



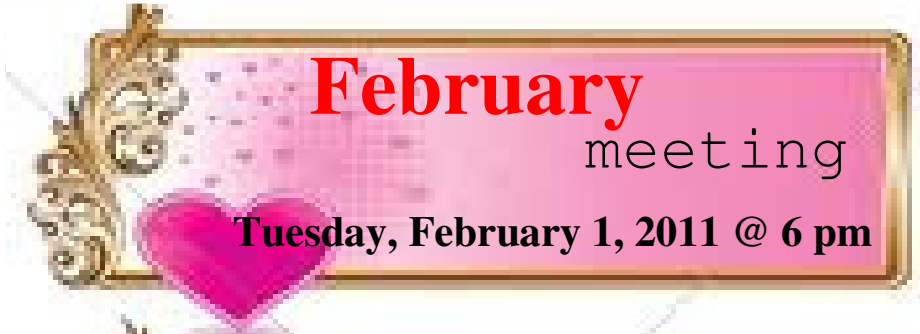
ACCOMPLISHING TOGETHER WHAT
NO ONE COULD DO ALONE

THE GAB-RRR

Year 22 - Issue 6

Community • Integrity • Prosperity

Monthly News from the Duluth Merchants Association



Street Smarts

3160 Main Street
Historic Downtown Duluth
Duluth, GA 30096
Phone: (770) 813-0882



About Street Smarts now Stantec

Stantec

Street Smarts was founded in early 1990 as a sole proprietorship and incorporated in 1991. The firm provides service to both the public and private sectors in data collection, traffic engineering, roadway design, surveying, transportation planning, land planning, landscape architecture, transit analysis, traffic signal design, training, planning and zoning work, impact studies, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), analysis programs, goods movement, impact fees, parking studies, public involvement and facilitation, freight planning, computer modeling, and geographical information services (GIS). We have served many hundreds of clients, many on multiple projects, from single site developments to statewide efforts. At present we have a staff of more than 100 full-time employees.

Marsha Anderson Bomar, founder and President, has worked in the field of traffic and transportation since 1972. Ms. Anderson Bomar is International Past President of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, a 20,000-member professional society. Currently she is on the Board of Governors for the Transportation & Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She is also the recipient of many personal and professional awards including the Burton W. Marsh award for lifetime service in the field of transportation, the Society of Women Engineers Entrepreneur Award and the National Association of Women Business Owners Atlanta Women Entrepreneur Excel Award 2008. She has been based in the Atlanta area since 1984 and has completed projects locally and nationwide.

In June of 1999, the Roadway Design and Surveying Division (now called Engineering Services) was added to the firm. In June 2000, an office was added in Virginia specializing in Intelligent Transportation Systems.



2011 Officers

- President Sunny Ramsay**
Vice President James Johnson
Secretary Al Brown
Treasurer John Monk
Past President Glenn Sarver

Board of Directors

Greg Steele	(770)	495-8882
Al Brown	(770)	495-8900
Jim Johnson	(404)	626-6245
Chris McGahee	(770)	476-3434
Mark Williams	(770)	441-0945
Albert Marquez	(907)	717-9666
John Monk	(770)	495-8900
Sunny Ramsay	(678)	312-6857
Glenn Sarver	(770)	265-2448
Harold Stamey	(770)	476-1943
Richard Jackson	(678)	644-2007
Allan Roth	(770)	401-2013
Michele Murray	(770)	366-4955
Lynette Purves	(678)	561-3491

The Gab-RRR is a monthly publication of the Duluth Merchants Association. Back issues are available at www.DuluthMerchants.com



From the President

Dear DMA Members...

DMA Meeting on January 4th at Howard Brothers was a fantastic kick off to a most successful 2011! From the Board Meeting to the General Session to the Program to the fantastic staff...not to mention the fascinating history lesson about Duluth...Perfect! We want to thank Howard Brothers, Inc. for everything and for jump starting the year for DMA!

Much has happened since January 4th...and all will be in the shadow of the Snow Storm of 2011! What a beautiful sight to see the Winter Wonderland on Monday morning the 10th. Just spectacular in the pure white beauty! Schools closed, businesses closed...the hospital is always open...restaurants closed. Many braved the elements to open and service the limited community who could get out and about to do business. The Ice and the Follies from Tuesday until Friday...or was it Saturday? So many good times...so few words to describe. The wintry beauty is now a memory for 2011! *BUT...I would love to have a few lines from DMA members on the 2011 Snow Storm and how it had a Positive consequence in your life!*

The DMA will be working hard to grow the membership this year and would love your help as well. Please invite your business contacts to our meetings. Tell them that it is a test drive of the DMA...cost nothing to be a guest... plus they get a "30 Second Intro on Their Business"...and we feed them! Not too many great deals like that around. Once we have someone visit DMA the reaction is positive. The more we grow...the more everyone benefits.

