



January 2012

P.O. Box 158 Cordele, GA 31010

229.273.1668

www.cordelecrispga.com

Chamber Executive Committee

Eli Tinsley, Chairman
PlantersFirst Bank

Richard Grogg, Chair-Elect
Sunbelt Ford - Cordele

Ron Cruz, VC Organizational Imp.
Pridgen Brothers

Jamie Fernandez, VC Economic Dev.
Impact Sports & Fitness

Bridget Milani, VC Community Dev.
Southwest Georgia Rehab

Jerry Carney, VC Public Affairs

Angie Ellis, VC Tourism
PlantersFirst

Ed Vaughn, Past Chair
South Georgia Banking Company

A. J. Rivers, City Rep

Clark Henderson, County Rep

Rusty Slade, CCPC Rep
PlantersFirst

Bob Evans, Agri Rep
Colony Bank

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

The Old Inn
2536 Hwy 280 W
Cordele, GA 31015
(229) 273 - 1229

Please do business with Chamber members!

Charles Williams CEO of Macs! to speak at Chamber Annual Dinner



As an owner and CEO of a successful Marketing, Advertising & Public Relations Company, Macs!, for more than 25 years, Charles Williams is a very experienced businessman and entrepreneur. He has applied his enormous energy, enthusiasm and imagination to the world of Physical Security as the author of "Don't Panic!" which is a fresh approach to training for financial professionals. Charles Williams thinks differently and knows exactly what it takes to raise awareness in the battle to overcome complacency in financial institutions. The subject is very serious and his approach is unique. Banks across the country have benefited from his thought provoking and lively presentations.

Charles Williams is a powerhouse with relevant experience, appropriate humor, and a lightening quick wit!

63rd Annual Dinner
January 19, 2012
6:30 p.m. Reception - 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Lake Blackshear Resort

Chamber Board of Directors 2012

Hal Carter, Jr.
Briley Edwards
Steven Gautney
Susan Leger-Boike
Jonathan Lafavers
Rep. Buddy Harden
Steve Rentfrow
Robert Cook
Sandra Bowen
Cleveland Lemmons
Jay Brinson
Mitchell Gibbs
Willie Patrick

Monica Mitchell
Kip Stevens
Billy Hancock
Caroline Fielding
Randell Meeks
John Wafford
Alan Douglas
Bruce Drennan
Senator Dickie Crosby
Jeff Johnson
Don Williford
Tucker Price
Josh Pitts

Cordele Downtown Christmas Parade



The 2011 Downtown Christmas Parade sponsored by the Cordele Lions Club was a huge success. This is a highlight of the year for the “young and young at heart”. The number of entries surpassed all the past Christmas parades. We would like to thank the Cordele Lions Club for sponsoring the event and also for all that they do to make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

We would be remiss not to thank the parade participants, for they are the ones who made the effort to decorate floats, trucks, cars and even a train. Please consider entering the parade next year. The parade is traditionally the first Friday night in December.

Special thanks to Gail Reynolds of the chamber staff for coordinating this project!

January

Character Word of the Month

“Tolerance”

Being nice to people who are different than you. Respecting the individual differences, views and beliefs of other people.

Character does COUNT in Crisp County!

24th Annual Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry



February 15th

Reception 5:30 - Dinner 6:00

Georgia Rail Depot

Sponsors & Volunteers needed!

Thanks to our Welcome Basket Sponsors!

If you would like an item/coupon included, please let us know. This is a great way to promote your business to newcomers!

ACE Hardware
Akin Insurance Agency
Ameris Bank
Calhoun Produce
Century 21
Colony Bank
Cordele-Crisp Tourism
Cordele Dental Associates
Cordele Sash Door & Lumber Company
Cotton States - Catherine Whiddon
Cracker Barrel
Darton College
Ellis Brothers
Farmer's Furniture
Hartfield Chiropractic Clinic
Home Depot
Impact Sports & Fitness
Keep Crisp Beautiful
Lake Blackshear Resort
Little Caesars
L Bo's BBQ & Catering
Logo's
McDonald's
Mike Fraser Auto Repair
Murray's
PlantersFirst Bank
Quality Auto & RV Services
Salt Lick Sausage Company
SAM Shortline Excursion Train
Shell Rapid Lube
Short & Paulk
South Georgia Banking Company
South Georgia Technical College
Split Ends
Spotlight Theatres
Strippling's General Store
Three's Company
Wendy's
Woodard's Nursery



January Calendar

<p>January 2, 2012 Chamber Office Closed New Years' Holiday</p> <p>January 5th 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Crisp Regional Hospital Blood Drive Call Laura Stephens 276-3212</p> <p>January 7th 9:00 – 11:00 Bring One for the Chipper Williams Field</p> <p>January 10th 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive Community Clubhouse</p>	<p>January 11th 9:30 a.m. Tourism Committee Chamber Boardroom</p> <p>January 12th 8:30 a.m. Watermelon Days Committee Chamber Boardroom</p> <p>January 13th 12:00 Noon Ag Committee Cutter's Steak & Buffet</p> <p>January 16th Chamber Office Closed Holiday</p>	<p>January 18th 12:00 Noon Ambassador Committee Cutter's Steak & Buffett</p> <p>January 19th 7:00 p.m. Chamber Annual Dinner Lake Blackshear Resort</p> <p>January 23rd 12:00 Noon Executive Committee Chamber Boardroom</p> <p>January 24th 8:30 a.m. Board of Directors Crisp Regional Hospital</p>
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ENTREPRENEUR & SMALL BUSINESS QUICKFACTS

- There are 663,181 registered businesses in Georgia (SOS; 12/4/11)
- GA ranks #11 for Best State for Business and Careers (Forbes 11/11)
- GA ranks #2 in US for best business climate ([SiteSelection](#) 11/11)
- GA ranks: # 2 in U.S. as a site selection location of choice; #1 for workforce as a factor in consultants' decisions; #2 for infrastructure & transportation; tied at #4 for economic recovery; #1 for both labor availability and workforce development programs; among top five states in 10 of the publication's 12 categories. (Area Development 9/11)
- GA's economic outlook ranks 11th among 50 states (American Legislative Exchange Council 8/11)
- GA ranks 4th in US for Best State for Business; #13 for Access to Capital (CNBC 6/11)
- GA wins Silver Shovel Award for innovation in economic development ([Area Development](#) 6/11)
- GA ranks #5 in US for Best Business Climate ([Site Selection](#) 6/11)
- GA ranks #5 in US (up from #7) for Best State for Business (Chief Executive 5/11)
- GA ranks #12 in US for dollar value of exports (\$28.7B) @ 20.8% increase from '09-'10 (GDEcD 5/11)
- GA ranks #18 (up from #21) for best Business Tax Index for Entrepreneurship & Small Business (SBE Council 4/11)
- GA ranks #1 in US for fastest growth of women-owned businesses (American Express OPEN 4/11)
- GA ranks #2 in workforce training leaders ([Business Facilities](#) '11)
- GA ranks 20th in US for Small Business Survival Index Policy Environment for Entrepreneurship (SBE Council 12/10)
- GA ranks #1 in US, tied w/NV, in Entrepreneurial Activity: 0.50% entrepreneurs per % of population (Kauffman/11/10)
- GA ranks #5 best state for business: #1 in workforce development - #3 in labor - #1 in labor/workforce development - #3 in shovel-ready - #2 most attractive metro for business (Atlanta) ([Area Development](#) '10)
- GA ranks #19 overall in the New Economy Index (Kauffman/ITIF 11/10)
- GA leads the nation over the last decade for having the largest positive change in entrepreneurial activity (Kauffman 8/10); Atlanta/Marietta/Sandy Springs ranks 8th top city for small business (Huffington Post 11/11)
- GA ranks #2 in US for highest number of black-owned businesses at 20.4% (US Census 7/10);
- GA ranks in top 3 in US for number of franchisors (>100) headquartered in GA -- (IFA 1/09)
- 14 Fortune 500 companies and 32 Fortune 1000 companies are home to GA
- 14% of Inc. 500's fastest growing companies in the U.S. started with less than \$1000

RENEWALS!

Cracker Barrel
Hughes & Wright Funeral Home
SummerCo, Inc./SummerCoRealty/Prime Location
Williams Funeral Home
Melton Culpepper, Attorney
Crisp County Middle School
First Baptist Church
Dixon Hudgins
Walls Factory Outlet
Wells Hardware
Cook Industrial Electric Company, Inc.
Billy Hancock
South Georgia Roofing & Distribution
Lake Blackshear Baptist Church
Sheriff Donnie Haralson
Jean Rogers
Cordele Glass Company
Travelodge
Culpepper-Wade Oil, Inc.
Cordele Rotary Club
Leger & Son, Inc.
Ace Hardware
Jerry's Auto Body Collision Repair, Inc.
Arabi Gin Company
Cordele Metal Works
Willcox Realty Co.
Burger King of Cordele
Crisp County Farm Bureau
T. J.'s Restaurant
Joe's Paccar Express
J. W. Cannon Farms, Inc.
Clint Brannen Ford & Chevrolet
Bob Evans
Rep. Buddy Harden
Cotton Law Firm
Shelby's
Union Compress
Ashley's Office Equipment
B & B Vendors
Perlis Realty
Richard A. Lawson, LLC
Clifford W. Harpe, Jr.
Christmas Heating & Air Conditioner

Mike Fraser's Auto
National Realty Company
Sunbelt Ford-Lincoln
Dr. Robert T Hurt, Jr. &
Dr. Robert T. Hurt III
Ag Georgia Farm Credit
Jerry Carney
J. S. Pate Elementary
Hurt & Associates
El Girasol Mexican Restaurant
Cordele Optical
Cordele Concrete Products
Dr. Sule Salami
The Staffing People
Heart of Georgia Railroad
Premier Orthopedics
EZ Stop
Downtown Business Organization
David & Monica Simmons
Mike Fraser Auto Repair
Judge Whitfield Forrester
Cordele Dental Associates
Crisp Regional Hospital
Agri -AFC
Ameris Bank
Cordele Main Street
Cordele Kiwanis Club
Akin Insurance Agency, Inc.
Adams Drug Store
Griffin Lumber Company
Hampton Inn
CBV Collections
Perfect Nails
Gene Ford
Visiting Nurses
Labor Finders
Wendy's
Goldens' Foundry
Crumley's Construction
Purchasing Alliance Solutions
Rainwater & Gibbs
Cordele Sash, Door & Lumber
Gammage Print Shop

Thanks to these members for renewing their membership in the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce.
We appreciate your support!

Check is out on the web by using the QR Code (below). We will help you obtain one for your business web site.



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www.cordelecrispga.com

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