



## STEPHENS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR:



*Developer Day tour of the construction of the new SCHS*

### ATTRACTION & RECRUITMENT:

- G-M Wood Products, a Michigan-based company, expanded their operations to Toccoa-Stephens County, adding 5 new jobs.
- Crown Resources, a geo-textiles manufacturer, expanded their operations to Toccoa-Stephens County! Their new home is now the Rooker spec

building in Hayestone Brady Business Park, adding 30 new jobs.

- SCDA held two "Developer Day" events giving statewide project managers an in-depth look at Toccoa-Stephens County's assets and economic needs. These 2 events involved a total of 15 statewide developers and 35 locals.
- The Georgia Department of Community Affairs granted Stephens County's request to name a number of industrial sites in the county as "Opportunity Zones."
- Stephens County Commission Chairman JB Hudgins, City Commissioner Ron Seib, Chamber of Commerce Chairman-Elect (and Global Partitions plant manager) Barry Roberts, SCDA Board Chairman Cam Parker, and SCDA Executive Director Tim Martin made the annual fly-in to Washington, D.C. where they met with Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Congressmen Broun, Bishop, Scott, and Westmoreland and key members of their staffs.
- GDOT's rights-of-way acquisitions for the GA-17 widening project from the Toccoa Parkway to the Franklin County line were at 100% at the fiscal year end. The first phase of Highway 17 from Stephens/Franklin County line to Scott Road is in the proposed State Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2013.
- 10 site location consultants were contacted for leads in the targeted industry sectors.
- SCDA, along with the Chamber of Commerce, attended the Georgia Chamber Eggs & Issues Meeting & supported the events surrounding Tourism Day at the Capitol.



*In Washington, D.C. w/ U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss*



*Georgia Chamber Eggs & Issues Meeting & Tourism Day at the Capitol*

- Members of the Stephens County Development Authority attended and worked the Furniture Tradeshow in Atlanta.



*Camera Ready Community*

- Stephens County has been named a “Camera Ready Community”.
- 8 GEDA events were attended.



*Business Spotlight Luncheon, Lanier Clothes*

### **EXISTING INDUSTRY RETENTION & EXPANSION:**

- Applegate Insulation announced an \$8M expansion, adding 36 jobs.
- GEM Southeast celebrated their 100 year anniversary and announced the relocation of ASI Storage Locations to Global Partitions in Toccoa, adding 35 jobs. They also announced an expansion of GEM Plastics, creating 15 new jobs.
- MWL, LLC announced a 10-job expansion.
- Trachte expanded into a second building on Desoto Drive, which added 25 jobs.
- 65 personal visits to existing industries were conducted.
- Business Spotlight Luncheons (jointly with the Chamber of Commerce) continued.
- SCDA sponsored an industry team at the annual Chamber of Commerce golf tournament.
- The Toccoa Record & WNEG 630 helped SCDA spotlight existing industries.
- The Existing Industry Committee visited Fieldale Farms headquarters in Baldwin, GA and Pruitt Corporation headquarters in Norcross, GA.

### **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:**

- Construction of Hammerstone Road and utilities at Hayestone-Brady Business Park were completed; signage and landscaping contracts have been awarded to Visionscapes; site grading continues.



*Hayestone Brady Business Park aerial photo*





- The Product Development Committee earned Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development certification for the Haystone Brady Business Park.
- The One Georgia Authority awarded the JDA of Franklin, Hart, and Stephens Counties \$140,000 to fund a 6-county broadband feasibility study in Northeast Georgia.
- The City of Toccoa, Stephens County, the Chamber of Commerce, and SCDA were awarded a \$16,000 Roadside Enhancement & Beautification grant to turn the property that housed the old Chamber building into a passive green space.
- Construction of a terminal at the Toccoa-Stephens County Airport is underway.

*R.G LeTourneau Airport Terminal groundbreaking*



### **COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING:**

- Toccoa/Stephens County was featured in the July 2010 and April 2011 issues of Georgia Trend Magazine. The articles highlighted some of the accomplishments and efforts of the community.
- The SCDA Marketing Committee further upgraded the SCDA website SCDA was covered multiple times via stories and articles on AM 630 WNEG and in the Toccoa Record. SCDA also published and distributed monthly online eletters.



*Toccoa-Stephens County "Fireworks Over Toccoa" Day at the Capitol*

- The Marketing Committee assisted the T-SC Leadership Class with its "Why Toccoa?" video campaign.
- SCDA helped host Toccoa-Stephens County Day at the Capitol in February, which brought awareness of the County's needs and assets to legislators in Atlanta. This year's theme was "Fireworks Over

Toccoa” after the novel by Jeffrey Stepakoff.

- SCDA’s Facebook page now has 175 fans. SCDA regularly blogs on its fan page, as well as Twitter & Blogger.

**WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

- The Governor’s Office for Workforce Development awarded a \$350,000, 6-county Georgia Mountain Manufacturing Workforce Development grant.
- SCDA supported the job fair efforts of the GDOL, Chamber, NGTC, Stephens County Schools, and others.
- SCDA maintained partnership with Stephens County Schools, North Georgia Technical College, and Toccoa Falls College. SCHS seniors took the Work Ready Assessment in January, with 237 seniors (95 percent of the 2011 graduating class) now Work Ready certified.
- We’ve recruited 5 companies in Stephens County that require, 8 that prefer, and 10 that recognize Georgia Work Ready certificates in their hiring decisions.
- Stephens County High School faculty and staff took the Georgia Work Ready Assessments and toured four local industries.

**SCDA BOARD:**

- SCDA worked to maximize meaningful volunteer engagement. SCDA has 5 committees: Attraction & Recruitment, Existing Industry Retention & Expansion, Product Development, Communications & Marketing, and Work Force Development.
- Members of the Board spoke to various organizations as well as media (newspaper, radio, and magazine) within and outside of the Toccoa-Stephens County community to better inform the public of SCDA’s activities.

LABOR FORCE & POPULATION		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Stephens Labor Force</i>	<i>Total Stephens Population</i>
2000	12,544	25,480
2011	13,361	25,794

*Source: GA Department of Labor*

