



Tifton Tourism News



Service of the Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association & Tift Area Hospitality Association

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2013 DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE A MUST SEE – Don't forget to go check out the 2013 Decorator Show House of the Fulwood Garden Center. The show house will be open through September 8. Hours to tour the home are Monday through Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm and Sunday from 1 until 5 pm. Word around town is this Decorator Show House is absolutely beautiful and a must see!

Interior Designers featured in the 2013 Decorator Show House include: Glynn Hendricks Interiors, Turners Fine Furniture, Baytree Antiques, Continental Specialty, JM Designs (Sycamore), Deborah Mathis Design Studio, Annie's Place, The Howard Center, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and The Landmark in Nashville.

Admission at the door is \$12. The Fulwood Garden Center is located on the corner of 12th Street (Highway 41) and Fulwood at 802 West 12th Street.

YMCA HOSTS FUN MUDDER - Join the Tiftarea YMCA on Saturday, September 28th for the first annual Tiftarea YMCA Fun Mudder! This event is a mud run and obstacle course. It will be held at 184 Connell-Ray Road, which is located off Highway 125 South. The course is approximately 4 miles long and winds through the muddy wilderness. Participants will overcome a number of obstacles along the way such as monkey bars, rope climbing, mud pits, tight rope, climbing walls, zip line, low crawls, sloped wall climb and much more! Participants are encouraged to dress up for fun. The first wave begins at 8:00 am, with waves leaving every 45 minutes through 11:00 am. Registration fee is \$45 before September 15th and includes a t-shirt. Sign up individually or as a team. DON'T MISS IT! Visit www.tiftareaymca or call 229-391-9622 for more information. You may register at the YMCA's new location at 1657 Carpenter Road or on www.active.com.

MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE HOSTS BACK TO SCHOOL BASH – The Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village is hosting a Back to School Bash on Saturday, September 7 from 9 am until 4:30 pm. Kids will be admitted free (with the purchase of an adult admission). They will also get free train rides and a free scoop of ice cream at the Drug Store! The Museum will host a Spelling Bee Competition as well as organized children's games including freeze tag, keep away, London Bridge, checkers, corn hole and more! There will also be face painting available. So bring the kids on out to the Museum to celebrate going back to school.

CASA IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS - Coastal Plain CASA's new volunteer training begins September 9th at 6:00 pm at the CASA office located at 126 1st Street. This training course covers everything a new volunteer needs to know to begin advocating on behalf of foster children. The class will meet every Monday and Thursday at 6:00 pm for approximately 5 weeks. Becoming an advocate with CASA means spending a few hours a month helping a foster child find a safe and permanent home. Volunteers do not need any special knowledge, they only need to be at least 21 years old and have a love for children. For more information email kmorrison@cpcasa.org or go to the website at www.cpcasa.org.

BEACH BALL PLANNED - The Swingin' Medallions will roll into Tifton on Friday, September 20 to present their lively and popular music for the annual fundraiser for the Tifton-Tift County Public Library Foundation. The Swingin' Medallions signature high energy style has been thrilling audiences of all ages since their beginning in the late 60's. Today they effectively blend the sounds and music of yesterday and today. The group has performed throughout the nation in thousands of venues.

The evening includes the option to attend a wine and cheese reception and seated dinner or attend the Show Only. For the combination dinner/reception/show, tickets are \$75 each. For the Show Only, tickets are \$30. Dress is black tie optional or "creative cocktail." Dinner/Show/Reception starts at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm and the show kicks off at 8:15 pm.

Tickets are available from Dr. Hal Henderson (229-386-2237), at Ameris Bank (Tifton location), and the Tifton-Tift County Public Library. Dinner/Show combo ticket deadline is Wednesday, September 18.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS THEME ANNOUNCED – Planning is already underway for the 2013 Hometown Holidays Christmas Celebration. This is the 15th year of this event. The theme for this year is “A Christmas Tradition – Celebrating 15 Years!” Vendor and Parade applications are ready and available. You can pick those up at the Main Street office, located at 504 Main Street (corner of Main and Highway 82). Make plans now to be a part of the celebration and kick off the holidays!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Go ahead and mark your calendar now for these local and regional events in October:

- Saturdays: Fall Frolics at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture
- 1st-31st: Paint the Town Pink in Tifton, be on the lookout for more details and schedule of events.
- 5th: Jog for Jake
- 7th: ABAC Ag Classic Golf Tournament & Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament
- 12th: 3rd Annual 100 Mile Peanut Pickin' Yard Sale, 8:00 am– 6:00 pm, Rain or Shine, Official Community Welcome Sites include: Unadilla and Vienna/Dooly County; Cordele/Crisp County; Sylvester/Worth County; Moultrie and Berlin/Colquitt County and Quitman/Brooks County
- 15th: Tift County Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 5:30 pm, Courthouse
- 15th-17th: Sunbelt Ag Expo, Spence Field, Moultrie, Tifton will be full of visitors – make them feel welcome!
- 19th: Brooks County Skillet Festival, Quitman, the one-day event is part farmers' market, part antique show, part craft fair and all fun! There will also be a 5K road race, culinary exhibitions, children's activities, dog show, live music, the new Cast Iron Chef Competition of Georgia v Florida chefs, and the Skillet Throwing Contest.
- 19th: 50th Annual Georgia Peanut Festival, Jeffords Park, Sylvester
- Events are always being added to the calendar. Watch for even more on the October Calendar of Events!

TRAVEL OUTLOOK – Check out these interesting facts about travel:

- TRAVEL PERFORMANCE - The most recent Travel and Tourism Satellite Account Report from the Bureau of Economic Analysis reveals that the travel industry is outperforming the economy overall.
- LEISURE TRAVEL - According to AAA, the summer was expected to get off to a slow start. Its recent forecast suggested that 40.8 million Americans would travel 50 miles or more from home during the Independence Day holiday, a 0.8 percent decrease as compared to last year.
- LODGING INDUSTRY - U.S. hoteliers are reported to be finding their summer strides. Though occupancy has remained largely flat, albeit at an impressive 65 percent-plus, a shift toward more leisure travel has prompted widespread gains in both average daily rate and revenue per available room.

TRAVEL TRENDS – Here are some more interesting facts about how travel is changing for many:

- ***Survey: GenX generation leads fall travel growth*** - Americans of the GenX generation (born 1965-1980) plan to travel more this fall than their older and younger generational counterparts, according to a national survey by D.K. Shifflet & Associates. Almost one in six GenXers plan to travel for business at least once this fall compared to about one in ten for both Millennials (born after 1980) and Boomers (born 1946-1964). Boomer fall travel is down compared to last year while both GenX and Millennial travel is increasing. "Boomer business travel is slowing as older business travelers appear to be handing over their business travel duties to their younger counterparts," according to Chris Klauda, vice president at DKSA. "It is the GenX generation not the Millennials who are at the peak age for business travel. Increased revenue will come to travel marketers who can attract GenX business travelers to their destinations, hotels and attractions with the best offering."
- ***'Farm to facial' - new trend in spas*** - The farm-to-table movement has become "farm-to-facial" for some in the spa industry, with more locations offering fresh herbs and flowers from their own gardens for treatments. And guys are being treated to pampering tweaked just for them as the number of men turning up at spas increases, according to a new survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers for the International Spa Association. Overall, the industry has made gains in revenue, visits and locations, according to the survey. Spas have long made use of local ingredients. Now, some are clipping and crushing Mother Nature's bounty right from the ground.