

CORDELE · CRISP

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 2015

PROGRAM OF WORK

Your chamber has been able to accomplish the following during 2015. Thanks to all who have helped make this possible!!

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Amber Herrington, Vice Chair

Goal: To support and grow the chamber through activities that enhances and promotes chamber membership.

- Continued Social Media and Communication Platforms and add LinkedIN
- Continued to recruit and retain members
- Sponsored 2nd Annual Chamber Appreciation Train Ride
- Continued to sponsor Young Professionals Network - have held 3 events this year
- Continued to develop & strengthen the Ambassador program -Held first Ambassador 101 and reinstated a Points system
- Sponsored Annual Dinner, Professional Day Luncheon, STAR Student and Teacher events
- Continued offering Webinars of interest to membership - partnered with Ga. Chamber
- Sponsored silent auction and selling Lake Blackshear prints for non-dues revenues

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Contact Information

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- Coordinated 14 ribbon cuttings, 3 ground breakings, 3 open houses & anniversary celebrations
- Contracted to sponsor Leadercast in partnership with Crisp Regional Health Services
- Staff attend several training seminars and conferences
- Promoted chamber on local media (The Cordele Dispatch, South Ga. News, WSST-51 as well as Albany and Macon

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Vice Chair, Patti Deal

Goal: To generate awareness and outreach to sustain excellence in our community.

- Continued to focus on community pride by including in hospitality training and promote on social media, newsletter and web site "what makes us proud"
- Continued to support Darton College, South Georgia Technical College, Crisp Co. School System, Crisp Academy, Cordele Main Street, American Red Cross, Tri-County Employer Association, Civic Clubs, Local Church events, Crisp Area Habitat, OneBlood Blood Services, Crisp Area Arts Alliance, Crisp Co. Community Council & Care Awards
- Continued to support Keep Crisp Beautiful and researched additional recycling resources
- Continued and enhanced newcomer program to promote local businesses, churches, and civic/social organizations and also to involve newcomers
- Supported the Ag community including the Farmers Market, Watermelon Days Festival, Hwy 41 Georgia Grown Trail, sponsored Farmers Appreciation Dinner & researching sponsoring an Ag Day in 2016
- Continued to promote volunteer

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."

Connect with us!

We're social!!!



New Members

Donna Stripling

Hand of Hope

1205 South 7th Street
Cordele, GA 31015

Mike Malone

Agri-AFC

1608 West 24th Avenue
Cordele, GA 31015
229-276-1600
229-276-1006 Fax

Lions Club Christmas Parade

Dec. 4th 6pm

The Cordele Lions Club will once again sponsor the annual Christmas Parade. Line up will begin at 5 and the parade will start promptly at 6 pm . The theme for the parade this year is "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree". We encourage each participant to choose a Christmas song to decorate their entry.

For more information call 273-1668

- other organizations
- Supported the Gillespie Selden Redevelopment Plan
- Continued to sponsor Red Ribbon Week
- Continued to sponsor STAR Student/Teacher Recognition
- Researched ways to support financial literacy for youth. We will assist with recruiting professionals to speak to the classes in Crisp Co. School System and Crisp Academy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Vice Chair, Anna Hurt

Goal: To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the chamber and community.

- Continued to support the Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council and the development of Master Concept Plan for Inland Port
- Evaluating implementing and funding for Retail Strategy
- Have a commitment from one entity to provide a scholarship for one person to attend the Georgia Academy program in 2016
- Continued to support Existing Industry & attended Manufacturers Luncheon in Atlanta
- Sponsored year-round shop local program, Shop Small Saturday, Christmas Open House and local vendor preference
- Continued to participate in Locate South Georgia, President serves as Treasurer (attended 4 events & serving on LEADS planning committee) and co-sponsored Georgia Quail Hunt
- Continued to support businesses and individuals on how to start a business

Renewals

Cordele-Crisp Carnegie Library

Crawl Space & Basement Solutions, Inc.

Ferrell Henry

Little Caesar's Pizza

Premium Web Development LLC

Thank you for renewing your membership in the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce.

We would not be able to sponsor the many events and provide services without your support!

Calendar of Events

Nov. 12th

**Darton College
Day of Giving
dartonfoundation.org**

Nov. 12th 8:30 a.m.
Watermelon Days Committee
Chamber Boardroom

Nov. 16th 12:00 Noon
Executive Committee
Chamber Boardroom

Nov. 17th 8:30 a.m.
Board of Directors
Crisp Regional Hospital

Nov. 17th 10:00 a.m.
Board Pictures
Adkins Photography Studio

business of the year

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Vice Chair, Kimberly Reid

Goal: To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the chamber and community.

