

Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce

PROGRESS

MAGAZINE

Winter 2011, Vol. 55, No. 1

What is a “Leading Business”

Discover on page 24 and 25

What's Inside...

- Meet a Member
- World Class Recognition
- Opportunity Central



We pay **2.50%^{APY*}** on checking.

Performance Plus Checking—The Cherry On Top

Earn Performance Rates		Base Rate
2.50%^{APY*}	.51%^{APY*}	0.10%^{APY*}
on balances up to \$15,000	on balances over \$15,000	if requirements are not met
Free Nationwide ATM Fees + Online Banking		
ADEL	301 W. Fourth Street	229.896.4585
VALDOSTA	103 Roosevelt Drive	229.293.8590
800.227.7989 eheritagebank.com		

Requirements include: E-statements, Direct Deposit or Automatic Debit and 12 Check Card Transactions per statement cycle.

*2.50% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) paid on balances up to \$15,000 and 0.51% APY paid on all amounts above \$15,000 each qualifying statement cycle the minimum requirements are met. If you do not meet the requirements during a qualifying cycle, your account will still function as a free checking account, earning 0.10% APY, however it will not receive ATM refunds for that time period. If you do not meet the requirements three (3) consecutive qualifying cycles, your account will be converted to a Regular Checking account; fees may apply. APY is accurate as of January 16, 2010. We may change the interest rate and APY at any time after the account is opened. No minimum balance required. However, you must deposit a minimum of \$100 to open this account. Available to personal accounts only. No monthly service charge. Member FDIC.



[refreshing and new]

Our websites, designs, videos and marketing are a breath of fresh air. We will work with you to develop an identity as unique as your business. For fresh new ideas for your business, call Steven at Fusion Creative Marketing, 229.293.0068.

a firm foundation
IS WHERE STRENGTH BEGINS

Meet the Team: (L-R)

- David Durland, Regional President
- Darlene Johnson, Vice President
- Crystal Darling, Customer Service Rep.
- Laurie Hancock, Administrative Assistant
- Terry Bennett, Sr. Vice President
- Kellie McTier, Vice President
- Sharon Tyson, Administrative Assistant
- Ed Hutchinson, Sr. Vice President



103 ROOSEVELT DRIVE, VALDOSTA 229.293.8590 EHERITAGEBANK.COM MEMBER FDIC

INTERNET | VIDEO | PRINT | BRANDING

Speaking of new, check out our updated portfolio at fusioncreativemarketing.com

Steven Heddon, Creative Director

229.290.0068 | Valdosta, GA
fusioncreativemarketing.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Tom Gooding
Elliott, Blackburn & Gooding, P.C.

VICE CHAIR, BUSINESS EXPANSION DIVISION
Sue Cox, Covington's Dining & Catering

VICE CHAIR, MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION
Greg Reid, Edward Jones Investments

VICE CHAIR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Jay Prince, Prince Automotive of Valdosta, Inc.

VICE CHAIR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION
Jeff Hanson, Southwest Georgia Bank

VICE CHAIR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION DIVISION
Greg Justice, Regal Marine

VICE CHAIR, ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE DIVISION
Tim Jones, Citizens Community Bank

VICE CHAIR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Paul Nichols, Nexstep Technology Services, Inc.

TREASURER
Carlton Holley
Fowler, Holley, Rambo & Stalvey, P.C.

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN
Terri Lupo
Georgia Power Company

CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE
Ken Ricket
Ellis, Ricket & Associates

PRESIDENT
Myrna Ballard
Chamber of Commerce

Clinton Beeland, CJB Industries, Inc.
Sally Bloom, Mediacom
Tom Carroll, Sunset Farm Foods, Inc.
David Durland, Heritage Bank of the South
Jeff Fulp, Erco Worldwide, Inc.
Mike Hill, Mike Hill Real Estate
Phyllis Royal, Full Circle Marketing
Bill Simmons, Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Megan Smith, SmithBarns & Associates
Baha Zeidan, Azalea Health Innovations

CHAMBER STAFF

Myrna Ballard, President
Karil Brockington, Senior Director of Administration
Alison Stokes, Senior Director of Community Development
Mike Stalvey, Senior Director of Operations
Betty Morgan, Vice President
Sandy Prentiss, Member Services Coordinator
ReKasa Deen, Business Development Director
Patty Martin, Administrative Assistant
Keyara Hamilton, Workforce Development Director
Erika Bennett, Communications Coordinator
Wanda Stanley, Communications Specialist
JD Dillard, SEEDS Business Resource Center Coordinator



From The CHAIRMAN



Tom Gooding
2011 Chamber Board Chairman

We're off to another great year at the Chamber! As your Chairman for 2011, it is my privilege to lead our Board of Directors and work with **Myrna Ballard** and the rest of our very capable staff – and each of you – in achieving together our plans for 2011.

The Chamber is our area's leading business and community development organization. Among our key initiatives for this year are creating a pro-business environment, unifying our community, and building a better workforce.

Creating a Pro-Business Environment. We'll continue to advocate for a "No Wrong Door" philosophy among local organizations and agencies that provide direct assistance to businesses and entrepreneurs. Our new Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT) is a liaison between local governments and the business community to improve the business permitting and licensing process.

Unifying Our Community. While planning is still underway, the Chamber's new Community Development Division will lead efforts to unify our community by creating a common vision and focus. We'll continue to have a Chamber representative to Community Unification for Educational Excellence, Inc. (CUEE) which is championing unification of our two local school systems.

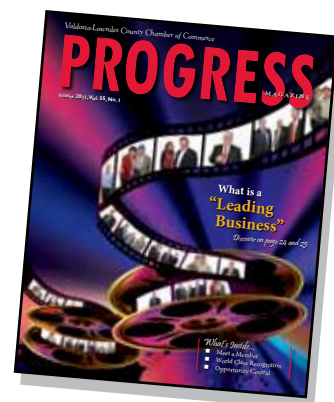
Building a Better Workforce. We'll continue to improve our workforce through successful programs like Helping Your Child Succeed, Supervisor Essentials Workshops, and World-Class Employee Recognition.

You are the Chamber. You provide the ideas, the drive, the goals, the funding, and untold volunteer hours to keep the Chamber accomplishing all that it does. So, keep it up!

Tom Gooding

About The COVER

Featured on the cover of this issue of Progress are several of this year's Leading Businesses. See pages 24 and 25 for more details.



Cover Design by Fusion Creative Marketing and Wanda Stanley, Communications Specialist



MEET A MEMBER

Ricky's Roof Maintenance



"Roofs are just like the human body. Regular check-ups and maintenance make them last a lot longer."

Ricky Richardson

Ricky's Roof Maintenance offers annual service contracts that provide regular check-ups and maintenance procedures that make your residential or commercial roof not only look better, but last longer.

Owner **Ricky Richardson** has been in the roofing business his entire working life, but he decided to specialize in roof maintenance about three years ago. "The purpose of roof maintenance is to look for loose shingles, nails that are backing out, or anything that could potentially cause a leak," said Richardson. "My main goal is to identify a problem before a leak occurs."

Ricky's Roof Maintenance provides annual service contracts for residential and commercial customers which includes regular roof cleaning, gutter cleaning, and replacing seals around plumbing pipes. Most contracts include cleaning semi-annually or three times per year, depending on the structure's environment.

Richardson is insured and licensed. "Homeowners should always check for proof that the person on your roof is insured," said Richardson. "Anyone on your roof should be insured for that purpose."

Ricky's Roof Maintenance has been a Chamber member since the business opened in 2008. They can be reached at **229-269-0411**

mark your CALENDAR

Month	Date	Event	Location	Time
MARCH:	2	Chamber 101	Chamber of Commerce	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
	24	Business After Hours	Valwood School	5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
	31	Chamber Choice Awards	Rainwater Conference Center	7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
APRIL:	6	Chamber 101	Chamber of Commerce	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
	14	Chamber Business Showcase	Rainwater Conference Center	2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
	28	Business After Hours	South GA Vein Center	5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
MAY:	4	Chamber 101	Chamber of Commerce	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
	17	Economic Summit	VSU University Center	8:00 - 1:00 p.m.
JUNE:	1	Chamber 101	Chamber of Commerce	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
	8	Supervisor Essentials	GA DOL Lowndes Room	7:30 - 1:00 p.m.

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PROGRESS

Winter 2011 Volume 55, No. 1

Design & Layout
Wanda Stanley

Advertising
Erika Bennett

Printing
U.S. Press
America's Color Printer®

Copyright by Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce. © All rights reserved. Progress is produced and published three times per year by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce. Subscription rate of \$40 is included with Chamber membership. Reproduction in whole or in part of this publication without the expressed written consent of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce is prohibited. All claims, materials, photos appearing herein are believed by the editors to be accurate. However, no responsibility or liability is assumed, and is expressly disclaimed, by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce for any inaccuracies, errors or omissions. Advertisements, articles, photos, editorial information, and other materials submitted for publication herein are subject to the unrestricted right to the edit of and by our editors and publisher. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Progress Magazine, P.O. Box 790, Valdosta, Georgia 31603.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

416 North Ashley Street • P.O. Box 790
Valdosta, Georgia 31603
(229) 247-1800 • Fax: (229) 245-0071

www.ValdostaChamber.com

THINK
B.I.G.

DRUGS
DON'T
WORK
IN SOUTH GA

IMPACT
2012

Triple Crown Hametowns
RETIREMENT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
LOWNDES • BROOKS • LANIER

IMPACT 2012



February 4, 2011



Curtis G. Fowler
Oversight Committee
Chairman

IMPACT 2012 Investors

2010 was a good year for IMPACT 2012. We had a collection percentage of 93%. The overall collection rate from 2008 – 2010 is 97%. Our community and investors are to be commended for honoring their commitment.

The Oversight Committee is continuing to monitor the IMPACT 2012 activities to ensure funds are being expended as intended by the investors.

As you read the current issue of Progress, the Chamber continues to be very goal oriented in meeting goals and expectations. The Oversight Committee has set very high standards for the Chamber with measurable goals for each of the IMPACT 2012 initiatives. As you, our investors read through this issue of Progress, we hope you will take pride in the successful IMPACT 2012 accomplishments.

- **SORT** – the Special Ombudsman Response Team. Enhancing our pro-business environment in Valdosta-Lowndes County was ranked as the top priority for the Chamber by both former Chairmen of the Board and the current Board of Directors. Please be sure to read about SORT on page 26.
- **Opportunity Central** – the Chamber's initiative to grow jobs for college and university graduates. Communities that focus on growing knowledge-based businesses that employ college grads do better than others. Read about Opportunity Central on page 38.
- **World Class Employee Recognition Program** – Thanks to IMPACT 2012, our community has honored dozens of outstanding employees, and awarded \$18,000 in cash prizes to 12 World Class Employees since 2008. Read about WCER Program on page 12.

We thank the IMPACT 2012 investors for continuing their support of this major undertaking in our Chamber and community.

Thank you.

Curtis G. Fowler

Curtis G. Fowler
Oversight Committee Chairman

416 North Ashley Street • P.O. Box 790 • Valdosta, GA 31603 • 229-247-81400



Free resources:

- ABC's of starting a business
- Professional Consultants
- Small Business Development
- Retail Recruitment
- Customized Market Research
- Targeted Market Leads
- Franchise Information

Financed and Powered by



THE HERNDON COMPANY
REAL ESTATE

"With over 50 years combined experience"

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

James Lee Herndon
GRI, CCIM, CRB

Nicky Balanis

1-800-647-3716 or 229-244-1992
www.herndoncompanyrealestate.com
herndon@herndoncompany.com



Retiree newcomer...

Enjoys Life Downtown

Retiree newcomer **Deanna Wagoner** moved to Valdosta in 2010 from Albuquerque, NM where she lived for three years. Previously Wagoner lived in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, New York City, Paris and South Carolina. When asked why she moved to Valdosta, Wagoner stated, "And aren't I glad I did! It's the nicest place I've ever been! After three years in Albuquerque, I just decided it wasn't the place for me. I have a cousin living in Tallahassee who encouraged me to move there, but I knew Florida wasn't for me. I got out the map and saw Valdosta, did a little research, made my move and couldn't be happier!"

Wagoner rents a downtown loft where she paints the scenes and buildings of Downtown Valdosta. "I'm making a history of the buildings of Downtown Valdosta, so if anything ever happens to them they can be rebuilt just as they are." Wagoner loves living downtown. "Everything I need is right here, the grocery, fish and international markets keep my pantry full when I'm not eating at one of the wonderful restaurants."

Wagoner plays duplicate bridge, a program of the Senior Citizens Center, joined a local DAR Chapter and the Camellia Garden Club. "I have a painting in the Turner Center's Draw Project that helps to support the University. I plan to have watercolors in their 'Spring Into Art' series and I hope to have a One Man Show exhibit in the future," stated Wagoner. "I would like to serve on the Historic Preservation Committee and possibly the Downtown Development Authority. I want to stay busy and be involved in the community. I've met so many people here it's already home. Valdosta is perfect for me; it's cosmopolitan, but with a small town feel."

Triple Crown Hometowns is a regional retiree attraction initiative of the Chamber. Wagoner represents one of the 337 retiree households who have relocated to South Georgia as a direct result. The economic impact of 337 retiree households is the equivalent of 674 additional jobs, \$14 million in annual income and \$1.4 billion in liquid assets.

For more information on Triple Crown Hometowns Retirement Development Partnership visit GeorgiaRetire.com.



Retiree newcomer **Deanna Wagoner** states "Valdosta is perfect for me; it's cosmopolitan, but with a small town feel."

PROMOTING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



JOIN OUR
TEXT NETWORK.....

