Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.

- Jack Welch
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Dear Chamber Members:

I love this time of the year. Reflecting on the past twelve months of non-stop activity and anticipating what’s ahead for Carroll County – what’s not to love?

First, allow me to salute 2014 Chamber Chair Kathy Yates for an incredible year. Her theme was “Run for the Roses” which instantly brings to mind champions – defined as those who show marked superiority. What a great way to describe the 2014 program of work.

Sold out membership breakfasts and annual dinner, more than 30 ribbon cuttings and grand openings, the renewal of the Chamber travel program, five highly successful networking-after-hours events, new government affairs reception, first Logistics Summit with partner West Georgia Technical College, 10th anniversary of Substance Abuse Summit and Keep Carroll Beautiful – both started by the Chamber. And the list goes on and on……..

A significant accomplishment for 2014 was the culmination of the efforts of the Blue Ribbon Task Force as they outlined goals and action plans for the Workforce Education Task Force strategic plan. Three committees have been established to coordinate efforts for the education community, business community, and government and local leaders as we all continue to work together to ensure a well-trained and highly qualified workforce for Carroll County.

And now we turn our focus to 2015 which is the 60th anniversary of our Chamber. Chair Ben Butler is the perfect person to guide us through this year as we celebrate our “Legacy of Leadership.” A series of awards will be presented throughout the year to spotlight those community giants who have paved the way for our county’s many successes.

A new opportunity is already underway as we participate in the GeorgiaLEADS initiative sponsored by the Georgia Chamber and the Fanning Institute for Leadership development. Chosen because of strong existing leadership programs, we now have the chance to move our efforts to the next level.

As always, it is my honor and privilege to represent the great people of Carroll County. Thank you for supporting the Chamber through your membership and sponsorships, your participation and your presence.

Daniel Jackson, President/CEO

Dear friends of Carroll County and the Chamber of Commerce:

It is a great honor to serve as your Chairman for 2015. Along with our outstanding staff and dedicated board members, our Chamber represents a network of business and individuals working together to “Grow Business in our Community.” This is our mission and ultimately what makes this a great community to live, work, and play.

The sign of any stable and successful organization is continued improvement year after year. Each new year has brought record attendance, new and exciting events, and growth in membership. The Carroll County Chamber continues to innovate and evaluate itself, making it one of the most successful, stable, and influential chambers in the state of Georgia.

This year represents the Carroll County Chamber’s 60th anniversary and what an incredible story we get to tell. “A Legacy of Leadership” is our theme for 2015 and we will recognize several significant events from these past 60 years. Strong leadership is the difference between a good community and a great community; the stakeholders involved and decisions made these last 60 years have positioned Carroll County as a GREAT community.

Please join us at one of our events this year. All you have to do is show up and we’ll take care of the rest. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, I welcome your input. My email is ben.butler@carrolltonortho.com.

All the best,

Ben Butler, 2015 Chairman
For the third year in a row, Tanner Health System’s hospitals — Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton, Tanner Medical Center/Villa Rica and Higgins General Hospital — have been recognized among the Top Hospitals in Georgia by Georgia Trend.

This caps an outstanding year of accolades for Tanner Health System, which continues to receive recognition among the nation’s top healthcare providers.

For the third year in a row, Tanner, exceptional care is a team of providers using the best practices and latest research to deliver the best possible outcomes. Success is ensuring that we provide the best care to every patient, every time.

Some healthcare organizations focus on how many people they serve.

At Tanner Health System, we focus on YOU.

At Tanner, exceptional care is a team of providers using the best practices and latest research to deliver the best possible outcomes. Success is ensuring that we provide the best care to every patient, every time.

