

# CORDELE · CRISP

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 2015 Newsletter

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### Contact Information

502 So. 2nd Street

P O Box 158

Cordele, Ga 31010

## 27th Annual

## Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry

February 11, 2015

The 27th Annual Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry is scheduled for Feb. 11th at the Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta.

If you would like to help cook, greet, decorate, or host, please call or email the chamber asap. It takes many volunteers to do all the various jobs beginning around 3 p.m. If you would like more information call the chamber .

For those attending the fish fry we will have the "I love Cordele" shirts at a discounted price of \$10  
**Deadline to order shirts is Feb. 2nd at 2pm**

Call or email Monica for more information!

## Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce

### 66th Annual Meeting and Dinner

The 66th Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce was held on January 22nd at The Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club. Bridget Milani, chair, called the meeting to order. Rev. Drew Anderson. Cordele First United Methodist Church gave the invocation; Al Shauf led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Hannah French sang the National Anthem. Bridget then gave out going remarks, highlighting the past year.

She then recognized the outgoing board members: Jerry Carney, Hal Carter, Jr., Brad Christian, Angie Ellis, Eli

(229) 273-1668

(229) 273-5132 fax

[www.cordelecrispga.com](http://www.cordelecrispga.com)

[info@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:info@cordele-crisp-chamber.com)

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Follow us on Twitter!



### Mission Statement:

**"The Mission of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce is to support, maintain, and promote members businesses and quality of life in our community!"**

### New Members



Titina Toker  
Liberty Tax Services  
1203 East 16<sup>th</sup>

Tinsley and Willie Patrick and thanked them for their service. Kimberly Reid, Vice Chair of Community Development recognized the Exceedingly Excellent Teacher Angie Castleberry, Crisp County Elementary School. Ron Cruz, Vice Chair of Economic Development recognized the Ambassador of the Year Wendy LeMaster with PlantersFirst Bank and Bridget Milani recognized the Volunteer of the Year Arlene Holmes, Holmes Construction Company.

Bridget then recognized the Small Business of the Year - The Cove; Medium Business of the Year Ag Technologies and Large Business of the Year Harris Waste Management Group. She then introduced Austin French, Cordele native, who finished second on The Rising Star in 2014.

Bridget then introduced and passed the gavel to incoming Chairman Briley Edwards, Ameris Bank. Briley presented Bridget with a plaque and thanked her for her service to the chamber. Briley then introduced the 2015 Board of Directors and talked about what he would like to accomplish in 2015.



AvenueCordele, GA  
31015

229-513-3471

Michelle Mason Hughes  
**Lake Blackshear Mason  
Hughes Realty, Inc,**  
P.O. Box 202  
Cordele, GA 31010  
229-273-4044  
229-513-4160 Fax

**WANTED!**

If you know someone  
who should be a member,  
please call Monica or  
Gail with the name and  
we'll be glad to call on  
them!

**Renewals**

Thank you to the  
following businesses and  
individuals for renewing  
your membership!

16 EAST

Ashley's Business  
Solutions

Best Western

Betty's Custom Framing

Captain D's of Cordele

Caroline Fielding

Chic-Fil-A

Cordele Community



**Tips vs. Service Charges**

What are they and how are they reported?

February 11, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.

This FREE one-hour webinar is for:

- \* Tax Professionals and Organizations
- \* Small Businesses and Organizations
- \* Payroll Professionals

Earn One Continuing Education (CE) credit: Category - Federal Tax  
To receive a certificate of completion, you must:

- \* View the live presentation on February 11, 2015 for at least 50 minutes from the start of the program for one CE credit.
- \* View the presentation while signed in using the same email address that you used to register (you will not receive credit by watching on someone else's computer). This will confirm your

