



# The Chamber Comment

Official Newsletter For The

**THOMASTON-UPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

*"Proud To Represent America's Hometown® - Thomaston, Upson County"*

213 East Gordon Street - P.O. Box 827

Telephone 706-647-9686 - Fax: 706-647-1703

[www.thomastonchamber.com](http://www.thomastonchamber.com)

## WAKE UP WITH THE A.M. AMBASSADORS!

Rise and shine, Chamber members, the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors may soon be knocking at your door!

Each month, the Chamber Ambassadors will visit randomly selected Chamber members on a designated morning. The visit will include goodies sponsored in February by VanHouten & Boils, CPA, a gift basket from Upson Regional Medical Center and a big "thank you" from the Chamber Ambassadors. Through the A.M. Ambassador program, the Chamber of Commerce hopes to recognize those businesses and individuals who through their membership make the work of the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce possible.

**On February 21, the Chamber of Commerce A.M. Ambassadors will visit the following locations:**

Amedisys Home Healthcare, A&B Heating and Cooling, Bell Creek Wood Products, Pickard Pantries, Westwood Christian Academy, Tucker Communications, Turkey Creek Snacks, Minick Signs and the Boy Scout Reservation Camp.

Look for the ambassadors to be at your business between 9:30 am and 10:30 am.

**Be on the look out for the A.M. Ambassadors to visit you!**

## Representatives from Upson Regional Medical Center, Industrial Development Authority and Thomaston-Upson County Airport to speak at February 13 Chamber's Business Breakfast

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Gene Wright, CEO of Upson Regional Medical Center, Chris Laborde of the Industrial Development Authority and Mitch Ellerbee with the Thomaston-Upson County Airport will speak at the Sun's Up on Upson Business Breakfast on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

The breakfast will begin at 7:15 am and will be held in the Upson Regional Medical Center Auditorium. A light breakfast with coffee and juice will be served that morning, and the program will begin shortly after 7:30 am. The cost to attend this informative business breakfast will be \$8 for Chamber of Commerce Members and \$10 for Non-Chamber Members.

Everyone that attends the Sun's Up Breakfast on February 13 will be registered to win a free flight over Upson County, courtesy of the Thomaston-Upson County Airport Manager and attendees will also have a chance to win prizes from the Wellness Center and Massage Therapy Services courtesy of Upson Regional Medical Center.

**Deadline to register for this breakfast was February 6, 2008**

## Businesses donate items for Jr. Miss Judge's baskets

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following businesses for donating items to the Chamber for the Thomaston-Jr. Miss Judge's baskets: Jameson Inn of Thomaston, Thomaston-Upson Archives, Keadle Lumber Company, Turkey Creek Snacks, Thomaston Times, Upson County Farm Bureau, Bank of Upson, Quad/Graphics, The Rock, Karen Harville, Upson EMC, Trinity Publishing, Flint River Technical College, Specialties Flower Shop and Chili's Restaurant. The Chamber would also like to recognize Carley Gill for receiving Upson County Jr. Miss! Way to Go Carley!

**FREE EVENT**

# ENTREPRENEUR RESOURCE DAY

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Flint River Technical College  
Community Development Center Conference Room  
115 E. Main Street  
Thomaston, GA 30286

- Designed to offer education and information on resources available for business opportunities in Upson County
- Who should attend?  
Business owners or anyone interested in starting a business.
- Professional consultants will be available to answer your questions
- Meet with Statewide Resources from:
  - Georgia Department of Economic Development
  - University of Georgia Small Business Development Center
- Workshops and one-on-one counseling will be available throughout the day.
- Topics covered will include:
  - Writing a business plan
  - Financing your business
  - Expanding your business
  - Taxes and Payroll
  - Legal Aspects

**No  
Registration  
Required**



**Georgia**

**Entrepreneur  
Friendly**

**This is a FREE EVENT geared toward retail/small business owners or anyone interested in starting a business in Thomaston/Upson County.**

**For more information contact one of the program coordinators at:**

- The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce at 706-647-9686
- Flint River Technical College at 706-646-6161
- Entrepreneur Resource Center at 706-646-6246

# As a Matter of FAT

Thursday, February 21st  
11:05am  
(Group Exercise Room)

Dawn McCoy  
Registered Dietitian URMC

Participants will learn:

- The difference between saturated, polyunsaturated, and monounsaturated fats
- How fats act in the body
- To set personal goals regarding fat intake
- New healthy recipes



Free and open to the  
community.

Call to register.