Text FF to 90210
For Promotions
and
Holiday Hours

Find us on:
facebook



www.1stfederalvaldosta.com



**Good Times...
Good Friends...
Good Food!**



**OLE
TIMES
COUNTRY
BUFFET**
Ole Times Country Buffet
1193 N. St. Augustine St.
Exit 18
229-259-1600



**Smok'n
Pig
B-B-Q**
Smok'n Pig B-B-Q
4228 N. Valdosta Rd.
Exit 22
229-245-8227

**FOWLER, HOLLEY,
RAMBO, & STALVEY, P.C.**
Certified Public Accountants Business Consultants
1208 Wildwood Plantation Dr. • Valdosta, GA • (229) 244-1599 • (800) 360-3123 • fax (229) 245-7969

**FH
R&S**

- Auditing and Accounting
- Tax Preparation and Planning
- Personal Financial Planning
- Retirement Plan Administration
- Computer Services & Systems
- Estate Planning
- Litigation Support
- Business Valuations
- Small Business Consulting
- Manufacturing
- Financial Institutions
- Construction
- Peer Reviews
- Health Care
- Governmental and Not-for-Profit
- Automobile Dealerships
- Petroleum & Fuel Distribution

www.valdostacpa.com

Throughout the years, our philosophy has remained unchanged: To strive for excellence, and to provide our clients with quality and timely services.

Serving Valdosta and surrounding communities since 1956

INNOVATE! Wins 2010 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition

INNOVATE! Engineering Solutions, LLC was selected as the winner of the 2010 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition. The team was presented a check for \$15,000 from Guardian Bank during the bank's Business After Hours on December 2.

Bill Kent, President and Principal Engineer, started the engineering company in January 2010. His intent was to provide technologically advanced engineering services. "We were excited to take part in the competition and are humbled to be chosen as the winner," said Kent. "Winning this competition validates my decision to start my own company."

INNOVATE! Engineering Solutions received a prize package totaling more than \$35,000. In addition to the \$15,000 check from Guardian Bank, **INNOVATE!** received one year accounting provided by Henderson & Godbee, LLP; 12-hours of legal services provided by Trent Coggins, LLC; marketing consulting provided by Full Circle Marketing and Advertising; 1,000 full color business cards provided by Action Printing; three months of human resource services; hiring, payroll and background checks provided by ADP; website design and one year of hosting provided by Azalea Health Innovations; 250 writing pens with logo provided by JL Concepts; a spot on a digital billboard provided by Lamar Outdoor Advertising; one year of e-mail spam filtering, one year virus protection, one year proactive PC maintenance and monitoring and eight hours of tech support provided by Nexstep Technology Services; one year of scheduled radio advertising provided by Talk 92.1; start-up office space and two months free administrative services provided by Valdosta Shared Office Space; and approximately \$5,000 in free advertising from the Chamber.

INNOVATE! Engineering Solutions, LLC provides land development planning, civil engineering, site design services, and environmental engineering and construction management services. Their clients are residential and commercial developers, municipalities, architects, state and federal government agencies and other construction and engineering disciplines. The Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition is an initiative of the Chamber to cultivate new business development in Lowndes County. The competition is an eight-month process that requires businesses to be located in Lowndes County and employ technical college and/or university graduates. Competitors are offered educational workshops to assist in developing their best business plans.



Ansel Clark, of Guardian Bank, presents a \$15,000 check to **Bill Kent**, President of **INNOVATE!** Engineering Solutions.

"Winning this competition validates my decision to start my own company."
Bill Kent



For more information on **INNOVATE!** and the 2011 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition, visit our website at www.SeedsBusinessResourceCenter.com or contact JD Dillard at the Chamber at 229-247-8100, or jdillard@valdostachamber.com.

The Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition began in 2005 and its ultimate goal is to help grow jobs for our technical college and university graduates. This competition is held every year and will begin again in February.

**5-STARS of
EXCELLENCE!**

**Guardian Bank is rated as a
Bauer 5-Star Bank.**

Once again, Guardian Bank has earned the highest rating from Bauer Financial, Inc. The Bauer Financial 5-Star Award is based on our financial strength, safety and soundness. At Guardian Bank, we believe our first responsibility is to provide our customers and community with fiscal integrity. We have embraced time-tested and proven banking principles; and we work diligently to provide the safety and stability you deserve. *Come discover banking the way it should be.*



GUARDIAN BANK
BANKING THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

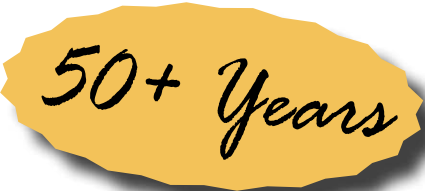
MAIN OFFICE
701 Wildwood Plantation Dr. • Valdosta, GA 31602
229.241.9444

ASHLEY STREET OFFICE
1906 North Ashley St. • Valdosta, GA 31602
229.247.0002

NORMAN DRIVE OFFICE
246 Norman Drive • Valdosta, GA 31601
229.241.9987



Salute to... GOLDEN MEMBERS



First State Bank and Trust: Growing Since 1906

By Julie Bryan, VSU Intern



*"We believe that hard work, dedication to our customers and community and a great relationship with the Chamber have attributed to the success of First State Bank and Trust. We never forget the values and principles that started our organization," said First State Bank and Trust President, **Bill Cowart**.*

First State Bank and Trust is rich in history, and this vibrant establishment is truly an asset to Valdosta-Lowndes County. First State Bank and Trust was founded in 1906 in Lake Park. In the early 1950s it opened its doors in Valdosta for the first time in what is now the Turner Center for the Arts, expanding in 2006 to its current location. This organization has been a member of the Chamber since 1957, allowing First State to build a strong relationship with the community. It has even established a partnership in sponsoring the Chamber's World Class Employee Recognition Program, giving employers the chance to highlight their best employees and promote Valdosta-Lowndes County's remarkable workforce. Although there have been challenges, First State Bank and Trust is doing well. Despite the current economic climate, the company recently broke ground on its new Baytree Road location.

First State Bank and Trust is located at 3650 Inner Perimeter Rd., Valdosta, GA. Contact 229-242-5725 for additional information or visit www.fsbtc.com.



Laws Furniture Connects to Community

By Krista Lewis, VSU Intern

Laws Furniture has been a furniture provider to the Valdosta community since 1958. This locally-owned family business was originally started by Eddie Laws, the current owner's grandfather. Over the past decade, it has been owned by three other family members. The downtown location is owned by Laws' grandson, **Tommy McNeal**. The business has been a member of the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber since 1958.

"I want to do anything that helps small businesses in Valdosta. The Chamber has provided us with an opportunity to gain awareness in the community," McNeal said.

Similar to other small businesses, Laws Furniture has found the past three years to be a challenge due to the recession. They understand how the community has been affected, and have implemented an in-store account policy that allows customers to make monthly payments on their purchases for up to 12 months. They refer to themselves in their local commercial as the "Easy-Credit Guys."

McNeal is passionate about his business and has an inspiring drive to continue to make it thrive. **Claude Layne**, manager of the downtown location, has been there since 1997 and shares this motivation as he feels he is part of the Laws Furniture family.

Laws Furniture and is located downtown at 129 West Central Avenue. Contact 229-242-8143 for additional information or visit www.lawsfurniture.com.

Downtown manager, **Claude Layne** and owner **Tommy McNeal**, Eddie Laws' grandson.

INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Business Insurance Special Savings Program

Auto-Owners Insurance Special Savings Program

Who is Auto-Owners Insurance Group?

Auto-Owners Insurance offers you, as an eligible Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce member, discounts on your business insurance. You may now be eligible for:

Auto-Owners Insurance Group is comprised of five property and casualty companies and one life/health/annuity insurer. At year-end 2009 the Group had combined assets of \$14,299,738,521 and over 4.9 million personal, commercial and life insurance policies in force. Auto-Owners ranked 418 in the Fortune 500 rankings for 2010.

Business Insurance Up to a 14% Discount

- Commercial Automobile
- Commercial Property and Liability
- Commercial Umbrella
- Garage Liability and Dealer Blanket
- Workers Compensation

The financial strength, stability and safety of the Auto-Owners Insurance Group is well documented. The Auto-Owners property and casualty companies are rated A++ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company, a nationally recognized independent insurance company rating organization.

In addition to competitive rates, a complete line of products, and prompt, friendly claim service, you may be eligible for several additional discounts—such as multi-policy discount—depending upon your individual circumstances.

In 2004, Auto-Owners received the 2nd highest rating in a study conducted by a nationally recognized consumer magazine on customer satisfaction with their insurance company's handling of homeowners' claims. The same magazine in 2006 rated Auto-Owners 4th in customer satisfaction relating to personal automobile claims handling.

Auto-Owners Insurance Group's positive growth, SAFE. SOUND. SECURE.® investment portfolio, consumer confidence, dedicated associates and local independent agents representing them are what has set Auto-Owners Insurance apart from other insurance companies since 1916. They are known as The "No Problem" People®.

Call or visit us

- BLANTON & GRIFFIN INSURANCE AGENCY
- BROOKER INSURANCE AGENCY INC
- ROBINSON AGENCY INC
- TILLMAN INSURANCE AGENCY INC
- VALDOSTA INSURANCE SERVICES

Auto-Owners Insurance

2010

World Class Recognition

FIRST STATE BANK AND TRUST CO. Recognizes World Class Employees

a SYNOVUS bank

Employee Recognition is Important for Your Business Success

Research shows that people have an inherent need to be recognized and that genuine recognition is a far stronger motivator than money. Employees recognized for their contributions are more committed to helping their employers meet their goals.

First State Bank and Trust has been the presenting sponsor of the World Class Employee Recognition Program since 2008. "It is an honor for First State Bank and Trust to participate in recognizing so many talented individuals for their hard work and dedication," said **Sherry Zipperer** (First State Bank and Trust), who chairs the Chamber's World Class Employee Recognition Committee. "We are pleased to shine the spotlight on the exceptional workforce in Valdosta-Lowndes County."

The top employees of local

businesses were nominated for inclusion by their employers. An independent selection committee of 13 top business and community leaders selected this year's winners. "It was a joy to serve as a judge for the World Class Employee Recognition program, and also a tremendous opportunity to interact with some of the best employees in our community," said selection committee member **Kristian Keesling** (Wilson Eye Center). "Lowndes County is fortunate to have so many individuals who each deserve the title of World Class Employee."

Winners were announced at the World Class Employee Recognition Breakfast on November 11 at the Rainwater Conference Center. The winners of each category received checks from First State Bank and Trust for \$1,500. Keynote speaker **Karla**

Heath-Sands, anchor for WALB-TV Today in Georgia morning news, shared inspiring words with the 250 Chamber members present and announced the nominees and winners. "Each of our nominees has made an impact in Valdosta-Lowndes County," said Heath-Sands. "We appreciate the high standard they set through the dedication they have to their families, their co-workers, employers and the community."

The World Class Employee Recognition program shines light on the importance of good work ethics and raises awareness of the impact the workforce has on the local community and economy.

Visit www.ValdostaChamber.com and select Events, Photo Gallery to view a slideshow of the event.

Bill Cowart (President, First State Bank and Trust) speaks on the importance of employee recognition. First State has been the Presenting Sponsor for the World Class Employee Recognition Awards since 2008.



2010 World Class Employee winners pictured at the Nov. 11 breakfast at the Rainwater Conference Center in their honor.

Karla Heath-Sands (WALB) commends the nominees for their exceptional work ethics at the World Class Employee Recognition Breakfast in November at the Rainwater Conference Center.



Thanks to our sponsors:

First State Bank and Trust Company, Presenting Sponsor
Georgia Power Company, Platinum Sponsor
Valdosta Daily Times, Platinum Sponsor

South Georgia Medical Center, Gold Sponsor
The Park Avenue Bank, Gold Sponsor
Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Gold Sponsor
Packaging Corporation of America, Bronze Sponsor
SAFT America Inc., Bronze Sponsor

WORLD CLASS SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYEE WINNER

Mary Davis,
Office Manager
The Flower Gallery
Nominated by
Supervisor Susan Mullis



"Mary is a very loyal employee, a great asset in purchasing merchandise for our shop, always providing guidance and assistance to her co-workers and making certain that all customers are given special attention and are happy with their flower arrangements. I would describe Mary as one of the most trustworthy, honest and sincere employees. She ALWAYS goes the extra mile and believes in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Mary is truly an outstanding employee!"

WORLD CLASS SMALL BUSINESS SUPERVISOR WINNER

Warren Scoby,
Logistics Manager
Habitat for Humanity
Nominated by
Supervisor Stuart Mullis



"Warren has the title of Logistics Manager. What that really means is any job that is difficult, needs leadership, has a difficult time schedule or is in general a 'must job' at Habitat for Humanity, they fall under logistics and Warren Scoby. In the past three years, no other Habitat for Humanity in Georgia, outside Metro-Atlanta, has built more homes than Valdosta-Lowndes County and Warren Scoby carries a lot of that SUCCESS on his shoulders."

WORLD CLASS LARGE BUSINESS EMPLOYEE WINNER

Rita Sanders,
Customer Service Representative
Fresh Beginnings, Inc.
Nominated by Supervisor Damon Sefa



"Rita's positive attitude and enthusiasm for her job is infectious. She is an invaluable asset to our team—in both the environment she helps define and through her hard work. She has an impressive work-ethic and consistently produces high quality work while still leading in production. She exemplifies that an employee can both produce quality work and exceed quotas. In addition to other exemplary qualities, Rita is EXTREMELY dependable. She is truly a model employee."

WORLD CLASS LARGE BUSINESS SUPERVISOR WINNER

Jennie Boyer, Manager
Wild Adventures
Water & Theme Park
Nominated by Supervisor Molly Deese



"There are many nights that you can find Jennie at Wal-Mart picking up items for her team to make their jobs easier. She ENSURES that her team has the tools they need to perform their job well. She is a natural leader – very quiet, patient and unassuming. She is not the type of person who needs others to know the good she does. Jennie has made a tremendous impact on her team and our leadership team at Wild Adventures."

