

# Chamber Chatter

Volume 1, Issue 6

182 Court Square, Blakely, GA (229) 723-3741

May 2013

## Upcoming Chamber Meetings:

- Chamber Board Meeting, June 19, 12:00pm, at the First United Methodist Church (small fellowship hall).

## Important Updates:

- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 17 at Headstrong Salon (across from McDonalds) at 10:00am.
- The Chamber was recently featured in an April 2013 article by "The National Chamber Review" newspaper based out of Rochester, NY for work being doing on the Alexander Building.
- We would like to wish all of our graduates (or soon to be graduates) a special congratulations on all of their hard work and dedication.
- As of May 15, 2013, the Chamber of Commerce had 148 members throughout 20 cities and 4 states.

## \*April/May Businesses of the Week:

Sears  
1st Franklin Financial

\*Since last newsletter

## Why All Businesses Should Be Online

In the age where technology forces businesses to be more visible in order to be more competitive, one technology powerhouse is offering an affordable way for small businesses to have a viable online presence.



Google, an industry leader in internet technology, services, and products, is promoting a service that allows small business owners to create a custom website, with a custom domain name, which will be free for the first year.

Having an online presence is especially important for two groups: 1. Those that sell items and provide services and 2. Those that are searching for an edge in the marketplace.

Facts: Generally speaking, one-half of the United States' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is attained through small businesses. Over half of the businesses in the state of Georgia do not currently have a website. Twenty percent of Google searches are for local businesses.

One last fact. According to Google, "Over the next three years, businesses that make use of the web expect to grow 40% faster than those that don't."

The internet is a powerful tool that can drive your business to heights never before imagined. It can increase your sales, network you with the community and other businesses, and provide advertising for you 24/7.

## Community classes

Over the past few months the Chamber has received requests from both members and non-members requesting business development classes (more specifically, classes regarding Facebook business pages, eBay selling, and merchant services, i.e. PayPal and Square).

The Chamber is working to develop these programs, which will be free to the community, and will provide you with more information as the classes are designed and confirmed.

## Recent Visitors

The Chamber recently received visitors from Mississippi.

## 4-H Summer Activities for Children

June 6: National Infantry Museum in Columbus, GA  
8:00am  
Cost: Money for lunch

June 12: Kids in the Kitchen—Cake decorating class at the Early County Extension Office  
10:00am-1:00pm  
Cost: \$5.00

June 26: Kids in the Kitchen—Beginners cooking class at the Early County Extension Office  
10:00am-1:00pm  
Cost: \$5.00

July 11: Water World in Dothan, AL  
10:00am-3:00pm  
Cost: \$9.00 (3-12yo)

\$12.00 (13 yrs & up)

If you are interested in registering your child/children for any of these classes please contact Stephanie or Paige at the Early County Extension Office at (229) 723-3072.