City of Thomasville Recognized as a GEMS Community
The City of Thomasville has once again been designated as an accredited Georgia Exceptional Main Street (GEMS) program by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the National Main Street Center - and for good reason! There are 115 Main Street Cities in Georgia, but Thomasville stands apart from them all. Take a look at these statistics in the State of Georgia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State City Average</th>
<th>Thomasville</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Businesses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jobs</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Rehabilitations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public/Private Investment</td>
<td>$4.6 mil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Improvement Projects</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thomasville's Main Street Program began in 1981 and was one of the first in Georgia. In 1998, Thomasville earned the National Great American Main Street Award. Since our program was founded, there has been a net gain of 308 businesses and more than 1,180 jobs in the downtown business district. It is this kind of success that has made Thomasville the example other communities often emulate.

Love these statistics and interested in launching a business of your own in downtown Thomasville? Contact our offices at 229-227-7020 to find out about the incentives we have to offer when opening a business, or click [here](#).

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**Join us as we Discuss Ways to Save**

The City of Thomasville will be hosting "Let's Discuss... Ways to Save on Your Utility Bill and How to Have an Energy Efficient Home" on Thursday, March 28 at 6 pm. Join us to learn some easy ways that you can make your home more energy efficient and save money on your bottom line!
April is Budget Billing Reconciliation Month

If you're currently enrolled in the budget billing program, April may be your reconciliation month! For those with budget billing periods beginning in May, your actual usage will be calculated and a new budget billing amount will be determined for next year's plan. This means that you may soon be billed for any additional usage during this period not covered by your current budget billing amount. If you've had less usage, you'll earn a credit. Our representatives are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your budget billing reconciliations. Call us at 229-22707001.

For anyone interested in applying for the budget billing program, now is the time! The City of Thomasville offers the Budget Billing Plan to eligible residential customers with continuous and current service for a minimum of 12 months. The plan allows customers to spread their bill amount evenly across the year, helping to avoid peak fluctuations during the higher winter and summer months. This means customers have more control over their utility bills each month. Open Enrollment will be throughout the month of April, but you can apply now! Interested in applying? It's easy to do, just click here!

Natural Gas Safety Tips

Natural gas is safer than you think. In fact, the U.S. natural gas industry spends more than $4 billion on safety-related programs each year. For example, did you know that the rotten egg smell associated with natural gas is actually an additive? Natural gas in its original state is odorless, but the rotten egg smell has been added as an additional safety measure. Natural gas is a great, cost-saving option for residential appliances, however there are some safety measures you should take when working with natural gas:

- Have your gas water heater, furnace, and flue inspected periodically.
- Keep the area around your furnace and water heater clean.
- Never store or use flammable items near gas appliances.
- Drain a pail full of water from your water heater at least twice a year to remove sediment that may accumulate in the bottom of the tank.
- Check the flame on your gas range; it should always be blue.
- Keep the range and burners clean.
- Never let flames "lick" over the sides of your cooking pot.
- Keep a dry chemical fire extinguisher in the kitchen.
- Never use the kitchen range as a space heater, as it can produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Read and follow manufacturers' instructions on your gas appliances. Know how to shut them off in an emergency.
• If you use a gas space heater anywhere in your home, vent it to the outside. Never sleep in a room with an unvented gas or kerosene heater.

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**City Council Announces Revised Meeting Schedule**

Beginning this month, the meeting schedule for the Thomasville City Council will be adjusted slightly. The changes are being made to better streamline the workshop and regular meetings schedule.

Beginning Monday, March 25th, there will no longer be a 6 pm workshop session prior to the Council meeting. The 7 pm Council meeting, however, will take place on the 25th as scheduled. Beginning with the April 22nd Council meeting, the meeting time will move to 6 pm.

In addition to these changes, the Utilities Committee will begin meeting just once each month beginning in April. These meetings will be held at 8:30 am on the same day as the first regularly scheduled Wednesday workshop of each month.

The Thomasville City Council workshops and regular meetings are live streamed on the City's website, [Thomasville.org](http://Thomasville.org). In addition, a regular meeting calendar is posted on the website and is also available on the community scroll, CNS channel 10. For more information on these meeting changes, please click [here](http://Thomasville.org).

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**Spring Cleaning? Drop off Your Unwanted Items With the City of Thomasville!**

The City of Thomasville's Annual Spring Clean Event is scheduled to begin next month. During the event, unwanted computers, electronics, small appliances, kitchen appliances, mattresses, boxes, and even furniture will be accepted. For one day only, at Cherokee Lake, hazardous materials such as garden sprays, automotive materials (including transmission fluid and oil), paint, and liquid cleaners will be accepted. Please bring us your unwanted items between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm as follows:

- April 13th: Parnell Park
- April 14th: Francis Weston Park
- April 20th: Cherokee Lake Park (hazardous materials accepted at this location ONLY)
- April 21st: Flipper Park
For more information on the Spring Clean event, please contact our Customer Care department at 229-227-7001.

Public Meetings & Events Calendar

3/25: 8:30 a.m. - Payroll Development Authority Meeting
3/25: 7:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting
3/25: 8:00 a.m. - Main Street Advisory Board Meeting
3/27: 8:30 a.m. - CANCELED Utilities Committee Meeting
4/1: 5:30 p.m. - Planning and Zoning Board Meeting
4/2: 8:00 a.m. - Main Street Advisory Board Meeting
4/2: 11:00 a.m. - Planning Committee Meeting
4/3: 8:30 a.m. - Utilities Committee Meeting
4/3: 10:00 a.m. - Land Bank Authority Meeting
4/3: 4:00 p.m. - City Council Workshop
4/3: 8:00 a.m. - Public Works Committee Meeting
4/3: 10:00 a.m. - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
4/10: 10:00 a.m. - Architectural Review and Zoning Appeals Board Meeting
4/10: 11:00 a.m. - Public Safety Committee Meeting
4/11: 9:00 a.m. - Downtown Development Authority Meeting
4/11: 6:00 p.m. - Airport Advisory Board Meeting
4/16: 3:30 p.m. - Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Team Meeting
4/17: 2:30 p.m. - Risk Management Committee Meeting
4/17: 4:00 p.m. - City Council Workshop
4/18: 11:00 a.m. - City/County Landfill Committee Meeting
4/22: 6:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting
A full meeting calendar is available here.

See what's happening on our social media site: