

■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Albany Area Chamber

Catherine Glover, President/CEO

More than 140 area residents, business owners and civic boosters turned out for the city of Albany Mayoral Forum, held in October at the Municipal Auditorium downtown. The forum was hosted by Emerge Albany, the Chamber's premiere young professional group and the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Chamber. Emerge Albany also hosted over 60 young professionals at the Second Friday Luncheon in October at the Albany Welcome Center. Dave Davies, Deerfield-Windsor Headmaster, spoke on education and the opportunities students have in the Albany area.

The Albany Convention & Visitors Bureau partnered with Downtown Albany Sertoma and the Downtown Merchants Association to combine two events: RiverJam and the International Festival. The new event, entitled FlintFest, had international performances on Front Street and live music featuring regional bands on a separate stage by the river in RiverFront Park. Over 10,000 people came to enjoy the live bands, kids activities, the arts village and international performances.

Albany State University sponsored the October Business After Hours with Shane's Rib Shack -- one of the Chamber's newest members. Buses took guests across campus to tour ASU's beautiful new student center where departments from the university were set up with information about educational opportunities. A raffle was held for several computer bags containing ASU memorabilia and t-shirts. BAH came to a close.

The Chamber and the Lee County Chamber recently joined forces for a special Business After Hours welcoming the new Lee County branch of HeritageBank of the South.



Barrow County Chamber

Tommy Jennings, President

The Chamber recently hosted their first Sporting Clay Shoot. The event proved to be a success, and they will continue to hold the event every October.



Carroll County Chamber

Daniel Jackson, President

Businesses set up temporary shops recently at the Chamber's annual Shop Carroll Expo, hoping to gain a little more exposure. Thirty-four businesses participated at the expo this year, and several hundred residents enjoyed visiting retail and service business exhibits, and local cuisine from participating restaurants. The goal of the expo is to introduce visitors to the variety of business the chamber and the region has to offer.



Catoosa County Chamber

Martha Eaker, President & CEO

The Chamber is excited to announce that Catoosa County was among the 23 Georgia counties to receive the 'Camera Ready Community' designation in September.

The Chamber has launched a Shop Local program that allows our members to create their own coupon on the Chamber website for the community to use at their business.

The Education Partners Committee of the Chamber will play host to the county's sixth grade students attending the annual "Careers on the Move" event at the Colonnade Civic Center on November 2. The event is designed to give Catoosa County middle school students a firsthand look at a wide array of career opportunities that involve driving trucks and operating other commercial, military, and public safety vehicles. Students will learn details about each career and its educational requirements. The goal is to help sixth graders begin to see a correlation between their current school work and their future career plans.

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Cobb Chamber

David Connell, President & CEO

The Chamber launched The Market Place, a social savings platform for local businesses to communicate and offer discounts specifically to other Chamber members. This program provides Chamber businesses with an online location to distribute company news and announcements, offer unlimited deals, and maintain communication with Chamber members, all from the Chamber's website. The Market Place isn't a "deal of the day" program; multiple members can make one or more offers at a time. There is no cost to participate and companies receive 100 percent of the revenue from deals. Anyone can view the offerings on The Market Place to check out the many deals available or they can choose only specific companies to follow. We are excited to offer a new way for Chamber members to connect and do business together and hope the initial excitement will continue to grow, bringing additional savings to our members.

The Chamber has worked with the consulting firm Market Street Services to create a marketing initiative for economic development. In the latest phase of this game-changing initiative, seven strategic "targets" have been identified for Cobb County to pursue in the years to come. These seven targets have been classified and grouped into two categories based on one distinguishing characteristic: the presence of strong competitive advantages that support an existing clustering effect in Cobb County. Those targets that benefit from such specific, localized advantages and have therefore clustered in Cobb County to leverage these advantages are referred to as "Core Clusters," and those targets that do not currently exhibit a clustering effect but merit strategic targeting due to their growth potential are referred to as "Growth Opportunities." This market research will enable Cobb County to focus its economic development projects toward specific targets ensuring the county stays competitive and attracts and retains economic growth. For more information, visit www.cobbedge.com.

