



## Executive Director's Report



• It is my pleasure to introduce two new staff members to TEAM GMRC – Karen Clark and Laurin Yoder. Ms. Karen Clark joined the GMRC in early May serving as the receptionist for WorkSource Georgia Mountains. She comes to us from DFCS, where she worked for 10 years. She has done a great job already learning the WorkSource operations as well as the new set up of the One-Stop system. Ms. Laurin Yoder joined the GMRC on May 31<sup>st</sup> as a Project Manager for the Economic Development Department. She comes to us from Homestead, Florida where she served as Community Development Director for the City of Miami Gardens. She has a wealth of knowledge on community and economic development programs, and is already underway working on projects. Warmest welcome to Karen and Laurin!

- I recently attended the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) Annual convention in Savannah representing the GMRC in the Georgia Association of Regional Commission's booth at the Exhibit Hall. It was great to see so many of our communities in attendance.
- I am extremely pleased to share that the new WorkSource Building is up and running. John Phillips and his staff did a tremendous job moving locations while maintaining their customer service to WorkSource participants. Please feel free to stop by 1856 Thompson Bridge Road, Suite 3 to check out the new offices. We will be hosting an Open House in the very near future.
- The Youth Division of WorkSource Georgia Mountains held its inaugural Youth Conference on June 9<sup>th</sup>. It was very successful and had several youth participants in attendance. Breakout sessions were held on topics such as financial health, character building and traits necessary for employment, and resume building just to name a few. We are very excited about this new endeavor and it will become an annual event. Congratulations to John Phillips, Jessica Williams, Ebony Tucker, Shameka Harrison, Danielle Avelar, and Sonia Zavala on these achievements!
- Andrea Newsom and I have been extremely busy with the RLF program. We had a closing for a new loan earlier this month, and are excited about future partnerships to bring in additional projects.
- I am very excited to announce our new effort to broadcast how the GMRC is working for the 51 member governments that comprise the GMRC. Each county has a Fact Sheet of how the Regional Commission has provided assistance to the cities and counties over the last five years. These will be posted on our website beginning on **July 1<sup>st</sup>** and will be available for download. As always, if the GMRC can ever be of assistance to your city or county, please contact the office.
- Patrick Larson recently attended the Georgia House Rural Development Council meeting in Toccoa to discuss economic development and business start-up and financing on a state level specifically for rural Georgia. Speakers included Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner, Pat Wilson; Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Rusty Haygood; Chris Clark, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; and representatives from the Georgia Bankers Association, Small Business Development Center; and many others. We are excited to have State Representative Terry Rogers on this Council from the Georgia Mountains Region.
- I would like to wish Gloria Dodd the very best in her upcoming retirement. Gloria serves as a Case Manager for WorkSource Georgia Mountains in the Adult Division and has helped serve many customers during her five years with GMRC. She will be retiring on June 30, 2017. Congratulations!
- Congratulations to Dawsonville Mayor James Grogan who was selected as the District 2 GMA President at the recent GMA Annual Convention in Savannah!

Heather J. Feldman

*Heather Feldman*

Executive Director



## Economic Development

- We are pleased to welcome Laurin Yoder as our new Economic Development Project Manager! Laurin joins us from south Florida where she previously served as Community Development Director for the City of Miami Gardens. Welcome to the team!
- The Economic Development staff has been busy preparing ARC Pre-Applications for several of our communities. The next deadline for applications is July 14, 2017
- Rural Revitalization Zone (RZ) Tax Credits: House Bill 73 was recently signed by Governor Deal. To be eligible for Revitalization Zone (RZ) status, the local government must have a population of fewer than 15,000 residents, and prove economic distress. Economic distress is defined by having a concentration of historic commercial structures within the targeted area, a feasibility study which can be supported in the targeted area, and a master plan designed to assist private and public investment. Key provisions include:

The Job Tax Credit (JTC) will be \$2,000 per new full-time equivalent job per year, up to five years and not to exceed \$200,000 total or \$40,000 per year. New full-time equivalent job means an aggregate of employee worked hours totaling 40 hours per week between two or more employees. This credit is for the small business owner who opens a storefront and creates jobs.

The Investment Credit is equivalent to 25% of the purchase price, not to exceed \$125,000 total or \$25,000 per year. This credit is for people who purchase a building downtown and cannot be taken unless jobs are created and JTC is taken.

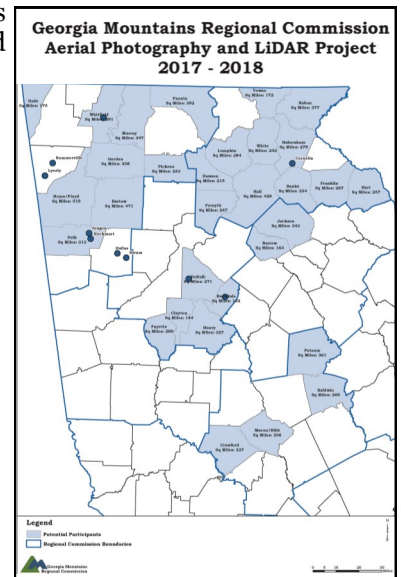
The Rehabilitation Credit is equivalent to 30% of the qualified rehabilitation, not to exceed \$150,000 total or \$30,000 per year. This credit is to offset development costs associated with the rehabilitation of a certified investor property.

