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# City of Statesboro Quarterly

“Where the living remains softly southern”

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## Greetings From The Mayor

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! As you probably know, our city has been bustling with activity during this holiday season! Our Police Department celebrated the first official day in their new Headquarters on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The city's Finance Department was awarded their fourth consecutive Distinguished Budget Award in November. Then, in December, our downtown was filled with activity as citizens young and old attended our Holiday Celebration. If you missed it, you missed a great event and should plan to attend next year! Children visited Santa and played in the Children's Wonderland, everyone watched the parade and sampled chili, and many rode the trolley to the Savannah Avenue Tour of Homes. Also in December, the City staff and I participated in the Georgia Municipal

Association's Mayors' Christmas Motorcade. For the Motorcade, we took boxes of donated presents, a framed letter from the Statesboro High School Pre School class and a check from all the contributors to Savannah, so we could present our gifts to the patients of Georgia Regional Mental Hospital. Your generosity, as a community and business owners, never ceases to amaze the patients and the staff at Georgia Regional. To all of those who donated your time, money, and gifts, I want to sincerely thank you!

Last but not least, at our last Council Meeting of December, we said goodbye to Council Member John Morris of District 5, who served 6 years on the council. John did an excellent job and we will miss him. Travis Chance is our new councilman from District 5, and we all look forward to working with him.

As our new year of 2008 gets started, I want to encourage you to keep abreast of what is happening in our city and community. It is crucial for you to be informed and have a voice about issues within this city and county. Your opinion is important to me and your City Council. To keep up to date with what is happening in your city; check our website daily, [www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net). We post important items such as road closures, job openings, upcoming events, and other news items on the site. Also, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or your City Council Representative at City Hall (912-764-5468).

I hope you have a happy, prosperous, and healthy 2008!

Until next time,

Mayor Bill Hatcher

## Finance Department Wins Budget Award

On November 14, 2007, the City of Statesboro's Finance Department received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's (GFOA) *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for the city's Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the city's Finance Department. Award recipients, such as our city, have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

With this distinguished honor, the Mayor, City Council, and Staff continue a commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, The City of Statesboro satisfied all four of the nationally recognized guidelines for an effective budget presentation. The GFOA's guidelines are designed to assess how well a government's budget serves as (1) a policy document, (2) a financial plan, (3) an operations guide, and (4) a communications device.

This represents the fourth consecutive year the City of Statesboro has received the budget award.

Congratulations to the staff of the City of Statesboro's Finance Department!



If you have any questions concerning the drought, please contact the city's Water Department at (912)764-0693.

As you may have heard on the news or have read in articles in your local news papers, Georgia is experiencing a drought that has reached historic proportions. Counties across the northern third of Georgia are now under a Level 4 Drought response, which prohibits most outdoor water use. All of these counties in northern Georgia rely on surface water for their drinking water, which comes from lakes, rivers, and streams, as well as man made reservoirs. With the lack of rainfall over the last year, these sources are drying up and are unable to provide the water needed by the area population.

Unlike the northern counties, the southern counties are under a Level 2 Drought response, which requires a stringent

outdoor water use schedule. This schedule can be viewed by accessing the City of Statesboro's web-page at [www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net).

The City of Statesboro is not experiencing the affects of the drought conditions. The reason for this is that the city utilizes ground water withdrawn from the Floridan Aquifer, which is one of the most productive aquifers in the world. The Floridan Aquifer is a high quality, water yielding, porous limestone formation lying under southeastern Georgia.

The city's water system consists of 6 deep wells that penetrate into the Floridan Aquifer to withdraw water for domestic and industrial use. This Aquifer produces very high quality water that

requires virtually no treatment other than for disinfection.

During this current period of drought, the City of Statesboro has not experienced any significant drop in the level of water in the aquifer; therefore, we are not alarmed of having the affects of the drought conditions that the northern counties of Georgia are experiencing.

Although we have not experienced any problems with providing water to our customers, we do ask that all water customers conserve water when possible, as well as comply with the outdoor water use schedule posted on our web page ([www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net)). In advance, we appreciate your cooperation.

**WE'VE MOVED!**  
Our new address is:  
25 West Grady Street

## Police Headquarters: Now Open!

It's official! The Statesboro Police Department has moved into their new Headquarters, located at 25 West Grady Street.

On Monday, October 22nd, Chief Stan York and his officers

celebrated their first day in the new building.

Friday, November 9th, marked the Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting and tours of the facility.



Mayor Hatcher and Stan York cut the ribbon!



City Council and Planning Commission Minutes and Agendas can be found on our website: [www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net)  
Please check out our on-line calendar for community events!

## Upcoming Events in Statesboro

- City Council Meetings**  
Council Chambers—City Hall  
9:00 am—February 5, 2008  
6:00 pm—February 19, 2008  
9:00 am—March 4, 2008  
6:00 pm—March 18, 2008  
9:00 am—April 1, 2008  
6:00 pm—April 15, 2008
- Planning Commission Meetings**  
Council Chambers—City Hall  
5:00 pm—February 12, 2008  
5:00 pm—March 11, 2008  
5:00 pm—April 8, 2008

- Alcohol Control Board Meetings**  
Council Chambers—City Hall  
4:30 pm—February 19, 2008  
4:30 pm—March 18, 2008  
4:30 pm—April 15, 2008
- Tree Board Meetings**  
Conference Room—City Hall  
1:30 pm—February 19, 2008  
1:30 pm—March 18, 2008  
1:30 pm—April 15, 2008
- For more information regarding upcoming events, please call (912) 764-5468.

- First Fridays—Downtown**  
5:30 pm—February 1, 2008  
5:30 pm—March 7, 2008  
5:30 pm—April 4, 2008
- Averitt Center For The Arts & Emma Kelly Theater Events**  
February 17—Little Women Broadway Musical  
March 7 & 8—Oklahoma, Musical  
March 17—Charlotte's Web  
March 21 & 22—SHS Vaudeville Show  
April 3-6—GSU's Opera  
April 25—"What Waste" Exhibit Opening  
April 26—Celebration South Music Festival

# The Comprehensive Plan-A Guide For Our Future

It is an exciting time for the City of Statesboro! We are embarking on the development of our comprehensive plan, which will create a community vision for the next twenty years and provide a road map for how to work towards that vision. The plan will be developed through a very public process of involving community leaders, stakeholders, and citizens.

The Comprehensive Plan is developed in accordance with rules and guidelines established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). There are three primary components of the plan:

- **Community Assessment** – This part of the comprehensive plan is an objective and professional assessment of data and information about the community, which includes a list of potential issues and opportunities, analysis of existing development patterns, evaluation of current policies, and analysis of data and information. This section is a concise and informative report used to inform the decision making process.
- **Community Participation Program** – This section describes the strategies to be used during the planning process to ensure adequate public and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the Community Agenda portion of the plan.
- **Community Agenda** – This is the most important component of the plan, for it includes the community's vision for the future as well as its strategy for achieving this vision. It includes three major components:
  - ◇ A community vision for the future physical development of the community, expressed in the form of a map indicating unique character areas;
  - ◇ A list of issues and opportunities identified by the community for future action; and,

- ◇ An implementation program, including policies and action items, for achieving the community's vision for the future and addressing the identified issues and opportunities.

A vital part of the planning process is to involve residents and stakeholders in developing a vision for the community. That means you!

### How to become involved:

The City will be holding public workshops throughout the process to seek citizen input. Dates, times, and locations will be announced later. As the plan is developed, information and draft plan material will also be posted on the city's website at [www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net) for review and comment. Finally, you can also receive information and updates by email. Just send an email to [planning@statesboroga.net](mailto:planning@statesboroga.net) with the subject "comp plan email list" to stay up-to-date on all the latest. Your email address will be kept strictly confidential.

The City of Statesboro is also establishing a steering committee to guide the planning process. Invitations to participate on the steering committee are open to all citizens and business owners in the City of Statesboro. The City asks that all interested individuals submit the application form by email, mail, or fax. The application form is available online at [www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net) or at the front desk of City Hall.

