



Executive Director's Report



- The Department Heads and I have begun discussions and preparations to develop the GMRC's Five-Year Strategic Plan. The goal of the GMRC's plan is to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, and develop benchmarks to assess the GMRC's performance.
- Daniel Martin, Patrick Larson, and I recently attended the Georgia Association of Regional Commission's (GARC) Economic Development Conference at Lake Lanier Islands. It was a great networking opportunity and sharing of best practices with our counterparts across the state. We heard from many speakers and/or organizations on such topics as: WorkSource Georgia, Higher Education, Georgia's Downtowns and HB73, Small Business Incubators, and updates from Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration, and Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- GMRC recently hosted a workshop at the GMRC office in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) regarding the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process. There were 37 participants that attended from the GMRC region.
- John Phillips and his team has been extremely busy packing their existing office and coordinating the move to the new building. Thank you to Peggy Lovell and Faith Bryan for assisting John with the IT and phone system operations during this process. WorkSource Georgia Mountains will be moving to the Thompson Bridge location on June 1, 2017. We hope that everyone will come visit!
- Thank you to Bill Chafin and the Finance Committee for their assistance with the GMRC's FY 2018 budget.
- Peggy Lovell recently represented the GMRC at the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Annual Conference in Savannah as one of the booth exhibitors for the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions.
- Faith is working closely with the RFP Review Committee for the 2018 Aerial Photography Project to select a contractor for the flight. Three bidders recently made presentations to the committee. A final recommendation will be made to the council in June.

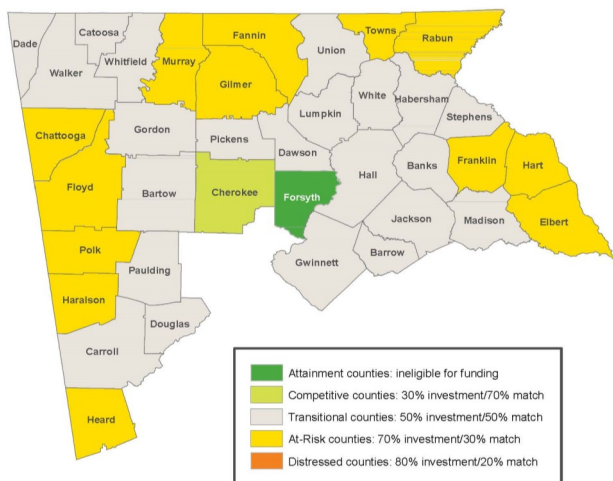
Sincerely,

Heather J. Feldman

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Executive Director

Economic Development

- On behalf of the **Union County Development Authority**, a OneGeorgia Equity application was submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for \$200,000 in grant funding for site infrastructure improvements at the Union County Industrial Park.
- The **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** committee recently conducted their second meeting for 2017 at North Georgia Technical College. 2017 is a critical year for the CEDS committee as they will be working to rewrite the goals and strategies of this plan for our region.
- Congratulations to King's Hawaiian Bakery in **Oakwood** for being awarded the 2017 Georgia Manufacturer of the Year (Large manufacturer category). On April 27th, Governor Nathan Deal presented the award to the company at the Georgia International Convention Center.
- **Appalachian Regional Commission Georgia County Designations for FY 2018:**



Source: Appalachian Regional Commission, 2017 Effective October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018



Finance and Human Resources

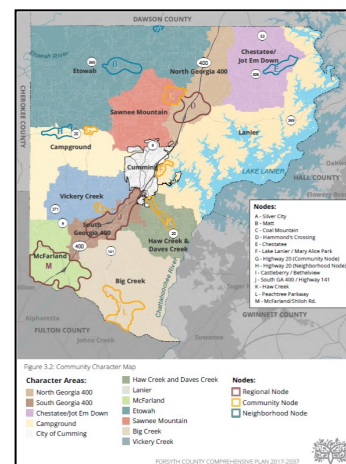
- The FY18 GMRC Draft Budget has been sent to the Council for review and will be voted on at the May GMRC Council Meeting.
- The Finance Policies and a revision of the Personnel Policies have been submitted to the Executive Director for review.
- We have received notification that the GDECD monitoring will be in August this year.
- One Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) application has been submitted for the committee to review regarding an expanding business from **Franklin County** into the **City of Hartwell**.
- The GMRC would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Karen Clark. Karen is the Receptionist/Intake Assistant for WorkSource Georgia Mountains.

