

WINTER
2012

The Executive



The Heartbeat of Gwinnett

*Dr. Manfred Sandler &
Gwinnett Medical Center's
Strickland Heart Center*

Executive Strategy

*Make Your Business
"Green and Clean"*

Bottom Line

*Everybody's PROUD to be
Somebody in Snellville:
More Than a Slogan
for City Businesses*

News & More



The Executive

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Chamber Chairman's Club

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On the cover—Dr. Manfred Sandler, with The Cardiovascular Group, PC and
Director of Cardiovascular Services at Gwinnett Medical Center

From the C-Suite

JIM MARAN, PRESIDENT & CEO



Connecting the Community for Ensured Success

In this issue of *The Executive*, each featured Chairman's Club member has their own unique success story to tell. While each is different, there is a common thread that is seen in each of these stories and that is one of community. Each person tells a story of how they are working together with key partners to positively affect not only their own organization, but the community as well.

Bringing all of these leaders and their stories together, the Gwinnett Chamber is ensuring that Gwinnett continues on its path to success. Along with our partners from the public and private sectors, we are working to ensure that Gwinnett is a community that has it all – an attractive setting, arts, entertainment, opportunity, world-class education, quality healthcare and more – to build businesses and create quality jobs.

In this issue, you will read about Dr. Manfred Sandler who – after seeing the need for a full service cardiac facility in Gwinnett County – helped to lead Gwinnett Medical Center's open heart efforts. You will also hear from Cathy Nichols, CEO of Mobile Communications on her community-wide efforts to help make Gwinnett the greenest and cleanest community in America through the Great American Clean Up.

An update of Gwinnett's newest claim to fame – Artworks! Gwinnett – is given by the board members of this thriving initiative. Anthony Rodriguez with Aurora Theatre, Matt Hyatt with Rocket IT and Caryn McGarity with The McGarity Group Law Firm & Barefoot in the Park gives an insider's view on the group's unprecedented success. Eric Van Otteren with the Snellville Office of Economic Development shares how his department is giving the businesses of the community every opportunity to succeed. The Gwinnett Chamber's very own Jann Moore, Vice President of Public Policy, shares how businesses can join the Chamber's Public Policy Council on regulatory process reform to stop the red tape. And finally, Lisa Anders with the Gwinnett Convention & Visitors Bureau reports on the economic impact that tourism has on our county.

While this is not an inclusive list, these examples showcase how notable leaders are stepping forward and taking on important community initiatives so that Gwinnett continues to remain a place that has it all. As the connection point, the Gwinnett Chamber considers it a privilege to partner with all of these efforts, ensuring a stronger, more vibrant community year after year. I trust these stories inspire and help to continue Gwinnett's momentum towards success.

Sincerely,

Jim Maran

The Heartbeat of Gwinnett



Gwinnett
Medical Center

Lawrenceville • Duluth

This story of success begins in Johannesburg, South Africa where Dr. Manfred Sandler obtained his medical degree and began his journey to Gwinnett. It continues with each life that is saved at Gwinnett Medical Center's (GMC) Strickland Heart Center. In 1994, when Dr. Sandler came to Gwinnett County to practice cardiology, little did he know that his journey was just beginning. During his initial 10 years of establishing a successful cardiology

Atlanta Magazine's annual Top Doctors issue. In addition, he was listed in US News and World Report as one of the top 10 percent of cardiologists in the nation in 2011.

As an integral part of the Gwinnett community and respected cardiologist, it did not take long for Dr. Sandler to embrace the challenge of bringing open heart services to the county. He became Gwinnett Medical Center's physician champion for the acquisition of the open heart Certificate of Need and the campaign to help raise more than \$8 million to fund the new Heart &

Dr. Manfred Sandler & Gwinnett Medical Center's Strickland Heart Center

practice – The Cardiovascular Group, PC – he and

his colleagues realized the need for a full-service cardiac facility in Gwinnett County. And over the last decade, Dr. Sandler helped lead Gwinnett Medical Center's Open Heart efforts. He currently serves as Director of Cardiology at GMC, Vice Chairman of the Board of the Gwinnett Hospital System and as Chairman of GMC's Foundation Board of Directors – a position he's held since 2008. As the Foundation Chair, Manfred began a Physician Partners Organization that has inspired more than 150 doctors to financially support the hospital's philanthropic vision.

