

Chamber Chatter

Volume 1, Issue 12

214 Court Square, Blakely, GA (229) 723-3741

November 2013

Upcoming Chamber Meetings:

- Chamber Board Meeting, December 18, Alexander Building.

Important Updates:

- Please mark your calendars for the following Chamber sponsored events. If you would like to volunteer / participate in any of the events listed below please contact the Chamber at 723-3741.

December 13: Moonlight Madness

December 14: Holidays on the Square

December 20: The Chamber is now selling raffle tickets for a 5.1 cu. ft. chest freezer full of meat.

Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased at the Chamber.

The raffle will be held on December 20 and the total prize value is over \$300!

Tickets for the Blakely Town & Country Club's 10-10-10 raffle are now on sale along with tickets for Blakely Hometown's Holiday

Now that we have moved into the Alexander Building and have configured our new printer, we will resume our Business of the Week award on December 2.

The History of Thanksgiving

One of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in what is now known as the United States occurred in 1621 when the Wampanoag Indians and Plymouth colonists bound together to celebrate a successful harvest in the Plymouth Colony.

With the help of the Wampanoag Indians, the colonists learned how to extract sap from Maple trees, they learned which plants to avoid, and most importantly, learned how to plant crops.

The colonists' first harvest was so successful that William Bradford, the Governor of Plymouth Colony, held a grand feast in honor of the great harvest. He extended a special invitation to the neighboring Wampanoag Tribe to take part in the celebratory feast, which ended up lasting for three days.

On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation that officially declared the last Thursday of November as a day of "thanksgiving and praise." This marked the first time Thanksgiving had been both a national and annual holiday with a set date.

For 75 years Thanksgiving was recognized as the last Thursday in November. In 1939, Thanksgiving was to fall on November 30 upsetting retailers who wanted the holiday pushed up a week to allow more time for Christmas shopping.

Roosevelt honored the requests and issued a proclamation in 1939 declaring Thanksgiving to be on November 23, the second to last Thursday of the month.

Some state governors recognized the new date, whereas others did not, but many individuals felt that changing the date of a cherished holiday for the sake of business was not a good enough reason for the change. Both Texas and Colorado honored both dates.

Due to much confusion and public dissatisfaction, Congress passed a law on December 26, 1941, declaring that Thanksgiving would occur each year on the fourth Thursday of November. The passing of the Thanksgiving Day law came only 19 days after Pearl Harbor was attacked, igniting what would become World War II.

Chamber Ribbon Cutting & Open House

We would like to extend a sincere "Thank you" to those who helped make our recent ribbon cutting and open house a success. Without your support this would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank each and every one of you who were able to attend the event last week.

If you were unable to attend, you are more than welcome to stop

by the Chamber and take a tour.

We will be closed Thursday and Friday but hope you all have a very happy Thanksgiving.