

THE CHAMBER CORNER

Volume 11, Issue 10

October 2011



Updates Regarding Your Membership Investment!

Beginning January 2012, a new membership investment schedule will go into effect. As proposed by the Board of Directors, a committee of Chamber Members met to review and propose changes to the Investment Schedule that has been in place since January 2006. The Board approved the new investment schedule at the August board meeting. Please review the enclosed insert that lists the committee members, highlights the decision to make the changes and the revised investment schedule. If you have any questions regarding the changes, please give the Chamber a call at (706) 485-7701.

FOLLOW US:



Taste is Monday!



Monday, Oct. 3
6 to 8:30 p.m.
Tickets Still Available!
Tickets \$20 in Advance
\$25 the Day of the Taste

Enjoy delicious tastes from the following:

Balcony Bar & Grill at Spotlight Theatres, Big 5 Cafe, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Deptula's Casual Dining and Catering, Eatonton Elks Lodge / Quail International, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Fish Tale Diner, Publix Supermarket, Putnam County High School Culinary Arts Department, Putnam General Hospital, Richland Creek, Rising Star Lodge #4, Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Save Room For Seconds, Slice - Specialty Cakes, Subway, Tabitha's Bakery, Troutdale at Harbor Club, Wal-Mart, Wendy's and The Yesterday Cafe.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at Farmers & Merchants Bank, Exchange Bank, BB&T, SunTrust Bank, Pinnacle Credit Union and The Peoples Bank. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the Taste, so be sure to get your tickets early! Tickets for children ages five to 12 are available for \$10, and ages four and under are free.

Raffle & Silent Auction!

The 2011 Taste of Eatonton will feature an enticing raffle titled "Let the Board Serve You!" The winner will enjoy a delicious dinner for ten people prepared and served by your Board of Directors! Also, attendees will enjoy the array of items in the silent auction from event tickets, jewelry to furniture; there is something for everyone! The Taste of Eatonton is known for its high quality silent auction items!

Thank You Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors: Smith Communications, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, AT&T, WMGZ/Z-97, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Union-Recorder & Lake Oconee Breeze, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, The Peoples Bank, Dock 103.9 and R&R Insurance. Gold Sponsors: Georgia Power Company, Allgood Pest Solutions and Putnam General Hospital. Silver Sponsors: Huskins Law Firm and Hallman Wood Products.

Annual Legislative Breakfast

Please join the Board of Directors of the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce by attending our 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 1 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

in The Reception Hall of the Plaza Arts Center

\$5 per person

A light breakfast will be served

Please RSVP by

Tuesday, Oct. 25

(706) 485-7701 or

becky@eatonton.com

The Legislative Breakfast gives you the opportunity to meet with some of our state and federal elected officials or their representatives. Find out what they will be working on this session, ask questions and let them know what is important to the business people in Putnam County.

Sponsored by:

R&R Insurance Group, Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Putnam General Hospital.

Welcome!

New Chamber Members!

StarStation

Craig Baker
869 Church St. / P.O. Box 3965
Eatonton, GA 31024
(706) 485-8792
Broadcasting Station / Advertising

Wall Breakers

Jennifer R. Camp
746 Oconee Springs Rd. / P.O. Box 4042
Eatonton, GA 31024
(770) 617-5991
Women's Christian Organization

Source Care Management

John Harmon
951 Harmony Road, Suite 104
Eatonton, GA 31024
(888) 762-2420
Recommends/Coordinates Service to the Elderly and Disabled

Tourism News

The Chamber serves as the official tourism entity in our community.

The Chamber made Putnam Camera Ready!

Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, designated 23 Georgia counties Camera Ready, including Eatonton, Putnam County! The state's Camera Ready Community Program was started in October 2010 to support the growing film and television industry. The program now includes 112 counties across the state. Local economic impact from productions can be significant, including hiring of local residents, hotel stays and purchases of goods and services. A Camera Ready Community must designate one point person who can assist film and television production companies on a local level. The Chamber serves as the local liaison to the production company and GDEcD, assisting with anything they would need for their upcoming shoot. Residents of Eatonton, if you are interested in your home or business being available for shooting, contact the Chamber. (Pictured, the Chamber's Bonnie Simmons receives Camera Ready certificate from Craig Dominey, senior film location specialist/camera ready manager.)



