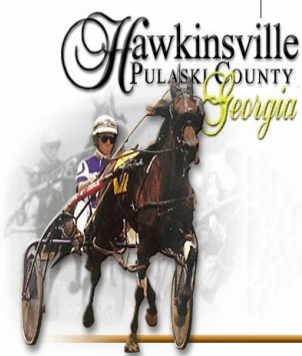


# HAWKINSVILLE/PULASKI COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## CHAMBER FOCUS



E-Letter

September 2011



Pictured left to right : Ken Mullis, Charles Patton, Mr. Everson, and Therisa Patton.

**Hawkinsville/Pulaski  
County**

**Chamber of  
Commerce**

**P.O. Box 300**

**46 N. Lumpkin Street  
Hawkinsville, GA 31036**

**478-783-1717 Office**

**478-783-1700 Fax**

**[www.hawkinsvillechamber.org](http://www.hawkinsvillechamber.org)**

**Chairman of the Board**

**Brent Lowe**

**Chamber Staff**

**Lee Slade**

**President /CEO**

**Kimberly Brown  
Executive Director**

**Therisa Patton  
Event Coordinator**

### **Melvin Everson Director of the Governors Office of Workforce Development visits Hawkinsville**

The chamber organized a visit for Melvin Everson the Director of the Governors Office of Workforce Development on Wednesday, August 31, 2011. Mr. Everson visited Hawkinsville High School where he meet with high school seniors to speak about the importance of soft skills. He then made a presentation to the Hawkinsville Rotary club. Following the rotary presentation he held a roundtable session with community leaders at the Hawkinsville Workforce Development Center. The afternoon concluded with a visit and tour of Hollingsworth and Vose.

Director Everson manages the effort to improve job training and the marketability of Georgia's workforce to enhance future economic growth for Georgia. Everson manages the only initiative of its kind to be conducted through a partnership between state government and state chambers of commerce, independent businesses, and the education community ensuring that companies can more reliably match the right people with the right jobs. Georgia Work Ready is based on a skills assessment and certification for job seekers and a job profiling system for businesses. For more information please visit [www.gaworkready.org](http://www.gaworkready.org)

**2011 Harvest Fest  
Saturday, September 24**



**Check us out Online!  
at [Hawkinsvillechamber.org](http://Hawkinsvillechamber.org)  
under Events!**

## **Local Hawkinsville Merchants & Restaurants OPEN**

**The streets of historic downtown Hawkinsville will be flowing with vendors who have  
Fair Food, Arts, Crafts, Baked Goods, Kids Zone, Games, Prizes, Characters, Book signings and more !**

Vender Applications Available online or upon request.  
No fee required, but we need the application  
to assign a location for the festival event.

**Hawkinsville Harvest Fest Hospitality Room**  
91 Commerce Street

**Entertainment Schedule (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)**  
\*stage located @ Commerce St. & S. Jackson St.

10:00 - Carl Conner  
10:30 - Anna Lee Carroll & Alli Mathes  
10:45 - Alli Mathes  
11:15 - Anna Lee Carroll  
11:45 - Pulaski Co. ACS 'Relay for Life' Queens  
12:00 - Carla Joiner  
12:30 - Heather Hall  
1:00 - OPENING CEREMONY ~ GUEST SPEAKERS  
1:15 - Becca Henry  
1:45 - Chris Sercer  
2:15 - Samantha Sutherland  
2:45 - Melissa Coleman  
3:15 - Keith Gilmer Band

**Mike Brown, a Hawkinsville native**  
Internationally Recognized Artist  
Wildlife & Landscape Fine Art show & Art for Sale  
\* located in Cabero Park on Commerce Street



### **Historic Cemetery Tours**

Orange Hill & Pine Bloom Cemeteries ~ 6th Street  
Tour starts @ Entrance Gate of Orange Hill Cemetery @ 11:00 am  
HHS students & staff will conduct tour & will portray "Spirits" in costume.

### **Agricultural & Farm Equipment on Display**

**Farmers Market @ Broad St & Lumpkin Street.**  
Various Vendors: Local Fresh Picked Produce,  
Arts, crafts, antiques, collectables, food, baked goods,  
flea market items & more !