706-647-4466

Or register online at [www.urmc.org](http://www.urmc.org)

*We have enjoyed and benefited from the educational classes taught by Dawn McCoy,  
Registered Dietitian. Gene & Janice Goins*

# “BULLDOG BANKER” COMES HOME

## COLONY BANK NAMES CHRIS PETTIS AS CITY PRESIDENT IN THOMASTON



Bob Cochran, Chairman of Colony Bank’s local advisory board, made the announcement last week, “On behalf of the bank and the board I am pleased to

announce that Chris Pettis has joined Colony Bankcorp, Inc. as our new City President here in Thomaston. Chris and his wife, Heather Hilley Pettis, are both Thomaston natives and both are already active in our community. In his former market Chris was an active member in numerous civic/charitable groups including A Partner of Education, The Rotary Club, The Chamber of Commerce and Ducks Unlimited. We look forward to his bringing that same energy and passion to Thomaston. Chris has

the personality, background and experience that it will take to make Colony Bank the recognized market leader here in Thomaston that it is in all of the other communities in which it serves. Please join us in welcoming Chris and his family back home to Thomaston, GA.”



Pettis remarked in a statement provided, “I am both excited and grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to join the Colony Bank family. Colony is an exceptional organization and the bank’s history here in Thomaston dates back for many years through Thomaston Federal. I think our clients today will see a return to what made the bank so successful in the past – friendly, personal attention to their banking and borrowing needs. I’ve learned from my clients over the last decade in financial services that the keys to a mutually fruitful and successful relationship are honesty and simplicity. No matter if it’s a simple lawnmower loan or a complex multimillion dollar commercial credit, people just want to know that they have a friend on the inside who will take the time to help them and to understand their needs. I’d like to invite everyone, current and previous clients alike, to stop in our lobby and enjoy a cup of coffee and sample a piece of

our ‘Colony Cake’ – a specially prepared treat from Vickie’s Cake Shop designed just for us. I look forward to meeting you there.”

Pettis and his wife gained local notoriety recently when they were featured on the Sept/Oct cover of *SCOOP Magazine*, a local who’s-who magazine. The article spotlighted their contributions and activities with The University of Georgia’s Griffin campus as well as their collegiate merchandise business, Collegiate-Collectibles.com. The magazine’s editor, Melanie Feltman, nicknamed Pettis “The Bulldog Banker,” a title by which Pettis says he’s proud to be known. In her cover story Feltman highlighted Pettis’ extensive career with several Fortune 500 and 100 companies including Bear Stearns, Bank of America, Smith Barney, Wachovia Bank and most recently as a mover-and-shaker for BB&T in the Griffin market. The cover picture is by renowned artist and cartoonist, Jack Davis.

Colony Bankcorp, Inc. (the "Company") is a Georgia based multi-bank holding company with its primary offices located in Fitzgerald, Georgia. The Company owns seven banking subsidiaries doing business from twenty-five offices in the South and Central Georgia cities of Albany, Ashburn, Broxton, Chester, Columbus, Cordele, Douglas, Eastman, Fitzgerald, Leesburg, Moultrie, Pitts, Quitman, Rochelle, Savannah, Soperton, Sylvester, Thomaston, Tifton, Valdosta, and Warner Robins. Colony Bankcorp, Inc. Common Stock is quoted on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol "CBAN.”



## Tasty Shoppe now open 7 days a week

Tasty Shoppe is now open seven days a week starting February 3. The hours of the business will be Monday through Saturday 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. A breakfast buffet is now being offered to Tasty Shoppe's customers on Sundays. You can dine in at the Tasty Shoppe or contact Mr. Ernie to place your order for pick-up, 706-647-5381.

## ***CHOCOLATE AND EXERCISE – PERFECT TOGETHER!***

Are you looking for a way to say thank you to a friend who has been there for you? Let us help. Bring a friend with you to exercise during our OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday, February 26th and we'll pay for your guest passes – we'll even be serving Chocolate Fondue and special treats from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., with membership specials throughout the day. This is an opportunity for you and your friends to come check us out and...who can turn down chocolate? Call Carla at the URMW Wellness Center, 706-647-4466 for more information.

## Chamber holds ribbon cutting for Modern Woodmen of America

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting in December for new member Modern Woodmen of America. Pictured in the photo at right from the Modern Woodmen of America office are:

Terri and Brent Franklin, owner; Dorothy Petty Harris(Thomaston), Dawn M. Lumpkin, District Manager; Robert L. Cooper, State Manager(Macon); Sandra Middlebrooks, Adm. Assist.(Macon); Joyce C. Smith (Thomaston); Not shown; Russel T. Shaw Sr. (Columbus); Rusty T. Shaw, Jr (Columbus); Jacqueline Towns ( Jenkinsburg); Deborah Miramontes (Forsyth); Barbara Allison (Barnesville). Also included in the photo are Chamber Board Members, Ambassadors and Chamber members. Modern Woodmen of America is located at 305 Short E Street in Thomaston, Georgia.