Simmons attends GA tourism conference.

Tourism & Special Events Coordinator Bonnie Simmons and more than 450 of the state's top tourism professionals attended the 2011 Governor's Conference on Tourism. Simmons attended sessions that included Technology & Tourism, Delivering World Class Customer Service, Georgia Department of Economic Development updates, Marketing Plan, Camera Ready and Building a PR Program That Builds Awareness.

RSVP For Events!



BUSINESS
After Hours

Sponsored by
BB&T

BB&T

Thursday, October 13, 5 to 7 p.m.
1011 Powers Rd., Greensboro, GA 30642
Enjoy networking, refreshments and a 50/50 cash raffle!

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony *Lollipop Kids*

Friday, Oct. 14, 11 a.m.
122 North Jefferson Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024
Come help us celebrate this new business with owner Candi Moreno in downtown Eatonton, near Hannah's.



Maximize Your Chamber Membership!

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 11:45 a.m.

\$15, Includes Lunch

Located in The Plaza Arts Center

305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024

The Chamber creates an array of programs to meet the growing and changing needs of the business community. This Lunch-N-Learn will highlight the following Chamber benefits/programs: promoting your business, shop local, advocacy, publications/advertising, discounts including Constant Contact, Drugs Don't Work and MemberCare Alliance, member to member promotions, sponsorships and the Ambassador Program. Join us to ensure you are maximizing your return on investment.

Lunch-N-Learn is sponsored by: Eenoco Japanese Steak & Sushi, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, Bone Island Grill at Crooked Creek Marina, The Peoples Bank, Central Georgia Technical College, Farmers & Merchants Bank and R&R Insurance Group.



Tuesday, Oct. 25, 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?

This month meet with:

Staff: Becky Needham, Membership Manager

Board Member: Gene Thurston, Neighborhood Cleaners

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

Paw Prints on my Heart



The Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce welcomed Karen and Lee Vandiver and the staff of Paw Prints on my Heart to the business community with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Sept. 9. The specialty pet boutique carries an extensive line of pet carriers, treats, toys, apparel, accessories and high quality, holistic pet foods with an onsite pet birthday party room to celebrate the lives of your most beloved companions. Paw Prints also features a full grooming department complete with a pet spa that offers bubble baths, all-natural blueberry facials, massages and “pawdicures.” Paw Prints on my Heart is located at 1027 Lake Oconee Parkway, Ste. 8 & 9, and is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments are required for all grooming and spa services at this time. For more information, call (706) 484-0766.

New Member Reception



On Tuesday, Sept. 13, the Chamber gave Source Care Management a warm welcome at the New Member Reception! Source Care recommends and coordinates home and community based service to the elderly and disabled.

Leadership Putnam Project

Leadership Putnam Class of 2011 completed its first class project on Saturday, Sept. 17. Class members donated their time to make general outdoor repairs to a home in downtown Eatonton, which included cleaning up the property, yard work, installing underpinning and pressure washing. The Leadership members decided on a project that would support the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Program. Leadership Putnam is a program sponsored by the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce.

Fowler Flemister sponsors Networking @ Noon



On Wednesday, Sept. 21, Fowler Flemister Concrete sponsored Networking @ Noon. Forty Chamber members networked over lunch at Cuscowilla. Members gave each other “Leads for their Needs” by listening to what each member needed (such as a baby sitter or new computer) and giving a referral for another business that could fill that need.

Chamber Open House at Spa & Patio Center



Spa & Patio Center of Lake Oconee held an Eatonton-Putnam Chamber Open House and Greene County Chamber Business After Hours on Thursday, Sept. 22. Members enjoyed good company and networking! Julie Menke of Lake Oconee Dentistry was the winner of the hammock door prize.





www.facebook.com/epchamber



Taste of Eatonton
is Monday, Oct. 3!



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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

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:*





Member News & Events

Member News

Tender Care Clinic announces its October special for new patients - \$99 - includes panoramic x-rays, examination and cleaning. Care Credit cards are accepted as well as most insurance plans and on-site financing is available. For more information, contact (706) 454.5114.