- Identified regional issues to promote: rail system, economic development & natural gas
- Developed and promoted legislative agenda
- Supported rail systems and intermodal port
- Promoted refining GATE to eliminate unintended abuses
- Supported renewal of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits
- Identified and supported infrastructure improvements (roads, rails, gas)
- Discussed possible suggestions for the next SPLOST initiative
- Supported creating a Land Bank Authority
- Continued to sponsor Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry and Public Safety dinner
- Continued to sponsor Quarterly CEO/Managers meetings
- Supported and promoted Candidates Forum, ESPLOST and Get Out & Vote
- Attended Eggs & Issues and the Congressional Luncheon
- Participated in River Valley's Disaster Planning Meetings
- Sponsored "Support Law Enforcement Day"
- Promoted Recycling

TOURISM DIVISION

Vice Chair, Anil Maniklal

Nov. 18th 9:00 a.m.
Keep Crisp Beautiful
Chamber Boardroom

Nov. 18th 12:00 Noon
Ambassador Committee

Nov. 20th
Adams Drug Store & Gifts
Christmas Open House

Nov. 26-27
Thanksgiving Holidays
Chamber Office Closed

Nov. 28th
SHOP SMALL SATURDAY

December

Dec. 4th 6:00 pm
Lions Club Christmas Parade

Dec. 5th
Breakfast With Santa
Crisp Area Arts Alliance
273-6242

Dec. 9th 9 am-1pm
Ga. Dept. of Labor Summit
South Ga. Tech Crisp County
Center

Dec. 10th 10:00am
Ribbon Cutting
Cordele Metal Works

Dec. 12th 5-7 pm
Deck the Docks
Crisp Area Arts Alliance
273-6242

Newsletter Guidelines



- Supported missile rehabilitation to include new landscaping and lighting
- Committed to assisting with funding the maintenance and upkeep of Gateway Project
- Researched dog park and put on hold as the city intends to include this in their new park Continued to support the Cordele State Farmers Market. Assisted Boy Scout Troop 270 with beautification project at front entrance to market
- Continued to support Quiet Community Project
- Continued to support Watermelon Capital Speedway including Speedfest and other events
- Have contacted the county to look into having property owner clean up property at Exit 104
- Continued to support Train Museum, train viewing platform and Rail Trail projects
- Supported SAM Shortline Excursion Train (Day Out With Thomas & Touch A Train/Truck events)
- Supported Sailplanes and Railroad Motor Car events
- Supported Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park and Friends of Georgia Vets events
- Began developing new tourism rack card
- Participated in the 4th Annual 100 Mile Peanut Pickin' Yard Sale
- Participated in the Georgia Grown Hwy 41 Trail
- Continued to support all type tournaments (softball, fishing, golf, Corn Hole, Horseshoe, etc)
- Researched becoming a Wi-Fi community and have put this on hold
- Two committee members attended the Governor's Tourism Conference
- Three members attended the Friends of

In order to ensure the quality of our newsletter, the following guidelines have been compiled for those making a contribution.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact Monica Simmons (229) 273-1668 or email msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com

To ensure quality we ask that all content be sent in via email only.

You may send to Monica Simmons msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com or Catherine Harrell cmays@cordele-crisp-chamber.com

- Deadline to submit is the 25th of each month by 5:00 PM.
- Submissions are not to exceed 250 words.
- We ask that any documents be formatted in Times New Roman 12pt font, be single-spaced, and use 1-inch margins on all sides. This helps keep our newsletter looking more streamlined.
- We ask that any photos emailed in be in jpeg format to ensure the quality of the image.

- Continued billboard co-op program
- Sponsored 20th Annual Triathlon, assisted with several local runs and road races
- Attended Hwy 280 Tourism Corridor Planning meeting
- Hosted two travel writers interested in the Lake Blackshear area

Goody Items Needed!

We are in need of your goody items for our newcomer baskets and upcoming events!

You may drop them off at our office ANY time!

2nd Annual Chamber Member Appreciation Train Ride

The 2nd Annual Chamber Member Appreciation Train ride was a huge success. We had over 100 ride the SAM Shortline Excursion Train. Special thanks to Brad Lafavers (Cordele Inland Services), Bob Johnson (Lake Blackshear Resort) and Terry Miller (SAM Shortline Excursion Train) for their contribution to this event. Everyone had a great time!!!



HOLD THE DATE!



