

July 2022

PINNACLE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

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Save the Date:

**Calendar of Upcoming Meetings
and Trainings**

Cover Photo
Tiger Mountain Vineyards
Rabun County GA
Courtesy of Laurin Yoder

Executive Director's Report

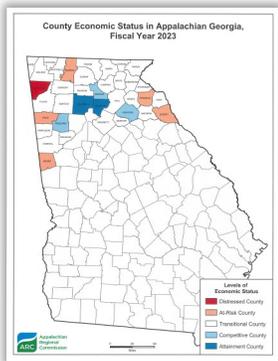


Heather Feldman
Executive Director

- I would like to extend a warm welcome to our four newest GMRC Council Members. Ms. Barrie Aycock serves as the Mayor of **Clarksville** and will be replacing Audrey Turner as the city elected official for **Habersham** County; Mr. Robert Franklin, **Franklin** County Commissioner is replacing Jason Macomson; Kevin Herrit is the new Private Sector Representative for **Dawson** County; and Rebecca Mincey is the new Private Sector Representative for **Lumpkin** County. We are excited to have all of these new members as part of our GMRC family and look forward to getting to know them and working with them on the council. Welcome!

- I would also like to welcome our new city and county managers in the region. Ms. Sharleen Ayers has been named the City Manager for the City of **Royston** and Mr. Michael Renshaw is the new County Manager for **White** County. We look forward to working with both of them in their new roles.

- Congratulations to Patrick Larson, Senior Project Manager who has recently graduated from the Appalachian Leadership Institute. The Appalachian Leadership Institute is a class of 40 Fellows drawn from Appalachia's public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Congratulations Patrick on this professional achievement and proud to have you represent Appalachia Georgia!



- The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has just released its County Economic Status Map for the Appalachian Region in Georgia. At-Risk Counties are eligible for up to 70% grant; Transitional Counties are eligible for up to 50% grant; and Competitive Counties are eligible for up to 30% grant. If you have a project you would like to discuss or are interested in applying for ARC funds, please contact the GMRC Economic Development Department.

- SAVE THE DATE:** The next quarterly meeting for the City and County Managers of Region 2 is scheduled for **Thursday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Lumpkin** County Library. Please RSVP at hfeldman@gmrc.ga.gov or 770-538-2606.

Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

Heather Feldman
Executive Director



Economic Development

- On behalf of the City of **Toccoa**, an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant in the amount of \$750,000 was submitted to assist with improvements to the historic Ritz Theatre.
- On behalf of the City of **Cleveland**, an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant in the amount of \$322,962 was submitted to assist with sewer infrastructure to support the Woodlands Camp and residential units in the vicinity.



- Congratulations to Patrick Larson and Daniel Martin on graduating from the **Appalachian Leadership Institute** in Washington D.C. this month! Sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Institute Fellows participate in an extensive training curriculum developed by the Appalachian Regional Commission in partnership with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy; Tuskegee University; and Collective Impact. LLC.

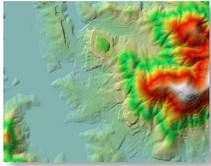
Planning

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- The GMRC Planning Department is available to assist elected and appointed officials with various [training opportunities](#), and can provide basic instructions on planning, zoning, and more upon request. We also support the continuing education of community development stakeholders from the region. Below are some upcoming events that may be of interest, as well as links with more details and how to register. Feel free to contact us with any other questions or requests for us to help you with any retreats or training forums.
- **Sept. 8. Planning and Zoning 102** (UGA Gwinnett Campus) – Part of the Carl Vinson Institute’s educational programming for local governments, in this course participants will learn about [community engagement](#), including how to conduct and handle problems at meetings as well as broader strategies for involvement. The course includes the use of case studies, group work, and discussion to facilitate understanding.
- **Sept. 14-16 – GPA Fall Conference** (Columbus, GA) – The annual [fall conference](#) for the Georgia Planning Association is the premier opportunity for community development professionals to network and learn about the latest trends and issues facing communities in Georgia. There will be multiple tracks of educational sessions, as well as mobile workshops, GPA membership meeting, the annual awards presentation, and more.
- **Sept. 19-23 - Statewide Historic Preservation Conference** (Virtual) - The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD), and the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions (GAPC) partner to present the [Georgia Statewide Preservation Conference](#). This year’s conference will be virtual, comprised of webinar presentations. The statewide preservation conference brings together preservationists, non-profits, planners, architects, historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, city and county administrators, historic preservation commission members and students from across Georgia.

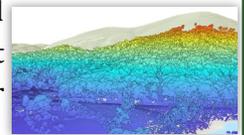
LiDAR News

Now that we have finally received the 3 DEP LiDAR from the USGS, many people outside of GIS will ask, "What is LiDAR?"



- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology is a remote sensing technique that uses laser light pulses to create a 3- dimensional sample of the surface of the target, in our case, the surface of the earth. LiDAR data measures the distance from the device sending a pulse of the laser to the surface of the target and the distance it is reflected from the surface back to the device. The lasers are shot at a high density per area with some LiDAR devices sending multiple pulses within a square meter or even smaller. This can give elevation data that is accurate to within a few centimeters in some cases. The 3 DEP LiDAR we received is called QL2 LiDAR, it shoots approximately two lasers per square meter ($\leq 0.71\text{m}$ aggregate spacing). This gives each cell (think of something like a pixel) a size of 1 meter and a vertical accuracy of 10 cm.

- There are a few different types of models in LiDAR data. A Digital Elevation Model (DEM) is a bare earth elevation model, it takes things into consideration like permanent structures. A DTM (Digital Terrain Model) is basically a DEM without any structure or trees, it is the geodesic surface of the earth. A DSM (Digital Surface Model) is like a DEM, but it includes all structures, trees, and anything else that are on the earth's surface.

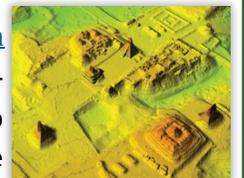


- LiDAR data is large, as many of you may know. The 3 DEP project we received has all the data divided into tiles for easier applicability. When the counties/cities receive their data, they will have all the tiles for bare earth (DEM), point cloud (used to create DSM), and intensity rasters (Intensity rasters are used for more complicated tasks, such as identifying the composition of the surface, more on this in future newsletters), as well as a mosaic DEM of the bare earth tiles. Vertical accuracy, breaklines, and metadata are also included.



- So, you have LiDAR data, now what? LiDAR can be used for an exponential number of tasks. LiDAR data can be used in many areas of local government from planning and development, agricultural, environmental, social, and emergency planning just to name a few. The digital elevation models are used to create a 3D representation of the earth's surface, whereas we previously had to rely on ground surveys and/or photogrammetry, saving time and money. Contours can also be created from the data, using any contour interval that is desired. LiDAR, when used in conjunction with imagery can determine both land-use and land cover. Using the data to determine slope when used with land cover and other data can help with erosion. LiDAR data can help with stormwater, gravity sewer, and water system management. The mapping of wireless signals uses LiDAR to find the ideal locations for wireless transmitters. Building footprints are another benefit of using LiDAR data. Road planning, wildfire management, landslide analysis are also benefits. Another significant use of LiDAR is archeology. LiDAR has been used to discover ancient villages, roads, and other structures that have been hiding in plain sight under trees and dirt.

This is just an introduction to LiDAR and its capabilities. Please feel free to contact [Faith Bryan](#) or [Brandon Carlock](#), if you have any questions. We hope to continue educating everyone of LiDAR, its benefits, and its potential in future newsletters, and we look forward to hearing from all the local governments and any ideas or questions they may have for the use of the new LiDAR data.



WorkSource

- WorkSource staff has resumed monthly overview sessions at **Hall** and **Stephens** County's Department of Labor. Staff also attended community meetings in **Banks, Dawson, Hall,** and **Rabun** reaching 76 community partners.

- WIOA staff along with Be Pro Be Proud and local community resources will each host a booth at the **Dawson** County - A Family Fair on July 29th, 2022 beginning at 6:00. Join us for a fun evening with games, food, and a movie under the stars all at no cost to families!



- Two **Stephens** County employers will be starting internship programs subsidized by WIOA funding this week. Currahee Club has filled their accounting position and Jaymarz Signs and Graphix has filled a customer service position. The Hispanic Alliance Georgia based in **Hall** County is hiring a Warehouse Associate and a Family Well-Being Specialist through the Temporary Work Experience Program. (see png- We're) Employers interested in partnering with WorkSource Georgia Mountains for Temporary Work Experiences, Internships, or On-the-Job Training or that need Incumbent Worker Training, should contact Niki McPherson at 770.538.2734 or nmcperson@gmrc.ga.gov. More information can be found at www.gmrc.ga.gov/employers.

- Forsyth County Welding Bootcamp was held on July 1st at North Forsyth High School. Students invited their family and friends. Many have already taken employment from interviewing day and two are transitioning into college to earn degrees into welding! The first class of welding students was dedicated in the memory of Glenn Worley, a graduate of North Forsyth in 2019 who was a previous welding student and had a love for the art as well as a servant's heart. Congratulations Graduates!



- North Georgia Technical College started a new program, Tech Express, to assist new students with the application and registration process. WorkSource Staff will be on campus to explain WIOA services, alternating between the **Blairsville, Clarkesville** and Currahee campuses.

Get on board for fall semester at North Georgia Tech! Join us for a one-stop shop to complete the application and registration process. Representatives from all areas will be available to assist with the application, financial aid, and registration processes.

Bring your high school and/or college transcripts and 2020 tax documents and apply for free. Choose the day and campus that works best for you.

