



Pinnacle

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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ GMRC Fall City/County Managers Meeting will be held in **Stephens County** on November 17th beginning at 10:00 am. Location to be determined. Call Marissa Smith to register—770-538-2626.

- ◆ Many of you are planning Council or Commission retreats. If we can assist, call Adam Hazell at 770-538-2617. Any bookings by the end of December will be at **NO COST** to the community. Book early.

- ◆ Good luck on high turnouts for the upcoming elections and tax votes for your community.

- ◆ Thanks to the **City of Toccoa** for hosting our Annual Staff Retreat last week at the new Links Golf Course. While it was built years ago, the **City of Toccoa** has done a great job of renovating this 9-hole course. You can play 9-holes for \$15 which includes a cart. What a deal! I encourage everyone to try out this course soon. The

course even has a Labrador Retriever named... fittingly... "Ping". Billy Morse did a great job hosting us this year, again! We appreciate Dean Scarborough, Gary Fesperman, and David Austin for offering positive words to our entire staff.

- ◆ We have a large delegation heading down to the GARC Annual Conference at St. Simons. Hope you made arrangements to be a part of our group! Looks like 16 or so individuals will be joining us this year. Thanks for your support of the GARC.
- ◆ Glad to get the DOAA Audit completed and returned to the State Audit offices this past week.
- ◆ Our Finance Chairman Bill Chafin and the Finance Committee have received our 2015-16 Financial Audit this week. This should be in the hands of the entire GMRC Council in early November for consideration at the November meeting. Rushton & Associates did an outstanding job with our audit this year.

Employee Spotlight



Shameka Harrison was hired as a Youth Program Assistant for Workforce Development, with her first day of employment being October 7th. Shemeka recently graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services Delivery and Administration. She previously worked for District 2 Public Health for nine years as a traveling dental assistant and recently at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hall County as a Youth Development Professional. Her dream has always been to work in the helping profession, specifically to help youth succeed. Shameka has a personal quote that she uses when she thinks of the barriers that many of our youth face today, because she too was a youth with a barrier. That quote is, "Adversity won't stop my success". We are excited to have Shameka on our staff and to work with youth in our region to help them succeed. Shameka, Welcome Aboard!



Workforce Development

- ◆ D.S. Waters, Inc. a/k/a Crystal Springs Call Center dislocated 139 employees when the company consolidated its call centers to one location in Lakeland, Florida.
- ◆ Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Rapid Response coordinated with Crystal Springs to come out to their office in **Flowery Branch** to perform Employee Meetings for the purposes of explaining services to all of their employees and also to perform a Job Fair for their employees. The Job Fair had five employers and approximately 40 attendees.
- ◆ We performed six separate Employee Meetings on two different days to facility the work schedules of all the employees.
- ◆ Presenters at the Employee Meetings included:
 - Mark Winters, **Gainesville** Career Center Manager
 - Danette Smith, Business Unit Representative with GDOL
 - Ken Orr, Student Affairs and Careers Representative with Lanier Technical College
 - Cynthia Harrison, HomeSafe Georgia Outreach Coordinator, and
 - Dan Thornton, GMWD Rapid Response Coordinator.
- ◆ Over 80 employees showed up for the Employee Meetings and 55 employees requested more information about WIOA Financial Aid to go back to school for Occupational Skills Training.
- ◆ Youth Staff presented Dress for Success workshop in **Banks County** for approximately 100 youth
- ◆ Another youth in the Regional Youth Detention Center GED program completed GED, making a total of six completions
- ◆ Two GED students who completed in the Regional Youth Detention Center program have begun online college while incarcerated or in treatment
- ◆ The Youth Department currently has 22 GED participants and 27 pending applications



GMWD's Entry in the Gainesville 2015 SQUARE CROW CONTEST

Career Coach

- ◆ The entire Adult/Dislocated Worker team met aboard the Large Career Coach, to become familiar with the mobile resources available to potential WIOA applicants.
- ◆ Finishing touches were made to the Career Coach shelter located behind the Regional Commission of office, which should prolong the service life of both mobile units significantly.
- ◆ The Career Coaches received additional coverage in the Gainesville Times, for their involvement in the **Gainesville** Housing Authority's Job Blitz programs.

