

# Chamber Connection

*Your source for business news and local happenings in Pierce!*

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## Let's talk customer service strategies

Rob Martin, a consultant with the [Small Business Development Center](#), trained Chamber members on “Eight Customer Service Strategies for Small Business Success” at the Chamber's Lunch & Learn event September 30.

Every business can benefit from improved customer service and the training was designed to help business owners and managers develop strategies for improving or implementing their customer service program.

This educational event was sponsored by the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority.

[Download class notes here!](#)

**Pierce County Chamber of Commerce**

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## Local Eats streams Bears' away games

Local Eats (3648 Hwy. 84 Blackshear) streams the Pierce County Bears away games on the big screen! Cheer on the Bears when you can't make the game in-person and enjoy some hometown BBQ, too!

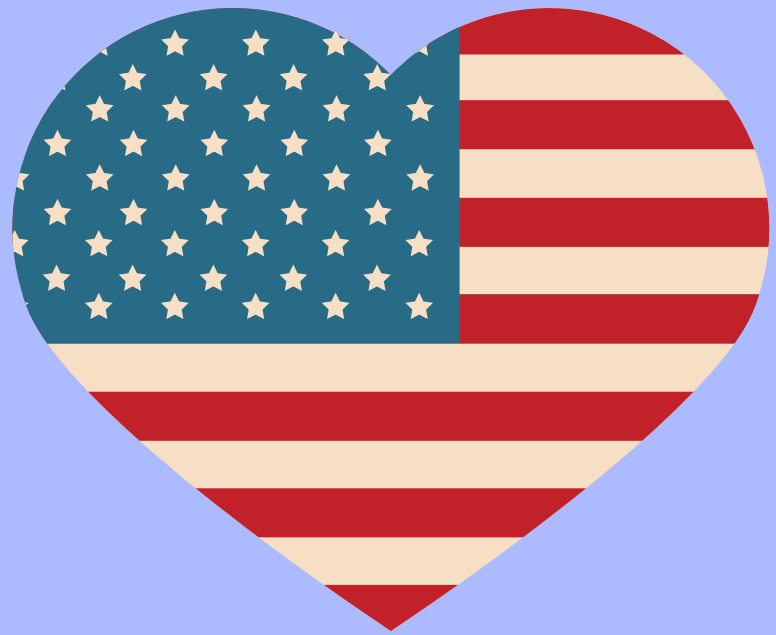
Local Eats serves up a variety of smoked meats and yummy sides. Check out their Bear Box (beginning at 5 p.m.) on Home Game Fridays! Bear Boxes include a barbeque sandwich, chips, Bear cookie and Bear Juice (blue lemonade) for \$10.

## Rotary Club offers memorial flags

Would you like to honor someone you love with an American flag? Or, perhaps you want to express your loyalty to God and country during the holidays. Blackshear Rotary Club can help you do that!

The Club offers a flag subscription for \$35/year. Club members put out the flags at every holiday and take them up. Flags can be installed at your home or place of business. Or, you can subscribe to a memorial flag that lines Main Street.

For more information on this great program, contact Brenda O'Steen at 912-286-5030 or email [brenda.osteen@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.osteen@gmail.com).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER 2021 CALENDAR

There are lots of activity coming up in Pierce County! From the Haunted Funeral Parlor to Okefenokee Swamp celebrations, ribbon cuttings and trick-or-treating, you won't want to miss out!



### MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce will host Meet the Candidates Thursday, October 7, at 7 p.m. at Blackshear City Hall (318 Taylor Street)



### SWAMP PARK MARKS 75 YEARS

Okefenokee Swamp Park is celebrating their 75th anniversary with a month full of events and special programs. The main event will be Oct. 9. Visit Okefenokee Swamp Park for more info!



### LOYAL TO LOCAL MARKET

WayGreen will host Loyal to Local market Saturday, October 16, at Southside Christian School (3439 Knight Ave. Waycross) from 10-2.

## E.L. Cravin's Haunted Parlor

Every October sales tax revenue in Pierce County gets a boost. Any guesses why? E.L. Cravin's Haunted Funeral Parlor gets most of the credit. The popular spooky season event brings in hundreds of visitors who shop, eat and buy gas while they're in town for their scary thrill. E.L. Cravin's Parlor (221 Main Street Blackshear) is open every Friday and Saturday night in October.



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### RIBBON CUTTING AT LOCAL EATS

Local Eats, located at 3648 Hwy. 84, will hold a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 19.



### COASTAL PINES GOLF TOURNEY

The John P. Pike Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Friday, October 22, at the Okefenokee Country Club. Registration @ 10:30; Lunch @ 11:30; Tee Time @ 12:30. For more info, contact Stephanie Roberts, 912-427-5835.