Chamber staff: I-r Gail Reynolds, Catherine Harrell and Monica Simmons display banner, shopping bags and other goodies that will be given out at participating small businesses on Nov. 28th

Chamber Annual Planning Retreat

The chamber board (incoming and outgoing) met recently to set goals and objectives for 2016.

Special thanks to those who took time from their business to attend!!! Below are some pictures of those who attended!



Shop Small Saturday- Nov. 28th
We will send out a list of the
participating merchants when it is
finalized!!

Plan to "shop Cordele-Crisp" on
Nov. 28th and support our local
merchants!!

100 Mile Peanut Pickin' Yard Sale

The 4th 100 Mile Peanut Pickin' Yard Sale was a great success. Thanks to those who participated in this tourism event that brings many visitors through our community!

Ribbon Cutting/Ground Breaking



Agri-AFC LLC
Groundbreaking



28th Annual **Atlanta Legislative** **Fish Fry** **February 10, 2016**

Plans are now being made for the 28th Annual Legislative Fish Fry. Please let us know if you would like to attend and/or make a donation.



Red Ribbon Week
Kickoff and Ribbon Cutting



Adams Drug Store
Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-opening

67th Annual Watermelon Days Festival June 4th - 25th, 2016

Plans are now being made for the 67th Annual Watermelon Days Festival. Please let us know if you would like to serve on this committee or if your business or organization would like to sponsor one of the events.

67th Annual Dinner March 3, 2016

Due to the major renovations that will be going on at The Lake Blackshear Resort, the annual dinner date has been pushed back to March 3rd. More information will be sent out later when plans are finalized.

Leadercast May 6, 2016

The Chamber along with Crisp Regional Hospital and Cordele First Baptist Church are sponsoring Leadercast in Cordele on May 6th, 2016

More information to follow. Let us know if you would like to be a sponsor of this event or interested in serving on the planning committee.

Leadership Crisp Class

The chamber will be accepting applications for Leadership Crisp beginning in January 2016. The



Kathy & Co. Boutique
Ribbon Cutting



Hand of Hope
Ribbon Cutting

event will kick-off with a one-day retreat in August and will then meet one night each month for 3 hours.

The class will also take a field trip, which will coincide with the Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry.

Please let us know if you would like an application!

The Concerned Citizens That Care

The Concerned Citizens That Care are in need of some items for the Thanksgiving food baskets.

They need 60 bags of flour (2#) and 60 boxes of rice (any size)

You can drop the items off at the chamber.

THEY WILL NEED THESE ITEMS BY NOV 16th

For more information on this project call Johnny Dennis 322-8163 or Barbara Dennis at 273-0001 or 276-1771.

Joseph Stokes mailing address

The family of Joseph Stokes has given us permission to send out Joseph Stokes' mailing address.

As most of you know he was injured last week in an automobile accident.

Please take the time to send him a note or card of encouragement.

**The Shepherds Center
Joseph Stokes Room 428**



Denny's
Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-opening

New Board Members Elected

The following names have been elected to serve as directors of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce to serve for a term of three (3) years beginning January 2016.

- Brian Bickhaus
- Marvair
- Patti Deal PlantersFirst Bank
- Melody Godfrey Melody Godfrey Insurance
- Heath Hamilton National Realty Company
- Marlene Kimball Century 21
- Kristen Stokes Crisp Co. School System

The following have been elected to serve a one (1) year term on the chamber board beginning Jan. 2016

- Ron Cruz Pridgen Brothers
- Pastor Goliday Bethel CME Church
- Bambie Hayes Crisp Area

**2020 Peachtree Rd. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30309**

He is the son of Maribeth & Rusty Slade & John & Kristen Stokes.

We wish Joseph a speedy recovery!

"A DOWNTOWN WINTER WONDERLAND"

4 pm - 8pm

- Snow Slide
- "All Aboard Cordele... How did we get there?" **A One Act Play by Empire Dance and Performing Arts Performances @ 5:30, 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30pm**
- **Art Display by Crisp Area Arts Alliance**

Sponsored by: Cordele Main Street

Jeffery McLoud Jeffery McLoud Barber
AJ. Rivers Shop South Ga.
 News

Sept. 17th Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



COMMUNITY INFO:

ROBBERY AWARENESS

November 17th

6:00 pm

EMA/EOC Training Center
@ Crisp County Sheriff's Office

Sponsored by:
Sheriff Billy Hancock
&
District Attorney Denise Fachini

All businesses are invited to attend the
"Robbery Awareness" at no cost. The training

robbery occur.

The training will give business owners and employees strategies to prevent robberies and thefts.

RSVP to Cathy or Monica at 276-2600

Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce | | msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com | <http://www.cordelecrispga.com>

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