Launching into the Future
Passing the Gavel at the
62nd Annual Dinner
See page 5
2017 Executive Committee

Chairman: Amy Brown, State Farm Insurance/Amy Brown
Chairman-Elect: Kenneth Blizzard, Regions Bank
Vice Chairman: Matt Windom, Carroll County Water Authority
Treasurer: Paula Gillispie, Oak Mountain Academy
Past Chairman: Gary Hewitt, Southland Insurance Agency

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Todd Anduze
Bo Bass
Steve Bennett
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Bass and Associates
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City of Bowdon
Carroll County Board of Education
West Georgia Technical College
State Farm Insurance/Jill Duncan
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Bank of the Ozarks
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Systems & Methods, Inc.
Flowers Baking Co.
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Auto Supply Company

Carroll Chamber News

Ad Deadline:
24th of each month

Promote your business with a full color ad in the Chamber News:
Business card 3 1/2x2" - $20.00
1/4 page 4x5" - $30.00
1/2 page 8x5" - $40.00
Full-page portrait 8x10" - $50.00

Submissions must be camera-ready (300 dpi+ JPG, PDF or PNG). Email to communications@carroll-ga.org
For more information, please call (678) 890-2377.

The Carroll Chamber of Commerce Chamber News is distributed online on the first business day of each month to over 1,200 Chamber members and area leaders.

CARROLL COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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carrollchamber@carroll-ga.org
www.carroll-ga.org
Platinum

Advantage Office Solutions
Bank of North Georgia
Brookdale Carrollton
Bank of the Ozarks
Carroll County Sheriff’s Office
Carroll County Water Authority
Cottage Landing Senior Living
Gas South
Hughes Ray Company Inc.
Southern States Bank
Southland Insurance Agency
State Farm Insurance/Amy Brown
Times Georgian

Gold

AgSouth Farm Credit ACA/AgSouth Mortgages
Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic
Milestone Investment Management, LLC
State Farm Insurance/Jill Duncan

Silver

Edward Jones Investments/Fred O’Neal
Garrett, Thomas & Fazio PC
Grant $$$$ For YOU/Sandra Morris
Pugmire Ford
Rushton & Company, LLC
Tisinger Vance PC
Chamber
Upcoming Events

Ambassador Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 1
8:30 am @ Chamber

#ThinkCarrollFirst Launch Event
Wednesday, Feb. 1
9:30 am @ Bowdon City Hall

#ThinkCarrollFirst Launch Event
Thursday, Feb. 2
10:30 am @ The Amp, Carrollton

Workforce Education Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 8
8:30 am @ Chamber

Business Development Committee
Thursday, Feb. 9
8:30 am @ Chamber

Business of the Month
Thursday, Feb. 9

Board Meeting
Monday, Feb. 13

Business Success Seminar: Spanish for Business
Wednesday, Feb. 15
11:30 am—1 pm @ Chamber

Carroll County Day at the Capital
Tuesday, Feb. 21

WBA Coffee Break
Tuesday, Feb. 21
8 am @ Carrollton Courtyard by Marriott

SAVE THE DATE
Membership Breakfast
Thursday, March 2
7:30 am @ Greenway

Your Chamber/Carroll Tomorrow Staff

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62nd Annual Dinner featured awards, comedian, and #ThinkCarrollFirst program launch

Highlighting the 62nd Annual Dinner of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce was the awarding of Citizen of the Year to Cynthia Langley, Horizon Award to John Jackson, Entrepreneur of the Year to Bob and Tish Stone and family, and the Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award to Dr. Faye McIntyre.

Volunteer leadership of the Chamber also changed hands as outgoing Chairman Gary Hewitt, co-owner of Southland Insurance Agency, passed the gavel to 2017 Chair Amy Brown, State Farm Insurance/Amy Brown in Villa Rica. Brown’s theme for the coming year is “Launching into the Future.”

Daniel Jackson, President and CEO of the Carroll County Chamber, expressed his appreciation to Hewitt, stating if the Chamber was there, Hewitt was there. He also shared reflections on the past year and expectations for 2017.

“From large employers to small, from healthcare to education to industry to retail to restaurants to professional services to the service industry, to media, to government staff and elected officials, we are a blessed community,” Jackson said. “We thank all of you for providing us a great product to sell – Carroll County!”

New upcoming activities of the Chamber include the U.S. Congressional Forum, an additional membership breakfast, additional involvement of young professionals, and many continuing initiatives that support the five areas in the 2017 program of work: business development, government development, member support, leadership development, and workforce education.

