

June 2018

PINNACLE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

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Cover Photo:

Azaleas—Murrayville, GA



Heather Feldman,
Executive Director

I would like to thank Ms. Leslie George for serving on the GMRC Council for the last 13 years. She has been a huge advocate for the GMRC, and consistently encourages communities to understand and utilize the services of the Regional Commission. Her leadership on the Annual Meeting over the years was instrumental in making the event for many years a huge success. I know we will all miss seeing Leslie each month, but we wish her well in all of her future endeavors. Thank you Leslie for your dedication and commitment to the GMRC!



Ms. Leslie George

I would like to welcome our newest Council Member, Ms. Vicki Leo Boling who will replace Leslie as our **Banks** County Private Sector Representative. Welcome Vicki!

- It was great to visit with many of our cities this past week at the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Annual Convention in Savannah. I would also like to congratulate **Toccoa** Mayor David Austin and **Dahlonega** Mayor Sam Norton in being appointed to the GMA Board of Directors!!
- The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission received recertification as an Organization of Ethics at the recent Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention in Savannah.
- Congratulations to the City of **Hiawassee** in receiving their designation as a City of Ethics by GMA at the Annual Convention as well.
- The Youth Division of WorkSource Georgia Mountains held its second annual Youth Conference on June 9th. It was very successful and had 81 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. Congratulations to John Phillips, Jessica Williams, Ebony Tucker, Shameka Harrison, and Sonia Zavala on this achievement!



- Thank you to Jay Markwalter, Executive Director, Georgia Association of CVB's and Chris Hardman, Director of Membership, Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association for speaking at our June council meeting. It was an extremely informative presentation, and we are so fortunate to have both Jay and Mark serving Georgia. Georgia's hospitality and tourism industry supports nearly 460,000 jobs and generates more than \$63 million in annual economic impact.
- Last year we began a new effort on 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. We have updated these for 2018 are posted on our website available for download; please visit www.gmrc.ga.gov. As always, if the GMRC can ever be of assistance to your city or county, please contact our office.
- On July 1, 2018, the *WaterFirst* program joined the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority! After 15 great years with the Department of Community Affairs, *WaterFirst* will be now be administered by GEFA. This move will offer new opportunities to grow the program and expand its important scope! *WaterFirst* communities in Region 2: City of **Cornelia**, City of **Gainesville**, City of **Hartwell**, and **Forsyth** County.
- Municipal officials and stakeholders should make plans for the 2018 Georgia Downtown Conference scheduled for August 15-17 at nearby Chateau Elan in Braselton. Session topics include community branding, the effects of bypass roads, hotel/motel tax policies, and managing a community's digital profile. There will also be mobile workshops, vendor booths and more. For more information, please visit www.georgiadowntownassociation.org.



Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

Heather Feldman
Executive Director



Planning

- The annual updates for the *Capital Improvement Element (CIE)* for both the City of **Gainesville** and **Hall** County have been approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). **Dawson** County has submitted an amendment for their *CIE* and is awaiting final approval from DCA.
- With the assistance of **Stephens** County, the Cities of **Toccoa**, **Avalon**, and **Martin** are updating their *Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Since December, local officials and staff have been reviewing their needs and priorities for addressing emergency response and prevention for events such as flooding, ice storms and more. The preliminary inventory of facility and vehicle needs has been completed, as has the assessment of potential threat and severity of the different hazard types in **Stephens** County. Critical needs for their community included upgrades in communication equipment, maintaining efforts to education residents about common hazardous threats, and securing additional equipment to aid in post-event recovery and clean-up. Going forward with the process, the communities will now focus on the implementation strategy before submitting the final document to the Federal Emergency Management Authority in December.
- *Hazard Mitigation Plans* are required for obtaining certain federal assistance and funds in preparation for, or response to, emergency situations and they are typically updated every five years. If the GMRC can assist with your update in any way please don't hesitate to contact us!



Information Services

- GMRC's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) participation is still going strong. All of the Counties within our region are due to the Census Bureau on or before July 18th. Since we are rapidly approaching the deadline, all heads are down busy verifying addresses for our participants.
- As of June 1st, Atlantic has completed 100% of the image post processing and quality control for the 2018 GMRC Aerial Photography flight. The indices have been finalized for each participant and the pilot tiles have been identified. Aerial triangulation is the next step in the project. Pilot tiles in both 3" and 6" areas are due to GMRC in August/September timeframe. For additional information regarding this project, please contact Faith Bryan.
- As GMRC staff reviews addresses for the LUCA project, particularly in cities, any addresses that we are finding outside of the census city boundary, cannot be counted as part of your City. The address verification and decennial census is very important for grant and loan programs, voting district delineation, and many future projects. We have identified some areas already and contacted those Cities. If your City is unsure of where your Census City Boundary is, please contact GMRC. We can assist with correcting the boundary in the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) 2019 before the decennial census is taken on April 1, 2020.