Please mark your calendars for Feb 1st at Street Smarts in Down Town Duluth! The Street Smarts group, lead by Marsh Bowman, have always provided a great venue as well as outstanding programs...not to mention the wonderful food from Chocolate Perks. You do not want to miss this meeting.

Members please feel free to contact me anytime if there is anything you wish to discuss about DMA. I want your ideas, input, and opinions. You can contact me at 678-312-6857 (GMC-D Hospital) or 404-906-4677 (Cell Phone)...if you need to leave a message...I will call you as soon as possible. You are the DMA!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February 1st Meeting and again give my heartfelt thanks for a fantastic meeting January 4th at Howard Brothers, Inc.!

Sunny

Sunny Ramsay, DMA President 2011

Board Member Bio

Greg Steele

Signs by Tomorrow



Originally from Miami, Florida, Greg comes to Signs By Tomorrow-Duluth with over 20 years experience in the sign and graphic business. His experience includes sign design, project management and sales management.

Educated at Oglethorpe University, Greg started his professional career in retail management where he oversaw production and sales of several retail units. By chance one day, a sign shop owner happened to be in one of his stores when the whole concept of a career in the sign business popped up. From that day forward Greg has been involved in many aspects in the sign and graphics industry.

An avid sports fan, he enjoys all Miami teams as well as the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes. In his spare time, Greg enjoys cooking, reading and traveling. He has been married to Jennifer, a trained Pastry Chef, for 15 years.



Board Member Bio

John Monk

Treasurer



John Andrew Monk, C.P.A. founded John A. Monk, C.P.A., P.C. in 1994 and is its current President and Firm Manager. Matthew Harold Lindsey joined the firm in 2009 as a professional staff accountant and CPA candidate. The Firm's most outstanding attribute and one in which it takes great pride is its ability to successfully match our professional services with the individual needs of its varied client base. Professional and personal attention to our client's financial, accounting, tax matters and business advisory and consulting needs are our top priority. The Firm focuses on serving the medium sized business and personal tax clients in the Duluth and Gwinnett County market place.



February 2011

Come to Duluth Pawn Shop and get your Valentine some Jewelry for the big day!!!
ALL JEWELRY IS ON SALE!!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 DMA Meeting - Street Smarts 6PM	2 Ground Hog Day! 	3	4	5 New Dawn DC3 Concert Planned VET Vaccine Clinic 9-1
6 Super Bowl XLV 	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day  ...you are official reminder!	15	16	17	18	19
20 Daytona 500 	21	22	23	24 New Dawn Pedic & Projections Until 3-13	25  10am-2pm For info: http://www.hogwartsale.com/Daytona	26
27 Academy Awards 	28					

For Immediate ReleaseOctober 4, 2010

Alan D. Crockett, 202-682-4301; acrockett@acec.org
Cell: 443-995-6364

Street Smarts' Marsha Bomar Receives National Community Service Award

WASHINGTON—Marsha Bomar, president of Street Smarts, Inc., in Duluth, Ga., has received the 2010 Community Service Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

This award recognizes a principal or manager of an ACEC member firm who has made a significant contribution to the quality of life in his community.

Marsha was such a successful leader of the 2008 Gwinnett County (Ga.) United Way Campaign—a campaign that achieved its \$4.7 million goal despite the troubled economy—that the United Way took the unusual step of asking her to serve for a second year as chair.

A key achievement during her dynamic leadership was forging a partnership with the Gwinnett Braves, the local minor league baseball team. Through various special promotions throughout the baseball season, the United Way was able to both raise money and generate exposure for its work in the community.

Marsha also established the first-ever endowment for the Georgia Tech Women in Engineering Mentors & Mentees program. In addition, she created the “Savory Sounds” event, which raised more than \$60,000 for a local high school’s marching band. She currently serves on the Duluth City Council and is the Mayor Pro Tempore.

Bomar will be honored for her community service at the upcoming ACEC Fall Conference in Puerto Rico, October 17-20.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing approximately 5,500 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, environmental, industrial, and other infrastructure. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.

