



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.thomastongachamber.com

The T-U Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors & Ambassadors would like to invite the following Chamber Members to attend the

3rd Wednesday Wake-Up
"Making Member to Member Connections Happen"

On Wednesday, February 15 from 7:30-8:30 am: Cook's Market, Caldwell & Irvin Attorneys at Law, Central Georgia Cleaning, Cherokee Pharmacy, Coldwell Banker-Kecia Adams, Commercial Finance, Day Realty Company, Gardner Veterinary Services, Georgia High School Association, Holloway's Tire and Auto Service, Hometown Printers and Northside Superette.

The meeting will take place at the Chamber office located at 110 West Main Street and donuts, coffee and juice will be served.

Items of Discussion that morning will include informing members of upcoming events, Chamber committees and Membership Benefits and of course what we can do for our Members!



SAVE THE DATE!

**The Thomaston-Upson
Chamber of Commerce**

**10th Annual Business Open
Golf Tournament**

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

\$60 per player/or \$200 per four-man team!

**Cash Prizes to be awarded to 1st, 2nd and
3rd Place winners!**

**Call the Chamber office for more information or to
register your team, 706-647-9686.**

Todd Long to discuss TSPLOST at February 22 Sun’s Up Breakfast

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and Three Rivers Regional Commission are pleased to announce that Todd Long with the Georgia Department of Transportation will be the guest speaker for the February 22 Sun’s Up on Upson Business Breakfast. Mr. Long will discuss the TSPLOST that will be voted on in Georgia in 2012. The cost to attend the breakfast is \$8 per person and the meeting will take place at the URMCA Auditorium. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 am and the program will begin shortly afterwards. Please call the Chamber to reserve your seat, 706-647-9686. You must RSVP if you plan to attend.

Todd Long is a native of Hinesville, Georgia. He studied at the Georgia Institute of Technology and earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering with honors in 1989. He worked as a graduate assistant while earning his Masters of Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1990. Long earned the certification of Professional Engineer in 1994, and his certification as a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer in 2002.



Long began his career with the Georgia Department of Transportation in its extensive training program in 1990. He then served in the Office of Planning at the DOT Headquarters in Atlanta. In 1996, Long moved to Gainesville as the District One Traffic Engineer. He later served as District Preconstruction Engineer, Assistant District Engineer and then District Engineer. In 2005, Long returned to DOT headquarters and served as Director of Administration and Director of Preconstruction where he oversaw the delivery of the Department’s multi-billion dollar construction work program. In August of 2008, Long became the Director of Business Operations for the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

As a result of legislation during the 2009 Georgia General Assembly, Long was selected by Governor Perdue to fill a critical role mandated by the passing of Senate Bill 200: Director of Planning. The legislation specifically provides the Governor the authority to appoint the Director of Planning who operates within the GDOT organization. Long is responsible for a variety of reporting and planning activities directed from the legislation. He also directs the full planning team at DOT and coordinates with external transportation organizations across Georgia to help form the best transportation system for the State’s citizens. Long is also responsible for coordinating the efforts for implementing House Bill 277 passed during the 2010 General Assembly. Long was reappointed by Governor Deal and confirmed by the General Assembly in January of 2011 to continue serving as the Director of Planning.

Make your Sun’s Up on Upson Reservations Today!

For more information or to make reservations, call the Chamber of Commerce at (706) 647-9686, or fax this sheet to (706) 647-1703. Deadline to register for this event is February 15, 2012.

A special thanks to our February Sun's Up Sponsor, Three Rivers Regional Commission.

Company Name: _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Names of those attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

3rd Wednesday Wake-Up “Making Member to Member Connections Happen”

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce held the January 3rd Wednesday Wake-Up meeting on January 18 at the Chamber office. Those present for the meeting were Nick Martin, AgSouth Farm Credit; Wynn Trice, Edward Jones Financial Advisor; Alison Uphold, Thomaston Hospice; Sydney Lord, Driver & Adams CPA; Laurie Holmes, Colony Bank; Robbin Kent and Sherri Gilson, CareSouth Homecare Professionals; Jeff Stribling, Quad/Graphics; Sam Baity, Individual Chamber member; Lisa Ellington, Bank of Upson and Mitch Ellerbee, Thomaston-Upson County Airport. Not pictured is Angel Moore from Westwood Christian Academy. Sponsors for the January meeting were The Wellness Center of Upson Regional Medical Center and Upson EMC.



Each month the Chamber will invite members to attend the 3rd Weds Wake-Up meeting to learn about upcoming events, Chamber committees and membership benefits.

Youth Leadership Upson tours State Capitol and learns about Economic Development in Atlanta

On Tuesday, January 24, the Youth Leadership Upson class took a tour of the Georgia State Capitol and met Governor Nathan Deal and then met with representatives from Georgia EMC, Electric Cities of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Economic Development to learn more about their active roles in Economic Development within communities like Upson County.

A special thanks to Principal Tracy Caldwell and Upson-Lee High School for providing transportation for the students to the Capitol. We would also like to thank Michelle Cooper and Amanda Fields (Electric Cities of Ga.) for providing lunch for the students as well as Susan Peacock (Ga. EMC) and Jonathan Lupo (Ga. Department of Economic Development) for taking the time to speak to the students in depth about Economic Development and how it plays a major role in every community.

