

THE CHAMBER CORNER

Volume 11, Issue 6

June 2011



2011 Survey

Just a friendly reminder to take a moment to fill out the Chamber's Annual Survey. We're calling it our Five-Minute Member Survey since it is short and to the point! This survey will assist the Board of Directors in reviewing the goals and objectives of the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce. Your input is very important as we determine which programs will better serve YOU! If you did not receive the survey by mail or email and would like to participate, please contact the Chamber at (706) 485-7701.

Business Report Advertising Deadline

The deadline to advertise in the Summer issue of the Chamber Business Report is June 16. If you are interested in advertising, please contact the Chamber at (706) 485-7701.

FOLLOW US:



The Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce celebrated Small Business Week, May 16-20 in support of the Small Business Administration's annual national celebration. On Monday, May 16, the Chamber kicked-off Small Business Week with two ribbon cutting ceremonies to honor our small businesses. In addition, Small Business Week banners were showcased around the county. The Chamber dedicated its bi-monthly Networking @ Noon on Wednesday, May 18 to the Small Business Week celebration with a special focus on small businesses. As businesses engaged in networking, participants enjoyed a game of small business trivia. On Friday, May 20, the Chamber wrapped up Small Business Week with a special promotion: \$20 on the 20th! The community was encouraged to commit to spending at least \$20 at a small business of their choice to give our economy a boost. The week's festivities, small business facts and success stories were featured on Facebook throughout the week.



Technology Park breaks ground!

On Thursday, May 12, community leaders gathered to break ground on the new Rock Eagle Technology Park, located just south of the new high school on Hwy. 441. Work has begun and the entrance to the Park should be ready for visitors and business in late September. This development is a joint public/private partnership between the Putnam Development Authority and Fall Line Properties. We look forward to locating our first tenant soon.



Community celebrated patriotism!

The annual Celebrate Patriotism program was held Thursday, May 26 at The Plaza Arts Center. Over 300 attendees enjoyed an evening honoring our Veterans and those who gave their lives. The 434th Signal Corps band provided the musical portion of the program. The Eatonton Kiwanis and the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce would like to say a special thank you to everyone who made this evening possible: American Legion Post 583 / Ladies Auxiliary, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, Boy Scout Troop 132, Boy Scout Troop 310, City of Eatonton, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation, Eatonton Mainstreet, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Gatewood, Georgia Power Company, The Peoples Bank, The Plaza Arts Center, Putnam General Hospital, R&R Insurance Group, Roundtree's IGA, First United Methodist Church Women and Wal-Mart.

Welcome!

New Chamber Members!

Lollipop Kids

Candi Moreno
(478) 456-1175
122 North Jefferson Ave.
Eatonton, GA 31024
Children's Consignment Shop

Ricoh Business Solutions

Matt Wilson
(478) 457-6140
133 Hunters Chase Ct.
Eatonton, GA 31024
Copy Machines / Printers - Business Solutions

Smokehouse Restaurant

Les Neill
(706) 485-8075
106 Harmony Crossing
Eatonton, GA 31024
Restaurant

-Around the Office-



**Barnhart and
Simmons
earn 'Travel
Marketing
Professional'
certification.**

Three-year program recognized nationally for continuing education.

Mandy Barnhart, Regional Tourism Representative at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Bonnie Simmons, Tourism & Special Events Coordinator at the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce, have earned their certification as a "Travel Marketing Professional" after completing the three-year program of the Southeast Tourism Society Marketing College.

Barnhart and Simmons were two of 64 new TMPs recognized at the STS spring meeting in Destin, Fla. STS Marketing College started in 1992, and 628 people have earned TMP certification.

The STS Marketing College is a professional development program that for one week each summer turns the facilities of North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, Ga., into a laboratory to teach tourism marketing. Course topics include special events marketing, media relations, tourism advertising, vacation research, crisis management, heritage tourism and community/rural tourism. After the classroom work, students also must complete a project that relates to their employment.

RSVP For Events!

Business After Hours

Co-Sponsored by
Farmers & Merchants Bank & Rock Eagle 4-H Center
Thursday, June 9, 5 to 7 p.m.
Located at Downtown Eatonton Branch
100 South Madison Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024
Enjoy networking, refreshments and a 50/50 cash raffle!

