

CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce • Jackson County, Georgia • September 1, 1999

Chamber breakfasts the "must" attend event in Jackson County

Chamber breakfasts are "the MUST attend event of Jackson County," according to Chamber President Pepe Cummings. Chamber breakfasts are held the first Wednesday of each month.

The June Chamber breakfast, sponsored by **GardenSmith Greenhouse** and the **Jackson County Farm Bureau**, featured **Senator Eddie Madden**. Senator Madden presented the highlights of the 1999 legislative session. He also alerted Chamber members to pending changes in regulations governing the issuance of environmental permits. Specifically, while Jackson County continues to "attain" clean air status, industry will be subject to meeting stricter emission standards. These new regulations could go into effect by late third quarter of this year.

Elliott Brack, Associate Editor of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution Gwinnett Extra*, presented an enlightening program at the August Chamber



Mr. Brack

Breakfast sponsored by **Regions Bank**. Mr. Brack noted the pros and cons of growth in Jackson County. Too many mobile homes and the lack of forward-thinking leaders were among the negative aspects of his presentation on county growth. The good news was that the county has an ideal location, a county water authority, a growing water system and industrial development continues to locate here. Brack also noted the healthy competition between the three school systems in the county.

Brack went on to say that Jackson County has significant opportunity to show it means business by passing the five-person board/county manager form of government. Further, he extolled the benefits of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax . . . making a special note to thank all Jackson Countians for their contributions to funding Gwinnett's growth and development.

Mr. Brack closed by saying that he hopes "Jackson County Means Business" and that the county will have met its goals when the sign on the water tank on I-85 is a reality - "Jackson County MEANS Business."

Donald Eastman, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Georgia, will provide the September 1 breakfast program, at 7:30 a.m. at **Jackson EMC Auditorium**. Mr. Eastman will speak on "The Impact of Growth at the University of Georgia."



Sen. Madden

Etcon Staffing Services is the sponsor of the October breakfast which is planned for October 6, 7:30 a.m., at Jackson EMC Auditorium in Jefferson. Harry Hayes, Etcon's Risk Manager, will present a program on Professional Employment Organizations.

The November 3 breakfast sponsor is **Community Bank and Trust**, and the December 1st sponsor is **Jackson County Schools** Vocational Education Department. The breakfast programs and locations for these will be announced later.



FOOD & FUN... Chamber members enjoy meal and networking at a recent chamber breakfast. These breakfasts are held on the first Wednesday morning of each month.

Y2B?

Chamber announces Year 2000 Breakfast Series

MainStreet Newspapers will sponsor a "Year 2000 Breakfast Series" which will kick off with a September 16 breakfast program at Galilee Christian Church Family Life Center at 7:30 a.m. Dr. Doug Bachtel, Professor, Department of Housing and Consumer Economics at the University of Georgia, will address the issues and trends facing Jackson County and the surrounding areas. The hope is that his presentation will provide a blueprint of the issues which all parts of the Jackson County community can address in planning for the future.

Dr. Bachtel has a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and a Master's in Anthropology.

Before coming to Georgia in 1980, he was a faculty member in the Agricultural Economic and Rural Sociology Department at Auburn University.

Dr. Bachtel is the editor of *The Georgia County Guide*, a statistical fact book about all 159 of the state's counties. He is the former editor of two academic publications, *The Journal of The Community Development Society* and *The Southern Journal of Rural Sociology*. As a rural sociologist, Dr. Bachtel's research interests involve collecting and analyzing data on demographic, economic, educational, health, and social factors. This information is then used to develop strategies to

assist state and local decision-makers in improving the quality of life in their communities.

MainStreet Newspapers, with other Chamber member sponsors, will continue to provide the programs for a series of breakfasts in the year 2000 which will focus on Jackson County growth and economic development.

As an aside, watch for "ribbon-wearing Chamber Ambassadors and Board of Directors" at the monthly breakfasts. Take advantage of this opportunity to talk with our ambassadors and board members if you have questions or if the Chamber can assist you with your business.

Economic development on the move

The success of the Chamber's Economic Development Committee, under the chairmanship of Scott Martin, Jackson EMC, has caught the attention of members, existing business in the Jackson County area, new prospects and state-wide economic developers alike. Chamber member volunteers are instrumental in carrying out the work of the Committee's traditional marketing activity, Economic Developers Days and related sales efforts associated with prospect visits to the Jackson County area. Under Martin's direction, two new initiatives have been launched by the committee.

The Committee's first initiative, headed by Floyd Baldwin of the Norton Agency, is an existing industry task force. This recognizes the importance of existing industry in both the creation of new jobs and increasing the tax base in the Jackson County economy. Indeed, in these times of low unemployment, the primary concern of most Jackson County businesses is the retention and attraction of qualified employees. The task force helps to ensure that Chamber members and existing businesses are aware of the numerous programs through the Chamber, Georgia Department of Industry Trade & Tourism or other groups to assist existing industry.



The Chamber's most notable efforts at workforce development are occurring in conjunction with the Childcare Jackson County Committee. With the success of this program, participating employers will be better able to retain workers and to secure new employees. Also, with the beginning of a new school year, the task force will focus attention on the Education Committee's programs such as the Job Fair and Youth Apprenticeship Program.

In the Committee's second initiative, chairman Martin has accessed the resources of Oglethorpe Power Company and the Georgia Power Company, together with the expertise of member companies Apex Realty, Guthrie Properties, Sumitomo, Pattillo Construction, Leo Daly and

others to develop a new generation of marketing materials. Utilizing Microsoft's PowerPoint software, these materials will be powerful tools in an electronic format on the World Wide Web and in print form. Chamber President Pepe Cummings used the initial draft version of these materials in a recent presentation to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on economic development. Indeed, it is hoped that one of the primary uses of the economic data these marketing materials contain will be existing Jackson County companies considering business expansion. Another primary use is as an educational tool with numerous

Please turn to page 15

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By Richard Cathey, Chamber Chairman



With this issue, the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce takes another step forward. For the first time, we are presenting, in conjunction with **MainStreet Newspapers**, our quarterly newsletter in the publications issued by MainStreet Newspapers.

Our ability to bring you more information in the form of pictures and graphics, in addition to the written word, will be greatly enhanced. We want to bring you news of the happenings of business in Jackson and surrounding counties.

As our membership grows in Jackson and surrounding counties, it is important that all of our members recognize and understand the myriad of things that the Chamber is involved in on a regular basis. My best guess is that less than five percent of the Chamber membership knows of all the things that the Chamber is doing each quarter. This vehicle, all shiny and new, will give us the opportunity to tell them, and anyone else interested, about the things we are doing.

