The Power of Community. The Power of Service.

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2016
Thomasville Annual Report
8 Hours in Thomasville
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The iconic clock on Broad Street is a Thomasville landmark. It not only adds to the charm and character of downtown, but also serves as a functioning timepiece.
Introduction

It doesn’t take much time to discover the character and soul of Thomasville.

Just spend a day among businesses, city staff, local students and civic volunteers. These groups bring to life the innovative products, ideas and services to fuel the economy.

City Manager’s Message

On any given day, there is progress and innovation at work in Thomasville. And much to feel good about.

We are home to a diverse mix of successful corporate operations, with our top six manufacturers employing a workforce of over 1,700 citizens. In Thomasville, we make everything from boilers to bread, and corporate headquarters flourish alongside small mom-and-pop businesses.

We are also a city of ideas and innovative young people. These are the leaders of tomorrow for our community and our local economy. They are our fresh entrepreneurs, or the new “makers” of tomorrow, if we provide the opportunities to grow and an environment to cultivate their innovation and creativity.

The industry experts tell us that manufacturing spurs the creation of jobs, investments, and innovations elsewhere in a community’s economy. Every $100 in final manufacturing sales supports $1.33 in output in other sectors. Our healthy manufacturing industries ensure an overall healthy local economy.

One local manufacturer, C & S Machine Company, opened their doors to us for a photo shoot this year for use in this annual report. They have been in business here since 1974 with state of the art CAD/CAM and CNC technology. We appreciate their invitation onto the factory floor. Success such as theirs is certainly an inspiration for a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Steve Sykes
City Manager
Innovation Makers

9:00 AM

It’s 9:00 am. Most Thomasville businesses awoke hours ago now. Coffee pots and computers illuminate. Hands begin familiar tasks, bright minds find solutions and innovation is born.

The economic engine is humming, The staff of your city and its leadership are at work ensuring you have the infrastructure and tools you need for every 8 to 5 to be successful.

In 2016

- The SCADA system continued to monitor 24/7 the flow of electricity and all utilities to provide early detection of potential problems.
- Water, wastewater, electricity, fiber and natural gas infrastructure was completed for new business in Red Hills Business Park.
- Competitive utility rates were maintained, a vital tool to help attract new businesses and industrial customers.
- Approximately 4,000,000 gallons of our city’s ample water supply were pumped daily.
- The wastewater treatment team implemented a multi-million dollar infrastructure improvement project.
- The Municipal Airport completed a new corporate hangar along with a 6,000 ft. runway extension, putting access to the Thomasville business community within reach of virtually anywhere on the globe.
- Important upgrades were completed of our telecom system, ensuring your desktop computers, work order systems, distribution and sales communications arrive in real time.
- City-owned fueling stations provided access to energy-conscious companies that migrated their fleets to CNG-fueled vehicles.

Maker Notables

Cives Steel was named the top 2016 Manufacturer of the Year in Georgia in the small manufacturer category by the state of Georgia. Cives Steel is a maker of structural steel from recycled material, a partner with clients in LEED Construction.

Bayly, Inc. has manufactured custom military hats for over 150 years. They moved their manufacturing operations to Thomasville in 2008, where they now produce headwear for police, fire, postal and band consumers worldwide.

Cold Keepers LLC make a variety of thermal packaging, mailers, custom pouches, beverage bags and more under the Kold-to-Go brand. Industries served include bio-tech, pharmaceutical and retail.

Notable Makers such as SouthLife Supply Company, Sweet Grass Dairy, Blackberry Patch, and numerous other Thomasville artisans make leather goods, food products, sporting accessories and crafted wood products.
Idea Makers 12:00 Noon

It’s midday and the work day is half gone. But big ideas seldom punch a clock. They happen over lunch or at pilates class. “Let’s try this…” often is the spark that becomes a Thomasville tradition.

The staff and city leadership build community linkages, policies and strategies that work for you 24/7. New ideas give you a platform to blossom.

In 2016
- A citywide 3-day workshop fostered creative thinking for the future of MacIntyre Park.
- Area church leaders gave our law enforcement professionals ideas on how to engage our youth and serve neighborhoods.
- The Downtown Development Authority fostered downtown business growth through innovation, such as a partnership with the state Department of Community Affairs that developed new opportunity zones that provides new businesses tax credits on workforce head count.
- The City earned a revolving home investment fund that will assist 4-5 qualifying citizens with first time home ownership in its first year.
- The City and County eyed infill development projects through the Thomasville-Thomas County Land Bank.
- A collaboration with the FBI and National Park Service uncovered significant historical artifacts in a POW Civil War Site.
- Thomasville Fire Rescue Teams responded to fire and medical calls in our community within five and half minutes.
- Our industry key account liaison worked with community partners on high-demand workforce training opportunities.

Community Notables

Thomasville Landmarks and the Williams Family Foundation partnered with the Land Bank to envision Victoria Park, a walkable neighborhood five minutes from downtown. Twenty-four new rooftops are slated for construction beginning in 2017. The character of the homes will be reminiscent of historic homes of the area.