Enoco at Lake Oconee is open for lunch every Thursday & Friday 11:30-2:30. We recently remodeled so come check it out. New menu, lower prices and a great new atmosphere. Kitchen & bar now open until 1 a.m. every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Redeemer Episcopal Academy is looking for vendors for the Fall Festival and Art & Craft show on October 22 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. If anyone is interested in selling their wares, please call (706) 484-1238. The fall festival will have food vendors, bounce house, a hayride, pumpkin patch, pony rides, petting zoo, games, etc.

October Member Events

Harmony Crossing Farmers Market, 8 a.m. until noon each Saturday. Extended through October 29.

Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee Sunday Breakfast Brunch at The Waterside Restaurant. Every Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come enjoy cooked-to-order omelets, muffins, delicious eggs Benedict and all your favorite breakfast items. Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar begins at 12:30 p.m.

2 **OPAS** presents Symphony Orchestra Augusta: Maestro Shizuo "Z" Kuwahara, Music Director, Featuring Jeffrey Wells at Festival Hall in Greensboro. Tickets Prices are: \$45, \$25 & \$15. For Tickets, visit www.ticketalternative.com or call 1-877-725-8849. For more information, please visit www.OPAS.org.

3 **Pathways to Healing** presents Healing Cancer from the Inside Out at Spotlight Theaters at 7 p.m. The documentary explains common cancer misconceptions, shows how diets designed to fight cancer are more successful than conventional treatments, discusses startling cancer research findings and interviews people who have reversed cancer by changing their diets.

3 **Pretty in Pink** Decorate your Bra Contest voting begins for Breast Cancer Aware-

ness Month. Businesses are encouraged to decorate a bra with the theme, materials and icons of their business. Decorated bras are due on Saturday, Oct. 1. Starting on Oct. 3 customers may vote for their favorite bra. For more information, call (706) 485-4774.

8 & 9 **Crooked Pines Farm** 1st Annual Pumpkin Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Pumpkin Festival will include hand-crafted items, food, music, hayrides, kid's crafts, farm animals, Duncan's Pumpkin Patch and Haunted Hayrides (starting at dusk). Visit crookedpinesfarm.com for more information.

8 **The FERST Foundation for Childhood Literacy** announces its fall yard sale from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the old Dairymen's Building (behind McDonalds) in Eatonton. Whether you are in the market for furniture, decorative items for the holidays or sporting goods like skis and bowling balls, this sale will have a great variety of items to choose from. For more information, please call (706) 485-0974 or e-mail ferstputnam@yahoo.com.

8-23 **The Plaza Arts Center** presents X-Treme Exposures. The Advanced Photography Show will be on display to the public.

12 **The Farmers and Merchants Bank** presents a FREE Identity Theft Seminar on at the Plaza Arts Center. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature guest speakers from the Secret Service. Please sign up before October 7th by calling Anna Mullis or Lindsey Rickman at (706) 485-9941 or through email at amullis@ibankfmb.com.

12 **Oconee Regional Humane Society** presents MADMEN Martini Party (wine and champagne cocktails for non-martini drinkers) to benefit ORHS, 5:30-8 p.m. at the home of Barbara Belletieri and Gene Dudley located at 1090 Fairway Ridge Circle, Reynolds Landing. Minimum Donation \$75 per person. For tickets: Pat Mulligan (706) 467-1010, Leigh Lofgren (706) 431-6133

15 **Oconee Regional Humane Society** is holding our annual Pets with Santa photo op on at Park Place Animal Hospital from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. \$20 and you will receive prints of all photos as well as the photos emailed to you for cards etc in time for Christmas. Park Place Animal Hospital will be offering \$10 core vaccines, \$30 lifetime microchip and registration, no exams, no appointment necessary, cash only.

22 **Redeemer Episcopal Academy** Fall

Festival and Art & Craft show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The fall festival will have food vendors, bounce house, a hayride, pumpkin patch, pony rides, petting zoo, games, etc. For more information, call (706) 484-1238.