Congratulations to the 2010 World Class Employee Nominees:

Billy Alford (Regal Marine Industries), **Brant McDonald** (Mr. Electric of S.W. Georgia), **Dalphe Horton** (Wiregrass Georgia Technical College), **Daniel Lightfoot** (Wild Adventures Water & Theme Park), **Fannie Forde** (Greenleaf Counseling Center), **Gary Turner** (City of Valdosta Public Works Department), **Leanne Balanis** (The Park Avenue Bank), **Lloyd Dumas** (Valdosta Daily Times), **Marcus Haynes** (City of Valdosta Fire Department), **Oterice "O.T." Simmons** (Fellowship Homes at Brookside), **Ricky Baker** (SAFT America Inc.), **Rob Dazey** (South Georgia Medical Center), **Robert Youngblood** (ERCO Worldwide), **Sarah Meyer** (Barker Realty & Auction Company Inc.), **Suzie Martin** (Electrical Test Labs of Georgia Inc.), **Teresa Parker** (Barker Realty & Auction Company Inc.), **Tracie Butler** (SAFT America Inc.)

A Special Thanks to the 2010 World Class Recognition Selection Committee:

Dr. Jimmy Baughcum (Perimeter Road Baptist Church), **Earlene Thomas** (Nairobi African Art), **Mike Fendley** (WalMart Supercenter), **Toscha Brown** (Express Employment Professionals), **Kristian Keesling** (Wilson Eye Care Center), **Amanda Garland** (Commercial Banking Company), **Ron Lowery** (Langdale Company), **Sharon Jackson** (South Georgia Solar), **Sean Panizzi** (Teamtemps), **Scott Orenstein** (Pinnacle Prime Contractors), **Leroy Godfrey** (SAFT America, Inc), **Kris Jensen** (F-O-R-T-U-N-E Personnel), **Clifton Young** (SHRM)



Valdosta-Lowndes County
Chamber of Commerce presents...

BEIJING CITY STAY COLLETTE VACATIONS

September 13 - 21, 2011 • 9 Days, 15 Meals

Highlights... Beijing Zoo, Peking Duck Dinner & Opera, The Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Rickshaw Tour

Travel with Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce and save **Was \$2749* NOW \$2599***
\$150 per person!

*per person, double occupancy

RSVP to 229.244.2324
with your \$250 deposit by April 1, 2011



Your Power Partner!

EMC Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation
273 Norman Drive
229-244-6893
www.colquitemc.com



THE VALDOSTA-LOWNDES CHAMBER
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL
1 BUSINESS VOICE
LOUDER, CLEARER, STRONGER.

GAC Chairman **Jeff Hanson** (Southwest Georgia Bank) explains the Chamber's new Government Affairs Council process for soliciting more input from Chamber members on local, state and federal legislative issues at the "Members to be Heard" session in January.

We're listening...

Government Affairs Council hosts "Members to be Heard"

The Chamber's Government Affairs Council (GAC) held its first-ever "Members to be Heard" meeting on January 6 at the VSU Continuing Education Center. More than 60 Chamber members were in attendance to hear **Chris Clark**, CEO and President of the Georgia Chamber share an update on priorities of the GA Chamber for 2011, and to share their thoughts and concerns regarding local, state and federal business development issues.

GAC Chair, **Jeff Hanson** (Southwest Georgia Bank) gave an overview of the 2011 GAC and presided over the "Members to be Heard" portion of the meeting. "The new GAC is member-driven," said Hanson. "Issues should flow from Chamber members up through Policy Committees to the GAC. It is designed to ensure that priority issues that are passed by the GAC provide a well-reasoned, strong platform for the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber to take to the appropriate level of government. The Chamber has long been known as the voice of business for our community. We want that one voice to become louder, clearer and stronger. All members are now invited to join the GAC to help us accomplish this goal."

Clark began his presentation by stating, "Improving Georgia's competitiveness is at the top of our list in 2011." He went on to state the biggest issue of the 2011 State Legislative Session is likely to be tax reform along with the budget.

Fifteen Chamber members addressed the GAC Executive Committee regarding local, state or federal issues that related to the welfare of their business, organization and/or our community. Among them, **David Carmon** (Packaging Corp. of America) and **John Page** (Mass Mutual Financial Group) addressed the need for an exemption on state sales tax on energy used in manufacturing. Page added the need for the reimplemention of the Sales Tax Holiday as well as the need to review the recommendations from the Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness to Georgians.

Each of the issues presented will be reviewed by the appropriate GAC Policy Committee and referred to the GAC Executive Committee with a recommendation for support or opposition. The GAC Executive Committee will vote on the issue and the Chamber will take action accordingly.

More than 60 Chamber members were on hand for the Government Affairs Council's "Members to be Heard" on Jan. 6 at the VSU Continuing Education Center.



For more information on
GAC
or to join please visit
ValdostaChamber.com
and select
**Chamber Programs,
Government Affairs
Council.**

A responsible approach to your investments is just a phone call away to The Investment Centre At Commercial Banking Company.

Dan Kerrigan
Financial Executive
229.219.8426
dan.kerrigan@primevest.com

Jeremy M. Davis, CFP®
Financial Executive
229.219.8426
jeremy.davis@primevest.com

The INVESTMENT CENTRE

The Investment Centre
Located at Commercial Banking Company
1215 Baytree Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Securities provided by
PRIMEVEST® Financial Services, Inc.,
an independent, registered broker-dealer.
Member SIPC/FINRA

Securities and insurance products offered by PrimeVest *Not FDIC/NCUIIF Insured, *May go down in value,
*Not financial institution guaranteed, *Not a deposit, *Not insured by any federal government agency.

Ground Breakings & Ribbon Cuttings



Brainy Scholars
2215 Bemiss Roas – Suite C
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-560-1681
Rosa Sirmans / Tutoring



Honey Baked Ham
1601 Baytree Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-244-6833
Daniel Dorsett / Restaurant



Magnuson Hotel
1403 North St. Augustine Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-244-7600
Adrian Fore / Hotel



Stifel Nicolaus
3308 Country Club Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
Heather Ferguson, Richard Campbell,
Paula Hutchinson
Financial Planning Consultants



The Residences at Five Points
100 Garden Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-293-7317
Martha Maurer / Apartments



Valdosta - Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority Community Center
1901 North Forrest Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-259-3507
Kathy Wortham / Parks & Recreation



Clean Freaks
3 Wilmington Court
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
386-209-3215
Waletha Nelson / Cleaning - Interior



Into the Past
113 South Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-241-1340
Tammy Carter / Antique Dealer



Pop Bellies Southern Cooking
2028 Marion Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-247-2867
Victoria Vickers / Restaurant



Sugar Momma's Bakery
313 East Screven Street
Quitman, Georgia 31643
229-263-4445
Lisa Chafin / Bakery



Therapy Center Valdosta
2310 North Patterson Street Building G
Valdosta, Georgia 31602 / 229-244-9688
Robin Dees, Patty Cosey, Wendy Vandemark,
Alene Bowser, Lexi Swords, Jynger Morris
Counselors – Licensed



Walmart
340 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-249-8400
Mickey Fendley / Department Store



Georgia Auto Exchange
1603 Baytree Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-245-3302
Kevin Thompson / Auto Dealer



J. Allen Lawson
5005 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-241-1340
J. Allen Lawson / Attorney



Rickey's Auto and Tire Repair
102 Ray Alley
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-249-7904
Rickey Howell / Auto Repair



The Gateway Project
Lowndes County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 1349
Valdosta, Georgia 31603
229-671-2400
Paige Dukes



Triangle Furniture, Sofa and Mattress Outlet
3390 North Valdosta Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-219-7881
Drew Durham / Furniture Store



Whisk Organic Food Market
3009 North Ashley Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-244-8600
Gracie Douglas / Organic Market



Hahira Insurance Agency
514 South Church Street
Hahira, Georgia 31632
229-794-1161
Doug Williams / Insurance Agency



Jan's Hallmark
1700 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-257-0874
Glen Talbert / Gift Shop



Silotte \$7.99 & Up Shoes
2155 A Bemiss Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-415-1446
Edson Telusmond / Shoe Store



The Outlet Christian Life Worship Center
308 Griffin Avenue
Valdosta, Georgia 31601 229-269-5969
Vincent Brown / Church

Why Plan a Ribbon Cutting?

If you've just opened for business, chances are you're looking for ways to celebrate your accomplishment, while informing potential customers about the services you offer. A ribbon cutting ceremony is a wonderful way to commemorate your new business, while involving other members of the community. As a Chamber member benefit, the Chamber is available to assist with your ceremony if your business has:

- Opened its doors within the past 6 months
- Moved to a new location due to expansion
- Changed ownership or is under new management
- Has been remodeled or has expanded its current location
- Groundbreaking

Ground Breakings

& Ribbon Cuttings



ActivEar Hearing Aid Center
3470 North Valdosta Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-245-1122
Michael Miller / Hearing Aid Center



C-Tech Water Solutions
99 Hamm Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-251-7449
Chris West / Water Softeners and Supplies



Executive Travel
3338 L3 Country Club Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31605
229-245-0028
Jaret Bloomberg / Travel Agency



Hardee's
2901 North Ashley Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-242-8377
Andrea Amos / Restaurant



Pole-Lite Fitness, LLC
1515 North Ashley Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-241-818
Tanya Weltziem / Fitness



Superior Shine Mobile Detail
P.O. Box 521
Valdosta, Georgia 31603
229-834-5322
Chad Wyatt / Mobile Auto Detail



Azalea City Chiropractic
2231 Bemiss Road Suite B
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-241-9300
Dr. Mitch Mink / Physician



Drug Testing of South Georgia
1802 Plum Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-253-0125
Larry Kenzel
Drug Abuse & Addiction Information



First State Bank and Trust Company
1522 Baytree Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-242-5725
Tammy Goodin / Bank



Hardee's
816 South Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-244-9628
Jacqueline Medina / Restaurant



Rodan + Fields Dermatologists
409 Bryson Circle
Hahira, Georgia 31632
229-251-9984
Natalia Huffman, Julianne Jabon,
Chrystal Odom / Skin Care



The Humane Society
307 East Jane Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-247-3266
John Gates / Humane Societies



Blue Paradise Travel Connection
212 Artis Lane
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-232-4776
Jimmy Thompson / Travel Agency



Edward Jones Investments/Nathan Brown
2407 Andover Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-244-2772
Nathan Brown (Practicing CFP)
Financial Planning



Four Star Freightliner, Inc.
1527 Madison Highway
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-316-4948
Sherrie Moore / Transportation



J. Roland Construction
P.O. Box 3037
Valdosta, Georgia 31604
229-834-8206
Chris Roland / Roofing Contractors



Rodan + Fields Dermatologists
874 S.W. Roberts Avenue
Fort White, Florida 32038
407-414-7428
Robert Schrum / Skin Care



The LPA Group
311 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-506-8280
Claudia Holliday / Transportation Consultants



Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta
215 West North Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-242-0676
Robert Soper / Non-Profit Organization



Edwards Jones Investments/Mike Meeks
1900 B Gornito Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229-244-2977
Mike Meeks / Financial Planning



Golden Leaf Cigar Café
101-A South Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
803-760-9556
Paul Cronin / Cigar and Tobacco Dealer



Lemongrass Day Spa
3338 Country Club Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31605
229-244-4111
Michelle Lamb / Beauty Salon and Services



Stage 51 Coffee and Wine House
1575 Baytree Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602
229-241-9766
Diane and Ron Fate / Restaurant



Urological Clinic of Valdosta
3294 North Oak Street Extension
Valdosta, Georgia 31605
229-241-1188
Mike Chiang / Physician

What's in it for Members

by Betty Morgan, Chamber Vice President

What in the world is a Traffic Catcher Web Site?

If you happen to be somewhere around my age, you know that we were born just this side of the dark ages when it comes to technology! We know that to be competitive in the business world we have to be tech savvy and it is a must to have a web presence. You may have heard our buzz last year as the Chamber introduced its newest service to our members, the "Traffic Catcher Web Site." Let me tell you, the name simply blew my mind, but it is one of the simplest programs you will ever use.

Okay, I am going to make it simple. A Traffic Catcher Web Site is a **FREE** web presence offered through the Chamber's database. If you do not already have a website it can be listed in your own domain name, meaning you can list it on your business cards, or use it in your commercials and ads. If you already have a primary website, it can be linked at no charge.

It is so easy to set up. ChamberNation, the Chamber's membership database provider, has



Betty Morgan shows Tony LaMarca (ERA Joyner Realty) how easy it is to set up a Traffic Catcher Web Site.

created a simple fill-in-the-blank template that prompts you with examples as you go along. You can add photos, list your services, request appointments, MapQuest your location and much more. It takes about 30 minutes to get it up and running and you can make changes anytime. The purpose of this website is to give your potential customers more information about your business, products and services.

Now comes the Chamber's part, and this is where the words "traffic catcher" finally make sense. We can track how many times your website is viewed. With the use of keywords

you can control how many times your site is listed when a potential customer searches a category.

All you need to get started is visit www.ValdostaChamber.com, click on "How to set up your Traffic Catcher Web Site," enter your username and password and follow the easy step by step directions. If you need more help, please call 229-247-8100 for an appointment or visit www.TrafficCatcherSystem.com. Or stop by the Chamber any Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and let one of our Chamber staff members walk you through the process. We want to make this as easy as possible!

New Savings for Chamber Members

Auto-Owners Insurance Company and their local agents announce a new benefit for Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber members that can save you money on business insurance.

The Auto-Owners Special Savings Program is a great benefit for Chamber members. It's available only for commercial insurance. Members may be eligible for a discounted rate of up to 14% on insurance for commercial automobiles, commercial property and liability, commercial umbrella, commercial garage liability and dealer blanket and commercial workers compensation.

In addition to competitive rates, a complete line of products and prompt, friendly claim service, members also may be eligible for several additional

discounts, such as multi-policy discounts, depending upon your individual circumstances.

Auto-Owners Insurance Group is comprised of five property and casualty companies and one life/health/annuity insurer. It is a Fortune 500 company and has the highest possible rating of A++. The company has received numerous awards for outstanding customer claim services. Customer satisfaction is its primary goal and this is accomplished by the company's reliability and the local independent agents representing them.



For more information and a free no-obligation review of your insurance, contact one of the agencies listed below. Be sure to mention that you are a Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber member to receive your discount. If you are currently insured through Auto-Owners Insurance, simply contact your agent to see if you are eligible to start receiving this new discount.