Students in the 2012 class are Mary Coker, Matt Crawford, Banks Fletcher, Davie Hudgins, Lucy Jones, Sarah Jordan, Haley Phillips, Tyler Pittman, Brooke Seay, Jade Shumate, Leah Smith and Savannah Suarez. Shelley Daniel representing the T-U School System is Chair of the youth program Bobby Bickley representing Bank of Upson and Dan Kilgore representing Upson County Sheriff's Department are both Vice-Chairs.

The YLU class will have their Tourism tour on February 21 and their graduation ceremony will be held on March 27 at the Upson EMC Warehouse building.

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The Youth Leadership Upson program is sponsored by the T-U Chamber, Upson EMC and Ten Cate'.



Upson Regional Awarded for Patient Safety

Upson Regional Medical Center kicks off the New Year with two statewide awards for excellence in patient safety.

Upson is recognized with first place in the 2011 Georgia's Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) Quality and Patient Safety Awards for Maintaining Zero Hospital-Associated Infections in its Intensive Care Unit and first place for implementation of its bedside medication verification (BMV) system.

Chief Clinical Officer Josee Gill said, "We believe it is our responsibility to deliver quality care in a safe environment without causing any additional pain or suffering for our patients or their family members, and at Upson, our patients receive better care as a result of our efforts to do no harm."

Upson has proven successful in keeping its ICU patients safe from hospital-acquired infections, and Upson is awarded first place statewide for achieving **zero** cases of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia for 53 months and **zero** Central Line Infections for 32 months.

"By placing the patient at the center of all decisions, it is possible to eliminate preventable harm," Gill said. "No one wants to inadvertently make a patient sicker, which is why our Intensive Care staff follow explicit checklists to ensure our patients are safe from infection, every patient, every time." Upson also received a statewide award among hospitals of similar size for efforts to eliminate medication errors.

When it comes to receiving medications in the hospital, there's no room for error. As a patient, you need to be assured of your "five rights" --that you will be the right patient, who will receive the right medication, the right dosage by the right route and at the right time. To that end, Upson uses a bedside electronic system that features bar code scanning technology (BMV) whenever medications are dispensed.

Chief Executive Officer, David Castleberry says this award is not about having the technology; it's about how nurses on the frontline at Upson use it to keep patients safe. "Lots of hospitals have BMV, very few hospitals use the technology as consistently as we do at Upson, and we have scan rates right at 100% because our caregivers take the time to scan for patient safety."

In addition to this statewide recognition, Upson is becoming known in hospital circles as a best practice for service and quality. "At Upson, our employees put patients first and lead with a culture of safety," said Gill. "A culture of safety is a culture that requires both teamwork and focus and the understanding that "we're all in this together for one reason: the patient." PHA is a subsidiary of the Georgia Hospital Association and recognizes patient safety as its top priority.

"Being recognized by PHA is a tremendous honor," said Castleberry. "It means that Upson has demonstrated our commitment to our patients by delivering safer and higher quality health care. That's health care with true value; the kind of health care that we all want and expect from every hospital."

A full abstract detailing Upson's progress will be published later this year in *Insights*, which is PHA's web-based hospital report.



Pictured Left to Right: Joyce Glisson, Susan Carpenter, Stacey White, Carman Templeton, Lyn Ray, Tine Zellner, Josee Gill, Glenda Van Houten, Rita Smith, Treena Turner and Sherrie Stowe.

Open House/Ribbon Cuttings for 2012

Thursday, February 2 - The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and Fastenal Company are pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on **Thursday, February 2, at 11:30 am**. Fastenal Company is now located in Thomaston at 1031 Hwy 19 North, next to Captain D's. The business hours for Fastenal Company are Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you would like to contact the local store, you may reach Tammy or Matt by calling 706-648-1966. We hope that you will try to attend the Fastenal Company Open House and Ribbon Cutting on February 2 to see what the new location has to offer Upson and surrounding counties.

Friday, February 3 - The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and Mr. B's Convenience Store and Gas Station are pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony for **Friday, February 3 at 2 pm**. Mr. B's is located at 401 North Center Street and is owned by Bill Singh. The store is open Monday-Saturday from 6 am to Midnight and Sundays 7 am to 11 pm. Mr. B's offers full and self service options at their gas pumps. To learn more about their services, please feel free to contact them at 706-646-0068. All Chamber Members are invited to attend the Ribbon cutting so we hope to see you on February 3.

Friday, February 3 - The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and The Catfish Hole are pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony for **Friday, February 3 at 4 pm**. The Catfish Hole is located at 6524 Yatesville Hwy in Yatesville, Ga (located in the old Junction Restaurant) and is owned and operated by Alton and Diane Hammond. We hope that you will join us on February 3 to welcome our new Chamber Members and to help us celebrate the opening of The Catfish Hole.

Thursday, February 16 - Ribbon Cutting to be held for the new location of R.U.S.H. Ministries, 310 North Church Street, on Thursday, February 16 at 9:30 am. More information on this ribbon cutting will be sent out this week.