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- Carroll County Sheriff’s Office
- Gas South

- Southern States Bank
- Times Georgian
- University of West Georgia
- West Georgia Technical College

**Silver**

- Ag South Farm Credit ACA/Ag South Mortgages
- Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic

- Cottage Landing Senior Living
- Milestone Investment Management, LLC

**Bronze**

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- First Baptist Church, Carrollton
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2015 Chamber Executive Committee & Board of Directors

Chairman: Ben Butler, Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic, P.C.
Chairman-Elect: Gary Hewitt, Southland Insurance Agency
Vice Chairman: Amy Brown, State Farm Insurance Agency/Amy Brown
Treasurer: Kenneth Blizzard, Regions Bank
Past Chairman: Kathy Yates, Georgia Power

Kristy Allison  Community & Southern Bank
Todd Anduze  Small Business Development Center
Greg Camp  Culpepper Construction Company
Cindy Clanton  Carroll County School System
Casey Coleman  City of Carrollton
Mayor Keith Crawford  City of Bowdon
Steve Daniel  West Georgia Technical College
Barbara Daniell  City of Villa Rica
Jill Duncan  State Farm Insurance/Jill Duncan
Dr. Bill Estes  University of West Georgia
Theresa Fisher  Sugar Foods Corporation
Deandra Gamble  Charter Bank
Lucy Gamble  City of Whitesburg
Jay Gill  Carroll EMC
Paula Gillispie  Oak Mountain Academy
Mayor Lester Harmon  City of Temple
Galen Hobbs  Community Representative Independent
Brian Jackson  Cottage Landing Senior Living
John Jackson  Greer Jackson Tisinger, LLC
Andy Johnson  GreenCourt Legal Technologies, LLC
Jan Lloyd  City of Bowdon
Chris Marlow  Southwire
Kelly Meigs  Tanner Health System
Trent North  Carroll County Commissioners
Will Ozier  Ozier Products, Inc.
Mayor Randy Simms  City of Mt. Zion
Brad Smith  Sustainable Recycling Solutions
Bill Stone  Systems & Methods, Inc.
Michael Stone  Milestone Investment
Kinney Taylor  Edward Jones Investments/K. Taylor

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Joan Finch  Information Specialist & Drugs Don’t Work Coordinator
joan@carroll-ga.org

Lauren Holverson  Manager
The Burson Center
lauren@carroll-ga.org
2014 Award Winners

Rev. Joe Neal, retired industry executive and pastor, was honored as the Citizen of the Year.

Aaron McWhorter, owner of North Georgia Turf, was named Entrepreneur of the Year.

Kelly Meigs, director of Marketing and Public Relations for Tanner Health System, was presented the Horizon Award for volunteerism.

Ben Butler, CEO of Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic, accepts the gavel from outgoing chair Kathy Yates as he became the 2015 Chairman of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Mark Albertus (right), principal of Carrollton High School, is congratulated by Tom Upchurch for his selection as recipient of the Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award.

April Harris, owner of the Squire Shop in Carrollton, is congratulated by Chamber President Daniel Jackson as she was named Small Business Person of the Year.
2014 Award Winners

Alicia Michael (center) was named the Women’s Business Alliance 2014 Woman of the Year. Jill Duncan (l), WBA chair, and Cricket Strickland, 2013 winner, made the presentation.

The Carroll County Chamber hosted the 2014 STAR Student/Teacher Achievement Recognition honoring students and teachers from the Carroll County School System, Carrollton City School System and Oak Mountain Academy.

Greg and Lainya Hutchins of Heritage Farms, along with their children, accept the Agribusiness Award from Jim Griffith (right) of Tanner Health System at the annual Harvest Dinner sponsored by the Agribusiness Committee.

The Carroll County Chamber’s Environmental Projects Committee presented three Silver Beautification Awards for 2014. Chamber Chair Kathy Yates (left) congratulates winners (l-r) Jim Griffith for the Emergency Room/Short Stay expansion at Tanner Health System, Gerald Pilgrim for the Carroll County Court House, and Linda Shaw for the Pine Mountain Gold Museum/City of Villa Rica.
More Award Winners

Wood Cole (center), grandson of the late Woodfin Cole, accepted the first Legacy of Leadership Award on behalf of his grandfather who served as the first chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in 1955. The presentation was made at the 60th Carroll County Chamber annual dinner. A series of awards will be made throughout the year to recognize outstanding community and Chamber leaders during the past 60 years. 2015 Chamber Chair Ben Butler (second from left) celebrated with Cole family members (l-r) Eddie Cole, Wood and his wife Kelly, and Woody Cole.

