

SEPTEMBER 2019

# PINNACLE

*Georgia Mountains Regional Commission*

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*Cover Photo:  
The Sky's Imagination  
Dawsonville, GA*



Heather Feldman  
Executive Director

- I would like to welcome our newest Council Member, Betsy McGriff, Economic Development Director for the **Dawson** County Chamber of Commerce. She will serve as the Private Sector Appointee for **Dawson County**. I recently had the chance to meet with her and she is a wealth of knowledge, and a great asset to **Dawson** County.

- Council Training was held on Thursday, September 26th, at the Mountain Education Charter High School Central Office in Cleveland, GA. Thank you to all who attended!



- The staff of the GMRC recently held its annual staff retreat at the Tack Room of Brasstown Valley Resort. It was a full day of team building and cross training of staff. A huge thank you to **Towns** County, and the cities of **Hialewassee** and **Young Harris** for arranging this and hosting us this year. GMRC Chairman and **Dahlonega** Mayor Sam Norton welcomed the group and we were fortunate to have Mayors Liz Ordiales and Andrea Gibby attend and speak to the staff. Thank you to everyone for making this a success!



- Georgia was the host of this year's fall Southeastern Employment & Training Association (SETA) conference which took place in Savannah. GMRC and WorkSource Georgia Mountains was largely represented. It was a great opportunity to network with other workforce development professionals in not only Georgia, but in neighboring states as well. We were also able to receive updates from DC on funding and changes to initiatives. We also had breakout sessions on "building a workforce pipeline", integrated career pathways, and administrative functions for fiscal agents.



- Daniel Martin and I recently attended the Appalachian Regional Commission's Summit held in Asheville, NC. Topics included Economic Resilience, Recovery to Work and other Re-entry Initiatives, Main Street Initiatives, Emerging Opportunities in Appalachian Agriculture, Infrastructure, and Federal Opportunity Zones. GMRC Council Member, Connie Tabor presented at the conference and did a fantastic job discussing transforming downtowns through main street initiatives.

- Congratulations to Daniel Martin who has been selected by the Appalachian Regional Commission to be in the inaugural class of fellows for the Appalachian Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute is a comprehensive leadership and economic development training opportunity for people who live and/or work in the Appalachian Region. Congratulations Daniel!

Sincerely,

*Heather Feldman*

Heather Feldman



## Economic Development

Congratulations to the Development Authority of **Dawson** County for being awarded \$50,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission grant funding to assist with the development of an Economic Development Blueprint Plan.

### Grant Opportunity: Recreational Trails Program

Pre-applications will be accepted Sept. 1 - Nov. 17, 2019 for Recreational Trails Program grants. Please contact the Economic Development department for more information.



## Planning

### Brownfields

This fall the GMRC is applying for a FY 2020 EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant. A few properties have been identified as eligible and recommended for Phase 1 and 2 assessments by EPA, which would be performed if the grant is approved. Additionally, while a subcontractor would perform the environmental assessments GMRC staff would speak with all member governments to build an updated inventory of suspected and confirmed brownfield properties throughout the region to be targeted for future assessments and contaminant mitigation. As part of this process there will also be a brownfield educational forum to be held sometime after January 1. Parties interested in participating in this process, if the GMRC grant is awarded, should contact [ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov).

