

JULY 2019

# PINNACLE

*Georgia Mountains Regional Commission*

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# Executive Director's Report



Heather Feldman  
Executive Director

I would like to congratulate our three new officers of the GMRC: Sam Norton, Chairman; George Wangemann, Vice-Chairman; and Ken Schubring, Secretary. All three of our newest officers embody the spirit of community and bring talent, expertise and energy to the Regional Commission. We are very fortunate to have them by our side as we continue to strengthen the Georgia Mountains Region, and I look forward to working alongside of these gentlemen.



Sam Norton



George Wangemann



Ken Schubring

- We have begun the initial process of our annual financial audit with Rushton & Company. GMRC staff has been extra busy working with their staff in preparing and pulling documents. Thank you to Andrea Newsom, Nona Turk, Barbara Moseley, Cheryl Smith, Peggy Lovell, and Karen Clark for all of your extra efforts during this process.
- I recently attended my first meeting as a Board Member for the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) in Starkville, MS. We received an update from the Federal Co-Chair and discussed priorities for the Appalachian Regional Commission including the substance abuse/opioid epidemic and the workforce system, entrepreneurship, and broadband.
- Patrick Larson recently attended the Georgia Chamber's North Georgia Rural Prosperity Summit in **Dahlonega**. It was a great event and provided interactive discussions and presentations on meaningful solutions for challenges facing rural communities in North Georgia, while also having the opportunity to network and make meaningful connections and partnerships.
- The deadline to apply for a Rural Zone designation is August 16<sup>th</sup>. Recognizing that many small, rural downtown areas have experienced varying levels of economic distress, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) worked with the Georgia General Assembly to secure passage of a bill calling for the development of "Rural Zones." The establishment of up to 10 zones per year will enable businesses and investors to obtain tax credits for qualified activities occurring within designated Rural Zones. Credits will be available for job creation activities, investment in downtown properties, and renovation of properties to make them usable. Please contact Adam Hazell at the GMRC at [ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov) or Cherie Bennett at DCA at [Cherie.Bennett@dca.ga.gov](mailto:Cherie.Bennett@dca.ga.gov)
- The next quarterly meeting of the City and County Managers is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00am at the Currahee Campus of North Georgia Technical College in **Stephens** County. Please RSVP at [hfeldman@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:hfeldman@gmrc.ga.gov) or 770-538-2606 if you would like to attend.
- Thank you to Commissioner Matt Arthur of the Technical College System of Georgia for speaking at our July Council Meeting hosted by **Rabun** County. It was an extremely informative presentation, and we are so fortunate to have Commissioner Arthur serving Georgia!

Sincerely,

*Heather Feldman*

Heather Feldman  
Executive Director



## Economic Development

- The Economic Development department recently completed an update and revision to the City of **Clarkesville** City Charter. This update included incorporating changes from Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA's) Model Charter and changes to sections related to: the Governing Body, Organizational Provisions, Judicial Branch, Elections/Removals and Financial Matters. If your community is interested in a City Charter update, please contact Daniel Martin at 770-538-2610.



- On behalf of **Banks** County, an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works grant application for \$1,500,000 was submitted to assist with a sewer expansion to serve a new industry.



- Meeting Reminder: The next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 3:00pm at North Georgia Technical College's **Clarkesville** Campus in the Industrial Technology Building - Room 123.

- Congratulations to the City of **Lavonia** for being awarded \$2,000,000 in grant funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for critical wastewater infrastructure improvements needed to support development of the Gateway Industrial Park. This grant will be matched with \$2.6 million in local investment, and it is expected to attract an eventual \$54 million in private investment and create 400 jobs.



## Planning

### Local Planning

The following communities have public meetings coming up regarding the updates of their comprehensive plan:

Community	Date	Time	Location
Clayton	July 22	5:30 PM	Municipal Complex
Rabun County	July 30	7:00 PM	Civic Center
Mountain City	Aug 13	7:00 PM	City Hall
Dillard	Aug 13	5:00 PM	City Hall
Canon	Aug 5	7:00 PM	City Hall
Lavonia	Aug 8	5:30 PM	City Hall

### Brownfields

As part of our ongoing commitment to the cleanup and reuse of older properties, the GMRC will be pursuing a federal grant to assist with a regional survey of brownfields across the region and to perform Phase 1 and 2 assessments on 1-4 identified brownfield properties. For these applications to succeed there needs to be identified brownfields that a) have not yet received such assessment, and b) that the GMRC and their consultants would be able to access during the grant period in order to perform these assessments. Anyone with knowledge of a potential brownfield that they would like to nominate for consideration should contact Adam Hazell - [ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov).



## Georgia Academy of Economic Development



for ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

2019  
Region 2



### Dates & Location

- August 1, August 28, October 8, October 29
- Habersham EMC, 6155 State Highway 115 West, Clarkesville, GA 30523

### Curriculum Information

- Modules to enhance leadership skills, community development knowledge, and economic development knowledge

### Program Information

- Four Sessions: 8AM to 4PM
- Tuition: \$265 (includes course materials, meals and refreshments for 4 days)

### Contact

- Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs
- Kathy.Papa@dca.ga.gov

### Register Online

- [jotform.com/DCA/fall2019r2](http://jotform.com/DCA/fall2019r2)

## REGION 2

The Georgia Academy for Economic Development was started in 1993 by a consortium of public and private organizations involved in economic development.