25 **The Plaza Arts Center** presents The Atlanta Opera debut performance of Rabbit Tales at 8 p.m. Single event tickets are \$25, or package tickets with the Cemetery Tour and Bluegrass events to purchase all three for \$60. For more information please call (706) 923-1655.

27 **The Plaza Arts Center** presents the 2nd Annual Cemetery Tour. Tours begin at 6 p.m. A light supper is included with ticket purchase. Single event tickets are \$25, or package tickets with the Rabbit Tales and Bluegrass events to purchase all three for \$60. For more information please call (706) 923-1655.

28 **The Plaza Arts Center** presents Bluegrass meets newgrass at the Unsung Heroes concert with Kazanetti at 7:30 p.m. Single event tickets are \$25, or package tickets with the Cemetery Tour and Rabbit Tales events to purchase all three for \$60. For more information please call (706) 923-1655.

29 **Eatonton Mainstreet** presents the Briar Patch Arts Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn. Juried Arts Festival showcasing over 80 specialty artisans from around the southeast, live music, food and more! For more information, contact Eatonton Mainstreet, (706) 749-9150 or visit www.eatonton-mainstreet.com.

November Member Events

10-13 **Christmas Open House in the Briar Patch**. On Thursday, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the streets will be lined with luminaries while you enjoy food, drink, music, specials and more from downtown merchants. Friday and Saturday, regular business hours. Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., extra shopping just for you! For more information, call (706) 749-9150.

12 **Wall Breakers** presents "Get Real - Live Free" at The Lodge at Lake Oconee, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us for a one day, Women's Conference. This event is free of charge. Limited seating, RSVP: (770) 617-5991 or jennifer@liveintruth.org.

19 **Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation** presents the Oyster Roast at Stepback, GA. Fundraiser for EPAF, tickets are \$75. For more information, call (706) 923-1655.



Attention Chamber Members:

On June 8, the Chamber Board of Directors and staff held our annual board retreat. At the retreat, there was a discussion on whether or not we should increase membership investments. Due to the current economic downturn, the Board decided this agenda item needed to be carefully discussed and the reasoning for such a decision determined before going forward. Each board member appointed a Chamber member to serve on the investment reviewing committee. On Aug. 2, the committee of Chamber members met to review the current investment schedule to determine if any changes needed to be made.

Members on the committee included: Robert D. Betzel, Julie Crowe, Tim Pierson, Lynward Lindsey, Teresa Doster, Buddy Nolan, Sammy Blackwell, Jon Butler and Jay Dell.

At the meeting, the members discussed thoroughly whether or not to increase membership investments.

The committee first determined if an increase in membership revenue was needed to carry out the Chamber's program of work. The Chamber's budget is currently made up of membership revenue; Hotel Motel Tax; and contracts for services with the city, county and development authority. Over the past few years, there has been a decrease in Hotel / Motel Tax and funding received from the county reducing our income by \$15,000. Due to this decrease, our 2011 budget will have to use reserves this year.

The current dues investment schedule has been effective since Jan. 2006. Over the past six years, we have added numerous new programs while the membership investments have remained the same. Due to our decrease in income from other revenue sources, if we do not increase membership investments going forward, we would have to cut services that can no longer be funded.

After making the business decision that an increase in membership revenue was necessary to ensure the continued growth and success of our organization, the committee compared our current membership investment schedule to similar sized chambers. As most of the chambers have recently raised membership investments or are in the process of reviewing them at this time, the decision to increase our investments was reinforced. The committee took each membership category and discussed the reasoning behind its structure and adjusted the investment to be comparable with other chambers.

The proposed investment schedule was placed on the agenda at the Aug. 18 board meeting. The board carefully reviewed the recommendations by the committee. After making necessary adjustments, the Board voted to approve the amended membership investment schedule to go into effect Jan. 2012.

The Chamber is here to serve the needs of our business community. We work daily to ensure your return on investment is maximized. Please contact us with any questions or feedback you have regarding the 2012 Membership Investment Schedule.