We are also moving toward the start of a new school year in the county. As we begin the 1999-2000 school year, we need to be ever more involved in the education of our young people-our future work force-so that we and the educational systems in the county can say we did everything we could do to make the Class of 2000 and its underclassmen the best prepared students ever.

There are some really exciting things going on in education in Jackson County. We all need to give our support and encouragement to the students, teachers, administrators and support personnel so they can accomplish the goals they have set for the new school year.

As employers, we need to encourage employees-the parents of school age children-to participate in the activities of their children as often as they possibly can. The school systems in the county cannot achieve the maximum returns on their investment (how about that for putting this in business terms?) without the participation and support of the parents in the school systems. Please remind your employees to attend parent/teacher conferences, PTO meetings, academic and athletic events, recitals or anything else that their children are involved in at school.

Please turn to page 15



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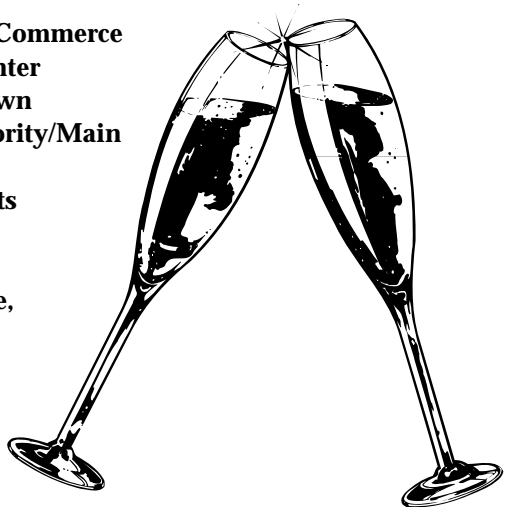
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Secure your booth early!
Taste of Jackson & Business Showcase

The deadline for securing a booth at the 1999 Taste of Jackson & Business Showcase is October 25! This year's event is planned for Thursday, November 4 at the Commerce Civic Center from 5-8pm. Twenty-three companies have already signed up. **Harber House Inn** has secured a booth as a caterer! Remember, booth assignment is on a first come, first served basis! The following companies have secured booths:

- **Alzheimers Care of Commerce**
- **Barrow Medical Center**
- **Commerce Downtown Development Authority/Main Street**
- **Duplicating Products**
- **Gainesville College**
- **Georgia Power**
- **GFW Equine Rescue, Inc.**
- **Harber House Inn - CATERER**
- **I-85 North Board of Realtors**
- **IBIS/Jaeger**
- **Jackson EMC**
- **Jackson County Board of Education**
- **Jackson County Home Builders Association**
- **JM Huber Corporation**
- **Lanier Technical Institute**
- **McDonald Ace Hardware**
- **Northeast Georgia Bank**
- **Northeast Georgia RESA Youth Apprenticeship**
- **Northminster Presbyterian Retirement Village**
- **Premier Real Estate**
- **St. Mary's Corporate Services**
- **Southeast Toyota Distributors, Inc.**
- **State Farm**



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:
New Millennium, Y2K, New Beginnings

By Pepe Cummings, Chamber President/CEO



The fact that we are racing down the backstretch of the last year of the twentieth century certainly gives one pause to reflect on the past and look into the future as one anxiously eyes Jackson County's "crystal ball." This is particularly true of business. Even when fiscal years are structured more for the tax year than calendar, planning tends to revolve around the seasons. Something seemingly as simple as our new business relationship with The Jackson Herald, occurring as it does here at the preamble to the new millennium, takes on enormous practical and symbolic importance.

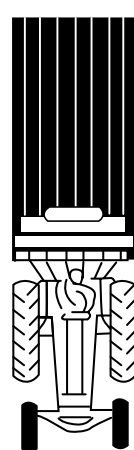
Practically, it adds value to members by providing a quality advertising opportunity for your business. I believe strongly that our advertisers are those companies that an objective reader would name as the leaders in their respective fields.

It is simply a better read. Let's face it, it's easier on the eyes to read something printed by the publisher responsible for both The Jackson Herald and The Commerce News receiving the Georgia Press Association's first place honors for general excellence. (Congratulations, **MainStreet Newspapers, Inc.**, on this and all your other awards.) Pictures are nice too. All told, it is simply a better tool for communicating Chamber news. That is a practical improvement!

Bridging the practical and symbolic, the relationship with The Herald represents a commitment to support Chamber members by doing business with them whenever possible. Try to make this choice in your own business. As a newcomer myself, establishing new trade ties to Jackson County, I can personally testify to the fact that you will receive quality products and services, usually coupled with great service at good values. Support your fellow Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce members.

On a slightly more theoretical level, it reflects the Chamber's ability to function in a business-like fashion when faced with fundamental "make versus buy" decisions. We are a member-driven business non-profit organization. Our raison d'être is to provide volunteer opportunities for members that enhance the business environment in which we all function. In other words, we ain't a publishing company. We have bought that service, adding additional value in the process. Good business decisions are good for members.

Most importantly, it shows we are looking ahead while taking care of business today. You should be proud of your Chamber, the men and women who volunteer to plan and execute programs, as well as the Board of Directors, structuring strategic relations such as this with The Jackson Herald. I know I am. It is truly an honor to serve such a committed, hard working group. Together, we should be able to make the next century even better. Consider this new newsletter an early start.



Farm-City Day

The Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the **Jackson County Farm Bureau**, Cooperative Extension Services, Jackson County Young Farmers and others are sponsoring a Farm-City Day on October 5.

The Farm-City Day consists of second graders from all systems in the county visiting the Jackson County High School livestock facility to interact with many "hands-on exhibits." Many of our local citizens and businesses are donating time and funds to make this a fun and educational day for the children of Jackson County.

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New Member Spotlight:**LifeSouth Community Blood Center**

LifeSouth Community Blood Center in Gainesville is a new Chamber member. In 1996, Hall County residents contacted LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, based in Florida, about the possibility of opening a community blood center that would serve local residents by accepting whole blood and apheresis donations. At the request of these dedicated donors, LifeSouth opened the Hall County branch in 1997. Although LifeSouth does not supply local hospitals, it does serve the hospitals throughout the state where many local residents go for treatment.

Founded in 1974, LifeSouth is a system of nonprofit, community blood centers that provide blood components and services to hospitals and healthcare facilities in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. LifeSouth is dedicated to providing the highest quality of blood components and services at the lowest optimum cost to the patients and hospitals they serve.