UGA Cooperative Extension Coordinator Paula Burke (left) presented the Business Award to Larry and Donice Wood for Villa Rica Vines and Wine vineyard as part of the Agribusiness Committee's Farm City Week Celebration.

The foursome from MetroBank won first place at the annual golf tournament.

Carmen Prather of Gas South (right) made the presentation of the Agribusiness Committee's Special Award to Kenny and Kayla McDermitt and their children to honor the family's commitment to educating local elementary children about farming.
Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is a 15-week program that prepares, challenges, and engages emerging and existing leaders to strengthen the community. Participants are exposed to the larger community, exploring the public/city government sector, private business sectors, and not-for-profit organizations that play a role in building a strong community.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy Class of 2014.

2014 Leadership Academy participates enjoyed a daylong tour of several Carroll County industries.

Several members of the Chamber's Leadership Academy presented an $800 donation to CASA for use on technology upgrades for the non-profit organization. As a service project for the 2014 class, participants provided suggestions on several areas identified by CASA.

Nothing encourages team building like a kick-off activity at the Historic Banning Mills zip line!

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy Class of 2014.

Leadership Academy

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Executive Director

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Membership in the Carroll County Chamber offers many advantages for business success not enjoyed by non-members. The purpose of a Chamber is to assist you as a business owner by providing valuable tools to help you grow your business.

As a Chamber member you have many business advantages including the following:

- You are now part of a network of local businesses with similar community interests and concerns and are able to interact with like-minded business owners and professionals.
- You are a member of a team with a goal of increasing global awareness of your community and its commerce, as well as your individual business or service. We speak as a unified voice regarding community and business issues.
- You have a platform from which to express opinions and offer information to the public. Through the use of available technology you can broadcast your business or service locally and globally.
- You have access to a public forum for community involvement, education, cultural activities, and public debate.

What does the Chamber do for you? Take your pick from year-round activities!

- Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony
- Chamber 101
- WBA Coffee Break
- New Board Orientation
- Business of the Month

February
- Chamber Board Meeting
- Leadership Academy Kick-Off
- Business Success Seminar
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Networking After Hours

March
- Chamber Board Meeting
- Legislative Reception
- Wake-Up Call
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Business Success Seminar

April
- Chamber Board Meeting
- Golf Tournament
- Business of the Month
- Business Success Seminar
- WBA Coffee Break
- Networking After Hours

May
- Chamber Board Meeting
- Chamber 101
- Lunch on the Chamber
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break

June
- Chamber Board Meeting
- Leadership Academy Kick-Off
- Business Success Seminar
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Networking After Hours
Join a team that is “Growing Business in our Community”

- You contribute to community pride by putting the community on display, promoting activities and events that present the chamber members as vibrant and involved.
- You have access to a recognized business support center in the community with online selling tools to increase your sales through the internet.
- You have access to and may contribute to the community calendar, which is used to disseminate information on community events, business meetings and items of interest to chamber members, as well as the public.
- You are now listed in the Chamber’s powerful business directory, for easy access by other members, but primarily by members of the public who may be looking for your business or service.
- You have full-time representation and full-time results.
- You have a “watchdog” protecting your interests politically and economically.
- You also have access to new technology which expands your web of influence, your access to information, and your ability to communicate through the internet and the use of mobile devices.

Take your pick from year-round activities!