### Broadband Initiative

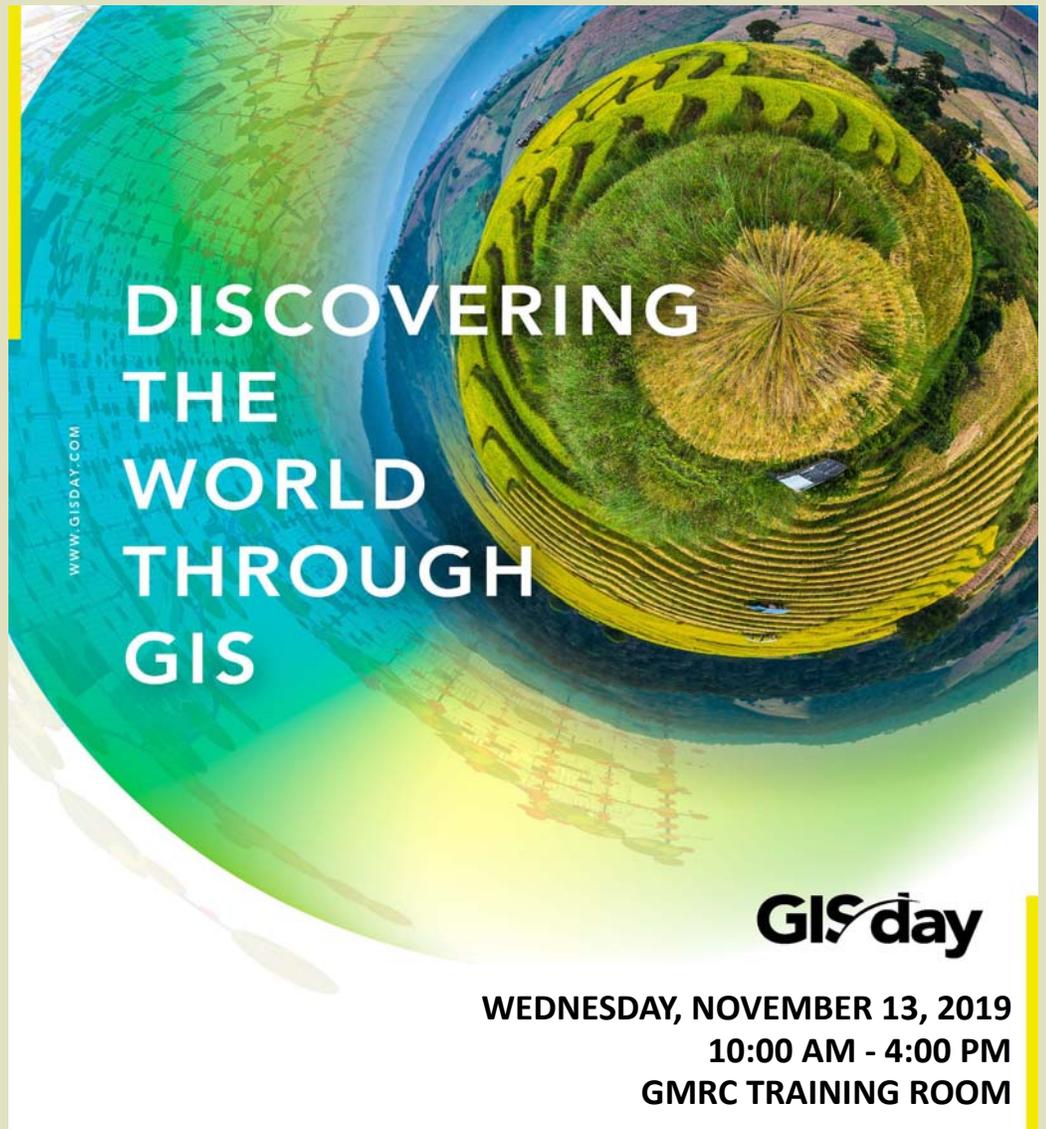
With assistance from the GMRC, **Lumpkin** County is updating their comprehensive plan to include a *Broadband Assessment* that will enable them to be eligible for participation with the Georgia Broadband Initiative. Earlier this year the State debut the web site ([www.broadband.georgia.gov](http://www.broadband.georgia.gov)) and programming for the Initiative, including the results of their mapping analysis to identify underserved areas across Georgia. Having a basic Broadband Assessment within your local plan shows how your needs and issues will be addressed in



concert with other community development priorities, and give the Georgia Department of Community Affairs guidance in how their program can best support your community. The GMRC will incorporate these assessments into all local plan updates going forward, but if you or your community wishes to act sooner please contact our Planning Department and we'll be happy to assist you with that effort.