The local agencies that will represent Auto-Owners for this special program include:

Blanton & Griffin Insurance Agency	229-247-6500
Brooker Insurance Agency	229-242-2099
Robinson Insurance Agency	229-244-7788
Tillman Insurance Agency	229-244-0222
Valdosta Insurance Services	229-242-4560

Here is Your Chance to...

'Capture-A-Customer'®

This year the Chamber database is introducing a new program called 'Capture-A-Customer.' This program features **FREE** live member training classes to help you understand how to utilize our database and maximize your web presence. These **FREE** classes will take you

through an online presentation about growing your business. To avoid an information overload, each class will cover a different topic. Some of these topics include how to set up mobile access, create coupons and link to social and local networking, all using your free website. Classes will take

place every first Wednesday and Friday of the month and will last about 30 minutes. You will have the opportunity after every class to ask questions about the topic covered.

Not only will the Chamber database provide you with a free marketing system and local website, but a

FREE support system too! We understand how important your customers are to you and this will allow you to communicate with them through the network they prefer. For more information on our live member classes, visit www.MemberClasses.com.



By: Krista Lewis, VSU Intern

Serving 5 Generations of South Georgia Families.

Citizens Community Bank is proud to have served as many as 5 generations of some of our customer families.

To these families and yours, we offer loyalty, longevity and consistently good customer service.

South Georgia, thank you for your business and friendship at Citizens Community Bank.



Citizens Community Bank
STILL STRONG • STILL LOCAL
Hahira 794-2111 Morven 775-2441
N. Valdosta 242-2225 Baytree 242-2221
Equal Housing Lender - Member FDIC

Visit Us On-Line @ www.citizenscommunitybank.net

IF YOU'RE NOT AT YOUR LAST JOB, SHOULD YOUR 401(k) BE?

Leaving a 401(k) with a previous employer could mean leaving it alone with no one to watch over it.

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k) and help you select the one that's best for you. If you'd like to roll it over to an Edward Jones Individual Retirement Account (IRA), we can help you do it without paying taxes or penalties. And you can feel confident that someone is looking out for you and your 401(k).

To find out why it makes sense to talk with Edward Jones about your 401(k) options, call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Royce Coleman, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

119 N Ashley Street
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-241-0001

Jeff Whelchel
Financial Advisor

3338 E1 Country Club Rd
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-219-0006

Greg Reid
Financial Advisor

113 West Brookwood Drive
Suite C
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-242-8800

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Langdale Hospice House

Your Community.
Your Hospice.
Your Choice.



2263 Pineview Dr. | Valdosta | 1.800.HOSPICE | hospiceofsouthgeorgia.org

STRESSED OUT?

Need someone to talk to?
800.247.2747

Make the call to Greenleaf TODAY for a free and confidential assessment.



2217 Pineview Dr. Valdosta 31602 | greenleafcounseling.net

Valdosta's Premier Location

Join This Neighborhood of Outstanding Businesses!

- ◆ Sam's Club
- ◆ Holiday Inn Hotel
- ◆ Wal-Mart Supercenter
- ◆ Wendy's
- ◆ McDonald's
- ◆ James H. Rainwater Conference Center
- ◆ Hampton Inn and Suites
- ◆ Shoney's
- ◆ The Ramada Limited

1810 West Hill Ave / U.S. 84 (Behind Wendy's)

For Sale @ \$100 PSF & Up • For Lease @ \$9.00 PSF & Up • 1/2 Acre Lots \$230,000 & Up



Ron Borders: 229-333-4622
WWW.OLDTOWNSQUARE.COM



A Borders & Holt Development

What is a "Leading Business?"

"Leading Business of the Week" was created as a way of recognizing well established businesses and outstanding Chamber members in our community. Each "Leading Business of the Week" is randomly selected and has been a Chamber member for more than five years.

Weekly winners are presented with a banner to display in their business. "It is an honor and pleasure to sponsor this great program," said **Bob Shrum** (Rodan + Fields Dermatologist Independent Consultants). "We look forward to meeting each business as we support the Chamber's presentation each week."

Sponsored by



McCall & Associates, Inc.

John M. "Mac" McCall, R.R. McCall, Jr. and Rusty McCall

"The opening of McCall Planning and Management, LLC and McCall Construction Services is a major accomplishment for us. The Chamber helps by keeping us in touch with market conditions in the community."

Rusty McCall



Blimpie Subs & Salads - Rosanne and John Lewis

"Among Blimpie's major accomplishments are serving Valdosta's best, high-quality products since 1994 and achieving national recognition and awards for sales and service. The Chamber shines a positive light on our community and the businesses within it. They also provide opportunities to meet other local professionals, learn about other businesses and share information about our business."

John Lewis



Rutland Music Company - Pat Rutland

"Still being family owned after 44 years is a huge success for Rutland's Music, Inc. I would describe the Chamber's influence on the community as improving the economic opportunities for all businesses in the Valdosta-Lowndes County."

Pat Rutland



East and West Investments, Inc.

(d/b/a Gardin Villas)

May and Mike Gung

"A major achievement for us is always believing in our slogan 'luxury of a hotel with the comforts of a home.' We provide a 'home away from home' for VSU international students, Freedom Fighters/Military, working travelers and families to those at SGMC. Being a Chamber member helps promote our business and build ties with other businesses through social networking."

May Gung



Valdosta Board of Realtors

Dedra Hughes (President), Nathan Smith (President Elect)

"Through legislative advocacy our organization promotes private property rights for every individual who owns or will own real estate in the future. Through our community service program we have been able to give back to the community that supports our industry. The Chamber creates a real sense of community not only in the business arena but in the lives of citizens...it is the 'go to' resource center for our area."

Dedra Hughes



Lee Office Equipment - Hank Lee

"Lee Office Equipment has been blessed to maintain a successful office products business for 62 years. The Chamber's promotion of Think B.I.G. (Buy in Greater Valdosta) is very valuable because we believe that everyone in our community benefits when we trade locally."

Hank Lee



Robinson Insurance - Bivins Robinson

"As a business I am most proud of the fact that we've been able to provide quality life, homeowner, auto, business, farm and crop insurance products and services to our friends, neighbors who make up our community, at fair and affordable prices. My advice to any business in Valdosta is to first be sure you are a Chamber member and then get involved. The Chamber is truly interested in your success and more than willing and ready to assist you in any number of ways."

Bivins Robinson



Photography By: Steven Heddon, Fusion Marketing

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

Frank Strickland, Jimmy Shiver, Frank Carter, Nick Smith, Todd Shiver, Jared McGahee and Lester 'Scott' Smith

"Growing from a start-up branch in 2005 to a thriving branch today of six financial advisors, three support staff and a financial advisor in training is a huge accomplishment for Wells Fargo Advisors. The Chamber has promoted our business through their website and referrals. The Chamber brings innovative meetings and training opportunities to their members and is constantly working to promote local businesses."

Frank Carter



SORT: Progress for Business

Starting a business, expanding a business, or in current times, keeping a business afloat requires hard work, dedication and can be a struggle. Unfortunately, not every business survives and not all entrepreneurs are successful, but Valdosta-Lowndes County is committed to ensuring that the business community receives the support and assistance it needs to be as successful as possible.

Our local governments and the Chamber are equally committed to making our community the most business-friendly in Georgia. Working together with local governments, the Special Ombudsman Response Team, or SORT, is chaired by **Sue Cox** (Covington's Dining & Catering



and 306 North Restaurant) and includes Chamber members **Dean Blevins** (Dean Blevins Real Estate Group, LLC), **Allan Dear** (Allan Dear Real Estate), **Richard Hill** (Richard Hill & Asso.), **Bill Slaughter** (Waller Heating & Air Conditioning), **Chuck Smith** (Cauthan Construction) and **Al Turner** (Attorney). SORT is facilitating discussion between businesses and local governments to identify obstacles in the business development process and to develop realistic solutions.

Local governments value a close relationship with the business community and want to ensure their business development processes continue to meet the ongoing needs of all citizens. "The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber is to be commended for their willingness to help facilitate strong business relationships that will keep our

An initiative of:



city and county growing for years to come," said Valdosta City Councilman **Tim Carroll**.

SORT will continue to assist and provide feedback and guidance to the local governments and monitor the effectiveness of changes already implemented. The groups plan to meet several times yearly to continue open communication. All parties agree that measurable progress and improvements have been made, and recognize that communication is helpful to keep businesses informed.

"We have been pleased with how constructive this process has been and with the progress SORT has made. When implemented, the issues and solutions SORT has identified will profoundly impact our local economy," said Cox.

Visit www.ValdostaChamber.com/SORT for updates and information. For assistance with the business start-up process, the Chamber encourages our community's businesses to utilize the many free resources of the SEEDS Business Resource Center. Contact JD Dillard at 229-247-8100 or jdillard@valdostachamber.com for information about the business start-up or expansion process.



Ambling Companies
American Classifieds
American Drill Bushing
Ameris Bank
ASA Engineering & Surveying, Inc.
Astro Exterminating Services, Inc.
AT&T
Atlantic Southern Bank
Barnes Health Care Services
BB&T Corporation
Bemiss Citizens Bank
Black Crow Media, LLC
Blanton & Griffin Ins. Agency
Brandon, Rackley & Duker PC
Bush Investment Group, LLC
C. Byrd Simmons, CPA
Carson McLane Funeral Home
Cauthan Construction Co., Inc.
Citizens Community Bank
City of Hahira
City of Lake Park
City of Remerton
City of Valdosta
CJB Industries, Inc.

Classic Art & Frame Co.
Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate
Coleman Talley, LLP
Colony Bank
Colquitt EMC
Colson Printing Company
Coombs Heating & Air Cond.
Covington's Dining & Catering/306 North
Coward Electric & Industrial Contractors, Inc.
Culbreth, Minick & Associates, PC
Cypress Lakes Development/Teamtemps Personnel Staffing Professionals
Dr. Chet Ballard (P)
Elliott, Blackburn & Gooding, PC
Ellis, Rickett & Associates
Erco Worldwide, Inc.
Express Employment Professionals
Eye Assoc. of South GA., L.L.C.
Family Health Care
Farmers Home Furniture Co.
First State Bank & Trust Co.
FMB Bancshares Inc.
Fowler, Holley, Rambo & Stalvey, PC
Fred DeLoach, Jr.
Friendly Financial Services, Inc.
Full Circle Marketing and Advertising Agency

Fusion Creative Marketing
Genesis Christian School
Georgia Power Company
Great Southern Yellow Pages Griffin Corporation
Griner Automotive Group, Inc.
Guardian Bank
H & S Supply Co., Inc.
Henderson & Godbee, LLP
Heritage Bank of the South
Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center
Home Builders Association
Home Instead Senior Care
J. Glenn Gregory & Associates
James Bridges (P)
James McGahee (P)
Jodi's Accessories
Johnson Distributing Company
Keeman Petroleum Company, Inc.
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Lamar Advertising
Landis International, Inc.
Langdale Ford Company
Larry Rodgers Investments, LLC
Lovell Engineering Associates, PC
Lowndes County
Lowndes County Farm Bureau
Magic Media, Inc.
Mary & Tom Gooding (P)
Mediacom

Mike Hill Real Estate
Miller Hardware Company
Moore, Clarke, Duvall & Rodgers, P. C.
Music Funeral Services
Nexxtep Technology Services, Inc.
Packaging Corporation of America, Inc.
Pleats & Creases
Prince Automotive of Valdosta, Inc.
Prudential ACS Real Estate Services
Quillian Powell Construction Co. Inc.
Radiology Associates of Valdosta
Regal Marine
Regions Bank
Regulatory Compliance Services, Inc.
Richard Hill & Associates
Riley Church Pews Co.
Ron Borders Real Living Realty Advisors
S.C. Barker Construction Co.
SAFT America Inc.
Scruggs Concrete Company
SMITH Northview Hospital
Sodexo
South Georgia Medical Center
South Georgia Travel
South Georgia Vein Centers

Southeastern Capital Management Group, LLC
Southeastern Federal Credit Union
Southeastern Freight Lines
Southwest Georgia Bank
Sunrise Bank
Sunset Farm Foods, Inc.
Talk 92.1
The Herndon Company
The Park Avenue Bank
The Scruggs Company
U.S. Press
Valdosta Daily Times
Valdosta Electric Company
Valdosta Insurance Services, Inc.
Valdosta Magazine
Valenti, Rackley & Associates, LLC
WAAC FM, WGOV AM, WLYX FM
WALB TV
Waller Heating & Air Conditioning
Wetherington Farms
Williams Investment Company
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
WTLH-TV Fox 49/WTLF-TV(CW)
WTXL TV



sponsors...

"Operation Thank You"

By Krista Lewis,
VSU Intern



More than 50 volunteers reach 1,500+ members.

A special thank you to all volunteers that helped hand-deliver our annual member packages to our 1,500+ members during our **Operation Thank You** event on Feb. 3-4. Sponsored by U.S. Press, this packet included the 2011 Member Handbook, 2011 membership decals and the brand new Valdosta-Lowndes County map and resource guide. We successfully distributed all packages and we could not have done it without you! For more photos, visit www.ValdostaChamber.com and select Events, Photo Gallery.

VALDOSTA NETWORKING PROFESSIONALS:

Sharing sales leads and salads!

The Valdosta Networking Professionals meet every Monday at Azalea's Restaurant from 12-1 p.m. to swap leads and sometimes salads. VNP members gather over lunch each week to network and exchange sales leads for their businesses. Each member is encouraged to bring a lead or potential member to the group, or pay the consequences of a dollar. "Exchanging leads at VNP meetings has helped get Comfort Inn & Suites of Valdosta on the map," says **Courtney Copeland** (Comfort Inn & Suites).



Members of Valdosta Networking Professionals swap sales leads over lunch at a recent meeting at Azalea's Restaurant.

Valdosta Networking Professionals is a **FREE** service for our Chamber members. To join, visit our website at www.SeedsBusinessResourceCenter.com or contact JD Dillard at the Chamber at 229-247-8100, or jdillard@ValdostaChamber.com.

