



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

March 6, 2008

Chamber Officers:

President: Greg Schmieg
 President-Elect: Bruce Maloy
 Past-President: Lori Quinlan
 Secretary: William Moran
 Treasurer: Allen Parham

Join us on *March 11, 2008* for an event which will provide you access to information and resources to help your business. The event will include a small business expo with a variety of state and local agencies and resource providers on hand to provide you with information and answer all your questions about your small business needs. In addition, speakers will provide information about current and expected industry developments in Meriwether County and how tourism is impacting our county's economic environment. The event will be held at Roosevelt Warm Springs, 6135 Roosevelt Highway, Warm Springs, GA. There is no charge to attend. The event is being organized by our Entrepreneur Friendly Community Team. For more information contact Sally Estes, 706-672-4207 or Carolyn McKinley 706-655-2558



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LOL Gallery
 5977 B Spring Street
 P.O. Box 802
 Warm Springs, GA 31830
 Patricia Gill, Owner
 706.655.2031
 pat@patriciamgill.com
www.patriciamgill.com

Preston Evans
 31 Redbud Trail
 Newnan, GA 30263
 770.502.0028
 presto434343@yahoo.com
www.prestonopportunities.com

Cullen Patton Surveying and
 Geodetic Services
 6891 Hwy 100
 Hogansville, GA 30230
 706.672.1246
 cps73gps@yahoo.com

Wendell Ebbett
 P.O. Box 323
 Gay, GA 30218
 678.773.5457
 wendellebbett@bellsouth.net

EJC Designs
 136 Will Clark Drive
 Grantville, GA 30220
 770.583.3431
 emmittclark@yahoo.com



J. Smith Lanier & Co. Congratulations J. Smith Lanier & Co.

Insuring People and Business Since 1868

On February 4, 2008 the Council of Better Business Bureaus (BBB) of West, Georgia, East Alabama and Southwest Georgia selected J. Smith Lanier & Co. as a winner of the 2008 BBB Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics. Leonard Crain, President and CEO of the Council of BBB explained, "J. Smith Lanier & Co. deserves our recognition for consistently fulfilling their obligation to the marketplace to do what is right and what is fair by their customers, employees, suppliers and surrounding community. They have set an example for businesses of all sizes to follow, and we applaud their unique contributions to upholding a fair and honest marketplace." J. Smith Lanier & Co. is headquartered in West Point. Pattisue Elliott is the manager of their local branch in Manchester, GA.

Entrepreneurs Receive Free Advice...

so reads the tag line from a recent article published by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. The article spotlights an online web-based service which connects businesses that were launched with less than \$35,000 and less than five employees with successful business owners and managers. Services include advice and counseling on business plan writing, online sales, time management, marketing, web site development, etc. Mentoring relationships generally take place via e-mail or phone and are confidential. The service has been showcased by the San Francisco Sun-times; Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke and the Wall Street Journal. For more information, visit their web site at www.micromentor.org

Want to Showcase Your Business?

Since the Chamber is working for your business and your organization; please be reminded that we are always willing to highlight something you would like shared about your business. If your business has been recognized in some way or has accomplished something that you feel deserves a special salute in our newsletter; just let me know. I'll be happy to work with you to present the information in the way you would like to give you the best visibility and community exposure. Just give me a call or email me at meriwetherchamber@windstream.net and I'll work with you.

THANK YOU
RENEWING
MEMBERS:

JT's Signs –Manchester
Mills Insurance Agency—
Woodbury
AgSouth Farm Credit,
ACA—Greenville
A T & T—Columbus
Georgia Pacific—Warm
Springs
Manchester Outdoor Adver-
tising—Manchester
Meadows Insurance
Agency—Manchester
Georgia LP Gas—
Manchester
Dependable Waste Ser-
vices, Inc.—Zebulon
Pine Mountain Regional
Library—Manchester
Wilson's Fine Furniture—
Manchester
Manchester Development
Authority—Manchester
Star Mercury Publishing—
Manchester
Helen Claussen—Warm
Springs
William Barnes Quality Auto
Parts, Inc.—Woodbury
City of Warm Springs—
Warm Springs
Greenbow, LLC—
Montgomery, AL
Mike Johnson—Keller Wil-
liams—Manchester
Chatt-Flint RDC-Franklin
Martha Ann Todd—
Meriwether County
Schools
Discount Tires & Auto Re-
pair—Manchester
Diverse Power—Columbus
Meriwether Bank & Trust—
Manchester, Warm
Spring; Luthersville
JoBar Wireless—
Manchester
Southern Belles Soap—
Warm Springs

Partners in Education

Working with the Meriwether County Interagency Council/Family Connection; the Meriwether County School System and other community partners, the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce is organizing a Partners-in-Education Program. Recognizing that the economic prosperity of our community is directly linked to the success of our schools in preparing students to meet the expectations of jobs in the 21st century, this program offers an avenue for business and civic organizations to partner with the school system. The program has five goals including improving academic performance; growing career opportunities; enriching the life experiences of students; encourage faculty and staff commitment and engaging and strengthening families. If your business is interested in hearing more about how you can become involved contact Carolyn McKinley 7063655.2558



Recession Proof Your Business

You've heard the "R" word in the news lately; so how can you make sure your business is positioned to weather whatever storm may come? Here are some tips from *The Business Leader-February, 2008* (produced by the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer):

Tighten your belt – review your budget line-by-line and see what you can cut. Take whatever steps you can to reduce your debt and apply labor and time saving technology to reduce the cost of doing business

Revitalize your customer services efforts – take nothing for granted with your customer base – make sure your pricing is competitive; your service exceptional and your attitude reflects how much you value their business

Research other markets – can you add more goods or services to your product line? Can you sell to more customers? Perhaps in different markets? If you have a web site, critique it carefully for marketing opportunities and if you don't have a web site, now is the time to establish an internet presence.

Become a marketing machine – a recession is not the time to cut back on your marketing efforts. Determine what sets your business apart from the competition and market it like crazy. Attend networking functions; send out post cards; put a new sign out front; utilize a variety of advertising mediums for maximum exposure.

Chamber Introduces Sponsorship Package

This year, your Chamber decided to offer sponsorship packages as an advertising opportunity to our members. Many of you are invited to serve as sponsors for our individual events; but this year we wanted to offer you a package deal, which we believe will yield you a great return on your investment. Thank you to those businesses who have signed on thus far for this opportunity:

Platinum level: AngioDynamics, Incorporated; F & M Bank and Trust Company; Georgia Power; Roosevelt Warm Springs and WFDR-FM-Mountain 94.5

Gold Level: Abbott, Jordan & Koon, LLC; Meriwether County Development Authority; Star-Mercury Publishing and West Georgia Technical College

Silver Level: Crown Technology, LLC; Custom Truck & Body Works; Hill's Funeral Home; Meriwether Bank and Trust; Paragon Consulting Group and Warm Springs Medical Center

Don't Forget

Annual Dinner

March 6, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Economic Outlook 2008

March 11, 2008

4:00—8:00 p.m.



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 9—91 Broad Street
Warm Springs, GA 31830
706.655.2558

meriwetherchamber@windstream.net
<http://meriwethercountychamber.org>