



## Executive Director's Report



- A huge thank you to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for conducting a one-day training session at the GMRC office. DCA staff did a great job in presenting topics such as local government compliance, comprehensive planning, surveys, regional plan, and the Rural Zone Program. It was a productive day of learning for the GMRC Planning, GIS, and Economic Development Staff.
- Daniel Martin and I recently attended the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Regional POWER Workshop. **POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization)** is a congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. GMRC is working with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission on applying for POWER funding for a regional project.
- The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission is hosting its first ever **Newly Elected Official Training** on March 7th beginning at 9:00 am and concluding by noon. The meeting will be held at the GMRC office located at 1310 W. Ridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30501. The workshop is designed to provide newly elected officials (three years or less in office) an opportunity to learn more about the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and how we can assist our cities and counties with services such as Economic Development and Grant Writing, Regional Planning, Information Services (GIS), and Workforce Development. While the training is centered around newly elected officials - all elected officials no matter how many years of service are welcome! Please RSVP to Peggy Lovell at [plovell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:plovell@gmrc.ga.gov)
- The Planning Department recently hosted a Lunch and Learn on Tiny Houses. Kim Bucciero of Tiny House Atlanta was the featured speaker and discussed the evolution of the industry, what developers and residents are wanting in tiny homes, and how various communities have addressed the phenomena through local codes and permits.
- The State of Georgia has been awarded the United States Geological Services 3D Elevation Program grant for the acquisition of elevation data for 67 Georgia counties—over one third of the state. Of the 67 counties, 10 of the 13 GMRC counties will receive high precision elevation data. This data supports key activities such as economic development, infrastructure and construction management, agriculture and farming, forest resource management, flood risk management, and enhanced public safety. Congrats to Faith who worked with the State Geographic Information Office (GIO) on this project on behalf of our local communities.
- We were pleased to have Mr. Rusty Haygood, Deputy Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs present at our February Council Meeting. It was great to hear about the many activities that DCA is involved with and the ongoing partnership with the GMRC.
- Congratulations to GMRC staff member Whitney Williams, who has been promoted to the Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor for WorkSource. She replaces Diana Eddins-Wiggin whose last day at the GMRC was February 20th. Diana will be missed greatly, but we are looking forward to having Whitney in this new role.
- Ms. Karen Clark has replaced Marissa as our new Administrative Secretary for the GMRC. She has been with the GMRC for almost a year, but has been working in the WorkSource Department until this month. We are delighted to have her in this new role.
- Thank you to **Lumpkin County** and the **City of Dahlonega** for hosting our Quarterly Meeting of the City / County Managers. Thank you to Mayor Sam Norton for providing the food for the meeting.



Sincerely,

*Heather Feldman*

Heather Feldman

Executive Director



## Economic Development

- On behalf of **Towns County**, an Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant was submitted to FEMA for Personal Protective Equipment/SCBA's.
- The Economic Development Department assisted **Forsyth County** with the development of an Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant which was submitted to FEMA for Vehicle Mounted Exhaust Systems.
- Congratulations to **Banks County** for being awarded \$50,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant funding for the development of an Economic Development Blueprint Plan.

## Planning

- Several communities are starting, or are very deep into, their *comprehensive plan update* processes, with public hearing opportunities and online surveys available for anyone wishing to participate. If you're a citizen or stakeholder on behalf of these communities please contact the GMRC or look for ways to be involved, and make your voice heard!

**Banks County**  
**City of Homer**  
**City of Maysville**  
**Dawson County**  
**City of Dawsonville**  
**City of Lula**

**Habersham County**  
**City of Clarkesville**  
**City of Demorest**  
**Town of Alto**  
**Town of Mt. Airy**

- As part of their respective regional water plan implementation efforts, the water councils for the Coosa-North Georgia and Savannah—Upper Ogeechee basins (which combined include 11 GMRC counties) will be working together on a *nutrient trading strategy* to assist with the management of nitrates and phosphates within storm water runoff. Over the next few months there will be public hearings and webinars for working with local stakeholders to help identify potential issues and solutions for improving water quality in area streams, with a particular emphasis on crafting a system that allows landowners to possibly trade runoff allowances. If you are interested in participating, or know someone that should be involved in the process, please contact Adam Hazell at [ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov) or 770.538.2617

