

April 19, 2013

President's message: I feel like we have been quiet in the 1st quarter of 2013, but please don't think that quietness is a reflection of our work level. On the contrary, we made the decision to pursue the All-America City award and quietly worked on the tedious application process. That paid off with last week's announcement that Thomasville NC is a finalist!

We have much more work to do as this project remains the priority for the next two months. But regular programming continues with emphasis on governmental advocacy, buy local promotion, small business initiatives, leadership development, working with new business prospects, EnVision 2020 strategies, and even *Everybody's Day* (yes, year-round).

We will be experiencing more staff transition soon but promise to keep the momentum going and *Thomasville On The Move!*

Doug Croft

Doug Croft, IOM
President

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→ The Chamber hosted a local Economic Development Conference in late March. Representatives of the Chamber, business community, City Hall, and Davidson County EDC met

for three hours. With several EnVision strategies in focus, the discussion centered on three topics:

- Investment in a new business / industrial park
- Investment in a game-changing workforce development initiative (related to economic development)
- Investment in business development for retail & service sectors

A follow-up session is planned for early May.

→ We shared these three great commercial links earlier this week. Look for these local commercials on HGTV, Weather Channel, CNN, Fox News, History Channel & ESPN2.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuI5bjH1lY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJjnNn569Pc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWPZbXUv7-g>

Additionally, here is a 4-minute piece about shopping in Thomasville:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liNLudITMzM>

→ Check out this 30-second video featuring our recent Youth Leadership program graduates.

<http://www.qwiki.com/v/TsbvU1HK>

Thanks to Duke Energy, Dal Styers Agency, Joel Pierce, Linda Roney, Shell Rapid Lube, Tomlinson / Erwin Lambeth, Laser Print Plus, Thomasville Veterinary Hospital, Modern Motors, Jennifer Burton, Thomasville Chamber Foundation, and your online votes in the Ruby Tuesday “Give” contest!

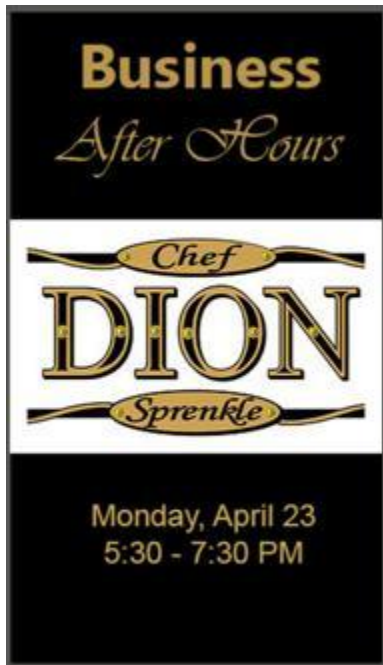
Speaking of Ruby Tuesday, you’re invited to the actual check presentation on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the local Ruby Tuesday restaurant on Randolph St.

→ Check out this 30-second video featuring our emerging business leaders Leadership Davidson County session on April 18, 2013 <http://www.qwiki.com/v/fUjMVSdG>

→ We are excited to announce a new energetic group, focused on action and some specific projects. Though not defined as such, we expect members from our Leads Club and some younger professionals to engage. A tentative quick project is a “Buy Local Business Expo” in mid June, Small Business Week Awards in May, and possibly a HiToms project in the summer. Being organized by Jarrod Dunbar (Tom A. Finch Community YMCA), Greg Suire (HiToms Baseball), and Doug Croft (Chamber staff), the group’s meeting will be April 29 at lunch. Email doug.croft@thomasvillechamber.net for more information. All members are invited!

→ Our friends at the Northern Davidson Chamber have invited Thomasville Chamber members to attend their next Business After Hours scheduled for April 23 at Dion’s in Welcome. They also have a limited number of business showcase tables at the event for \$35. Businesses are

welcome to display product, business cards and collateral, as well as conduct a “fish bowl” drawing to collect business cards. Interested businesses can contact Randy Turner at president@ndchamber.biz.



Business Hero – Holly Hill Apartments

- Congratulations to award recipients at the Chamber's Annual meeting.
- Ben Watford (Watford Realty) was recognized with the Outstanding Citizen Award
 - George Miller (BB&T) received the Chairman's Award



Ben Watford receiving Outstanding Citizen Award



Business Hero – Thomasville Times & High Point Enterprise

→ Chamber President Doug Croft has been asked to serve as a class advisor at the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management this summer at the University of Georgia. He will spend a week advising 1st year Chamber staffers from Chambers of Commerce throughout the southeast.

"I feel pretty honored being asked to serve," says Croft. "I attended the Institute program for six years, completing it in 1994. This will be my first time back."

Croft's class will spend a week in intensive training, coaching, and collegiate-level coursework geared towards rookie Chamber and not-for-profit association professionals. "I won't actually be teaching specific courses; I'll be a class advisor. Sort of like a home room teacher who facilitates the students' learning experience while offering some seasoned advice and coaching."

There is no compensation associated with the role. In fact, Croft will bear travel and lodging expenses, plus provide service. "Athens is a great place; the program is 1st class fantastic; and I can't wait to be back at 'Institute' at UGA!"

→ Earlier in the year, members of the Board of Directors elected the following Chamber officers:

Hope Surratt – Chairman of the Board
Ballard, Surratt & Co.

Kathie Johnson – Treasurer & Chair Elect
Novant Health Thomasville Medical Center

Kevan Callicutt – V.C. Economic Dev. & Education

A Cleaner World

George Miller – V. C. Community Development
BB&T

Rod Lambeth – V.C. Governmental Advocacy
Tomlinson/Erwin-Lambeth

Jennifer Boyles – V. C. Chamber Development
Nationwide Insurance

Philip Young – V.C. Thomasville on the Move
Carolina Safety Sport

Dr. Karl Milliren – Immediate Past Chair
Thomasville Veterinary Hospital

→ Our partner, the Small Business Center at DCCC has three great programs coming up here in Thomasville. Visit the Small Business Center for more information:

<http://www.davidsonccc.edu/sbc>

ABC Budgeting for Small Business

Monday, April 22 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Thomasville Public Library

This course will teach you the fundamentals of setting up a budget, establishing goals and monitoring progress. The class will review all aspects of debt management with an emphasis on increased cash flow through streamlining current cash application processes.

How to Start a Business

Monday, May 6 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Thomasville Public Library

Learn the major considerations that it takes to start a business. This session covers practical steps to turning your skill into a business.

SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

*Growth
&
Prosperity*

Thursday, May 23

8:30am - 4:30pm

Davidson County Community College
Conference Center
297 DCCC Rd.
Thomasville, NC 27360

Featuring:

Presentations on Business Development Strategies.
Hear Business Experiences, Community Efforts,
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THE COLLEGE OF
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\$15 Registration includes lunch. Call (336) 994-3220
For more information: www.davidsonccc.edu/sbc

SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

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Go to www.davidsonccc.edu/sbc for details.

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