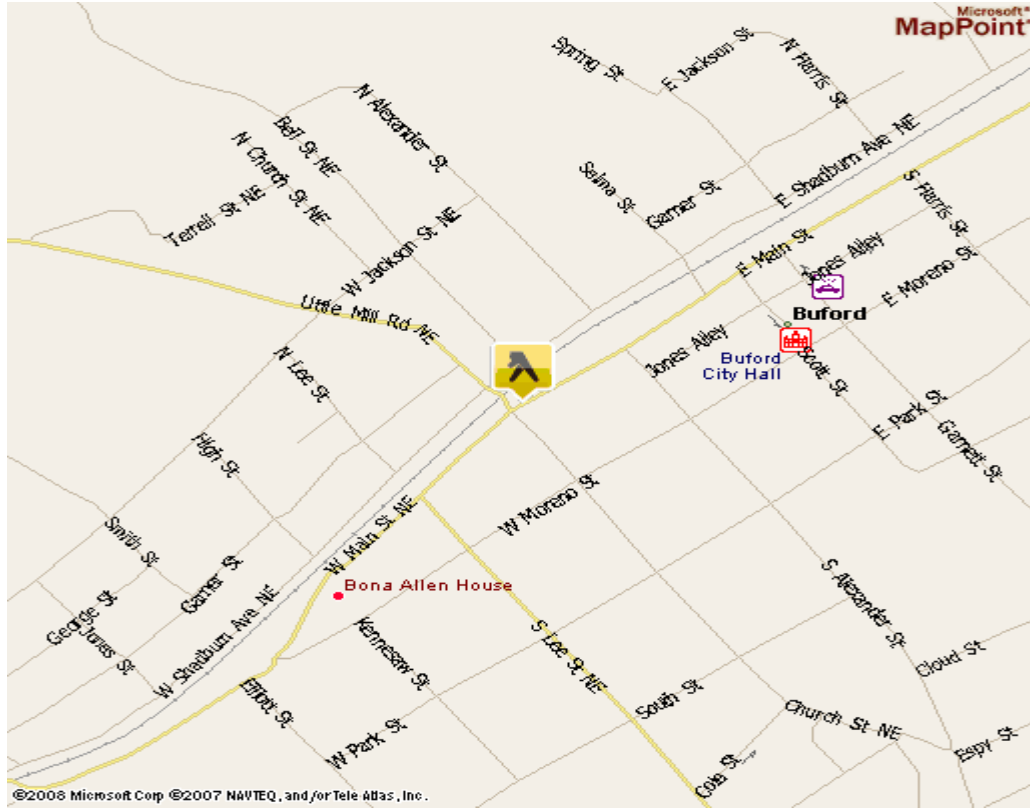


Welcome to Historic Buford

Welcome Kit for Businesses near Historic Downtown Buford

City Incorporated: August 24, 1872

City Manager: Bryan B. Kerlin



Historic Buford Welcome Kit Provided by: C'LeeAnn Concepts, LLC

The History of Historic Downtown Buford

ALGERNON SIDNEY BUFORD, for whom the City of Buford was named, was President of the Atlanta and Richmond Air-Line Railroad. He was of distinguished Virginian ancestry, a graduate of the University of Virginia, a lawyer by profession, and several times a member of the Virginia State legislative body. He was railroad president for 20 years during its period of expansion. A resident of Richmond, Virginia, he maintained an Atlanta office upstairs at 69 Whitehall Street during the construction of the railroad in Georgia and the Carolinas.

The "Town of Buford" was incorporated by Act of legislature August 24, 1872. The name was changed to the "City of Buford" in 1896.

On the time line of history, Buford is a newcomer. Although brief, Buford's history has been rather impressive.

Buford never had the "sleepy little village" aura, which characterized most small towns of the 19th century and early 20th century. The town was early blessed with able, far-sighted citizens, interested in business and education as was evidenced by its rapid growth and early attention to schools. Buford was early called the "city of many factories." A news article in the News-Herald of December 18, 1902 referred to Buford as the "New York of Gwinnett" in paying tribute to its industry and activity.



(Courtesy Virginia Historical Society)

For more than 60 years Buford was the largest city in Gwinnett County and during most of that time it had the only significant industrial development in the county. During this period it exerted a powerful, many times dominant influence upon county politics. As early as 1900 Buford was the largest city in the county, and Sugar Hill Militia District listed more ad valorem taxpayers than any other district in the county.