Category of Responses:	Month Total	2015Total
Total Job Searches	152	729
Total Job App	38	451
Total Resumes	37	560
Total Interviews	1	52
Total Interest Survey	15	268
Total Training Sessions	1	31
Total Testing	0	31
Total Typing Assessments	0	12
Total GMRC Info	65	640
TOTAL REPSONSES	309	2774

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks - 0	Lumpkin - 7
Dawson - 0	Rabun - 14
Forsyth - 17	Stephens - 22
Franklin - 3	Towns - 20
Habersham - 13	Union - 14
Hall - 151	White - 34
Hart - 11	Other - 3



Economic Development

- ◆ The **City of Lavonia, Franklin County, and Hart County** were jointly awarded an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant in the amount of \$694,865 for the I-85 Northern Sewer Trunk Line Project.
- ◆ The following projects were awarded grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC):
 - City of Cornelia** –
Water and Sewer Line Relocation (\$186,350)
 - Camp **Toccoa** at Currahee –
Camp **Toccoa** Restoration Project (\$74,500)
 - Franklin County** –
I-85 Sewer Improvement Project (\$300,000)
 - Gainesville Hall** 96 Roundtable –
Lake Lanier Olympic Venue (\$300,000)
- ◆ OneGeorgia applications were submitted for the following projects:
 - City of Toccoa and Stephens County** –
Infrastructure Improvement Project
 - Franklin County** –
Infrastructure – Central Franklin Industrial Park
 - Gainesville and Hall County** Development Authority – Lake Lanier Olympic Venue Project
- ◆ On behalf of the **City of Cornelia**, a Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program (CDBG-EIP) was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for water system upgrades to facilitate the expansion of a local business.

Annual Meeting

- ◆ It is that time again! Our GMRC Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor, or if you need tickets, please contact Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2607 or at plovell@gmrc.ga.gov. Remember, a limited number of tickets are available!



SAVE THE DATE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Annual Meeting
Dillard House Conference Center
December 4, 2015
Reception - 4:45 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets - \$40.00

Contact Peggy Lovell
at 770-538-2607 or
plovell@gmrc.ga.gov

Information Services

- ◆ As of October 12th all of the Cities and Counties that participated in the Aerial Photography/LiDAR project received their Aerial Photography. All participants are currently reviewing the digital photography for color, accuracy and seam distortion. To review the latest Quantum Spatial Project Status Report, please visit the GMRC Website at www.gmrc.ga.gov/GIS_Projects.htm.
- ◆ Last month we had a full house during Susan Miller's visit. Ms. Miller is the first Georgia Geospatial Information Officer (GIO). She will be visiting all of the Regional Commissions in order to understand the GIS issues and projects across the state. We appreciate all who attended. For more information regarding the GIO, visit www.gio.ga.gov.
- ◆ GMRC staff has recently visited the **City of Lavonia** regarding updating their Cemetery and Official Zoning Maps.
- ◆ The **City of Toccoa** has requested a quotation for Water, Sewer and Gas mapping.

Planning Services

- ◆ The **City of Baldwin** has submitted their Comprehensive Plan update for State review.
- ◆ The **City of Hartwell** has completed their Comprehensive plan update.
- ◆ The GMRC presented an Economic Feasibility Study of the historic **Demorest** Woman's Club building to the Woman's Club, the **City of Demorest** and others. The assessment evaluates the building's physical condition and identifies the needed repairs, while conceptual renderings were created to assist in visioning and space planning to determine how best to use the facility and assist with applications for funding assistance for the restoration and redevelopment.



GMRC Council Meeting

September 2015
Camp Woodlands



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
October 29	3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC WD Board Meeting GMRC Executive Committee GMRC Council Meeting	Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega—Smith House
November 4-6	—	GARC Annual Conference	St. Simons
November 17	10:00 am	City/County Managers Meeting	Stephens County—TBA
November 19	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Dawsonville City Hall
December 4	4:45 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Annual Meeting Reception GMRC Annual Meeting	The Dillard House Conference Center
January 28	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting	City of Toccoa/Stephens County