- **July**
  - Business of the Month
  - WBA Coffee Break

- **August**
  - Chamber Board Meeting
  - Business of the Month
  - WBA Coffee Break
  - Membership Breakfast

- **September**
  - Membership BBQ
  - Networking After Hours
  - Business Success Seminar
  - Business of the Month
  - Farm/School Tour
  - Washington Fly-In

- **October**
  - Chamber Board Retreat
  - Business of the Month
  - Business Success Seminar
  - Networking After Hours
  - Manufacturing Day Industry Tour

- **November**
  - Harvest Dinner
  - Legislative Membership Breakfast
  - WBA Award Luncheon
  - Business of the Month

- **December**
  - Chamber Board Meeting
  - Forward Carroll Appreciation Breakfast
  - Networking After Hours
2015 Program of Work
“A Legacy of Leadership”

MISSION
Growing Business in Our Community

VISION
Building a Stronger Business Community by Engaging Progressive Leadership and Diverse Resources

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Innovative, Resourceful, Member Driven, Honest, Inclusive

Business Development Committee
Goal: To maximize growth of local business, new ventures and entrepreneurship
Actions:
• Select the “Small Business Person of the Year” award
• Select the Silver Awards
• Host 4 Business Success Luncheons & 2 Morning Success Seminars
• Expand the “Shop Carroll First” to a year round marketing campaign
• Broader the minority representation and county wide representation on committee
• Partner with Ambassador Committee to conduct “Business of the Month”
• Continue to promote the Burson Center
• Promote & support tourism opportunities in Carroll County

Agribusiness Committee
Goal: To promote the continued growth of agricultural enterprises and agri-tourism
Actions:
• Plan the Farm City Harvest Dinner
• Plan Farm/School Tour
• Encourage Chamber membership for new / existing agribusiness
• Support efforts for growing, selling, processing, distributing, and marketing locally grown food products

Government Affairs Committee
Goal: To represent the business interests of Carroll County to local, regional, state and federal policymakers
Actions:
• Discuss / support the Georgia Chamber Legislative agenda
• Advise Chamber Board / membership on legislative issues and determine official positions when appropriate
• Coordinate the Membership Legislative Breakfast
• Represent the Chamber at legislative functions
• Sponsor the legislative trip to Washington DC
• Look for opportunities for training, forums, briefings, etc. for legislative issues
• Encourage good leaders to run for elected positions and consider providing a community orientation program for those interested in public service

Ambassador Committee
Goal: To support member interests of the Chamber, promote Chamber sponsored activities and encourage member involvement
Actions:
• Act as host for Chamber events
• Seek feedback from membership on programs / services
• Assist staff with member recruitment / retention
• Sponsor Lunch on the Chamber

Leadership Academy
Goal: To develop new, talented leadership for the Chamber and community
Actions:
• Coordinate annual Leadership Academy
• Recommend applicants for Leadership Georgia
• Encourage minority participation

Youth Entrepreneur & Leadership Development
Goal: To improve students’ opportunities and chances for success in their academic and career futures
Actions:
• Create a Junior Chamber Board
• Reach out to all high schools including public and private for participants
• Develop personal skills, community service involvement and access to career development
• Continue a Youth Entrepreneur Academy

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Women’s Business Alliance Committee
Goal: To promote the balanced interests and lifestyles of the community’s professional women
Actions:
• Sponsor up to 3 events
• Sponsor monthly networking “Coffee Break”
• Plan one event annually to invite men
• Secure sponsorships for events
• Select a “Woman of the Year”

Workforce Education Task Force
Goal: To encourage life-long learning and support the development of a highly trained and educated workforce
Actions:
• Activate and promote the Blue Ribbon Task Force strategic plan
• Support and generate teacher and student recognition/appreciation programs events such as Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) and STAR Student / Teacher Program

Special Projects
• Golf Tournament
• Facilities Taskforce

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Chamber Happenings  -  Good Times!!!
2015 Major Programs & Events

Annual Dinner Meeting
Membership Breakfasts
Networking After Hours
Morning Coffee Breaks
Business Success Seminars
Leadership Academy
STAR Student/Teacher Breakfast
Chamber 101
Business of the Month Recognition
Golf Tournament
Women’s Business Alliance Symposiums
Membership BBQ
Lunch on the Chamber
Workforce Education Forum
Economic Forecast Breakfast
Farm-City Harvest Dinner
Forward Carroll Breakfast
GeorgiaLEADS
Junior Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Reception & Breakfast
Youth Entrepreneur Academy

Committees and Chairs

Business Development - Amy Brown
Agribusiness - Natalie Howard
Government Affairs - John Jackson
Ambassador - LeAnne Reese
Leadership Academy - Kenneth Blizzard
Junior Chamber Board - Tom Hall
Women’s Business Alliance - Jill Duncan
Workforce Education Task Force - Wayne Johnson

Ad Hoc Committee

Facilities Task Force - Greg Camp

Our committees are led by hardworking volunteers seeking to address those issues that are of most benefit to our membership. Through participation, members have an opportunity to have input in initiatives that are of interest to them and their businesses.