Lunch-N-Learn

Successfully Presenting Yourself, Your Company and Your Solution!
Wednesday, June 15
Lunch Served at 11:45 a.m. / Program Begins at Noon
\$20, Includes Lunch
Located at The Plaza Arts Center
305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024
Description: How to use the skills of business etiquette to present yourself, your company and your customer service strategy more professionally and with better outcomes.
Welcome back business etiquette expert Kate Lewis!
Lunch-N-Learn is sponsored by: Farmers & Merchants Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank and Central Georgia Technical College.

Coffee Connections

Tuesday, June 28, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Enjoy Light Refreshments and Coffee
Located at The Plaza Arts Center
305 N. Madison, Ave. Eatonton, GA
Need to talk, have an idea or a suggestion, need business advice? Coffee Connections is your opportunity to meet with representatives from the Chamber staff and board of directors as well as special guests.
This month meet with:
Staff: Roddie Anne Blackwell, Chamber President
Board Member: Lowell White, III, Calvert & White Custom Homes
Guest: Lisa Perry, Small Business Development Center
Coffee Connections is sponsored by: Central Georgia Technical College, Farmers & Merchants Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina and The Peoples Bank.

Networking @ Noon

Sponsored by Caring Companions
Wednesday, July 20
Lunch Served at 11:45 a.m. / Program Begins at Noon
\$10, Includes Lunch
Located at The Plaza Arts Center
305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024
Network over lunch with leading partners in the business community!
Agenda includes lunch, Chamber updates, sponsor presentation, table introductions, commercials and general networking.

-Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies-



Smokehouse Restaurant offers steaks, a full-line of smoked meats, coupled with pasta dishes and vegetarian dishes. Les Neill, owner and local resident, opened the restaurant to create a wider availability of dining options for the community. Smokehouse is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Smokehouse is located at 106 Harmony Crossing. For more information, call (706) 485-8075 or visit www.smokehouserestaurantga.com.



Equity Auto Loan offers a financial product in the form of a loan, governed by Georgia Industrial Loan Association with rates that are affordable. Equity Auto Loan specializes in unlocking the equity that a vehicle has, even if the vehicle is not owned. Loans require minimum paperwork and have a liberal credit policy. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Sunday. Equity Auto Loan is located at 105 Gray Hwy. (formerly Subway). For more information, call Store Manager Tammy Knight at (706) 484-0686.



**Chamber welcomes new Intern:
Lisa Lotyczewski**

Q: *Where are you from?*

A: I'm most recently from Newnan, Georgia. My family moved there when I was 14 and I have come to call it home.

Q: *Where do you attend college, what is your major and when will you graduate?*

A: I recently graduated from Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville. I received my bachelor in Mass Communication, concentrated in Public Relations and my minor in Rhetoric. I will be going back to

school to get my Masters in Public Administration at Georgia College.

Q: *What activities were you involved in at college?*

A: In college I was involved in a Greek organization, Delta Zeta, where I held the positions of Vice President and Public Relations Chair. I also did public relations for the Disability Services Department and served on the steering committee for the college. I was involved with planning a number of service events and activities, my two favorite being an annual haunted house benefiting a scholarship for Special Education students at the college and an annual soccer tournament benefiting the Shepherd Spinal Foundation.

Q: *What are your duties as an intern at the Chamber?*

A: My duties at the Chamber include assisting in all special events put on by the Chamber, as well as providing visitors with tourism information and packets. In addition, I help set up and work member events and fulfill front desk duties.

Q: *What do you enjoy doing outside of school/work?*

A: Outside of school and work I enjoy spending time with family and friends. My hobbies include cooking, trying new recipes and running. I enjoy reading books and finding hidden treasures in antique shops or local stores.

Q: *When you complete your internship, what are your plans?*

A: After my internship is complete at the end of the summer, I will be going back to school to get my Masters in Public Administration at Georgia College. Following my graduation from the Graduate Program, I plan to work for a public relations firm or be a public relations professional within a company.

 **PeoplesInvestmentCompany**
Sponsors Networking @ Noon



The Chamber dedicated its bi-monthly Networking @ Noon on Wednesday, May 18 to the Small Business Week celebration with a special focus on small businesses. Networking @ Noon was sponsored by The Peoples Investment Company and was held at LakePoint Community Church. Tim Pierson of Peoples Investment Company gave the sponsor presentation. Over 40 Chamber members enjoyed a game of small business trivia and networking!





www.facebook.com/epchamber



Kate Lewis,
Business Etiquette Expert,
Returns on June 15!

