

Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009

Annual Chamber meeting Nov. 12

Towns County Chamber President Angel Long announced last week that Nov. 12 will be the date of the 2009 annual Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

"We hope you can join us at The Ridges Resort at Fieldstone on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. for our annual meeting," she said.

"In addition to conducting our annual business and enjoying a delicious southern home style breakfast, we'll be kicking off an informational series titled "Best Kept Secrets of Towns County Revealed." The event features two guest speakers to kick off the

annual meeting, President Long said.

"We've got two great speakers coming in to get us started, Lewis Kelley, CEO of Chatuge Regional Hospital and Dr. Richard Behrens, superintendent of Towns County Comprehensive Schools.

"They've got some great information about their organizations and about the services they offer, so we hope you can be there to hear the good news," she said.

Long expressed her sincere gratitude to the Ridges Resort at Fieldstone for keeping the event affordable and within reason.

"We would like to

thank the Ridges Resort for keeping the breakfast so affordable," she said. "At only \$12 per person, we're hoping this event will be affordable for our entire membership. Please try to let us know if you plan to attend."

President Long also expressed thanks to Kelley and his staff at Chatuge Regional Hospital.

"They will arrive early (7 a.m.) to provide blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol checks at no charge," she said. "All it takes is a prick of the finger to get instant results – just try not to eat or drink before you come."

Angel's Chamber Messages



Towns County Chamber President Angel Long is excited about the expanding benefits of Chamber membership. She's also excited about the new partnership with the Towns County Herald

Big Sky Village open for business



The Towns County Chamber of Commerce last week held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house at Big Sky Village Apartments.

The Towns, Union and Clay County Chambers were all represented at the event. Lola Peck, the Site Manager and Grace Nickerson, the District Manager welcomed Annamarie Braden, Owner, Babbie Jaco, VP of Boyd Mgmt, Mayor Barbara Mathis, Viola Waldroup of

Chatuge Land Company, Faron King of Georgia Carolina Premier Properties and a host of others.

Big Sky Village Apartments is a property for 55 and older with one & two bedroom units available. They are located at 301 Skyview Drive in Hiawassee.

"With a million dollar view and a great list of amenities this is the place to be," Towns Chamber President Angel Long said.

Shop Local Program

Here at the Chamber, we've been talking a lot about launching our Shop Local program. Since I had never been involved with a program like this before, I thought I'd better do some research. I went online, talked to other Chambers and non-profits. I found a lot of statistics about what happens to our tax dollars when we spend them locally versus other communities. I started putting the statistics and charts together and tried to figure out how to develop a measurement of success. This situation was quickly becoming complicated. Then I realized something. The statistics, graphs and charts are fine, but they don't help us become educated about the resources we have available

to us right here in our own backyard.

It was then I decided to put all of that aside (at least for now) and concentrate on the basics. We really need to start by getting the word out about all we have to offer right here in our own little community.

With the holiday shopping season almost upon us, there is no better time to start talking about our local merchants.

While you are out in search of Halloween decorations and candy, stop in and see the folks at Mountain Parties, Always Christmas, The Tangerine Frog, The Hen's Nest, Dills and Ingles Markets.

At these fine LOCAL establishments, you will find unique, quality merchandise at affordable prices.

2009 Tour of Homes

Our 2009 Christmas Tour of Homes is Dec. 4th through the Dec. 6. Thanks to our hardworking and tenacious committee chairs Carolyn Brock and Linda Beasley, we have seven beautiful homes for the tour this year. Our programs have been printed and tickets are on sale now. We are selling tickets at three locations: The Towns County Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Realty of Hiawassee and Deb Collins Signature Gallery & Tangerine Frog of Hiawassee. The Tour of Homes weekend is so much more than just touring beautiful and distinctive homes. The lighting of the tree at Mayor's Park in Young Harris at 6:00pm and the Art Walk from 5:30pm – 8:30pm start off the festivi-

ties. The home tours are Saturday, December 5th from 10:00am-5:00pm and on Sunday, December 6th from 1:00pm-5:00pm. We have several refreshment stops conveniently located along the way at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce, BodySense and Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa. On Sunday evening from 5:00pm-7:00pm, we have a closing reception in the lobby at The Ridges Resort at Fieldstone. This event always proves to be a fun and festive weekend for all who participate. We hope you and your family & friends will be able to join us this year.

Contact the Angel Long at the Chamber of Commerce at 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, or by phone at (706) 896-4966.

It's Fall-A-Bration time again at the Ridges

The Ridge's Resort Fall-abration is an annual celebration of community and friendship. This year The Ridges has partnered with Towns County FFA. What better way to exemplify "small town" values and citizenship than to bring together the community to celebrate the harvest season. There will be lots of free activities to join at this years celebration including Trunk or Treat, lake tours, Spooktacular Boat Parade, costume contests, hay rides, s'mores, and more. There will be cornhole competitions (\$5 entry fee) as well. Fall-abration will be Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ridge's Resort is a proud supporter of the Towns County FFA. The Future Farmers of America club members will be selling barbeque plates to help raise funds for their club. This helps pay for trips and other activities that FFA members participate in.

The Fall-a-bration Trunk-or-Treat is supported by local businesses and civic organizations. Children go



from trunk to trunk (or bed, for those with a pick-up truck) collecting treats from all. Par-ents have the opportunity to admire the decorations and visit with neighbors. There will be prizes given for the "Best Decorated Trunk-or-Treat vehicle" as well as "Best Costume." The Ridges is still look-ing for businesses and other organizations to par-ticipate. For more information please call 706-896-9707 x 3216 to reserve your spot.

A new activity this year is the Cornhole Com-petition. Courts will be set up and teams of two will fill up fast for this activity. The rules for Cornhole are similar to horse shoes or bean bag

toss. Popular in the upper Appalachian area, Cornhole competi-tions are popping up everywhere. Come out to see the fun and give it a try. There is a \$5 per person entry fee that will be donated to Towns County Food Pantry. If you would like to participate, 10 cans of food can be donated in lieu of the entry fee. There are sure to be laughs and excitement for those participating or have fun rooting on your fa-vorite team.

The Ridges Marina will once again be of-fering lake tours. The beautiful changing leaves coupled with the pristine waters are sure to set a beautiful scene for the tours. Another

addition this year is the Spooktacular Boat Parade. Boat Own-ers can decorate their boats and join the parade! Wonderful prizes will be awarded to the "Best Boat Costume" and "Best Guest Costume".

All through the property there will be fun and celebration! Enjoy a cup of hot cider and s'mores by the fire pit or just relax and listen to the live mu-sic. You can play horse shoes, volleyball, croquet and badminton as well.

For more information, you can visit The Ridge's web site at theridgesresort.com and go to the Events Calendar. Remember to Trunk or Treat! See you there!