**The deadline for submitting the form is February 8, 2008.**

### What the steering committee will do:

- Involve all segments of the community in the planning process;

- Generate local pride and enthusiasm about the future of the community;
- Provide input for the Community Agenda, a guide to everyday decision-making for use by local government officials and other community leaders; and
- Engage the interest of citizens in implementing the plan.

### The requirements:

The City of Statesboro is looking for an energetic group of people to be members of the steering committee. No particular experience is required, but we are looking for a diverse and balanced group of dedicated participants. Steering committee members should:

- Be a resident and/or business owner in the City of Statesboro
- Be able to work together well in a diverse group, respecting the opinions of all participants
- Commit to attending up to eight (8) meetings in 2008. Dates and times will be determined based on best availability for the members, but will likely be in the late afternoon or early evening.

The development of the comprehensive plan is an exciting opportunity for the City of Statesboro. We look forward to working with our community leaders and citizens in creating a dynamic plan to guide us into the future.

**For more information about the Comprehensive Plan and to download an application form for the steering committee, please visit [www.statesboroga.net](http://www.statesboroga.net).**

# Occupational Tax Certificates

On July 5, 2007 the Statesboro City Council amended Section 18, Article V of the City's Code of Ordinances regarding administrative fees, regulatory fees and occupation taxes (business licenses).

Full time equivalent employees are determined by adding the total number of hours worked by all employees per week and dividing by 40. Salaried employees, employees with overtime, and owners should be counted as 40 hours per week. The number of employees reported must be equal to the number of employees reported for the third quarter of the 2007 calendar year on the Georgia Department of Labor tax and wage report.

To determine the amount of the occupation tax, the number of full time equivalent employees should be multiplied by \$20.00 and then added to

the flat fee of \$75.00. For example, for a business with 10 full time equivalent employees the occupation tax would be computed as follows:

Number of full time equivalent employees:  $10 \times \$20.00 =$   
\$200.00

Flat fee: \$ 75.00

Total occupation tax due for 2008:  
\$275.00

The maximum occupational tax is capped at \$3,000.00.

Practitioners of professions as enumerated in O.C. G. A. 48-13-9(c) may elect to pay based on the above formula or to pay an occupation tax of \$400.00 per practitioner. A list of

professions which qualify for this option can be obtained by contacting Lyn Dedge at (912) 764-5468.

Insurance companies shall pay an annual license fee of \$100.00 for each separate business location operated and maintained within the City.

Each person who is licensed by the examining boards of the Secretary of State's office must provide evidence of proper and current state licensure before a City of Statesboro Occupation Tax Certificate will be issued.

If you have questions regarding your occupation tax certificate, please contact Lyn Dedge at [ldedge@statesboroga.net](mailto:ldedge@statesboroga.net) or Judy McCorkle at [mccorkle@statesboroga.net](mailto:mccorkle@statesboroga.net) or call us at (912) 764-5468.

## Main Street Message: First Friday In Downtown Statesboro

First Fridays in Downtown Statesboro have been growing tremendously during the fall months, but they don't stop for cold weather. Look for special events downtown every First Friday, though many events will be indoors during cold weather. Stop in the restaurants, coffee shops, or bakeries and you might find live music, or other treats that you don't find at any other time. There are always art gallery openings and other events happening as well. All the fun starts at 5:30PM and lasts until at least 8PM. To find out more just stop by the Averitt Center for the Arts to pick up your guide on that night and see what's going on.

In January, we will welcome a new restaurant into Statesboro's emerging downtown restaurant district. Chops will be one of the largest restaurants downtown, and will be one of the best places for steak in Statesboro. There will be other new businesses coming soon, as well as several existing businesses that have plans to expand downtown this year.

Lastly, April will bring two additional large events downtown. The first will be Tour De Georgia on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This multi-stage bicycle race draws some of the biggest names in cycling and hundreds of thousands of visitors to Georgia each year. It will be a

huge event for our downtown, and will help lead up to our other big event that week. The music, art, and barbeque festival *Celebration South* will be held Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> in downtown Statesboro. This is the second year for this growing event and it will be an enjoyable time for people of all ages. Look for more information coming soon, or just call the Main Street Statesboro office at: 912-764-7227.