Fundraiser/Event Committees

2016 Annual Meeting - Gary Hewitt
Golf Tournament - Jay Gill
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At Southwire, we believe education is the key to success. Through partnerships with the University of West Georgia (Richards College of Business), West Georgia Technical College (Southwire Center for Manufacturing Excellence), Carroll County Schools (12 for Life) and Carrollton High School (Southwire Engineering Academy), we are helping students build brighter futures. It’s another way we deliver power...responsibly.
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Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Membership Benefits

Created in 1955, your Chamber is the only local organization that focuses 100 percent of its time and efforts on improving the quality of life for all citizens of Carroll County. The Chamber’s mission is: Growing Business in Our Community!

Administrative phone number to reach all staff: 770-832-2446. Anytime you need assistance, feel free to call upon our friendly, efficient staff.

Advertising and Marketing
Each year the Chamber offers opportunities for its membership to sponsor various events such as Networking After Hours, Wake Up Calls, Lunch on the Chamber, etc. This may be one of the biggest opportunities to receive a “Return on Your Investment” as a Chamber member as they provide opportunities for personal marketing.

*Annual Dinner
*Networking After Hours
*Wake Up Calls
*Forward Carroll
*Leadership Academy
*Women’s Business Alliance
*Lunch on the Chamber
*STAR Student/Teacher Breakfast
*Manufacturing Day Industry Tour

Chamber Lobby – With our central location and great visibility from the intersection of Highway 61 and the 166 Bypass, we receive numerous walk-in visits each day. The Chamber serves as a welcome center to tourists as well as prospective residents and business owners. All members are encouraged to display their brochures or business cards, at no additional cost, in the Chamber’s lobby.

Committee Participation
The Chamber has several committees that help develop programs, create policies, and assist with activities and events in all areas of the Chamber’s program of work.

*Business Development
*Agribusiness
*Golf Tournament
*Government Affairs
*Ambassador
*Women’s Business Alliance
*Leadership Academy
*Youth Entrepreneur Academy
*Junior Chamber of Commerce
*Workforce Education Task Force
*GeorgiaLEADS

Community Magazine – The magazine is widely utilized by the Chamber and others in the community to promote Carroll County as a great place to live and work. Published every other year, it serves as a core document for our community information packet. Magazine advertisements are available at a variety of sizes and prices, and are sold by an outside contractor on behalf of the Chamber.

Directory/website: www.carroll-ga.org - Our member companies represent businesses of all types and sizes and our membership directory serves as business catalog for Carroll County’s best products and services. One of the many values of membership is a listing and link on our website. Visitors can find your business listing three ways- alphabetically, by category or by using key words. Members can showcase their business even more by adding multiple listings, events, job openings and hot deals directly to our website—at no charge. Visitors can visit member websites as well as their social media sites such as Facebook with just one click. In addition, a pdf version of our complete directory is available online for download.

The Carroll Chamber website is a wealth of information with direct links to resources to meet all your business needs and also includes information about the area for individuals inter-

Advocacy - Chamber members have the opportunity to become active in the Government Affairs Committee to provide input on policies affecting business operation.

Ambassadors – Chamber member volunteers serve as “goodwill” ambassadors to the community on behalf of the Chamber in addition to serving as the official welcoming crew for new members.

Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony – An elegant evening gathering held each year for all members. The event is highlighted by the presentation of the following awards: Citizen of the Year, Horizon, Entrepreneur of the Year, and the Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award.