Meet the...2011 Chamber Board of Directors



STANDING L-R: Greg Justice (Regal Marine), Phyllis Royal (Full Circle Marketing & Advertising), Paul Nichols (Nexstep Technology Services, Inc.), Jay Prince (Prince Automotive of Valdosta, Inc.), David Durland (Heritage Bank of the South), Clinton Beeland (CJB Industries, Inc.), Jeff Fulp (Erco Worldwide Inc.), Tim Jones (Citizens Community Bank), Bill Simmons (Archer Daniels Midland Co.), Ken Ricket (Ellis, Ricket & Associates), Tom Carroll (Sunset Farm Foods, Inc.), Mike Hill (Mike Hill Real Estate), Greg Reid (Edward Jones Investments), Baha Zeidan (Azalea Health Innovations, Inc.), Jeff Hanson (Southwest Georgia Bank). **SEATED L-R:** Carlton Holley (Fowler, Holley, Rambo & Stalvey, PC), Terri Lupo (Georgia Power Company), Myrna Ballard (Chamber of Commerce), Tom Gooding (Elliott, Blackburn, Barnes & Gooding, PC), Megan Smith (SmithBarnas & Associates, Inc.), Sue Cox (Covingtons & Dining & Catering)

Chamber presents... State Agenda to Local Delegation



Randy Sauls (South Georgia Medical Center), **John LaHood** (Fellowship Home at Brookside), **Rep. Amy Carter**, **Darrell Wilder** (Georgia Power), **Ginny Holton** (Packaging Corporation of America), **John Page** (Mass Mutual Financial Group), **Megan Smith** (SmithBarnas & Assoc.), **Rep. Ellis Black**, **Paula Goff** (SMITH Northview Hospital), **Sen. Tim Golden** and **Rep. Jason Shaw** at the Chamber's annual State Legislative pre-session meeting.

The Chamber's State Legislative Lunch was held December 8 at the Rainwater Conference Center and was co-hosted by Valdosta, Valdosta North, and Valdosta Sunrise Rotary Clubs. Champions serving on the Government Affairs Council State Legislative Committee, led by Chair **Darrell Wilder**, presented the 2011 State Legislative Agenda for Business to the local delegation to a record crowd of nearly 200 attendees.

2011 Government Affairs Council (GAC) Chair, **Jeff Hanson** (Southwest Bank of Georgia) presented the Chamber's plans for the new and improved GAC. "Our objective is to make proactive participation and leadership possible by increasing the capacity of the Chamber to identify key legislative initiatives that can enable progressive change, to develop and shape Policy Positions that will drive that change, to more effectively lobby to support these positions, and to expand communications initiatives to support this pro-active shift," Hanson told the crowd. "The GAC expansion represents a bold and aggressive strategy to dramatically increase the Chamber's capacity to deliver on its mission and solidify its position as the 'Voice of Business' in our community."

State Sen. **Tim Golden**, Reps. **Ellis Black**, **Amy Carter** and **Jason Shaw** commented on their intent to support each of the issues. "We're all looking forward to going to Atlanta and representing you on these important business development issues," said Golden. "The budget will certainly be a priority, in addition to possible changes in Georgia's tax code, transportation, education and the list goes on. We have a lot of work to do."

Rep. Amy Carter made her first public announcement of her appointment as one of three of Governor Deal's Floor Leaders in the Georgia House of Representatives during her presentation. **Congratulations, Rep. Carter!**

For more information on the GAC and a more detailed explanation of the Chamber's 2011 State Legislative Agenda for Business, visit www.ValdostaChamber.com and select Chamber Programs, Government Affairs.

We know technical education.



We know the importance of providing academic programs that fit the needs of the businesses and industries in our eleven county service area. Every program offered by WGTC fills an employment need in the community, creating a successful career path for our graduates.

Find out more about what we know.

WWW.WIREGRASS.EDU
1-800-575-0567

A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia. An Equal Opportunity Institution. Accredited by SACS.











- ◆ Azalea's Restaurant & Lounge
- ◆ Full Service Amenities
- ◆ Wedding & Reception Facilities
- ◆ First Class Accommodations
- ◆ 32" Flat Panel TV's with HBO
- ◆ Family, Executive & Jacuzzi Suites
- ◆ Fitness Center & Business Center
- ◆ Hot Tub & Swimming Pool
- ◆ Complimentary Airport Shuttle


HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER






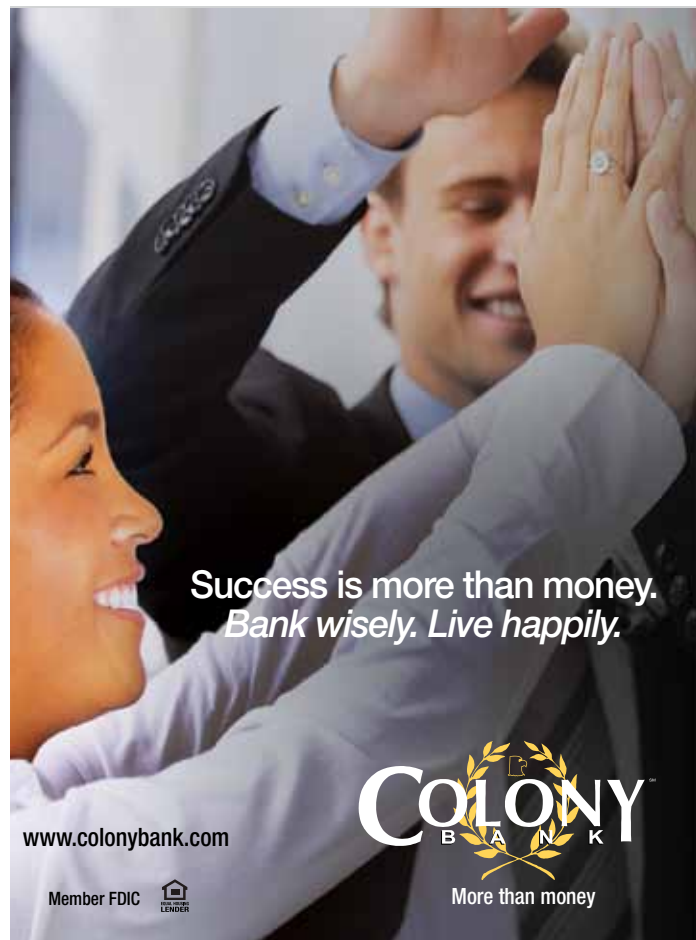

I-75 (Exit 16) ♦ 1805 West Hill Avenue ♦ Valdosta GA 31601
(229) 244-1111 (800) 465-4329
www.williamshospitality.net





All hotels owned and operated by Williams Investment Company
A proud part of South Georgia's growth for over 45 years



Success is more than money.
Bank wisely. Live happily.

COLONY
BANK

www.colonybank.com

Member FDIC

More than money

We never stop moving:

COLDWELL BANKER

PREMIER REAL ESTATE
"Serving South Georgia Since 1973"

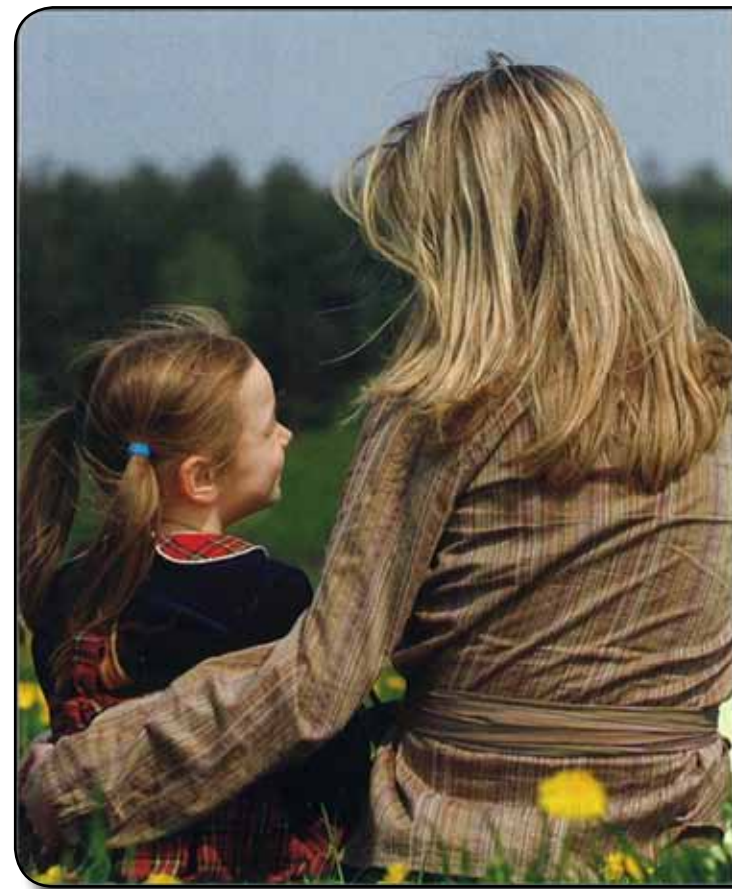
- Residential Real Estate
- Commercial Real Estate
- Farm & Acreage
- Site Selection & Development
- Commercial & Residential Property Management
- Investment Property
- Buyer & Seller Representation
- New Construction

We are on Social Media. Join us!
CLDBK on Twitter
Linkedin.com
Facebook.com
Valdostarealtors on Youtube.com



www.valdostarealtors.com
www.coldwellbanker.com
www.coldwellbankercommercial.com
customercare@valdostarealtors.com

1108 Gornito Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-244-3535
800-729-3530



When's the last time
a checkup
saved you money?

2314 N. Patterson Street
247-6500 • www.blantongriffin.com

Blanton & Griffin
INSURANCE AGENCY

Grange
Insurance

Chamber 101:

How to get the most out of your Chamber Membership

The Chamber offers many great opportunities and whether you are a new member, new to your organization or need a refresher course, **Chamber 101 is for you.**

By attending you will learn at least 25 ways the Chamber can help your business. Visit the Chamber today at www.ValdostaChamber.com and select Chamber News & Events/Events for a schedule of events and to make your reservations for the next Chamber 101.



◀ OCTOBER Chamber 101

FRONT ROW: **Kim Pascal**, **Magdalene McDonald** and **Deana Miller** (H & R Block); **Adrian Fore** (Magnuson Hotel Valdosta) & **Cindy Hotchkiss** (E-Travel Anytime)
MIDDLE ROW: **Lee McArthur** (Grant Financial), **Edson Telusmond** (Silotte \$7.99 Shoes), **Carla Gervin** (Goodwill Career Center) and Board Member **Greg Justice** (Regal Marine)
BACK ROW: **Lyndi Soles** (Lamar Advertising), **Michael Anderson** (Express Employment Professionals), **Adrienne Wilkerson** (Moody AFB), Board Member **Tim Coombs** (Coombs Heating and Air) and **Paul Hotchkiss** (Cornerstone Design and Consulting, Inc.)

▶ NOVEMBER Chamber 101

FRONT ROW: **Nicole Childers** (American Animal Foundation), **Sharon** and **Jimmy Thompson** (Blue Paradise Travel Connection), **Brad Rahinsky** (Red Roof Inn)
BACK ROW: **Brian Lee** (Red Roof Inn), **Michael Barr** (State Farm), **Lincoln McDonald** (Automotive Transfers, Inc.), **Michael Anderson** (Express Employment Professionals), **Judge John Kent Edwards, Jr.** and **Vickie Godwin** (Commercial Banking Company)



◀ DECEMBER Chamber 101

FRONT ROW: **Julianne Jabon** (Rodan + Fields Dermatologists), **Amanda Parker** (Plastic Surgery Associates), **Cathy Hanson** (AFLAC), **Daniel Folsom** (ClientTell, Inc.) and **Rosa Sirmans** (Brainy Scholars)
BACK ROW: **Heather Ferguson** (Stifel Nicolaus), **Steven Heddon** (Fusion Marketing), **Marcie Dennard** (The Park Avenue Bank) and **Lee McArthur** (Grant Financial)



▶ JANUARY Chamber 101

KNEELING: **Michael Anderson** (Express Employment Professionals), **Tanya Weizien** (Pole-Lite Fitness, LLC) and **Nikki Ellis** (Tillman Insurance Service)
STANDING: Board Member **Paul Nichols** (Nexstep Technology), **Jade Jarvis** (LaQuinta Inn), **Frances Pride** (Sparkles Wedding & Special Events), Board Member **Greg Reid** (Edward Jones), **Krystal Maldonado** (Las Banderas Mexican Restaurant), **Tina Godwin** (First State Bank), **Lisandro Cruz** (Las Banderas Mexican Restaurant), **Vickie Godwin** (Commercial Banking Company), **Darrell Presley** (Trident Supply Co.), **Steve Patelski** (Holy Moses Water Treatment, Inc.), **John T. Sinnott** (Langdale Volutton), **Diane** and **Paul Cronin** (Goldleaf Cigar Café), **Robert Shrum** (Rodan + Fields Dermatologist) and **Tom Gooding** (Elliott, Blackburn & Gooding, P.C.)



Chamber Holds 99th Annual Membership Meeting



Teri Lupo (Georgia Power), 2010 Chairman, passes the gavel to 2011 Chairman **Tom Gooding** (Elliott, Blackburn & Gooding, P.C.), at the 99th Annual Membership Meeting on January 25 at the Rainwater Conference Center.



Presented by



Chamber highlights were on full display at the 99th Annual Membership Meeting, held January 25 at the Rainwater Conference Center. The Chamber staff presented the A.L. Girardin award, the



2010 Chairman of the Board showcased progress made in 2010 and the 2011 Chairman shared his vision for the current year.

The event was sponsored by Georgia Power Company, with 475 Chamber members, local elected officials, educators and top business leaders in the community in attendance.

On behalf of the staff, Chamber President **Myrna Ballard** presented the A.L. Girardin Award to two members who went above and beyond to aid Chamber initiatives in 2010.