LifeSouth collects, tests and distributes an average of 350 units of blood every day, more than 130,000 annually. For the convenience of donors, LifeSouth collects blood at branch blood centers and mobile locations at corporate work sites, schools, churches and other community organizations. Rural donor programs reach our communities' outlying areas.

LifeSouth serves thousands of patients each month, which requires LifeSouth to draw, process and manage a large blood supply. To fulfill the growing blood needs of the communities they serve, they adopted a regionalized approach to blood collection and processing by establishing branch blood banks throughout their service areas. LifeSouth now has 11 branches in the Southeast. LifeSouth in Gainesville, Florida is the founding blood center and remains the administrative, testing and distribution headquarters for the entire system.

LifeSouth's Donor Consultant for Jackson County is Beth Hinnant. Beth has been a member of the Gainesville community for over ten years and with LifeSouth since August 1998. She serves 25 counties in Northeast Georgia: Hall, Banks, Habersham, Franklin, White, Lumpkin, Jackson, Dawson, Bartow, Gilmer, Towns, Fannin, Forsyth, Union, Rabun, Pickens, Barrow, Elbert, Stephens, Madison, Oconee, Clarke, Hart, Floyd, and Cherokee.

Among Beth's responsibilities are educating the community on the constant need for blood donations and scheduling the blood drives to ensure these needs are met. Beth attended Oakland Community College in Royal Oak, Michigan. She and her hus-

**Beth Hinnant**

band of 11 years, Kyle, are active in many community projects. Beth currently holds the position of 1999 Co-Chairperson of the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, member of the 1999 Mule Camp Market Advisory Committee, active with the Human Service Council in Gainesville, Georgia. When there is time to spare, Beth stays busy with her five dogs, vegetable and perennial gardening and eating dinner out!

If your business would like to sponsor a blood drive or if you would like to personally donate, please contact Beth Hinnant at 770/538-0500.

Welcome, New Chamber Members!**Chamber membership soars to 422!**

The following Chamber members have joined since January 1, 1999, some of which joined during our successful Spring membership drive:

- ABC One Stop Pawn & Connie's Jewel Box
- ACS Transport, Inc.
- Adams Appraisals
- Al-Ali, Inc. (Citgo Food & Gas)
- Alzheimer Care
- American Cancer Society
- Anchor Mortgage
- Antique Auction
- Applied Images
- Arcade Homes
- Around Back Antiques
- Athens Blueprint and Copy Shop
- Automotive Parts & Supplies/Carquest of Jefferson
- Benton Elementary School
- Black's Store
- Blackburn Catering
- Bo's Linen Service
- Botts Consulting
- Bowen & Bowen Construction Co., Inc.
- Brenda Thompson Catering
- Buhler Quality Yarns Corp
- Cars on Credit
- Clarke Automotive Consultants, Inc.
- Cody Trucking
- Computerland Advanced Tech Group
- Creative Dental Ceramics
- Decorative Concrete Finishes, Inc.
- Direct Supply Co., Inc.
- Dorsey & Associates Realty, Inc.
- Eagle Trace SID
- Electricon
- EMC Security
- Elliott Enterprises
- First Franklin Financial
- Gaddell, Inc.
- Georgia Freezer
- Gold Kist
- Goober's Logisitic Service, Inc.
- Grove Level Baptist Church
- H & R Block
- Hart's Hickory Smoked BBQ
- Harvey, McCormack & Free
- Home Town Tire & Lube
- Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung
- Hybrid Dynamics Aerospace
- IBIS/Jaeger, Inc.
- Indian Creek Manor Subdivision
- Ingram, Lord & Associates
- Jackson Place Apartments
- James Butler Homes, Inc.
- James Short Ford
- Jefferson Small Engine, Inc.
- Kelly Services
- L.G. Graphics
- Lanier Steel Products, Inc.
- Larry Horne & Sons Electrical and Plumbing Service
- Leo A. Daly Architecture
- LifeSouth Community Blood Center
- Mayer Chevrolet
- McKinney Realty
- Merchants Park
- Mission Foods
- Morgan Aircraft
- Morton Vardeman & Associates
- Northstar Equipment
- Peachtree Natural Gas
- Pete Wallis Agency, Inc.
- Pizza Hut - Jefferson
- Potts, Jeff
- Pro Cheer Training Center
- Quick 'n Tasty Foods, Inc.
- Real Deals
- Reinicke Athens, Inc.
- Road Atlanta
- Scales Creek Country Club
- Seagraves Welding & Machine Shop
- Short Stop
- Signs Now
- Simpson Brick Sales, Inc.
- Southstarr Home Center - Lonely Oak Leasing
- State Farm
- State Farm Insurance
- Stringer's Fish Camp
- Summa, Inc.
- Swedish Metal Fabrication, Ltd.
- Dr. Samuel K. Thomason DMD PC
- Tomorrow's Homes
- Turner Insurance Agency
- Water Wise
- Waters Farm
- William Taylor Properties, Inc.

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Bottom row (l to r): A. J. Schnelle, Steve Crawford, Alex Simmons, Haley Roberts and Peggy Crawford; Back row (l to r): Derek Blalock, Jeanna Atchley, Sharon Langford, Susie Roberts, Abby Roberts, Jimmy Roberts, Billie Finch, Carl Crawford and Vanessa Crawford

Remembering Former Chamber Chairman Kenneth Bridges

Former Chamber Chairman Kenneth Smith Bridges, 55, died of an apparent heart attack on August 6. Prior to serving as Chamber Chairman, Mr. Bridges served on the Chamber Board of Directors in 1981, and as Chamber Vice President in 1982.



on the chance to win a car. The proceeds benefited the North Jackson Fire Department.”

John White served as Vice President under Chamber Chairman Kenneth Bridges. John remembers Kenneth as

being “the driving force behind the Chamber being known as a pro-business organization. Kenneth was chairman during the time when Jackson County was unsure if it should remain primarily rural or become more

business-oriented. Kenneth made sure everyone knew that the Chamber was PRO-BUSINESS! Kenneth led the effort to sponsor a Jackson County Motto Contest resulting in “JACKSON COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS!”

Kenneth Bridges and his parents will always be remembered for the contributions they made to Jackson County, as well as all of Northeast Georgia, with Katherine Kitchen’s Southern hospitality and cooking.

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First Commerce Bank was glad to see the Richards achieving their lifetime dream. It’s their kind of vision that keeps our community growing beautifully. Our goal at First Commerce is to help our customers turn their dreams into reality.

