



**Georgia Department of Community Affairs**  
**Mike Beatty, Commissioner**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Georgia Downtown Award Winners Recognized at 2009 Statewide Downtown Conference**

The Georgia Downtown Association and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs announced the winners of the annual outstanding revitalization awards. Presentations took place during the annual Georgia Downtown Conference October 7-9, 2009 in Roswell, GA.

As the premier conference on downtown revitalization in the state, this event promotes downtown and economic development through public awareness, governmental relations and education. The conference provides an opportunity for downtown and community development professionals and state and local leaders to grow their knowledge regarding programs, activities and tools to aid in revitalization efforts.

The event brought nearly 200 of Georgia's downtown professionals together to develop strategies for bettering their downtown business district. This year marks the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nationally acclaimed Main Street Program as developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center. The Georgia Main Street program is one of the original 6 states selected for the pilot program in 1980.

According to Billy Parrish Director of DCA's Office of Downtown Development, "Since the inception of the Georgia Main Street program in 1980 and the Better Hometown Program in 1997, over \$2.25 billion dollars has been invested in more than 100 designated Georgia Main Street and Better Hometowns with nearly 44,000 net new jobs added and nearly 9,400 net new businesses opened in designated Main Street and Better Hometowns."

The Georgia Downtown Awards were established to recognize individuals, downtown programs and/or businesses that have demonstrated unique efforts in making a difference in their downtowns. The award categories are based on the 4-Point Approach™ of downtown revitalization as developed by the National Trust's Main Street Center and focus on Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs also presents an Outstanding Leadership Award and the Georgia Downtown Association selects one city to be honored for Overall Excellence in Downtown Development each year.

The conference theme this year was "*Find It All Downtown*" which focused on the very reasons tourists and natives alike are drawn to their historic downtown districts... shopping, dining, art, music and more.

The following awards were presented by the Georgia Downtown Association and the Office of Downtown Development, Georgia Department of Community Affairs. These two organizations co-sponsor the annual downtown conference and the award ceremony.

Congratulations to the following:

Community	Award	Project	Organization/Individual Being Nominated
<i>Leadership Awards</i>			
Madison	Georgia Downtown Association's Award of Excellence in Downtown Development		City of Madison
Toccoa	Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs Annual Outstanding Leadership Award		Greg Schultz
<i>Organization Category</i>			
Swainsboro	Outstanding Organizational Outreach	Creative Marketplace Competition	City of Swainsboro / Downtown Development Authority
Cleveland	Most Valuable Volunteer	Cleveland Better Hometown	Tyler Dorsey
Sylvania	Most Valuable Volunteer	Sylvania Better Hometown	Dee Gurka
<i>Design Category</i>			
Senoia	Outstanding New Construction / Infill	Seavy Street Parking Lot 42 and 48 Main Street	Historic Development Ventures
Roswell	Sensitive Rehabilitation / Restoration	Diesel Pizza & Pub	Jim and Tara Cameron
Commerce	Design Improvement Program	Façade Grant Program	Commerce Downtown Development Authority / Main Street
<i>Promotions Category</i>			
Toccoa	Best Downtown Special Event	Mission Toccoa	Main Street Toccoa
Savannah	Best Image Building Campaign	Downtown Savannah Brand and Marketing Campaign	Savannah Development and Renewal Authority
Carrollton	Most Creative Marketing Piece	Dr. Adamson's Educational Placemats	Carrollton Main Street
Carrollton	Best Retail Booster	Break Away from the Chains	Carrollton Main Street
<i>Economic Restructuring Category</i>			
Thomasville	Best Commercial Re-Development Activity	Mitchell House	Community Development Partners, Inc.
Cartersville	Most Innovative Business Anchor	Young Brothers Pharmacy - Cartersville	Young Brothers Pharmacy
Douglasville	Best Problem Solving	Downtown Solid Waste Project	Greg Roberts, City of Douglasville

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