Dedicated to the local community, Dr. Sandler volunteers in his "spare" time by conducting annual cardiac physicals for Norcross High School athletes and the Georgia Force players. He has also worked with the American Heart Association, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Medical Association of Georgia, the American College of Cardiology, Gwinnett Chapter of the American Heart Association and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. In 2010, he was recognized by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce as the "Citizen of the Year."

Also notable is the fact that Dr. Sandler has been voted as one of Atlanta's top cardiologists by his peers since 2005 in

Vascular Center.

"Gwinnett was the largest county in the nation that could not offer open heart surgery to its citizens," recalled Dr. Sandler. "With the size of our county, combined with the burdened traffic situation, lives were at risk. In our line of business, time is muscle. Any delays in providing timely care can impact the heart's ability to recover from a heart attack."

With the interests of the over 800,000 citizens of Gwinnett in mind, Dr. Sandler led Gwinnett Medical Center's effort to bring open heart services to the county. Thanks to Dr. Sandler's tireless efforts and solid community support, approximately 18 months after the initial filing, with the withdrawal of all opposing hospitals, the Department of Community Health ruled in favor of Gwinnett Medical Center.

"This is the most exciting healthcare advancement and will change lives forever in our community," said Dr. Sandler. "In addition to saving lives, it will also improve the quality of life in Gwinnett by creating more jobs in the targeted field of healthcare. This serves as an added attraction for companies looking to expand in or relocate to Gwinnett."

Giving credit to the community, Dr. Sandler commented, "I knew this vision was attainable, not only because of the need, but also because of the fortitude and

determination of the citizens of Gwinnett to make it a reality. From GMC's respected Board and Foundation, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, local state representatives, GMC hospital staff to the Gwinnett Chamber and ordinary citizens – I trusted that our cohesive community would get behind this effort and push this initiative forward," said Dr. Sandler.

Keeping Gwinnett in the forefront of the medical community, Gwinnett Medical Center celebrated the opening

of its new Strickland Heart Center. This Center is named in honor of the passionate philanthropists and longtime Gwinnett residents, Clyde and Sandra Strickland. The new 40,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility is led by highly experienced, leading cardiac care professionals and features the most technologically advanced equipment.

And when the doctor is in, Dr. Sandler doesn't miss the opportunity to give a bit of health advice. "As the leaders of Gwinnett's business community, we need you to take

ownership of your health," prescribed Dr. Sandler. "Make sure you maintain a healthy diet, exercise, abstain from smoking, limit your alcohol intake and – most importantly – visit our offices if you ever suspect a problem with your heart."

Because of Dr. Sandler's actions in both the doctor's office and in society, countless lives throughout our community will be saved and have a better quality of life. Look for this story of success to continue for many years to come.

Call to Action Speak, Because They ARE Listening

JANN MOORE, VP OF PUBLIC POLICY, EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP – GWINNETT CHAMBER

At no point in history has leadership and the voice of the business community been more essential to ensuring its competitive edge. Through its public policy efforts, the Gwinnett Chamber represents the interests of the Gwinnett business community at the local, state, and federal levels, advocating issues of importance to the community's economic vitality and quality of life. It provides unique opportunities for members to hear, meet, and interact with elected officials, as well as stay abreast of current legislative issues that affect their businesses.

Most recently, Dean Collins, Vice President of T.Y. Lin International Company, Randy Dellinger, Gwinnett District Manager at Jackson EMC, and Herman Pennamon, Regional Manager for Georgia Power, accompanied me to Washington, D.C. to advocate for issues critical to job creation and economic development.