A native of Jackson County, Mr. Bridges, along with his parents, Smith and Katherine, founded **Katherine’s Kitchen** restaurant (one of the first restaurants at Exit 50 on Interstate-85 and Hwy. 129). Mr. Bridges was the current owner and president of the restaurant. He was a graduate of Jefferson High School, Emmanuel College and the University of Georgia. He previously managed Bridges Feed and Poultry Company, served in the U.S. Army Reserves, headed Bridges Supply Company and Bridges Exxon.

Mr. Bridges served as president of the Middle Oconee Watershed Association and the North Jackson Volunteer Fire Department, director of the Mountain Creek Little League Association, and member of Mt. Paren Church of God North.

Dianne Blankenship, who served on the Board of Directors chaired by Mr. Bridges, remembered Kenneth fondly saying, “Ken always had a long-range vision for Jackson County. He also had a strong interest in Jackson County politics. On a personal level, Ken was relaxed and fun to be around. On one occasion he invited the Chamber Officers to a cookout – the group rode on his pontoon to an island off Lake Lanier. Ken was a very kind man -- always thinking of others.” Dianne continued, “He was a great salesman too. He sold me the ONLY \$100.00 raffle ticket I have ever bought



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Continuous Sponsor Spotlight: Walnut Creek Turf Farm



Back Row, Left to Right: Owners - Larry Wood, Joe Elrod, Alex Bryan, Mitch Mitchell, and Casey Green; Front Row: Office Manager - Barbara Sanders

Walnut Creek Turf Farm is a Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce Continuous Sponsor. Locally owned and operated, Walnut Creek Turf Farm was established in 1994 to provide North Georgia with quality turf grass. Make your home or business a showplace with Walnut Creek's turf grass! Its turf grass is grown on over 500 acres in Jackson and Banks County. It provides turf grass for home lawns, athletic fields and golf courses.

Walnut Creek specializes in Tiftway 419 Bermuda and Meyer Zoysia grass. Other

grasses are available. It also specializes in the installation of sprigs. Walnut Creek's turf grass has a clay base providing a better root system. All turf grass is available year-round. Pickup or delivery available.

Walnut Creek offers a mowing tip: As everyone knows, Southern grasses are most active during summer and early fall, and should be higher then. Cut Bermuda, Centipede and Zoysia grass at 2 to 3 inches; fescue at 4 inches during this time to help shade and cool the soil.

New Physicians In Jackson County

Chamber members should greet the two new physicians in Jackson County with "Welcome Home to Jackson County." Both Dr. Susan Weaver Hawn and Dr. Gene Doss are native Jackson Countians who have returned to open their respective medical practices.

Dr. Hawn has opened her practice, as an affiliate of Barrow Medical Center, at 1654 Washington Street in Jefferson. Dr. Hawn, the former Susan Lea Weaver, attended South Jackson Elementary School, Jefferson High School, North Georgia College and the University of Georgia. She attended the Medical College of Georgia on an Army scholarship. Dr. Hawn worked at Jefferson Drug Company for many years. She spent five years as an Army physician stationed at Ft. Gordon, Ft. McPherson

and Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Hawn finished her residency in Family Practice at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. Dr. Hawn and her husband, Walter, have one two-year-old son, Walter. Dr. Hawn's parents are Evelyn and Merritt Pound of the South Jackson area. Dr. Hawn's Jefferson office opened on August 1.

Dr. Gene Doss is Dr. Jon Milford's new partner. Dr. Doss was born and reared in Commerce. He is the son of Linda Howington and the late Roy Doss. He graduated from Commerce High School and Georgia Southern University with a bachelor of business administration degree. He worked in retail management for nearly ten years before returning to school. He attended the University of Georgia in order to obtain the



prerequisites for optometry school and earned his doctorate of optometry degree in 1998 from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Doss is married to the former Shelia Martin and they have three children: Adam, Ryan and Kayla. They reside in Hoschtion and are glad to be back home around family and friends.

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UGA Athletic Department and Barrow Medical Center featured in fall chamber luncheons

Reserve your luncheon tickets for the September 15 Chamber Luncheon at the Commerce Civic Center featuring Suzanne Yoculan, Head Coach, University of Georgia Ladies Gymnastics Team. Diligence, drive and desire have taken Suzanne Yoculan to the top of her profession in her 16 seasons as Georgia's head coach. Suzanne has molded Georgia gymnastics into one of the most successful programs in the nation. Every one of her teams has finished among the Top 10 in the nation, her last 14 have been in the Top 5 at the NCAA Championships, and her 1987, 1989, 1993, 1998 and 1999 squads won the NCAA team championship.

Suzanne is an active member of the Athens community. She is the honorary chair for the Northeast Georgia United Way 1998-99 campaign. She is an active speaker who addresses Georgia Bulldog booster clubs throughout the South, as well as serving as a television and radio spokesperson for an Athens automobile dealership and an Athens-based carpet dealer. Coach Yoculan also gives personal fitness tips weekly on an Athens radio station. She has

had two articles published in the NCAA News, one on appropriate training in collegiate gymnastics and another on the merits of a scoring system that challenges gymnasts to perform up to their potential.



Limited space is available at the luncheon. The luncheon is \$10.00 per person. Reservations need to be made by September 10 by calling the Chamber Office at 706/335-1896. This luncheon program is presented by the Women in Business; but, is open to ALL Chamber members!

Barrow Medical Center will host an October 13 Chamber luncheon at **Jackson EMC Auditorium**, 12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Randy Mills, CEO of Barrow Medical Center, will present a program featuring Jackson County native, Dr. Susan Weaver Hawn (see article **NEW PHYSICIANS IN JACKSON COUNTY**).

ART IN THE PARK FESTIVAL

The Tumbling Waters Society presents the Ninth Annual Hurricane Shoals' Art in the Park Festival, Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, September 19, 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Hurricane Shoals Park, Highway 82 Spur north of Jefferson. Free Admission and Free Parking! Chamber member businesses can contribute items that are representative of their company and Jackson County for participants in the "1 Mile Fun Run/Walk and the

5K Race." 300 participants are expected. Items such as pens, hats, key rings, t-shirts, koozies, are appreciated. Please drop items off at the Chamber Office at 1655 S. Elm Street in Commerce by September 5. The 9th Annual Mill Race (5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk) is planned for Saturday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m. For the less inclined, a one-mile Fun Run/Walk takes place at 8:30 a.m. Fees are \$10.00 to pre-register and \$12.00 on race day. Make

checks payable to Tumbling Waters Society, postmarked by September 15. The course is fast, offering scenic country lanes and paved roads, splits will be called at the 1 and 2 mile marks. Fluids will be provided on the course. For additional information, contact Keith Ariail at 706/335-5519 (day), 706/335-2010 (evening), or Henry Slocum at 706/335-1000 (day) or 706/335-4911 (evening).

