

**2018 Annual Report**

**Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce**

**A Year in Review**

*Chamber Transition*

Early 2017 brought the resignation of 17-year Chamber President, Lil Easterlin. Lil decided it was time to dedicate her full-time efforts to the Development Authority of Jefferson County. With that decision, Amy Howard was hired to fulfill the Chamber’s vacancy as President. We are 18-months in and as busy as ever!

*Programming & Events*

What an eventful year - Casino Night, STAR Student Banquet, the Community Update Series and an outdoor Annual Meeting filled with music and barbeque! It has been an event-packed year and one I hope you’ll enjoy reviewing within the pages of this report.

*Operating Highlights*

2018 was a year of social connection and community awareness! The Chamber blasted lots of announcements and information to its members via email, Facebook and Instagram. The Chamber’s newly designed website was launched in early spring. On it you’ll find program details, a member directory and other lots of other valuable information! New programs were also added: Youth Leadership Jefferson County, HR Roundtable, First Friday Coffees and the ever-popular Community Update series focusing on 7 different facets of the community throughout the year.

**Looking Ahead**

*So, What’s Next?*

2019 is filled with promise! A new county map is one project the Chamber will begin working on in the new year. The Chamber is also looking forward to hosting a Business Builder Series of Lunch & Learns as well as workshops, Leadership Jefferson and a Casino Night themed New Orleans-style!

**Our Mission**

* *To pursue those activities which create and support a business environment conducive to enhancing the prosperity of the commercial, industrial, residential and retail elements of Jefferson County in order to advance a civic, economic, cultural and social betterment for and through our members.*
*

**Who Are Our Members?**

The *Industries* and *Professional Services, Restaurants & Retail* categories are small businesses. Small businesses are defined as employing 500 or less.

**Chamber Details**

 ***Our 2018 programs & events were attended by 1000+ attendees!***

**7 Community Updates**

*Jefferson Hospital* *• Economic Development • Municipalities • Jefferson County Board of Education • County Budget • Public Safety • Dept. of Transportation*

**Public Speaking Workshop**

 *Presented by Michael Howard*

**Google Workshop**

*Presented by Official Google Trainer, Demming Bass*

**Legislative Breakfast**

*Senator Jesse Stone• Representative Mack Jackson • Representative Brian Prince*

 **STAR Student Banquet**

*County STAR Student – Luke Rodgers • County STAR Teacher – Tommy Browne*

 **Annual Meeting**

*Music • Barbeque*

 **Casino Night**

*Are You Ready for Some Football • Chamber’s Annual Fundraiser*

**4 HR Roundtables**

*@ Battle Lumber Company – Series Expectations & Goals • @ Queensborough – Employment Laws •*

*@ Jefferson Hospital – Employee Healthcare • @ Jefferson County High School - Workforce*

**Community Shred Day**

*In partnership with Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company*

**Cemetery Tour**

*In partnership with Jefferson County Historical Society*

**3 First Friday Coffees**

*Networking Opportunity for Chamber Members*

**5 Ribbon Cuttings**

*Redeemed Automotive • Something Wonderful • JK & Company • Jefferson Hospital* *Rehabilitation Center • Mulberry & Magnolia*

**Youth Leadership Jefferson County**

*Introducing our Youth to Jefferson County industry, local governmental agencies and fine-tuning soft skills.*

**Community Shred Day**

3 Hours of Shredding = 3850 lbs Shredded

***Environmental Savings:***

32 trees

13,475 Gallons of water

9.6 cubic yards of landfill space

**Casino Night**

***$2,704.49 raised*** *& reinvested in our community to assist with funding of Chamber programs & events!*

**2017-2018 Youth Leadership Jefferson County**

***18*** *Students*

***32*** *Speakers*

***16*** *Visits & Tours*

***431*** *Community Service Hours*

***50*** *Council and/or Commission Meetings Attended*

LaTia Berry • Tyreik Carlyle • Jennifer Dudley • Warthen Evans • Dawson Gardner • Juasia Hiers • Evans Hodges • Amaiya Hunt • Sreshta Jahnu • Anushka Jhaveri • Thomas Knight • Remington Mathis • Alysia Mills • Taylor Palmore • Brinson Raley • Tripp Smith • Logan Wasden • Alaylla Watkins

***Chamber of Commerce Partners***

***The Chamber worked with many community partners in 2018!***

|  |
| --- |
| ARDA |
| Blaze |
| Bustlin’ on Broad |
| Buzzard Blast |
| City of Louisville |
| City of Wadley |
| City of Wrens |
| Classic South Tourism |
| CSRA Regional CommissionDowntown Business Merchants |
| Drugs Don’t Work |
| GA Chamber of Commerce |
| Jefferson County Commission |
| Jefferson County Development Authority |
| Jefferson County High School |
| Jefferson County Historical Society |
| Jefferson County Rotary Club |
| Jefferson Energy Cooperative |
| Jefferson Hospital |
| Jefferson Hospital Foundation |
| KaMin |
| Louisville Downtown Development Authority |
| Louisville Food Pantry |
| Louisville Kiwanis Club |
| NextSite 360 |
| Oconee Fall Line Technical College |
| Peachtree Publishing |
| Queensborough |
| SHIPS for Youth |
| Small Business Development Center |
| SOR (State of the Region) |
| The News and FarmerThomas Jefferson Academy |
| WPEH |

***2018 Executive Board of Directors***

**Rosie Burge**, *Chairman*

*Bartow Community Club*

**Parish Howard**, *Vice-Chairman*

*The News and Farmer*

**Brent Dye**, *Secretary*

*Integrated Healthcare Resources*

**Ric Miller**, *Treasurer*

*First State Bank*

**Billy Valduga**, *Past-President*

*State Farm Insurance Agency*

***2018 Board of Directors***

**Tesie Bowles**, *Queensborough National Bank and Trust Company*

**Amber Dowdy**, *Thomas Jefferson Academy*

**Jennifer Eubanks**, *To the Top Youth Center*

**Jessica Guy**, *Jefferson Hospital*

**Matt Hodges**, *Oconee Fall Line Technical College*

**Tammy Hodges**, *Jefferson County High School*

**Charles Mathis**, *Jefferson Energy Cooperative*

**Sandi Shields**, *BEST Office Solutions*

**Rob Swan**, *Battle Lumber Company*

**Thank you to the Chamber’s 2018 sponsors!**

***2018 Chairman’s Circle Sponsors***

**Queensborough National Bank and Trust Company**

**First State Bank**

**Battle Lumber Company**

*This group sponsored ALL 2018 Chamber events.*

***Gold Sponsors***

**Jefferson Energy Cooperative**

*Sponsored Legislative Breakfast*

***Magnolia Sponsors***

**The Bookworm**

**Jefferson County Rotary Club**

**Louisville Kiwanis Club**

*This group sponsored the STAR Student Luncheon.*

**BEST Office Solutions**

*Sponsored Women in Business Luncheon*

*Chamber sponsors are committed to providing support for community and business success. Sponsoring Chamber events and programs provides your business publicity and brand recognition at Chamber events while building lasting relationships and allowing you to give back to the community.*