



Pinnacle

1310 W. Ridge Rd.
P.O. Box 1720
Gainesville, GA. 30503
(770) 538-2626
www.gmrc.ga.gov
Editor: Marissa Smith

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ We just completed the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) Audit. They selected three Regional Commissions to audit this year; Georgia Mountains, Middle Georgia, and Southwest Regional Commissions.
- ◆ Our Finance team is preparing for new software and will go live by July 1st. These ladies, led by Becky Sievers are training to use to the new software now.
- ◆ We are in negotiations with Department of Human Services (DHS) to resign the Transit contract. There will be some changes and Adam Hazell, Kevin Tallant and I are discussing this contract with DHS.
- ◆ Thanks to Heather Feldman's leadership, as Chairman of the State Economic Development Directors, we hosted an excellent Economic Development conference. This year the Georgia Association of Regional Commission (GARC) voted to change locations from Brasstown Valley to Lake Lanier Islands. It was an excellent conference, including Department of Community Affairs (DCA) new Commissioner Camilla Knowles as a keynote speaker. Thanks to Chairman Sam Norton for joining us during the entire conference.
- ◆ John Phillips was asked to join Governor Nathan Deal for his signing of the new Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA) legislation in early May. Thanks to Ben Hames, Deputy Director of Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDECD) for the invitation for us to be represented.
- ◆ Peggy Lovell will be representing the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) at the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Conference in Savannah in June. Look for her in the GARC booth at GMA. I was happy to represent us at the Association of City and County Government (ACCG) Conference in April.
- ◆ Best wishes to County Administrator Jim Bleckley of **Rabun County** who will be retiring the end of June this year. Also, best wishes to **Lavonia** City Manager Gary Fesperman on his planned retirement at the end of the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

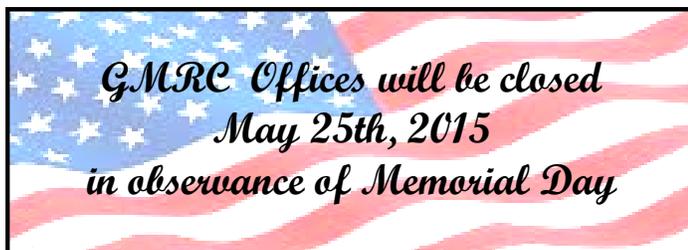
DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
May 28	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	Dawson County Middle School
	5:45 pm	GMRC Nominating Committee	
	6:00 pm	GMRC Legislative Appreciation Dinner	
June 25	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	City of Gainesville—Location TBA
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
July 30	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	Forsyth County—Location TBA
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
August 27	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	City of Hartwell—Location TBA
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	

Economic Development

- On behalf of the **City of Hartwell**, an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant was submitted for funding for the city's Downtown Farmer's Market Project.
- On behalf of the **City of Hartwell**, a Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) loan application was submitted to U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development. The application outlines a loan request for \$1,000,000 for the construction of infrastructure improvements to serve a mixed use development located in the City of Hartwell.
- On behalf of the **City of Clarkesville**, an application for Rural Business Development Grant funding was submitted to USDA for redevelopment of two buildings that were damaged in the 2014 fire.
- ED staff attended the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Economic Development Conference at Lake Lanier Islands. Topics at the conference included the Logistics Industry in Georgia and update on the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, Film Industry and the Impact on Georgia's Communities, Regional Leadership, Conflicts of Interest, update from DCA Commissioner Knowles, updates from GEDA, staff training from the Economic Development Administration. Thank you to all who participated.

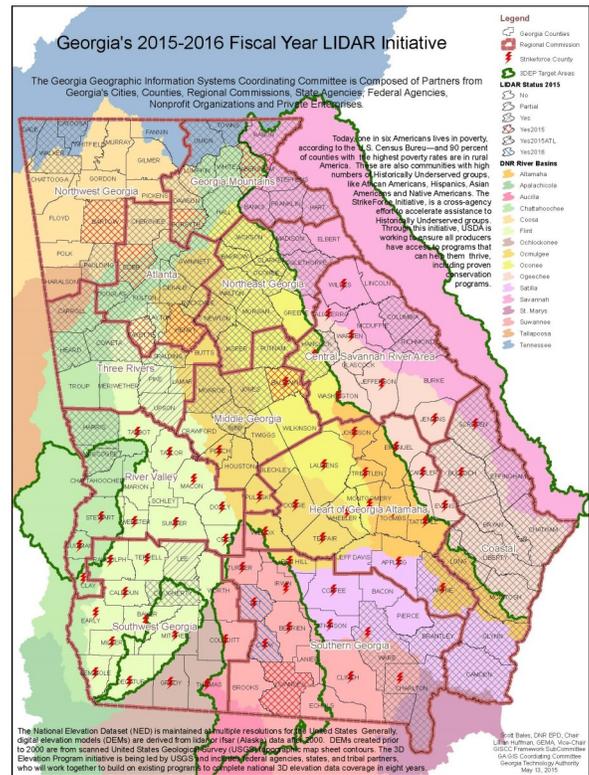


Pictured L to R: Danny Lewis, Saralyn Stafford, Division Director for Community Services, Camila Knowles, DCA Commissioner, Heather Feldman



Information Services

- Faith Bryan has been appointed to the Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Committee's (GISCC) LiDAR Working Group. The first meeting was held on May 13th and the main topic was the 2015-2016 LiDAR Initiative for Georgia. Workshops, presentations to officials and decision makers and the possibility of grants through USGS will spur discussion for LiDAR acquisition for the large areas of the state that do not have those datasets. Below is a map indicating where LiDAR is most needed.