Publication of Joint Church Directory

The Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the publication of a church directory in conjunction with the Banks County Chamber of Commerce. The First Baptist Church of Commerce's stained glass windows highlight the cover with Drew, Chris, and Mac Bray.

Jackson County native and retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Bill Kinney of Braselton provided the opening letter. Colonel Kinney is one of many Jackson County residents who

moved away from the area only to "come back home to Jackson County." Thanks to the following churches who purchased advertising in the directory: Commerce Presbyterian Church, Zion Baptist Church in Braselton, St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Mission in Commerce, Commerce First United Methodist Church, Ridgeway Baptist Church in Commerce, Commerce First Baptist Church, Nails Creek Baptist Church in Homer, Hoschton United Methodist

Church, Center United Methodist Church, Bethany United Methodist Church in Jefferson, Jefferson Presbyterian Church, White Plains Baptist Church in Jefferson, Maysville Baptist Church, Galilee Christian Church in Jefferson, and Grove Level Baptist Church in Maysville. Melissa Herndon of Marketing and Media Resources is the publisher of both the church directory and the Chamber's Lifestyle Magazine.



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JACKSON COUNTY AREA CHAMBER



Jackson County Developers Days have become the cornerstone of our regions economic development marketing efforts. Begun in 1998, there have been five very successful Developers Days. These marketing events focus on attracting state-wide economic development professionals to Jackson County. The result of these marketing efforts has been the return visit by these professionals with investment prospects for Jackson County. In fact, one project manager from the most recent Developers Day has returned with four different prospects that all totaled represent over \$100 million in potential new capital investment and over 150 new jobs.

Typically, the professional development guests are shown as much of Jackson County as can be seen in a day. Starting at I-85 at the county line, the visitors are shown the existing industrial buildings, industrial parks and quality of life amenities such as residential neighborhoods and schools. The highlight of the visit is lunch with leaders from Jackson County's business and government sectors.

Locally, the Developers Days pay great dividends. They provide us with an opportunity to practice as a team. The commitment of both county and municipal officials to working together on projects that benefit the citizens of Jackson County is enhanced through these initiatives. The public-private partnership between various government agencies and individual companies is facilitated. We all, Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce, Board of Commissioners, municipalities, Industrial Development Authorities and private companies learn from each experience that there are shared benefits from the economic development process.

Thanks to all businesses and governmental entities that have provided items for our Developer Day baskets. These items are representative of Chamber member companies and Jackson County as a whole. They help us to "welcome" prospects to the area.

We look forward to showing what Jackson County has to offer as we begin to plan Year 2000 Developers Days.

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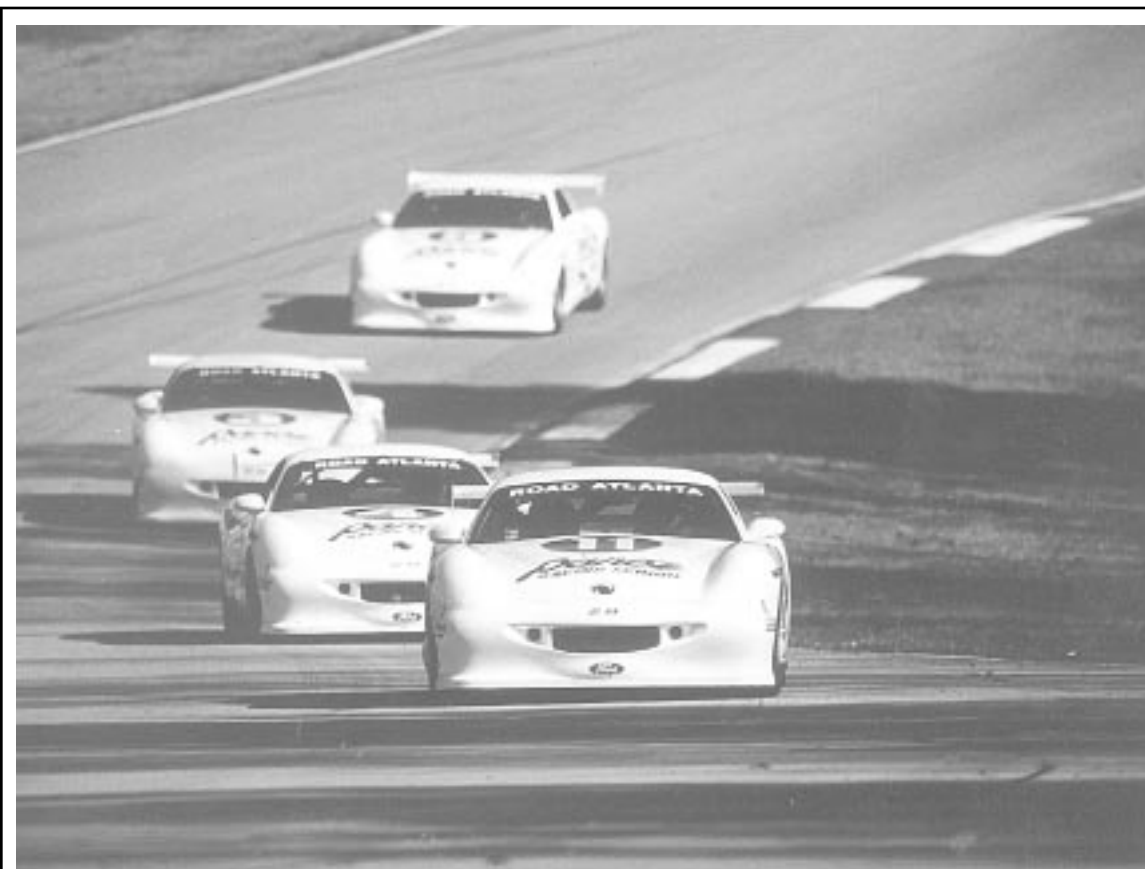
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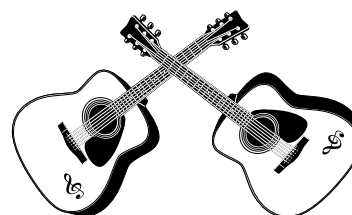
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ROAD ATLANTA BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

The Chamber's "Days of Thunder" BAH was held at Road Atlanta in July. No, Chamber members did not get to drive a race car; but, we DID get to ride in one. After snacking on hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, Chamber members donned helmets and strapped themselves into cars that are normally used for Road Atlanta's Racing School. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Road Atlanta for an excellent adventure!



