



Pinnacle

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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Happy Anniversary to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The ARC has been serving 13 states from New York to Mississippi for 50 years. During that time, the GMRC has brought home \$66,466,692 to this region. Thanks to all who have played a part in this success, from the local government, to our regional Economic Development staff, to the State Governor who approved each grant and state co-chair. "We've only just begun in this program".
- ◆ In the past five years we have brought almost \$6 million to our region thru ARC. Way to go Heather Feldman and our Economic Development Staff.
- ◆ Congrats to our own Russell McMurry, new DOT Commissioner. He did a great job as our District Engineer in the Gainesville office and we expect an excellent job in his new position. He succeeds Keith Golden (2012-2015) who recently retired. McMurry is a 25 year veteran of DOT, grew up in **Lavonia**, Georgia and is a graduate of Georgia Southern in Statesboro.
- ◆ According to Georgia Trend the recent DOT Commissioners are:
 - Russell McMurry (2015-)
 - Keith Golden (2012-2015)
 - Vance Smith (2009-2011)
 - Gena Evans (2007-2009)
 - Harold Linnenkohl (2003-2007)
 - Tom Coleman (2000-2003)
 - Wayne Shackelford (1991-2000)
 - Tom Moreland (1974-1987)
 - Jim Gillis (Highway Chief under Gov. Herman Talmadge & Gov. Ernest Vandiver)
- ◆ Reminder that the GMRC Quarterly City/County Managers meeting will be held in on April 1, 2015 at 10:00 am at the **Sky Valley** Golf Club Please mark your calendar and remember it is a dutch treat event. **SAVE THE DATE!**



Employee Spotlight



Danielle Avelar is a Youth Case Manager with the GMRC Workforce Development Division. She has been a Case Manager for five years and enjoys working with the schools and the youth in our region. Danielle resides in **Lula**, Georgia with her husband, Rigo and her best friend Rocky, her boxer. She loves spending time with her family and friends while traveling the world; and enjoys exploring nature and making crafts. She also is very active in her church, Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall. Danielle is known for her thinking outside the box and her willingness to lend a helping hand to others.

Economic Development

- ♦ **White County** received notification from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs that the county's road improvement project was approved for \$358,501 in Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program (CDBG-EIP) funding. Kudos to Patrick Larson in providing technical assistance in preparing the grant application!!
- ♦ On behalf of the following communities, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants were submitted for funding:

Franklin County – I-85 Sewer Collection and Wastewater Treatment Facility Project

Camp **Toccoa** at Currahee – Redevelopment of Historic Camp **Toccoa**

- ♦ On behalf of **Forsyth County** and United Way, GMRC provided technical assistance in preparation and submission of a Drug Free Communities Grant.
- ♦ On behalf of the **City of Lavonia** (lead) and **Franklin County**, an application was submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for grant funding for the I-85 Northern Sewer Trunk Line Project.
- ♦ The Appalachian Regional Commission is recognizing its 50th Anniversary this year. Since its inception, the Georgia Mountains Region has received **\$66.5 million** in funding for projects. The work of the Appalachian Regional Commission has served to strengthen the region's economy and improve living standards in our Appalachian counties. ARC has funded numerous projects over the years that have created jobs, encouraged business development, increase education and job training opportunities, and improved telecommunications, infrastructure, and transportation in the Georgia Mountains Region. In the last five years, ARC has invested \$6 million in funding and has leveraged \$7.8 million in local funds, created 1,089 jobs, retained 685 jobs, and generated \$218 million in private investment for the region. While the work of the Appalachian Regional Commission is far from over, we wanted to highlight the importance of ARC and the role they have played in developing the Georgia Mountains Region.



