



Executive Director's Report



- On March 7th, we hosted the first ever Newly Elected Official Training at the GMRC office. It was great to see so many of our officials from throughout the region. It was a very productive day with learning and sharing about programs and projects, and we anticipate that this will be an annual event every March. I would also like to thank Chairman Dean Scarborough and Vice-Chairman Sam Norton for being in attendance with us and sharing their insight about the GMRC to the group.



- I would like to thank the Mayor and Council of the **City of Lula** for the opportunity to facilitate their council retreat on March 15th. It was a productive day for the City with positive dialogue between all council members for the future of the City. Another highlight of the day, was we got to celebrate Council Member, Mordecai Wilson's 93rd birthday!! A huge thank you to Adam Hazell and Faith Bryan for their help in this event. If you are interested in the GMRC facilitating a retreat for your city or county, please give me a call at 770-538-2606 or hfeldman@gmrc.ga.gov.



- The Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) is underway!! We have received 34 of the 38 address listings for the communities that GMRC is assisting. All of the updates are required to be completed in July 2018. Faith Bryan, Adam Hazell, Caleb Davidson, Joe Rothwell, and Brandon Carlock are working with each of our communities that are participating with GMRC to get this completed as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your community on this. Should you have questions about the process, please contact Faith at 770-538-2614 or fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov.
- Daniel Martin, Laurin Yoder, Patrick Larson, and I recently attended the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) conference in Washington, DC. It was a great opportunity to network with our peers and learn more about relevant topics to our region, such as the President's infrastructure bill, economic resiliency, the opioid epidemic, and rural broadband.
- Patrick Larson recently presented the NADO Innovation Award to **Stephens County** and the **Stephens County** Development Authority. The NADO Award was for the Nifco KTW project. Congratulations to **Stephens County**, the **City of Toccoa**, and the **Stephens County** Development Authority.
- I would like to thank the entire Finance Department and the GMRC Finance Committee for all of their hard work in preparation of the FY 2019 Budget.
- Congratulations to Danielle Avelar, who has recently been selected to serve as the Outreach Coordinator for the Adult/Dislocated Worker Program for WorkSource Georgia Mountains. Danielle has been with GMRC for over six years working in the Youth Department. We look forward to working with Danielle in her new role with GMRC.
- I would like to welcome Ms. Gina Kessler and Bethany Coggins who have recently joined the GMRC Team. Gina Kessler works in the Economic Development Department as our Grant Administrator and has already hit the ground running on the 15+ projects that she is administering. Ms. Bethany Coggins works in the Youth Department of WorkSource Georgia Mountains as a Case Manager. She has a lot of passion for helping youth, and we look forward to her positive contributions in the department. We are excited to have both of these ladies as part of TEAM GMRC, and look forward to working with them.

Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

Heather Feldman
Executive Director



Economic Development

- On behalf of **Franklin County**, an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant proposal was submitted for water infrastructure improvements.
- On behalf of the **Gainesville and Hall County** Development Authority, a OneGeorgia Equity application was submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for grant funding to support Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport Terminal Renovations.
- We are pleased to welcome Gina Kessler as our new Grants Administrator! Gina joins us from the State of Georgia Department of Human Services and brings with her great experience working in State government. We look forward to Gina getting to know our outstanding communities in the Georgia Mountains region!
- Our Department was pleased to co-sponsor a **Region 2 Economic Development workshop** with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) which was recently held at the North Hall Community Center. Over 60 attendees participated in the event and topics included: funding opportunities, GMRC project success stories, tax credits, and DCA research. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this event a success!
- On March 13th, Patrick Larson along with Heather Feldman and Daniel Martin, presented the **2017 NADO Innovation Award** to Nifco KTW America, the **Stephens County** Board of Commissioners, the **Stephens County** Development Authority and the **City of Toccoa**. This award pays tribute to the outstanding work that these organizations undertake to make the community a great place to live, work and do business.