What is History

By Judy A Wilson

HISTORY: How is it defined? Is it the past? How far past? The far, far, far past? The near past? Or, just a split second ago. The truth is, all are right! We just don't recognize it. Is everything history? The way the wind blows the trees and the temperature of the air; the passing of cars on a busy street; an event in our childhood; world events that changed our lives? The answer is, a resounding, yes.

We race through life scarcely stopping to breathe, let alone think of the events of our day becoming history. Yet, they are. Oh, they may not be known to everyone, none the less, these occurrences are part of history. The decisions we make, the people we interact with, even the thoughts in our head can or will be recalled by us sometime in the future.

What do we do about it! First we have to recognize it as such. Then we should reflect upon its outcome. Do we want to leave a negative or positive history or will it be a feeling neutral event that just happens as a normal course of the day? However we think or feel or plan, it will all be history in a split second.

Having said that, how do we save history? We do it by sharing stories or ideas; verbal history. We do it by saving pictures of people, places, events, and things; visual history. We do it by savings items from the past; tangible history.

History, for the city of Duluth, is about the brave, adventurous, and curious farmers from North Carolina, in 1821, who up rooted the lives they knew to move south into a newly opened territory called Georgia. How many of us today would have that kind of spunk and spirit? They came, sight unseen, dangers unknown, futures unsure. They encountered rivers, lakes, mountains, Indians, bears and who knows what else, and red clay soil. Would crops grow? How will we survive? No one knew. But, they put their muscle to the plow and began creating a future. Soon others followed and growth expanded. The railroad came; more growth. Roads were built; more growth. Industry came; more growth. Well, you get the picture. We have evolved over history (there's that word again) into the city we have today.

Those of us that understand, cherish, and respect history, work hard on a daily basis to save it in all of its forms. Your Duluth Historical Society regards the Strickland House as one of those tangible pieces of history that needs to be saved for us and future generations. It currently houses and displays the very history we seek to save and share. A historic marker pays tribute to its place in history. It is the only one in our town. If you wish to help in this cause and, or wish to join Duluth Historical Society, go to our website at duluthhistorical.org and see who we are and donate or join us. We are a 501C3 and have no paid staff. The house and grounds are available to rent for events and our museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 3 pm. Phone: 770-232-7584. Address: 2956 Buford Hwy. We do pre arranged tours for groups on other days also. We encourage you to learn your local history. It will give you a feeling of belonging to a town that has deep roots.

GMC-D Auxiliary SALES

Sponsored by the GMC Auxiliary

Dynamic Cookware.....January 21st

Uniforms & Scrubs.....February 8th

\$5.00 Jewelry Sale.....March 16th & 17th

Accessories Unlimited.....May 3rd

Books are Fun.....June 13th* and June 14th**

To be Announced.....August 11th

Uniforms & Scrubs.....September 6th

\$5.00 Jewelry Sale.....October 12th & 13th

Books are Fun.....October 31st* & November 1st**

Your Silver Connection.....November 28th & 29th

All times are from 7am – 4pm unless noted with an Asterisk()*

*10am – 4pm **

*7am – 2pm ***

The Public is Always Welcome

All profits from the Auxiliary Sales
Are donated back to GMC.

Is the real-estate market coming back?

I get this question more and more lately, the answer I usually give is more economics than real-estate. So I will keep it short.

Everybody's situation is different and the RE market will affect every one different. Did you buy the house to resell or to live in it?

Housing expenses are treated differently than investments. Enjoy the house if it is your main residence. If it is an investment property, treat it like an investment and educate yourself on trying to get the maximum value for the property. Savvy investors know they create value in their investments to guarantee a return. Sometimes you can buy a large lot and divide it and sell the individual pieces for more than the whole. Maybe turn a residential property into a commercial property. How about turning a 3br1ba house into a 4br2ba; would that increase the value?

The market may not be what it was 5 yrs ago but never forget we have never had that type of market in the past 200 yrs. The rules are changing and money will be made in any market when you stay focused on the rules and your objective.

What are your investment thoughts?

Glenn Sarver
GSRC Consulting
Business Bookkeeping and Taxes
www.PropertyPaymentSystems.com
[770-265-2448](tel:770-265-2448)



FOSTER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION, INC.