Members of the Chamber's Public Policy Council met with eight members of the Georgia Congressional delegation, including representatives Tom Price, Paul Broun, Hank Johnson, Rob Woodall,

Austin Scott, Jack Kingston, Phil Gingrey, and senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson, as well as representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency. Topics ranged from the importance of Gwinnett to Georgia and the deepening of the Savannah Port, to the federal surface transportation bill, Export-Import Bank reauthorization, and regulatory process reform.

During these one-on-one conversations, it became evident that this was not a common practice of the business community. In fact, Charlie Harmon – chief of staff for Senator Isakson and long-time Hill denizen – stated that, as a whole, the business community is not as vocal as other groups. They want – need – to hear more.

With that in mind, the Gwinnett Chamber continues to provide strategic public policy events and opportunities to support better communication of the local and statewide business communities and their elected leaders. From the Washington, D.C. Fly-In to one-time

events such as hosting the U.S. White House Business Council meeting for the Metro Atlanta with Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, businesses can speak one-on-one with these leaders and identify specific solutions to effectively grow the economy. The Chamber also established a Public Policy Council in 2011 to identify and prioritize issues that affect business and develop a communication strategy.

Gwinnett businesses are fortunate to have elected leaders who want to hear from them. Georgia House Speaker David Ralston, along with members of the Gwinnett delegation, recently challenged the Special Committee on Small Business Development and Job Creation to review and evaluate Georgia's regulatory environment. This effort, called Red Tape Watch, will be carried out through the 2012 legislative session.

In an effort to communicate specific regulations that need to be re-considered by elected leaders and government agencies, the Gwinnett Chamber has posted a Business Regulatory Reform Survey at www.gwinnettchamberpublicpolicy.com. Please visit the website and complete the survey. The Chamber will submit the regulation to the appropriate decision-makers, track the process, and report the results. Magnify your voice to Washington. Visit our website today and get engaged.



The Executive Edge

Question & Answer Session

ARTWORKS! GWINNETT

One of Gwinnett's newest claims to fame – the arts proponent ArtWorks! Gwinnett – has made great strides since its launch of full-time staffed operations and programming in June 2011. The stand-alone tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that was sparked by Partnership Gwinnett cultivates and promotes the arts to enhance cultural and economic capital and enrich Gwinnett residents and businesses. Since the June hiring of Executive Director Sally Corbett, the nonprofit has: represented Gwinnett's arts community throughout the region; served as an information clearinghouse, consultant and collaborator for arts projects and groups; and has held a community forum, monthly professional development workshops, and an awards program.

With a successful start on building a strong foundation for the arts in Gwinnett, which have an estimated economic impact of more than \$2 million annually, Artworks! Gwinnett Board Members give their perspective on the first eight months of Artworks! operations.



Anthony Rodriguez, Aurora Theatre
ArtWorks! Gwinnett Board Member

As a Board Member, I have been impressed with the monthly workshops and industry expert panels presented by ArtWorks! These workshops provide organizations and artists the opportunity to learn from experts and colleagues on topics

like grant writing, corporate sponsorships, board development and marketing. This is a great way for ArtWorks! Gwinnett to have a positive impact on the arts community. Aurora Theatre has had the privilege to present at a marketing workshop and roundtable and to participate in sessions which have attracted arts professionals from the entire metropolitan Atlanta area, and as an added benefit these sessions have created an environment which fosters cooperation and collaboration between arts groups.



Matt Hyatt, Rocket IT
ArtWorks! Gwinnett Co-Chair

A highlight of the last eight months was the inaugural ArtWorks! Gwinnett Awards in January. This countywide celebration of the arts attracted a crowd of 250. The Director and the Board of ArtWorks! produced the event with enthusiastic

volunteers, including 50 artists, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders. Arts, corporate, and municipal leaders were among the 19 award recipients and 10 honorable mention winners. Guests walked away rewarded and enlightened by the night's performances and



the testimonials about creative achievements in Gwinnett. The event helped to fulfill our goal of bringing visibility to the arts. We are grateful to fellow ArtWorks! Board Members, Georgia Power, Primerica, and Jackson EMC for sponsoring the program. I look forward to our student awards this spring. We already have over 100 student nominees.