# SAVE THE DATE

*You don't want to miss this!*



WWW.GISDAY.COM

## DISCOVERING THE WORLD THROUGH GIS

**GISday**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019**  
**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
**GMRC TRAINING ROOM**

## Historic Preservation

On Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, GMRC hosted the first ever Historic Preservation Forum for the Georgia Mountains Region. Ten attendees from local Historic Preservation Commissions, Main Street and CLG organizations, Planning Departments, and private firms in the region met to discuss recent trends in preservation focusing on HP101: National Register and Economic Incentives, Historic Resource Surveys, Local and Overlay Districts, Design and Conservation Guidelines, Demolition requests of historic resources and the Section 106 process. Attendees received four hours training credit for attending this program which can go towards annual training certification through HPD when needed. Future training events in historic preservation will be held in 2020 for groups and GMRC is also available to meet individually with preservation stakeholders to offer training focusing on local priorities as requested throughout the year.



## WorkSource Mobile Training Units

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- A total of twenty-four individuals received assistance on board the Career Coaches at the Goodwill sponsored job fairs in the counties of **Dawson** and **Hall**.
- The Career Coaches participated in a multi-employer job fair held at the Place of **Forsyth**. Fourteen people were assisted on board the Career Coach.
- The Mountain Education Center Charter High School in **Lumpkin** invited the Career Coach to hold a resume workshop. Eighteen students participated.
- A resume workshop was held at the Salvation Army of **Hall** County; there were four participants.
- Thirteen people visited the Career Coaches between two separate events at The Good Samaritan Food Bank in **Hall**.
- Ten inmates participated in a Career Exploration Workshop at Colwell Detention Center in **Union** County.
- During the month of August, there were eighteen WIOA applications completed on board the Career Coaches.

### *Career Coach Monthly Totals for August*

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total	Responses Per County
Total Job Searches	73	417	Banks— 2
Total Job App	5	44	Dawson— 11
Total Resumes	43	427	Forsyth— 43
Total Interviews	0	6	Franklin— 11
Total Interest Survey	10	49	Habersham— 6
Total Training Sessions	0	37	Hall— 31
Total Testing	0	0	Hart— 4
Total Typing Assessments	0	0	Lumpkin— 18
WIOA Info	31	458	Rabun— 0
Public Relations	2	35	Stephens— 11
			Towns— 4
			Union— 0
			White— 5
			Other— 18

## WorkSource Youth Program

- Introducing ROUTE 180. Route 180 Center seeks: *“To provide a safe place for youth participants and potential participants for growth, future/career planning, specified training, tutoring, workshops, work skills training, entrepreneurship skills development, mentoring, and peer groups. To assist in providing a pathway to employment for young adults in the Georgia Mountains region by equipping them through education, training and advancing skills in a competitive market that will lead to self-sufficiency.”* Grand opening for the Route 180 Center is set for the first of November; be on the lookout for more information about the grand opening event!
- Youth Staff presented three workshops to high school students on time management and soft skills in **Forsyth, Hall** and **Union** Counties.
- Youth Staff participated in two college days and fairs in **Banks** and **Union** Counties
- SHIFT participant Justine Gaudlock received her Nursing Assistant Certification. We are proud of her success! She continues progress toward earning her GED. Congratulations Justine!!!



# LULA DEPOT

The City of **Lula** held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 26, 2019 to open the newly renovated **Lula Depot**!



## *Save the Date!*

*The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's Annual Meeting  
is coming up on  
Friday, December 6, 2019*

*at*

*The Dillard House Conference Center  
Dillard, GA*

*Reception is at 4:45 pm  
Dinner and Awards begin at 6:00 pm*

### UPCOMING GMRC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

- 
- ⇒ Oct. 24, 2019\* Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega - *Haydn Blaize, State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator*
  - ⇒ Nov. 14, 2019 City of Dawsonville - Atlanta Motorsports Park  
*GMRC Audit / Rushton & Co.*
  - ⇒ Dec. 6, 2019 GMRC Annual Meeting / Awards Dinner - *Dillard House*
  - ⇒ Jan. 31, 2020 City of Cornelia - *Cheryl Smith, GA Dept. of Agriculture*

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

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