Tuesday, February 28 - The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and Pediatric Associates of Thomaston are pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the new office of Dr. Kathy Mansfield on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 11:30 am**. Pediatric Associates will relocate their business to 331 West Main Street in Thomaston, (the new office is located down the street from the Woodall House) the first of February. Light refreshments will be served at the ribbon cutting on February 28 and we hope that you will join the Chamber and Dr. Mansfield to celebrate the new location of Pediatric Associates.

Tuesday, March 6 - The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony for CareSouth Homecare Professionals to celebrate the expansion of their business on Tuesday, March 6 at 4:45 pm. CareSouth will be celebrating their expansion by having an Open House from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm that same day. All Chamber Members and the community are invited to attend, light refreshments will be served. CareSouth Homecare Professionals is located at 204 Cherokee Road in between the offices of Dr. Ben Williams and Dr. Dan Bridges.

Adult Leadership Upson Tours more local Industries

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce Adult Leadership Upson class toured more local industries in Upson County on January 11, 2012. The group toured and was treated to breakfast at Chief Manufacturing, and then went on to tour Keadle Lumber, Solo Cup, Quad/Graphics, Criterion Technology and Southern Power Company's West Generating Plant. The next tour for the adults will take place Wednesday, February 1 when they tour the State Capitol and meet with representatives from Georgia Power Company, Georgia EMC, Electric Cities of Georgia and Department of Economic Development. Shown in the photos below is the Adult Leadership Upson class touring more of our local industries in Upson County. Members of the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce 2011-2012 Adult Leadership Upson class have been selected. They are *Mike Bennett, Quad/Graphics; Ashley Biles, The Thomaston Times; Tony Chiri, Colony Bank; Carmen Ellerbee, Thomaston-Upson Arts Council; Lisa Ellington, Bank of Upson; Jennifer Greathouse, Kay Robinson State Farm Insurance; Lindsey Matthews, Amedisys Home Healthcare; Wynn Trice, Edward Jones Financial Investments and Ryan Tucker, United Bank.* Hoppy Hopkins representing Upson Regional Medical Center is the Chair of the Adult Leadership Upson program and Debbie Gignilliat, representing Specialties Flower Store is Vice-Chair. Lori Smith is coordinating for both Youth and Adult Leadership Upson tours.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1 - Adult Leadership Upson to tour the State Capitol

Thursday, February 2 - Fastenal Company ribbon cutting ceremony at **11:30 am**

Friday, February 3 - Mr. B's Convenience Store and Gas Station ribbon cutting ceremony at **2 pm**

Friday, February 3 - The Catfish Hole ribbon cutting at **4 pm**

Monday, February 6 - Government Roundtable Meeting at noon

Wednesday, February 8 - Chamber Exec Board meeting, 8 am at the Chamber office

Tuesday, February 14 - Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 am

Wednesday, February 15 - 3rd Weds Wake Up 7:30 am at the Chamber office

Thursday, February 16 - Annual joint meeting with WEDA, Manufacturers and Maintenance Roundtables, 7:30 am at U-L High School

Tuesday, February 21 - Youth Leadership Upson Tourism and Transportation Tour

Wednesday, February 22 - Sun's Up Breakfast with Guest Speaker Todd Long from the Ga DOT at URMCA Auditorium, 7:30 am

Tuesday, February 28 - Pediatric Associates of Thomaston ribbon cutting and open at 11:30 am.

The Brag Rag

New Members January

Fastenal Company
Tammy Crownover
706-648-1966

Mr. B'S
Bill Singh
706-646-0068

Rush Ministries
Heather McCarthy
706-646-3660

Severn Trent Enviromental Services
Victor Cozart
706-647-9630

The Catfish Hole
Alton Hammond
706-472-3803

Renewals for January 2012

1st Franklin Financial
Doris Pippin
706-647-8410

**ASP-America's Swimming
America's Swimming Pool Co.**
478-475-0066

AgSouth Farm Credit
John Aldridge
706-647-8991

Michael's Carpet & Home Ctr.
Joan Michael
706-647-6011

Gleaton Concrete Finishing
Byron Gleaton
770-550-1305

Chief Manufacturing
Susan Hall
706-647-1162

Colony Bank
Tony Chiri
706-647-6601

Criterion Technology
Chris Mulvey
706-647-5082

Thomaston Ford, Inc
Jane Harness
706-648-2191

Edward Jones Investments
Malcolm Williams
706-647-2422

Renewals for January 2012

Estes, Sue

Individual Member

First Assembly of God-GriffinJordan Bobo
770-228-2307**Still Meadows**Mary Pat Jones
706-646-4908**Keadle Lumber**Tommy McInvale
706-647-8982**Ga. Dept. of Labor**William Futrell
770-228-7226**Hatchett, Ruth**

Retired Member

Hightower, George

Individual Member

Hightower, Neil

Individual Member

Jameson InnAngie Salter
706-648-2232**Kiwanis Club of Thomaston**Pam Watkins
706-647-8951**Mountain View Baptist Church**Marc Pritchett
706-648-6224**H Gary Johnson Ins.**H Gary Johnson
706-647-5485**Pasley Fletcher Funeral Home**Jim Fletcher
706-647-6644**Pine Mountain Regional Library**Charles Gee
706-846-2186**Brewton, Sam**