Caryn McGarity, The McGarity Group Law Firm
& Barefoot in the Park
ArtWorks! Gwinnett Co-Chair

I am excited that Artworks! Gwinnett is inspiring our communities, arts organizations, and artists to collaborate and participate, and to see Gwinnett's arts interests are consistently represented in the

region. We launched ArtWorks! membership at our September 19 Community Forum and now have more than a dozen arts and culture organizations as members along with several corporations, five municipalities and more than 30 individuals. In addition to providing convenient, local programs and forums for education and networking, ArtWorks! has gone out and represented Gwinnett with regional entities such as: Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia Council for the Arts, the Arts Development Council of Georgia, Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund, C4 Atlanta, AtlantaPlanit, and Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta Alumni. For more information on ArtWorks! Gwinnett visit www.artworksgwinnett.org, email info@artworksgwinnett.org, or call 678-474-1701.

Gwinnett Chamber

PINNACLE

SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Presented by **ajc** The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Today's entrepreneur is tomorrow's corporate executive!
Join the Gwinnett Chamber in celebrating Gwinnett's top businesses at the Pinnacle Small Business Awards.

April 27 • 11:30 am
Atlanta Marriott—Gwinnett Place

www.pinnaclesmallbusinessawards.com
Follow us on Twitter @GwinnettChamber

New Members



Acuta Digital
Victor Adebakin
CEO

Acuta Digital delivers leading information technology (IT) solutions to commercial, non-profits and government entities in North America. Acuta's core competencies of services cover database development and management, professional website development and management, mobile app development, web traffic generation, search engine optimization, and e-commerce integration. Acuta is capable of leveraging innovative technologies to improve the methods by which its clients' information is marketed and managed over the web. With executive leadership that offers significant corporate and IT experience, Acuta understands the benefits of delivering tangible and valuable solutions on schedule and within budget.



Atlanta Retailer's Association — ARA
Moyees Merchant
Chairman

For many years the ARA was only regarded as an association of c-store and gas station owners but within the last few years, the ARA has expanded its membership to encompass several industries. Many of these industries include dry cleaners, fast food restaurants, grocers and jewelry stores. Truly, the benefits of being an ARA Associate member are countless as members have the opportunity to take full advantage of the lucrative deals and marketing strategies of this association.

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

Barnes & Thornburg
Stuart Johnson
Atlanta Managing Partner

Barnes & Thornburg's attorneys offer their clients integrity, reliability, and personal commitment aimed at one goal: finding practical solutions to business challenges and opportunities that are encountered every day. As one of the 100 largest law firms in the United States, we have experience in virtually all of the legal practice areas that are important to businesses in today's global market. In our rapidly growing Atlanta office, we assist clients with all manner of legal needs, with particular expertise in general business and transactional matters, intellectual property issues, labor and employment concerns, and litigation needs.



Community & Southern Bank
Tim Krajec
Vice President

Our story is about commitment. Community minded and customer focused, we're dedicated to bring renewed strength and confidence to banking and the communities we serve. From years of experience, we've seen many changes in the way business is conducted. But some things rarely change. People still appreciate that human connection. And people still want a community-minded bank that can deliver modern, competitive solutions. At Community & Southern, we're always looking for ways to better serve all of our markets and exemplify excellence in banking. From our investment in businesses and individuals to our commitment to make our communities better, we want to be your bank of choice for generations to come.



