



The Chamber Comment

Official Newsletter For The

THOMASTON-UPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

110 West Main Street - P.O. Box 827

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

www.thomastonchamber.com

WAKE UP WITH THE A.M. AMBASSADORS!

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

Each month, the Chamber Ambassadors visit randomly selected Chamber members and non-members on a designated morning. *The visit includes goodies sponsored in January by West Central Georgia Bank, 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 and dedication to the community make the work of the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce possible.

On January 21, 2010, the A.M. Ambassadors will deliver baskets to the following businesses between 10-11 am:

Members: Express Employment Professionals, Northside Drug Store, Brad Adams Insurance,
Non-Members: Citi Financial, Middle Georgia Carpets, Northside Pawn Shop and Sonic Drive-In.

There's no place like home.

This year, spend your shopping dollars in Upson County and support the community we call home. In return, you'll get excellent customer service, convenience and friendly faces,

NOT TO MENTION THE CHANCE TO WIN \$500 IN CASH OR \$250 IN SHOP THOMASTON GIFT CERTIFICATES!

For every \$25 that you spend at a local Chamber Member's business, from November 1, 2009 through December 21, 2009, you will be eligible to register for the "Shop Thomaston" drawing that will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2009.

One lucky winner will receive \$500 in Cash, sponsored by Colony Bank of Thomaston and runner-up will receive \$250 in Shop Thomaston Gift Certificates.

In order to qualify for the "Shop Thomaston" drawing participants must:

- ✓ Purchase from a local Chamber Member Business
(For an official list of all Chamber Member businesses, please stop by the Chamber office)
- ✓ The amount of the purchase must be \$25 or greater to be eligible to enter
- ✓ Submit the original receipt from the local Chamber Member to the Chamber of Commerce, in person by 4 pm on Monday, Dec. 21, 2009
- ✓ Receipts must be dated between Nov. 1, 2009 through Dec. 21, 2009

The drawing will take place on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 8:30 am. Winners will be contacted by phone. Please put your name, address and phone number on the back of the original receipt that you will submit for entry into the drawing.

There is not a limit on the number of receipts that can be submitted for the drawing. We are encouraging everyone to SHOP LOCAL CHAMBER MEMBERS, so the more you shop, the more chances you have to enter and win.

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce is located at 110 West Main Street, in downtown Thomaston. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 5 pm and Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm. The Chamber office is closed Saturday and Sunday. The "Shop Thomaston" Drawing is sponsored by Colony Bank of Thomaston and the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce.

A.M. Ambassadors visit local schools and businesses

Shown below are Chamber Members A&B Heating and Cooling, T-U Board of Education, U-L High School and U-L Middle School



Shown below are non-Chamber Member businesses that were visited by the Chamber of Commerce: U-L North, U-L Pre-K, Parkway Florist and U-L South.



Sponsors of the A.M. Ambassador program for the month of November were: The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce A.M. Ambassadors, Upson Regional Medical Center, Moore Buick and United Bank. Shown in the photo above are Chamber Members A&B Heating & Cooling, T-U Board of Education, U-L High School and U-L Middle School. The Chamber also delivered baskets and membership packets to non-chamber members, U-L North, U-L South, U-L Pre-K and Parkway Florist. Photos taken during the Ambassador deliveries are taken by Lori Smith.



Thomaston Ford is proud to announce that it is time for their Annual Empty Stocking Fund Toy Drive!

Just bring in a new unwrapped toy to our showroom and deposit it in the bed of the truck from now until December 7, 2009!



Congratulations to Thomaston Ford and Kenny's Collision. Both businesses are celebrating 25 years in business in Thomaston, Upson County

Youth Leadership Upson and local industries

Members of the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce 2009-2010 Youth Leadership Upson Program are: *Addie Bell, Tyler Blount, Shelby Bridges, Will Ellerbee, Elisabeth Fletcher, Katelyn Gaskins, Hannah Hurst, Katelyn Lewis, Ivy Pope, Hampton Sims, Meghann Smith, Alexis Swafford and Sara Strouss. Shelley Daniel of Century 21 Adams- Harvey is the Chair of the youth program and Travis Weed of United Bank is Vice-Chair.*

Sponsored by The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce, Upson EMC, Ten Cate', Camp Thunder Boy Scout Reservation and American Pie Pizzeria, the group began their sessions with an orientation in October and then met for an over-night stay at Camp Thunder in November.

The class will meet every month throughout the school year to learn more about the various industries, local city, county, state government, healthcare and recreation located in Thomaston and how it all works together. The students will visit with local industries on December 1, 2009, with local City and County leaders on January 14 and then visit the State Capitol in February. The program will be topped off with the selection of one student taking part in the Upson EMC trip to Washington, D.C. for an outstanding leadership experience.

New Hours announced at Hickory Ridge

Hickory Ridge Restaurant Hours:

Monday-Thursday - Lunch 11 am -2 pm dinner 5 pm-till close

Friday-Saturday 11 am-till close

Closed Sunday

Thursday night 50 cent wing special!