Buford had the first bank in the county. In fact, Buford had two flourishing banks before any other permanent banking facilities were established in the county.

For most of its history Buford's schools were widely recognized for quality education. For several decades, students came from other areas of the county and from adjoining counties to acquire the prestigious diploma from Buford High School.

Recent and current references to Buford's past industry consistently label it "the tannery", a serious misconception. While leather tanning was an important part of the city's industrial complex and provided the leather for the other operations, it was only a part of the extensive manufacturers which made Buford nationally, even internationally known as "The Leather City". At its zenith, Bona Allen, Inc. produced nationally known shoes, saddles of national and Hollywood reputation, harness, horse collars, and other leather products. The company also operated the only glue factory in the south. The city also conducted a large farming operation, which produced straw for horse collars as well as other farm products.

Other facts and interesting history have been made available to the public through the publication of "Historic Buford" by Handsel Grady Morgan. The book may be purchased at the Buford City Hall.

Work, Play, and Living in Historic Buford

The City of Buford has come a long way since its beginnings in 1872 as a depot on the railway line between Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina. Major domestic and international companies have established operations in Buford. The Buford Dam has become a major source of power for the state, and Lake Lanier Islands is recognized as a premier recreational development in the Southeast.

Companies have located operations in Buford for some very solid reasons:

- Well-developed infrastructures enhance the efficiency of business operations and favorably impact bottom-line profits
- Abundant, highly motivated, production-oriented labor force.
- City-owned water, sewer, gas and electric systems provide the lowest utility rates in the area
- Excellent, locally-controlled primary and secondary education system with a large number of major universities and technical schools within a 50-mile radius.
- Scenic beauty and small town friendliness that create a nurturing environment for employees.
- Major industrial and commercial acreage available on major transportation arteries priced to attract new business.

LOCATION: Southeastern United States, north Georgia, Gwinnett County, 25 miles north of Atlanta, on the southern shores of Lake Lanier.

TRANSPORTATION: Hartsfield International, Peachtree DeKalb, North Fulton and Gwinnett Airports; Interstate Highways I-85 and I-985, Buford Highway and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. Local Bus and MARTA Station provide easy access to Atlanta.

EDUCATION: Independent city school system with local control of elementary, middle and high schools. More than 10 major universities within a 50 mile radius.

RECREATION: Fishing, boating, swimming, skiing, camping, beach & water park and golf at Lake Lanier Islands and local parks at Lake Lanier; hiking and camping in the north Georgia mountains; major league sports (baseball, basketball, football & hockey), theatre, concerts of all types, symphony, ballet and museums in nearby Atlanta.

LIBRARY: Buford-Sugar Hill, youth programs, story hours, computer section.

RESTAURANTS: Most any type of restaurant in which to choose within 2 miles of the City of Buford. Many major chain restaurants have chosen to locate in Buford as well as unique, locally owned restaurants. You are sure to find your local favorite.

PARKS: 25-ACRE Buford City Park with tennis and basketball courts, as well as, baseball, softball, and soccer fields

HEALTH SERVICES: Kaiser Permanente, Gwinnett Medical Center, Joan Glancy Hospital, and Northeast Georgia Medical Center are all easily accessible from the City of Buford.

RETAIL SHOPPING: Downtown Historic Buford, Tannery Row Art Colony

About the Bona Allen Mansion



This elegant European style home was built in 1911 by Bona Allen Sr. and family. Mr. Allen spared no expense when building his home in Buford . Designed by noted Atlanta architect, Haralson Bleckley, the main house has 17 rooms, twelve foot ceilings, original carved wood paneling, intricate moldings, stained glass windows, and seven fireplaces. The magnificent two story entry showcases an original Italian wall mural of the Castello Villa Franca in South Rome. The mansion is a wonderful example of the "Italianate" style with its cream colored brick and red clay tile roof. The lion sculptures which flank the front steps are replicas of works by renowned sculptor, Antonio Canova (1757-1822). The originals may be found at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The home sits on six walled acres of manicured grounds and gardens with five original out buildings including a carriage house and a caretaker's cottage. At one point, the Allen's property included over 1700 acres.

Bona Allen Sr. lived in the mansion until his death in 1925. The estate then became home to Bona Allen Jr. who resided there until his death in 1964. The property was purchased in 1968 by the Tandy Corporation who operated the leather goods business until its demise.