Information Services

- Brandon Carlock and Caleb Davidson have been working diligently with **Hall County** and all of the cities within on the GDOT Map 21 Project. The road verification process includes ownership, surface (paved/unpaved), median, number of lanes and direction (one way/two way).
- GMRC hosted the US Census Bureau on May 8th for the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) informational workshop. The presentation is available for download at gmrc.ga.gov/Documents.htm. Please contact Faith Bryan or Brandon Carlock if you need assistance or additional information regarding the LUCA 2020 program.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) Review Committee requested proposal presentations from three vendors for the 2018 Aerial Photography Project. The presentations were conducted on May 18th at the GMRC office.
- Work continues on several open projects: **City of Lavonia** Water and Sewer, **City of Dawsonville** Water and Sewer, and **Towns County** 2016 Parcel Update and Soils Classification.

Planning

- With some assistance from the GMRC, **Banks County** is updating their *emergency action plan* to coordinate flood/overflow prevention and mitigation actions for a local dam.
- The GMRC is performing *Safe Routes to School assessments* for elementary and middle schools within **Hall County**. Other counties will be addressed in future years as part of our work with GDOT.
- Stakeholders in **Rabun County** are working with GDOT and several cities to revitalize plans for the **Tallulah Falls Railroad Rails-to-Trails project**. The hope is use a US 441 improvement project to complete sections of the recreational trail in the northern part of the county.
- The **City of Blairsville** has adopted the update to their *Comprehensive Plan*.
- **Forsyth County** has submitted the update to their *Comprehensive Plan* for regional and State review.
- **The City of Cumming** has submitted the update to their *Comprehensive Plan* for regional and State review. A Community Character Map can be seen to the right.





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Georgia Mountains

Success Story



Before I attended training, I was in prison, with no education, and no opportunities. If I did get a job, it would have been a low paying job. I wanted a better life. My desire was to use the CDL license to start my own business and build a business to help my family have a better life.

I learned about WorkSource Georgia Mountains from another student in the program. Stephanie Stringer and Dawn Bruce made it easy for me. They were very helpful. I had no knowledge. Dawn was helpful at the beginning and my case manager Stephanie helped me to get through the program. Daly's training was hard but rewarding. I didn't give up.

I was very pleased with the services I received. WIOA and Stephanie gave way more than expected. It is very rewarding. I'm not a smart person but I felt like it was not hard, easy to understand once I got in the program.

Now my current situation is great. I'm working on starting my business. My job is great. Right after getting my license, I got a \$2.00 raise and I've got job opportunities coming at me left and right. Everywhere I go, I'm offered a job. I'm helping my sister, uncle and son to get their license as well. Eventually we want to have a family business. It's a good thing we're doing.

If you are thinking about applying for WIOA assistance, don't give up. You will have plenty of job opportunities and will improve your life. By coming through WIOA, you can reap the rewards to better your life. I am going to refer many more people to this program.

Jessie Seller

WE'RE MOVING!

Effective June 1, 2017

WorkSource Georgia Mountains
new physical address will be:

1856 Thompson Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30501

Career Coaches

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	65	348
Total Job App	0	36
Total Resumes	74	320
Total Interviews	0	0
Total Interest Survey	20	626
Total Training Sessions	3	7
Total Testing	0	1
Total Typing Assessments	0	2
WIOA Info	89	959
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
Public Relations	5	39

- A total of 22 students from Hightower Academy High School in **Dawson County** participated in a resume training workshop.
 - The Career Coaches were invited to attend a Job Fair in **Dawsonville** held at the Goodwill Career Center. There were 10 individuals who utilized the services offered by the Career Coach at the event.
 - Resume training sessions were held for **Dahlonega** Day Reporting Center, Colwell Probation Center in **Union County**, and Salvation Army of **Hall County** - 17 persons were assisted between these three events.
 - At the request of the Youth Department, a resume training session was held at **Habersham** Success Academy. There were 23 students that received training and information about WIOA supported programs.
 - 15 people registered for WIOA assistance on board the Career Coaches in April
 - *92 individuals have registered during 1st quarter for WIOA*
- 1st Quarter Assessment for 2017:
- Responses performed on board the Career Coach has increased by 45.4%
 - People assisted has increased by 43.4%.
 - Resumes reviewed or critiqued has increased by 18.5%
 - Interest surveys taken has increased by 108%

Event and Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION/HOST
May 25	4:00 pm	Workforce Investment Board	Dawson County Junior High School
	5:00 pm	RLF Committee	Dawson County/Dawson Co BOE
	5:30 pm	Executive Committee	
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
		Legislative Appreciation Dinner	
June 29	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	Hall County Govt. Offices
July 27	4:00 pm	Workforce Investment Board	Rabun County
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
August 31	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City of Gainesville
September 28	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	White County
October 26	4:00 pm	Workforce Investment Board	Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
November 16	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City of Dawsonville
December 1	6:00 pm	GMRC Annual Meeting	Dillard House Conference Center