Walter Hobgood (Express Employment Professionals) and **Sue Cox** (Covington's Dining & Catering and 306 North Restaurant) both served on the 2010 Board of Directors.

Teri Lupo recognized the 2010 Chamber Board of Directors, thanked them for their service and presented a

multi-media presentation sponsored by Georgia Power and produced by Fusion Creative Marketing recapping Chamber events, activities and accomplishments of the past year.

To conclude the meeting and to launch a new year, Lupo passed the gavel to 2011 Chairman **Tom Gooding** (Elliott, Blackburn & Gooding, P.C.). Gooding in turn presented Lupo with the traditional former chairmen's shadow box containing her gavel and a message of appreciation.

For more photos of the event and the A.L. Girardin Award winners, visit www.ValdostaChamber.com and select Events, Photo Gallery. The video presented at the Annual Membership Meeting can be viewed at www.ValdostaChamber.com

A.L. Girardin Award winners announced at Annual Membership Meeting

Sue Cox and Walter Hobgood warrant Chamber's top honor

Sue Cox (Covington's Dining & Catering and 306 North Restaurant) and **Walter Hobgood** (Express Employment Professionals) were selected as the recipients of the 2010 A.L. Girardin Award at the Chamber's 99th Annual Membership Meeting on January 25 at the Rainwater Conference Center. The A.L. Girardin Award is presented each year to a member who has been particularly valuable to the Chamber.



"The watchword this year – a word that applies to both winners of this year's award – is **ADVOCATE**," said Chamber President Myrna Ballard, who presented the award on behalf of the staff. "Both winners have shown admirable courage in their advocacy – in their support for the business community, their support for the community's children, and their support for the Chamber. Both winners are examples of true business leadership. Their integrity is unquestionable, their motivation is transparent, and their generosity in sharing their many talents with their community is seemingly unlimited."

Sue Cox and her family own Covington's Dining and Catering, and 306 North Restaurant. Cox led the Chamber's pro-business enhancement efforts in 2010, including the Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT) and the Valdosta And Lowndes Expansion Team (VALET). In 2010, SORT and VALET met many times in Cox's home, providing an environment that was conducive for the groups'

difficult work.

"Sue brought all of us together...the business community, employees of local government, and local elected officials... to identify ways that we can work together to make Valdosta-Lowndes County the most business-friendly community in Georgia," said Ballard. "As a direct result of Sue's involvement, our community made some important strides in 2010 in creating a more pro-business environment in Valdosta-Lowndes County. She and her SORT team identified four 'Pro-Business Priorities' that, when implemented, will make the business start-up and business expansion process less complicated for all parties."

Walter Hobgood owns Express Employment Professionals. "Walter was a workhorse for two key Chamber initiatives last year – school system unification, and the development of a thoughtful and far-reaching Strategic Plan for the Chamber that will profoundly affect the Chamber's direction for the coming years," said Ballard.

CUEE – Community Unification for Educational Excellence – is the independent organization created by the Chamber whose first order of business is to coordinate a successful referendum on school system unification on Nov. 8, 2011. Hobgood has dedicated many hours of his time and expertise to this critical community initiative. He led the effort to raise the funds needed for their mission, and he has worked tirelessly to help CUEE's leaders keep this all-volunteer group moving forward.

"Walter also facilitated the development of the Chamber's new Strategic Plan, which includes big picture community and business development issues that will have a profound impact on our Chamber and our community in the years to come," Ballard added. "Walter helped our Chamber truly 'Think BIG'. He helps us envision our community from 30,000 feet, and develop plans for boots-on-the-ground action. If we are true to our plan, our Chamber can help lead our community and transform our local economy."

"One of the reasons I look forward to the Annual Membership Meeting each year is to see who is awarded the A.L. Girardin Award. The people that have been honored represent a "who's who" of Valdosta business and community leaders for more than 35 years. To be considered among this group, along with Sue Cox, for whom I have the greatest respect, was a great honor and truly unexpected. My work with the Chamber has been rewarding in so many ways personally and professionally and I can only hope that my contributions have made a difference for the Chamber and this community. As with anything, one person cannot accomplish much by themselves. Every leader needs good people around them all pulling in the same direction. Our Chamber has been blessed by having volunteer members and an outstanding staff that share a common vision for the future of our community. I personally have been blessed to have the opportunity to work alongside these talented people and to have the support of my wife, Gail, and our staff at Express Employment Professionals while serving on the Board Directors. I am grateful for all the Chamber has done for me and the support I have received over the past few years from everyone."

Walter Hobgood

Membership Renewals

The following businesses renewed their Chamber memberships between **September 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010**. These businesses are committed to the prosperity of Valdosta-Lowndes County. Do business with the best-a Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber member. Look for the plaque that says "2011 Member of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce".

244 TAXI
306 North
84 West Self Storage
AA Superior Transportation Company
Aaron's Rental Purchase
ACS-Prudential ACS Real Estate Services
-Lincy Hurtado
ACS-Prudential ACS Real Estate Services
-Elizabeth Norman
ADP
Advanced ATC
Advanced Dental Care LLC
AFLAC-Cameron Prevost
Ageless Medical Aesthetics
Ahh David R. S.V. P.
Air Depot, Inc.
Akins, LLC
Alapaha Area Council Boy Scouts of America
Alert-Tech Systems, Inc.
Allan Dear Real Estate
Allison Metal Fabrications, Inc.
Allstate Insurance - Larry Ganas
Almand & Company
America's Home Place
American HomePatient
American Legion Post 13
American Red Cross Southern Heartland Blood Center
American Self Storage
AmeriGas Propane
Amerimed Pharmacy & Equipment, LLC
Anna Kinsey, DC
Anytime Fitness
Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM)
Arizona Chemical
Arthur Herndon Company Real Estate, Inc.-Pam Pitts
Arthur Herndon Company-Sue Dennard
Artists on Ashley
ASA Engineering & Surveying, Inc.
Ashley House Apartments
Astro Exterminating Services, Inc.
AT&T Georgia
Austins Cattle Co.
Auto Repair Experts
Autry's Bar-B-Que
Avalon Virtual Assistance, LLC
Aveda Concepts-Salon Park Avenue
Azalea Women's Center
B & J Electric Company
Bank of America
Barker Realty & Auction Company, Inc.-Tony Barker
Battery Source
Baytree Pizza
Bearings & Drives
bebe Nails
Bed r' Mattress
Beijing Cafe
Bemiss Bar-B-Q/Catering, LLC
Big Cocke Charters
BIZ With A Good Name

Blimpie Subs & Salads
Blue Paradise Travel Connections
Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta, Inc.
Brainy Scholars
Brandon, Rackley & Dukes PC
Brooks Welding, Inc.
Buffalo Wild Wings
C-Tech Water Solutions, LLC
C. Byrd Simmons, CPA
C. H. Heidemann
Cade & Associates Advertising, Inc.
California Sun
Carlton Ridge New Homes
Carter's Septic Tank and Sewer Line Cleaning
Cauthan Construction Co., Inc.
Chancy Drugs
Checked Flag Automotive
Chick-fil-A @ Colonial Mall Valdosta
Chick-fil-A @ St. Augustine Road
Chick-fil-A at North Valdosta
Chili's
Choice Family Medicine, PC
Christ The King Episcopal Church/Hildegard's
City Market
City of Lake Park
City of Valdosta, Public Information Office
City of Valdosta, Water, Sewer & Drainage Department
Clark Foods dba IHOP of Valdosta
Classic Art & Frame Co.
Code 3 Response Security Services
Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate
-Minnette Suddarth
Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate
-Sylvia Hutton
Colonel Clarence Parker
Colonial Bag Company
Colony Bank Valdosta, FSB
Colson Printing Co.
Comcast Spotlight
Comfort Systems USA Southeast
Consolidated Electrical Distributors
Convergys Corporation
Coombs Appliances
Corey Hull
Cornerstone Design and Consulting, Inc.
Country Cobbler
Covington's Dining & Catering
Covington's Party Rentals
Coward & Son Storage Trailers, Inc.
Coward Electric & Industrial Contractors, Inc.
Crittter Solutions, LLC
Crossing Jordan Missionary Baptist Church
CuraCare Health Services
Curves for Women
D & D Bonded Locksmiths
Daily Dinners Personal Chef Service
Dairy Queen
Dale Hodges Homes, Inc.
Dalton Refrigeration

Davis Air Conditioning Company
Debbie Parker McLeod
DeLoach Automotive
Dewitt Farms and Produce
Dillard's Distribution Center
Direct Auto Sales
District Attorney's Office - Southern Judicial Court
Ditto's Upscale Resale
Doctors Laboratory, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh C. Bailey
Dr. Chet Ballard
Dr. J. Brad Bynum, D.M.D.
Dr. Rosalie Allison
Dupont Crop Protection
E-Travel Anytime
e. dean bleivins Real Estate Group, LLC
Ear, Nose, Throat & Allergy Associates of SGA
Eddie & Betty's Grocery and Market
Edward Jones Investments/
Nathan Brown Jr, CFP, AAMS
Edward Jones/Michael Meeks
Ellis Black
Embroid Me Valdosta
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
ERA Joyner Realty-J D Yeager
Erco Worldwide, Inc.
Eubanks Appliance Service
Exchange Club of Valdosta
Executive Cleaning Services, LLC
Executive Custom Homes
EXIT REALTY IN TOUCH-Morgan Plyler
Express Care Medical Clinic
Expresstax
F-O-R-T-U-N-E Personnel Consultants of Valdosta
Fairway Outdoor
Farmers Supply Company
First America Drugs
First Commercial Real Estate
-Scott Alderman
First Data
First Data-Dan Green
First Federal of Valdosta
First State Bank & Trust Co.
FMB Bancshares Inc.
Folkner Training Associates, Inc.
Foster Travel Agency
Four Seasons Chocolates
Fowler, Holley, Rambo & Stalvey, PC
Frank R. Franks, Inc.
Fred Ware-VSU Department of Management
Freling Scarborough
Fruits of the Garden Winery and Gifts, LLC
Full Circle Marketing and Advertising Agency
Fusion Creative Marketing
G & M Plumbing Inc.
G. Saurina, MD, PC
Gary Hall Homes, Inc.

Gary Minchew Realty, Inc.
General Rental Center
Georgia Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc.
Georgia Department of Labor
Georgia Military College
Georgia Pipe & Metal Fabricators, Inc.
Georgia Power Co./Hahira Office
Georgia Power Company
Georgia Power Valdosta Federal Credit Union
Georgia Sheriffs Boys' Ranch
Gibson McDonald Furniture Co.
Girardin Jewelers, Inc.
Girlfriends II Hair Salon
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc.
Grant Financial Group
Greater Valdosta United Way, Inc.
Greene Supply Company
Griffin Electric Supply Co.
Griffin's Handyman Service
H & R Block
H & S Supply Co., Inc.
H Two Marketing
H. Arthur McLane
Habitat For Humanity
Hahira Laundromat
Harmon's Awards & Screen Printing
Henderson & Godbee, LLP
Henderson Appraisal Services
Hester Orthodontics
Hogan's Pharmacy
Home Builders Association
Home Instead Senior Care
Honey Baked Ham
Innovate Engineering Solutions, LLC
Interstate Diesel Service
Into the Past
IPG, Inc.
J & M Diesel Repair, Inc.
J L Concepts
J. H. Harvey Company
J.C. Penney
Jacuzzi Whirlpool Bath
Jan's Hallmark
Jeanette Coody
Jerry Mercer Physical Therapy
Jessie's Eats and Treats, LLC
Jodi's Accessories
Joe Cordova
Jos. A Bank Clothiers
Joseph L. Kirbo, Jr., DDS
Judy Martin Trexler, LCSW
Juneau Construction Company
Kaeser & Blair
Karen Byrley Independent Consultant
Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful
Kelly Services, Inc.
Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy
Langdale Ford Company
Langdale Honda Kia of Valdosta
Langdale Place
Laws Furniture Central

Lee & Associates Accountants
Lee Office Equipment
LeFiles Financial Planning, LLC
Legacy Coaches
Leland S. Moore, Jr., CPA
Liberty National Life Insurance Co.
Liberty National Life Insurance Co.
-Brian Cunnington
Lillie Bea's Daycare & Learning Center
Limbicare Prosthetics & Orthotics
Lindsey & Ritter, Inc.
Little Actors' Theatre of Valdosta, Inc.
Lovell Engineering Associates, PC
Lowe's Distribution Center
Lowndes Associated Ministries to People, Inc.
Lowndes County Black Business Association, Inc.
Lowndes County Partnership for Health
Lowndes Electric Supply
Lowndes/Valdosta Commission for Children and Youth
Mac's Automotive Service
Maluda Auto Sales
Marcus Campbell
Mark A. Retterbush, D.M.D., P.C.
Mark A. Roland, DMD, PC
Martin/McLane Funeral Home
Mass Mutual Financial Group
Matrix Department, Inc.
MaxCare Professional Cleaning
MIDS Inc.
Miller Hardware Company
Mims Computers & Networking
Mink Chiropractic Center, LLC
Mobile Dri-Wash and Auto Care
Moore, Clarke, Duvall & Rodgers, P. C.
More Than Words
Moss Car Wash & Detail Services
Moss Trim Shop
Mr. B's IGA
Nails by Chris
Natalie Vondersmith
NE-RO Tire & Brake Svc.
New Covenant Church
New York Life-W. Chris Baltrus
No-Carbarita Margarita Mix & Zero Margarita Mix
Nu-Smile Family Dentistry
-Sherry C. Colvin, D.M.D., P.C.
Oakwood School
On-Site I
Open Bible Christian School
ORBIS Staffing
Papa John's/SARPJ
Park University
Peaceway Counseling & Mediation Services, Inc.
Peach State Summer Theatre
Pearl Executive Shuttle
Perfect Settings
Perimeter Road Baptist Church
Permafrix of South Georgia

Phantom Media Productions, Inc.
Photography by Jacquelyn Buck
Pilot Truck Care (Wingfoot Commercial Tires, LLC)
Pineywoods Veterinary Hospital
Pitney Bowes
Plumbing Service Company
Pregnancy Support Clinic of Valdosta, Inc.
Premier Home Inspection
Presbyterian Homes of Georgia
PromoFX Graphics & Promotional Products
Publix Super Markets, Inc.
-Store #430
Quality Companies, Inc.
Quality Electric Co.
Quality Lawns
Quota Int'l of the Azalea City, Inc.
R.W. Alexander Contractors, Inc.
Radney Plumbing, Inc.
Rapid Press
RE/MAX of Valdosta
Real Living Realty Advisors
Reames & Son Construction Co.
Remax of Valdosta
-Sandra Hayden
Remax of Valdosta
-Steve Coleman
Remax Realty of Valdosta
-Mark Wisenbaker
Remax Realty of Valdosta
-Victoria Ordway
Rev. Grace Hughes
Rhythm & Blues Cafe
Rice Iron & Metal, Inc.
Richard Hill & Associates
Richard J. Nijem, M.D., P.C.
Ricky's Roof Maintenance
Robinson Insurance
Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
Roger Budd Company
S & M Air Duct Cleaning/
Pressure Washing
S & S Woodworking
Safety Sales and Service
Sam Allen
Second Harvest of South GA
Senior Volunteer Connection
Servpro of Valdosta
Set-In-Stone
Sew and So Fabrics
Shape Designers Medical
Weight Loss Clinic
Sharon Breeden
Shaw Brothers
Shipping Unlimited
Signature Landscapes, Inc.
Smiling Images Photography
Smith Tire Company
Smitty's Package Store
Smitty's Package Store #2
So. Ga. House of Hope
Sodexo
South GA Solar Power
South Georgia Die & Machining Co.