Retired Member

Pitts Pest ControlJames Yarbrough
706-647-2329**Quad Graphics**Jeff Stribling
706-648-5000**Georgia Duplicating**Leon Stribling
800-521-8005**Reems Jewelers**Pete Reems
706-647-4052**Solo Cup**Mark Butters
706-647-2205**Rhodes, Wallace**

Retired Member

Ten Cate FinishingBruce Bagwell
706-647-1385**The Adams Agency**Brad Adams
706-647-2424**Thomaston Hardware**Melvin Fallin
706-647-8194**Thomaston Prescription Shop**Carson Gleaton
706-647-8965**Richard Bishoff**Attorney at Law
706-647-9611**T-U Archives**Penny Cliff
706-646-2437**Traditions of Thomaston**Melody Gaskins
706-647-5007**T-U Board of Education**Dr. Maggie Shook
706-647-9622**T-U County Airport**Mitch Ellerbee
706-647-4500

Renewals for January 2012

Hannah's Mill Animal Hospital

Becky Crawford
706-647-4164

Upson County Sheriff's Dept.

Sheriff Don Peacock
706-646-7900

Asmussen, Ken

Retired Member

Upson Counseling Center

Rosemarie Hardeman
706-646-6038

Upson County Commission

Maurice Raines
706-647-7012

Upson Co. Extension

Wes Smith
706-647-8989

Upson EMC

Neal Trice
706-647-5475

Upson Lee Pre-K

Julie English
706-646-4729

Upson Lee South Elementary

LaSharon McCain
706-647-7540

Walthall Oil Company

Frank Walthall III
706-647-7043

West Central Ga. Bank

Eddie Rogers
706-647-8951

Westwood Christian Academy

Angel Moore
706-647-8131

Coggins Funeral Home

Kenny Coggins
706-647-9681

Cadenhead, Jane

Retired Member

Riverbridge Boat Rental

Margie McDaniel
706-647-2633

Riverbend Restaurant

Celia Berryhill
706-647-9738

Upson Alliance Warehouse

T C Coleman
706-647-7332

FYCA

Wendy Chambley
706-646-3727

Trice, Bettisue

Retired Member

Upson County Farm Bureau

Patty Hollowed
706-648-6668

Personnel Options Inc.

James Huling
706-647-1983

The Rock Ranch

Jeff Manley
706-647-6374

Emancipation Proclamation

Lankston Johnson
770-584-0064

Cherokee Pharmacy

Lisa Caldwell
706-646-3100

Bank of Upson

Lisa Ellington
706-647-5426

Upson Lee High School

Tracy Caldwell
706-647-8171

Simmons, Al

Retired Member

Robinson State Farm Ins.

Kay Robinson
706-647-5353

Speedi Lube

Deidre Lawrence
706-648-6644

Express Employment Professionals

Marcia Watts
706-646-2131

Thomaston Internal Medicine

Benjamin Williams, MD
706-647-3200

Gilmore Center, Inc.

Jimmy Aaron
706-647-5020

United Bank

Ryan Tucker
706-646-7211

Renewals for January 2012

Connell & Wheeler

Attorney at Law
Alan Connell
706-647-8180

Upson Regional Medical Center

David Castleberry
706-647-8111

Day Realty Co.

Jerry Slaughter
706-647-7167

Driver & Adams, CPA

Wayne Driver
706-647-1924

Driver & Adams, CPA

Reshann Adams
706-647-1924

The Alexander Resource Group

Bob Alexander
478-476-9081

Logins Senior Village

Sabrina Reid
706-647-1847

Thomaston Chiropractic Clinic

Mark Cotney DC
706-647-2225

Thomaston Dental

Luchelle Brown
706-647-5575

Brannon, Al

Retired Member

Mallory & Trice

Attorney At Law
Matthew Mallory
706-647-1842

M*R*S Homecare

Dusty Fordham
706-648-6001

Commercial Finance Co

David Short
706-647-3422

Dan Bridges, MD

Linda Doggett
706-647-9412

Whitaker Forestry

Fred Whitaker
706-656-6902

Upson Historical Society

Mary Williams

Fallin State Farm Insurance

Robert Fallin
706-648-2185

West Village Retirement

Charlotte Bickley
706-647-5168

Holloway Tire & Auto Service

Paige Holloway
706-647-7016

**Holloway Bookkeeping
dba H&R Block**

Karen Daniel
706-647-6212

Brantley, Harris

Retired Member

Hatchett, Kenneth

Retired Member

Pediatrics Associates

Amanda Hardeman
706-646-4543

BB&T Ingram-McDaniel

Billene Kelly
706-647-8121

Don Snow

Attorney At Law
706-647-1722

Jameson Inn

Angie Salter
706-648-2232

Russell's Electrical Contracting

Billy Russell
706-648-3716

WCG Workforce Development Investment

Pam Little
706-648-9178

Home Depot

JoAnne Davis
706-648-4800

Minick Signs

Lisa Minick
706-647-1454

Renewals for January 2012

Lafiesta Restaurant

Salvador Pena
706-648-2138

Upson County Tax Commissioner

Berry Cook
706-647-5568

Thomaston Family Practice

Dan Bramlett MD
706-647-8901

Thomaston Family Practice

Ralph Warnock MD
706-647-8901



THE THOMASTON-UPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **BIG GREEN EGG RAFFLE 2012**

