

MEAG POWER

Current

COMMUNITIES

THOMASVILLE, GA

Camille Payne – Mayor
Steve Sykes – City Manager
Don Sims – Chamber of
Commerce

229-227-7000

www.thomasville.org



THOMASVILLE CREATING PROSPERITY

The leadership of Thomasville is always looking for ways to enhance the city's vitality and quality of life.

Top of the list is a \$20 million urban redevelopment plan entitled Victoria Place. This ambitious project is intent on creating a new mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood that will breathe new life into an old community. Ultimately, a multi-use trail will connect the new Victoria Place to the city's busy downtown and beautiful green spaces.

Thomasville is also making certain that it is encouraging the prosperity of the entire city by optimizing its technology infrastructure. The administration continually looks to develop and expand their portfolio of new products and services. For Thomasville commercial customers, advanced telephone and data services are already on the drawing board.

Today, Thomasville offers its citizens an extensive variety of utility services from water to cable TV. "Largely, because of the successful operation of our many utilities, we have a goal to eliminate the ad valorem tax (property tax) in Thomasville over the next four years," says Mayor Camille Payne. "We are glad to make that benefit and more happen for our citizens as we look to create continued prosperity for Thomasville."

*Optimized
technology is
enhancing the city's
quality of life*



Fast FACTS THOMASVILLE

POPULATION: 19,286

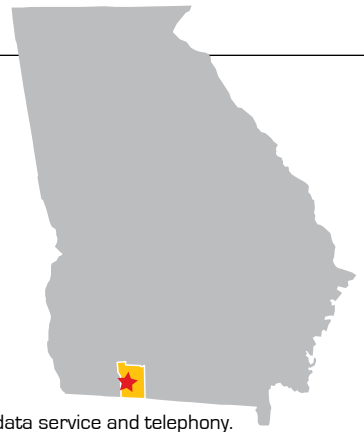
COUNTY: Thomas - Population 45,778

UTILITIES: Thomasville provides electric, natural gas, water and sewer, solid waste services, landfill, Internet service, cable television, high-speed data service and telephony.

TRANSPORTATION: Three four-lane highways, US 319, 19 and 84 converge in Thomasville. It is a rail center for CSX.

NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:

- Archbold Medical Center
- Caterpillar, Inc. - manufacturer of engine fuel systems
- Cleaver Brooks, Inc. - manufacturer of industrial boilers
- Flowers Foods - nationwide producer of breads and baked goods
- Southwestern State Hospital



“I am particularly proud of what we have done with our utilities and what these operations have allowed us to do. Plus the customer service attitude exhibited by all our employees is exemplary.”

Mayor Camille Payne

Thomasville was founded in 1826 and is named for a hero of the War of 1812, General Jett Thomas.

“The best winter resort on three continents” is how *Harper's Magazine* described Thomasville in an 1887 edition.

A Southern Retirement Hotspot - that's what *Retirement Lifestyles Magazine* named Thomasville in 2010.

Pebble Hill Plantation is one of 71 plantations that stretch through Thomas and Grady counties

in Georgia and Leon and Jefferson counties in Florida. It was owned by the Hanna family of Ohio and has been open to the public since 1983. The Plantation house has 40 rooms plus outbuildings, barns and gardens.

The city's annual Victorian Christmas Festival draws 15,000 tourists each December. The event is an unforgettable journey back in time to the 1890s with horse-drawn carriages, strolling carolers, church choirs, musicians and holiday delicacies. Community volunteers don Victorian dress to add to the festivities.

THE PERFECT DESTINATION

For Well Over 100 Years

Thomasville and Thomas County are located deep in South Georgia's plantation country, along the state's border with Florida. This area, including parts of Florida, is the largest concentration of undeveloped plantation lands in the United States and contains a significant portion of the only native longleaf pine forests remaining in the country.

The 300,000 plantation acres, known for its rolling hills and red clay soils, are rich in biological diversity, historic remembrances and scenic beauty. When the railroad expanded to Thomas County in 1861, wealthy and elite Northerners flocked to Thomasville seeking a retreat from cold winters and the subsequent threat of illness. The city became famous for its equitable climate and refreshing air.

In 1892, The New York Times headlined an article "In Sunny Thomasville, Ten Thousand Square Miles of Pine Forest" and claimed, "the air that was refreshed by miles of wholesome pine was good for weak lungs and other ailments."

The Piney Woods Hotel and The Mitchell House were the most notable guest quarters of the time boasting luxurious bathroom suites as well as access to desirable quail and trap shooting, bicycling paths and horseback riding trails.

It is no wonder, this unique corner of Georgia became a prime destination for affluent winter tourists and the catalyst for the growth of a community, including a thriving downtown of merchants, bankers and entrepreneurs.

Thomasville's busy commercial district remains a special attraction for visitors and citizens alike. Thanks to preservation-minded developers, The Mitchell Hotel — located in the

heart of five city blocks of restored Victorian-era retail facades — has been given a second life as city lofts and condominiums. Downtown retailers are numerous including Grassroots Coffee, a warmhearted gathering place that roasts its own beans; Lavish, a toiletries and bath shop; eight restaurants; and a collection of gift and clothing boutiques.

In 1998, the National Main Street Program confirmed Thomasville's unique and special charm, naming it one of the five top Main Street cities in the U.S.

Today, the rich and famous, along with those on a budget, continue to travel to this beautiful Southern city and everyone finds that Thomasville is worth the trip.



The Mitchell house has a second life as city lofts and condominiums.





Thomasville is known for its annual Rose Festival and is nicknamed "The City of Roses".



Far Left: The Tom Berry Building – new home office of regional manger, John Giles
Top Center: Archival photo of The Piney Woods Hotel
Above: Canopy Road
Left: Roses adorn city landscape

More About **HOMETOWN** **THOMASVILLE**

Thomasville has an environment that is welcoming to business. Thomasville and Thomas County have a diversified, manufacturing base with over 120 industrial firms growing and operating profitably.

- Senior Life Insurance is headquartered in Thomasville and has a new 40,000 square-foot home office facility under construction.
- Archbold Medical Center launched a \$100 million expansion project including an expanded North Tower with a new emergency department, surgical unit and ICU facility.
- Cleaver Brooks, a manufacturer of industrial and commercial boilers, has broken ground on an expansion that will streamline manufacturing, increase capacity and decrease delivery time. Cleaver Brooks operates nine plants throughout the world and Thomasville is the only facility undergoing an expansion.
- Flowers Foods, known for its flagship brand, Nature's Own, is now selling bread products coast to coast. Flowers Foods is a regular on the Forbes Platinum 400 Best Big Companies list.

The city is home to the "Big Oak," a majestic tree with a limb spread of 175 feet.

