



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Officers:

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Traceable Creations
2898 Denney Road
Cataula, GA 31804
Tracie Moore, owner
706-582-2793
tracie@traceablecreations.com
traceablecreations.com

U.S. AG, LLC
56 N. Main
P.O. Box 368
Luthersville, GA 30251
Carl Schneider, owner
770-927-3206
unitedstatesag@yahoo.com
unitedstatesag.org

Pattillo Construction Co.
P.O. Box 67
Tucker, GA 30085
John Drake, Sales
Ben Stafford, Sales
770-938-6366
jdrake@pattilloconstruction.com
bstafford@pattilloconstruction.com
pattilloconstruction.com

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Greenville Lions Club
Greenville, GA

**Terry Family Funeral
Home**
Hamilton, GA

Annual Dinner March 6, 2008

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on March 6, 2008 for the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner. The event will be held at Roosevelt Warm Springs and will include a social and delicious dinner. Our keynote speaker will be our new President, Greg Schmieg who will showcase our Chamber plans for 2008. We will also salute new and returning board members including: *Bruce Maloy; William Moran; Allen Parham; Kip Purvis; Lori Quinlan; Carol Lane; Jeff Cain; Linda Jones; Sabra McCullar; Sam Snider; Ellen McEwen; Ben Teasley; Virginia Hill; Lisa Thompson and Harry Carr.* For further information contact Carolyn McKinley at 706.655.2558 or email at meriwetherchamber@windstream.net.

Chamber Launches New Web Page

Our Chamber is so excited about the look of our new web page!! Designed by Tracie Moore, of Traceable Creations, we not only have a new look, but greatly expanded features. The site offers information about the county's economic development; school systems; government; history; demographics and individual profiles of each city. Some of the note worthy items also include a calendar of events and an on-line application form to include a mechanism to take on-line credit card payments for new and renewing members through a secure server. Tracie, who is now a chamber member, has designed many websites including those for several chambers in surrounding counties. Check out our new look and our new features at <http://meriwethercountychamberofcommerce.com> or <http://meriwethercountychamber.org>.

Economic Outlook 2008

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

Sales Underway for Community Magazine Ads



The Chamber kicked off advertising sales for the new community magazine in January. The response has been very encouraging and the project sales director for the magazine reported that there is quite a "buzz" in our county. A great deal of that positive buzz can be attributed to the recent announcement about the Dongwon Autopart Technology plant to be located here as well as a number of other exciting developments in our county. If you are interested in discussing the possibility of an ad for your company, please contact Richard Shaffer at 706.655.2558 or 800.364.2034 x 301



RENEWING MEMBERS:

The Elliott Law Firm
Manchester, GA

G & S Metal Consultants, Inc.
Manchester, GA

Smith-Steele-Meadows Funeral Home, Inc.
Manchester & Woodbury

Pathways Center for Behavioral & Dev. Growth
LaGrange, GA

Beckham's Healthcare
Manchester, GA

Taylor-Foster, Inc.
Manchester, GA

Trinity Christian Academy
Warm Springs, GA

Lone Oak Tree Farm, LLC
Grantville, GA

P. C. Flynn Land Surveying Company
Greenville, GA

Rotary Print USA, Inc.
Manchester, GA

B. A. Construction
Woodbury, GA

Subs in Paradise, LLC d/b/a Subway
Manchester, GA

Small Business Development Center is a Plus!



According to a recent newsletter of the University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center, entrepreneurs who utilize the SBDC assistance experience greater employment and sales growth than the average business in Georgia. Employment in SBDC's existing clients grew by 22% while overall employment in Georgia grew by only 1.83%. During this same time period, the sales of SBDC's existing business clients increased by 19.76% while the Georgia average was 11%. "Entrepreneurs that carefully plan for growth and work to improve their management skills continue to reap strong rewards," said Allan Adams, state director of the Georgia SBDC network. Has your business tapped into the resources available through the SBDC? If not, give Mark Lupo a call at 706.569.2654. Mark is a business consultant with the SBDC and you can also visit in person with Mark at the Economic Outlook 2008 event noted on the first page of this newsletter.

Congratulations Meriwether County Interagency Council/Family Connection, Inc.



The Meriwether County Interagency Council/Family Connection, Inc.(MCICFC) was recently recognized as one of six Family Connection Partnership collaboratives in Georgia to receive "proficient" status for Excellence in Collaboration and Community Decision-Making. The MCICFC is one of 159 collaboratives in Georgia that make up the Family Connection, a network of communities committed to improving results for children and families. Their emphasis is on healthy children; making sure children are ready to start school and that they succeed in school, enabling stable self-sufficient families and building strong communities. During the past ten years the MCICFC has leveraged nearly \$5 million from public and private sources to meet needs in Meriwether County. Chris Wilson serves as the Executive Director of the MCICFC, with Dr. Bob Patterson serving as the chairperson for the Board and Mel Kendrick serving as the vice-chairperson. For more information contact Chris Wilson at 706.672.4016 or

Want to Grow Your Sales to International Markets?



The International Trade team of the Georgia Department of Economic Development can help you expand your export sales with the help of five International Trade specialists in Atlanta and 10 overseas offices in the major markets of the world. In March, Georgia's international representatives from Canada, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Israel, Germany and the United Kingdom will travel to Georgia, where you will have an opportunity to work with them one-on-one to explore international markets for your products. You'll learn more about market trends for your industry sector and how to search for potential buyers, distributors, agents or partners. For more information contact Alicja Drolet 404.962.4036 or adrolet@georgia.org. Alicja is our Atlanta based trade specialist and is scheduling slots for these meetings.

Don't Forget:

**Annual Dinner
Economic Outlook 2008**

**March 6th
March 11th**

Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 9—91 Broad Street

Warm Springs, GA 31830

706.655.2558

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<http://meriwethercountychamber.org>