City Lights Festival

Over 5,000 attended The Third Annual Bill Anderson "City Lights" Festival in Commerce in late June. In just three years, the "City Lights" concert has grown into a regional summer highlight. According to Rob Jordan (Chamber Board Member, Owner of WJJC Radio Station, and President of the Commerce Area Business Association), "This year's festival benefited the Commerce High School Bill Anderson Performing Arts Center which the entire community can use."

This year's feature artist was Grammy Award Winning Country Music Star, Steve Wariner. Tickets were raffled for the chance of winning a guitar signed by Steve Wariner, Bill Anderson, Jan Howard, Garth Brooks, Terri Clark, Vince Gil and other country music stars. Tommy Miller of Jackson County won the coveted guitar.

Sign Up Now To Sponsor A 2000 Quarterly Luncheon Or Bah

Chamber members, if you would like to sponsor a Year 2000 Luncheon or Business After Hours, please contact the Chamber by calling 706/335-1896.

2000 Breakfast Sponsors Secured

Along with MainStreet Newspapers sponsoring the "Year 2000 Breakfast Series," the Chamber has secured additional sponsors for our breakfasts next year:

LifeSouth Community Blood Center, Alzheimer's Care of Commerce, Prudential Georgia Realty, Galilee Christian Church, Buhler Quality Yarns, GardenSmith Greenhouse & Nursery and Jackson County Farm Bureau, Jackson Funeral Home, BJC Medical Center, GFW Equine Rescue, Jackson County Board of Commissioners, and Harber House Inn. Once again, the Chamber will not have a July breakfast. The breakfast dates and locations will be announced later.

City Of Braselton To Host December Bah

The City of Braselton will host a "Christmas Business After Hours" at the Braselton Town Hall on Thursday, December 9, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Watch your email and fax machines for a reminder in early December.



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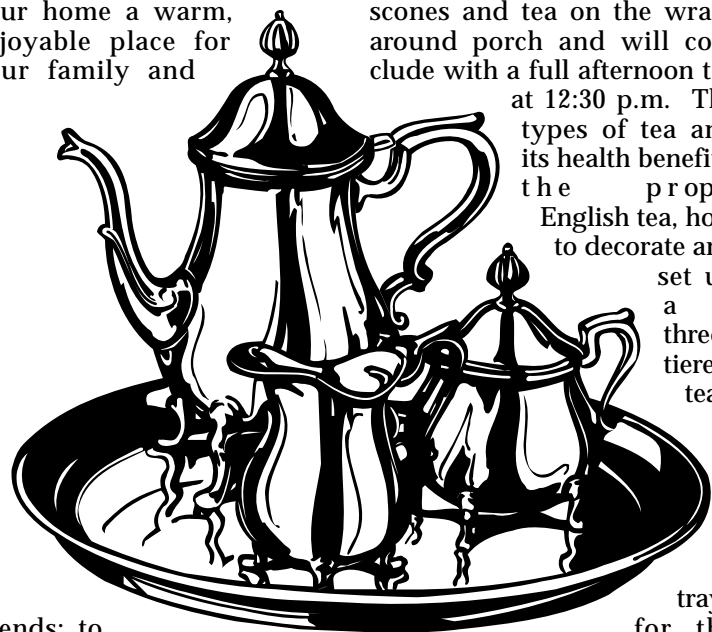
Hours:
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Let us cater your next outdoor event in our new landscaped pavilion area

Tea Room Opens In Hoschton

Hoschton, Georgia is soon to be the home of **Eli and Hattie**, an English Tea Room. Dee Titus, the owner and operator, says her goal with the Tea Room is "to enhance the art of taking tea and etiquette with ideas of how to make your home a warm, enjoyable place for your family and

and realizing this must be brought back into our homes and around our family dinner tables." Dee hopes to offer another seminar in early 2000. "The Experience of Tea" seminar on September 17 and 18 will begin at 9:00 a.m. with scones and tea on the wrap-around porch and will conclude with a full afternoon tea at 12:30 p.m. The types of tea and its health benefits, the proper English tea, how to decorate and set up a three-tiered tea



friends; to provide a 'gathering place' where couples, friends and strangers will enjoy a new and relaxing experience in food, drink, music and teaching; to promote the City of Hoschton's good character and excellence so visitors will say 'It was good to have been at Eli & Hattie's in Hoschton, Georgia.'"

Eli and Hattie is named after Dee's great-grandparents and is established in a 100-year-old restored Victorian home. This tea room has an English flair - men and women can enjoy this relaxed atmosphere. The grand opening is October 2 and Eli & Hattie's is open for business on October 6. The Tea Room will be open every Wednesday - Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Tea Room offers Cream Tea in the mornings, Full Afternoon Tea (by reservation only by calling Dee Titus at 706/654-9186), and Tea Time Lunch (Walk-Ins Accepted). Another highlight of Eli & Hattie's is a gift shop with china, tea books, tea trays, etc.

Dee is offering an introduction to tea, "The Experience of Tea," on September 17 and 18. This seminar is already booked via "word of mouth," without formal advertising. Ms. Titus said, "This proves that ladies are interested in a new and exciting way to entertain. Mothers and grandmothers are coming back to 'the old ways' of teaching our younger generation about 'the finer things'

tray for the holidays will be taught, along with tea tasting.

Dee also offers children's birthday tea parties where little girls get to 'dress up,' have lessons in etiquette and the art of tea, have story time, cake and open presents from family and friends. The birthday girl gets a tea cup and saucer to take home. If you are interested in a birthday tea party, please contact Debbie Bostic at 770/963-8439.

Child Care Solutions:

New Gainesville College Project Helps Parents With Number One Childcare Problem

Child Care Solutions, a project of **Gainesville College**, is a telephone referral service for parents looking for child care in the Northeast Georgia area. It is a central source of information about child care in the thirteen-county area of Jackson, Hall, Dawson, Lumpkin, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Rabun, Towns, Hart, Franklin, Barrow, and White.

Solutions refers to: family day care homes, group homes, day care centers, pre-schools and mother's mornings out, after school care, summer camp programs, and respite care. Child Care Solutions knows that child care is a very important family decision. Its goal is to help parents make the best choices for their children.

Child Care Solutions believes that the best choice for any child will be a very personal decision which should reflect the parents' values and expectations and meet the child's individual and developmental needs. Parents can, and should, choose the plan that is best for their child.

Child care counselors who are sensitive to parents' needs and have a thorough knowledge of child care are available by phone. Counselors can discuss issues with parents and offer parents referrals to child care in the same

phone call.

