

Bank of LaFayette – Press Release

Community profits because of bank's involvement

Bank of LaFayette named first Downtown Business of the Month

The Bank of LaFayette has been named the first Downtown Business of the Month because of its monetary and manpower investment in LaFayette.

LaFayette Downtown Development Authority, or DDA, selected the bank for this honor because of its high level of community involvement, especially with Scare on the Square, an annual event that allows children to trick or treat at downtown businesses while streets are closed, DDA Promotions Committee Chairman Bill Scarborough said. The Scare is the largest annual downtown event.

“We had no idea how much planning and participation were needed to make Scare on the Square a success until we got involved,” Scarborough said. “The DDA is partnering with the Bank of LaFayette to sponsor the 22nd Scare this year.

“We are glad to promote an event that allows children to trick or treat safely and that draws people downtown,” he said. “More kids are involved each year.”

Scare on the Square started when a business owner on the Square handed out candy to children at Halloween. After that store closed, bank officials met with other business owners to coordinate the event so that “everyone could be involved,” Bank of LaFayette President Henry Gilbert said.

For many years, the bank purchased candy to distribute to businesses on the Square and handled all planning; Gilbert said he appreciates that the DDA is now sharing the cost of the candy and responsibilities for coordinating the event with the bank.

“We’re a community bank, and that means we serve the community,” Gilbert said.

The bank supports a wide variety of civic activities, including the Walker County Chamber of Commerce, United Way groups, schools, youth groups, Marsh House restoration and downtown beautification projects, including creation of Joe Stock Memorial Park, he said. The bank also purchased the bricks used in the sidewalk in front of the bank, saving the city that cost. The bank’s Community Room at 104 N. Main St. is available to rent for meetings and festivities for a nominal fee. The room is used everyday, Gilbert said. The city’s Historic Preservation Commission meets there while Chattooga Academy is being rehabilitated.

Bank employees participate in the city’s Christmas parade and have served as volunteers at downtown events, he said.

The bank’s donations to the DDA fund facade grants, school art projects and other DDA programs, Scarborough said.

Established in 1899 on the Square, the bank has always supported downtown projects, Gilbert said. Since then the bank has loaned money at some point to the owner of almost every building on the Square.

The bank’s first location was the building now occupied by the Bouquet Shop on the west side of the Square. The bank moved to its current location about 100 years ago and has grown to cover that block.

The bank's main office is at 101 W. Patton St. The bank has branches at 405 W. Main St., LaFayette, and on U.S. 27 in Rock Spring.

As for future plans, the bank staff "will continue on as we have to make the community a better place," Gilbert said. "As the community grows, we grow."

Main Office

The Bank of LaFayette
101 W. Patton St.
P.O. Box 1149
LaFayette, GA 30728
Phone: (706) 638-2520
Fax: (706) 638-5409
Website: www.bankoflafayette.com



Bank President
Henry Gilbert

Walker County Messenger – Press Release

Newspaper named Downtown Business of the Month for December

LaFayette’s downtown redevelopment and public education efforts have the “write stuff,” thanks to a local newspaper.

LaFayette Downtown Development Authority, or DDA, selected the “Walker County Messenger” as the December Downtown Business of the Month because the newspaper covers special events, downtown redevelopment projects, historic preservation and other issues related to the city’s Main Street program, DDA Promotions Committee Chairman Bill Scarborough said.

“Our Main Street program would not work without the media educating the community about it,” Scarborough said. “With its thorough coverage, the Messenger has supported the program since the community leaders began talking about it three years ago.

“A lot of Main Street programs do not receive as much media attention as LaFayette’s does, so we are fortunate to have a newspaper that covers everything from photographing Scare on the Square to publicizing the launch of tourism brochures.”

"Keeping the public informed about important projects such as the LaFayette downtown redevelopment efforts is our mission and one we take seriously," Walker County Messenger managing editor Andy Diffenderfer said.

"Whether it's our print edition or our website, we strive to keep readers up-to-date on meaningful happenings and news from throughout our county," Diffenderfer said.