FiberTech
Bill Short
President & CEO

FiberTech is a telecommunications construction company specializing in fiber optic based networks. We have been in business since 1999 and are based in Lawrenceville, GA, with a second office in Charlotte, NC. We handle fiber based networks whether building-to-building or city-to-city. Our clients include national owners of fiber networks; major colleges, universities and public school systems; cell tower networks; and health care systems to name a few. Our expertise and value is in the engineering, splicing and testing side of the business. FiberTech technicians are highly-trained and use the most up-to-date equipment in the industry. Over the past 12 years, we have installed over a thousand miles of fiber optic cable and performed more than 300,000 splices and terminations. FiberTech's reputation has been built on delivering quality work at a fair price.

TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Toshiba Business Solutions
Mike Fung-A-Wing
Business Solutions Consultant

Toshiba is one of the world's largest corporations, investing over \$3.3 billion annually in R&D committed to the future of pioneering innovation. As a world leader and manufacturer of integrated office equipment, we also have developed Strategic Alliances with "Best in Breed" software and hardware providers to bring optimal solutions to our clients in managing document workflow. We incorporate Six Sigma processes that help us focus on developing and delivering near perfect product and services, while offering a global reach with a local touch to serve our marketplace as is required in this global economy.

Executive Strategy

Make Your Business “Green and Clean”

CATHY NICHOLS, PRESIDENT & CEO OF MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS OF GWINNETT, INC.

Over the last three years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful Citizen Advisory Board. I accepted the position to learn more about being a better steward of the environment through my business. I had no idea just how easy and relevant it could be to go green right here in Gwinnett.



MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

Green, clean environments have an incredible impact on economic development. Let's be honest, when you're driving through a neighborhood covered in litter and graffiti, do you feel safe? If you were a CEO looking to bring your business to Gwinnett, what impression would that give you? In today's environment, we have to fight for those companies to come to Gwinnett. It's fiercely competitive. Being “green and clean” is one of the critical components and most valuable assets.

In 2011, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful established a vision to make Gwinnett “the greenest and cleanest community in America.” But what does that look like exactly? How do you define the “greenest and cleanest”? As an organization that analyzes the facts and measures results, we set out to define it.

This is the definition we crafted: A green and clean community is a community that sustains and effectively manages its quality of life by preventing litter and graffiti, manages and conserves water resources and energy, educates and engages residents, improves air quality, protects our landscape and habitats, recycles and reduces waste, and builds public and private entities that protect our

environment.

During the Great American Clean Up 2011, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful working with our strategic partner, the Gwinnett Chamber, engaged citizens, businesses, civic organizations, neighborhoods, community leaders, youth groups, and residents to organize clean-up projects to help us to achieve our goal. Groups

chose from programs ranging from adopt-a-road, clean-a-stream, graffiti cleanup, and tree planting, to lunch and learns, recycling, and water conservation. The response was overwhelming. Although these programs are year-round, this initiative was part of the national campaign (The Great American Cleanup) to educate, inform, and engage communities about environmental protection. Many organizations were amazed at just how simple it can be to make a tremendous impact.

In the 2011 Great American Cleanup Gwinnett we had 22 businesses participate, 166 individual participants and held 207 events. We educated more than 9,100 people about how to help make our community greener and cleaner. The impact of these efforts was immediate and strikingly visible. We calculated 25 percent less litter on our roadways, 3 percent more materials recovered through recycling, and 3,300 more trees to help improve the air we breathe and the land we love.

So, who should get involved in making Gwinnett the greenest and cleanest community in America? Anyone who loves to live, work, or play in Gwinnett County! In order for Gwinnett to continue to thrive, we have to take responsibility for improving

our environment. The result will be a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community.

If you want to get engaged in the Great American Cleanup or any of our new initiatives, please visit www.gwinnettcba.org and sign up to assist with a project. Start a recycling program at your office or ball field. Everyone can do something to help. Every project matters. Every project makes a difference.