Jackson and Brown announced the launch of a new year-round campaign, Think Carroll First, that moves beyond just retail and dining and making cash registers ring. Kelly Meigs, chair of the Chamber’s Business Development Committee, led the concept and design efforts for the campaign that will encourage consumers to think of purchasing all goods and services locally.

The sold-out annual dinner was sponsored by Advantage Office Solutions, Carroll EMC, Georgia Power, Gradick Communications, Southland Insurance Agency, Southwire, Tanner Health System, UWG Richards College of Business, United Community Bank and West Georgia Technical College.
Congratulations to all award winners

Citizen of the Year recipient Cynthia Langley has been the Executive Director for Communities In Schools of Carrollton/Carroll County since its incorporation in 2012. Prior to this position, she had a distinguished career in the Juvenile Justice System for 17 years and ended that career as the Juvenile Program Manager over the Carroll County office of the Department of Juvenile Justice. During this tenure, she established an advisory board for the local DJJ office; began one of the pilot Intensive Supervision Units for the state of Georgia; and was instrumental in developing an

The Horizon Award for outstanding volunteerism was presented to John Jackson of the Law Office of John B. Jackson. Formerly a partner in the firm of Greer Jackson Tisinger, he started his own law firm in 2015 and has practiced law for 13 years specializing primarily in litigation.

As an active volunteer with the Chamber and throughout the community, Jackson has served the last three years on the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Board and as Chairman of the Chamber’s Government Affairs Committee. Under his leadership, the Government Affairs Committee

The Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award went to Dr. Faye McIntyre, Professor of Marketing and Dean of the Richards College of Business. She has over 70 publications and received numerous awards for her research. She has been invited to present her work at such forums as the American Marketing Association’s Global Marketing Conference and the International Franchising Association’s Annual Convention. She has served as a corporate consultant or project coordinator for organizations locally, regionally and across the southern states. Among her recognitions, McIntyre has been named among the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s Who’s Who in

Bob and Tish Stone and family were named Entrepreneurs of the Year. Back in 1971 in their living room, this local couple founded Systems and Methods, a business process automation company. SMI, now in its 46th year in business, is in the second generation of leadership. The areas of government served have shifted but the family approach of doing business has remained. As the food stamp coupon era transitioned, so did SMI. Under the leadership of the second generation, led by Joe Stone and Bill Stone, SMI found the next niche market in supporting Health and Human Services agencies in the area of child support and accounting solutions management. SMI

All text continued on page 12
Looking for $$ saving on your automobile, home, life and business insurance?

Contact Southland Insurance Agency for information on discounts for Carroll County Chamber members and Carroll County Board of Education employees.

You could save up to 16% plus you could earn multi policy discounts!

Give us a call at (770) 834-7631 or email gary@southlandinsagency.com.
The Carroll County Chamber has launched the #Think Carroll First campaign to remind Carroll County consumers that just about everything they desire – from cars to cardiac care to cultural events – can be found right here in Carroll County. By participating, you can reach two audiences: 116,000 consumers as well as companies with a business to business focus.

How can you participate?

♦ Stop by the Chamber to pick up a #ThinkCarrollFirst kit with window cling, tee shirt, phone wallet and campaign information
♦ Or, call and request a kit and/or a chalkboard – (770)832-2446
♦ Choose a positive word that describes your business and fill in the blank on the chalkboard. For example: Dine, Buy, Serve, Visit, etc.
♦ Gather your employees and get a few fun photos with the chalkboard.
♦ Post on your website, Facebook, Instagram and all of your social media…tag #ThinkCarrollFirst and the Carroll Chamber.
♦ Place the #ThinkCarrollFirst window cling for best visibility.
♦ Download the “#ThinkCarrollFirst” logo from our website www.carroll-ga.org to use in your promotions.
♦ Insert your photo with the logo to create a mini ad, print and post in your business window, at the cash register, any place that grabs your customers’ attention.

