



# Business Builder

Christmas Edition

December 2010

**Barnesville-Lamar  
County Chamber of  
Commerce**

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

### Inside this issue:

ESF After Hours	2
Local Holiday Events	2
Chamber Website and Community Calendar	2
Leadership Lamar Thank you	3
Lunch and Learn	4
Calendar of Events	5
President's Box	5

Wow! What a year! The chamber along with the rest of the country has had many obstacles this year. In our Board of Director's strategic planning session in January, we focused on ways that we could increase traffic on our website, provide optimal tourism exposure with events, and different avenues to bring people to town with their families. We all knew that we had to optimize every opportunity possible to give back to our membership through networking opportunities, large

community events and educational opportunities.

The Chamber Board and staff went to work doing just that. They hosted cruise ins, movies in the park, lunch and learns, Buggy Days, BBQ & Blues, Leadership Lamar, Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale, and much more.

Plans for the upcoming year will begin soon and the excitement is building around how we maximize the events we are currently doing

and new ones we can't wait to share with you.

Our newly elected board members are Ernie Neubauer, Scott Mayfield, and Josh Horne. They are all very excited about serving the membership and the community.

On behalf of the 2010 Board of Directors, "Thank you for your membership and dedication to our community and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!"



Congratulations to Debi Adamson, Owner of Slice's Pizzeria, for winning first place in the window decorating contest for the holiday displays.

### Special Thanks

Thank you to the Azalea Garden Club for hanging the garland and making new bows for downtown this holiday season.

Thank you to Denise Sanders, Mason Eadie,

and Lauren Meyers for decorating the Christmas tree downtown.

Special thanks to Tom and Laverne Aiken for donating the Christmas tree at the Chamber and downtown this

year.

The merchants worked really hard this year to make town very festive for the holiday season. Thank you for taking the time to make our downtown so pretty.

# Eat, Drink & Be Merry

join us for a

Business After Hours Event

Thursday, December 9th

5pm until 7pm

benefitting

Lamar County's  
Empty Stocking Fund

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, door prizes  
& a special visit from Santa!



**UnitedBank**

308 Thomaston Street  
Downtown Barnesville



Bringing an unwrapped child's toy or  
making a monetary donation will be appreciated.

## December 4th

Women's League Tour of Homes

3 pm-7 pm

Tickets are on sale at the Chamber  
and other local businesses.

\$10 in advance and \$12 at the door!

For more information, please call 770-358-7157

## The Rock Ranch

December 4th

Breakfast with Santa

Call 706-647-6374 for reservations

December 9th-31st

A Country Christmas in Lights

Tuesday-Sunday: Dark-10pm

Admission Free

## December 11th

Lunch with Santa

11 am- 2 pm



Photographs By:

Reflections Photography

## **"The Nutcracker" to be performed at new Fine Arts Center!**

Lamar County School District in conjunction with The Griffin Ballet Theater will be presenting the timeless Christmas story, ...**"The Nutcracker"**. This beloved holiday spectacular will take place at the Lamar County Fine Arts Center, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The public performance will begin in the evening at 7:00pm. We wish to invite the community to join us for this performance. Tickets are limited, so reserve your seats soon.

Tickets are \$10, \$12 & \$15 each and are available by calling 770-358-5018 or by purchasing them online at [www.fineartscenteronline.com](http://www.fineartscenteronline.com).

## Chamber Website Grows in Popularity

The Chamber of Commerce website, [www.barnesville.org](http://www.barnesville.org), is becoming the prime source for Chamber and community news. We can track how many people view the Chamber's sites and the results this year are astonishing compared to last year. In 2009 the Chamber site had 18,000 hits compared to over 46,000 hits in 2010. These numbers show a trend that websites are the primary source for many people to find information about our community. A written piece of information can reach a community, but a great website can reach the world. "At the

Chamber, we strive daily for our website to be current and relevant to meet the needs of our community, members, and potential visitors," stated Chamber president Amanda Rose.

The community calendar on the site is being updated daily to include any community event we can find. If you would like to have your events listed, please call Amanda or Deidra at the Chamber. The calendar is very user friendly

**"In 2009, the Chamber site had 18,000 hits compared to over 46,000 hits in 2010."**

and you can even print it at home. The events are listed with the time and title. Click on the event you want to know more details about and it will pop up in a box for you to read. The calendar is a great resource for information and will continuously be updated. At the Chamber, we do not want you to miss out on a single way to be involved in the community.

