

MEAG POWER

Current

COMMUNITIES

Sylvania, Georgia

Margaret Evans – Mayor
Carter Crawford – City Manager
Hilda Boykin – Better Hometown
Manager

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SYLVANIA READY TO GROW

Small communities like Sylvania have to be resourceful and are often forced by economic conditions to be far more innovative than their larger counterparts. Sylvania is demonstrating such ingenuity. Local leadership is poised to take advantage of the soon-to be-finished Savannah River Parkway, a 156-mile highway that runs through Sylvania on Highway 21 connecting the large urban centers of Savannah and Augusta.

“We have annexed 800 acres of property that take the Sylvania city limits directly to the parkway bypass. We are investing in new utility infrastructure that will be available for new businesses on that corridor,” explains Mayor Margaret Evans. The easy access to Savannah and its busy port has the potential to attract new industries, particularly those in transportation logistics. The new parkway should also create more tourism opportunities for Sylvania. “Our revitalized downtown gives visitors a real feel for the hospitality and local pride of a small Southern town,” continues the Mayor. “While we are predicting a substantial population growth over the next ten years, you can be certain that our small town spirit will always remain.”

Sylvania is poised to take advantage of the soon-to-be-finished Savannah River Parkway.



Fast FACTS SYLVANIA

POPULATION: 2,509

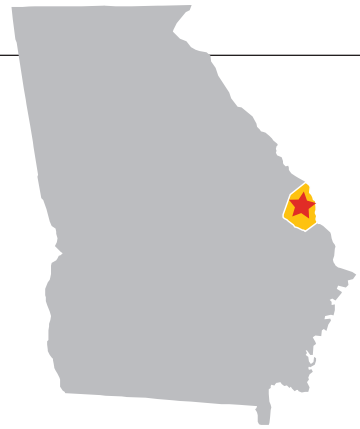
COUNTY: Screven - Population 15,037

UTILITIES: Electric, natural gas, water/sewer and solid waste

TRANSPORTATION: State Route 21 and Highway 301 are key corridors. Route 21 is a segment of the Savannah River Parkway. Sylvania is half way between the two urban centers of Savannah and Augusta.

CORPORATE CITIZENS:

- King America Finishing – textile finishing
- Screven County Hospital – health care
- Sylvania Yarn Systems, Inc. – textile
- Timken U.S. Corporation – bearing manufacturer



“We are always looking for more local ingenuity and talent and recently our Chamber of Commerce graduated 14 of our business owners from its six-week Entrepreneurship course.”

Mayor Margaret Evans

Revolutionary War Many residents of Sylvania have descendants who fought and died in the Battle of Brier Creek, a Revolutionary War conflict fought on March 3, 1779. City officials are interested in creating a historic park commemorating the battle and honoring the 150 patriots who lost their lives there. According to local historian, Alex Lee, the site is probably one of the largest mass gravesites of Revolutionary soldiers.

Civil War Sylvania is home to two historic Civil War cannons. The cannons are commonly known as 12-pound Napoleons, named for Napoleon III, Emperor of France. The city was given the cannons in 1913 by the federal government.

REVITALIZATION

The spirit of the citizens of Sylvania is embodied in the shops, businesses and vitality of its downtown.

What once was a declining main street business district has new life thanks to the volunteers, far-sighted entrepreneurs and city leadership of Sylvania. Today, it is recognized on the state and national level for its dedication to revitalization. Indeed in 2009, the city was accredited by the National Main Street Program for the third year in a row; a designation that means Sylvania has met certain standards for revitalizing its commercial district.

The Soda Shop Gallery, a former teen hangout in the 1940s and 1950s, is the heart of the revitalized downtown. The gallery was established in August 2005 through the vision of the Better Hometown Program, and an army of volunteers stripped, scraped and painted the century-old soda shop to transform it. Today a dedicated volunteer staff continues to operate the establishment that showcases the varied talents of local Screven County artists, and where visitors may purchase artwork and memorabilia. The Gallery is also command central for event planning, fund raising, book signings, art classes and downtown economic development.

When the town launched a downtown façade improvement effort called "Preservation Sylvania" matching grants were funded by the sale of cookbooks and calendars created by volunteers. The cookbook, now in its second edition and named "*Between Two Rivers*," is a point of pride as well as revenue. Sprinkled with a healthy

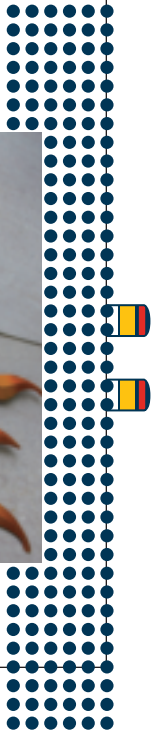
dose of local favorite recipes, the cookbook also tells the story of Sylvania homes, churches and traditions.

One of those special Sylvania places is nearby Millhaven Plantation. Formed at the time Georgia was a colony, Millhaven – with more than 21,000 acres – is one of the largest family-owned farms east of the Mississippi River. A hallmark of the Plantation is a prized book collection which contains more than 10,000 volumes, including such rarities as original issues of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Revitalizing and cherishing what's old is important to Sylvania, but just as much a priority for this lovely East Central Georgia town is welcoming what's new. Both keep Sylvania inviting.

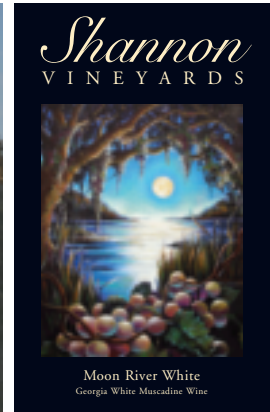


Sylvania's revitalized downtown has everyone smiling.





Downtown Sylvania has a rich history that the city works to preserve.



Shannon Farms boasts a winery featuring six labels.

More About **HOMETOWN** **SYLVANIA**

- **Innovative local enterprises** include Longwood Plantation and Shannon Farms and Vineyards. Both are tied to the soil of Screven County. Historic Longwood Plantation supplies highly desirable, certified organic sod and compost to growers and landscapers for gardening and turf management needs. A 1990 newcomer, Shannon Farms and Vineyards grows 200 acres of muscadines to create its own wines and to supply table grapes to 2,900 chain stores.
- **Two important long-time businesses** are King America Finishing and Timken U.S. Corporation with 30-plus years of operation in the community. King America manufactures numerous fabrics using various processes and finishing techniques. Some of their specialty fabrics have fire retardant, crease resistant and soil release finishes. The company is also experienced at processing fabrics to match stringent specifications such as for the military. Timken produces bearings used in a wide range of products including automotive transmissions and steering assemblies as well as copier machines and paper towel dispensers.
- **Sylvania Visitor Information Center** is the oldest operating visitor center in the U.S. and the first visitor center built in Georgia.

A BETTER HOMETOWN COMMUNITY

In June, 2006, the City of Sylvania was designated a Better Hometown by the State of Georgia.