### PECAN FESTIVAL OF GEORGIA

The annual Pecan Festival of Georgia, hosted by The Exchange Club, will be Saturday, October 23, in the Blackshear City Park.

**Small Business Development Center**  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**IN-PERSON**

October 26  
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**No-Cost**

## Financial Fundamentals for Business Owners

## SBDC to offer FREE financial fundamentals

Join the Small Business Development Center and learn how to up your game in using financial data for both tactical and strategic decision making for your #smallbusiness! This training seminar will be in-person in Brunswick!

[Register here!](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER 2021 CALENDAR

There are lots of activity coming up in Pierce County! From the Haunted Funeral Parlor to OSP celebrations, ribbon cuttings and trick-or-treating, you won't want to miss out!



### DOWNTOWN TRICK-OR-TREAT

Main Street Blackshear will host downtown Trick-or-Treating Thursday, Oct. 28, from 6-9 p.m.



### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Dogwood Memories, (406 Main Street) will host Christmas Open House Friday, November 5, from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, November 6, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



### HOSPICE SILVER BOWL GALA

Hospice Satilla will hold the ninth annual Silver Bowl Gala Thursday, Nov. 11, from 4:30-8 p.m. at 6243 Tall Pines Drive (in Okefenokee Country Club).

MEMBER TO MEMBER  
BENEFIT PROGRAM  
DEALS GOOD THROUGH DECEMBER 2021

PIERCE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**The Blackshear Times:**

- Buy one ad get the second ad (of same size/price) free
- Free one-year subscription for new subscribers



**The Sewing Bee:**

- 25% off first order of shirts or hats with company logo
- 10% off reorders



**Gypsy Willows:**

- 10% discount



**Property Feed & Seed**

- 10% discount (with the exception of animal feed and hay.)



**Studio G Portraits**

- 10% discount on one portrait

200 SW Central Ave  
Blackshear, GA 31816  
678-375-3300  
912-449-7096 | 912-816-0299

## DEALS FOR DAYS! Don't forget to use your member to member benefits

Earlier this year, the Chamber launched a Member to Member benefit program where our members offer deals exclusively to other Chamber members. The program is designed to boost our local economy, and help our members establish business relationships with each other. We're stronger together! Contact the Chamber today for more information on how you can participate in this program and be sure to utilize the current deals before they expire later this year!



## Member of the Month: Global Partnership for Telehealth

*"As a non-profit, GPT is concerned with ensuring all people have access to quality healthcare ... We sincerely have the best interest of our providers and patients at heart.  
- Sherrie Williams, COO*

Global Partnership for Telehealth is a non-profit telehealth organization that serves the entire U.S. and several international locations. They opened for business in 2004 and currently have 16 employees. The company is governed by a volunteer board of directors. As a non-profit, GPT isn't beholden to stakeholders who pressure for higher returns on investment.

GPT specializes in telehealth software, hardware, education and consultation.

Nominate someone for Member of the Month here!

### **Meet Matt Cochran**

Matt Cochran is a co-owner of Farmers & Builders (Ace Hardware). He has been a board member since 2015.

**His favorite thing about Pierce County:** The people and their ambition, drive, and faith. Everywhere you look, there are people opening businesses in this community and it is because of local support. Many rural towns in Georgia would love to have the ubiquity of entrepreneurship that we have.

**A fun fact about Matt:** I once danced on stage with the Village People and can spell YMCA. I'm also an avid fly-fisherman, particularly saltwater.

**Favorite Chamber event:** The annual Gala. It is great to see people recognized for all the efforts they pour into this community and making it a beautiful place to call home.

**Why do you serve on the Board?** I believe in the vision of the Chamber and its support of businesses in our community.



# Welcome to Pierce!

The Chamber of Commerce hosted three ribbon cuttings in September



*We celebrated ...*

Fifth & Timber Apparel Co.  
84 West  
Neighborhood Pediatrics



## Director's Note

By Sarah Gove

Fall is my favorite time of year. From fall flavors to holiday scents and the tease of cooler temps, I can't get enough! Fall brings downtown Trick-or-Treat, pumpkin carving, homecoming parades, the Pecan Festival and lots of other fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. It's a great time for our businesses, too as locals turn their attention to the Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities fast approaching and start buying gifts, decorating their homes and stocking up on holiday essentials.

The Chamber will host the annual pecan pie/dessert contest during the Pecan Festival, Saturday, October 23. Join in the fall time fun and get your bake on! Give me a call or an email today to find out how to enter your holiday favorite recipes. The more the merrier!



PECAN FESTIVAL OF GEORGIA

*Pecan Pie & Dessert Contest*

10.23.21



**ENTER NOW! WIN PRIZES!**  
CALL US AT 912-449-7044 OR EMAIL  
[PIERCECHAMBEROFCOMMERCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PIERCECHAMBEROFCOMMERCE@GMAIL.COM)  
FOR INFORMATION!