

Gwinnett Daily Post

Buford Business Alliance holds open house

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BUFORD — Buford has always been a good place for business, town historian Hansel Grady Morgan said at a meeting of the Buford Business Alliance on Tuesday night. “Buford wasn’t the sleepy little town most were in the 1800s,” Morgan said. “Buford was a business and industrial place from the very beginning.”

Many in the city are hoping to grow that business reputation once again as the Buford Business Alliance — a marketing organization designed to promote Buford businesses — continues to add members and expand its operation.

Tuesday’s event at the Bona Allen Mansion drew somewhere between 150 to 200 people, said Tim Koenning, president of the Buford Business Alliance.

Koenning hopes some business owners who were there as guests will join the nonprofit organization and will help the Buford Business Alliance continue its recent growth.

The organization has grown from 20 members to 90 members in roughly 18 months, Koenning said.

“Over the last year and a half we’ve just exploded,” he added.

The Buford Business Alliance was started almost seven years ago by several women entrepreneurs with stores on Main Street, Koenning said.

Since that time the organization has opened its doors to all Buford businesses, not just those on Main Street, and it has resulted in solid growth.

The group has monthly meetings, organizes festivals and events and has recently set up funds for scholarships and the arts.

“What we’re trying to do is breed excitement,” Koenning said. “We want to be a part of the community, not just in the community.”