In addition to publicizing downtown events, the newspaper publishes news about projects, announces meetings, photographs events and publishes editorials supporting Main Street projects, including the rehabilitation of Chattooga Academy, also called John B. Gordon Hall, he said.

The newspaper recently published a news story about an upcoming community meeting to discuss re-creating the Square and then ran follow-up coverage of the meeting.

"Downtown redevelopment is an important topic in LaFayette, and one we certainly want to help our readers to stay on top of," Diffenderfer said. "Whatever route the effort takes in LaFayette, we will do our best to keep our readers informed with the latest news and information."

The “Walker County Messenger” was established in 1877 by Capt. Augustus McHan and is the county’s oldest continuing business, according to the Messenger’s website. For its first 100 years, the newspaper was a family-owned business.

For many years, the newspaper was on the east side of the Square, where Fred Henry’s office is now. Boone Publishing Co. acquired the newspaper in 1977 and moved the office to East Patton Street because the company needed more space.

News Publishing Co. purchased the newspaper in 1988. News Publishing is parent company to several Northwest Georgia newspapers, including the “The Catoosa County News,” “Rome News-Tribune” and the “Calhoun Times.”

The Messenger publishes each Wednesday and Friday and has a circulation of 4,400, and 14,250 for the weekly paper delivered to non-subscribers throughout Walker County. The newspaper is the county's designated legal organ.

Walker County Messenger

120 East Patton Street

LaFayette, Ga. 30728

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: (706) 638-1859

Fax (706) 638-7045

Website: www.walkermessenger.com

LaFayette Printing – Press Release

LaFayette Printing Co. named February Downtown Business of the Month

Photocopying may be a big part of this company's business, but LaFayette Printing Co. is an original at providing quality service to its customers and community.

LaFayette Downtown Development Authority, or DDA, selected LaFayette Printing as February Downtown Business of the Month because of the business' involvement in downtown revitalization and community service projects, DDA Promotions Committee Chairman Bill Scarborough said.

LaFayette Printing President Darla Smalley said she finds working with local people and providing them with a quality job and quick turnaround rewarding. Customers appreciate her company's commitment to personal attention and customer satisfaction.

"We work with customers in order to give them exactly what they want," Smalley said. "We give them proofs and let customers make changes."

Smalley and her staff showed great creativity and patience when working with the LaFayette Historic Preservation Commission to develop the Walking Tour of Historic LaFayette brochure, Commission Chairman Connie Forester said.

"They did a beautiful job arranging the photos and copy for the brochure, and provided several proofs as we made revisions until we had everything just right," Forester said. "The brochure has received a lot of compliments, and we expect we will need to reprint it later this year. LaFayette Printing should be as proud of the brochure as the commission is."

Even before the commission began working on the brochure, LaFayette Printing supported historic preservation by printing publications for the Marsh House, an antebellum mansion in downtown that is undergoing extensive restoration and rehabilitation as a house museum and community meeting facility, she said.

Smalley said she feels a responsibility for her business to be involved in its community. The business participated in the merchants' open house before Christmas, promoting her business and helping to promote other businesses on the Square.

"I want to support the community," she said. "I would like to see LaFayette grow."

LaFayette Printing prints flyers for Scare on the Square. At the annual Halloween event, Smalley can be found in front of her business cheerfully handing out candy to little witches and ghouls. She said she loves seeing the children in their costumes and is glad to participate in an event that offers parents a safe way for children to trick-or-treat.

LaFayette Printing is a WACOPEP, or Walker County Partners in Education Program, partner with LaFayette Middle School. The business is also a member of the Walker County Chamber of Commerce, where Smalley serves on the Ambassadors Committee.

Smalley said her business has benefited from its involvement in downtown revitalization. In 2007 the business received an \$800 grant to help with the cost of replacing the building's awning.

“At the time (the grant application period was announced), my awning was in bad shape, so I took advantage of the grant to improve the appearance of downtown,” she said. “I am very supportive of the DDA. We need to improve downtown and bring more people back to it.”

Assisting Smalley are graphic designer Lacey Ingle, pressman Mike Connolly and binder Eduardo Ibanez.