Questions? Call Donna at 678/890/2332 or email donna@carroll-ga.org

Thank you to our co-hosts for the Community Launch Events: Main Street of Bowdon, Carrollton and Villa Rica. Pictured above is the Villa Rica launch, with Bowdon’s event scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 9:30 am at Bowdon City Hall and Carrollton’s launch will be Thursday, Feb. 2, at 10:30 am at The Amp.
Holland Tulips & Rhine River Castles
*Featuring 7 nights aboard the Amadeus Silver II, 2 nights in Lucerne & the Black Forest*
11 days — March 27–April 6, 2017

Yellowstone & the Wild West
*Featuring 3 nights in Jackson & Grand Teton National Park*
7 days — June 23–June 29, 2017

Cape Cod & the Islands
*Featuring Boston, Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket & Newport*
7 days — October 1—October 8, 2017

For more information:
Please contact: Suzy Montalto at 678.890.2358 or suzy@carroll-ga.org.

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Group Travel Opportunities
Business Success Seminar:
Spanish for Business

with Scott Rickles, Owner of Que Pasa

Join us...
Learn how to engage the Hispanic and Latino communities in Carroll County. Apply basic conversational skills to your business to increase market reach. I’ll also provide a quick and easy to understand introduction to the Spanish language, while noting important cultural differences.

Wednesday, February 15th, 2017
11:30AM - 1:00PM
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
200 Northside Drive, Carrollton
$15.00 includes seminar & lunch

*Reservations are required online at www.carroll-ga.org or call 770-832-2446. Please note space is limited.

Scott attended Kingsway Language/Missions School and graduated with honors where the Spanish language and culture were the focus of study. He has traveled to and lived in many Latin American countries gaining a rich knowledge of the language and culture. His teaching style is fun, energetic, and easy with a hands on approach to learning the beautiful language and culture. He has taught in a variety of settings around the world.

Que Pasa  Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Business Development Committee
Hosted by our
Forward Carroll Sponsors:

Platinum
Carroll County Government
Carroll EMC
Carrollton Club
City of Carrollton
Crezent
Georgia Power
Gradick Communications
Southwire
Systems & Methods
Tanner Health System
United Community Bank
University of West Georgia
West Georgia Technical College

Gold
Advantage Office Solutions
Bank of North Georgia
Brookdale Carrollton
Bank of the Ozarks
Carroll County Sheriff’s Office
Carroll County Water Authority
Cottage Landing Senior Living
Gas South
Hughes Ray Company Inc.
Southern States Bank
Southland Insurance Agency
State Farm Insurance/Amy Brown
Times Georgian

Silver
AgSouth Farm Credit ACA/
AgSouth Mortgages
Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic
Milestone Investment Management, LLC
State Farm Insurance/Jill Duncan

Bronze
Edward Jones Investments/Fred O’Neal
Garrett, Thomas & Fazio PC
Grant $$ for YOU/Sandra Morris
Pugmire Ford
Rushton & Company, LLC
Tisinger Vance P.C.

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Membership Breakfast

Thursday, March 2
7:30 a.m.

100 Greenway Blvd.
Carrollton

featuring

S.T.A.R. Student/Teacher Awards
Recognizing the top SAT score winners from each high school in the
Carroll County Schools
Carrollton City Schools
Oak Mountain Academy

Please R.S.V.P. by Feb. 24 online at
www.carroll-ga.org or
by calling 770/832-2446.
Cynthia Langley, Citizen of the Year
Alternative to Detention Initiative in Carroll County, among other initiatives.

With Communities In Schools, Langley has led this organization through the national accreditation process and developed partnerships with both local school systems to provide external services to at-risk students in order to further raise the graduation rate. This program currently serves six high schools and one middle school. She has worked to establish the Carroll County Mentoring Village, and the successful Eighth Grade Career Expo, in partnership with the Carroll Chamber’s Workforce Education Task Force.

Currently she serves on the Board of Associates for KidsPeace, the Georgia Sheriff Youth Homes Board, the Alice’s House Board of Directors, and the executive board of the Carroll/Carrollton Education Collaborative. Her past volunteer activities have included: Bowdon High Athletic Booster Club, Jonesville Middle School Council, Carroll County Mediation Center, and Georgia Juvenile Justice Training Network.

John Jackson, Horizon Award
has expanded outreach to our state legislative delegation via networking meetings, the legislative appreciation reception and the annual Day at the State Capitol, and to the U.S. Congressional delegation with the bi-annual Washington Fly-in, and town hall meetings. In addition, his committee was instrumental in monitoring legislation that impacts Carroll County businesses, and educating the Chamber membership on various issues.

He currently serves as President of West Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, President of the Rotary Club of Carrollton, on the Alice's House Board and on the Tanner Health System’s Magnolia Ball Men's Committee. He is a member of First Baptist Church serving on the By-Laws Committee and the Greeters Committee.