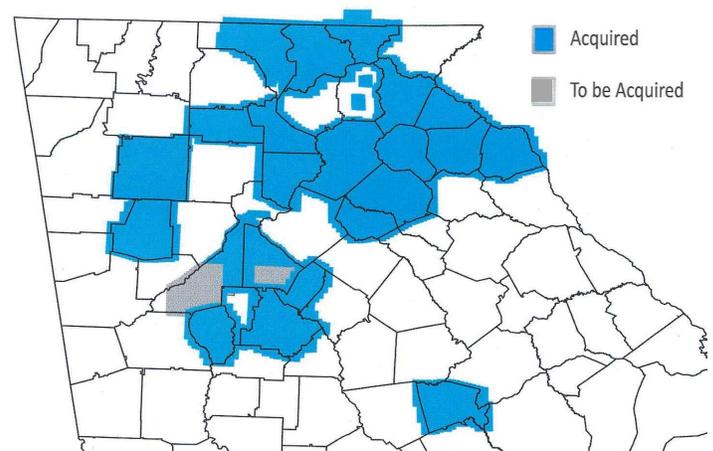
50th Anniversary

Information Services

- ♦ LiDAR Education and Training Event – March 27th – 8:30am to 3:00pm – The Milledgeville Campus Central Georgia Technical College – This event will include educational presentations and demonstrations from leaders in the field of GIS on classifying and analyzing the LiDAR point cloud and the steps for extracting features – Event Registration <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lidar-education-training-tickets-15837073112>
- ♦ **City of Toccoa** Cemetery Project – GMRC staff has successfully transcribed and digitally converted two handwritten books of plots sold and burials that have taken place there. Kudos to Marissa Smith for completing this portion of our project. Field data collection continues.



- ♦ Parcel changes from 2008 through 2013 have been delivered by Towns County to be implemented into the digital tax parcel database.
- ♦ As of March 20th – Quantum Spatial has completed 100% of the overall LiDAR acquisition, 33% of the LiDAR processing and 93% of the overall Orthoimagery acquisition. Pictometry has completed 100% of the Oblique Imagery acquisition and processing. Below is a map of the areas left to be flown:



Planning Services

- ◆ The GMRC is assisting the **City of Demorest** with a rehabilitation assessment of the *historic Demorest Woman's Club* building.
- ◆ The **Cities of Royston and Franklin Springs** have approved their *Comprehensive Plan updates* for submittal for State review.
- ◆ The **City of Maysville** has approved the conceptual design submitted by the GMRC for their *new park*.
- ◆ *Development of Regional Impact (DRI) news* - The **City of Dahlonega** is reviewing a proposal for 155 housing units for the University of North Georgia
- ◆ *DRI news* – **Forsyth County** is reviewing a mixed use development of 134 acres on the east and west sides of Ronald Reagan Parkway south of McFarland Parkway



Forsyth County DRI

- ◆ **The City of Lavonia** has adopted their *Comprehensive Plan update*.
- ◆ **Demorest Woman's Club Assessment:** A rehabilitation plan for the historic building built in 1901 will be developed that will identify future renovation projects so that the building can continue to contribute to the city's culture and quality of life.



Demorest Woman's Club

Workforce Development

- ◆ Due to the inclement weather during the month of February we were unable to visit several of locations which included the Wal-Mart hiring Event in **Cumming**.
- ◆ The Home Depot Job Fair that took place in early February was a success! We assisted 34 individuals who completed 102 job applications for various positions within the four Home Depot stores.
- ◆ The Career Coaches were once again invited to take part in the **Gainesville-Hall** Interagency Transition Council Career Expo. The event was held at the North Hall Community Center on March 6th and was well attended! We had 206 students stop by the Career Coaches to conduct career assessment surveys! (Numbers will be reflected in next month's newsletter)
- ◆ A total of 91 individuals were assisted over the course of the month

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks	0
Dawson	30
Forsyth	35
Franklin	7
Habersham	0
Hall	89
Hart	2
Lumpkin	41
Rabun	0
Stephens	9
Towns	0
Union	5
White	16
Other	4

Category of Responses:	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	54	148
Total Job App	115	169
Total Resumes	37	88
Total Interviews	0	0
Total Interest Survey	0	5
Total Training Sessions	2	10
Total Testing	0	1
Total Typing Assessments	0	9
Total GMRC Info	30	111
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
GED assistance	0	0

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
March 26	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	Stephens County—Gate Cottage at Toccoa Falls College
	5:45 pm	GMRC RLF Committee	Stephens County—Gate Cottage at Toccoa Falls College
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council	Stephens County—Gate Cottage at Toccoa Falls College
April 1	10:00 am	GMRC City/County Managers	Sky Valley—Golf Club
April 30	3:30 pm	WD Board	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council	Cumming—City Hall—2nd Floor
May 28	6:00 pm	GMRC Council's Legislative Appreciation Dinner	Dawson County—Location TBA

GMRC Council Meeting

January 2015