5th Annual
SWING INTO SPRING
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TFC SUGARLOAF

**Post-Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 29**

**SPONSORSHIPS
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**Kim Jones: 770-232-8805
kim@gwinnettchamber.org**

Line

BOTTOM

Everybody's PROUD to be Somebody in Snellville: More Than a Slogan for City Businesses

ERIC G. VAN OTTEREN, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, CITY OF SNELLVILLE

You may have heard that “Everybody’s PROUD to be Somebody” in Snellville. To the Snellville Office of Economic Development, this is more than a slogan. It reflects the values present in our economic development strategy and in our community. We believe that people are our best resource, and we strive to give the businesspeople of our community every opportunity to succeed.

The City is cultivating a community identity around the volunteerism and civic engagement of its businesses and citizens that makes us all proud. This bold engagement by our businesses and citizens includes an award winning farmers’ market; a budding community garden; a blooming Southern Gwinnett Community Arts group; and a flourishing innovative and entrepreneurial business environment.

Building this kind of environment requires engagement from new and established businesses. To this end, we work with our local schools to develop programs which support innovative thinking in our youth. And because we value the businesses we have in Snellville, we work with them to offer opportunities to grow and expand through our small business development initiatives and our business retention program.

Entrepreneurship – and innovation – are keys to economic development and job creation in our changing economy. More jobs are created annually by new firms than by large existing firms, especially jobs in technology and light manufacturing, which tend to be higher paying. Economic gardening is the economic development



practice of encouraging and providing technical services to entrepreneurs rather than solely recruiting large firms through incentives. The Snellville Entrepreneurship Council (SEC) supports entrepreneurs in our community. The SEC is in the process of designing small group programming to enable entrepreneurs to come together to support each other in their business ventures and provide

free one-on-one mentoring for both start-up and existing businesses.

Another initiative, the South Gwinnett High School Entrepreneurship Alliance aims to empower the next generation of Snellvillians to create their own businesses and make their ambitions a reality. The program consists of 53 students from ages 15-18. Students are guided through the process of defining a business concept and writing a business plan. Their curriculum is augmented by speakers from the local and regional community who are entrepreneurs or who work with entrepreneurs. The mission of this project is twofold. From an educational perspective, the program instills tactical skills that students can use in their businesses and their lives. From an economic development perspective, the program will create new businesses in the city and create a nurturing community for budding entrepreneurs.

The City is also focusing on small business development activities including a business retention program. The Office of Economic Development staff is meeting with local businesses to understand ways they can help them achieve their business

goals. The conversations include gaining an understanding of the business owner’s stability and/or growth plans.

The City is working all of these initiatives in concert to encourage entrepreneurship, promote innovation, and provide a series of solution-oriented strategies accessible to every business owner. We continue to seek answers to the question, how can the Office of Economic Development continue to do better, thereby helping our local businesses to do better tomorrow.

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Be a part of the **No. 1 Discount Card Program** connecting Gwinnett’s consumers, commerce and charities in an effort to help grow and strengthen our community!

www.ShopInGwinnett.com



Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau Releases Economic Impact Study of Tourism

LISA ANDERS, GCVB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The official numbers are in, and they are impressive. In 2010, tourist activity in Gwinnett County generated \$905 million in direct tourist spending, according to a recently released report, "The 2010 Economic Significance of Tourism on the Gwinnett County Economy." The report was based on economic impact figures prepared by the Georgia Department of Economic Development, with additional analysis completed by University of Tennessee Economist, Dr. Steve Morse.

The hospitality/tourism industries are both Georgia and Atlanta's number two industries, but oftentimes "the hospitality community can get overlooked in the metro area as our visitors are not always as obvious as tourists in other cities," explains Lisa Anders, GCVB Executive Director.



Arena with attendance topping 800,000 people in 2011. Many of Gwinnett's largest meetings/conventions are hosted at the Arena, including the faith-based meetings Catalyst/Giant Impact, the Orange Conference and Free Chapel, among others.