Smalley said she incorporated the business in 1999 when she purchased it from Michael Smith, who had operated the business in the same location for about a decade.

Over the last decade, printing has become more digital and designs that would have been drawn and “pasted up” are done entirely on the computer, she said.

Smalley, a lifelong Walker County resident, and Dr. Robert E. Smalley, a LaFayette veterinarian, have been married 14 years. Between them, they have two sons, two daughters and 10 grandchildren.

LaFayette Printing Co.

102 E. Patton Ave.

LaFayette, GA 30728

Phone: (706) 638-3722

Fax: (706) 638-8761

Email: happyprinter@alltel.net

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Services

- Printing copies
- Fax service
- Offset printing
- Large-format copying
- Printing business cards, wedding invitations and napkins
- Design layout assistance

Chapman Jewelry – Press Release

Jewelry & Repair shop named Downtown Business of the Month

LaFayette jeweler Josh Chapman has been recognized as a gem among small businesses.

LaFayette Downtown Development Authority, or DDA, selected Chapman Jewelry and Repair as the January Downtown Business of the Month because Chapman exemplifies the best traits in small business and community service, DDA Promotions Committee Chairman Bill Scarborough said. He is active in downtown activities and the LaFayette Rotary Club, conscientious and trustworthy.

“Three years ago when the city began revitalizing downtown and started working towards its Main Street designation, Josh was one of the merchants to jump in to help,” Scarborough said.

Chapman received the DDA’s first façade grant to remove metal and repoint the bricks on the front of his store, Shear Time and Buttercup Alley, Scarborough said. By applying to be the first façade project, he heightened up public awareness of the DDA’s revitalization goals.

“He has volunteered to help with special events and, more importantly, has served as the unofficial voice for merchants around the Square when the city has sought input on projects and plans,” he said.

Following a recent Historic Preservation Commission town hall meeting to discuss re-creating the Square, Chapman talked to merchants who did not attend the meeting to find out whether they would support the proposal. He relayed that information to city staff, he said.

“Business owners share opinions with Josh that they might not voice at a public meeting, and he is equally conscientious about meeting customers’ needs,” Scarborough said.

A recent customer recounted her experience about purchasing a Christmas gift for her husband to Main Street and Economic Development Director Catherine Edgemon. Edgemon said the customer went to Chapman’s store because she knew he had some antique and estate jewelry in stock.

Chapman did not have the old-fashioned, windable watch she sought in his inventory, Edgemon said. Rather than asking the customer to wait while he located a watch for her, he offered to sell her the watch he was wearing, which was exactly the kind of watch she wanted. The customer and her husband were pleased to have found the watch and Chapman’s level of service.

“There is a level of service you can’t get anywhere like you can at a small business,” said Chapman, who enjoys small-town businesses, both as the owner of one and as a customer at other establishments. He said he shops at locally owned businesses whenever possible.

Chapman started working part-time at various jewelry stores while in high school. He worked at Collett Jewelers until spring 1997. After that business on the northwest corner of the Square closed, he opened his shop in November 1997 in the same location. He purchased the building in September 2001.

Chapman earned an associate’s degree in business through Dalton State College and attended the University of West Georgia. He graduated from Holland School for Jewelers.

He said enjoys the jewelry business because “it’s something different everyday.”

His future plans are to expand his inventory and to keep his business location in downtown.

Chapman has a 7-1/2-year-old son, Colby. He recently married Karla, who teaches math at Rossville Middle School.

Many Walker County residents know his family. His father, Buddy, operates a sawmill and served as county commissioner. His mother, Delores, works at LaFayette High School. His brothers, Phil and Zack, are a rodeo rider and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy graduate, respectively.

Chapman Jewelry & Repair

100 W. LaFayette Square

LaFayette, GA 30728

Phone: (706) 638-0100

Website: www.chapmanjewelry.net

Email: chapmanjewelry@aol.com

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon; extended hours for holidays

Services

- Jewelry repairs
- Stone-mounting
- Estate jewelry
- Watch, car key fob and other small appliance battery replacements
- Eyeglass frame repairs
- Watch band sizing
- Special orders
- Online sales
- Scrap gold purchases