During the referral call, counselors will describe different kinds of care and how they are regulated; tell parents about family day care homes and day care centers in their area; counsel parents on how to choose and maintain good child care; help parents think through their concerns or

worries about a child care arrangement; work with parents to solve complex child care problems such as care during non-traditional work hours, care for children with special needs, and child care for low income families.

Please turn to Page 12

Caring for an elderly relative?

Need some help? Caring for a loved one can be exhausting work. Sometimes, it's important for caregivers to take time to rest and rejuvenate themselves. Our respite service can provide care for a few days or few weeks. Your loved one will receive needed assistance in a loving Christian environment while you vacation, travel or simply rebuild your strength.

Call us to learn more:
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Board Secures New CPAs

At the July meeting of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Board approved the change of accounting services for the Chamber from George Beavers, CPA in Toccoa, to **Shubert & Sikes**, CPAs in Commerce.

Shubert & Sikes will reconcile Chamber finances on a monthly basis and prepare monthly financial statements for the Board, prepare annual tax returns, and serve as financial counsel for the organization.

Child Care Solutions

(continued from page 11)

When parents seeking child care call us, we learn from them that quality child care is in short supply in many areas. Child Care Solutions works to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care through recruiting providers and offering training and consultation to home-based and center-based child care givers.

Start your child care search by calling 770/718-3883 (toll free 1-800-793-6383), Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If you find us difficult to reach, please keep trying. When you do get through, we

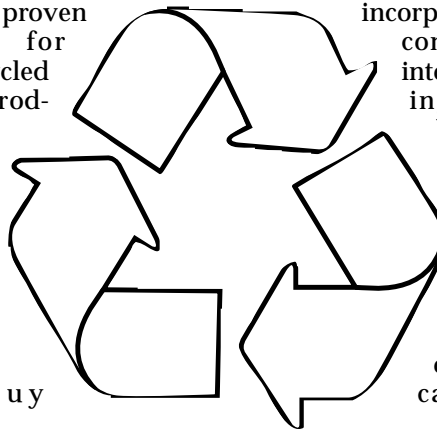
Buying Recycled: The Real Story About Cost, Availability And Quality

On November 9, 1999 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Eastern time), a satellite forum entitled **Buying Recycled: The Real Story About Cost, Availability and Quality** will be broadcast live throughout the country. This FREE, interactive program is designed to provide businesses, governments, and other organizations with insight on ways to purchase quality, competitively priced, recycled content products. This broadcast is presented in support of America Recycles Day by the WasteWise program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the buy Recycled Business Alliance, a partnership of the National Recycling Coalition.

The forum will feature Richard Keller, a nationally recognized

expert on buying recycled, who will share suggestions on proven strategies for buying recycled content products. Also featured will be businesses and governments from both the WasteWise and Buy Recycled Business Alliance programs who have incorporated recycled content products into their purchasing strategies. Viewers will have the opportunity to call in during the forum with questions. Organizations or individuals can serve as Downlink Site Coordinators. The broadcast is cost-free for downlink sites. (Sites may charge a fee to participants to cover their expenses). If you are interested in being a Downlink Site Coordinator, please contact WasteWise through their website at www.epa.gov/wastewise/wwsf or send an email to wwsf@erg.com or fax a request for a FREE coordinator's kit and information to 703/841-1440.

expert on buying recycled, who will share suggestions on proven strategies for buying recycled content products. Also featured will be businesses and governments from both the WasteWise and Buy Recycled Business Alliance programs who have incorporated recycled content products into their purchasing strategies. Viewers will have the opportunity to call in during the forum with questions. Organizations or individuals can serve as



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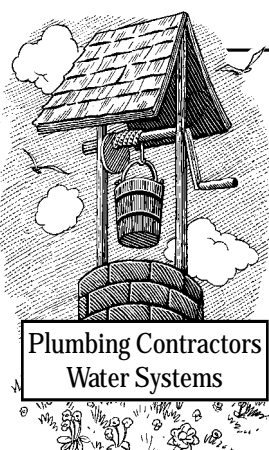
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Tanger's 6th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day/Breast Cancer Benefit Discount Booklet

This year, Tanger is excited to introduce a new element to help raise funds for our campaign. It will be producing a special packet filled with discount coupons from retail partners known as a Breast Cancer Benefit Discount Booklet. Tanger centers will be selling these packets to shoppers during the entire month of October for a minimal \$1.00 contribution to our local American Cancer Society Chapters. Tanger shoppers will be encouraged to "Save Money and Help Save Lives" by purchasing one or more of the new discount packets.

Tanger Outlet Center will again 'join in the fight' against breast cancer by presenting the 6th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day Campaign in October. Since its inception in 1994, along with YOUR SUPPORT, the Breast Cancer Awareness Day Campaign has raised nearly \$500,000 for the American Cancer Society and just as important, helped thousands of shoppers across the country become AWARE of the importance of self examination and early detection.

As in previous years, the cornerstone of the campaign will take place on a designated Saturday in October when Tanger Outlet Centers nationwide will donate 1% of all center sales to ACS. The majority of centers hold their event on Saturday, October 9, to coincide with the popular Columbus Day Sales. Other fund-raising activities, includ-

"Chamber Challenge"



The third annual "Chamber Challenge" was held at the Atlanta International Dragway on August 12. According to record keeper Dennis Robarge of the Atlanta International Dragway, "Competition between the two Chambers will be a thing of the past - the 'tie' between Jackson and Banks County Chambers will stand forever. We are all here just to have fun!" The Bottled Water Source provided t-shirts for participants in the race. If you missed this year's BAH at the Dragway, DON'T MISS OUT ON "THE MILLENIUM CHALLENGE" NEXT YEAR!

ing Relays for Life, auctions, car shows, fashion shows, etc., will also take place at various Tanger centers across the country.