YOU COULD WIN YOUR VERY OWN MEDIUM SIZE BIG GREEN EGG
TICKETS ONLY \$5 EACH

BIG GREEN EGG (\$600 VALUE)

SPONSORED BY ASP POOL & SPA OF MACON

BIG GREEN EGG STAND MADE BY RICHARD WEATHERFORD
BIG GREEN EGG ACCESSORIES SPONSORED BY THOMASTON HARDWARE

CONTACT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!

WINNING TICKET WILL BE DRAWN ON MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012

WINNER WILL BE CONTACTED BY PHONE AND TICKET HOLDER DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE **2nd ANNUAL FLINT RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK POKER FLOAT** **Saturday, May 19, 2012**

More Details to come soon, so stay tuned to the Thomaston-Upson Chamber website and Facebook page for more information.

Ribbon Cutting for Quad/Graphics Quad/Med

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Quad/Graphics Rock Plant on Monday, January 30 to celebrate the opening of the New Quad/Med facilities.



Ribbon Cutting held for Charter Business

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Charter Business on Wednesday, January 4 to celebrate the opening of their new location. Charter Business is now located at 1694 Woodland Road in Thomaston.



Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) Offer You and Your Employees Valuable Options

If asked what the single most important factor is regarding health insurance and employee benefits would you answer cost? So would most of your peers. That's why finding ways to control those costs is so important in today's market.

One of the most effective is the Health Savings Account. Implementing an HSA allows you to select a lower cost health plan. Deposits are then made by the employee, the employer or both to an HSA account, either through your local bank or a specialty bank such as HSA Bank. This account can be used to pay for deductibles, co-pays and other qualified medical expenses. Unlike other reimbursement accounts there is no "use it or lose it" philosophy so amounts in the account carry over from year to year if not used.

The funds in the HSA account can be invested similarly to an IRA. Over time if medical expenses are low and contributions are made regularly to the HSA, the account can accumulate significant assets that can be used for health care tax free or used for retirement on a tax-deferred basis.

For more information regarding HSA accounts and other employee benefit issues contact Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc. at 770-579-1214 or 1-800-782-8254 ext. 3512.

The MemberCare Alliance of Upson County program includes expert member-to-member advice on many aspects of employee benefits and a variety of discounted insurance products, including group health insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, long term care and term life insurance. For more information on any of these insurance offerings, please call one of your participating Chamber-member insurance agents, the Chamber or Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc., (the company that developed the MemberCare Alliance of Upson County) at [770-579-1214 or 1-800-782-8254 ext. 3512].

**10th Annual T-U Chamber of Commerce Business Open Golf
Tournament Supporters:
Corporate Sponsors:**

Ag South Farm Credit, Alltel Wireless, Richard Bishoff-Attorney at Law, Gas South, Severn Trent Environmental Services, Southern Power Company, Ten Cate', United Bank, Upson Regional Medical Center and West Central Georgia Bank

Hole in one Car Give-A-Way Sponsor:
Moore Buick of Thomaston and Barnesville

Hospitality Sponsors:
Colony Bank & Virginia Well Company

Lunch Sponsors:
Dumas, Fallin & Robinson State Farm Insurance Agencies, Quad/Graphics, Scana Energy & Turkey Creek Snacks

Hole Sponsors:
Aviano's Greek Restaurant, Sam Baity, Bank of Upson, BB&T Ingram-McDaniel, Central Georgia Heating & Cooling, Inc., Coggins Funeral Home, Criterion Technology, Driver & Adams, CPA, Georgia Power Company, Hoppy Hopkins, Hughston Clinic – Thomaston, Middle Georgia Carpets, MRS Homecare of Thomaston, Pasley-Fletcher Funeral Home, Personnel Options, Inc., Southern Crescent Technical College, The Adams Agency, The Rock Ranch, Thomaston Hospice, Upson Beacon, Upson Family Practice-Thomaston, Upson Family Practice-Barnesville, Upson Surgical Associates and Upson Women's Services

Golf Cart Sponsors:
A&B Heating & Cooling, ASP Pool & Spa of Macon, Ken Asmussen, Ed & Pat Bell Family, Bell Creek Wood Products, Janice Bennett, In Memory of Mr. Lewis Bennett, Al Brannon, Harris Brantley, CareSouth Home Health Care, Cherokee Pharmacy, Commercial Finance-David Short, Commercial Finance-Steve Short, Edward Jones Investments - Wynn Trice, Emancipation Proclamation Celebration, GISA-Georgia Independent School Association, Hometown Printers, King Educational Services, Mark's Automotive, Reems Jewelers, Tire & Auto Master, To the Max Advertising and Westwood Christian Academy

