The Chamber would like to thank Renee Hunt and the Elberton Country Club for hosting Business After Hours on December 12th. This was truly a treat for everyone in attendance. The Country Club looked beautiful and the food was delicious. Thanks also to everyone that attended, especially our newcomers.

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

**LITTLE CAESAR'S**

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was recently held for Little Caesar's Pizza. Pictured at the ribbon cutting were: (l-r) Jeff Rodriguez, Michael Rutherford, Paige Terry, Courtney Todd, Mayor Larry Guest, Little Caesar, owners, David Carswell and Roth Schoepf. We welcome Little Caesars to Elberton and to our Chamber membership.

**TWILIGHT STROLL BY THE GRANITE BOWL**

The 11th Annual Twilight Stroll by the Granite Bowl “Fun Run”, 5K and 10.1K event was a great success. We had 109 runners and walkers from Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and one participant from Lafayette, Indiana. The success of the event is due to the hard work of many individuals and support from businesses in our community. We would like to thank those who helped make this event successful.


We also had many volunteers and groups that pitched in to make this 11th annual event successful. We would like to thank Mark Welsh, Mike Seymour, the City of Elberton Police Department, City Fire Department, Elbert County Sheriff’s Department, Elbert County EMS, Georgia State Patrol, Toni King and the Elbert Theatre Board for use of the facility, Cristal Akin, Jason Isbell, Scott Smith, Jeannie Jourolmon and the ECCHS cheerleaders and the MANY volunteers who worked Friday evening before, during and after the race. We could not have done it without your help.

Finally, thanks to all the runners and walkers that came from the different counties in Georgia and also some neighboring states to participate in this event.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Chamber would like to welcome the following into our membership:

Mercer Trim & Upholstery Shop
Camp Harmony
Granite Consultants, Inc
Little Caesars Pizza

Please call the Chamber office if you know of potential members that we may contact about membership.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

The Community Pride Committee selected Mercer Trim & Upholstery as Business of the Month for January. Pictured at the recognition are: (l-r) Bill Brown, Val Evans, Rhoda Dickerson, Pam Brown, Jimmy Mercer (owner), Phyllis Brooks and Michael Rutherford. Congratulations to our Chamber member.

INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH

The Community Pride Committee selected Rome Granite as Industry of the Month for January. Pictured are: (l-r) Bill Brown, Pam Brown, Sherri Evans, Kelley Smith, Carol Sims, Michael Rutherford and Phyllis Brooks. Back row: Tommy McGarity, Val Evans, Angel Bridges, Mike Turner and Brian Hunt. Not Pictured are: Jane Oglesby and David Giannoni.

JACK FROST JUMP

The Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation will sponsor the 3rd Annual Jack Frost Jump on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, at 11 a.m. at the Richard B. Russell State Park beach area. Proceeds from this year's event will go toward the establishment of the Donna Seymour Endowment, in memory of Foundation and Young Professionals Advisory Board member Donna Seymour, who spearheaded the first two successful Jack Frost Jump fundraisers.

Each participant is asked to raise a minimum of $25, which includes a T-shirt. Businesses, churches and clubs are encouraged to sponsor a team. Students are asked to raise $15, which includes a T-shirt. Students not wanting a T-shirt may jump for free. The park entrance fee is $5 per vehicle.

Sign-in and late registration begins at 10:30 a.m. The costume contest begins at 11 a.m. The jump begins promptly at 11:30. For more info, contact Nancy Seymour at 706-213-2558.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee consisting of Chairman Michael Rutherford, PJ Phelps, Greg Gunter, Daniel Graves and Jackson McConnell would like to make the following recommendations for the Board of Directors for a two year term beginning April 1, 2014 and ending March 31, 2016.

Recommendations are: Bruce Herring, Bob Hardy, Lee Vaughn, Russ Rucker, Kyle Branan, Pam Brown, Rick Adams and Tom Evans, Jr.

The membership upon written petition signed by twenty members in good standing may also make nominations. All nominations shall be received at the Chamber office by January 30th.

GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY

The Elbert County Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring Groundhog Job Shadow Day on Tuesday, February 11th. This provides an opportunity for students to get an up-close look at how the skills they are learning in school can be used in the workplace. Groundhog Job Shadow Day has a multitude of benefits to our community. It demonstrates the connection between academics and careers. It builds partnerships between our schools and businesses that enhance the educational experience of all students. It introduces students to the requirements of professions to help them prepare to join the workforce. Most important, it encourages an ongoing relationship between our young people and caring adults.

We hope you will please say “YES” when your company is asked to participate. Last year we placed 235 students in 86 businesses. Letters have been mailed. If you have questions, you may call the Chamber office.

HART COUNTY CAREER EXPO

Hart County will have a Career Expo on February 3rd at the Cateechee Golf Club from 10am - 2pm. Contact Mae Brown, Georgia Department of Labor at 404-217-1598 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS-DATES

| Jan 18 - MLK Ecumenical Banquet       | February 6       |
| Jan 19 - MLK Parade  4:00 pm         | March 6          |
| Jan 20 - MLK Academic Bowl           | April 3          |
| Jan 22 - GDOL- “Hartwell Job Readiness” Event | May 1          |
| Jan 25 - EMH Foundation - 3rd Annual Jack Frost Jump | June 5          |
| Feb 3 - City Council Meeting         | July 3           |
| Feb 6 - Chamber Board Meeting        | August 7         |

(For detail on any of these events, please call the Chamber - 706-283-5651)

CHAMBER MISSION - The mission of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce is to promote commerce, tourism and growth that enhances the quality of life in our community.

VISION STATEMENT - “Elbert County - Small town charm with recreational opportunities, rich heritage and smart growth.”