



## Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

April, 2009



### *Evening of Optimism at Annual Dinner*

#### Chamber Officers:

President: [Bruce Maloy](#)  
 President-Elect: [Allen Parham](#)  
 Past-President: [Greg Schmieg](#)  
 Treasurer: [Allen Parham](#)

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

[Chicken Charley's](#)  
 5928 Spring Street  
 Warm Springs, GA  
 Store Manager– Jody Foster  
 Gen. Manager-Todd Townsend  
 706.655.2585  
 email: [rinnmeds@aol.com](mailto:rinnmeds@aol.com)

[Headley Construction Corp.](#)  
 P.O. Box 719  
 44 E Washington Street  
 Newnan, GA 30264  
 Contact: Luke Headley,  
 Business Development  
 770.253.8027  
 email:  
[lh@headleyconstruction.com](mailto:lh@headleyconstruction.com)  
[www.headleyconstruction.com](http://www.headleyconstruction.com)

[Warm Springs BP Foods](#)  
 5895 Spring Street  
 Warm Springs, GA 31830  
 Owner: Asad Shah  
 706.655.2843

What a great turn-out at the Chamber's Annual Dinner held on March 26, 2009. As usual Faye Perdue, Event Coordinator did a fantastic job with all of the event details, working closely with the always cooperative and professional staff at Roosevelt Warm Springs.

The event attracted over 120 guests, including two mayors, several city council representatives and representatives from the offices of Senator Saxby Chambliss, Senator Johnny Isakson and Congressman Lynn Westmoreland. Also in attendance were several members of our Board of Commissioners and members of the Meriwether County Development Authority. Tyron Elliott was our keynote speaker, representing The Flint River Keepers, an organization in which he serves as a member of their Board of Directors. His presentation was very informative and engaging regarding the history and geography of the Flint River and its impact on our community.

Bruce Maloy, President of the Board of Directors served as master of ceremonies. He discussed the plans for 2009, with particular emphasis on making sure our members feel a return on their membership investment. One of the specific avenues will be to schedule membership meetings on a quarterly basis which include both a networking "business after hours" opportunity and a content-specific informational discussions.

Bruce announced several awards during the evening including Lori Quinlan as Volunteer of the Year; Meriwether County Development Authority as the member of the year and a special Presidential Appreciation award to Wanda Crowder and the Candlelight Tour Run Team. He also presented a plaque to outgoing president Greg Schmieg and thanked him for his leadership during the 2008 term.

### ***Chamber to Host Membership Meetings***

One of the goals for 2009 will be for the Chamber to host quarterly membership meetings. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 28, 2009 and will feature a post-legislative briefing presented by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. There were many significant legislative issues in the year's session including those on transportation; education and economic development. Please make plans to attend and come prepared to offer your recommendations and voice your concerns about issues which will likely be on the agenda for next year's session.

Other topics for subsequent membership meetings include an update on progress and plans at Meriwether Park; an update from the Water Authority; a session on Identity Theft and a session on becoming a HUB zone certified contractor. All of these sessions are intended to serve as a vehicle for you to promote your business and an opportunity to stay informed about issues impacting your community.

If you have specific topics you would like to see offered, please contact the Chamber at 706.655.2558 or email: [meriwetherchamber@windstream.net](mailto:meriwetherchamber@windstream.net)

**Remember, your Chamber is working for you—let us hear from you!**

THANK YOU  
RENEWING MEMBERS

Cone Services  
Manchester

James Mabon  
Greenville

Badcock Home  
Furnishings  
Manchester

Chatt-Flint RDC  
Franklin

Georgian Inn  
Greenville

Factory Connection  
Manchester

Flint River Academy  
Woodbury

Hutchinson-Traylor  
Insurance  
Columbus

Mer. County Interagency  
Council/Family Conn.

McCoy Grading, Inc.  
Greenville

Marlene White  
Woodbury

Woodbury Flowers  
Woodbury

Southern Select  
Forestry Services  
Greenville

Plateau Excavation, Inc.  
Austell

Paragon Consulting  
Group, Inc.  
Griffin

Danny Graddy  
LaGrange

Hopkin Dental Clinic  
Manchester

JT's Signs  
Manchester



The Federal Stimulus Package signed into law February, 2009 has been an area of much controversy and discussion over the last few months. The U. S. Chamber says, that even though flawed, the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan is urgently needed to improve the economy. The Chamber, rather than oppose the bill because it objected to parts of it, worked with Congress to help shape the legislation, ensuring the inclusion of several business and taxpayer benefits. Some of those provisions and benefits:

- \* Net operating loss carry back – small businesses with annual receipts of less than \$15 million can carry back losses on their taxes for five years instead of the current two years. This enables companies that lost money in 2008 to apply those losses to years when they made a profit, qualifying them for refunds on taxes paid for those years. Savings to business: **\$947 million**
- \* Bonus depreciation – business of all sizes can depreciate 50% of certain capital investments Savings to business: **\$5.1 billion**
- \* Small businesses can immediately deduct up to \$250,000 in equipment purchases made in 2009 rather than depreciate the cost over time – Savings to business: **\$41 billion**
- \* Reduced borrower and lender fees for certain programs in the Small Business Administration.
- \* Is expected to create jobs in the manufacturing and construction industries, as it will fund projects to rebuild roads and bridges and make schools, homes and government buildings more energy efficient
- \* Information technology workers, including computer programmers, fiber-optic technicians and data-entry clerks will also benefit from plans to computerize the nation's medical records and expand high-speed Internet access to rural areas.

*Did You Know?*

- \* Georgia's film incentive package has helped to land a major picture to be filmed in Savannah. Miley Cyrus, star of Disney's Hannah Montana franchise is set to star in "The Last Song." Disney has chosen Savannah and other locations along Georgia's coast with shooting to begin in mid-June.
- \* Georgia leaders at all levels of government will now be able to make more informed decisions related to public issues through the Applied Demography Program, a new service of the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The program will provide a regularly updated, consistent and objective set of population and employment data. The program will combine local trends with forecasts of national, state and regional changes. For more information visit [www.cviog.uga.edu](http://www.cviog.uga.edu)
- \* The University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center and the Columbus Office of Homeland Security are offering a Summit for Threat Preparedness & Response July 31st and August 1, 2009

Spring Fling in Warm Springs—April 18 and 19th!

Enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend by coming to the Spring Fling in Warm Springs  
There'll be a variety of vendors; tasty food and great entertainment. Come out and enjoy!

*Watch for more  
info*

**Membership Meeting  
May 28, 2009**

**Post-Legislative Briefing from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce**



P.O. Box 9—91 Broad Street  
Warm Springs, GA 31830  
706.655.2558

[meriwetherchamber@windstream.net](mailto:meriwetherchamber@windstream.net)  
<http://meriwethercountychamber.org>