July 11 - August 17, 2022

Tuesdays & Wednesdays • 7:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Clarkesville Campus • Clegg Center
Blairsville & Currahee • Main Offices



Events Around the Region

<p align="center">Clayton Farmers Market Reopening!</p> <p>April 2 - October 1, 2022 9a.m.-12p.m. Saturdays only</p> <p>Clayton Food Bank 46 Plaza Way Clayton, GA 30525</p> <p>Homemade foods, plants, honey, breads, mushrooms, pottery, and more!</p> <p>Call (706)490-1179 or visit the page on Facebook for more information</p>	<p align="center">Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds— Towns County</p> <p>Summer Heat Music Festival Saturday, August 6, 2022 10 a.m.-8 p.m. \$20 per son. Children 12 & under free!</p> <p>Visit the website below for more info and ticket prices!</p> <p align="center">Georgiamountainfairgrounds.com</p>	<p align="center">2022 Ida Cox Music Series</p> <p>Historic Downtown Toccoa Every Saturday in June through August 7 p.m.—10 p.m. Classic Vehicle Cruise begins at 3 p.m.</p> <p>Live music, food, drinks, and more!</p> <p>Bring your lawn chairs!</p> <p align="center">www.mainstreettoccoa.com</p>
<p align="center">Hiawasse Night Market</p> <p>First Fridays May—October 5 p.m.—10 p.m. Free Event</p> <p>Town Square 19 S. Main Street Hiawasse, GA,</p> <p>Family friendly, open-air night artist and artesian market with fresh produce, food trucks, games, and live music.</p>	<p align="center">First Friday Fest in Clayton</p> <p>First Fridays of the Month in June through October 2022</p> <p>Live concerts, food, and vendors.</p> <p>Rock House on Main Street Clayton, GA 30525</p> <p>(706) 982 1284</p>	<p align="center">First Friday in Gainesville</p> <p>Friday, August 5, 2022</p> <p>Every first Friday from June through September.</p> <p>Starts at 6 p.m.—Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets!</p> <p>Historic Gainesville Square 301 Main Street Gainesville, GA 30501</p>
<p align="center">Pickin' In the Park and Car Show</p> <p>Saturday, August 6, 2022 639 Main Street Clermont, GA 30527</p> <p>Car Show 3p.m.-7p.m. and Live Music from 7p.m.—9 p.m.</p>	<p align="center">Georgia Mountain Fair</p> <p>August 19-27, 2022 Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Towns County, Georgia</p> <p>Carnival, Arts & Crafts, Food Vendors. Miss Georgia Mountain Fair and more!</p> <p>Ticket prices available online and in person.</p> <p align="center">Georgiamountainfairgrounds.com</p>	<p>Want your event listed? Please send all regional events with date, time, and location to arus-sell@gmrc.ga.gov the month before the event and we will do our best to have it featured!</p>



GMRC STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

Catherine Allen, Assistant Outreach Coordinator



Catherine Allen is the Assistant Outreach Coordinator for the WorkSource division. Catherine has been with the WorkSource division for two years now. Her role in outreach coordinating has her assisting in many ways, from going out into the community to help in spreading information on WIOA programs as well as navigating the Mobile Teaching Units within the region for events WorkSource is affiliated with. She also works one-on-one with new customers in completing applications for services WIOA can provide. She says her favorite part of her new role is the excitement, and relief, in the faces of people when they hear what services could be offered to them.

Catherine is a graduate of The University of North Georgia with a Bachelors of Sociology. She previously worked for the Department of Family and Children's Services in Hall County as an Adoptions Case Manager where she prides herself on the permanent placement of over 30 children during her tenure. She has also had previous experience in running her own company as a Used Car Broker where the environment was extremely fast paced with a high level of responsibility, which she thoroughly enjoyed for five years. Catherine was born in St. Augustine Florida to her mother, Peggy Egan, and Father, Terry Allen. In her early years, her family, including her older brother and sister, moved to Minnesota until she was six. From there, they made the journey to Gainesville Georgia due to the love of the lake and the school system. Her mother moved back to Minnesota, while her father is here in Gainesville. She is married to Kevin Glass and they operate a mini-farm with horses, chickens, honey bees, and more. Obviously, farm chores are a daily occurrence. Kevin's family resides in Gainesville, where his sisters were WIOA participants prior to Catherine's tenure here.

On her off time, you can find Catherine curled up with a good book or spending time with her friends and family. When Catherine was asked what her favorite part of the region was she said *"Not to be biased but I absolutely love our region. Rabun County, in particular. I feel as though our region has so much to offer! You can go to Dawsonville and shop till you drop, shoot the hooch in Helen, or you can be in Clayton hiking and not see another human for hours. Region 2 has something for everyone to enjoy!"*

We think Region 2 is pretty special too, Catherine, and we appreciate your service to our community!

UPCOMING GMRC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS



- ⇒ August 25, 2022 **Habersham County - Council Member Training**
- ⇒ September 29, 2022 **White County**
- ⇒ October 27, 2022* **Dahlonega/Lumpkin County**

GMRC Council Meetings begin at 6:00 PM; Executive Committee meets prior at 5:00 PM.

*** WD Board Meeting at 4:00 PM**