A sense of community is important to members of Team Thomasville. We are truly your friends and neighbors, and enjoy giving back in any way that we can. Throughout the month of December, Team Thomasville staff have either made donations or contributions to the following local organizations:

- The Salvation Army
- The Boys and Girls Club
- Thomas County Schools
- Thomasville Police Department
- Halcyon Home
- The Mens Rescue Mission
- Thomas-Grady Service Center
- CASA

‘Tis the season for giving, but members of Team Thomasville enjoy spreading cheer to the community throughout the year! There are 285 employees currently contributing to our organization’s Charity Fund, assisting local groups like those mentioned above as well as fellow Team Thomasville members during their own personal hardships.
Team Thomasville
in the News

We are proud of our dedicated staff and all they do to serve our community. Here are just a couple of special accomplishments members of Team Thomasville have made lately.

Thomasville Receives 2020 Main Street Accreditation

During the November 12th regular meeting of the City Council, the City of Thomasville was designated as an accredited Georgia Exceptional Main Street (GEMS) program by the National Main Street Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Downtown Development for 2020.

According to Main Street and Business Development Director April Norton, this distinction means that Thomasville’s Main Street program is ranked among the best in the state of Georgia. “It is an honor to again be recognized and named a GEMS community,” she said. It is a testament to the commitment of our entire community to the main street approach, which is exemplified through a focused, deliberate path that encompasses economic vitality, design, organization, and promotion. All of these areas together help to not only revitalize but also strengthen our downtown economic impact.”

Jessica Reynolds, Director of the Office of Downtown Development with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs presented a gateway sign to the Thomasville Main Street program and addressed the Thomasville City Council, stating, “Over the last three years alone, downtown Thomasville has seen 20 million dollars of private and public investments, with 58 new businesses opening and 225 net new jobs created in the downtown area.”

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. “It’s the generations of visionaries and leaders who have paved the way to Thomasville’s success,” Norton said. “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 the kind of success that has made Thomasville the example other communities often emulate.”

Alan Carson, City of Thomasville City Manager, said that the distinction of being named a GEMS program is reflective of the Main Street staff and the supportive community. “We have a strong downtown because of the support we receive from our City Council, downtown businesses, property owners, and members of our community,” he said. “We also have a dedicated staff that truly care about our community and work hard to support our small businesses. Together, we’ve created and continue to grow a thriving downtown with unique experiences for our citizens and visitors. This award shows what we’ve been able to achieve together.”

For more information on Thomasville’s Main Street program or the GEMS accreditation, please contact the City of Thomasville’s Main Street office at 229-227-7020.
TFR’S Bowman Announces Retirement

Thomasville Fire Rescue Chief Chris Bowman has announced his retirement, after serving 39 years in the fire service and the Thomasville community for more than six years. Bowman joined the City of Thomasville as Fire Chief in 2013.

“I am honored to have served the citizens of Thomasville as the Chief of Thomasville Fire Rescue,” said Bowman. “I’m especially proud to have worked alongside some of the most dedicated men and women in the fire service here, which has made my decision to retire bittersweet. Together, we’ve made significant strides in our local fire protection services and, while I’m proud of the work we’ve done together, I’m excited to see how this department grows in the future.”

Thomasville City Manager Alan Carson said that Bowman’s impact on TFR has been significant. “Chris has laid a positive foundation for our local fire department in many areas, including strategic planning and peer mentoring,” Carson said. “Under his direction, TFR has achieved many distinctions, including the achievement of National Fire Protection Association certification of all staff members.”

Bowman came to Thomasville from the Greensboro, North Carolina, Fire Department where he served as Assistant Chief of the Strategic Planning Division. While with Greensboro, Bowman was involved in the department’s strategic planning initiatives as well as other areas including performance and accountability, ISO classification and accreditation. He brought 33 years of experience in fire protection, technical rescue, incident command, training, planning and emergency services to Thomasville.

During his tenure with TFR, Bowman has led the department to achieving the status of a certified ‘Blue Card’ incident command center and simulation lab by the National Incident Command Center, the only one of its kind in the State of Georgia. He has also worked with TFR staff to incorporate many new initiatives, including the establishment of a tactical ropes rescue team, officer training and education programs, and the TFR honor guard.

“Chris has had a tremendous impact on the personal growth and development of his staff,” said Carson. “His experience in the fire service has been invaluable to the department and has allowed our department to provide an outstanding level of protection for our community. He is highly regarded by those in the fire service and, most importantly, by the staff who have served under his leadership. He will be greatly missed, and his Team Thomasville family wishes him well.”

Bowman said that he and his wife, Tricia, will be relocating to North Carolina, where the couple have family. “Thomasville has become our home over the last six years and we are appreciative to have been welcomed by this community,” he said. “Although we will be moving back to North Carolina, we will leave a big piece of our hearts in Thomasville.”

Bowman’s retirement is effective December 31st. Carson said that an interim fire chief will be named in the coming days.
January 10th is National Cut Your Energy Costs Day. The City of Thomasville offers several different programs to help you save, including:

- **FREE Energy Audits**
  Saving money can be as easy as making some small home and lifestyle changes. Allow a trained member of our staff to come to your home and help you identify ways you can save energy and lower your utility bill.