South Georgia Eye Partners
South GA Orthodontic Group
South Georgia Travel
Southeastern Surveying, Inc.
Southern Builders Supply
Southern OB/GYN
Southern Printer
Cartridge Supply
Southern States Toyota Lift
Southern Stationery
Southern Telephone Service, Inc.
Southland Christian School
Southland Church
Special Olympics Georgia
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
Stafford Equipment
State Farm Insurance
-Travis Pate
State Farm Insurance
-Angie Crawford
Staten Crossing Apartments
Steel's Jewelry
Stellar Photo Booth Rental
Storey Machining Services, LLC
Submarina California Subs
Subway-Bemiss Rd.
Sullivan & Patten, P.C.
Sunglasses on Main
Sunrise Bank
Super Sod of Valdosta
Superior Home Security Services, Inc.
Superior Shine Mobile Detail
SurEste Cantina
Synovus Securities, Inc.
T & T Enterprises with Send Out Cards
T-Mobile #8040
Tatum Insurance Agency
Texas Roadhouse
The Beanery Coffee Roasters
The Flower Gallery
The Foot & Ankle Institute of South Georgia, P.C.
The Gathering, UMC
The Group, Inc.
The Haven, Battered Women's Shelter
The Home Depot
The Home Handyman, LLC
The Hughston Clinic
The Lawn Service
The Main Squeeze
The Medicine Shoppe
The Outlet Christian Life
Worship Center, Inc.
The Park Avenue Bank
The Ravine Grille & Dinnerhouse
The RCL Company DBA Lawlor
Painting and Repair
The UPS Store
The Vintage Dragonfly
Theatre Guild Valdosta
Thomas Collision, Inc.
To The Rescue
Toads and Teacups
Childrens Shop
Total Image Productions
Tucker, Plymel & Davis, PC

Turner Insurance Services, LLC
University Gifts & Apparel
Upper Cervical Health Centers of America
Valdosta Anesthesia Associates, PC
Valdosta City Schools
Valdosta Coaching Network
Valdosta Family Medicine
Valdosta Insurance Services, Inc.
Valdosta Mayor's Council for Persons with Disabilities
Valdosta Mechanical Company
Valdosta Medical Clinic
Valdosta Methodist Home for Children and Youth
Valdosta Optics Laboratory, Inc.
Valdosta Orthopedic Associates, P.C.
Valdosta Urological Associates, P.C.
Valdosta Veterinary Hospital
Valdosta Women's Health Center, PC
Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Electrical Contractors Assoc., Inc.
Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority
Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority
Valdosta-Lowndes Recreation & Parks Director
Valenti, Rackley & Associates, LLC
Vandemark Plastic Surgery
Veolia ES Solid Waste Southeast, Inc.
Verizon Wireless
Voiceover U.S.
Volunteers of America
Bennett Oaks
W P Walker's Vack, Inc.
Waller Insurance & Investments, Inc.
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Wilkinson Textiles
William A. Turner, Jr., Attorney
Williams Investment Company
Window Treats, Inc.
Wooden Nickel Pub Holding Co., LLC
Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ
Woodstone Apartment Homes
WTLX TV
Xella Aircrete North America, Inc.
Young, Thagard, Hoffman, Smith & Lawrence, LLP

The Power to
DO MORE

Coming Soon New Baytree Branch Summer 2011

Coming soon, a new First State Bank location to serve you. Our new location coming this summer will offer great convenience and easy access for all your banking needs.

First State Bank & Trust, we make banking easy.



**FIRST STATE BANK
AND TRUST CO.**

a division of Synovus Bank®, Member FDIC

3650 Inner Perimeter Road - Valdosta
Main Office: 229-242-5725
www.fsbtcc.com



First State Bank & Trust is a division of Synovus Bank. Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, is chartered in the state of Georgia and operates under multiple trade names across the Southeast. Divisions of Synovus Bank are not separately FDIC-insured banks. The FDIC coverage extended to deposit customers is that of one insured bank.

Business After Hours...



September Business After Hours...

Sponsored by Georgia Power

Charlie Birchmore (Georgia Power Company) exchanges contact information with **Dr. Greg Martin**, (South Georgia Vein Centers) at the Business After Hours event, sponsored by Georgia Power and hosted by the Gateways Committee. The event was held at the Rainwater Conference Center in September.



Judge John Edwards asks guests to pledge to help keep our community clean at the September Business After Hours. **Marshall Conner**, Gateways Committee Chair took the opportunity to share the importance of improving the appearance and cleanliness of gateways in the Valdosta-Lowndes community.

November Business After Hours...

Sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

A prestigious group of Chamber members and guests gathered at Wells Fargo Advisors' Northside Drive location to enjoy food catered by Covington's while making new business contacts.



Frank Carter (Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC) and **Sarah Kirby** present **Martin LeFiles** (LeFiles Financial Planning, LLC) with one of the many door prizes given away by Wells Fargo at the Business After Hours in November.

October Business After Hours...

Sponsored by Valdosta Main Street

Chamber members received a guide to Downtown Valdosta at the October Business After Hours, hosted by Valdosta Main Street in October. The event took place in beautiful Downtown Valdosta, where 30 downtown businesses came together to make this event a unique experience for guests.



Anne Barnas (SmithBarnas & Associates, Inc.), **Cindy Hotchkiss** (E-Travel Anytime), **Megan Smith** (SmithBarnas & Associates, Inc.), **Gino Fina** (Valdosta Shared Office Space) and **Thomas Amiot** (Azalea Health Innovations, Inc.) enjoy the beautiful weather while networking at the October Business After Hours.



We look forward to seeing you at the next Business After Hours event!

December Business After Hours...

Sponsored by Guardian Bank



A huge crowd of Chamber members and guests took the opportunity to network and spread holiday cheer at the December Business After Hours, hosted by Guardian Bank.



Anne Shenton (Nexstep Technology Services, Inc.) and **Mark Worley** (INNOVATE! Engineering Solutions, LLC) discuss business at December's Business After Hours sponsored by Guardian Bank at their North Valdosta Road location.

More pictures of Business After Hours can be viewed on the Chamber's website, www.ValdostaChamber.com. Select Chamber News and Events/Photo Gallery. View photos from this and many other events brought to you by the Chamber and our local businesses.

Welcome to... **Opportunity Central!**

The Chamber is leading the community to position Metro Valdosta as Opportunity Central.

- Opportunities for businesses to grow and thrive
- Opportunities for young professionals
- Opportunities for cultural interests and active lifestyles

- ☞ Metro Valdosta is growing and now is the time to decide what we want to be and to work together strategically to achieve that vision. **Can't you just see it...**
- ☞ A Downtown Valdosta that is an economic hub for knowledge-based businesses and job opportunities for college and university graduates. **Can't you just see it?**
- ☞ As we grow jobs for our college and university graduates, our local economy will reap the benefits. Residents with higher incomes spend their money in local businesses, creating job opportunities throughout the local economy. We want people to view Metro Valdosta as the center of opportunity for South Georgia.



How can you be involved?

Young Professionals ...



...ages 21-40 can join MetroOne Young Professionals Network. Not only does MetroOne facilitate networking and aid in personal professional development, it also gives young professionals the opportunity to shape their community.

The Park Avenue Bank presented the 2010 Metro Valdosta Emerging Leaders awards to **Nikki Forman** (City of Valdosta), **Anne Shenton** (Nexstep Technology Services, Inc.), **Scott Orenstein** (Pinnacle Prime Construction) and **Trey Taylor** (Taylor Insurance Services, Inc.). Other programs of MetroOne include CEOs Unplugged, MetroOne Professional Development Seminar and MetroOne Mondays. Visit www.MetroOneValdosta.com for information on joining MetroOne.



Community Leaders ...

...and those who are interested in helping Metro Valdosta continue to move forward. Opportunity Central provides community leaders with opportunities to learn how other communities have transformed their local economies into supportive environments for knowledge-based businesses.

Opportunity Central Speaker Series hosted renowned Savannah business leader and former Georgia Department of Economic Development board member **Howard Morrison** in November. Morrison spoke on leadership as the key to building supportive communities for knowledge-based businesses. Visit www.OpportunityCentral.net to view the presentation.

Businesspeople and Entrepreneurs...

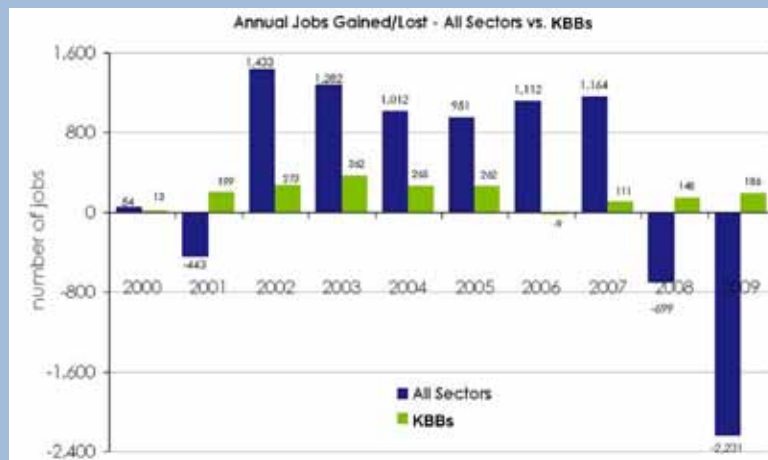
...can visit Opportunity Central Talent Connection at www.OpportunityCentral.net/talent to sign up to offer internship opportunities in your business. Interns are a great way to have the best and brightest work in your business at little to no cost. The Talent Connection simplifies the process of "matching" available, qualified interns from both VSU and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College with your business needs... by completing one form online.

Can't you envision a Metro Valdosta that is a community of opportunity for our high school graduates, our college students AND our college and university graduates? Help us transform our community into Opportunity Central. Learn more at www.OpportunityCentral.net.

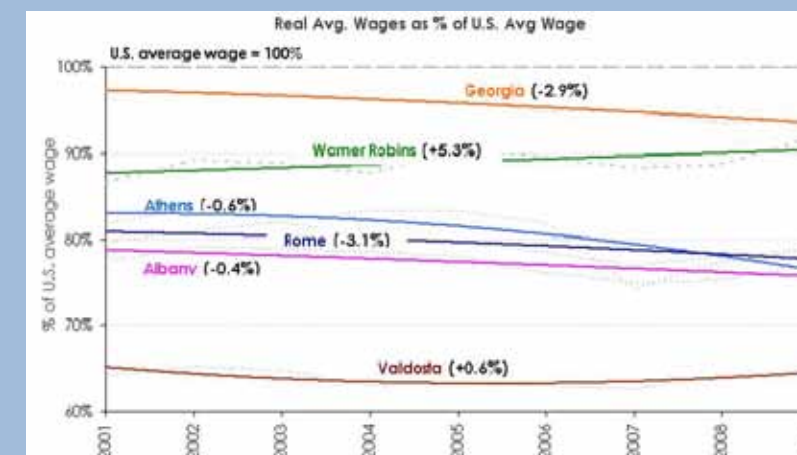


Resources for knowledge-based businesses also can be accessed by visiting www.OpportunityCentral.net.

Good News, It's Working!



Despite substantial overall job loss in 2009, the knowledge-based sector in the Valdosta MSA saw its highest growth in the last four years. This is good news for Opportunity Central. Working to grow jobs in this sector is paying off; knowledge-based businesses are seeing success in Valdosta even in an economic downturn.



Although Metro Valdosta's average wage remains lower than the Georgia average and the average of peer communities, the Valdosta MSA average wage increased by .6 percent between 2001 and 2009. This means that working to increase average wages by growing jobs for college and university graduates is working. Metro Valdosta's wage growth surpasses all peers, except Warner Robins.

Visit www.OpportunityCentral.net for the full Employment and Wage Analysis.

Welcome to the Chamber!

The following businesses joined the Chamber during the months of
September 2010 – January 2011.