- The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently congratulated GMRC on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an Economic Development District (EDD). As an Economic Development District (EDD) under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, the GMRCs Economic Development Department's goal is to assist in the creation of a diversified, well-balanced, progressive economy for the region. Additionally, the Regional Commission administers the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document as required by the U.S.



## Information Services

- During the month of July 2017, the Highest Elected Official of each City and County will receive an invitation to participate in the US Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). This program provides the local governments the opportunity to review and edit the residential address list before the Census count begins. GMRC has received funding through Georgia Department of Community Affairs to assist our local governments with this review at no additional cost to the City or County. Upon receipt of your invitation letter, you must assign GMRC as the LUCA Liaison or Reviewer if you wish for GMRC staff to assist in this process. Please contact Faith Bryan at 770-538-2614 or Brandon Carlock at 770-535-5458 if you have questions or need additional information regarding the LUCA program.
- GMRC staff is assisting the **City of Maysville** with updating their Zoning Map and Voting District Map.
- We have 30 counties and 10 cities interested in the 2018 GMRC Aerial Photography and LiDAR Project. The Request for Proposal (RFP) Review Committee heard proposal presentations from the top three vendors on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will be presenting their vendor recommendation to the GMRC Council on June 29<sup>th</sup> during the monthly meeting.



## Planning

- **Forsyth County** and the Cities of **Cumming**, **Gainesville**, and **Toccoa** have each had their *comprehensive plan updates* approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- **Banks County**, with assistance from the GMRC, is developing an *expansion and improvement plan for Windmill Park*, their primary outdoor recreational complex. The proposal includes additional parking, sidewalks, and the reorientation of several fields.





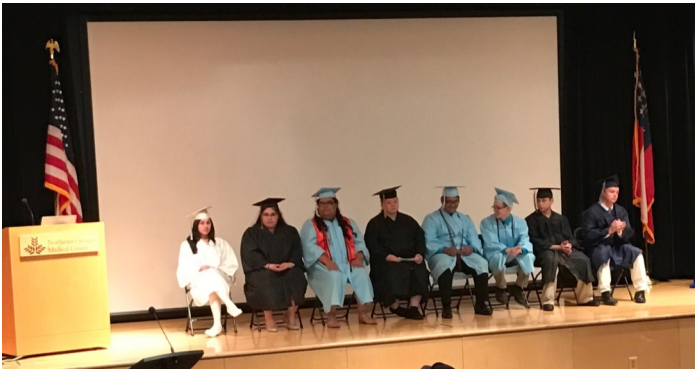
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Georgia Mountains

### Youth Department

- There were 16 youth participant graduates for the month of May: five graduates in occupational skills training; three graduates received their GED through the GED Success Programs; seven high school graduates through the Project Search Program; and one high school graduate through the Credit Recovery Services. Photos below are of the Project Search graduation.



- Youth Program staff hosted two workshops in **Habersham** and **Hall Counties** with approximately 325 students participating.
- Youth Staff participated in a Career Expo in **Stephens County** and Senior Day at a high school in **Hall County**.

### Workforce Development Board

- The Workforce Development Board met on June 22nd at the new WorkSource Georgia Mountains location. Thank you to all Board Members who attended. Following the meeting WorkSource staff provided a tour of the new building.

### Career Coaches

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total	Responses Per County
Total Job Searches	65	348	Banks—1
Total Job App	0	36	Dawson—17
Total Resumes	74	320	Forsyth—30
Total Interviews	0	0	Franklin—6
Total Interest Survey	20	626	Habersham—24
Total Training Sessions	3	7	Hall—88
Total Testing	0	1	Hart—27
Total Typing Assessments	0	2	Lumpkin—20
WIOA Info	89	959	Rabun—3
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0	Stephens—8
Computer Trainings	0	0	Towns—0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0	Union—3
Public Relations	5	39	White—10
			Other—0

- The 1<sup>st</sup> annual **Dahlonega – Lumpkin** Business Expo was held at the **Lumpkin County** Recreation Center. The Career Coaches were invited to participate and able to assist 16 individuals with various requests.
- The Career Coaches attended a job fair held at the Goodwill Career Center in **Dawsonville**. A total of 11 individuals received assistance with their various needs.
- Resume training sessions were held for Salvation Army of **Hall County** and **Habersham** Probation Office in which 12 persons were assisted between these two events.
- A Fast Track session was held for BSN students attending The University of North Georgia. Nine Students from three different counties attended - **Franklin, Hall, and Forsyth**.
- While working with Chestatee High School Work Based Learning Program, 36 students participated in a Career Exploration Workshop. It was a such success, a second event has been scheduled for August of 2017!
- There were 12 people who registered for WIOA assistance on board the Career Coaches during the month May.



## Event and Meeting Schedule

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT/MEETING</b>	<b>LOCATION/HOST</b>
<b>June 29</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Executive Meeting</b>	<b>Hall County Govt. Offices</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Council Meeting</b>	
<b>July 27</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Workforce Investment Board</b>	<b>Rabun County</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Council Meeting</b>	
<b>August 31</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Council Meeting</b>	<b>City of Gainesville</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Council Meeting</b>	<b>White County</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Workforce Investment Board</b>	<b>Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Council Meeting</b>	
<b>November 16</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Council Meeting</b>	<b>City of Dawsonville</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>GMRC Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Dillard House Conference Center</b>



**HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY**

**GMRC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY JULY 4, 2017  
IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY**