

# It was the Year

Annual Report ~ Thomasville **2013**





**Our truck powered by CNG technology, reduces greenhouse gas emissions by up to 20% when compared to a diesel engine.**

*Cover photo: One of four City of Thomasville Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered trucks.*

*Annual Report photos by Johanna Lakin Photography*

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**It was the year we conserved resources. 2013 was**

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*2013 was the year we started something new.*

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*took steps forward.*

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## Manager's Perspective

City Manager, Steve Sykes

We are pleased to present to you our 2013 annual report. As in previous years, the 2013 annual report provides to you a look back at the year's accomplishments as well as a summary of the City's most recently audited financial statements. You will see both from our accomplishments and from the financial data that your City remains strong.

In 2008, City Council and staff created a five-year strategic plan, and many of our accomplishments since that time originated in that

plan - accomplishments like the Compressed Natural Gas fleet project which will not only save money but will also reduce the City's carbon footprint.

As we look forward, the next generation strategic plan will drive new initiatives, new goals. As always, we are focused on creating a safe, thriving community.

American author, Henry David Thoreau said, "It is not enough to be busy, so are the ants. The question is, "What are we busy about?"

*this was the year*

It is our goal to be busy creating a community you are proud to call home. Through the leadership of our City Council and the dedication of our staff, we continue to strive to exceed your expectations.

We thank you for the honor of serving you.

2013 was the year we took time for neighbors. It was a year we were out in the community hearing from you, working to keep you safe and keeping you informed.

Developing good stewards of our natural resources starts early with children like Journi. The outreach program for school age children developed by our Solid Waste staff helps young people understand their role in protecting our fragile environment.

For young and old, we launched a web-based resource named Green Street that you can find on the [Thomasville.org](http://Thomasville.org)

homepage. There you can calculate the energy efficiency of your home and compare costs between appliances. Use any of the nine analyses available on that site to be more energy savvy.

Over 3,500 citizens took part in watch groups, health screens, fire safety demonstrations, neighborhood socials, and special children's holiday events - all organized by city professionals. The Thomasville police helped citizens take charge of crime prevention. Individuals learned how to effectively report a crime and, most importantly, how to avoid becoming a victim of crime. In conjunction with other community

# *time for neighbors*

resources, we assisted neighborhoods to identify and preserve their historic properties.

2013 was a year for our neighbors; educating, mentoring, coaching and empowering our citizens.

**J**ourni Bell is among many school age kids who are learning how environmental technology in our landfill protects our soil and water from contaminants.



2013 was the year we fostered the good life at home, where you play and on the bricks of downtown.

Your home is where you grow your families, entertain friends and relax at the end of the day; it merits new possibilities. Through the City's on-bill loan program, Sunny and Ken Gay along with many other homeowners found opportunity to enhance their homes with energy efficient refrigerators, heating and air conditioning, windows and more. A quarter of a million dollars of improvements across Thomasville's neighborhoods materialized through this program launched with state funds.

Several of Thomasville's key recreational destinations have realized new improvements. With upgraded playground equipment, Cherokee Lake continues to be a family favorite, and local fans of youth sports enjoy the new sidewalk and bleacher covers at the Remington Park Sports Complex.

For more entertainment options, CNS continues to expand TV Everywhere, a free option with your cable subscription. Subscribers watch their favorite programs untethered from the television, on mobile devices or computers. Plus, catching up on a missed episode is a real option. Leisure TV - pretty much

*fostered the good life*  
where and when you want it.

Quality dining and shopping venues are even more accessible with the completed Madison Street streetscape. With new sidewalks and lighting, pedestrians feel invited and safe to explore more of the downtown district.

Thomasville is your hometown. We want to help make it all that it can be.

**S**unny and Ken Gay, customers of City utilities for 31 years, are saving energy with energy efficient HVAC and washing machine purchased through our easy on-bill financing.



2013 was the year for new beginnings that make economic sense, help us run our business activities more efficiently and pave the way for growth.

Economic growth, the ability to produce more products and services, create jobs and boost individual prosperity in our community, is the focus of our community's Payroll Development Authority. This group has its energy directed, among numerous projects, to the fledgling Red Hills Business Park on Highway 319. Work on the roads and utilities infrastructure is underway.

A huge accomplishment in the utility

*started something new*

area is the continued migration to a compressed natural gas fueled vehicle fleet for solid waste retrieval. With this business decision we have decreased fuel cost, increased efficiency and reduced our carbon footprint in the environment. The annual fuel saving for the four vehicles currently in operation is \$85,000. Additional units were brought online near the end of 2013.

New technology has driven efficiencies in our water and electric utilities also. The switch to automated metering provides not only greater accuracy and efficiency, but improved outage response as well. A similar program is being

considered for gas metering. As this technology is launched, customers will have access to new tools to monitor and manage their usage.

2013 was the year for innovating, controlling cost and planning for new prosperity.

**I**nfrastructure and the availability  
of commercial property are top  
priorities for the community's  
**Payroll Development Authority.**

From left to right:

Elaine Mayes - *Chairperson, Thomas County Board  
of Commissioners*; Max Beverly - *Mayor, City of  
Thomasville*; Joe Snouffer - *Chairman, Chamber  
of Commerce*; Rodney Deese - *President & CEO,  
Thomas County Federal Bank*

Not pictured:

Stephen Cheney - *CEO,  
Thomasville National Bank*



**A strategic initiative for this board was the decision to hire an Executive Director. This person will be dedicated to economic development and the creation of jobs in Thomasville and Thomas County.**

**Max Beverly  
Payroll Development Board**

**We uncovered more bricks this year linking Broad and Madison which is good for the whole district. We added seven new businesses this year.**

**Kate Wilder  
Main Street Board**

**The turn-of-the-century visitor first loved Thomasville for the pine-scented forests. As a community, our love of trees has not waived. This board keeps an eye for green space as our city grows.**

**Pam Long  
Tree & Landscape Board**

**Planning and zoning is critical to creating the community that we all want, whether its rezoning for home or commercial construction. If a new restaurant flourishes, quality of life for all improves.**

**William Dickey  
Planning & Zoning Board**

*took steps forward*

**We often apply common sense solutions to unusual situations in order to protect the property rights of an individual as well as the owners of surrounding properties.**

**Mark Parker  
Architectural Review & Zoning Appeals Board**

***Many citizens are surprised to learn that we have more than 15,000 aircraft operations, takeoffs and landings, at the Thomasville Regional Airport each year. It's critical that we continue to invest in the airport's facilities to accommodate future tourism and business growth.***

***Roy Campbell  
Airport Advisory Board***

***The success of the downtown business district is a huge economic impact for the City. We nurture new development whenever possible.***

***Scott Rich  
Downtown Development Authority***

***Historic preservation is not only key to the charm of our city but its economic growth. Our entire board attended a statewide training program on best practices in preservation programs.***

***John Hand  
Historic Preservation Board***





**Max Beverly**  
Mayor, center

*on the bricks*

Council members, left to right

**Jay Flowers**

**Greg Hobbs**

**Roy Campbell**

**David Lewis**



**Steve Sykes**  
City Manager

In 2013, the City Council and staff developed a five-year strategic plan that places a strong focus on economic development and creating synergy with community partnerships to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

*Max Beverly*

The City's investment in CNS and technology services continues to pay dividends to the community, not only with excellent service but also with support to the General Fund through transfers of nearly \$1.5 million in 2013.

*Jay Flowers*

The conversion of our solid waste vehicle fleet from diesel to compressed natural gas (CNG) technology is a model for other municipalities in the state.

*Greg Hobbs*

The revitalization of the Victoria Place neighborhood and the opening of the Housing & Resource Center in 2013 represent the City's on-going commitment to safe, livable neighborhoods.

*Roy Campbell*

2013 was the year we began a major upgrade to our water system infrastructure, improving reliability in both service to customers and fire protection.

*David Lewis*



## Thomasville as compared to other Georgia Municipalities

### Municipal Property Tax per Capita

Thomasville average per person	\$ 0
Statewide average per person	\$309

### Municipal Revenues from Enterprise Funds

Thomasville	92%
Statewide average	51%

*(charges for governmental and utilities services)*

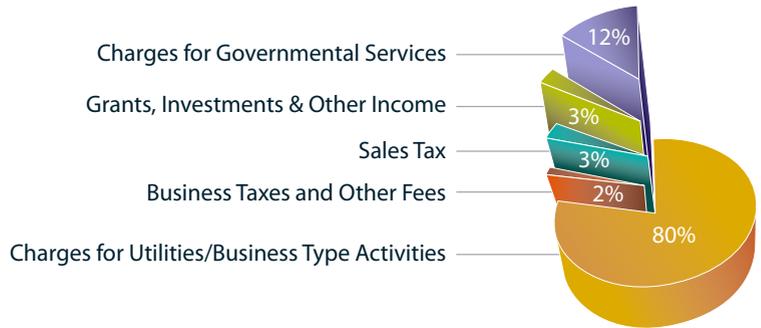
### Municipal Revenues from Sales Taxes & Other General Funds

Thomasville	5%
Statewide average	49%

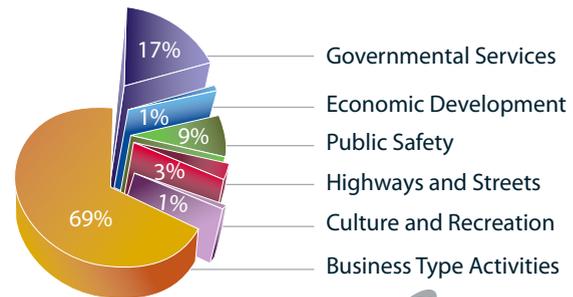
*stats & numbers*

Source: Georgia Local Government Financial Highlight Report by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

## Where Dollars Come From



## Where Dollars Go



These numbers represent a summary of the most recently audited financial statements as reported in a June 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

For 12 consecutive years, the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

The data on this page is exclusive of the Thomasville City School Tax. The school board sets its millage rate yearly, and the City of Thomasville collects these taxes on the board's behalf. School tax dollars support the operation of the Thomasville City Schools.

In May 2013, The Municipal Gas Authority named Thomasville's Compressed Natural Gas fueling initiative as the 2012 Project of the Year.

The Wastewater Treatment plant received the "Gold Award" from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals for zero permit violations for 2012.

On October 10, 2013, the Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council announced the Thomasville Utilities' Water Construction Team as the Region 4 winner of the 2013 Golden Backhoe Safety Award. The team also received the statewide Lester E.

*Kudos*

Feathers Damage Prevention Award.

The Southeast Tourism Society selected Victorian Christmas as one of the top 20 events of the region.



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**The power of community. The power of service.**

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