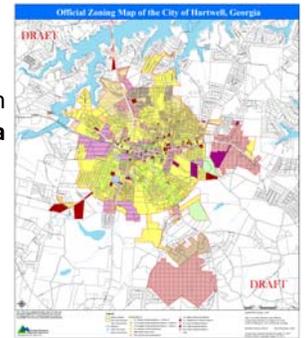
**Photo courtesy of the Stephens County Development Authority*

March
In like a lion,
out like a lamb!



Information Services

- GMRC has received all but four of our LUCA address packages from the US Census Bureau. In office reviewers are Faith Bryan, Brandon Carlock, Adam Hazell, Joe Rothwell, and Caleb Davidson. All of these entities will be due back to the Census Bureau during the month of July. Please contact us if you have questions regarding the status of your LUCA addresses.
- Atlantic has completed the aerial photography acquisition phase for the entire area of interest for the 2018 GMRC Aerial Photography project.
- Brandon Carlock, Caleb Davidson, and Faith Bryan attended the GARC MAP 21 technical training session held at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Macon. Topics ranged from Traffic Control Devices to county/city survey results. Currently, Brandon is verifying **Dawson County** data and Caleb is creating traffic control device data for Hall County.
- The **City of Dawsonville** has requested assistance with creating a digital sidewalk layer.



- Zoning map updates have been completed for the cities of **Lavonia** and **Hartwell**.

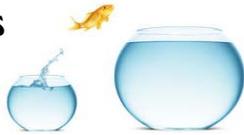
Planning

Toccoa Historic Resource Survey

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission is currently completing Phase II of **Toccoa's** Historic Resources Survey. The architectural survey project includes 700 buildings, structures, sites and objects built before 1977 in the city's northwest and northeast quadrants that are north of the railroad tracks and downtown commercial historic district. As part of the project, all architectural survey information and photographic data is entered in to GNAHRGIS: Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS website. Once the project is completed in August, the city will be able to utilize the information in future planning and historic preservation decisions and the information will also be available on the GNAHRGIS database to aid in state wide historic preservation planning.



SUCCESS



STORY

HABERSHAM WIOA PARTICIPANT GAINED CONFIDENCE AND HER DREAM JOB!

"I was a homemaker and a mom for many years. Once my children were older, I was looking forward to someday getting a college education and beginning a career.

I enrolled in the Accounting Degree program at North Georgia Technical College. Both the training program and the college staff were excellent.

I heard about WIOA financial aid from my college administrator. I attended an overview and completed the application process. Over the course of my training, I always found the WIOA staff to be helpful and professional. I am very thankful for their help and assistance.

I now have received my degree and obtained the job I was hoping for. The confidence I gained from the training at North Georgia Tech and with working with the WIOA program, enabled me to reach my goal.

The WIOA financial aid program really helped me achieve my dreams. In my opinion, anyone looking for financial assistance will find the WIOA program is an excellent place to start."

**Hua Yuan
Habersham County**

WorkSource Youth Program

- Youth Staff participated in college preparation and FAFSA workshop at **Gainesville High School**.



- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Sailing to Success participants attended the "Day on the Hill" at the State Capitol. Students toured the capitol and learned how bills and laws for the state of Georgia are put in place.



Career Coaches

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Hart County** was a hopping place this month! First, while at the **Hart County** Adult Learning Center – 16 people received various means of assistance and information about WIOA grant opportunities. Secondly, the Career Coaches co-hosted an off-site hiring event for Nestlé Purina’s new facility in **Hartwell**. **Hart County** Clothes Closet allowed the unit to utilize their parking area, while **Hart County** Chamber of Commerce, **Hart County** Industrial Building Authority, and Nestlé Purina promoted the event. There were 62 applicants applied for various open positions with Purina.
- The Career Coaches also participated in an event sponsored by Goodwill Career Center located in **Dawsonville**, and nine people were assisted.
- Resume training sessions were in abundance this month! Resume Sessions were held for students at **Stephens County** Mountain Ed Center, **Dawson County** Mountain Ed Center, and **Forsyth** Central High School. Between the three events, 107 students were assisted!
- Resume sessions were also held for adult participants of **Hall County** Department of Community Supervision and **Hall County** Accountability Court Programs – 14 participants received resume guidance and WIOA grant information.
- The Career Coaches visited St. Francis of Assisi in **Union County** and The Place of **Forsyth** and provided 22 individuals with resume guidance, job search assistance, and information about WIOA programs.
- Eight inmates from Arrendale State Prison in **Habersham** attended a fast track session on board the Career Coaches.
- A career exploration workshop was held for inmates at Colwell Probation Detention Center in **Union County** in which seven inmates participated.
- For the month of February, 35 people registered in the Georgia Work Ready Online Participant Portal.

