

MEAG POWER **current** COMMUNITIES

BARNESVILLE, GEORGIA

Peter Banks – Mayor

Kenny Roberts – City Manager

109 Forsyth St.

Barnesville, GA 30204

770-358-0181



BARNESVILLE *A Megawatt Success*

A 53-megawatt power plant in Barnesville fueled by biomass also fueled an economic development success story that turned heads, statewide, for this community's relentless determination. Barnesville leaders were able to redirect volunteers, funds and momentum from a suddenly floundering prospect toward Piedmont Green Power, a Rollcast Energy, Inc. venture.

Piedmont Green Power began producing biomass-generated electricity in April 2013. It is a project local leadership made happen with an infrastructure-ready site, including access to 1.2 million gallons a day of gray water, resourceful use of grant funding and a congressional appropriation.

Missy Kendrick, Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority Executive Director, said about community leaders and volunteers, "I don't think there is anything out of their reach. Whether it's putting in the hours, contributing funds or going to Washington for this project, they did it and they are ready to do it again."

Newcomer Piedmont Green Power is the first tenant in Barnesville's new Legacy Park. There are 50 more acres waiting for the next megawatt deal.

*A City Full of
Helping Hands*





FAST FACTS

BARNESVILLE

POPULATION: 6,755

COUNTY: Lamar – Population 18,317

UTILITIES: Electricity, Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste

TRANSPORTATION: I-75 corridor

NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:

- Enercon Engineering, Inc. – switchgear manufacturer
- Gordon College – two-year college
- Jordan Forest Products, LLC – wood products
- Lamar County Schools – primary and secondary education
- Milner Milling – grain products
- Piedmont Green Power – biomass power plant
- Rayonier/Georgia Chips – wood chips



“I grew up in Barnesville and I have always wanted what’s right and what’s best for the community.”

– Mayor Peter Banks

- Barnesville welcomed President Franklin Roosevelt to Summers Field in August 1938 to “throw the switch” for rural electrification. A street mural in Ritz Park memorialized that piece of Barnesville history forever.
- The city’s newest industrial park is named the Kenneth D. Roberts Legacy Industrial Park for its longstanding city manager, Kenny Roberts, who helps create a climate for economic development success.
- Barnesville celebrated 116 years of serving its citizens electricity in 2013.
- For its nimble leadership in the Piedmont Green Power project, the Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority was recognized in 2011 by the Georgia Economic Developers Association as “Deal of the Year” for communities with a population of 50,000 or under.
- The Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority partnered with Butts County to create the Riverview Business Park on the I-75 corridor. The community donated 100 of the 300 acres in the park, which is strategically located for industrial prospects.

BUILDING FORWARD

Barnesville, strategically located in north-central Georgia with easy proximity to Atlanta, maintains its small-town persona and charm. The community has a rich history fed by turn-of-the-century entrepreneurs, the Civil War and a notable college campus just three blocks from downtown. The town boasts historic buildings, a pedestrian plaza for community arts and festivals and successful retail fronts, lovingly restored, that were buggy factories in their former lives.

Barnesville's history is marked by two noteworthy commercial enterprises, the production of horse-drawn buggies and children's clothing. Buggy barons, such as entrepreneur J.G. Smith, produced thousands of buggies annually, positioning Barnesville as the top manufacturing and distribution center across the southern United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Equally successful, and still headquartered in Atlanta today, the William Carter Company got its start in textiles in 1865 in Barnesville.

Just a year earlier, in 1864, Barnesville locals reported hearing the eerie booms of General Sherman's cannons 60 miles away in the siege of Atlanta. Because of its location on a railroad line, Barnesville served as a major Civil War hospital. Today, visitors to Greenwood Cemetery can find graves of over 100 soldiers, a reminder of the hundreds who were cared for at the hospital and by local families here.

The Confederate past extends to a present-day economic and cultural anchor for Barnesville – Gordon College. What began in 1872 as a military institute named for General John B. Gordon is now a state, residential college offering its 5,000 students more than 40 programs of

study. The University System of Georgia reports that in 2012 Gordon College was responsible for a \$141.5 million economic impact on the area based on salaries, student spending and other criteria.

The city is undertaking a \$1.2 million passive park project that transforms a former football field into a green space that bridges the Gordon College campus to its downtown. Summers Field will be a gathering place for events and include a walking path. On campus, a 2014 groundbreaking was held for a new student activities and recreation center.

There is also synergy with the city and the campus among the arts community. Lamar Arts, housed downtown in the train depot adjacent to Ritz Park, offers robust programs in music, theatre, dance, literature and the visual arts, including a venue for the College Recital Series and other student talent.

Barnesville's history is rich in memories and the city is using this legacy to continue "building forward" a thriving neighborly community.

Left: Campus of Gordon College



Right: Historic Jackson G. Smith Buggy Building





Downtown Barnesville



Ritz Park



The mural depicting Barnesville's history.

More About HOMETOWN BARNESVILLE

- Barnesville Buggy Days in September and the Barnesville Barbecue and Blues Festival in April are festivals that draw crowds from across the region. “The spirit and energy of Buggy Days are remarkable. Over 175 volunteers make sure every event is perfect,” explains Mayor Banks. “It reflects our dedication to whatever we undertake.”
- Jordan Forest Products, LLC, owned by North Carolina-based Jordan Lumber and Supply, is a part of one of the largest privately owned lumber companies in the United States. Jordan Forest Products produces pine products for domestic and export markets and is a key employer of Barnesville residents.
- Continental Tire The Americas, LLC, has been a Barnesville success since 1888 and produces 36 million pounds of tire cord fabric annually. The manufacturer marked its 125th anniversary at this location in 2013. The 888,000-square-foot facility produces cord for use in the production of Continental and General brand passenger and light truck tires.
- Illinois-headquartered Enercon Engineering, Inc. specifically serves the power industry worldwide. At its 48-acre Barnesville location, Enercon manufactures, assembles and tests mobile engine-generator power modules in a variety of sizes.