- As of May 1, 2015, with the acquisition phase of the 2015 GMRC Aerial Photography and LiDAR Project complete, Quantum Spatial has pushed further into the processing phase. They have completed 83% of the overall LiDAR processing and 6% of the overall Orthoimagery processing. All of the Oblique imagery has been delivered to the Pictometry counties of **Banks, Bartow, Baldwin, Stephens, Henry** and **Fayette** and training is being scheduled for the software components of that product.
- On June 8th at 11:30 am, GMRC will be hosting the Georgia URISA Sub-Chapter Meeting in the J.B. Jones Training Room. Our speaker will be Rob Hathcock with the Georgia Department of Transportation. His topic of discussion will be Map-21, LMIG and how they affect Local Governments. ***This is a bring your own lunch function.*** If interested in attending, please contact Faith Bryan at (770)538-2614 or via email fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov to reserve your seat.
- The **City of Maysville** has requested our assistance with updating their Official Zoning Map. The City is reviewing a draft copy now for approval.

Workforce Development

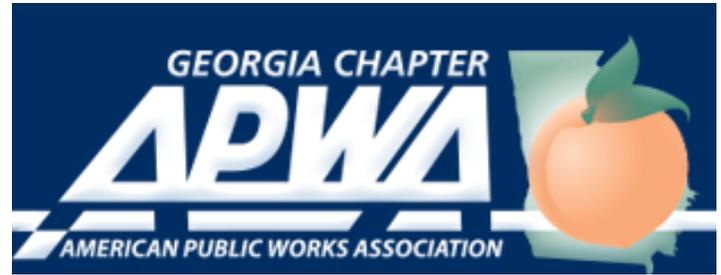
- ◆ The Mobile Training Units held two separate resume training workshops for high school students in **Dawson** and **Forsyth** Counties. The first event was held at the Mountain Education Charter High School in **Forsyth** and the second event was held at Hightower Academy in **Dawsonville**. Between the two events, over 50 high school students created resumes and were also provided information about our training programs.
- ◆ Department of Labor (DOL) sponsored a career fair for Veterans in **Habersham** in which the Career Coaches were invited to attend.
- ◆ The Career Coaches were invited to take part in the 2nd Annual Touch-A-Truck event held at Spout Springs Library in **Flowery Branch** on May 2nd. The event was well attended with over 200 people attending. There were 35 adults and many more kids to come through the Career Coach. To quote, Angela Glowcheski, Library Branch Manager, "**Many of the kids described the 'job bus' as their favorite because it was peaceful!**"
- ◆ For the entire year of 2014 a total of 546 resumes

Category of Responses:	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	55	263
Total Job App	29	225
Total Resumes	130	330
Total Interviews	0	3
Total Interest Survey	0	224
Total Training Sessions	1	18
Total Testing	27	31
Total Typing Assessments	0	10
Total GMRC Info	114	306
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
GED assistance		0
TOTAL REPSONSES	356	1417

were created and/or critiqued.

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks - 1	Lumpkin - 5
Dawson - 29	Rabun - 21
Forsyth - 121	Stephens - 3
Franklin - 25	Towns - 0
Habersham - 27	Union - 3
Hall - 82	White - 23
Hart - 6	Other - 10

2015 Chapter Awards



APWA Georgia Chapter GMRC Region 2015 Chapter Award Winners

Projects of the Year

- ◆ Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair (< \$5 Million)
SR 51@ Lake Hartwell Sinkhole Emergency Repair (GDOT)
- ◆ SCRC Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair
McEver Rd. Emergency Culvert Replacement—Oakwood
- ◆ SCRC Structures
Doyle Street Pool—Toccoa

Individual Awards

- ◆ Manager of the Year—Water Resources
Stan Brown—Oakwood
- ◆ Public Works Awareness Awards—Management Innovation
Hall County Green Alliance

Planning Services

- ◆ The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has approved the Comprehensive Plan updates for the **Cities of Royston, Franklin Springs** and **Canon**.
- ◆ The GMRC has begun work on the new Service Delivery Agreement updates for **Rabun County** and **Hart County**.
- ◆ The Soque River Watershed Association in **Habersham County** has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to develop a nutrient management plan for their area.
- ◆ The GMRC has begun working on a comprehensive plan update for the **City of Baldwin**.
- ◆ The Department of Community Affairs has approved the Capital Improvement Element updates for both **Gainesville** and **Hall County**.

GMRC Council Meeting

April 2015—Cumming City Hall



Janice & Gerald Voyles



Program Speaker
Brian Johnson, DCA



Pictured L to R:
Gerald Voyles, Mayor Ralph Owens,
Gary Fesperman, Jimmy Bleckely



Bill Chafin, Finance Chairman



Pictured L to R: Danny Lewis, Mayor Ford Gravitt,
Senator Michael Williams, Dean Scarborough

Employee Spotlight



Whitney Williams is a Program Assistant for the Workforce Development Adult/Dislocated Worker program. Whitney is a **Hall County** native and graduated from North Hall High School. She furthered her education at North Georgia College and University of Georgia. Outside of work, she is very devoted to her community and volunteers for local events such as Relay for Life and Community Leadership Connection.

In Whitney's spare time, she loves spending time with her boyfriend, Stan (who attends UGA) and going to yard sales and Renaissance Festivals. Her pride and joy is her golden doodle, Sally Mae. Whitney's favorite show is The Bachelor, which she live tweets after every episode.