Gwinnett's two largest visitor markets include not only the

According to the Report

- Tourism in Gwinnett County generated **\$905.42 million** on direct tourist spending
- Tourism in Gwinnett County represents **4.2%** of the county's economy
- Generated **10,620 jobs**
- Produced **\$217.64 million** in worker income & paychecks
- Created **\$26.51 million** in local Gwinnett County tax revenues
- Created **\$34.73 million** in Georgia state tax revenue
- Without tourism – Gwinnett County residents would have to pay an additional **\$201** in state and local taxes to make up the lost revenue



Anders notes Gwinnett's visitors range from business travelers, visiting friends and family, sporting event attendees, meetings, conventions and family reunions.

Tourism was one of the bright spots in Gwinnett's economy in 2011, with hospitality revenues increasing 10 percent in 2011 over 2010. Tourism is truly

becoming a significant industry for Gwinnett County, drawing from a diverse mix of facilities, great downtowns, a strong hotel community and increasing nightlife. International travelers, both leisure and business, are part of the new face of Gwinnett's tourism audience. Partnership Gwinnett's Asian presence, the relocation and expansion of international companies, and Gwinnett's strong Korean communities are creating a new generation of Gwinnett visitors.

Gwinnett is fortunate to have major draws including the Gwinnett Center and

faith-based market, but the fast-growing sports market. The Gwinnett Sports Commission, the GCVB's sports marketing department lauds Gwinnett's top-ranked Parks and Recreation facilities, along with venues including the Arena (host of both the 2012 NCAA and SEC Gymnastics Championships), Gwinnett's numerous golf courses, Suwanee Sports Academy, Gary Pirkle Park, the Ice Forum, the Snellville Dual Deck Arena and the new LongForum at Greater Atlanta Christian School as integral to making Gwinnett a hot spot for youth and collegiate sports. Sports travelers are especially coveted as they stay longer, and generally have larger number of travelers in their parties.

The Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau is Gwinnett County's official tourism organization and is dedicated to strengthening Gwinnett County's economy by marketing the county as a destination for conventions, sporting events, meetings, trade shows and leisure travel through sales, advertising and promotion. The GCVB is also the home of the Gwinnett Sports Commission, the county's official sports marketing division.

HeadLines

County Calls on Residents, Businesses to Volunteer

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash announced the official launch of the countywide volunteer program, Volunteer Gwinnett, during the annual State of the County address on February 15 and called on residents, businesses and organizations to get involved. The Volunteer Gwinnett program offers an easy way for interested residents and businesses to learn about countywide volunteer opportunities, sign up online, track service hours and submit project requests. The program also includes a standardized training and registration process along with events to recognize volunteers for their service. In addition, each county department, agency and office has designated staff to manage their volunteer opportunities and volunteers, and Volunteer Gwinnett volunteers will have the unique opportunity to learn firsthand how local government impacts the community.

While some departments already have active volunteer programs in place, the comprehensive Volunteer Gwinnett program was developed in response to an Engage Gwinnett committee recommendation to engage residents in volunteer activities to support government operations and potentially save money. "This program gives every resident an opportunity to give back to our community in a meaningful way, gain valuable experience and help us keep expenses down," said Chairman Nash. For more information and access to Gwinnett's volunteer network, visit www.volunteergwinnett.net.

Gene Davis Joins Stantec as Senior Railway Engineer

Gene A. Davis, PE, a leader in railroad engineering, freight transportation, and service planning, has joined Stantec as Senior Railway Engineer to lead Stantec's freight



and commuter railway services in the US Southeast. Davis has more than 27 years of experience in the rail industry including operations, economics and engineering for railroad companies, state departments of transportation and major municipalities. At Stantec, Davis joins a growing rail/freight team providing design and operations consulting on rail line realignments, new industrial rail yards and spur lines, complex signal systems, railroad bridges, and intermodal facilities as well as inspection, maintenance, and upgrades to existing track and structures.