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total	Responses Per County
Total Job Searches	89	152	Banks— 10
Total Job App	76	79	Dawson— 52
Total Resumes	139	206	Forsyth— 162
Total Interviews	0	9	Franklin— 24
Total Interest Survey	14	26	Habersham— 8
Total Training Sessions	0	0	Hall— 51
Total Testing	0	1	Hart— 83
Total Typing Assessments	0	0	Lumpkin— 2
WIOA Info	177	257	Rabun— 0
Public Relations	5	5	Stephens— 50
			Towns— 12
			Union— 18
			White— 8
			Other— 20

UPCOMING Events

GMRC Event and Meeting Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT / MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION/HOST</u>
April 26	4:00 pm	Workforce Board Meeting	City of Lavonia
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Lavonia Depot
May 31	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Dawson County/ City of Dawsonville
June 28	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Towns County



In the Spotlight! HART COUNTY

- **Hart County**, named for Nancy Morgan Hart, is the only county in Georgia named after a woman.
- Home to Lake **Hartwell**. Recreation opportunities abound at Lake **Hartwell**; visitors can enjoy swimming, biking, fishing, and boating. There are campsites for tent camping as well as cabin rentals, and a park with walking and biking trails.
- Lake **Hartwell** State Park and Hart State Park are located in **Hart County**.
- Local attractions include the Cateechee Golf Course, which is one of two Audubon Signature courses in Georgia, and the **Hart County** Botanical Garden, which boasts over fifteen different gardens—including a butterfly garden!

Learn more about Hart County at
www.hartcountyga.gov.

AROUND THE REGION

Sweep the Hooch 4/7/18 - 4/7/18 Saturday: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Chattahoochee Riverkeepers and Smithgall Woods State Park will be partnering with others to do a river clean-up of the Chattahoochee. You're invited to take part to keep our rivers clean and beautiful by picking up trash along our new Helen to Hardman Heritage Trail. Participants will meet at the Hardman Farm visitor center.

Parking Fee: \$0 Phone: 706-878-1077

Address: Hardman Farm Historic Site, 143 Highway 17
Sautee Nacoochee GA 30571

Get Outdoors! Expo 4/7/18 - 4/8/18 Sunday: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Whether your passion is fishing, hunting, boating, camping, biking, or hiking, you'll find it all at our Get Outdoors! Expo. Compare and buy boats or RV's, see what's new for hunting and fishing gear, learn camping and outdoor skills, and much more. Expo visitors have an opportunity to try their hands at two days of fun in the outdoors

Adults: \$5.00 Phone: 706-896-4966

Address: Towns County Conference and Recreation Center
150 Foster Park Road, Young Harris, GA 30582

Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival 4/13/18—4/14/18 Friday, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

The festival showcases the art of storytelling with a particular focus on Appalachian stories, both traditional and contemporary. The GMSF offers storytelling and musical performances, children's events, workshops, and a quilt display. This year's featured storytellers include Regi Carpenter, Lyn Ford, Andy Offutt Irwin, Michael Reno Harrell, and Rev. Robert Jones, Sr. You're in for a treat!

Ages 18 and under, and YHC students: FREE

Phone: 828-389-2654

Address: Union County Schools Fine Arts Center
926 Panther Overlook, Blairsville, GA 30512

SO MUCH TO DO!

Visit
www.n-georgia.com
for more info.