THOMASTON-UPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board of Directors Business Plan 2011-2012

2011-2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Neal Trice, Upson EMC
Division Vice President

COMMITTEE: LEADERSHIP UPSON

Hoppy Hopkins (URMC Foundation), Chair
Debbie Gignilliat (Specialties Flower Shop), Vice-Chair

- Revamp Adult Leadership Upson Program including Fanning Institute
- Plan for 2012 Class

COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Karen Truesdale (Thomaston-Upson Board of Education), Chair
Janice Bennett (Retired Member), Vice-Chair **Kyle Hood (Upson County), Vice-Chair**

- Rely on the active support and participation of members to identify issues of key importance to both individuals and businesses and seek to influence policy decisions by being the voice of Thomaston-Upson Chamber, advocating on behalf of members regarding issues that further the economic and business climate of Thomaston and Upson County, (Members should contact Chair or Vice-Chair of government affairs committee to inform them of any upcoming legislation/etc. affecting local members.)
- Continue to host Government Roundtable once a quarter and solicit input from members regarding issues of importance to be discussed with this group.
- Work with any and all Chamber committees to actively solicit legislative support for items impacting our community and/or membership.
- Review progress on sign ordinances for City of Thomaston and Upson County

COMMITTEE: TOURISM COUNCIL

Lucy Chaney (The Thomaston Times), Chair**Joan Michael (Michael's Dalton Outlet), Vice-Chair**

Mission Statement: "The mission of the Thomaston-Upson Tourism Council is to develop a general awareness of Thomaston-Upson County by promoting our assets, thus resulting in enhanced community pride and financial rewards."

- Get with DOT to learn more about putting signage at N,S, E,W entrance into downtown directing visitors to the welcome center
- Support the Camera Ready Designation and continue to be the Camera Ready liaison for Upson County
- Need to form a more solid Tourism Council and have meetings once a quarter
- Keep in touch with the Dept of Natural Resources, Upson County, Wildlife Management and the Georgia General Assembly regarding Sprewell Bluff
- Continue merchandising postcards with local scenes that the Chamber and Archives can sell to visitors
- Put together a calendar of events for the 2012 year, complete calendar by December 1, 2011
- Advertise our events in surrounding counties with more signage
- Find more ways to generate funds by producing ornaments, t-shirts, souvenir plates
- Learn more about QR Codes to promote our events

COMMITTEE: AGRIBUSINESS

Wes Smith (Upson Extension Service), Chair

- Promote Farmer's Market by advertising in newsletter and Monday Minutes
- Partner with Upson Farm Bureau for November Sun's Up Business Breakfast

2011-2012 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**David Castleberry, Upson Regional Medical Center****Division Vice President**

COMMITTEE: INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE

Jeff Stribling (Quad/Graphics), Chair**Bruce Bagwell (Ten Cate Protective Fabrics), Vice-Chair**

- Continue with Industry meetings, with a different industry hosting each month at the hosting plant's location
- Closer participation among members – help each other market our abilities
- Encourage Joint Ventures
- Monthly Sponsor will serve as guest speaker for the group with brief, informative, and appropriate information
- Schedule a Manufacturing Appreciation Day – Partner with SCTC, City, County and Industrial Development Authority – Georgia Power would also like to sponsor
- Encourage industry tours with local organizations/other committees
- Continue to support Certified Work Ready Community initiative

COMMITTEE: MAINTENANCE ROUNDTABLE**Randy Ballinger (Solo Cup), Chair****Johnny Caldwell (Quad/Graphics), Vice-Chair**

Mission Statement: "To partner with Industry Roundtable to support Thomaston-Upson industrial businesses by sharing both technical knowledge and resources to prevent or reduce critical equipments down time."

- Continue to have a Maintenance Roundtable Meeting once a quarter with a different vendor at the end of each meeting
- Try to have one meeting combined with the Industry Roundtable and Maintenance Roundtable

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC & SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**Ryan Tucker (United Bank), Chair****Ruth Hatchett (Retired Member), Vice Chair**

Mission Statement: "To promote and support entrepreneur development opportunities in order to create and retain high quality jobs and investment in our local area."

- Actively recruit new businesses while strengthening existing businesses
- Strengthen relationships with IDA and elected officials
- Unify community marketing efforts between all community stakeholders
- Explore adding one more value-added program or service to the small business members
- Implement 3/50 Project
- Develop a script for Business Leader spotlight
- Re-implement Lunch & Learn seminars
- New business promotion, Public Service Announcements
- Redevelop the Small Business Roundtable group to meet quarterly

2011-2012 SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION**Still need a Special Projects Division VP****Division Vice President****PROJECT: GOLF TOURNAMENT****Greg Boyt (Triumph Packaging), Chair****Nick Martin (Ag South Farm Credit), Vice-Chair**

- Schedule and implement tenth annual Business Open Golf Tournament on March 28, 2012
- Form a Golf Committee – Sponsorship, door prizes and registration committees
- Integration of more sponsors into the event, such as tents with sponsors information
- Include more skills event sales: putting, chipping, measuring drive, teeing from the women's tees
- Find volunteers to work the tournament
- Set Golf Goal at \$18,000

