



# George County Chamber of Commerce Weekly Update

December 14, 2016

## Announcements

## Calendar

**Chamber Hours**  
 12/23 Friday..... *Closed*  
 12/26 Monday..... *Closed*



- \* **Friday, Dec 16th - Christmas Open House** - Century Bank, Market Place Branch 10am-3pm
- \* **Friday, Dec 16th & Tuesday, Dec 20th - Rodan and Fields Skin Care Charlotte Hilton** - West Wing Century Bank Conference Room, 6:00 pm, for questions call 601-392-2734
- \* **Sunday, Dec 25th - Christmas Day**
- \* **Monday, Dec 26th - American Red Cross Blood Drive** - George Regional Hospital - 9am - 3pm
- \* **Tuesday, Dec 27th - American Red Cross Blood Drive** - Walmart - 1:30 - 6:30 pm

### GC Chamber says finish off Christmas shopping supporting local businesses

The George County Chamber of Commerce is reminding all residents to finish off their Christmas Shopping at local businesses.

“There is no place like home for the holidays and for holiday shopping,” said Ken Flanagan, George County Chamber of Commerce President. “When you shop local businesses first, you can make a big financial difference.”

According to state retail economists, almost 70 percent of every dollar spent locally stays right here in local jobs, wages, utilities, local suppliers, and sales tax.

Nan Jemison, from Buttons & Bows in Downtown Lucedale, says, “We have been so blessed to have received all the support this year. We are so thankful for our customers. The more support we receive, the better we are able to serve and grow our town. That’s why it is so important to keep tax dollars here.”

Along with supporting your local economy, shopping local can also save you money and leave a little more jingle in your jeans.

“It’s so easy to forget about sales tax, but if you’re trying to save money, it’s worth remembering,” explains Flanagan. “For example, if you’re shopping in Lucedale, sales tax is only 7 percent. Compare that to Mobile or Baldwin counties, where you’re paying 10 to 11 percent in sales tax on every single purchase. Not many coupons can make up for that tax difference.”

Angie Reeves, from Honey Bees Floral Design just off Winter Street, said, “Another benefit from shopping local is customer service. We get to know our customers and they’re our friends. Our customers can talk directly to the designer and are able to get their items made to their taste. It’s hard to find that out of town. And, of course, that helps us stay in business.”

### Commerce’s Top 5 Reasons to buy local first:

1. Keeps dollars in the local economy (supplies, utilities, sales tax)
2. Supports local jobs and better wages
3. Encourages entrepreneurship
4. More local sales = more shopping diversity
5. Saves you time, no mall traffic jams or congested parking lots

## Number Facts

- 8 - The number of Santa's reindeer whose names are taken from Clement C. Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas"
- 15 - The average age of a Christmas tree when it is sold
- 16.6% - The percentage of total US retail sales that are Christmas related
- 822 - The number of houses Santa would need to visit every second if he were to make all his deliveries
- 957 - The typical number of calories in your average Christmas dinner
- 62,824 - The record number of Christmas cards sent by a single person in a year
- 2,340,000 mph - The speed at which Santa's sleigh would need to travel if he were to reach every home in the world on Christmas Eve.
- 3 Billion - The number of Christmas cards sent in the USA every year