## Chamber holds ribbon cutting for Bundle of Beads Re-opening

Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting for the Grand Re-Opening of Bundle of Beads to help celebrate their new location, 206 South Center Street.

Pictured in the photo at left are Danny Brown, Lynn Brown, Brad Adams, Doreen Pittman, Rhonda Curry, Bill Bailey, Jessica Hilley, Sherry Strange, owners Nikkie and Donny Spoon, Shane Phillip and Heather and Chris Pettis. Bundle of Beads hours of operation are Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wed and Sat, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.





*OUR GIFT TO YOU...EXCLUSIVE  
RADIO ADVERTISING PACKAGES  
FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS ONLY!*

**GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A KICK START BY ADVERTISING  
ON THE AREA'S HOTTEST COUNTRY STATION –  
MOUNTAIN 94.5!**



*BEAR O'BRIAN IN THE  
MORNING!*

*JEFF TATE IN THE  
AFTERNOON!*

*ONLY THE BEST COUNTRY  
ALL DAY LONG!*

*PLUS COUNTRY'S  
LEGENDARY TREASURES!*

**Call Ty Baxley at 706.846.3016 or  
Email at: [tybaxley@yahoo.com](mailto:tybaxley@yahoo.com)  
to reserve your package today!**

**Mountain 94.5 has limited  
availability, SO ACT FAST!**



# *Chamber Member Spotlight*

## Kenny's Collision

Kenny's Collision is our Chamber Member Spotlight for the January/February 2008 Newsletter.

Kenny's Collision is a one-stop auto body and repair shop, including glass replacement, computer estimating, frame repairs, custom paint matching, and assistance with car rental. It has been in business since 1984 and its current owners are Kenny and Darnell Poteat.

Kenny's Collision employs ten people, some of which have been with them for over eight years! They offer service to all surrounding counties and their towing service, which is 24 hours a day, includes towing to and from other states.



Kenny's Collision recently opened their new office and hope that the citizens of Upson and surrounding counties will continue to let them be their auto body repair facility. Kenny's Collision is located at 341 Atwater Road here in Thomaston, in the same place they started in 1984. Their hours are Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm and their phone number is 706-648-6961.

Shown at right in the top photo is the new conference room at Kenny's Collision and in the bottom photo at left is the new main lobby.

## Small Business StartUp Basics packets available

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce offers comprehensive information on starting a new business. The packets, which are available at the Chamber, offer a StartUp basics document that outlines five areas of business development, as well as local, state and federal resource agencies.

Persons interested in starting a business are encouraged to come by the Chamber and pick up one of these packets, which are free of charge. Once these have been reviewed and a business plan begun, appointments can be made with members of the Chamber's Professional Consultants Team and/or the Small Business Development Center. For information, call the Chamber at 647-9686.

## Meeting Dates

**Tues. February 12**

Chamber Board Meeting 7:30 am  
Chamber office

**Tues. February 12**

Entrepreneur Resource Day 10 am  
to 4pm FRTC CDC Building

**Weds. February 13**

Sun's Up On Upson Breakfast  
URMC Auditorium – 7:15 am

**Weds. February 20**

Maintenance Rdtble – 7:30 am  
Quad/Graphics

**Thurs. February 21**

A.M. Ambassador Deliveries 9:30  
am to 10:30 am Meet at Chamber

**Fri. February 22**

Ambassador Meeting Noon –  
Chamber Office

**Tues. February 26**

WEDA Meeting – 8am FRTC CDC  
Building

**Thurs. February 28**

Existing Industry Rdtble 7:30 am  
E7 Technologies

**Weds. March 5**

Chamber Exec Board 7:30 am  
Chamber Office

**Thurs. March 6**

YLU Tour 8am -Chamber Office

**Sat. March 8**

Fire on the Mountain Event  
Spewell Bluff State Park - Noon

**Mon. March 10**

YLU Judging for Hubert Hancock  
Award – 2:30 pm Chamber Office

**Tues. March 11**

Chamber Board Meeting 7:30 am  
Chamber Office

**Thurs. March 13**

Business After Hours Hosted by  
Michael's Dalton Carpet 5:30 pm

**Tues. March 18**

WEDA 8am FRTC CDC Building

## New members Jan-Feb 2008

**Bundles of Beads – Nikkie Spoon – 706-646-0046**

**Ingles – Chris Crews – 706-648-1953**

**M&W Builders – Mark Sollenberger – 706-648-3696**

**RVSC Technology – Vonda Bailey – 770-584-3097**

**South City Grill – Lindsey Morgan – 706-646-3333**

**The Junction – Mark Sollenberger – 706-472-3154**

## Renewals Jan-Feb 2008

**1<sup>st</sup> Franklin Financial**

Doris Pippin  
706-647-8410

**Atlantic Paper & Foil**

Steve Sherer  
706-646-2700

**Avianos**

Peter Tsamolias  
706-646-3939

**Big C Pharmacy**

Ashley Bowles  
706-647-8267

**Brewton, Sam Jr MD**

Retired Member

**Bridges, Dan MD**

706-647-9412

**Creative Signs**

Lamar Oglesby  
706-647-9536

**Econo Lodge**

Sam Patel  
706-648-2900

**Estes, Sue**

Individual Member

**Fallin State Farm Ins.**

Robert Fallin  
706-648-2185

**Fieseler, David P, MD PC**

Lyn Manner  
706-647-9638

**Five Star Food Service**

Craig Morin  
706-647-6647

**Georgia Duplicating**

Leon Strickland  
800-521-8005

**H Gary Johnson**

Gary Johnson  
706-647-5485

**Farmer's Furniture**

Freddie Vaughan  
706-648-3700

**Hill Construction**

Allen Hill  
706-647-8986

**Jameson Inn**

Sara Wilson  
706-648-2232

**JM Clayton Company**

W C Byrd  
706-647-8168

**Mallory & Trice**

Ed Trice, Jr.  
706-647-1842

**Oracle Packing of Ga.**

Tommy Eubanks  
706-647-6671

**Pasley-Fletcher Funeral**

Jim Fletcher  
706-647-6644

**Pitts Pest Control**

James Yarbrough  
706-647-2329

**Riverbend Restaurant**

J. B. Berryhill  
706-647-9738

**Simmons, Dr. Al**

Retired Member

**South-Tel**

Robin Bullington  
706-647-8440

**Specialties Flowers**

Debbie Gignillat  
706-648-2111

**Straughan, Kirk**

Retired Member

**T-U Archives**

Penny Cliff  
706-646-2437

**T-U Board of Ed**

Dr. Maggie Shook  
706-647-9622

**Traditions of Thomaston**

Melody Gaskins  
706-647-5007

**Renewals Continued on page 11**

**Event Partners:**

Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources and State Parks & Historic Sites Divisions, Georgia Forestry Commission, Thomaston-Upson County Chamber of Commerce, The Nature Conservancy of Georgia, Callaway Gardens, Georgia Power, The Environmental Resources Network, Inc. (T.E.R.N.)

# Fire On The Mountain!

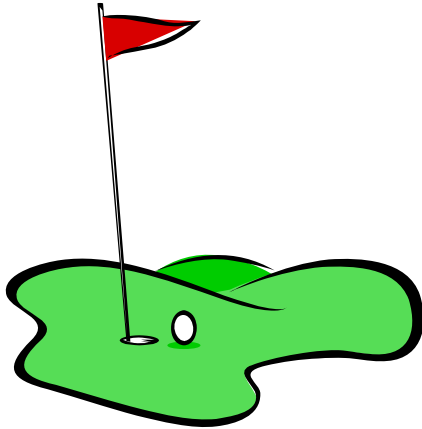
Saturday, March 8, 2008  
Sprewell Bluff State Park  
Thomaston, Georgia

Festivities begin at 12 p.m. - \$3.00 parking fee

Come together with your family and friends for a celebration of what makes the Pine Mountain Region at Sprewell Bluff State Park such a magnificent place: wildlife, ancient longleaf pine forests, bluegrass music and **FIRE!**

- ≡ Enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks, bluegrass tunes, visits with Smokey the Bear, and much more!
- ≡ Demonstrations on how prescribed fires are conducted and why, presentations on Georgia's unique and diminishing longleaf pine forests, and LIVE animal programs showcasing some of the wonderful wildlife that call Sprewell Bluff home.
- ≡ Experience the fascinating phenomenon of prescribed fire while safely watching from the banks of the Flint River at Sprewell Bluff State Park as the professionals begin to set Fire on the Mountain!

Please visit [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com) before March 8, 2008 for further information and possible event cancellation and rain date (March 15) arrangements.