Saturday night prime rib special!

Golf Hours:

Monday-Sunday 8 am -5 pm

Monday special \$15.00 for a round of golf, plus tax and includes cart fee!

All other days, \$28.00 for a round of golf, plus tax and includes cart fee!

Twilight hours \$20.00 after 2 pm



Now Booking for Events & Parties! Call 706-648-2955 for more information.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO THOMASTON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009!

SANTA WILL ARRIVE AT THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE IN DOWNTOWN THOMASTON AT 6 PM.

SANTA WILL BE CHECKING HIS LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE, SO MAKE SURE YOU VISIT HIM ON NOVEMBER 26 TO SEE IF YOU WILL BE RECEIVING ANYTHING THIS YEAR! FOR MORE INFO CALL 706-647-8311.



A Magical Winter Wonderland

1st Annual Christmas Parade

November 28th 5:30 PM

Parade Begins at Matthews Field

For more information, please contact Main Street @ 706-647-8311

EVENTS CALENDAR**Thurs. November 26**

Santa on the Square – 6 pm - until

Sat. November 28

Santa will be at Bank of Upson

Sat. November 28

Christmas Parade in downtown

Tues. December 1

YLU to tour local industry

Tues. December 1

Traditions of Thomaston to host
Business After Hours: 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Tues. December 1

Colony Bank & URMC to host lunch
and learn at URMC - Noon

Weds. December 2

Chamber Executive Board Meeting
7:30 am at the Chamber office

Thurs. December 3

Victorian Christmas in downtown
Thomaston 6-7 pm Kiwanis
Sponsored event

Sat. December 5

Fly for Tots-T-U Airport 8 am to 3 pm

Mon. December 7

Govt. Roundtable Meeting, Noon,
hosted by the Board of Education

Tues. December 8

Chamber Board of Directors meeting,
7:30 am at the Chamber office,
breakfast will be served

Weds. December 9

Chamber Membership meeting, all
membership chairs are asked to attend,
noon at the Chamber office

Weds. December 15

WEDA Meeting 8 am at the Chamber
office

Thurs. December 17

Manufacturers Roundtable will not be
held during the month of December.

The A.M. Ambassadors will not
deliver goody baskets during the
month of December

The Brag Rag

NEW MEMBERS – NOVEMBER

Billy Brannon Construction, Inc.

Billy Brannon

770-584-2868

Individual Member

Anne Kelley

Split Endz Salon

Lisa Ryals

706-648-4247

RENEWALS – NOVEMBER

Georgia High School Association

Joyce Kay

706-647-7473

Thomaston Family Practice

Dr. Dan Bramlet

706-647-8901

Thomaston Family Practice

Dr. Ralph P. Warnock

706-647-8901

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of our new members for joining the Chamber and especially all of our Chamber members that renew their investment into the community each year by being a member of the Chamber!

Looking for postcards of Upson County? Look no further. The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and the Thomaston-Upson Archives now have postcards for sell for only 50 cents each. Choose from 12 different postcards! Contact the Chamber for more information, 706-647-9686.



Photos with Santa!

Saturday, November 28th

9:00—noon

Bank of Upson Downtown

\$6 Donation

***Proceeds go to Georgia National Guard Family
Support Foundation.***

All contributions welcome!

**BANK OF
UPSON**

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce
America's Hometown Collection
JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Back by popular demand,
The Upson County Courthouse Replica

NEW for 2009
The 1st United Methodist Church Replica



Reserve your buildings today with one of the
Chamber Members below!

Hometown Printers - 706-647-3115

Noell's Dress Shop - 706-647-5210

Traditions of Thomaston - 706-647-5007

Only a limited supply of buildings will be ordered, so reserve yours today!

Suggested Retail Price - \$58.95 each for Church and Courthouse

Also Available:

Hotel Upson



R.E. Lee High School



Auchumpkee Creek Covered Bridge



Reserve your buildings with one of the Chamber Members below!

Hometown Printers - 706-647-3115

Noell's Dress Shop - 706-647-5210

Traditions of Thomaston – 706-647-5007



&



Invite you to a Lunch & Learn with Glen Gould of Inspiration Agents

INSPIRATION
Agents

Organic Gardening

How you can build your community and your business.
Tuesday, December 1, 2009 in the URMC Auditorium

Meet & Greet at 11:30 am ~ Lunch Served at 12 pm

RSVP by November 13, 2009 to Chris Pettis 706-647-6601 or cpettis@colonybank.com

Open invitation to attend a luncheon on December 1st, 2009 at the URMC auditorium. RSVP required and seating is limited. This will be another in the series of joint civic club community luncheons provided by Colony Bank and URMC with guest speakers who address the needs of our community. The speaker will be Glen Gould of Inspiration Agents <http://www.inspirationagents.com/aboutus.php> who works closely with The Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce in coordinating the success of their members through networking. He is going to customize a presentation especially for Thomaston on how we can strengthen our local economy called "Organic Gardening - How You Can Build Your Community and Your Business."