CANOE POKER FLOAT**Ben Ellington (United Bank), Chair****Ryan Tucker (United Bank), Vice-Chair****Matthew Mallory (Mallory & Trice Attorneys at Law), Vice-Chair**

- Need to contact Wildlife Management about holding event at Sprewell Bluff State Park again

- Need to meet with Flint River Outdoor Center to see if they would partner again with Chamber
- Need to find sponsors for the event
- Advertise event in local and surrounding media
- Revise information from last year and upload information to website January 2012
- Find volunteers to work the event
- Hold event in May

BUSINESS EXPO**Pam Little (Workforce Development), Chair****Alicia Neighbors (Middle Georgia Carpets), Vice-Chair**

- Plan Expo for Thursday, September 6, 2012
- Revise flyers or any other materials used for registration for the event
- Contact all local and surrounding media and promote the event
- Upload new 2012 information on the Chamber's website

BIG GREEN EGG**Neal Trice (Upson EMC), Chair****Lori Smith (T-U Chamber), Vice-Chair**

- Have Big Green Egg donated for 2012
- Have tickets printed for raffle in November
- Have each board member sell 25 raffle tickets
- Contact Smoke on the Water about selling tickets at their event in April, will need volunteers
- Give Green Egg away the second week in April

2011-2012 EDUCATION DIVISION**Shelley Daniel, T-U School System****Division Vice President**

COMMITTEE: WORKFORCE & EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE**Kay Williamson (Southern Crescent Technical College), Chair****Mia Collier (Southern Crescent Technical College), Vice-Chair**

Mission Statement: "The Purpose of Workforce and Education Development Alliance is to promote and develop through communication and action a well-prepared workforce."

- Support the high school and middle school graduation coaches, the volunteer community coach and the U-L Learning Academy, along with the development of their programs
- Promote continuation of work-based learning programs and identify and promote local student-to employee successes (those students who have gone through work-based learning programs at the high school, the technical college and then into the workplace)
- Collaborate with the Chamber's Industry and Maintenance Roundtables to meet at least once during the school year at the high school
- Utilize Data Collection. For example: conduct the high school graduate exit survey in May and report findings at the beginning of the school year

- Broaden communication of WEDA efforts with the Chamber Board and the boards of Technical College and the Thomaston-Upson School System
- Support the roles of the Southern Crescent Technical College's High School Coordinator and the ULHS's CTAE Pathways Coordinator as they work to prepare students for the local workforce and/or transition students to post secondary education

COMMITTEE: YOUTH LEADERSHIP UPSON

Shelley Daniel (Century 21 Adams-Harvey), Chair

Bobby Bickley (Smoke of the Water), Vice-Chair

Dan Kilgore (Upson County Sheriff's Department), Vice-Chair

Mission Statement: "To expose selected high school students exhibiting leadership traits to the business, political and civic working of our community."

- Have out of town judges choose 12 students to represent the Chamber through the YLU Program
- Implement current year's program, maintaining partnership with Upson EMC as program co-sponsor and continue working relationship with Thomaston-Upson School System
- Have out of town judges select one student that will represent Upson County at Washington Youth Tour

2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

Lisa Ellington, Bank of Upson

Division Vice President

COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP RETENTION & SERVICES

Laurie Holmes (Colony Bank), Chair

Mitch Ellerbee (T-U County Airport), Vice-Chair

- Continue with the "Thomaston: A Great Place to Shop" gift certificate program, marketing this as a Member Benefit
- Continue to sponsor and attend ribbon cuttings for members
- Continue to highlight renewals and current members in the newsletter with full contact information
- Continue with 3rd Wednesday Wake-Up, inviting Chamber members to Chamber office for orientation on Chamber benefits, upcoming events and Chamber committees
- Find sponsors for the 3rd Wednesday Wake-up meetings
- Send personal thank you note to current members
- Subscribe to text service that would send out reminders to members regarding events or meetings
- Establish a membership adoption by the current Board of Directors that would personally contact adopted members regarding upcoming events
- Follow-Up with Chamber Members that attend the 3rd Wednesday Wake-Up for feedback regarding the meetings

COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**Mike Streetman (West Central Georgia Bank), Chair****Janice Bennett (Retired Member), Vice-Chair**

- Begin having Ambassador Meetings every other month, or once a quarter
- Utilize Business After Hours as a focus on new members, allowing them to introduce themselves and make a statement about their business
- Continue to recognize new members at Sun's Up on Upson Business Breakfast
- Each month continue to get a new business license list from the building and zoning office and City of Thomaston, send personal notes to new business owners
- Contact media and ask for free press on "What can the Chamber do for me" on a weekly basis
- Find more volunteers to become Ambassadors for the Chamber, ex: Stay-at-home moms including a special membership tier for them to grow volunteer force

COMMITTEE: PROMOTIONS**Lindsey Matthews, (Amedisys Home Healthcare), Chair****Cindy Bennett (Ga DOT), Vice-Chair**

