

# COMMUNIQUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAIRMAN'S CLUB OF THE GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## From the President Gwinnett's Fight Against Cancer

By Jim Maran

EVERY MAY BRINGS a very special event to Gwinnett – our annual Relay For Life, held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds.

This fun-filled, overnight event is designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back against this disease. Relay For Life in Gwinnett is the largest in the world due to the overwhelming efforts of many people including you. It is also a touching time and draws much-needed attention to one of the biggest health issues of our day.



Many of you know that the event has even more meaning for Jane and me this year. The wonderful people of Gwinnett and Chairman's Club members like you have asked time again, how you can help as we fight this disease in our own family.

Supporting Gwinnett's Relay for Life is the best way to help. By raising money for the American Cancer Society, we are increasing the odds of success in our fight against cancer.

For more information on this worthy cause, visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) and make a difference today.

## New Name, Greater Service:

### The PrivateBank Hosts Grand Re-Opening

THE PRIVATEBANK hosted their grand re-opening and ribbon cutting in Peachtree Corners on April 17. This branch of the bank opened in 2006. The bank was founded as Piedmont Bank of Georgia in October 2001. Jody Wirtz, Managing Director of the Peachtree Corners office, was a co-founder of Piedmont Bank, and set his sights on opening the bank's first branch banking office in Gwinnett County.

In local banking for over 20 years, Wirtz had worked in Gwinnett County before, and knew the economic benefit of locating there. "We have many clients who either live or do business here in Gwinnett," Wirtz said. "In fact, the largest percentage of our construction loans is here in Gwinnett."

In December of 2006, Piedmont Bank merged with The PrivateBank, a \$4 billion bank holding company. According to Wirtz, "we now have the best of both worlds – we continue to run our successful community bank model, but we are now backed by much greater lending capacity and a deeper breadth of financial solutions for our clients."

The PrivateBank specializes in lending to small and medium size businesses and real estate professionals through both conventional and SBA lending. From home builders to doctors, lawyers, franchisees and even Food Network personality Alton Brown and movie star Tyler Perry, The PrivateBank serves

everyone from startup businesses to established companies with over \$25 million in revenues.

When it comes to deposits, The



The staff of The PrivateBank in Peachtree Corners

PrivateBank is a local industry leader in Private Deposit, remote technology which allows the client to make a deposit from their own desk.

They offer checking and savings accounts with online bill pay and account management as well as a high yield money market account. The PrivateBank also serves their clients' personal banking needs with free checking accounts and free ATM access at any bank in the world.

A recent testament to their commitment to customer service is the Quality Service Award, presented to The PrivateBank by the Community Bankers Association.

"With new banks forming all the time, it can be hard to look different. But we are confident that to our clients, we stand out through our local expertise, our cutting edge technology, and our complete dedication to service," says Wirtz.

For more information about The PrivateBank, visit their website at [www.theprivatebank.com](http://www.theprivatebank.com) or call (770) 840-2600.

## Ordner Construction Celebrates 20 Years

TWENTY YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG – that’s Ordner Construction Company. What began in the spring of 1987 with a \$1000 investment has grown into a \$100 million company, employing nearly 70 people and holding licenses in over 20 states. The Ordner team of professionals provides one-stop



shopping – from pre-construction to close out – for its clients throughout the southeastern United States. Owner David Ordner attributes a commitment to quality and consistency to Ordner’s longevity in a traditionally rocky industry. Thanks to its sound reputation, Ordner enjoys a repeat client base of more than 75 percent and has increased revenue growth consistently throughout its history. “Our work will come from ...focusing on our clients at hand...and we find that repeat business is more than enough to keep us busy,” states David Ordner. “Our 20-year anniversary is a celebration and a thank-you to everyone who has helped us along the way.”

For more information, please visit [www.ordner.com](http://www.ordner.com). Congratulations Ordner Construction on your first twenty years. Success Lives Here....