Economic Development

- Construction has commenced on the renovation and expansion of the **Banks** County Senior Center. The County received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the improvements.



- Daniel Martin (GMRC) and Anna McIntyre Strickland with the UGA Archway Partnership, recently met with the Town of **Bowersville** to discuss funding opportunities for several projects, including the new Town park and historic cotton gin. The Town officials also arranged a tour of AgStrong, which produces organic & non-GMO expeller pressed canola and sunflower oil.



Career Coaches

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Career Coaches participated in a job fair sponsored by Goodwill Career Center located in **Dawsonville**, and a Veterans Job Fair at the Georgia Department of Labor in **Hall** county. A total of 15 people were assisted between the two events.
- Resume training sessions were held for the Salvation Army of **Hall** County and **Hall** County Accountability Court, and ten people were provided job search and resume writing assistance, and information about WIOA opportunities.
- The Mountain Education Charter High School in **Hall** asked the Career Coaches to assist students with resume writing and career instruction. A total of ten students took advantage of the opportunity to receive resume guidance and information about the WIOA program.
- The Career Coaches also attended the **Toccoa** Mobile Food Pantry quarterly community food drive, and four individuals took advantage of the resources the Career Coaches had to offer.
- A career exploration class was conducted for Colwell Probation Detention Center in **Union** County, and eight inmates participated.
- Fourteen people registered for VOS onboard the Career Coach during the month of May.

Career Coach Monthly Totals for May

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total	Responses Per County
			Banks— 0
Total Job Searches	62	331	Dawson— 18
Total Job App	16	112	Forsyth— 32
Total Resumes	29	392	Franklin— 11
Total Interviews	0	9	Habersham— 6
Total Interest Survey	12	59	Hall— 59
Total Training Sessions	0	0	Hart— 0
Total Testing	0	0	Lumpkin— 4
Total Typing Assessments	0	0	Rabun— 5
WIOA Info	50	533	Stephens— 18
Public Relations	10	25	Towns— 0
			Union— 6
			White— 4
			Other— 16

Adult / Dislocated Worker

The second Georgia Mountains Sector Partnership meeting was held on Tuesday, June 19th.

Key leaders at manufacturers throughout our region, Lanier Technical College, North Georgia Technical College, and other partners were present at this meeting and focused on listening to businesses discuss current issues the manufacturers in our area are facing. The end goal is to determine a better and more proactive way forward to serve short and longer-term talent needs in the manufacturing industry. We believe this could serve as the beginning of a powerful regional industry sector partnership.



Above: Rhonda McLean, Human Resources Manager at Freudenberg-NOK in Cleveland, welcomes businesses and partners to the meeting.

UPCOMING GMRC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

- ⇒ July 26, 2018* Union County/City of Blairsville—Union County Community Center—*Joyce White, USDA-RD*
- ⇒ Aug. 30, 2018 Forsyth County—Lanier Tech Conference Center, Forsyth Campus—*Rope Roberts, Georgia Power*
- ⇒ Sept. 27, 2018 White County—Babyland General—*Ms. Lee Thomas, GDEcD*
- ⇒ Oct. 25, 2018* Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega—*Paul Chambers, AT&T*
- ⇒ Nov. 15, 2018 City of Dawsonville—*GMRC Audit—Rushton & Co.*
- ⇒ Dec. 7, 2018 Dillard House Conference Center—*GMRC Annual Meeting*

GMRC Council Meetings begin at 6:00 PM; Executive Affair Committee meets prior at 5:30 PM.

*WD Board Meeting at 4:00 PM

Looking for Something Fun to do?

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Live Mountain Music * Hundreds of Classic's
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Featured Entertainment Another Featured Band
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Granddaddy MIMMS
Town's County
City of Hiawassee
Gingerbread

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Concert Tickets Call 706 896 4191

Event Info Call 662 587 9572 facebook

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GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FAIR
JULY 20 - 28, 2018

Enjoy a Country Classic.
Your All-time Coca-Cola Bottle is a proud sponsor of the Georgia Mountain Fair and invites you to come have a big time.

Additional 2018 Events

A Blooming Affair at Hamilton Gardens	April & May
Georgia Mountain EggFest	May 19
4th of July Fireworks	July 4
Landfest at Georgia Mountain Fair	Sept 6 - 8
Georgia Mountain Fall Festival	Oct 19 - 20
Appalachian Brew, Que & Stew Festival	Oct 27
Mountain Country Christmas In Lights	Light Show begins Thanksgiving night

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HWY 76, WEST OF HIAWASSEE

Visit www.exploregeorgia.com or
www.georgiamountains.org for information
on local events, festivals, and fairs near you.