## Letter of Thanks to the 2010 Leadership Lamar Class

On behalf of the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy of Lamar County, we want to thank the 2010 Leadership Lamar Class for their generous donation. We are so grateful to be one of the recipients of their fundraising efforts. We thank Deedra Lanier for the beautiful presentation and encouraging words at their graduation. One hundred percent of this gift will

go to place books in the hands of local children, helping to get them excited about books and ready to learn when they enter school. We have 723 children currently registered, 468 graduates and have mailed 26, 000 books since our inception four years ago. We continue to thank the community for your support of this wonderful program for our children. You

are truly touching children's lives in such a special way. Today a reader, tomorrow a leader. Sincerely,  
Lynda Brutz  
Kelly Hughes

**"The Leadership Lamar Class donated \$462.00 to the Ferst Foundation as one part of their class project."**

## Griffin Choral Arts Presents Fourth Annual Christmas Concert

The Griffin Choral Arts community chorus, under the direction of Dr. Stephen J. Mulder, will present a Christmas choral concert on Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 PM at the Griffin First Baptist Church (106 W. Taylor Street). The annual GCA Christmas concert, now in its fourth year, has become a community tradition and marks the beginning of the holiday season for many. Tickets are \$10 general admission at the door or in advance in Griffin at Artis-

tic Flowers and Gifts and The Next Chapter bookstore; in Barnesville at Goggan's Florist; and in Thomaston at the TUAC Gallery. Joining the 55-member Griffin Choral Arts choir are accompanist Seth Davis, organist Randy Elkins (Johns Creek UMC) and the Barrister Brass Quintet from Macon. The organ and brass will again accompany the audience in the singing of several Christmas carols throughout the evening.

The program includes carol arrangements by John Rutter and David Willcocks as well as a "Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis" setting of Herbert Howells. Griffin Choral Arts is composed of singers from all over the region, many of whom are music teachers at the elementary, middle, secondary, or college level. For more information about Griffin Choral Arts call 770-468-3072 or visit their website: [www.griffinchoralarts.org](http://www.griffinchoralarts.org).

## Lunch and Learn

December 14, 2010

11:30 am- 1:00 pm

Location:

**Southern Rivers Energy**

**1367 Hwy 341 South**

**Barnesville, GA 30204**

Topic:

Health Care Reform Presentation

Health care reform is finally here. The historic signing of the health care reform legislation by President Obama on March 23, 2011 and follow-up legislation will lead to dramatic changes in the landscape of health benefits law, and may well transform the American workplace. Employers and plan sponsors are being constantly bombarded with lengthy analyses of the new laws, many of which don't apply to their situation or won't apply for several years. In this 60-minute presentation, benefit attorneys will address these topics and be prepared to answer your questions. We will focus on what you need to do now or before the end of this year to make sure you and your company comply with health care reform.

**Who Should Attend:** Every employer who offers health insurance to their employees, and every employee who wants to know how health care reform will affect their own health insurance during 2011.

Facilitator:

Leah Singleton, Associate

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

This Lunch and Learn is free to all members. Lunch will be provided and RSVP is required by December 10th. To reserve your place today, please call Amanda or Deidra at (770)358-5884.

## Pike/Lamar Services Begins First Aid/CPR Training Monthly

First Aid and CPR Training Classes will be offered at Pike/Lamar Services on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month by a certified trainer. Classes will begin January 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Also, there will be a free blood pressure screening every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Pike Lamar Services is located at 210 Chaffin St. in Barnesville.

For more information, please contact Pike/Lamar Services at (770)358-0743.

**Barnesville-Lamar County  
Chamber of Commerce**

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We're on the Web!  
[www.barnesville.org](http://www.barnesville.org)



Calendar of Events:

For a complete list of holiday events, please see page 2 of this edition of the Business Builder and the Community Calendar at [www.barnesville.org](http://www.barnesville.org).

December 9th

Empty Stocking Fund Business After Hours

United Bank

5-7 pm

December 23rd-24th

Chamber of Commerce is Closed for Christmas!

December 31st

Chamber of Commerce Closed for New Years!

**NEWSLETTER  
SPONSORED BY:**

**President's Box**



I cannot believe that we are in the middle of another holiday season.

Time sure does fly when you're having fun!

There has been much talk everywhere about paying it forward. We are such a blessed town and nation regardless of how bad the economy is. This holiday season, do something for someone else. Your deed could be as small as dropping a few pennies in the salvation army bucket or as big as adopting a

family for Christmas. Either way, you will be making someone smile and giving them hope this holiday season.

Times are tough and it is not all about gift giving. Everyone wants to feel appreciated and loved. Spread the love and cheer this year and watch how great you will feel!

Thank you for a wonderful year and I hope you and your families have the most memorable holiday season.

-Amanda Rose

**New Members**

- \*August Moon Tearoom
- \*CareSouth Homecare
- \*Lamar County Activity Center
- \*Southern Tactical Enterprises



Congratulations!!

Salon on Main Ribbon Cutting,  
November 24th!