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eatonton, GA
Permit No. 6

Contact Us:

305 N. Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 4088, Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 485-7701
(706) 485-3277 (F)
epchamber@eatonton.com
Visit www.EatontonChamber.com!

Advertise in this newsletter:

Reach over 600 contacts with a newsletter insert for only \$50. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Supply 300 copies and an electronic file.

Chamber Staff

Roddie Anne Blackwell, President
Becky Needham, Membership Manager
Bonnie Simmons, Tourism Manager

Chairman:

Mike Rowland, Putnam County Board of Education

Vice Chair:

Laura Gailey, The Gailey Law Firm, LLC

Treasurer:

Jon Butler, The Peoples Bank

Terri Camp, Rock Eagle 4-H Center

Rita Daniel, Eatonton Chiropractic Center

Bernard Holston, Bernard's Family Funeral Care

Joe Hudson, Farmers & Merchants Bank

Wes Lewis, Georgia Power Company Land Department

Marty Phillips, Techknow Gurus

Gene Thurston, Neighborhood Cleaners

Cynthia Wallace, Sycamore Oconee Real Estate

Lowell White, III, Calvert & White Custom Homes

*Thank You
To our 2011 Chamber Champions:*



INSURANCE GROUP, LLC.
REST AND RELAX WHEN YOU'RE INSURED WITH R & R

JAPANESE STEAK
& SUSHI





Member News & Events

News

Lake Country Freedom Festival is currently looking for talent to showcase at our July 4th event on beautiful Lake Sinclair. If you or your business is interested in a unique opportunity to advertise your talent in front of a crowd, please contact Ann Marie Klein (770) 760-8697 or send her an email. Visit us at www.LCFF.net.

Community Farmers Markets: every Thursday on the Courthouse Lawn from 4 to 7 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at Harmony Crossing Shopping Center.

June Events

Fine Art Summer Classes at Creative Canvas June-July. Young artists ages 5 + will have a chance to work with a variety of art mediums and genres. \$100 per three day session (family discounts available). For a schedule of summer classes visit www.creativecanvasstudio.com or call (706) 485-0191.

11 VILLAGE Concert with Whisky Bent at Lake Oconee Village at 7 p.m. – Cabaret Seating \$20, Lawn Seating \$10 (Combo Ticket Special – 10% discount when you purchase tickets to both Village concerts). For more information, visit www.OPAS.org.

13-17 Farm Animals: Summer Camp at Crooked Pines Farm. Learn how to handle, feed, groom and care for the farm animals. Our camp counselors will implement farm fun for kids ages 5-12. \$100 per child, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.crookedpinesfarm.com or call (706) 347-0274.

18 Mothers Against Crime Youth Rally at Oconee Springs Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children ages four to 18 are invited to the annual summer cookout for a day of swimming and prizes. For more information, call (706) 485-5332.

18 The Art of Reverse Painting. 10 AM to noon. The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, 4200 Bethany Road, Buckhead 30625; 706-342-7557. Create spring flower still lifes with this unique “inside/out” form of art.

Taught by the daughters and granddaughters of Steffen Thomas. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for children. STMA members receive a \$2 discount. Those in financial need may attend free of charge. Reservations are required. Please call 706-342-7557 or visit www.steffenthomas.org.

18 Movies in the Briar Patch: Back to the Future Free movies shown at sunset on the Courthouse Lawn. Dress in your best 1950s or 1980s attire and come spend the evening at our very own Clock Tower. Bring your family, blankets and chairs. For more information contact Eatonton Mainstreet (706) 749-9150.

20-24 Gardening: Summer Camp at Crooked Pines Farm. Work with our farm staff to care for our garden, plant seeds, and harvest plants. Our camp counselors will implement farm fun for kids ages 5-12. \$100 per child, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.crookedpinesfarm.com or call (706) 347-0274.

25 Meet Me at the Plaza: The Harmony Road Band formerly called the Deraney Band, 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate. For more information, visit www.theplazaartscenter.com.

July Events

1 Harmony Crossing First Friday. Fun evening for the whole family! Stores stay open late, kid activities and more! For more information, contact dhoersten@vharmonycrossing.com.