21st Century Telecommunications, Inc.
3607 Meadowdale Drive
Valdosta, GA 31606
229-460-4455
Bill Branham
Advertising-Television

A Boat Store
3640 Val Tech Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-253-0528
Mary Bellamy
Boat Maintenance & Repair

ActivEar Hearing Aid Ctr
3470 N Valdosta Rd. Ste B
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-245-1122
Michael Miller
Hearing Aids

AFLAC - Cathy Hanson
Valdosta, GA
229-561-2984
Kathy Hanson
Insurance

AllGreen Services
P O Box 681
Hahira, GA 31632
229-794-2954
Alicia New
Waste Reduction

AMERIGROUP Community Care
303 Perimeter Ctr N Ste 400
Atlanta, GA 30346
678-587-4859
Jason Anavitarte
Health & Wellness Products

Apex Communications
3268 Inner Perimeter Rd.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-259-0025
Cheri Burnette
Cellular Phones

Apex Communications
2139 Bemiss Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-257-0026
Jennifer Moff
Cellular Phones

Automotive Transfers, Inc.
801 W Hill Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-671-1400
Dona Doult
Automobile Locator Service

Azalea City Chiropractic
2231 Bemiss Rd., Ste. B
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-241-9300
Dr. Mitch Mink
Chiroprators

B & W Home Repair, LLC
4021 Foxridge Lane
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-269-6556
Daniel Worsley
Building Contractors

Bennett Trust & Estate
2502 N. Oak Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-333-0860
Teresa Sisco
Attorneys

Blue Paradise Travel Connections
212 Artis Lane
Valdosta, GA 31602
877-852-0238x7001
Jimmy & Sharon Thompson
Travel Agencies & Bureaus

Bob Burns
4410 Willow Wood Gate
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-740-7278
Bob Burns
Associate Members

Brainy Scholars
2215 Bemiss Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-560-1681
Rosa Sirmans
Tutoring

Buescher & Ruff
1628 James P. Rodgers Dr.
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-247-0420
Mark Buescher
Accountants

Carolyn H. Eager
902 Moss Way
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-242-1280
Carolyn Eager
Associate Members

Cellular Center / Verizon Wireless
3215 North Oak St. Ext.
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-269-4084
Daniel Harris
Cellular Phones

Cervantes Pine Straw and Lawn Service
3445 Bemiss Road
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-249-9180
Delia Saucedo
Lawn Maintenance

CLEAN FREAKS
3 Wilmington Court
Valdosta, GA 31602
386-209-3215
Waletha Nelson
Cleaning-Interior

Conservative Neurology Services
Office: 2935 North Ashley
Street D-116
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-244-1192
P Edwards Conrad M.D.
Physicians & Surgeons

Deanna Wagner
P O Box 623
Valdosta, GA 31603
229-245-0332
Deanna Wagner
Associate Members

Drug Testing of South Georgia
1802 Plum Street
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-253-0125
Larry Kenzel
Drug Abuse & Addiction-Information & Treatment

ERA Joyner Realty-Tony LaMarca
3628 Druid Oaks Drive
Valdosta, GA 31605
Tony LaMarca
Real Estate

Fellowship Baptist Church
2239 Hutchinson Pond Rd.
Hahira, GA 31632
229-896-7348
Ike Jefferson
Churches

Fourstar Freightliner, Inc.
1527 Madison Highway
Valdosta, GA 31601
334-387-3180
Sherrie Moore
Transportation-Personal

Georgia Auto Exchange, LLC
1603 Baytree Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-245-9902
Kevin Thompson
Automobile Dealers

Golden Leaf Cigar Cafe
101-A South Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA 31601
803-760-9556
Paul & Diane Cronin
Cigar, Cigarette & Tobacco Dealers

Grant Financial Group
3227 N Oak Street Ext #3
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-257-0041
Lee McArthur
Financial Planning Consultants

Gretchen Quarterman
3338 Country Club Road
#L336
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-834-1945
Gretchen Quarterman
Associate Members

Hahira Historical Society
107 S Church Street
Hahira, GA 31632
229-794-3383
Tim Coombs
Organizations

Hahira Insurance Agency
514 S Church Street
Hahira, GA 31632
229-794-1161
Doug Williams
Insurance

Holy Moses Water Treatment, Inc.
P O Box 159 (post)
Lake Park, GA 31636
229-559-8272
Steve Patelski
Water Softeners & Supplies

Into the Past
113 S Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-630-4177
Tammy Carter
Antiques-Dealers

J S Medical Diagnostics, LLC
3790-B Old U.S. Hwy 41N
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-292-2147
Jonathan Sule
Physicians & Surgeons

J. Allen Lawson
505 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31632
229-241-1340
J. Allen Lawson
Attorneys

J. Roland Const., LLC
P O Box 3037
Valdosta, GA 31604
229-834-8206
Chris Roland
Roofing Contractors

Kappa Eta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
5282 Troupeville Road
Quitman, GA 31643
229-740-5906
Rico Tucker
Organizations

Lemongrass Day Spa
104W Northside Drive
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-244-4111
Michelle Lamb
Beauty Salons & Services

LLT Building Corporation
1632 Metropolitan Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-222-5062
Chip Hall
Building Contractors

Mike and Son Service Center
1115 N Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-244-1567
Scott Gard
Automobile Repair & Service

New Concepts Publishing
106-A West Hill Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-560-2895
Madris dePasture
Publishers-Directory & Guide

New Hire Solutions, LLC
2904 E North Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-227-9003
Susan Schauer
Employment Agencies

Pampered Paws Grooming Salon
4112 Aslan Lane
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-242-0042
Jill Dennis
Pet Grooming

Paul Burgess
5328 Carlton Ridge Circle
Hahira, GA 31632
Paul Burgess
Associate Members

Pole-Lite Fitness, LLC
1515 N Ashley Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-241-8184
Tanya Weltziem
Health Clubs

Pop Bellies Southern Cooking
2208 Marion Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-247-2867
Victoria Vickers
Restaurants

Primerica-Patrick L Davis
509 N Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-834-4026
Patrick Davis
Insurance

Reinhart Food Service
107 B Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-242-0867
Casey Kinker
Food Service Distributor

Rickey's Tire & Auto Repair
102 Ray Alley
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-247-7904
Rickey Howell
Automobile Repair & Service

Rodan + Fields Dermatologists - Bob & Jamie Shrum
874 SW Roberts Avenue
Fort White, FL 32038
407-625-5347
Bob Shrum
Skin Care

Rodan + Fields Dermatologists - Julianne Jabon
Independent Consultant
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-630-0372
Julianne Jabon
Skin Care

Rodan + Fields Dermatologists - Natalia Huffman
409 Bryson Circle
Hahira, GA 31632
229-251-9984
Natalia Huffman
Skin Care

Rodan + Fields Dermatologists - Chrystal Odum
Independent Consultant
Lake Park, GA 31636
229-269-7930
Chrystal Odum
Skin Care

Sentry Data Management, LLC
436 Nichols Street
Blackshear, GA 31516
912-807-9904
Jay Porter
Storage-Household & Commercial

Shuffle Boutique
2001 W Gordon Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-249-0414
Beth Walters
Consignment Service

Silotte \$7.99 & Up Shoes
2155 A Bemiss Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-415-1446
Edson Telusmond
Shoes

South Georgia Military Officers Association of America
P O Box 5941
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-244-5400
John Sinnott, *Organizations*

Southern Hospitality Cleaning Service
805 Corbett Road
Lake Park, GA 31636
229-251-8903
Chris Boris
Cleaning-Interior

Sparkles Weddings and Special Events
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-232-4825
Frances Pride
Wedding Services & Supplies

Spencer's
1700 Norman Dr.
Valdosta, Ga 31601
229-253-8441
Robbie Crawshaw
Party Supplies

Stage 51 Coffee and Wine House
1575 Baytree Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-241-9766
Dianne Fate
Restaurants

State Farm Insurance-Michael Barr
1106 Gornto Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-242-0855
Michael Barr
Insurance

State Farm Insurance-Walker Searcy
1106 Gornto Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-242-0855
Walker Searcy
Insurance

Steamhouse Seafood Restaurant
3008 James Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-232-0827
Brian Antoine
Restaurants

Stifel Nicolaus
3308 Country Club Road
Ste. B
Valdosta, GA 31605
229-293-1125
Heather Ferguson
Financial Planning Consultants

Sugar Momma's Bakery, LLC
313 E. Screven St.
Quitman, GA 31643
229-263-4445
Lisa Chafin
Bakers

Superior Shine Mobile Detail
1601 Spring Meadow Drive
Remerton, GA 31602
229-834-5322
Chad Wyatt
Automobile Detailing & Clean Up Service

Tillman Insurance Agency, Inc.
3964 Old U.S. Hwy 41 N.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-242-5377
Hamilton Tillman
Insurance

Tillman Insurance Agency, Inc. - Cheryl Parlor
3964 Old U.S. Hwy 41 N.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-242-5377
Cheryl Parlor
Insurance

Tillman Insurance Agency, Inc. - Dan Tillman
3964 Old U.S. Hwy 41 N.
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-242-5377
Dan Tillman
Insurance

Tillman Insurance Agency, Inc. - Gloria Rogers
3964 Old U.S. Hwy 41 N.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-242-5377
Gloria Rogers
Insurance

Tillman Insurance Agency, Inc. - Nikki Ellis
3964 Old U.S. Hwy 41 N.
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-242-5377
Nikki Ellis
Insurance

Triangle Furniture Sofa & Mattress Outlet
3390 N Valdosta Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-219-7881
Drew Durham
Furniture

Trident Supply Co./GHX Valdosta
829 S. St Augustine Road
Valdosta, Ga 31601
229-219-1100
Darrell Presley
Manufacturers

Trio Therapy Services, Inc.
P O Box 1681
Thomasville, GA 31792
229-226-4114
Billie Beverly
Physical Therapists

United Irrigation Supply
8568 US Highway 84 West
Quitman, Ga 31643
229-263-9393
Brent Brinkley
Farm Supplies

UR Mess We Clean Services, ETC
601 Justin Drive
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-412-1231
Stephanie Wetherington
Cleaning-Interior

Urological Clinic of Valdosta, PC
3000 N Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-241-1188
Pam Chiang
Medical Clinics

Valdosta Music and Publishing
704 Habersham Rd.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-249-0628
Bill Brown, Jr.

Valdosta-Lowndes NAACP
610 Mack Drive
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-245-1009
Leigh Touchton
Organizations

Valdosta Toasts
348 Enterprise Dr.
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-219-8028
Stacy Whatley
Organizations

Vega Media Partners
303 Hartsfield Lane
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-292-2018
Andy Barrs
Advertising - Other

Whisk Organic Food Market
3009 N. Ashley Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
229-244-8600
Gracie Douglas
Food Products

Wulff Enterprises, Inc.
1681 Clay Road
Valdosta, GA 31601
330-478-4778
Joy Kettering
Equipment & Supplies

Yes, it's Cake!
19 Rountree
McCranie Road
Adel, GA 31620
229-896-5577
Teresa Hancock
Bakers

Let's support these new Stars!



Cardiologists (l-r): Dr. Richard Nijem, Dr. Glenn H. Evans, Dr. G.E. "Trey" Powell, Dr. Kuldeep "Danny" Talwar, Dr. Joel L. Cohen, Dr. George "Sid" Staton

TOP HEART PROGRAM IN GEORGIA

#3 CARDIAC SURGERY
#10 OVERALL CARDIAC SERVICES

The Dasher Heart Center at South Georgia Medical Center continues to achieve excellence in providing quality and comprehensive cardiac care including diagnostic, interventional and cardiothoracic surgery.



AS SEEN IN GeorgiaTrend



STRONG cardiac foundation
 surgical expertise
 critical care excellence



Cardiothoracic Surgeons (l-r): Dr. David L. Saint, Dr. Charles P. Murrach, Dr. Julian E. Hurt, Dr. Ulfur T. Gudjonsson

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia health coverage for you and your family. Strong protection. Strong network.

We offer Health Coverage for:

- Individuals without Group Coverage
- Independent Contractors
- Dependents and Students
- Cobra/Alternative
- Self-Employed
- Small Businesses

Don't put your family at risk by trying to get by without health care coverage. Get reliable benefits that match your busy life. We can help you choose a plan that makes good sense for your health, and your wallet.



H&H INSURANCE SOLUTIONS
 Authorized Independent Agency
 (229) 249-9008

3342 Greystone Way
 Valdosta, GA 31605
 www.hhinsurancesolutions.com



H&H Insurance Solutions is an independent authorized agent in Georgia for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

North Ashley Center

LUXURY SPECIALTY RETAIL CENTER
 Located at North Ashley Street and Connell Road

- 500 Feet Frontage on North Ashley Street
- 300+ Feet on Connell Road
- 300+/- Feet on Garden Drive
- Center Turn Lane on North Ashley
- 4+ Acres Retail Development
- 30,000+ Square Feet Retail Space
- 25,000+ Cars Per Day on North Ashley Street @ Connell Road
- Out Parcel Pads with Drive Through Available
- Out Parcels up to 2 Acres
- Retail Bays from 1300 Square Feet



IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

ADJACENT PROFESSIONAL CENTER—34,000 SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE CONDOMINIUMS

MIKE HILL, MIKE HILL REAL ESTATE (229) 242-1401 • MICAH SHAPIRO, SHAPIRO PROPERTIES, L.L.C. (229) 242-1014

North Ashley Professional Center

CLASS "A" OFFICE SPACE

- Office Spaces from 1,160 Square Feet
- Brick Veneer exterior with insulated windows
- Crown molding & tray ceiling in reception area
- Ceiling fan in reception area
- Five offices standard with reception
- Maintenance plan/Owner's Association
- Coffee Bar with Corian counter tops
- ADA compliant
- Custom flooring options available
- Additional attic storage

Shapiro Properties, LLC

MIKE HILL
 Real Estate

Only 3 Single Units Remaining!





Valdosta-Lowndes County
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 790 • Valdosta, GA 31603

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 47
Valdosta, GA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
Leading Communities.™

Everything You Need To Grow Your Business



Booklets



Brochures



Sell Sheets



Postcards



Presentation Folders



Business Cards



Note Cards



Greeting Cards



Table Tents



Door Knob Hangers



Perfect Bound Books



Posters



Banners



Yard Signs



Full Color Envelopes



Direct Mail



Personalized Mail



Calendars

1628 James P. Rodgers Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601

229-244-5634
uspress.com

U.S. Press®
America's Color Printer™