In 1981, a fire destroyed the tannery operation. After sitting vacant for several years, the grand estate was purchased by Larry and Doris Bailey of Buford and was completely restored to its original grandeur. Bona Allen Mansion is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

During the 1920's, 30's and 40's, the home was known for the extravagant parties which were held on a regular basis by the Allen's. In 1995, Bona Allen Mansion was purchased by Douglas Thome who decided to continue the Allen's tradition of entertaining by making this very special place available for private events. With over twenty years of experience in the catering and special events industry, he and his staff are dedicated to producing some of the finest events in the Southeast. Fine food, professional service, and attention to detail set Bona Allen Mansion apart. It is their pleasure to take part in creating so many wonderful memories.

About Lake Lanier and Buford Dam

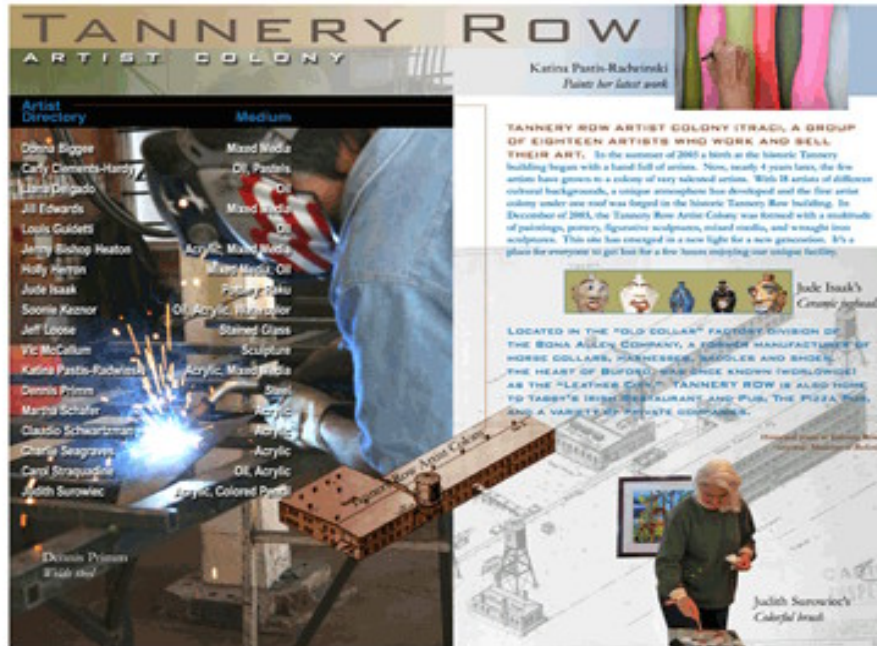


Forty-five minutes from northeast Atlanta, Lake Lanier Islands Resort is situated on the shores of Lake Sidney Lanier and is Georgia's most visited lakeside resort destination. The 1,100-acre resort provides a variety of amenities and services. Emerald point Resort & Conference Center provides 30 lakeside cottages, the award winning Emerald Pointe golf course, scenic horseback riding, spa services, famed wine tasting dinners, campsites and boat rentals from Harbor Landing are currently available for reservations. Each year, the Beach & WaterPark is open during the summertime and Magical Nights of Lights, the world's largest animated holiday light extravaganza, takes place mid-November until the end of December.

In August 2005, the lease interest in the hotel and businesses at Lake Lanier Islands was sold to LLI Management Company, a resort enterprise of the Virgil R. Williams family of Gwinnett County, Georgia. The Williams family is committed to enhancing the recreational experience on the Islands through higher quality developments and accommodations, more leisure opportunities and superior landscape.

About the Tannery Row Art Colony (TRAC)

Tannery Row's buildings have been in existence since the early 1900's and have undergone many transformations; from a leather goods factory to the present-day configuration of offices, restaurants and the Artist Colony. TRAC currently boasts 17 working artists in separate, unique studios.



The Tannery Artist Colony Showroom is open:

Tues.- Sat. 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Located in historic downtown Buford, Ga at
554 West Main Street
Building C
Buford GA, 30518

Look for our distinctive red brick building next to the railroad tracks. Accessible entrance is located in front of the main building facing West Main. Plenty of free parking. Restaurants and shops are only two blocks away on East Main.