<p><b>League</b></p> <p><b>Cordele Dental Associates</b></p> <p><b>Cordele Main Street</b></p> <p><b>Cordele Optical Dispensary</b></p> <p><b>Country Finacial Dan Spires, CPA</b></p> <p><b>Daniels &amp; Daniels Properties, Inc.</b></p> <p><b>Department of Family &amp; Children's Services</b></p> <p><b>Edward Jones/Trae Sims</b></p> <p><b>Fairway Outdoor</b></p> <p><b>GACell &amp; Tissue Diagnostics</b></p> <p><b>Gibsons Discount Drugs</b></p> <p><b>Griffin Lumber &amp; Hardware</b></p> <p><b>Hall's Cleaners</b></p> <p><b>Labor Finders</b></p> <p><b>Lin Barnes</b></p> <p><b>Perlis Corporation</b></p> <p><b>Pridgen Brothers Company</b></p> <p><b>Rainey Used Cars</b></p> <p><b>Rainwater, Gibbs &amp;</b></p>	<p>attendance and generate your certificate of completion.</p> <p>* Groups cannot register with one e-mail address and then receive separate certificates.</p> <p>* If certificates are needed, each person must register separately.</p> <p>* Look for your Certificate of Completion by e-mail approximately three weeks after the broadcast. If you have met all requirements, you will receive your certificate automatically.</p> <p>If you are an Enrolled Agent or an Other Tax Return Preparer, attending for education on a voluntary basis, you must register with your 8-number PTIN, First Name and Last Name as shown on your PTIN card or letter. If you don't have a PTIN, you will receive a certificate; however, your credit will not be reported to the IRS. Other tax professionals will be sent a certificate and may receive credit if the broadcast meets their organization's or state's CPE requirements.</p> <p>To Register:  <a href="http://www.visualwebcaster.com/IRS/101225/reg.asp?id=101225">http://www.visualwebcaster.com/IRS/101225/reg.asp?id=101225</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Entrepreneur &amp; Small Business QUICKFACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 709,252 registered establishments in Georgia (SOS: 1/5/15)</li> <li>• According to the GA Dept. of Labor, 281,554 business establishments represented GA employment in the second quarter of 2014; of those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 99.8% are categorized as small (fewer than 500 employees)</li> <li>○ 97.6% employed fewer than 100</li> <li>○ 94.6% employed fewer than 50</li> <li>○ 77.5% employed fewer than 10</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Georgia Rankings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDEcD ranks #1 'best in class' state-level economic development agency in US (IEDC 11/14)</li> <li>• GA ranks #5 in US and #2 in Southeast in over-the-year job creation (GDOL 11/14)</li> <li>• GA ranks #1 (second year running) in US for best state for business (Site Selection 11/14)</li> <li>• GA ranks #1 (up from #8) in US for top state for business and remains #1 in workforce (CNBC 7/14)</li> <li>• GA ranks #1 for being the top competitive state in US (Site Selection 5/14)</li> </ul>



**Wright, LLP**

**Ramada Inn of Cordele**

**Robert Clary**

**Rhonda Hayes**

**Sheriff Billy Hancock**

**Sherwin-Williams**

**South Georgia Banking  
Company**

**State Farm Insurance**

**Stripling's General  
Store, Inc.**

**Susan Leger-Boike**

**The Cordele Dispatch**

**The Cove at Lake  
Blackshear**

**The Denham Agency,  
Inc.**

**T. J.'S Italian  
Restaurant**

**Town of Arabi**

**Trans Waste Services**

**Travel Lodge  
TTL, Inc.**

**U-Save-It Pharmacy,  
Inc.**

**Walls Factory Outlet**

**Wendy's**

- GA ranks #1 (2<sup>nd</sup> straight year) in US for fastest growth in number of women-owned firms (American Express OPEN 3/14)
- GA ranks #11 in US as a top exporting state (Trade & Economic Analysis 3/14)
- Emory University and Georgia Tech among top 100 universities in the world (Center for World University Rankings 7/14)
- Georgia Tech among top 12 universities for creating economic impact through innovation (Innovation U 2.0 5/14)
- 89% of Georgia's companies employ 5 and under (AEO/US Census)

## **Ribbon Cuttings**



**Liberty Tax Service**



**Darton College - Cordele Downtown Campus**

## **Community Resource Fair**

We appreciate your support! Please let us know if we can assist you with anything!!!