~ **Ag South Farm Credit** ~  
~ **Gas South** ~  
~ **Richard Bishoff, Atty. at Law** ~  
~ **Quad/Graphics** ~  
~ **United Bank** ~  
~ **West Central Georgia Bank** ~

*Present the*

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce  
Business Open Golf Tournament**

**Wednesday, March 26, 2008**

**\$60/golfer or \$200/team**

**Supertickets - \$20 each player**

**(Includes chipping/putting contest, mulligan, closest to the hole, longest drive and two raffle tickets for a chance to win a new color t.v.)**

Schedule

Registration & Driving Range  
Open at 9 a.m.

Chipping & Putting Contest

10:00 am

Shotgun Start

11:00 am

**Ft Lauderdale Scramble - 18-Hole Format - Soft Spikes Required**

**Cash Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall**

**Hole-In-One-Car Give Away  
Sponsored by Moore-Olds-Buick of Thomaston**

**Don't Miss Your Chance to Sponsor this Great Chamber Event! Contact the Chamber today for more details, 706-647-9686.**

## Renewals Continued for January and February 2008

### Ten Cate

Mike Anderson  
706-647-1385

### Thomaston Family Practice

Dan J. Bramlett, MD  
706-647-8901

### Thomaston Family Practice

Ralph P. Warnock, MD  
706-647-8901

### Upson County Extension

Wes Smith  
706-647-8989

### Upson County Farm Bureau

Nita Brannon  
706-648-6668

### Upson County Sheriff's Dept

Sheriff Don Peacock  
706-646-7900

### Upson Superior Court

Nancy Adams  
706-647-7835

### Verizon Wireless

706-647-5404

### Walthall Oil Company

Frank W. Walthall III  
706-647-7043

### West Central Georgia Bank

Eddie Rogers  
706-647-8951

### Westwood Christian Academy

Susan Trawick  
706-647-8131

### West Village Retirement

Charlotte Bickley  
706-647-5168

### Whitaker Forestry

Fred Whitaker  
706-656-6902

### Williams Photography

Gary & Sandra Williams  
770-584-6290

### Woodbury Box Company

Susan Hall  
706-647-1162

### Zaxby's

Kay McDaniel  
706-647-1800

### Yellowbook USA

Keisha Adison  
770-707-0295

## *Business After Hours to be held March 13, 2008*

*The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours will take place on March 13, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

*The March Business After Hours will be hosted by Michael's Dalton Carpet Outlet and Home Center.*

*Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this Saint Patrick's Day themed Business After Hours Event.*

*Invitations for the event will be sent out closer to the actual date of the after hours. Please contact the Chamber of Commerce if you would like to host the September 2008 Business After Hours, 706-647-9686.*



## “FUN”-DAMENTAL FRIDAYS: LUNCH AND LEARN WORKSHOP SERIES

# Writing an Effective Business Plan

Starting a business without a plan is like going on a trip without a map. A business plan helps you start, build and manage your business. Learn why a business plan is critical to your success, especially if you need a loan or an investor for your business. This course will explain the sections of the business plan, what information is required for each section, and the general format for a business plan. In addition, you will receive a detailed planning outline and other information to help you develop an effective business plan right away.

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center will hold a **Lunch and Learn for Writing an Effective Business Plan** on Friday, April 18, 2008 from 11:30 am to 2 pm at the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce.

Cost for the seminar is \$20 for Chamber Members and \$30 for Non-Members, this cost includes lunch. Please contact the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce by April 11 to register for this informative seminar, 706-647-9686 or fill out the attached sheet below and fax to the Chamber of Commerce, fax – 706-647-1703.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chamber Member: Yes  No  \$20 For Members/\$30 For Non-Members

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE THOMASTON-UPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
P.O. BOX 827 – THOMASTON, GA 30286

*The SBDC program is funded by The University of Georgia and the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA's funding is not an endorsement of any products, opinions or services. All SBA funded programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements will be made for persons with disabilities if requested in advance.*

# “Get Certified

...and let's get to work.”



## Become Work Ready

Earning a Georgia Work Ready Certificate seals your reputation as a highly skilled, uniquely qualified candidate for any job. Having the certificate shows your commitment to work and gives you a competitive edge over all the others vying for the same job.

It's all part of Georgia's new Work Ready initiative, an ambitious strategy to make our workers the best in the country. The backbone of the initiative is this strikingly efficient worker certification program that assesses the real world skills of Georgia's workers and provides valuable job training. That, combined with an innovative job profiling process that identifies with laser precision what kind of worker a company needs, has everyone talking.

With **Work Ready**, Georgia workers are finding great jobs and realizing a better quality of life. To find out how to become Work Ready, visit [www.gaworkready.org](http://www.gaworkready.org) or call Teri Kinard, Assessment Specialist, Flint River Technical College at 706.646.6226.