Buford City School System at a glance

The Buford City School System is an independent city system that serves approximately 2,700 students in four schools: Buford Elementary School (K-2), Buford Academy (3-5), Buford Middle School (6-8), and Buford High School (9-12). The schools provide quality education for the students who live within the city limits of Buford, and for a small number of students from other districts who choose to attend Buford City Schools.

Buford City Schools	770-945-5035
Buford High	770-945-6768
Buford Middle School	770-904-3690
Buford Academy	678-482-6960
Buford Elementary	770-945-5248
Buford Head Start	770-271-8345
Employee Child Care Center	678-482-6930

Buford City Schools achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status from the Georgia Department of Education for the 2007 year. AYP is a series of annual performance goals set by the state for each school district and school as well as for the state as a whole. By participating in Title I, a voluntary federal program that provides more than \$11 billion to participating states to help educate low-income children, states agree to commit themselves to the goal of the federal No Child Left Behind Act: that all students will be proficient in reading/English language arts and mathematics, as determined by state assessments, by 2014.

SAT Scores for Y2007	Verbal	Math	Writing	Overall
Buford High School	505	505	497	1507
Georgia	494	495	483	1472
National Average	502	515	494	1511

BUFORD BUSINESS ALLIANCE

WWW.VISITBUFORD.COM **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Membership available:

1. Premium- (\$150 per year). This level will have a web listing on www.VisitBuford.com and a descriptive paragraph listing. Members will have the opportunity for prime advertising space in any material (printed or web) and will be notified of all promotional opportunities. They will have the opportunity to host a monthly member meeting as a way to showcase their business (i.e. provide refreshments, bring promotional materials and briefly speak about their business). This may be done via lottery format or on a first come first host basis. As a host venue, you must be able to logistically be prepared for a capacity of over 70 or find a location that can. All members can use the internet membership directory on the website to communicate with other members about promotions, sales, etc.

All members will be contacted with promotional opportunities, member events or meetings via email or thru the announcements on the website. Members are encouraged to provide information on any events they are sponsoring to the BBA and its members so as to have the pertinent information listed on the website under the calendar of events.

All membership dues will be based on an annual billing cycle. Any new members joining during the year will pay the following annual dues on the anniversary of their latest payment. All billings will be made in accordance to your individual anniversary. Any late payments will have a \$10 administrative fee assessed. Once 60 days passed due, membership may be revoked at the discretion of the board.

All participating BBA members can grant a member discount at all other BBA members' business. This is considered a "professional courtesy" discount. This is not necessary but considered appropriate.

Member meetings are held monthly, with the dates and locations given via email or on the website. Normally, the meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 5:30pm. Meetings will typically last approx 90 minutes and consist of BBA business (approx 15-20 minutes), a possible key note speaker (approx 10 to 20 minutes) and a networking period (approx 30 to 45 minutes). Throughout the year we will have one or more workshops consisting of experts discussing various aspects of small business success, including marketing, book keeping, legal aspects, retirement planning, etc.

NOTE: We have made major upgrades for the website www.VisitBuford.com that correspond with the changes in the membership structure and will incorporate all the items mentioned above. We are also working with the City of Buford and Buford City Schools and are cross-linked with our site. Over time, we expect these cross-linking opportunities to grow.

As always, you can find most any information available on www.VisitBuford.com.

BUFORD BUSINESS ALLIANCE

WWW.VISITBUFORD.COM

Membership Application

Membership level currently available:

Premium Member: \$150 annual. Includes: a standard listing, approx 1 to 2 paragraph descriptive listing of your business or organization on our website), a picture and/or logo and a link to your website. (You will be sending this information electronically (via email) to our webmaster: Matt Staras:

matt@syzygygraphics.com or alternately to President@VisitBuford.com.

This membership will provide you with multiple ways for visitors to www.VisitBuford.com to find you and your opportunity to participate in all events and meetings.

*Annual membership dues are payable on the anniversary of your previous payment and considered late if received more than 30 days after the annual billing. After 60 days, your membership and all of its privileges could terminate without notice at the discretion of the board.