Douglas County Chamber

Kali Boatright, GCCE, President & CEO

The Chamber is promoting their BUY LOCAL. Shop Chamber Members initiative the last quarter of the year by partnering with the local newspaper and presenting the Buy Local Challenge! Each week in the Chamber Weekly email members of the Chamber and community are challenged to shop locally in a different way. Challenges have included members wearing red to a networking event, spending \$20 on October 20th (to boost the economy), and showing receipts to demonstrate that they buy locally in exchange for a prize. The Chamber is also working on a Dine in Douglasville week in November!

Greater Columbus Chamber

Mike Gaymon, GCCE, President & CEO

The Inter City Leadership Conference that took place in Charlotte NC recently turned out to be one of the largest in the Chamber's history. In a jam packed three days, the 96 participants heard from 19 different speakers and visited more than 17 different facilities. The group learned what Charlotte has done well and if they had to do it over again, what they would have done differently. One of the highlights of the trip was the Richard Petty Driving Experience that Mayor Teresa Tomlinson and Carmen Cavezza, chair of the Chamber, participated in.



Auction Broadcasting Company (ABC) celebrated the opening of its newest location in South Columbus on Blanchard Boulevard. ABC announced the creation of 40 new jobs and an investment of \$1 million. Brinkley says that Columbus has a large population of independent and franchise dealers that have to drive over 100 miles to the nearest full service auto auction. The ABC Columbus facility will be a full service auction that offers dealers the state-of-the-art experience that they expect.

The newest Gateways project was opened recently between Columbus and Fort Benning and is a tribute to both. John F. Flournoy has led the effort in Columbus. Columbus Gateways is a community-wide beautification and landscape enhancement program targeting gateways into and major arteries within Columbus. Since the initial Columbus Gateways program in 1992, twenty-nine major gateways and arteries within Muscogee County have been landscaped with trees, shrubbery, and flowers. The first two projects were funded by private contributions from individuals and corporations. The trademark of the Gateway interchanges is the Southern Magnolia. Numerous other varieties of trees, shrubbery, flowers and grassed areas further enhance the sites.

Greater Dalton Chamber

Brian Anderson, President & CEO

The Chamber recently hosted Prime Time, our very first member retention event. This mini-expo featured businesses who joined the Chamber during our recent membership event and those who sponsored a new member. Over 80 exhibitors participated and over 200 people came to the event. Members loved this type of networking so much, they are already begging us to do it again!

The Chamber along with other community partners recently welcomed author Rebecca Ryan who spoke to a group of young professionals about Creating a Greater Dalton. Ryan, who wrote "Live First, Work Second," will produce a white paper based on a 2-hour discussion she facilitated after the event with about 100 young



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Greater Dalton Chamber (*continued*)

professionals in Dalton. The Chamber will assist as the group follows up on these initiatives to transform Dalton into the kind of “cool community” where creative, educated, young workers want to cluster.

Greater Hall Chamber

Kit Dunlap, President & CEO

The Annual September Membership Drive had the best results in many years with 135 new members and the financial investment was over goal. The Membership Teams were rewarded with incentives and gifts weekly. The winning team received a VIP trip to the Atlanta Falcons game with food, beverage, before game on the field tour, etc. The winning individual member received \$1,000 cash. The Membership Drive ended with a new membership breakfast hosted by the Quinlan Art Center.

The Atlanta Falcons hosted the Chamber’s South Hall Business Coalition with updates by Thomas Dimitroff, General Manager and Roddy White and Robb Geoffroy. Particularly interesting was the Atlanta Falcons “branding” strategies and the theme “Rise Up”. The new “Rise Up” commercials are being aired on TV now. They also shared with Chamber members strategies in signing of the new players this year. The Atlanta Falcons headquarters is located in Flowery Branch, Hall County, GA.

Governor Nathan Deal was featured speaker at the Grand Opening of ZF Wind Power in September. Over 300 were in attendance with the Ga Dept of Ec Dev, Ga Quick Start and many dignitaries. The same day, Governor Deal spoke to guests at Syfan’s Logistics Grand Opening.