Dr. Faye McIntyre, Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award
tion nine times. She received the University of West Georgia Alumni Association’s Spotlight Award, and the Richard College of Business Faculty Service, Faculty Research and Faculty Development Awards. She has also been named to Who’s Who Among Professional and Executive Women.

She serves as a member of the University System of Georgia Regents Advisory Committee for Business Administration, Management and Economics. She has been Chair of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Advisory Board for The Burson Center. She has served on the Workforce Education Task Force for five years, and was a member of the Board of Directors for seven years. Six other Chamber committees have benefitted from her involvement over the years.

She is a member of the Carrollton Rotary Club and the Heflin, Alabama Industrial Development Board, and volunteers in several other non-profit organizations.

Stone Family, Entrepreneurs of the Year
currently has locations in 14 states and provides payment remittance services in 15 states. In the past two years SMI has added 307 team members. The SMI family is now 588 members strong.

In 2010, the smiONE card was launched to provide additional services to state clients. The smiONE Visa Prepaid Card now has over one million cards in circulation. With the smiONE card, child support services and Georgia government solutions, SMI served over 5 million families nationwide in 2016.

Challenged over the years, the leadership team has created, invented, re-invented and redirected their business many times. At the same time, the Stone family demonstrates a commitment to give to and serve the community. This family footprint is on schools, hospitals, civic clubs, non-profits, churches and faith based ministries, the Chamber and Carroll Tomorrow, the City, the County, West Georgia Regional Airport, and much more.
Women’s Business Alliance

Coffee Break
Tuesday, February 21
(Meets every third Tuesday of the month)
8:00-9:00 am
Carrollton Courtyard by Marriott
Lobby Bistro
180 Barnes Avenue, Carrollton

Please RSVP by Feb. 14
for adequate food preparation:
770-832-2446 or www.carroll-ga.org

A Special Treat for February!

The Carrollton Courtyard by Marriott will provide a hot buffet with pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fresh fruit, and more

RSVP today!
Let us help you take care of the ones you love.

Call us today at 678-739-1740

Need It Most

“We take care of things when you Need it Most”
Chamber 101

Chamber President/CEO Daniel Jackson (right) welcomes new members to the information session describing the benefits of membership in the Carroll County Chamber. 2017 Chamber Chair Amy Brown (center photo below on right) was also on hand to share her vision with the theme for the year, Launching into the Future.

The Burson Center

Need off-site meeting space?

The Burson Center offers meeting facilities for business, education or government functions at affordable daily or weekly rates.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Daily Rate</th>
<th>Weekly Rate</th>
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<td>$350</td>
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<td>Meeting Room A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Desk</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact Lauren Holverson at 678-890-2340 for more information

Newcomer Packets

Did you know?

- New homeowners spend more within 6 months than the average consumer spends in 3 years
- New movers are 5 times more likely to become your long term customers if you reach them first *

The Carroll County Chamber distributes approximately 25 Newcomer Packets every month. For $100/year, include your marketing materials to be the first to reach these potential customers!

Call 770-832-2446 for details.

* According to "The New Movers Marketing Potential" by relevategroup.com
Welcome New Members

Please extend a warm Chamber welcome to the following new members and remember them when you do business.

Bennett-Phoenix LLC Commercial Real Estate
Jane Sauls
100 Hartsfield Centre Pkwy. Ste. 500
Atlanta, GA 30354
Phone: (770) 328-2379
Email: jsauls@bennett-phoenix.com
Website: www.bennett-phoenix.com
Category: Commercial Real Estate

Phone: (404) 218-2095
Email: jess@brettsgl.com
Category: Health Services

DMBtaxes
Dana Bankston
103 Barnes Dr. #2
Carrollton, GA 30117
Phone: (678) 246-8294
Email: dbankston@dmbtaxes.com
Website: www.dmbtaxes.com
Category: Accounting and Tax Preparation

Heaven In Your Home Catering
Latoya Gamble
Carrollton, GA 30117
Phone: (770) 769-6181
Email: heaveninyourhome@gmail.com
Website: www.heaveninyourhome.com
Category: Catering

Little Vine Vineyards, Inc.
Jerry Culver
665 N. Hulett Rd.
Villa Rica, GA 30180
Phone: (770) 851-4454
Email: sbculver@littlevinevineyards.com
Website: www.littlevinevineyards.com
Category: Adult beverage store/event center

Southeastern Painting Contractors, Inc.
Jeff Ballard
907 South Park St.
Carrollton, GA 30117
Phone: (770) 830-0106
Email: jeff@southeasternpaint.net
Website: www.southeasternpaint.net
Category: Residential and commercial painters
The University of West Georgia's president, Dr. Kyle Marrero, has been named one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians for the third straight year by Georgia Trend magazine. Georgia Trend's editorial staff compiles the annual list of top leaders, selecting individuals who best reflect leadership, power and influence in Georgia.