Make check payable to: BUFORD BUSINESS ALLIANCE. Return application and payment to:

Tim Koenning, President
208 S Hill St.
Buford, GA 30518

For Further Information on membership contact:
Mary Hines, Membership Chair
770-271-4770 or 770-595-0146

Business Name: _____ Date: _____

Contact Person and position: _____

Additional contact and position: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Signature: _____

Referred by: _____

If you have any other questions you may contact:

Tim Koenning, President BBA @ 678-889-7945 email: President@VisitBuford.com

or Mary Hines @ 770-271-4770 email: Membership@VisitBuford.com

Or go to www.VisitBuford.com

This is a sample list of businesses providing corporate services for Historic Downtown Buford. For a larger listing and more information, visit: <http://www.visitbuford.com>

Info: 411 - Police: 911
Buford Marshal Office - 770-945-5397
Fire & Emergency Services – 678-518-6101
Fire Inspection Service – 678-518-6102

Accounting & Financial Advisors
Magnolia Financial - 678-889-7945

Advertisement Magazines
Accent Gwinnett 678-546-6820
Hometown Gazette – 770-831-6922
Lake Lanier Mag - 770-633-1042

Apparel
Girgli Girl – 770-831-8795
Morgan's Closet – 770-614-3529
Nan-tiques – 404-218-4401

Artists & Galleries
Anita's ArtsCool – 678-230-4937
Tannery Row Artists Colony – 770-904-0572
Gio-Vairs Galleries of Art - 770-945-4900
Kozmo Gallery - 404-797-9399

Automotive Service & Repair
Shadburn Automotive – 770-945-0144

Banking
The Brand Banking Co - 770-963-9224
People Bank & Trust -770-932-1900
United Community -770-945-6120
Bank of North GA – 770- 576-4471

Beauty Salon & Spas
Blue Lotus Spa - 770-945-2923
Studio 93 - 770-614-9693

**Business Licenses, Permits,
& Utility Bills**
Buford City Hall: 770-945-6761, Fax: 678-889-4649

Business Signs & Promotional Items
A2Z Signs – 678-714-1965
Sign-A-Rama - 770.831.9660

Computer Services & Repair
Cameron Data Services - 770.271.4538
DCC Group – 770-932-1344

Dentistry
Magnolia Dentistry – 770-931-0551

Furniture, Home Décor, & Gifts
Bella Gifts – 770-831-9551
C'LeeAnn Concepts – 770-271-4394
Home Accents Int – (770) 831-7500

Heating & Air Conditioning
Hol tkamp - 770-271-7511

Health & Fitness
BodyPlex Family Fitness – 678-714-7431
Complete Health Chiropractor – 678-546-8044

Health Care
Kaiser Permanente – 404-279-4638
Joan Glancy Memorial - (678) 584-6800
Northside Hospital - 678-957-0853
Gwinnett Medical – 678-312-4321

Insurance Services (Corporate Property)
Jeanne White, State Farm - 770 945-5100
Turner Wood & Smith –770-536-0161
Kristina Insley, First National Insurance Group
- 770-513-2264

Multimedia & Marketing
ADventure Advertising, LLC - 678-730-4770
PostHaste – 770-614-7280
Spitfire Media Group – 770-271-3001

Pharmacy
Johnson's Hometown – 770-945-9501

Photographers
Portraits by Wendy –770-831-0922
StarScape Studios -770-713-7473

Pest Control
Northwest Exterminator – 770-614-0220
PestCo - 770-614-4600
Trademark Pest Control – 770-614-6534

Printing Services
American Signature Press - 678-482-8302
Forms Plus – 770-271-7573
Heritage Printing – 770-932-3800

Realty & Mortgage
United Int Mortgage – 678-714-4949
Metrobrokers/GMAC Mortgage – 678-938-2893
Re/Max Five Star – 770-932-1411

Resorts & Conference Centers
Emerald Point Resort - (770) 945-8787

Restaurants
Aqua Terra Bistro -770-271-3000
Sperata -678-546-9111
Tabby's – 404-483-0518

Schools & Education
Buford City Schools- 770-945-5035
Buford High – 770-945-6768

Taxis
Affordable Tax & Limo - 770-912-8740
Payless Taxi & Limo - (404) 454-8526

Tourism & Attractions
Bona Allen Mansion – 770-271-7637
Museum of Buford – 770-616-6318
Stonehedge – 770-932-9329
Tannery Row Artists Colony – 770-904-0572
Lake Lanier Islands Resort - 800-840-LAKE

Web Designers
Jason Barta – 678-464-5785
Syzygy Graphics - 404-729-4845
Spitfire Media Group – 770-271-3001