Chamber 101 – Meetings are held regularly to orient new members to Chamber programs and activities. Each orientation will feature staff members presenting useful information concerning the benefits of membership.
interested in relocating. As an added benefit and a service to the community, our website hosts a “community calendar” that provides visitors and local residents with information and dates on festivals and special events in our area.

**Drugs Don't Work** – The Chamber offers a drug-free workplace program, “Drugs Don’t Work.” Receive a 7.5 percent discount on workman’s compensation insurance when completing the certification process to become a “Drugs Don’t Work” site.

**Eblasts** – 1200 copies distributed each week. Send your 55 words or less submission by 5 pm on Wednesday with your member updates or event. Member updates are on a first come, first served basis and are limited to the first five member submissions. Don’t let this opportunity to advertise your upcoming event pass you by!

**Economic/Industrial Development** – The Chamber collaborates with Carroll Tomorrow to recruit new businesses, industry and tourists to our area and provides expansion support for existing industry.

**Leadership Academy** – The Academy is a 15-week program designed to enhance personal leadership skills, establish professional relationships, and prepare individuals to become actively involved in shaping the future of Carroll County.

**Membership Labels** – A complete set of membership labels is available to all members for a nominal fee.

**Networking After Hours and Wake Up Calls** – These events are designed to encourage Chamber member networking within a social setting and are sponsored by the hosting Chamber members.

**Newsletter** – This publication is a monthly e-newsletter sent to our membership in an HTML format highlighting informative happenings and upcoming events. This format offers full color advertising for your business at affordable prices. The Chamber News is published the first business day of each month.

- Business Card 2x3 - $20
- ¼ Page 4x5 - $30
- ½ Page 5x8 - $40
- Full Page - $50

**Notary and Certificate of Origin** – Utilize the free notary service and Certificate of Origin service through the Chamber.

**Professional Development** – Business and Professional Development Seminars are held throughout the year in our Chamber Conference Room and at The Burson Center. In addition, members are encouraged to utilize free one-on-one consultation with the Chamber staff, Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute to learn ways to improve your business and discover additional resources in the community.

**Referrals** – Our staff responds to phone, fax, mail, and miscellaneous inquiries for information. When requested by the customer, staff members serve as referral agents for area businesses using rotating lists of Chamber members.

**Relocation Packet Program** – Callers who request relocation information are immediately mailed a package from the Chamber. Chamber members can, for a nominal fee, include company information in this packet.

**Ribbon Cuttings** – All new businesses are invited to host a ribbon cutting. The Chamber will perform ribbon cuttings for grand openings, ground breakings, new locations, etc. Ribbon cutting pictures are printed in the Chamber newsletter and are provided to the business for their use.

**Shop Carroll First** – An on-going shop at home campaign promotes local shopping.

**Social Media – Facebook** Our pages are your pages. Share your stories and events on our pages and gain exclusive access to unique Chamber benefits.
Businesses of the Month

Duffey Realty

Honey Baked Ham Company

Edward Jones Investments/Fred O’Neal

McNeilus Truck & Manufacturing

Papa Johns Pizza

Greg Cooks Fine Jewelry and Diamonds
Networking After Hours

Chamber members can spotlight their business by hosting an after-hours networking event at their place of business. 2014 hosts were Mill Town Music Hall, Milestone Investment Management, Times-Georgian, RA-LIN and Associates, West Georgia Roofing, West Georgia Electric, Weddings for you & Event Planning Too.
West Georgia’s Family Concert Venue
Where the stars shine bright on a Georgia Night

Michael W. Smith
Restless Heart
Charlie Daniels
Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers
Amy Grant

1031 Alabama Avenue, Bremen, GA 770.537.6455 www.milltownmusichall.com

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485 West Bankhead Highway | 770-459-3100

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The WBA is a unique and highly successful organization that promotes the balanced interests and lifestyles of the community’s professional women. Activities include monthly networking events, social opportunities and an annual seminar where the “Woman of the Year” award is presented.
More Ribbon Cuttings
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www.americancommercebank.com

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