



## Key to the City Recognition Jimmy Goodson

Jimmy Goodson was the first of five sons born to Mary and Jim Goodson. He was born in Waycross, Georgia in 1947. His early years were spent in various cities around Georgia including Waycross, Athens and Buford. In 1959 Jim, his father, opened Goodson Drug in Cumming. Jimmy, who was 12 at the time, started working immediately.

In 1968, Jimmy graduated from Forsyth County High School. He pursued an education in pharmacy at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Through his tenure in college, Jimmy came each weekend to help out at the family business.

In 1972, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's degree in pharmacy. The fall of that same year he joined the US Army and spent two years stationed at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland. This two-year span marks the longest amount of time that Jimmy has ever been away from the pharmacy.

In 1974, Jimmy returned to Cumming and took over the business with his brother, Phil. Jim, their dad, remained a significant influence in the day-to-day business until his passing in 1979. In the early 1980s, Phil took over operations of a pharmacy in Dawsonville and Jimmy got full control of Goodson Drug in Cumming.

The significance of the pharmacy in Jimmy's life cannot be overstated. It has provided a good living for several generations of the Goodson family. Jimmy has found many ways to use the drugstore as a means to give back to the community as well. He takes very good care of his employees, more than an average "good" boss. He has been known to assist them in finding help when they get in some sticky situations.

He actively works with the local high schools to employ their students. He is able to work around their schedules, giving them the ability to work. Recently he allowed the store to be used as a backdrop in a movie that Forsyth Central film students were making. He got to the shoot early, brought doughnuts for everybody and enjoyed watching them make a movie.

He also has reached out to the Georgia pharmacy colleges to allow interns to do rotations in the pharmacy. This gives pharmacy students first-hand experience on what it is like to work in an established, busy, community pharmacy. Jimmy enjoys showing them all aspects of how the pharmacy works and is willing to answer any questions and give access to any of the drugstore's records that interest the students.

Probably the most significant way that Jimmy gives back to the community is through his direct help with customers. He has figured out ways to make it so that people are able to afford their medicine. This has been going on ever since he has worked behind the counter. To the frustration of the drugstore bookkeepers, Jimmy is willing to mark down necessary medications to below cost and extend credit when needed. He won't talk about these things because he is worried about embarrassing the people he helps, but everyone who has worked with Jimmy has seen him do it.

The biggest passion that Jimmy has, besides the drugstore, is vintage automobiles. He is an active sponsor of the Auto Crusade Car Show and Cruise In, held at the Fairgrounds each year. He also has a small car show in the parking lot of the drugstore on Sunday mornings every month. He likes to do it early so he and all attendees will have time to make it to church. He invites anyone who is interested; it is free and usually he or one of the other guys will pick up a bag of biscuits from Hardees. Thank you Jimmy Goodson for all you do for our community!