are on a path to a brighter future. These individuals are in the process of applying to Lanier Technical College for the upcoming 2015 Fall semester. Ginger Little accompanied by Keith Krauth who facilitates our mobile units in our region were there to provide assistance with the registration process.
- ◆ In addition, Ginger Little along with Dan Thornton and Whitney Williams went to Eaton Inc. in **Stephens** County to assist sixty one employees in completing an application process for our Incumbent Worker Training Program. Our Intake staff here at Workforce Development worked diligently to ensure that all applications were reviewed and completed within a week.
- ◆ A new training program that will be provided to our new customers will consist of Blue Print Reading. We are encouraged and excited to be a part of these great programs.

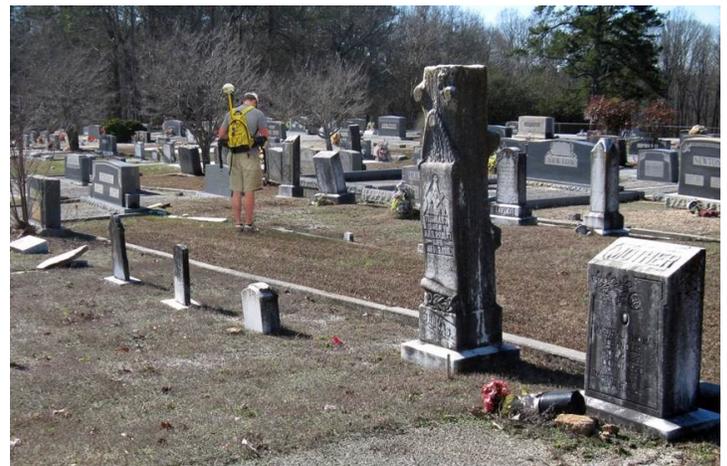


Mobile Training Units

- ◆ The Mobile Units were invited to participate in the Career on Wheels Day at New Holland Knowledge Academy in **Gainesville**. Career on Wheels Day is a day in which community members are able to come and speak to students about different career paths and opportunities available. It was a great event! At the end of the day 321 students and faculty had toured the unit!
- ◆ As reported last month, the units were invited to participate in the 2nd annual Touch-A-Truck Event at Spout Springs Library. After final numbers were tallied, a total of 47 people came through the unit and received information about GMRC Workforce Development services. This is an increase after the first initial report was issued.
- ◆ A Resume Workshop was held for participants at the **Dahlonega** Day Reporting Center in early May. The participants received resume creation and enhancement training. The session went very well! An Interviews Skills workshop has been scheduled for the future.
- ◆ In early June, thanks to an invitation from the Department of Labor (DOL), the units participated in a job fair with Starbuck's held at Lanier Technical College Campus in **Forsyth**. Starbuck's interviewed 20+ possible candidates for several store positions and store locations in and around **Forsyth County**.
- ◆ During the month of May the Career Coach Team assisted 124 people with various job related activities. There were 213 total responses for the MTU's during the month of May.

Planning Services

- ◆ GMRC conducted an extensive inventory of more than 700 known burials within the 1.5 acre cemetery known as the historic **Dawsonville** Cemetery from August 2014 to April 2015 and recently presented their findings to the **Dawsonville** City Council on June 1st. The information provided to the City will help them know who is buried in the cemetery and how to protect it in the future.



GMRC Council Meeting

May 2015—Dawsonville Middle School
Legislative Appreciation Dinner



Senator Steve Gooch



Senator Frank Ginn



Representative Carl Rogers



Tate O'Rourke
Aide for Senator Isakson's Office



Stami Williams
Aide for Senator Perdue's Office

WD Success Story



"Before I started the ASN training program at North Georgia Technical College, I was earning very little income working part-time at a restaurant. I was not financially able to provide a decent life for my son. My desire before I started school was to earn a degree that would afford me the opportunity to work and provide a better life for my son while also helping others in their time of need.

Although the Registered Nurse program at NGTC is very challenging, I feel that we were all given the education and tools necessary to be successful and competent RN's. All the faculty and staff at NGTC have been supportive and really seem to care about our success. I feel very blessed to have had this opportunity. It was the NGTC staff that first told me about WIA and their financial aid services.

WIA services have been such a huge blessing. The financial support received was very helpful to provide extra money for gas to get to and from school and clinic als. Because WIA covered books, fees and tuition, I was able to use other financial aid resources to even get a better place for me and my son to live while attending school. As a single parent, I cannot praise God enough for WIA and being so blessed to have received such caring support from my case manager.

I have now earned my A.S. Nursing Degree and have a great fulltime job with benefits at Stephen County Hospital. If I can encourage someone, I would say that where there is a will there is a way. The WIA application process may seem like a lot of paperwork at the beginning, but it is all more than worth it. The WIA Staff are supportive and accessible. GO FOR IT!"

Katherine A. Mizell