The Chamber’s 5th Annual HealthSmart Expo, an interactive healthcare event, was held in October. Several hundred attended and went through the screenings: cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, BMI, carotid artery, asthma, hearing, eye site, sleep disorders, balance/fall risk, and ABI-Vascular. The LongStreet Clinic mailed participants their assessments, and they were received within two days. Northeast GA Medical Center along with several physician groups and healthcare businesses sponsored the event. At the HealthSmart Kick-off Breakfast, Dave Hubbard, America’s Fitness Coach, was featured speaker talking about fitness and exercise. Awards were presented to three of the “Most Fit Companies” based on their wellness programs and healthcare initiatives for employees.

Griffin-Spalding Chamber

Bonnie Pfrogner, GCCE, Executive Director

The Chamber held their first Media Trade Show with moderate success. A new idea and new venture for everyone involved. It was a win-win situation for everyone who was a vendor and for those that attended. Our grand prize winner received advertising gifts of over \$2,500 free advertising. We invited our Downtown Council, Main Street and 3/50 Project members to co-sponsor the project. Special ad rates were offered to members, but the event was open to the entire business community. Representatives from SCORE and SBDC were also on hand to consult with attendees.



Henry County Chamber

Kay Pippin, President

It was a gorgeous day as the Chamber held its 11th annual golf classic in September at Georgia National Golf Course in McDonough with twenty-three teams and 116 players enjoying the event, which featured a Scottish bagpiper, a helicopter ball drop competition, and a canon shot start. Numerous sponsors contributed to the success of the tournament.

The Chamber’s 2012 Youth Leadership Henry Class, made up of high school sophomores, held its orientation dinner meeting in October. This year saw a record 129 applicants vying for the 40 available seats in the class, indicating the value placed on the program by educational and business leaders, as well as the students.



The Chamber recently completed phase one of an extensive education project. While there is a printed and bound report, a more fun way to become acquainted with the project is by viewing a video the Chamber made to be shown to local stakeholders. Please take 16 minutes of your time, go to the Chamber’s website at www.henrycounty.com, click on the drop down bar “live, work & play”, click on “Education in Henry”, then scroll down to the bottom of the page to “view a video about…”

Paulding Chamber

Carolyn Delamont, President

Members of the Chamber Chairman’s Club met with Governor Nathan Deal in September at a breakfast sponsored by GreyStone Power Corporation at the Atlanta Marriot Marquis. The Governor spoke about his strategy to bring and keep jobs for Georgia, the state having one of the best technical college systems in the United States, preparing K-12 students to compete nationally and internationally, limited government, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority efforts to launch the Georgia Water Supply

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Paulding Chamber (*continued*)

Development Program to help local governments develop new water supplies, the T-SPLOST and public/private partnerships key to economic competitiveness.



Robins Regional Chamber

The Chamber hosted the fourth event in the Leadership Robins Region Alumni Association's Breakfast Series, which was held in September and featured Col. Mitchel Butikofer, 78th Air Base Wing and Installation Commander, Robins Air Force Base. Breakfast was served as Col. Butikofer enlightened the group with stories about his leadership experiences and growth during his time in the military.

The October edition of the Chamber's Robins Regional Business Forum offered a *Real Estate Outlook in the Robins Region*. The forum was held in October and enlightened members on "what's new" and "what's ahead" for the real estate industry in the Robins Region. Guest speaker for the forum was Elaine Lee, Senior Vice President for Fickling & Company.

The Chamber hosted the 4th Annual Middle Georgia Regional Political HobNob, featuring former Governor Sonny Perdue as honorary chairman, at the Fort Valley State University's brand new Student Amenities Center. Candidates from around the region and state were invited to attend this non-partisan event which gave business and community members an opportunity to meet and greet the candidates for the upcoming elections as well as current elected officials. The Cox sponsored event hosted nearly 50 candidates and elected officials from around the region and state as well as over 200 attendees. A presidential straw poll was also held during the event.



Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber

Myrna Ballard, President

For the Love of Cities author, Peter Kageyama, visited Valdosta to lead an interactive workshop about showing love to your community. Valdosta citizens were able to share love notes to Valdosta, design Valdosta's t-shirt and see the community through the eyes of others. The workshop was part of the Chamber's Opportunity Central Initiative to facilitate the growth of jobs for college and university graduates. For more information about Peter Kageyama, visit www.fortheloveofcities.com.



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