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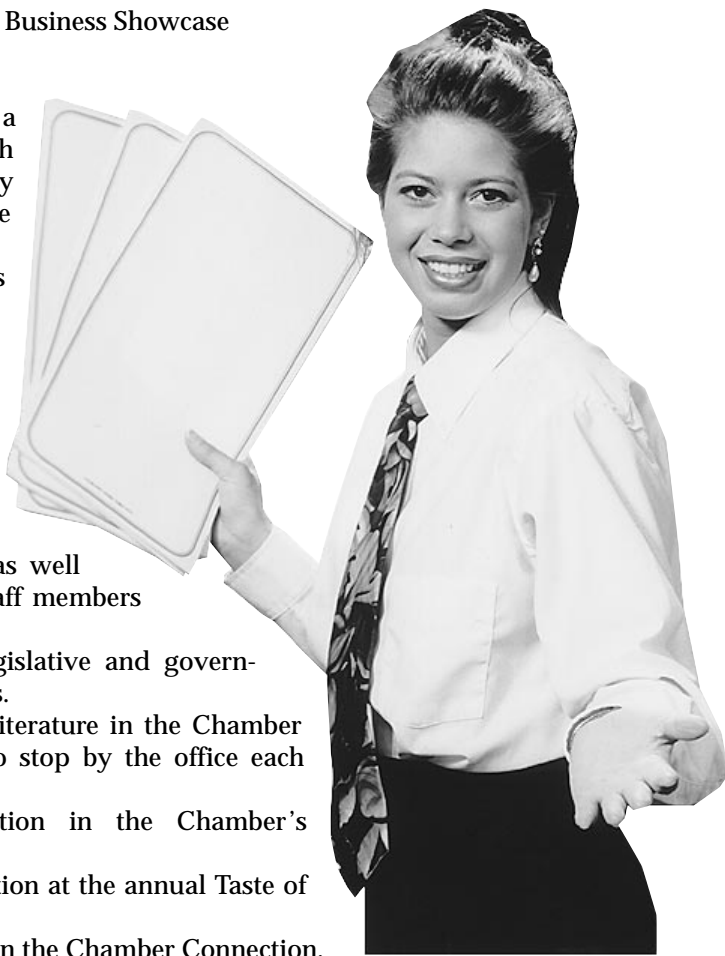
- 1-Attend one of the Chamber's luncheon or breakfast sessions.
- 2-Visit our annual Taste of Jackson & Business Showcase

In less than one hour, you can . . .

- 1-Write and mail to the Chamber a news item about your business which can be published in the next quarterly Chamber Connection insert in The Jackson Herald
- 2-Stop by a Business After Hours and make new business contacts
- 3-Promote your business through the Chamber's mass fax/email system.

Even if you have no time to get involved, the Chamber offers . . .

- 1-Business referrals from the Chamber's membership directory, as well as direct referrals from Chamber staff members in response to inquiries at the office
- 2-Information and advocacy on legislative and governmental issues affecting your business.
- 3-Display space for your business literature in the Chamber office and exposure to visitors who stop by the office each year.
- 4-Business and member information in the Chamber's monthly newsletter
- 5-Discounts on booth space registration at the annual Taste of Jackson & Business Showcase.
- 6-Advertising on our web page and in the Chamber Connection.



JABA/CABA Halloween Festivities

Both the Jefferson Area Business Association and the Commerce Area Business Associations will have their respective "Halloween Walks" on Friday, October 29. The Jefferson festivities begin at the Dutch Petaler. The Commerce "Walk" circles the main drag downtown and extends to Cherry, State and Central Streets. Both "walks" are from 4-6pm.

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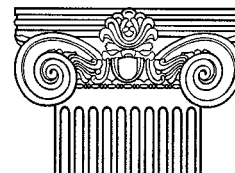


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ACTS
as your legislative advocate and voice in decisions that affect your business on the local and state level.

PROVIDES QUALITY NETWORKING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
with our monthly breakfast meetings, quarterly luncheons, business after hours, and annual Taste of Jackson & Business Showcase.

PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
between schools and businesses (an example is our Job Expo for high school students).

COMMUNICATES
with its members, and the community as a whole, through our quarterly newsletter, The Chamber Connection, our mass fax/email system, and our web site - www.jacksoncountyga.com.

HOSTS
the Chamber Annual Awards Banquet, Chamber Christmas Social.

PROMOTES MEMBER BUSINESSES
through the member referrals program. Long-time residents, as well as newcomers, contact the Chamber office when they require a particular product or service. We make it a practice to refer only members.



OFFERS ADVERTISING,
restricted to Chamber members only, in Chamber publications such as our Jackson County Lifestyle Magazine, Chamber Connection newsletter and is accessed by many walk-in customers.

PROVIDES INTERNET EXPOSURE
through advertising on the Chamber web page at www.jacksoncountyga.com.

OFFERS MAILING LABELS AND LISTS
to Chamber members. Mailing

labels can be supplied for a nominal charge.

PROVIDES EDUCATION FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS
through workshops, seminars, forums (such as Y2K Luncheon Seminar, Fair Housing Seminar, 1998 Political Forum, SPLOST Forums).

SERVES
its members through a locally-staffed office at 1655 South Elm Street in Commerce, Georgia.

WORKS
with mayors and city councils of the nine different municipalities and the county commissioners' office on issues that affect the business community.

OFFERS COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION
for Chamber volunteers. This is the strength of the Chamber. People like YOU who are concerned with the critical issues facing our community. YOUR involvement will benefit your business by making you more visible in the business commu-

Economic Development (continued from page 2)

groups regarding the importance of economic development in expanding and balancing the tax digest to support growth and development while ensuring the quality of life in Jackson County.

tion with Jackson County, City of Commerce, Jefferson, Braselton, Maysville and Talmo, had five projects in progress representing a total investment of \$99 million and a total of 295+ jobs.

All of these efforts, directed primarily at existing business and Chamber members, have had the positive effect of attracting significant prospect activity. Through the month of June, the Chamber, in conjunc-

With the second Developers Day of 1999 scheduled for August 24 (see DEVELOPER'S DAY article on pages 8 and 9), these numbers will only increase.

Chairman's Corner (continued from page 2)

They will make no greater use of their time.

We always look forward to your input and feedback as we go about our efforts to make this the best Chamber of Commerce it can be. Tell us what you think of the new delivery system. Does it work for you? How can we improve on it? What would you like to see included in future editions?

Finally, I hope you are having a great summer.

nity and by increasing your business contact. Only Chamber members may participate on the committees that guide Chamber programming.

MEMBERS COME FIRST
by receiving early notification of Chamber-sponsored events and receive preferential registration. Fees are greatly reduced or FREE to members only.

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The Jackson County CHAMBER CONNECTION

A publication of

The Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1444
Commerce, Georgia 30529

The Chamber Connection is published quarterly, as an insert in the MainStreet Newspapers' publications, by the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce.

Pepe Cummings, Chamber President/
CEO, Richard Cathey, Chamber
Chairman. Please submit articles to P.O.
Box 1444, Commerce, GA 30529.
Publication of articles is at the discretion
of the Editor.

Disclaimer: The Jackson County Area
Chamber of Commerce does not
necessarily endorse informational items
regarding non-Chamber member
businesses, events, and/or activities in this
publication.

- Editor, Elizabeth McDonald -