Thomasville-Thomas County Historical Society staff contributed hours of research toward unearthing stories hidden within our historic cemeteries.

Organizations devoted to the arts partnered with Main Street for public art exhibitions. Through visual and performing arts, downtown events draw visitors who support our merchants. Thomasville Entertainment Foundation hosted an open air concert in MacIntyre Park in 2016.

Archbold Memorial Hospital launched Live Better, a health and lifestyle initiative. The City partners in this initiative that gives citizens new ways to engage our city’s recreation and exercise amenities. The YMCA, with a diverse citizen board, takes the lead on recreation program development in city parks.

The cast-iron fence and gates that line the Old Cemetery date to the 19th century.
Making New Makers

3:00 PM

It’s 3:00 pm. The bell rings signaling the end of another school day. Students pour into the hallways at Thomasville schools. Young thinkers are encouraged to innovate, design, problem solve and build solutions.

The staff and City leadership view our schools as the genesis for our future makers, next workforce and CEOs.

In 2016

- While Thomasville has no property tax, we collected and disbursed over $11 million in school tax for our city school system.
- In 1996, as we first built our telecommunications system, schools were among our first priority. Access to the Internet for every student was realized nine months later. Today, students may complete their education through an innovative virtual program, an Internet-based initiative.
- Thomasville police officers engaged in student-focused programs including Driver’s Safety, Bullying Avoidance, and a Junior Law Enforcement Academy Program.
- Thomasville Fire Rescue launched a student initiative, allowing future firefighters to experience the skills necessary in fire rescue.
- Shop With A Cop, a popular December holiday event, gives young people positive experiences with their local police officers.
- The Environmental Education Center at our state-of-the-art landfill hosted more than 100 young people, fostering new ideas for recycling and other green projects.
- Students worked as partners in a park improvement planning process for McIntyre Park, helping to lead outreach initiatives.

Young Maker Notables

Grace Fletcher, 12th grader, is a member of a class robotics team that built its first robot to participate in a competitive tech challenge called Velocity Vortex. Grace has an interest in pursuing the computer field after high school graduation.

Jukeem Brundage, 12th grader, and Malik Jones, 11th grader, excelled in the Thomasville Food Science Top Chef Competition with their original dessert recipe, a Bruffin. In addition to his culinary talents, Jukeem also hopes to use his creativity in writing upon graduation. Malik has future aspirations with computers.

Bo Miller, 10th grader, excelled in the national Odyssey of the Mind competition, a highly competitive problem solving tournament. A talented builder, he was a finalist in the 2015 competition. For the upcoming competition, he constructed a jukebox for time travel.

Every maker has a different starting point. However, the common thread begins with an inspiration to invent, the spark that turns an individual from simply consuming products to one having a hand in actually making them.
Facts & Numbers

The 436 employees in 21 departments provide services that support safety, economic growth, utility operations, recreation, green space, education, and civic organizations.

In 2016

- City fleet services retrofitted 15 vehicles from gas to CNG-fueled.
- A mobile app for easy access for utility account management was developed. Check the App Store on your digital devices for the City of Thomasville mobile app.
- Provided on-bill financing for utility customers for energy efficient appliance upgrades. Since inception, 416 customers have been serviced totaling $1.8 million. There were 52 loans in 2016 alone.
- 1,500 building and trade permits were issued.
- Resurfaced 2.7 miles of streets.
- Rehabbed 6.4 miles of sidewalk, removed 7,259 trip hazards.
- Launched a social media presence via Facebook and a community newsletter “Plugged In” to provide timely communication to citizens on new initiatives.
- New internal software technologies increased data security.
- Implemented online tee times at the municipally-owned Country Oaks Golf Course.
- Thomasville Fire Rescue launched a smoke alarm awareness campaign and responded to 4,654 calls, including both fire and medical situations.
- Thomasville Police launched a Clergy Ride Along Program allowing local clergy to join police officers as they patrol neighborhoods.
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Homage to Our Past Makers

Festus Flipper, Jr, (1872-1943), operated his business at 217 South Broad Street during the resort era of Thomasville. Festus was a shoemaker, and crafted carriage trim for buggies. He is brother to Lt. Henry O. Flipper, the first African-American graduate of West Point Military Academy, who is interred at Thomasville’s Flipper Cemetery.

Beginning in 1932, Bracey Lumber was a hallmark for fine millwork. Over generations, this custom millwork shop produced custom mouldings, flooring, and woodworks that have graced the White House, State Department, and countless fine homes. Bracey Lumber closed its doors in 2015. This historic building began its life as a specialty lumber and millwork shop in 1889.

This manhole cover located on Fletcher Street is an example of locally produced product purchased by our utility department from the Thomasville Iron Works. This cover was produced circa 1920. Historical records provide an insight into its business operations with notes about a carload purchase of raw material, pig iron, circa 1911, for the sum of $464.
From left to right: Jay Flowers, Terry Scott, Max Beverly, Mayor Pro Tem Don Sims and Mayor Greg Hobbs.