## AT&T Classic – New Name But Same Excitement



The AT&T Classic, Gwinnett’s largest special event, is just a few days away, May 14-20 at TPC Sugarloaf. The Classic generates more than \$18 million in economic impact according to a study done in the early-2000’s. Entering the eleventh year at TPC Sugarloaf, the 156-player field is headed by Master’s Champion, Zach Johnson, Vijay Singh, Charles Howell, Chris DiMarco, Henrik Stenson and Davis Love, III. If you and your company have not taken advantage of the many ticket and entertainment packages available, go to [www.attclassic.com](http://www.attclassic.com). In 2006, the tournament generated more than \$1.7 million for charities. Dave Kaplan, Chairman’s Club Member, will be directing his 25th tournament, a career which began in 1983, when the tournament was played at Atlanta Country Club. Kaplan is also a member of the Gwinnett Convention and Visitor’s Bureau Board of Directors.

## Reaching Out Through Community Service

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL who are reaching out into the community with your many efforts to serve:

**American Red Cross Gwinnett County HEROES campaign:** Gwinnett Community Bank: John Martin, Todd Burt, Jo Doherty & Tandy Tarr; **Andersen, Tate & Carr** – Ethel Andersen; **Georgia Power** – Herman Pennamon; **Brand Mortgage Company** – Terra Bullock Winter.

**Relay for Life: Georgia Power** continues its participation which they have done since Relay’s beginning in 1994, selling funnel cakes to a never-ending line of hungry attendees. In 2006 they raised nearly \$10,000 toward research to fight cancer.

**AJC Gwinnett News** continues as a Silver Sponsor; **Richardson Housing Group** is taking a “model approach”, having recently held a silent auction using items and furnishings from one of their model homes and matching the proceeds from the auction, totaling more than \$4,000, with plans to raise even more for this year’s May 11-12 event.

**Andersen, Tate & Carr** hosted a Kick’n Cookout at their Lakes Parkway offices on April 20. The \$10 donation included lunch and a chance to win one of their great gift baskets.

“Gwinnett County Public Schools is proud to be a major participant in the annual Gwinnett Relay for

Life. Our employee and student teams, which numbered over 100 in 2006, can be spotted all along the walking track. Their enthusiasm and goodwill cannot be missed as these teams come together on behalf of loved ones, colleagues, and friends touched by cancer. Relay for Life is a tremendous event for building esprit de corps and raising funds for a very worthy cause. I am proud that the school system’s family joins those from so many organizations in the county year after year in taking up the fight against cancer.”

—J. Alvin Wilbanks, CEO/Superintendent,  
Gwinnett County Public Schools

**SunTrust** has sponsored campsites at the Gwinnett Relay For Life Walk since 1999. Their involvement began in the Fall of 1998 when one of their co-workers, Diane Friel, passed away from breast cancer that had spread to her pancreas. Their slogan was “Banking On A Cure.” Teams have expanded over the years and now include many branch personnel, family & friends. SunTrust is showing the community that it is a bank that cares.

In 2005 the SunTrust team became “Mason’s Military To Fight Cancer” in memory of a team member’s son who died of cancer at age 3. Since 1999, their teams have raised in excess of \$80,000, with the largest year in 2001 in which they raised \$18,392.

# New Chairman's Club Members

## Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

FHLBank Atlanta is a \$140.7 billion financial services organization that works with financial institutions to provide low-cost financing and community building programs throughout the Southeast. The Bank is a stable source of wholesale funding for banks, thrifts, and credit unions.

## Fox Building Company, Inc.

Fox Building Company, Inc. has gained a reputation as a Design-Build General Contractor that holds experience, quality and reliability above all other considerations. We have been in business for over 20 years and have completed almost 600 projects. Our design-build construction experience has served clients in the commercial, manufacturing, industrial, mini-storage, and community markets extensively.

