



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

June, 2008

Becoming Work Ready

Chamber Officers:

- President: [Greg Schmieg](#)
- President-Elect: [Bruce Maloy](#)
- Past-President: [Lori Quinlan](#)
- Secretary: [William Moran](#)
- Treasurer: [Allen Parham](#)



Meriwether County continues to make progress on becoming a Work Ready Community. A team of leaders from throughout the county are working on this initiative, whose goal is to expand the labor pool of qualified workers. This is especially critical as our county works so aggressively to seek new industry. When you tell a business prospect that you have a qualified work force, the Work Ready program is one avenue to validate that. One of the key components of the county become Certified Work Ready is to ensure that a certain number of currently employed and currently unemployed citizens attain a Work Ready Certificate, indicating that they have taken an assessment which scores reading; applied math and locating information. This tool will help assure a potential employer that the person applying for a position is qualified, educated and certified at a certain level. The employer can then make a more reliable decision about their hiring decision. Employers throughout the county are being encouraged to make the Work Ready Certificate a preferred qualification. Ensuring that the applicant can perform at a certain skill level can reduce turnover and training time when the individual is hired. The assessment is free to anyone who wants to take it and is offered at the Workforce Development Center in Greenville. Susan Cross can be contacted at 706.672.3102 to schedule the testing. If an individual wants to improve his/her score, gap training is also available at no charge. For more information about the initiative, contact the Chamber at 706.655.2558

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Meriwether County
 Airport Authority
 P.O. Box 831
 Warm Springs, GA 31830
 Mr. Paul Harman
 706.977.8060
Harmanpaul@hotmail.com

MacNears Restaurant
 P.O. Box 579
 Greenville, GA 30222
 Owners: Frank & Randy
 MacNear
 7063672.0026

Tha Deli
 141 Callaway Street, Suite 101
 Manchester, GA 31816
 Owners: Kelly & Larry Young
 706.846.9654

Big Red Oak Plantation Hosts Chamber Board



The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors held its June meeting at the Big Red Oak Plantation in Gay, Georgia. In addition to general business, Ellen McEwen, owner of the Cotton Pickin' Fair welcomed the group to Gay and shared highlights of area businesses. She noted the selection of the Cotton Pickin' Fair as one of twenty top festivals in the Southeast, which includes 10 other states. This is quite a distinction for our community.

Big Red Oak also served as the host for a Chamber Member Showcase. The event brought several chamber members to visit the Plantation and to hear from Plantation Manager, Michael Bashaw, about all the services offered there. The Plantation is situated on 3500 acres and offers guided hunting excursions for white-tail deer; turkey; pheasant and quail. They also offer a state-of-the-art sporting clay course; skeet and trap shooting and fishing. Their pro shop is equipped with a full line of shooting inventory and ammunition. Contact them to arrange a special outing for your group at 706.538.6870 or visit their web site www.bigredoakplantation.com for more information.

Big Red Oak is owned by Arthur Estes, a sixth generation family member to live and work on the land.

The Board will not meet in July, but will travel to Greenville in August. The Board is committed to increasing its presence and visibility throughout the county and equally committed to inviting local businesses to attend to share information and ask questions. If your company is interested in hosting the Board or inviting Chamber members for a Member Showcase, contact the Chamber at 706.655.2558

THANK YOU
RENEWING MEMBERS

Brenda Hudson,
Greenville High
School

West Georgia
Technical College
LaGrange

Ploener Radio Group
Manchester

Good Shepherd
Therapeutic Center
Warm Springs

Cotton Pickin' Fair
Gay

Highlander Vinyl
Railing, Inc.
Greenville

Crown Technology, LLC
Woodbury

The Bulloch House
Warm Springs

Anderson Marshall
Funeral Home
Manchester

Leadership Meriwether to Kick-off in September

The Leadership Meriwether Steering Committee has been busy reactivating the Leadership Meriwether program. A call for nominations will go out in early July, so please be thinking of folks you would like to nominate (or you can self-nominate). Sessions will be held once per month for nine months, with topics to include government; public safety; health & human services; economic development; tourism/recreation and education. In addition there will be a field trip to the State Capitol while the Legislature is in session; a team building session and a session on the fundamentals of leadership. The Steering Committee includes Paul Penn; Lori Quinlan; Chris Wilson; John Abney; Faye Perdue; Carol Lane; Kip Purvis; Sabra McCullar; Sally Estes; Ann Spain and Carolyn McKinley. For more information call the Chamber @ 706.655.2558

Georgia Chamber Drives Business-Friendly Legislation



The Georgia Chamber of Commerce lobbied for the passage of several pro-business pieces of legislation in this past session. Most notably were three bills to preserve our existing manufacturing sector and to incentivize new manufacturing expansion. House Bill 272 caps the sales taxes paid to the state on energy used in the manufacturing process; House Bill 237 provides much-needed industry relief by exempting the sales tax on all machinery and other equipment integral to the manufacturing process and Senate Bill 359 which creates the "Made in Georgia" program to showcase and promote products manufactured in Georgia. The Georgia Chamber continues to work to maintain Georgia's business friendly environment.

Evaluating Employee Performance



Research tells us that two of the top causes of performance problems with employees are poor or insufficient feedback and a lack of clear individual goals. A well-defined and administered performance appraisal system can help you link employee's goals and objectives with company goals. Performance appraisals are a fundamental human resource tool used by companies to set objectives and evaluate employee performance using objective criteria. Performance appraisals can be used as a tool to link pay to performance, provide positive reinforcement for good behavior; provide an opportunity to identify and correct performance concerns; identify underachievers and support progressive discipline. (content based on information from Georgia Chamber's supplement to Georgia Trend and publication of the Georgia Employer's Association and Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLC). If you don't have a performance appraisal system, your Chamber can help in identifying resources to assist you. Call us at 706.655.2558

McCoy Grading, Inc. Moves to Greenville North

Congratulations to McCoy Grading, Inc on their new location and well-attended open house. McCoy Grading celebrated its relocation from Luthersville to the Greenville North Industrial Park on May 22, 2008. In addition to an official ribbon cutting, the event featured the dedication of a flagpole and garden; tours of the new building and a tasty barbecue lunch. McCoy Grading is owned by Darrell McCoy and his wife Jean. Their son Daniel also works there. The company provides total site preparation for commercial projects and their business had outgrown its Luthersville location. The new 10,000 square foot building is located on a ten acre track in the Greenville North Industrial Park. Several county officials; McCoy Grading employees and family and friends joined the McCoy's in celebrating their new location.

Watch Next
Month

More Information on Leadership Meriwether



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce
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