ADP Workforce Now® Surpasses the 20,000 Client Milestone After Just Two Years

ADP®, a leading provider of human resource outsourcing, payroll services, benefits administration and integrated computing solutions for vehicle dealers, recently announced that more than 20,000 mid-sized organizations have selected the ADP Workforce Now® cloud-based solution as their one-stop platform for helping to maximize employee productivity and drive their business forward. Introduced just two years ago, ADP Workforce Now has quickly attracted thousands of mid-sized organizations seeking a single, integrated human capital management solution for addressing their HR, benefits, payroll, talent management, and time and attendance needs. To learn more about ADP Workforce Now, please visit <http://www.adp.com/workforcenow>.

Hire Dynamics Acquires Talagy Staffing Operations in Atlanta

Hire Dynamics, LLC recently acquired Talagy's Atlanta staffing operations, making Hire Dynamics the 2nd largest staffing company in Atlanta. Talagy provides both professional and commercial staffing out of its six locations nationwide. The Atlanta staffing operation primarily staffs

manufacturing, supply chain, and various office positions. "We are excited to acquire the Talagy operations as it fits our strategy of becoming the leading staffing provider in the Atlanta metro area. With the acquisition, Hire Dynamics now employs 3,000 associates every day. We also believe there are synergies with Talagy management that will allow us to work together on a going forward basis," said Hire Dynamics CEO, Dan Campbell.



Gwinnett Chamber Receives Diversity Achievement Award

In recognition for outstanding service and significant contributions to Gwinnett County, the Gwinnett Chamber recently received the Diversity Achievement Award at the 2nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast & Diversity Awards. Hosted by The Rho Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the RKL Education Foundation, Inc., the Awards' Breakfast serves as an opportunity to celebrate the service legacies of Dr. King as well as other pioneering African Americans and to live out their legacy throughout our homes and our communities.

"As an organization that strives to reflect the culturally diverse business community it represents, the Gwinnett Chamber is humbled to be recognized by this Unity group honoring one of America's greatest equalizers – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." said Vince DeSilva, Sr. Vice President of Membership Services, Gwinnett Chamber. "On behalf of our Board of Directors and our entire membership, thank you for this honor."

UPCOMING Events

Register online at
www.gwinnettchamber.org/events.

2012 CHAIRMAN'S CLUB EVENTS

May 29

Chairman's Club Private Golf Outing
Presenting Sponsor: TPC Sugarloaf at Sugarloaf Country Club

Time: All day event

Location: TPC Sugarloaf

RSVP: Kim Jones at 770-232-8805 or

kim@gwinnettchamber.org.

May 29

Chairman's Club Mixer
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: TPC Sugarloaf

RSVP: Kim Jones at 770-232-8805 or

kim@gwinnettchamber.org

June 14

Chairman's Club Reception
Co-Sponsors: SunTrust Bank & Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: TBD

RSVP: Kim Jones at 770-232-8805 or

kim@gwinnettchamber.org

October 11

Chairman's Club Reception
Presenting Sponsor: The John Maxwell Company

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Sugarloaf Country Club

RSVP: Kim Jones at 770-232-8805 or

kim@gwinnettchamber.org

December 13

Chairman's Club Holiday Reception
Co-Sponsor: Kaiser Permanente
CO-SPONSOR AVAILABLE

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: TBD

RSVP: Kim Jones at 770-232-8805 or

kim@gwinnettchamber.org

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE-LEVEL EVENTS

March 27

Valor Awards

Presenting Sponsor: Mobile Communications & Motorola

Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Location: Gwinnett Center

Cost: Chairman's Club members receive one complimentary seat

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/events

April 18

Gwinnett Business Institute Featuring "Business on the Go: iPad Apps for Successful Businesses"

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Gwinnett Chamber

Cost: \$30

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/events

April 19

Business After Hours

Presenting Sponsor: Hamilton Mill Golf Club

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hamilton Mill Golf Club

Cost: Every guest receives a "Member for a day" pass

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/events

April 27

Pinnacle Small Business Awards

Presenting Sponsor: Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Location: Atlanta Marriott – Gwinnett Place

Cost: Chairman's Club members receive one complimentary seat

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/events