The City of Temple was named the 40th safest city in Georgia, with a population of more than 4,000, for 2016. SafeWise, a national home security company, reviews the most recent FBI crime report statistics, along with population data, to determine the rankings. Congratulations to the Temple Police Department, city officials and the citizens of Temple.

Graduation rates continue to rise for Carroll County Schools. Since the 2010-11 school year, the district graduation rate has increased from 67.1 percent to 85.05 percent in 2015-16, an overall increase of 17.95 percent. Temple High School had the highest graduation rate at 92.41 percent, followed by Mt. Zion with 89.8 percent.

In more Carroll County Schools news, Central High School has been named as one of only five high schools in Georgia to be an AP Champion Award School. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses offered by trained high school teachers in the regular high school setting. Central High School offers students AP courses in English, science, math, calculus and statistics, World History, U.S. History, and psychology. Nearly 350 students complete coursework in the AP sections offered at Central High School.

The University of West Georgia named David Dean, former UWG assistant coach and Valdosta State head coach, as the new head football coach. Dean becomes the 12th head coach in the program’s history.
Thank You Renewing Members

Your membership is a symbol of confidence in the work of the Carroll County Chamber and its volunteers. We sincerely thank renewing members for your ongoing support. Please remember these partners when you do business.

25+ years
Bank of the Ozarks – Main
Barnes Moving & Storage Co., Inc.
Brack, Carl E.
Carroll County Farm Bureau
Carroll EMC
Carrollton Area CVB
City of Carrollton
Communication Services Integrated, Inc.
Shirley Garrett
J & R Construction & Development, Inc.
J. Hoyt Thomas Funeral Home, Inc.
J. Smith Lanier Company
Martin & Hightower Funeral Home
The McBrayer Company Inc.
McEvers Awards, Trophies and Gifts
Metro West Realty
Oak Grove Montessori School
Sit N Sleep, Inc.
Southern A & E, LLC
Southern Therapy Services, Inc.
Systems and Methods, Inc.
The Times-Georgian
Walker Cadillac Buick GMC, Inc.
Walker Meats Corporation
West GA Gastroenterology Assoc., P.C.
West Georgia Regional Library

15-19 years
Advantage Office Solutions
Atlanta Gas Light
BB&T Insurance Services, Inc.
Lee Campbell
Carrollton Eye Clinic
Carrollton First Baptist Church, Inc.
Carrollton Housing Authority
Cottage Landing Senior Living
Duffy Appraisals, Inc.
Eagle South Properties
Hannah Electric Company, Inc.
Honey Baked Ham Company
R.K. Redding Construction, Inc.
Wal-mart.com Fulfillment Center

10-14 years
Carrollton Office Equipment Co. Inc.
Carter A. Graff
Hampton Inn
IHOP
MY Financial Center
Super 8 Carrollton

6-9 years
American Flooring Services, Inc.
American Pie Pizzeria
C and C Fabrication
Carrollton Club Apartments
Cheer's Fine Wine and Spirits
Dog River Grading
Garrett & Robinson Investment
Great Southern Agency, LLC
Indulge Salon & Day Spa
Intertex World Resources
Lazy Donkey Mexican Restaurant
Lovvorn Construction, Inc.
MCL Industries
Milestone Investment Management, LLC
Mill Town Music Hall
Millwork Sales & Salvage
Municipal Hydro Services
Pugmire Ford
Southern Home & Ranch Center Ace Hardware
Star News
True Natural Gas

Continued on page 19
The Carroll County Chamber turns the spotlight on Sportsplex Health & Athletic Club as the Business of the Month. Established in 1979, owners are John Harris, Cliff Harris and Bubba Barker, and manager is Sherry Wilson. Sportsplex offers programming for all fitness levels, including Silver Sneakers for seniors. Offerings include state-of-the-art equipment, heated in-door saltwater pool, tanning beds, racquetball court, more than 40 group fitness classes, certified personal trainers, and childcare. Sportsplex is open seven days a week at 106 Somerset Place, Carrollton. The Business of the Month is an activity of the Business Development Committee.