



2025 Annual Awards Nominations – Now Open

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
START-UP BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR
JAMES A. GILL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
THOMAS S. UPCHURCH WORKFORCE EDUCATION AWARD

Overview

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2025 business and volunteer awards. The outstanding businesses and individuals will be honored at the Annual Meeting on May 2, 2026. The Chamber Annual Awards celebrate companies and individuals who have made exceptional contributions in Carroll County and West Georgia.

Nominees must be members in good standing of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Please visit www.business.carroll-ga.org/list for a complete listing of current Chamber members. In considering potential honorees, please consider the nominee's achievements in the year immediately prior to the award year (2025), as well as past successes and ongoing contributions to the community. Nominees should not be Chamber elected officials, or individuals currently running for office.

An individual, a company representative, or another business may submit nominations. Self-nominations are also accepted. If the nominator does not know all the required information about the nominee, the Chamber will follow up as necessary.

If a company/individual has received one of the Annual Awards in the past three (3) years, we kindly ask that you graciously open this opportunity to another nominee for potential recognition. A list of previous Honorees is attached.

Using the attached form, please submit nominations via email to events@carroll-ga.org or in person to the Chamber office by Monday, March 23, 2026.

***Please submit the completed nomination form by email:
events@carroll-ga.org***



Business of the Year

The award recognizes companies with exceptional business success while demonstrating a longstanding commitment to excellence and a deep dedication to improving the business community and Carroll County. The nominated businesses:

- Must be located in Carroll County.
- Must be established and in operation for at least three (3) years.
- Has contributed significantly to the overall good of the community through jobs and new job creation, capital investment, philanthropy/community involvement, delivery of unique or specialized products or services, innovation in business practices, or significant business achievement.

Start-Up Business of the Year

The award recognizes companies that have been in business in Carroll County for 1-5 years and are actively involved in the community. The nominated businesses:

- Has led the business through growth and development
- Ability to overcome start-up challenges
- Demonstrated creativity and imagination
- Member of the Chamber
- Never received the award

Small Business Person of the Year

The award recognizes an individual who has been in business in Carroll County for five or more years and has led the company through growth and development while displaying commitment to the community. The nominated businesses:

- Ability to overcome start-up challenges
- Demonstrated creativity and imagination
- Member of the Chamber
- Never received the award

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James A. Gill Volunteer of the Year Award

The award recognizes someone who exemplifies the selfless commitment to volunteerism that James A. Gill continues to exhibit. This individual gives substantial time, expertise, and leadership to support a cause and/or nonprofit organization in Carroll County. The nominated individual:

- Demonstrates a deep dedication to the community
- Possesses an exceptional level of engagement and passion for community service and volunteerism
- Stands as an inspiration to others
- Has made a significant impact on behalf of others as a result of their involvement and leadership
- Nominee must not be a sitting elected official

Citizen of the Year

This award recognizes an individual who has made a lasting, positive impact on Carroll County. This honoree's contributions leave an enduring legacy that has enhanced the quality of life for the citizens and elevated Carroll County.

Nominees excel in one or more of the following areas:

- Ongoing engagement in the community
- Broad impact and reach of contributions to the community
- Commitment to the betterment of Carroll County and its citizens
- Outstanding achievement or act of heroism
- Positive, inspiring personal attributes that encourage and galvanize others

Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award

This award honors an educator who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving the quality of education and has an inspiring presence that motivates and influences students, colleagues, and the community.

- Educator of students at a public or private organization in Carroll County from pre-K-12 grade or higher education.
- Nominations should be based on excellence in one or more of the following areas:
- Demonstration of commitment to student success and love for learning
- Exhibition of the quality and/or innovation of an educational program or entity
- Demonstration of a supportive and caring attitude toward students
- Demonstration of support for the school mission and vision

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2025 ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATION FORM
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
START-UP BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR
JAMES A. GILL LEGACY AWARD
THOMAS S. UPCHURCH WORKFORCE EDUCATION AWARD

Please check the award for which you are nominating:

| |
|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
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- Business of the Year**
- Start-Up Business of the Year**
- Small Business Person of the Year**
- James A. Gill Volunteer of the Year**
- Citizen of the Year**
- Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award**

NOMINEE INFORMATION: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

NOMINEE NAME (IF APPLICABLE): _____

NAME OF OWNER OR CEO: _____

REASON FOR RECOGNITION:

NOMINATED BY (OPTIONAL): _____

DATE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 23, 2026.
Chamber staff will verify the nominations to ensure they meet eligibility criteria.

*Please submit the completed nomination form by email:
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL):

*Please submit the completed nomination form by email:
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