## Guardian Products, Inc.

Guardian Products, Inc., is a major supplier of specialty advertising and promotional products for the automobile industry. We have been fulfilling the needs of automobile dealers since 1981. Guardian has the ability to customize any dealer promotional need from license plates, key tags and slogans to embroidered shirts and hats. Guardian's warehouse facilities make order fulfillment a snap!



Mike Nance

## MNindustries

MNindustries is a Georgia-based full-service sheet metal fabricator. We are an established custom manufacturer that can provide a broad spectrum of value-added services and manufacturing capabilities to serve the full range of dynamic and newly emerging customer needs.

MNindustries has operated in the Atlanta market for over ten years. During that time investments have been made to ensure not only that we have the latest equipment, but to also have the means to grow and meet our customers' expectations.

## Patsy E. Rooks

Patsy Rooks joins the Chamber in a new capacity, following her 37-years of service to the Chamber, most recently as Vice President of Special Programs. It is fitting that she should continue her service to the Chamber and the community through her Chairman's Club membership.



## Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University has provided world-class education to its students since its founding in 1889. Today the university offers 41 academic programs, including some of the most innovative and sought-after majors you'll find anywhere.

Our mission is straightforward: we're here to help you become a better you. And we're confident you'll love the person you become here.



Jim Cochran,  
Director of Marketing

## Scherer Construction & Engineering

Since 1984 Scherer Construction & Engineering has maintained an excellent reputation for customer satisfaction, delivering quality construction on time and within budget. Our clients

appreciate our attention to detail and commitment to customer satisfaction. You will, too. We have a professional staff of licensed contractors, estimators, project managers and trade technicians. We put the best to work for you with in-house design and engineering services. We are large enough to offer all construction services, yet small enough to provide personal attention to our clients. From ground breaking to putting the key in the door, Scherer Construction & Engineering, LLC is a customer service company with a reputation for excellence.



## Travis Pruitt & Associates, Inc.

The attention to detail and the dedication given by the staff of over 140 people at Travis Pruitt & Associates is the difference between an average project and a great project. We

are a full-service land design firm specializing in providing Civil Engineering, Land Surveying, Environmental Services, and Landscape Architecture Consulting Services. We have served local, regional and national clients for over 30 years.

## Upcoming Events

### May 2 – Small Business U Featuring Tanya Eades, PC

Time: 3:45 – 5:00 pm  
Location: John D. Stephens Education Room –  
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce  
Cost: Chamber Members - \$35, Non- Members - \$55  
Sponsored by: Simon, Inc.  
Contact: Laurie McKenzie – (770) 232-8816 or  
laurie@gwinnettchamber.org

### May 11 – Success Lives Here Featuring Louise Radloff

Time: 7: 45 – 9:00 a.m.  
Location: The 1818 Club  
Cost: Members - \$45, Non-Members - \$55  
Sponsored by Atlanta Real Estate Specialists &  
*Gwinnett Business Journal*  
Contact: Laurie McKenzie – (770) 232-8817 or  
laurie@gwinnettchamber.org

### May 14-20 – AT&T Classic

Location: TPC Sugarloaf

### May 16 – General Membership Luncheon Featuring Dr. Dan Kaufman, President, Georgia Gwinnett College

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Location: The 1818 Club  
Cost: Members -\$35, Non-Members - \$55  
Sponsored by Gwinnett Medical Center  
Contact: Laurie McKenzie – (770) 232-8816 or  
laurie@gwinnettchamber.org

Visit [www.gwinnettchamber.org](http://www.gwinnettchamber.org) for your online Calendar of Events, please note events are subject to change—please check your calendar regularly. For questions, please call 770-232-3000.

## This 'n' that

**Atlanta Gas Light** announces it new location at 1255 Lakes Parkway, Suite 270, Lawrenceville 30043.

**Merial's Bob Smith** retired on April 6 "...after 6 ½ wonderful years... to start on a new part of my life – management consulting for some large companies..."