3 VILLAGE Concert with A1A, The Official & Original Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show at Lake Oconee Village at 7:00pm – Cabaret Seating \$20, Lawn Seating \$10 (Combo Ticket Special – 10% discount when you purchase tickets to both Village concerts). For more information, visit www.OPAS.org.

4 Lake Country Freedom Festival presented by Crooked Creek Marina. Start the day with the 5K/1 mile run-walk in the morning. Enjoy live music/entertainment and the best Arts & Crafts Vendors around. There will be lots of fun for the whole family including a Kids Zone. Enjoy Lunch and/or Dinner from our sumptuous variety of Food Vendors.

Then finish up the day with a spectacular FIREWORKS display performed by the famous Vitale family's company, Pyrotecnico!!! Lots of extras for festival volunteers (volunteer applications are online) Visit www.LakeCountryFreedomFestival.com for more information.

9 Mothers Against Crime Great Gospel Reunion at Putnam County Middle School, 6 p.m. Featuring the Swanee Quartet, Walker Brothers and many more! Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (706) 485-5332.

11-15 Horses: Summer Camp at Crooked Pines Farm. Enjoy a week learning and working with horses. Our camp counselors will implement farm fun for kids ages 5-12. \$100 per child, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.crookedpinesfarm.com or call (706) 347-0274.

16 Movies in the Briar Patch: Ghostbusters Free movies shown at sunset on the Courthouse Lawn. Bring your family, blankets and chairs. Come out for a night of fun and surprises, just hope you don't get slimed! For more information contact Eatonton Mainstreet (706) 749-9150.

18-22 Nature's Music: Summer Camp at Crooked Pines Farm. Discover the sounds of nature. Build a band from nature's products. Our camp counselors will implement farm fun for kids ages 5-12. \$100 per child, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.crookedpinesfarm.com or call (706) 347-0274.

30 Meet Me at the Plaza: Swingin' Medallions, 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate. For more information, visit www.theplazaartscenter.com.

Please submit your
Member to Member
Events & News to
becky@eatonton.com.



BUSINESS *After Hours*



Co-Sponsored by

FARMERS
MERCHANTS
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Rock Eagle
4-H & Conference Center

Thursday, June 9, From 5 to 7 p.m.

BE SURE TO BRING PLENTY OF BUSINESS CARDS TO PASS OUT TO CONTACTS THAT YOU MEET!

Come enjoy food, drink and the opportunity to practice your networking skills.

Remember, this is your chance to meet other contacts in the business community.

Networking Activities

Cash Raffle

People do business with those that they know, like and trust! Business After Hours creates relationships that will last a lifetime!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

will be held at the
Downtown Eatonton
Branch of
Farmers & Merchants Bank
100 South Madison Ave.
Eatonton, GA 31024

Please RSVP to
Becky@eatonton.com or
(706) 485-7701.

Lunch-N-Learn: Business Etiquette



*Successfully Presenting Yourself,
Your Company and Your Solution!*



Wednesday, June 15
At The Plaza Arts Center
305 N. Madison Ave. Eatonton, GA 31024
Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m.
Program begins at Noon
\$20 Includes Lunch / Please RSVP
(706) 485-7701 or Becky@eatonton.com

*Welcome Back Business Etiquette
Expert Kate Lewis!*

Learn how to use the skills of business etiquette to present yourself, your company and your customer service strategy more professionally and with better outcomes for your business!

ABOUT the SPEAKER: Kate Lewis

Kate Lewis has been perfecting the art of developing and maintaining business relationships since 1995. Lewis has developed leadership and client service methods to share with students after years of success in the corporate and international business arenas and entrepreneurial experience with two small businesses. In 2009, Mrs. Lewis formalized her education with certification in Corporate Etiquette and International Protocol through the prestigious Protocol School of Washington.

Today, Lewis trains businesspeople, academicians, student-athletes, and even children on the intricacies of etiquette, protocol and interpersonal skills in a fun and engaging way. For corporate clients, she leads seminars and conducts one-on-one coaching sessions on the intricacies of business etiquette, corporate dining skills, interpersonal skills and customer service. For learning institutions, she works with both academic and athletic directors on leadership development, etiquette and ethics education. Her belief is that anyone in any walk of life could stand to benefit from a better understanding of how others perceive them and how to improve that perception using simple methods that still allow the personality to shine through.

Lunch-N-Learn series is SPONSORED By:



Farmers & Merchants Bank, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, R&R Insurance Group, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi and Central Georgia Technical College.