The program is designed to enhance community leaders' skills and knowledge so that more communities in Georgia may remain or become successful.

Over 6,500 Georgians have graduated from this program, which is supported by over 20 statewide organizations, with facilitators, coordinators and program management provided by Georgia EMC, Georgia Power, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.



This four-day course is offered each year within each region.

*Be sure to check out the new  
Georgia Mountains Regional Commission*

# StoryMap

**Georgia Mountains Regional Commission**

Home Economic Development Finance GIS Planning WorkSource Georgia Mountains Award Winning Projects

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission is one of 12 planning and development districts in Georgia focused on providing technical assistance to 13 counties and 38 municipalities in the areas of planning, economic development, information services and technology, and workforce development. The purpose of the GMRC is to promote regional cooperation, to coordinate the activities and policies of member local governments, and to provide assistance to local governments.

The mission of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission is: "To serve the local governments of the Georgia Mountains Region by improving the quality of life through economic development, community planning, information technology, and workforce development to support and enhance the region's prosperity."

The Georgia Mountains Region spans approximately 3,500 square miles, and includes Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White Counties and all municipalities within these counties. The GMRC works with these communities to formulate goals and strategies for area growth and development. Upon request, the GMRC provides a variety of technical assistance that will improve community services and the quality of life for residents in the Georgia Mountains Region.

The GMRC is guided by a forty-four (44) member Council and is composed of individuals appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker and one county elected official, one city elected official and one private sector individual from each of our 13 counties. City, County and private sector representatives are chosen by the cities and counties they represent. The Council is responsible for all policy decisions. The GMRC is funded by a variety of sources, including federal, state, and local funds. The annual RC budget is reviewed and approved by the Council.

Please visit <https://arcg.is/OqjyH>

## WorkSource Mobile Training Units

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The Career Coaches participated in a Rapid Response event for Tenneco while in **Hartwell**. A total of 33 individuals received resume assistance, conducted online overviews, and received information about WIOA services.
- Thirteen individuals received assistance on board the Career Coach while in attendance for Goodwill’s monthly job Fair in **Dawson** County.
- Twelve individuals received information and job development assistance at the **Hall** County Community Housing Initiative community resource fair at Longwood Park.
- During the month of June, twenty people registered for VOS/Employ GA aboard the Career Coach.

### *Career Coach Monthly Totals for May*

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total	Responses Per County
Total Job Searches	50	315	Banks— 6
Total Job App	1	36	Dawson— 15
Total Resumes	31	368	Forsyth— 14
Total Interviews	6	6	Franklin— 6
Total Interest Survey	16	39	Habersham— 7
Total Training Sessions	15	36	Hall— 34
Total Testing	0	0	Hart— 22
Total Typing Assessments	0	0	Lumpkin— 2
WIOA Info	41	414	Rabun— 0
Public Relations	5	31	Stephens— 10
			Towns— 4
			Union— 0
			White— 9
			Other— 24

## WorkSource Youth Program

- Staff participated in two Financial Aid Workshops for Lanier Tech at the **Hall** and **Forsyth** Campuses.
- Three participants have completed occupational skills training and entered unsubsidized employment.
- We had one Lanier Tech GED graduate, who graduated with honors.



WorkSource Youth staff are looking for donations for the new Youth Center, which is scheduled to open mid-September 2019. Examples of items that are needed: gently used youth-friendly furniture, café items, library furniture, and computer lab furniture such as work tables and chairs. If you have anything you’d like to donate or if you have any questions, please contact Jessica Williams at 770-538-2728 or [jwilliams@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:jwilliams@gmrc.ga.gov).

## WorkSource Adult/Dislocated Worker Success Stories

**CHASE LAMB III,  
DENTAL HYGIENIST**



I always wanted to be a Dental Hygienist, but I started as dental assistant first. It took time for it to be the right time in my life to proceed with further training.

Lanier Technical College's dental hygiene program is very tough but rewarding. It was the hardest thing I've done in life but on the flip side I feel so prepared.

I heard about WIOA funding from another student. Without WIOA assistance I would not have been able to complete the program. My future now is very promising. My whole life has changed and I'm finally on to the next step of my life.

I encourage anyone thinking about using WIOA funds to not wait any longer, **DO IT-NOW!** It will change you.

I was a single mother trying to support my children as a supervisor at Wal-Mart. I wanted to finish school but needed assistance. I heard about WIOA through North Georgia Technical College.

I enjoyed attending NGTC and feel accomplished now that I have finished my training. My life situation is getting better and I have a job at a hospital doing what I was trained to do.

WIOA services made it possible for me to achieve my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. The tuition assistance makes it possible for you to concentrate on school instead of worrying about money!

**Melissa Dalton, Registered Nurse**

## UPCOMING GMRC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

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- ⇒ Aug. 29, 2019 City of Gainesville - *Tyler Reinagel, DCA Planning Director and DCA Deputy Commissioner Rusty Haygood*
  - ⇒ Sept. 26, 2019 White County - *Council Training*
  - ⇒ Oct. 24, 2019\* Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega - *Haydn Blaize, State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator*
  - ⇒ Nov. 14, 2019 City of Dawsonville - *GMRC Audit / Rushton & Co.*
  - ⇒ Dec. 6, 2019 GMRC Annual Meeting / Awards Dinner - *Dillard House*

*GMRC Council Meetings begin at 6:00 PM; Executive Committee meets prior at 5:30 PM.*

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