Jingle, Jingle
Mingle, Mingle



Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce
Business After Hours

Tuesday, December 1, 2009
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Hosted by: Traditions of Thomaston

Please RSVP by November 27,
706-647-9686

Victorian Christmas on the Square

The Victorian Christmas on the Square will take place on Thursday, December 3, 2009. This traditional Christmas event is sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Thomaston and will be on the town square from 6 to 7 pm. Everyone is also invited to shop downtown Thomaston this holiday season. Please call 706-647-4242 for more information.



**CHRISTMAS LANE ON "R" STREET
WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

FLY FOR TOTS

**15th Annual Christmas Fundraiser
for our local Empty Stocking Fund**



**Hosts: West Central Georgia Flying Club
and Thomaston-Upson County Airport**

DATE: December 5, 2009 (Sat.)

FLIGHTS: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Thomaston-Upson Co. Airport (Delray Road)

Bring a toy or cash donation (Adults: \$20 / Children 16 & Under: \$10) to receive a free flight over Thomaston or a pancake breakfast (8 am to 11 am only). Please leave gifts unwrapped.

Let's join hands and make sure every child wakes with a smile on Christmas morning.

*Passengers under 18 must have guardian sign our waiver BEFORE receiving flight.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

Are there hard-to-shop for people on your Christmas List this year?
Do you rack your brain every year trying to find the perfect gift for a loved one?

The Chamber of Commerce has the answer:

The Thomaston-Upson: A Great Place To Shop! Gift Certificates.

These gift certificates can be purchased in \$10, \$15 and \$25 amounts and there are over 50 different businesses in Upson County where the gift certificates can be redeemed. Choose from local restaurants to drug and hardware stores, retail stores and hair salons, to car maintenance, this is the perfect gift for anyone! Contact the Chamber of Commerce today for more information, 706-647-9686. Below are the businesses where the bucks can be redeemed. Make shopping easy this year. Purchase all of your loved ones on your Christmas list, "A Great Place to Shop" Gift Certificates! Contact the Chamber for a complete list of Chamber members that accept the Shop Thomaston Gift Certificates.

Get the Best of Both Worlds with Innovative Insurance Product!

Employees want choices in health insurance benefits to meet their individual needs. Additionally, business owners need help now as much as ever with keeping their costs under control.

Enter Employee Elect, a product developed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa*) that provides a welcome solution to the needs and wants of both employee's and employer's alike!

Under the Employee Elect product, an employer can decide how much money they wish to spend on coverage, then each employee chooses the product(s) that work best for their situation from a list of 30 different medical insurance plans. In this way, each eligible employee can have the best plan to suit them!

Since this is a revolutionary product model which most people do not know exists, there is an opportunity for savvy business owners to gain a hiring and retention advantage over their competitors' with this product.

In addition, all the BCBSGa plan options are available at reduced premium rates to eligible business members of our Chamber of Commerce! Through the group "buying power" of the *MemberCare Alliance of Upson CountySM*, we are part of a statewide network of over 130 Chambers of Commerce offering discounted insurance products to Chamber member businesses. The *MemberCare Alliance of Upson County* program includes a variety of discounted insurance products, such as: group term, voluntary and dependent life insurance, group dental insurance, group long term and short term disability, accidental death and dismemberment and long term care insurance.

For more information on these insurance offerings, please call the Chamber, one of your participating Chamber-member insurance agents, or Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc., (the company that developed *MemberCare Alliance of Upson County* program) at 770-579-1214 or 1-800-782-8254 ext. 3512.

**An independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.*

FRTC registration dates set for Winter Quarter

Early Registration

Thursday, December 17, 2009

Late Registration

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Winter Quarter Begins

Monday, January 11, 2010

Thomaston-Upson Arts Council Holiday Happenings



TUAC's **Mistletoe Market** will begin on Tuesday, December 1st. Featuring one of a kind gift ideas by local artists. Available for sale: Original paintings and prints, pottery, holiday ornaments, photography, notecards, artistic floor rugs, wood bowls, jewelry, home decor and much more! Why not buy a unique gift for that special someone and support our local artists! The TUAC gallery is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10 am to 5 pm and Wednesdays 10 pm to 12 pm.

On Saturday, December 12th TUAC will present its first **FUN FAMILY MATINEE**. These events are awesome performances **FREE** to the public. Our first program will feature the **Capitol City Opera Company** from Atlanta, Georgia in "**Hansel and Gretel**". This **FREE** show will take place at the R.E. Lee auditorium at 2 pm. What a great time to spend as a family! Sponsors for the **FAMILY FUN MATINEES** are Bank of Upson, Pasley-Fletcher Funeral Home, QUAD Graphics and FYCA.



"Sounds of the Season" will fill the air as TUAC presents a Christmas Show featuring local pianists, vocalists and musicians. You will here 3 grand pianos, harp, flute, oboe, handbells and violin all ringing in the Christmas Season. The program will take place on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 7pm at the R.E. Lee auditorium. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$5.00 children. Corporate Sponsor for this event is Dr. Jonathan Busbee.