The Foster Children's Foundation would like to remind everyone that January is "National Mentoring Month"

We would like to send a very special thanks to those who take time from their busy lives to make a difference in the lives of others.

"A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could, because someone else thought they could"

-unknown



Be Your Pets Valentine!

DID YOU KNOW that neutering your pet will increase his/her chance of a longer and healthier life? Altering your canine friend will increase his life by an average of 1 to 3 years. For cats, this increase can be 3 to 5 years. This is because altered animals have a very low to no risk of mammary gland tumors/cancer, perianal tumors, pyometra, and uterine, ovarian, prostate, and testicular cancers.

In addition to the medical benefits, neutering reduces your pet's urge to roam, which decreases his/her risk of contracting diseases and getting hurt. Surveys indicate that as many as 85% of dogs hit by cars are unaltered!

Show your pet how much you love them: have them spayed or neutered. If you think you can't afford this life-saving surgery, think again! Duluth is now home to Gwinnett's only high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic.

Please call us today for an appointment! If our prices are still out of reach, ask about options for subsidizing the cost.

Planned PETHood of Georgia

2860 Buford Hwy, Duluth GA 30096

678-561-3491

www.PlannedPETHoodGA.com



Edward Jones Named to FORTUNE Magazine's Best Companies to Work For List for 12th Year

The financial-services firm Edward Jones ranked No. 11 on FORTUNE magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For 2011" list in its 12th appearance on the prestigious list, according to David C. Cook, a financial advisor in Duluth, Georgia.

Edward Jones' 12 FORTUNE rankings include top 10 finishes for eight years and consecutive No. 1 rankings in 2002 and 2003 and consecutive No. 2 rankings in 2009 and 2010.

To pick the 100 Best Companies to Work For, FORTUNE partners with the Great Place to Work Institute to conduct the most extensive employee survey in corporate America. A total of 311 companies participated in this year's survey. Two-thirds of a company's score is based on the results of the institute's Trust Index survey, which is sent to a random sample of employees from each company. The survey asks questions related to their attitudes about management's credibility, job satisfaction, and camaraderie. The other third of the scoring is based on the company's responses to the institute's Culture Audit, which includes detailed questions about pay and benefit programs and a series of open-ended questions about hiring practices, internal communications, training, recognition programs and diversity efforts.

Edward Jones also ranked No. 2 for large-sized companies and No. 9 for work-life balance. The firm was the highest ranking financial services firm on the list.

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm's 12,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly 7 million clients to understand their personal goals -- from college savings to retirement -- and create long-term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

Edward Jones, which ranked No. 11 on *FORTUNE* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" in 2011, is headquartered in St. Louis. The Edward Jones web site is located at www.edwardjones.com, and its recruiting web site is www.careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

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Edward Jones
3883 Rogers Bridge Road Nw
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Duluth, GA 30097
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www.edwardjones.com

Board Member Bio

Al Brown

Secretary



Al Brown grew up in the Decatur/Avondale area of Atlanta. He attended Georgia Tech, before joining the Marine Corps in 1965. After serving in the Marine Corps for 12 years, he joined his father's company and has been in sales ever since. He completed his BA degree at Shorter College in 1998. He joined CoverYou.com seven years ago and is now the Director of Marketing. Al has lived in Gwinnett County since 1977.

Al is an ambassador/mentor with the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Duluth Merchants Association and of the Sentinels of Freedom – Gwinnett, which is a non-profit organization helping severely wounded soldiers. He is also a member of the Norcross, Suwanee, Johns Creek, and Dacula Business associations.

In his spare time he serves as Junior Vice-Commander at the Duluth American Legion Post.

Al has been married to his wife, Judy, for 42 years. He has two grown daughters and enjoys playing with his two grandsons, ages 2 and 8.



DMA Meeting Locations

NOTE: All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

<p>Jan 4, 2011</p> 	<p>February 1</p>  	<p>March 1</p>  <p>a division of SYNOVUS BANK</p>
<p>April 5</p> 	<p>May 3</p>  <p>DULUTH FINE WINES</p>	<p>June 7</p>  <p>Gwinnett Medical Center Lawrenceville • Duluth</p>
<p>July 5</p> <p>TBA</p>	<p>August 2</p> 	<p>September 6</p> 
<p>October 4</p> 	<p>November 1</p> <p>TBA</p>	<p>December 7</p> 

Do you have news or an article you like to include in the DMA Newsletter? Send it in by the 15th of the month in order for it to be included in the next newsletter.