### **Opera House - Concert @ 7:30 PM**

"Whitepath" \*Gospel ~ Bluegrass  
Tickets : \$18  
Call for tickets: (478) 783-9294  
[www.hawkinsvilleoperahouse.com](http://www.hawkinsvilleoperahouse.com)

### **Pulaski Rivers Alive Clean Up Event**

All Volunteers meet @ Mile Branch Landing  
Hawkinsville Pulaski County Riverfront Park,  
Hwy. 129 / S. Jackson Street  
Event: 7:00 am until 12:00 noon

### **Hawkinsville High School \* 2011 Band Festival**

\*Exciting all day event @ Bobby Gentry Stadium  
\*HHS Band Booster Fund Raiser Event  
\*30 Bands Competing  
\*Great food & fun, Exciting Band Competition & Shows!

**Business of the Month**

**September**

**Sharp Systems**

**Congratulations!**

**New Chamber Member**



**LOL**

**Located at 91 Commerce Street**

**Stop and by and welcome them at the Downtown Harvest Fest!**

**CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

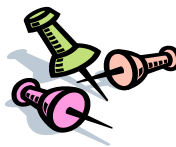
\* St. Luke's Episcopal Church

\* Bold Spring Nursery

\* Kimberly's Antiques & Gifts

\* Lucille Bennett

\* Chris & Ginger Martin



*We appreciate Your Membership!*

\* Butch Hall

\* McDonald's

**2011 Opera House Events**

\* **WhitePath**

September 24, 2011

7:30 PM

Tickets -\$18

\* **Jason Coleman & Meagan Taylor**

November 5, 2011

7:30 PM

Tickets-\$25

\* **Joe Chapman**

October 20, 2011

7:30PM

Tickets-\$15

**Please call the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Arts Council at 478-783-1884 for ticket information.**





**Resources to maximize your agribusiness potential!**

*y'all Come!*

**When:** Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 4:30 pm

**Where:** Ogeechee Technical College, One Joseph E. Kennedy Blvd., Statesboro, Georgia 30458 – Occupational Studies Building Conference Center

**What:** A full day of professional development and networking with sessions on social media marketing; farm-to-table opportunities; risk management; and promoting agritourism destinations. Sessions led by loan and insurance experts, chefs, organic farmers, owners of agribusiness and agritourism operations, and federal and state government agencies offering services and programs. Exhibitors sharing their programs, technical assistance and resources.

**How:** Registration is \$65 per person and includes a hot lunch, breaks, informational materials and attendee lists. Register online by visiting [www.ogeecheetech.edu/about-otc/agribusinessworkshop](http://www.ogeecheetech.edu/about-otc/agribusinessworkshop) or call 912-688-6098. Spaces still available for exhibitors for \$125 per organization, exhibitor registration also online. Space limited, register today!

**Why:** Agriculture is Georgia's number one industry and Tourism is the state's number two industry. This workshop will help business owners in these leading industries expand sales, increase profits and create sustainable partnerships. The workshop is hosted and co-sponsored by the Georgia Micro Enterprise Network, the Small Business Assistance Corporation, Ogeechee Technical College, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the University of Georgia's Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development.

## **AGRIBUSINESS through the ROOF**

September 21, 2011

Ogeechee Technical College

One Joseph E. Kennedy Boulevard, Statesboro, GA 30458

Call (912) 486-7409

## Fall Paddle on the Ocmulgee River In Hawkinsville

Family Friendly, 3 Day Fall Paddle and Camping Trip on the Ocmulgee River scheduled for Friday, October 7, Saturday, October 8, and Sunday, October 9th! Everyone Welcome! The Georgia Canoeing Association, The Georgia Conservancy and Pulaski Rivers Alive are hosting a 3 day Fall Paddle and Camping Trip on the Ocmulgee River at Mile Branch Landing in Hawkinsville, GA October 7-9. Tent



camping (no fee) is available with restrooms, hot showers, barbecue pits, and 2 covered pavilions with electricity and water. Each day will provide a different paddle with free shuttle service. Friday's Paddle from Dykes Landing, Bleckley to Mile Branch Landing, Hawkinsville is 14 river miles. Saturday's paddle from Mile Branch Landing, Hawkinsville to Sandy Hammock (almost in Wilcox County) is 14 river miles. Sunday's paddle from Mile Branch Landing, Hawkinsville to a private landing is approximately 5½ river miles. Come all 3 days or just 1! There is a \$20 one time donation for river park improvements. The Fall Paddle and Camping Trip is all part of an effort to help promote the new 54 mile Blueway from Twiggs County to Pulaski County on the Ocmulgee River. For more information or to register for the paddle please contact: Marie Short of the Georgia Canoeing Association at (404) 202-9546 or email [mail4marieshort@bellsouth.net](mailto:mail4marieshort@bellsouth.net). You can also contact Chuck Southerland of Pulaski Rivers Alive at (478) 892-5489 or email [pulaskiriversalive@comsouth.net](mailto:pulaskiriversalive@comsouth.net)