**Gwinnett Medical Center** and the **Gwinnett County Health Department** announce the 2006 Community Health Status Report, a detailed summary of current health information and trends affecting our county and the surrounding area. The report assists in increasing awareness of our current health status. Copies may be obtained online at [www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org/HSR](http://www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org/HSR).

The **Atlanta Journal-Constitution** announces a \$30 million investment in printing equipment and technology at its Gwinnett publishing facility in order to provide additional page, color and section capacity and to yield a brighter, more attractive and more colorful newspaper for readers and advertisers.

**M.C. Dean, Inc.**, parent company of **Tibs Group**, received the Patriotic Employer Certificate of Appreciation from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The certificate recognizes M.C. Dean, Inc., for providing support to employees who participate in the National Guard or military Reserve. M.C. Dean, Inc. is one of the MidAtlantic region's leading homeland security and critical power systems integration firms. They actively recruit personnel retiring from all branches of the military.

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## Chamber Leadership & Staff

Jim Maran, President/CEO  
jmaran@gwinnettchamber.org

Alicia Krogh, Mgr. of Exec. Programs  
alicia@gwinnettchamber.org

Karen Van Duren, VP of Programs  
karen@gwinnettchamber.org

**Administration and Finance**  
Larry Johnson, Chief Financial Officer  
larry@gwinnettchamber.org

Allison Rowe, Accounting Manager  
allison@gwinnettchamber.org

Rhonda West, Admin. Support Manager  
rhonda@gwinnettchamber.org

Melissa Britt, Customer Service Rep.  
melissa@gwinnettchamber.org

**Communications and Business Resources**  
Demming Bass, VP, Marketing & Public Policy  
demming@gwinnettchamber.org

Laurie McKenzie, Sr. Program Manager  
laurie@gwinnettchamber.org

Gail Macrenaris, Leadership and Community Development Manager  
gail@gwinnettchamber.org

Delaine S. Gray, Communications Mgr.  
delaine@gwinnettchamber.org

Jo Anne Wymer, Niche Market Program Manager  
joanne@gwinnettchamber.org

Ken Rutherford, Manager of Publications & Online Operations  
ken@gwinnettchamber.org

**Economic Development**  
Nick Masino, VP Econ. Development  
nick@gwinnettchamber.org

Chip Mitchell, Project Manager  
chip@gwinnettchamber.org

Stephanie Hopkins, Director of Partnership Gwinnett  
shopkins@gwinnettchamber.org

Ashley Risher, Economic Development Assistant  
ashley@gwinnettchamber.org

**Membership Department**  
Tom Fricano, VP Member Services  
tom@gwinnettchamber.org

Pat Brannon, Membership Coordinator  
pat@gwinnettchamber.org

Rodrigo Infante, Membership Representative & Community Initiatives  
rodrigo@gwinnettchamber.org

Brian Karr, Senior Regional Account Executive  
brian@gwinnettchamber.org

Angelia Risher, Program Manager  
angelia@gwinnettchamber.org

Pete D'Avanzo, Senior Regional Account Executive  
pete@gwinnettchamber.org

Lynne Cone, Executive Appointment Specialist  
lynne@gwinnettchamber.org

Sally Muth, Executive Appointment Specialist  
sally@gwinnettchamber.org

Stephanie Johnson, Membership Representative  
sjohnson@gwinnettchamber.org

Sandy Richardson, Regional Account Executive  
sandy@gwinnettchamber.org



**Jackie Ginn,**  
Chairman's Club & Corporate Accounts Manager,  
Regional Sales

jackie@gwinnettchamber.org



*Communiqué is a monthly publication exclusively distributed to members of the Chairman's Club of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce*

EDITORS: Delaine S. Gray,  
Pat Brannon, Demming Bass

DESIGN/LAYOUT: Ken Rutherford

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce

6500 Sugarloaf Parkway  
Duluth, Georgia 30097

Phone: 770-232-3000

[www.gwinnettchamber.org](http://www.gwinnettchamber.org)  
[info@gwinnettchamber.org](mailto:info@gwinnettchamber.org)



GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB