

February 2019

PINNACLE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

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Cover Photo:

"Water Lillies"

*taken from the Explore Georgia website;
exploregeorgia.org*



Heather Feldman,
Executive Director

- Congratulations to the City of **Helen** and **White** County on being showcased on the front of the new 2019 Explore Georgia Travel Guide!! The cover depicts a beautiful picture of tubing along the Chattahoochee River with Alpine **Helen** visible in the background.



- Congratulations to Hannah Mullins, Executive Director of the Development Authority of **Banks** County who was recently named a "Mover and Shaker" by Georgia Trend Magazine! She has worked closely with our staff on many projects, and we are proud of her on this well-deserved achievement.

- I recently had the honor of representing Georgia at the Southeastern Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) by presenting the marketing efforts of all Georgia Regional Commissions. It was a great opportunity to showcase the State of Georgia, but also to learn from other commissions in the southeast on their marketing efforts.



- The State Workforce Development Board recently held their board meeting at Lanier Technical College. Huge kudos to John Phillips, Whitney Williams, and Jessica Williams, who all had an opportunity to present and showcase the re-entry initiatives programs at the meeting!



- Adam Hazell, Joe Rothwell, and I recently had the opportunity to formally present the City of **Cumming** with their 2018 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award for the Atlanta Highway Corridor project. Additionally, Daniel Martin, Patrick Larson, and I also presented **Banks** County with their 2018 NADO Innovation Award for the Diana Food project. I also want to thank **Banks** County and Diana Food for arranging a tour of the facility as part of our visit. Congratulations to both the City of **Cumming** and **Banks** County on these successful projects, and we look forward to our continued partnership in the future!



Photo Credit: City of Cumming

- The GMRC is hosting a Lunch and Learn on March 20th on Short-Term Rentals. This forum will discuss the growing trend of private landowners offering their properties for short-term rentals. This session will further discuss how the trend has grown more prevalent, especially in tourist areas, and will review growing legal issues, tax implications, and enforcement options communities face in adapting to the new norm. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Adam Hazell at 770-538-2617 or ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov.

- Thank you to the City of **Royston** for hosting our most recent City and County Managers meeting at the **Royston** Depot. It was a great day of information sharing and probably had the greatest attendance to date!



- **SAVE THE DATE!!** GMRC will be hosting a Newly Elected Official training on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the **Dawsonville** Municipal Complex, located at 415 Highway 53 East, Suite 100, **Dawsonville**, GA 30534. While the training is designed for new elected officials (three years or less in office), we invite ALL elected officials in the Georgia Mountains Region to attend and learn more about the GMRC and the services we can provide to member cities and counties in the areas of Finance, Economic Development and Grant Writing, Information Services (GIS), Planning, and Workforce Development. Please RSVP to Peggy Lovell at plovell@gmrc.ga.gov or 770-538-2607 if you plan to attend. Thank you to the City of **Dawsonville** for hosting the workshop for GMRC!

Sincerely,

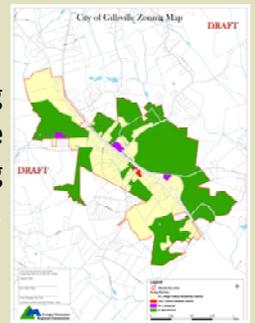
Heather Feldman

Heather Feldman
Executive Director



GIS Services

- Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) are co-hosting a regional workshop series entitled, “2020 Census: Organizing for a Complete Count” to provide information on how communities can ensure a good census count by organizing local complete count committees. These workshops are ideal for elected and appointed city and county officials. There is no cost to attend these workshops. Details are available below and online registration is available on the GMA website at: <https://www.gmanet.com/Training-Events/Calendar-Of-Events.aspx?keyword=2020%20Census>
- **ESRI Seminar, Maximizing Your GIS, Next Steps** - This free, half-day seminar is designed to inspire and guide you to getting the most from your organization’s investment. ESRI experts will demonstrate tips and tricks, share use cases to solve your biggest challenges, help you discover what’s new in the latest versions of ArcGIS, and guide you to begin maximizing the potential of your GIS. March 14, 2019 - Atlanta, GA - Sheraton Atlanta Hotel <https://www.esri.com/en-us/about/events/arcgis-user-seminars/dates-locations>
- The February project status report for the USGS 3DEP LiDAR acquisition project states that LiDAR acquisition is 39.3% complete and survey control is 65.8% complete. Any questions regarding this project, please contact Faith Bryan at (770) 538-2614 or fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov.
- On March 26th at 10:00 am, GMRC will host a Census Complete Count Workshop in the JB Jones Training Room. Rusty Haygood, Deputy Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs will share Georgia’s Complete Count Committee (CCC) efforts, county-by-county hard to count populations, and discuss the development of local Complete Count Committees. Great information for every local government to hear in preparation for the decennial Census 2020. Please RSVP to Faith Bryan at (770) 538-2614 or fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov by March 21st.
- GMRC staff has been working closely with the City of **Gillsville** to finalize their Official Zoning Map and establish voting districts.



Economic Development

- On behalf of the City of **Lavonia**, an EDA Public Works grant application for \$2,000,000 was submitted to assist with the **Lavonia** Gateway Sewer Improvements Project.
- The Georgia Association of Regional Commission’s (GARC) Economic Development Committee is currently working on a statewide Storymap project with each of the twelve Regional Commissions to showcase the impact of grant and loan funding across the state. At the February GARC-ED meeting in Macon, Daniel Martin gave an update on the project which will go live in late Spring 2019.



COUNCIL MEETING HILIGHTS

Thank you to Rope Roberts, Community and Economic Development Manager with Georgia Power, for serving as our program for our February Council Meeting. Rope gave a great update on the current economic trends in the Georgia Mountains Region and the growing need for workforce housing. A copy of his presentation can also be found on the GMRC’s website: www.gmrc.ga.gov



Regional Plan Update

The GMRC is in the process of updating its Regional Plan, the state required document that helps shape our work program and our ability to coordinate support for our member local governments. As part of this process, we've created a brief online survey asking people to give us their thoughts on select issues and priorities for the region. This survey will be accessible through March 31 and is open to anyone with a vested interest in the GMRC Region. Anyone wishing to participate should visit www.gmrc.ga.gov/RegionalPlan.htm and click the link marked "GMRC Regional Plan Survey" to share their thoughts.

Hartwell Neighborhood Assessment

With assistance from the GMRC, the City of **Hartwell** has submitted a Historic Preservation Fund grant application to the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office to help fund an update to their historic resource survey for five of their older neighborhoods. Encompassing approximately 300 resources, this assessment will help the city better understand the characteristics and conditions of the National Register of Historic Places listed neighborhoods and that information, in turn will help area stakeholders know how best to preserve this part of the community, how to help care for aging properties, and what programs the city could employ to keep the neighborhood attractive and thriving. The GMRC will be assisting with the field survey and property assessments, which will be conducted in FY20.



Lunch and Learn – Short-Term Rentals by Owner

On March 20th at 11:30, the GMRC will host a forum to discuss the growing trend of private landowners offering their properties for short-term rentals. Modern technology has endowed this phenomena as an alternative travel solution that can save travelers costs while helping the owners grow incomes, but this has also lead to new issues as these rentals often violate permitted uses or local codes, creating insurance concerns and legal matters when things go wrong, and generating conflicts among neighbors. This session will discuss how the trend has grown more prevalent, especially in tourist areas, and will review growing legal issues, tax implications, and enforcement options communities face in adapting to the new norm. Contact ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov for more information or to RSVP your spot.

WorkSource Adult/Dislocated Worker

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK!

WorkSource has begun an exciting new partnership with the **Hall** and **Dawson** Accountability Courts. We will be working with both counties and Lanier Technical College's Economic Development Division to offer short term training and employability skills workshops to Accountability Court participants. An information and application session was held on February 15th and over 20 potential participants attended. Participants who complete training will earn an OSHA 10 and forklift certification, complete a manufacturing course, and receive employability and soft skills training.

Youth

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Four participants completed their occupational skills certifications
- Ten GED graduates
- Youth staff participated in **Gainesville** High School Career Day
- Youth staff beginning preparations for 3rd Annual Summer Youth Conference to be held June 7, 2019. Interested individuals must RSVP to Ebony Tucker at 770-538-2722 to attend. (see save the date, below)

Mark your calendar!

**WorkSource Georgia Mountains
3rd Annual Youth Conference**

Save the Date

Youth Ages 16-24

When: June 7, 2019
Where: Ramsey Conference Center
 New Lanier Technical College
 Hall County Campus
Time: 8:30-3:30
Lunch Provided
Breakout Sessions, Fun, Games, Prizes
RSVP by May 17th

BRING a FRIEND

Georgia Mountains
WORK SOURCE GEORGIA
 Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
 Auxiliary Aids & Services Are Available Upon Request To Individuals With Disabilities

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

WHEN:

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

9am - Noon

WHERE:

Dawsonville City Hall

415 Hwy. 53 East, Suite 100

Dawsonville, GA 30534

The Newly Elected Officials Training will provide an opportunity for elected officials to increase their knowledge of the role of Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and how it can benefit your city or county.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Economic Development
- GIS
- Planning
- Workforce Development

To RSVP, please contact Peggy Lovell

770-538-2607; plovell@gmrc.ga.gov by March 1, 2019.



UPCOMING GMRC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

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- ⇒ Mar. 28, 2019 Stephens County - *Michael Nix, NextGen 911*
- ⇒ Apr. 25, 2019* City of Lavonia / Lavonia Depot - *Ben Cowart, GEFA*
- ⇒ May 30, 2019 Dawson County - *Legislative Appreciation Dinner*
- ⇒ Jun. 27, 2019 City of Cumming - *Michelle Daniels, Cumming-Forsyth Co. Chamber of Commerce*
- ⇒ July 25, 2019* Rabun County

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

*WD Board Meeting at 4:00 PM