Saturday night we will enjoy a very special presentation around the campfire. Participants in this presentation will represent a variety of experts, from informative local, state and national organizations, on the past, present and future of the Ocmulgee River, blueway projects, and GA's plans for rivers and how YOU can help. You don't want to miss this! **Event time will be posted in the Hawkinsville Dispatch and News.**



## ENTREPRENEUR & SMALL BUSINESS QUICKFACTS

404.962.4820 / [memclanahan@georgia.org](mailto:memclanahan@georgia.org) / [www.georgia.org/smallbusiness](http://www.georgia.org/smallbusiness)

Revised 9/1/11

There are 645,534 registered businesses in Georgia (SOS: 9/1/11)  
 97.5% categorized as small by the Federal Gov't. (< 500 employees) compared to 99.7% nationally  
 95% employ fewer than 50  
 78.8% employ fewer than 10  
 87% employ 5 and under (AEO / US Census)

### Georgia Rankings

GA's economic outlook ranks 11<sup>th</sup> among 50 states (American Legislative Exchange Council 8/11)  
 GA ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in US (up from #10) for Best State for Business: #2 in Transportation, #4 in Workforce, #13 in 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 20<sup>th</sup> in US for Small Business Survival Index Policy Environment for Entrepreneurship (SBE Council 12/10)  
 GA ranks #1 in US in Entrepreneurial Activity: 0.50% entrepreneurs per % of population (Kauffman/ITIF 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 #2 workforce training leaders ([Business Facilities](#) '10)  
 GA ranks #19 overall in the New Economy Index (Kauffman/ITIF 11/10)  
 GA ranks #8 in US for best state for business, careers & regulatory environment ([Forbes](#) 10/10)  
 GA leads the nation over the last decade for having the largest positive change in entrepreneurial activity. Atlanta/Marietta/Sandy Springs ranks 4<sup>th</sup> (Kauffman 8/10)  
 GA ranks #2 in US for highest number of black-owned businesses at 20.4% (US Census 7/10);  
 GA ranks 6<sup>th</sup> Best State for Business in US citing legislation that attracts businesses & jobs (Forbes 5/10)  
 GA ranks in top 3 in US for number of franchisors (>100) headquartered in GA – (IFA 1/09)

### Miscellaneous

Metro Atlanta ranks in Top 10 in US for best regions for clean jobs (Brookings Institution 7/11)  
 Atlanta ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among major cities in foreign direct investment (Global Atlanta 6/11)  
 GA ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in US for most tax-friendly states for retirees (Kiplinger's 6/11)  
 Atlanta ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of 385 US metros with 25.3% of its population between ages 18-34 with bachelor's degree or higher (On Numbers 6/11)  
 Metro Atlanta ranks #1 in US in minority-run firms; #2 in self-employed minorities; #2 as entrepreneurial region; #1 in increasing household incomes & affordable housing. Black-owned businesses grew 99% between '02-'07 (Forbes 3/11)  
 Atlanta ranks #2 in US as most socially networked city behind Washington DC (Men's Health 3/11)  
 Atlanta ranks #6 in US for jobs in 2010 (JobSerf Employment Index 1/11)  
 Nine Metro Atlanta companies on Inc. 500's fastest growing companies (Inc. Magazine 8/10)  
 Atlanta in Top 10 startup-friendly cities (Entrepreneur Magazine 8/10)  
 Atlanta ranks 4<sup>th</sup> best city for college grads (Bloomberg BusinessWeek 7/10)  
 14 Fortune 500 companies and 32 Fortune 1000 companies are home to GA  
 Atlanta ranks 9<sup>th</sup> best US city for young professionals (Forbes 6/10)  
 Atlanta ranked 11<sup>th</sup> among the nation's top markets for quality of life in America (Portfolio.com/bizjournals 5/10)  
 ATDC ranks in Top 10 in US for best technology incubators (Forbes 4/10)  
 The top-performing 1% of firms in any given year generate roughly 40% of all new jobs; gazelle firms (ages 3-5 yrs.) comprise less than 1% of all companies yet generate roughly 10% of all new jobs (Kauffman 3/10)  
 14% of [Inc. 500's](#) fastest growing companies in the U.S. started with less than \$1000