- Secure sponsors for and hold Business After Hours once a quarter (March, June, September and December)
- Continue with Business After Hours events that include networking and recognizing members, themes and chances to win money
- Secure programs for quarterly Sun's Up on Upson Business Breakfast (February, May, August, November)
- Secure host for the quarterly Sun's Up Business Breakfast Meetings
- Plan and implement Board Retreat in September 2012
- Plan and implement Annual Meeting in November 2012

COMMITTEE: MARKETING & P.R.**Sydney Lord (Driver & Adams, CPA), Chair****Robbin Kent (CareSouth HomeCare), Vice-Chair**

- Promote Chamber services and members through local media
- Continue with Monthly Newsletter, Weekly Monday Minutes
- Revise Monday Minutes to only include highlights of upcoming events and send members to the website for a complete list
- Enhance Chamber brochures and prospective member kits
- Continue to add names to the Chamber Speakers' Bureau located on Chamber website
- Keep Website up-to-date
- Run ad campaigns with members giving devotionals of "Why they are a Chamber Members"

2011-2012 ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT**Debbie Gignilliat, Specialties Flower Store****Division Vice President**

The Executive Board and Past Chair will work on projects to support continued financial sustainability of the Chamber

The Catfish Hole



6524 Hwy 74

Yatesville Ga. 31097

706-472-3803

Grand Opening

Saturday, February 4, 2012



Thomaston-Upson Rotary Club

Merlot, Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet
Join us for a Wine Tasting

Soiree

With Guest Host
Jerry Danalchak,
Wine Connoisseur

With over 30 years experience, Mr. Danalchak will explain the many ways to pair food with wine. There will be samples of wine from Georgia, California, France, and Germany.

Friday, February 17, 2012

TUAC Gallery
(On the Square)

Thomaston, Georgia

6:00 pm -7:30 pm

\$15 per person, \$25 per couple
(Must be 21 years and older)

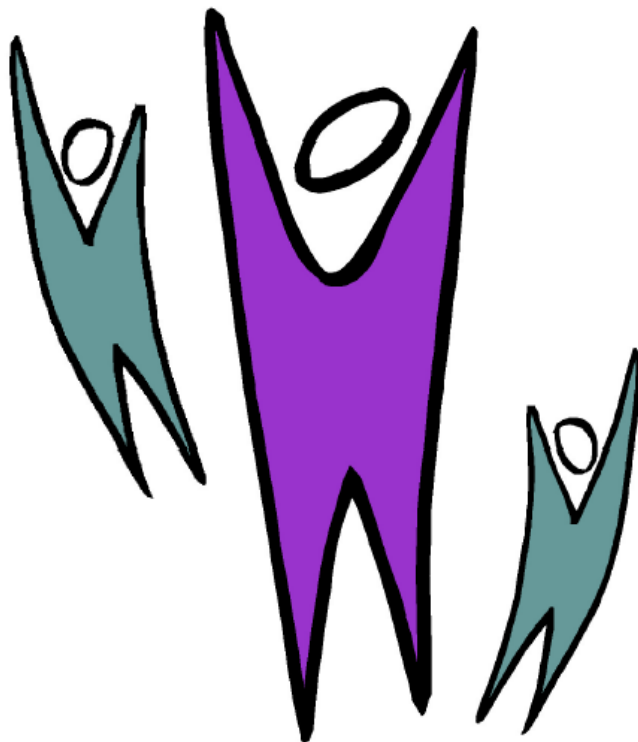
★ *Door Prizes*
 ★ *Light Refreshments*

Money raised will help support "Food For Thought," helping hungry school age children.

For more information contact Alison Uphold at 706-975-4046 or Debra Daniel at 706-647-5426.

Leadership for Supervisors

**Cost:
\$100
per person**



Topics include:

Peer Yesterday, Leader Today

- Dealing with disciplining your friends
- Making the tough decisions from peer to leader
- Problem solving and group Discussions

Communication Skills for Leaders

- Communication Problem Solving
- Knowing your Communication Style
- Knowing How to be a better Listener

Conflict Resolution for Leaders

- Conflict defined & Effect of Conflict
- Recognizing Conflict
- Exercise: The Changing Face of America

Effective Delegation for Leaders

- Why leaders do not delegate
- Benefits of Delegating
- Five Degrees of Delegating



For more information call
Steve Hendrix at 678.972.9443
shendrix@sctech.edu
Mark Andrews at 678-603-9388
mandrews@sctech.edu

A unit of the Technical College System of Georgia
EOI

Southern Crescent Technical College
Economic Development
Henry County Academy for Advanced Studies
 401 East Tomlinson Street
 McDonough, Georgia 30253



A Family Caregiver

Community Caregiver

Education Class

Sponsored by Thomaston
Hospice Foundation



Are you caring for someone at Home?

**If so, you are a "Caregiver." Learn skills of being
a great caregiver.**

WHEN: February 29th, 2012

WHERE: Thomaston Senior Center/Memorial Hall

TIME: 1:00-3:00p.m.

COST: FREE

Topics

- Caregivers staying healthy
- Safety & Medicine issues for your patient
- Proper usage of medical equipment
- End of life Issues
- Community Resources available to you

Call 706-647-2273 or 706-647-1607 to Register.

Free Class, a non-credit course