Sincerely,

Becky Needham
Membership Manager
Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce

Membership Investment Schedule

2012

Business & Industry..... refer to chart
 Professional.....refer to chart
 NonBusiness / Social.....\$75
 Non Profit / Government Organization.....\$100
 Utilities.....\$600
 Gated Community.....\$325
 (per gated community)
 Hotel / Resorts.....base of \$325
 (plus \$1 per room)
 Banking Institutions.....base of \$200
 (plus \$35 per millions in assets, capped at \$2500)

Business & Industry

Based on Full-Time Employees
 (Two part-time equals one full-time.)

# of Employees	Investment
1-9	\$175
10-29	\$250
30-39	\$325
40+	\$325 base Plus \$1.25 per employee over 40 with a cap at \$2000.

Professional

# of Professionals	Investment
1-3	\$225
4-6	\$300
7-12	\$375
13+	\$450
<i>A professional rep may pay to have an additional listing in the online and printed directories for \$50. Broker must be a member.</i>	

All investments are renewable on January 1 of each year.



BUSINESS *After Hours*



Sponsored by

BB&T

Thursday, Oct. 13, 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 network! 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

BB&T

1011 Powers Rd.

Greensboro, GA 30642

Located in Lake Oconee Village across from Publix

Please RSVP to

Becky@eatonton.com

or **(706) 485-7701.**

Lunch-N-Learn:

Maximize Your Chamber Membership



Wednesday, Oct. 19, 11:45 a.m.

\$15, Includes Lunch

Located at The Plaza Arts Center

305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton, GA 31024

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

Learn how to ensure you are maximizing your Return on Investment!



WE ACCEPT BUNNY MONEY



SPONSORED BY EATONTON-PUTNAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



PURCHASING ALLIANCE SOLUTIONS, INC.
Chamber-Sponsored Insurance Programs and Brokerage Services

The Chamber creates an array of programs to meet the growing and changing needs of the business community. This Lunch-N-Learn will highlight the following Chamber benefits/programs: promoting your business, shop local, advocacy, publications/advertising, discounts including Drugs Don't Work and MemberCare Alliance, member to member promotions, sponsorships and the Ambassador Program. Join us to ensure **you are maximizing your return on investment.**

Lunch-N-Learn series is SPONSORED By:



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



*It's Time to Make Your List
and Check it Twice...*

Cuscowilla Holiday Gatherings are Better than Nice!



Stunning Views of Lake Oconee



Menus and Details Customized Just for You



Events for 2 to 100

**The Waterside Restaurant and Golf House Grill are both
perfect locations for your intimate Lunch or
Dinner Gatherings and your Larger Holiday Parties too!**

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OR
LAKE OCONEE

**Call Carrie Vanderver at 706-485-3168 to book your holiday event!
www.cuscowilla.com**

WHO IS GOING THROUGH YOUR **TRASH?**

Farmers & Merchants Bank presents
A FREE Identity Theft Seminar
Wednesday, October 12th, 2011
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
At The Plaza Arts Center

On Wednesday, October 12, 2011 Farmers and Merchants Bank will be sponsoring an Identity Theft Seminar for the residents of Putnam County and the surrounding counties. Everyone is invited to attend this free seminar, which will be at the Plaza Arts Center from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM. Identity Theft can range from financial to criminal fraud, even medical Identity Theft. If you are not familiar with the types of damage that identity theft can cause, plan on attending this free seminar.

Guest speaker for this event will be Agents Carlos Fernandez and James Cox with the United States Secret Service. To sign up for this event or for more information, please contact Anna Mullis or Lindsey Rickman at Farmers and Merchants Bank 706-485-9941 or email amullis@ibankfmb.com.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY
OCTOBER 7TH!





Habitat
for Humanity®
of Putnam Inc

Resale Store

DONATIONS NEEDED

Appliances – Refrigerators, Stoves, Washers,
Dryers, Coffee Makers, Blenders, Toasters

Vehicles, Boats, Trailers

Televisions, Computers, Printers

Furniture – Couches, Chairs, Tables, Lamps

Tools – Shovels, Hammers, Electrical Tools

Linens – Curtains, Tablecloths, Comforters

706 – 991 – 1600

Call for donations pickup anytime

Store Hours: 10 am – 4 pm Thurs, Fri, Sat

1027 Lake Oconee Pkwy, Eatonton, Ga (across from Goodwill)