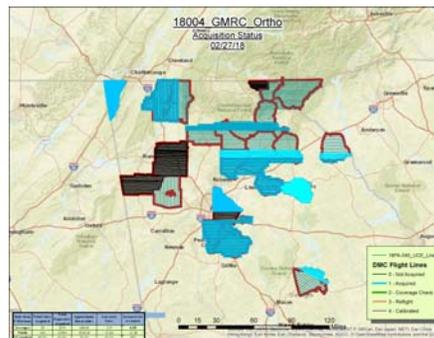


## Information Services

- If your city or county needs assistance with the US Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey for 2018, please contact Brandon Carlock at 770.535.5458, or send an e-mail to [bcarlock@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:bcarlock@gmrc.ga.gov). This round of BAS would include any annexations or de-annexations that have occurred during the time period of January 1, 2017—December 31, 2017.
- On January 25th, Atlantic held the 2018 GMRC Aerial Photography Project kickoff meeting. Chris Chalmers and Kyle Manderson with Atlantic and Jeff Simmons with Platinum Geomatics were here to discuss project schedule, deliverables, and answer any questions from the participating group.

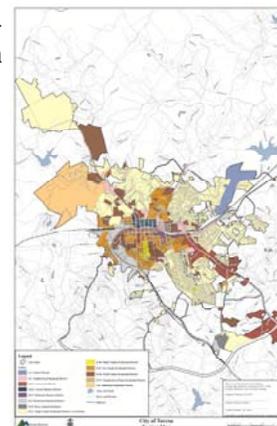


Above: 2018 GMRC Aerial Kickoff Meeting



Left: flight status map (blue lines indicate areas flown to date).

- We received notice that ten of the LUCA (Local Update of the Census Addresses) entities are on their way to the GMRC office for processing. The Census Bureau gives us 120 days to turn the Residential Address Verification back to them in preparation of the 2020 Decennial Census.
- GMRC staff is assisting the **City of Dawsonville** in the creation of Voting Districts.
- Work continues on the Water and Sewer Infrastructure mapping for the cities of **Lavonia** and **Dawsonville**.
- The **City of Dahlonega** has requested GMRC staff to create a grid / plot layout for the Mt. Hope Cemetery so that they can easily identify open burial plots.
- The **City of Toccoa** Council officially adopted its Zoning Map on February 26th.



## WorkSource Youth Program

- Youth Services held five workshops in **Hall** and **Banks Counties**.
- Four youth participants completed their GED, and two completed credentials.

### Participant Spotlight:

**Daniel Hill**, WIOA Accounting Student

NGTC 2018 GOAL Winner

GOAL candidates are nominated by an instructor, and must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate strong work ethics and leadership skills. This statewide award program of the Technical College System of Georgia was actually started at NGTC in the early 1970's and continues to honor excellence in academics and leadership among the state's technical college students today. Local GOAL winners are selected at each of the state's 22 technical colleges. Students competed through a series of competitive interviews and speeches detailing why they chose technical education; four of the 12 semi-finalists were selected by NGTC faculty and staff to move on to advanced competition.



## UPCOMING Events

### Event and Meeting Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT / MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION/HOST</u>
March 7	9:00 am	Newly Elected Official Training	GMRC Office
March 29	4:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Hart County College & Career Academy
	5:00 pm	RLF Committee Meeting	
	5:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
April 26	4:00 pm	Workforce Board Meeting	City of Lavonia
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	

## Career Coaches

### FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Career Coaches participated in a job fair sponsored by Goodwill Career Center located in **Dawsonville**. Fourteen people were assisted in a two hour period.
- Resume training sessions were held for the Salvation Army of **Hall County**. Four people attended, and two have begun initial steps to apply for the WIOA grant.
- The Mountain Education Charter High School in **Hall County** asked the Career Coaches to assist students with resume writing and career instruction. Sixteen students took advantage of the opportunity to receive resume guidance and information about the WIOA program.
- **White County** High School FBLA invited the Career Coach to conduct a resume training session for high school students. Forty-five students took advantage of the Career Coach and wrote resumes, explored career interests, and received information about WIOA-funded training opportunities.
- **Cumming** Library in **Forsyth County** saw the largest number of visitors to date; twenty-two people received assistance in various forms and received information about WIOA.

<u>Category of Responses</u>	<u>Month Total</u>	<u>Year Total</u>	<u>Responses Per County</u>
Total Job Searches	91	904	Banks— 0
Total Job App	5	91	Dawson— 19
Total Resumes	74	696	Forsyth— 34
Total Interviews	0	0	Franklin— 0
Total Interest Survey	18	841	Habersham— 7
Total Training Sessions	3	27	Hall— 69
Total Testing	0	1	Hart— 0
Total Typing Assessments	1	7	Lumpkin— 3
WIOA Info	97	1524	Rabun— 11
Public Relations	8	99	Stephens— 9
			Towns— 0
			Union— 1
			White— 80
			Other— 0