## Calendar of Events

**February 3rd**  
1-6 p.m.  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Community Clubhouse

**February 6th**  
12 noon  
**Ag Committee**  
Chamber

**February 6th**  
**Father/Daughter Dance @**  
**Cordele First Methodist Activities Center**

**February 7th**  
6 p.m.  
**Puppy Love Pageant at CCHS**

**Feb. 11th**  
5:00 p.m.  
**Atlanta Legislative Catfish Fry @ Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta**

**Feb. 14th**  
5:30 p.m.  
**Valentine's Day Train Ride**



**Feb. 14th  
Valentine's  
Dance at The Lake  
Blackshear Resort**

**February 16th  
Chamber  
CLOSED  
for President's Day**

**February 18th  
9:00 a.m.  
Keep Crisp Beautiful  
Chamber**

**February 18th  
12 noon  
Ambassador  
Meeting  
Golden Corral**

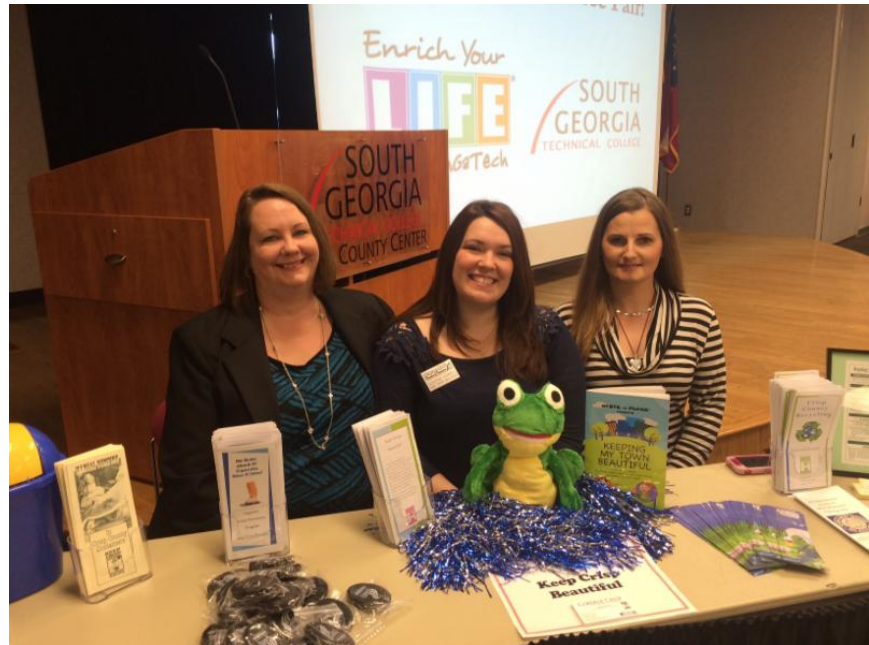
**February 21st  
Mardi Gras  
@ Georgia  
Veterans**

**February 24th  
12 noon  
STAR  
Student/Teacher  
Recognition @  
Cordele Lions Club**

**February 26th  
6:30 p.m.  
Patsy Cline @  
The Lake Blackshear  
Resort  
Sponsored by  
CAAA**

**Small Business  
Week**

**February**



**The Chamber and Keep Crisp Beautiful participated in the  
Community Resource sponsored by South Ga. Technical College**

Over 120 SGTC students and community members attend the Community Resource Fair. Cordele-Crisp Chamber, Keep Crisp Beautiful and several other non profits participated, which gave many a chance to talk about the things they are doing in our community and even recruit a few volunteers! The next event will be held in September 2015. We hope to see this event grow as it is a GREAT networking opportunity for local non-profits who are not getting out otherwise!

**16-20  
2015**

## **BOOK RECYCLING WEEK**



**February 22-28<sup>th</sup>**

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - DRIVE THRU  
502 South 2nd Street  
Cordele, GA 31015**

**SAVE THE BOOKS!** Recycle your used books in the drive thru  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and they will go to shuts-ins in our community!

**Sponsored by: Keep Crisp Beautiful  
For more information call Catherine Harrell at (229) 273-1669**

**Erskine Weaver named the "This Is Your Life  
Recipient" for 2015**





The Watermelon Days Festival Committee announced at their last meeting that Erskine Weave will be honored at "This Is Your Life" this year. The event will be held on June 18th, 7:00 p.m. at The Lake Blackshear Report. Please make plans to attend the event. Tickets will go on sale in May. Congratulations to Mr. Erskine! We appreciate all you have done for our community and especially the students in Crisp County!

## Eggs & Issues 2015



The Crisp County delegation that attended the Eggs & Issues Breakfast in Atlanta recently: Sitting L-R Steve Rentfrow (Crisp Co. Power Commission), Senator Greg Kirk, Monica Simmons (chamber), Patti Deal (PlantersFirst Bank) Standing L- R: Briley Edwards (Ameris Bank), Eli Tinsley

(PlantersFirst Bank) and Rick Hughes ( Ambassador Personnel)