

My pre-holiday wish list

As the Chamber's "staff," I spend a great deal of time wishing I could find ways to persuade more people to support local merchants and the jobs they provide. Since the Christmas shopping season is a "make it or break it" time for many retailers, I wish I could convince more citizens to commit more of their Christmas gift budget where it will benefit their own community.

How about it?

A dozen or so Rainsville stores will be hosting their Holiday Open House on the weekend starting November 20th. Several Chamber members will be participating including Brantley's, Deb's Gifts, Heritage House Kids, Merle Norman, The Looking Glass, Penny's From Heaven Spa, To & From, and Vicki's Flowers & Gifts. The Open House will provide a chance to discover the unique Christmas shopping

opportunities at these shops. Refreshments will be served and many will offer door prizes.

Visit Shop.Rainsville.Info for Holiday Open House details, gift ideas, and photos from the participating member shops.

I wish the local United Givers Fund volunteers could reach their 2009 campaign goal. The UGF makes it easy for you and I to help fund the agencies that help local elderly and handicapped citizens, youth, disaster victims, and military personnel and their families.

Unless something big happens in the next few weeks, it looks like UGF funding for those important agencies could be cut by 30 percent or more. As of last Friday, the UGF's Rainsville Business and Industry group had achieved only about 32 percent of their goal. With that fact in mind, I wish to

urge Rainsville business owners, CEOs and managers that have not already done so to check out the packet from the UGF and implement a plan to help the group draw closer to their goal.

Denise Young is the group's captain. She can be reached at 638-2271 at Sunshine Cleaners where she still has some of the UGF t-shirts available for sale. Proceeds will go towards the UGF campaign. That is the t-shirts with the artwork provided by the two Plainview six graders.

I hope you have marked your calendar for November 21st for the Chamber's auction, chili supper, and Third Annual Sand Mountain Dessert Bake-Off, and December 5th for the 50th annual Rainsville Christmas Parade.