- **Budget Billing**
  Know what you're going to pay on your utility bill month after month. Budget billing looks at your annual utility usage, takes that average, and allows you to pay accordingly, meaning you have more control over budgeting your payment. Enrollment in the program occurs twice yearly, every April and October.

- **Smart Choice Discount**
  Receive a 10% discount on certain portions of your bill when you choose to have all of your utility services with the City of Thomasville.

- **Natural Gas Rebate Program**
  Eligible residential customers installing or converting to the City of Thomasville’s Natural Gas Rebate Program can be eligible for up to $700 in rebates for both year-round and seasonal gas appliances.

- **On-Bill Financing**
  On-Bill Financing is a revolving fund program designed to improve energy efficiency. Eligible residential homeowners can take advantage of low-cost funding when replacing their appliances with EnergyStar qualified appliances.

For more information on ways you can save with the City of Thomasville, call our Customer Care team at 229-227-7001.
Saving Money During Holiday Season

Decorating your home for the holidays? Keep energy efficiency in mind! Did you know that even when it comes to Christmas lights, switching to LED lighting can shrink your utility bill? A string of the most common incandescent bulbs uses around 175 watts of electricity, which can amount to a $15-20 increase in your utility bill during holiday season. A string of LED lights, however, uses around 2.5 watts, costing only about $.25! That’s some tremendous savings on your bottom line when you can use it the most!

Make the Switch to Paperless Billing

When it comes to receiving your utility bill, you’ve got options! Have your utility bill delivered directly to your email inbox each month with paperless billing.

Give a member of our Customer Care team a call to switch to paperless billing today at 229-227-7001.

Protect Yourself this Holiday Season

Santa shopping online this year? For customers with CNSNext Internet service, AVAST Virus Protection is available for only $.99 per month per computer! AVAST protects against viruses, worms, Trojans, spyware, and more.

Call 229-227-7001 for more information and to add AVAST to your CNSNext account today!
The City of Thomasville administrative offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and Wednesday, December 25, 2019, in observance of the Christmas holidays. City administrative offices will also be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020, in observance of New Year’s Day.

Because of these holiday observances, some City services will be affected. City services’ schedules will be as follows:

- **Utilities Response Center**
  Regular 24-hour operational schedule, available by calling 229-227-5499.

- **City of Thomasville Residential Refuse**
  There will be no City refuse services on Wednesday, December 25, 2019. City refuse services will be unchanged Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

- **Thomas County Residential Refuse**
  Customers outside of the city limits with regular collection on Wednesdays will have their services collected on Tuesday, December 24, 2019. For New Year’s Day, customers outside the City limits with a regular Wednesday collection will have their services collected on Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Customers with a Thursday collection will have their services collected on Friday, January 3, 2020.

- **Commercial Refuse**
  Commercial customers with a regularly scheduled Wednesday collection will have their services collected on Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

- **Country Oaks Golf Course**
  Country Oaks will be open Tuesday, December 24, 2019 for regular operating hours. Holiday rates will apply and tee times are recommended. The golf course will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2019. The course will be open for regular operating hours on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, with holiday rates and tee times recommended.

- **Municipal Airport**
  The Municipal Airport will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2019 unless a previous reservation has been arranged. There will also be modified hours on December 26, 2019 and January 1, 2020, with the airport open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

- **Landfill**
  The Landfill will be open for regular operating hours on Tuesday, December 24, 2019. The landfill will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020.
Don’t Let a Fire Ruin Your Holidays!

A live Christmas tree can make your home look and smell beautiful through the holidays. However, if you don’t take proper care of your live Christmas tree, the beauty could quickly turn into tragedy.

Here are some safety tips for ensuring your beautiful tree doesn’t become a fire hazard:

• Check and water your tree daily. Christmas lights on a dry Christmas tree can quickly cause a fire!

• Ensure that your tree is not near any heat sources, such as a candle or fireplace. 25% of all Christmas tree fires started when a Christmas tree was too close to a heat source.

• Check your electrical distribution or lighting equipment near and on your tree. 44% of home Christmas tree fires started due to overloaded or damaged power or extension cords.

Click here to learn more about fire safety during the holidays.

Public Meetings & Events Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>CANCELED: Planning and Zoning Board</td>
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<td>1/7</td>
<td>8:00 am Main Street Advisory Board</td>
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<td>1/7</td>
<td>CANCELED: Planning Committee</td>
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<td>8:30 am Utilities Committee</td>
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<td>CANCELED: Land Bank Committee</td>
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<td>10:00 am Architectural Review and Zoning Appeals</td>
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<td>11:00 am Public Safety Committee</td>
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<td>2:00 pm Public Works Committee</td>
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<td>4:00 pm City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Airport Advisory Board</td>
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<td>12:00 pm Thomasville/Thomas County Recreation</td>
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<td>1/13</td>
<td>6:00 pm City Council Meeting</td>
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<td>10:00 am Historic Preservation Commission Board</td>
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<td>11:00 am City/County Landfill</td>
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<td>1:00 pm Solid Waste Committee</td>
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<td>1/22</td>
<td>4:00 pm City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>6:00 pm City Council Meeting</td>
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