



Meriwether Messages – Week of July 4<sup>th</sup>

+++++

Manchester Recreation Department

What: GIANT Slip N Slide for kids

When: Thursday July 3, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Manchester Recreation Department - Callaway Field

Cost: FREE - BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL!



Fireworks 'n More!!

Come join us for an elaborate evening at The Manchester Mill, Callaway Street in Manchester, Georgia on July 3rd. Great food, entertainment and kids' activities for all ages are on tap for the evening. A spectacular firework show at 10:00 p.m. will start your Independence holiday here in Meriwether County. Please join us for the county's largest summer event on July 3rd.

+++++

Mark your Calendar



The Meriwether County Family Connection Partnership and its many community partners is coordinating a **Back-to-School Bash for all children in the community on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This event (formerly Family and Friends Day) will be held this year at George E. Washington Elementary in Woodbury. There will be free school supplies; food; games; books; prizes and health screening. The many partners working on this, including the school

administration and all the school leaders are working hard to ensure this community wide event helps all of our children get off to a great start in the new school year. For more information contact Jennifer Corcione at [jcorcione@mcicfc.org](mailto:jcorcione@mcicfc.org) or call 706-672-4016

+++++



This nine-week class will show you how to get rid of debt; manage your money; spend and save wisely and much more!

**FREE PREVIEW**

Financial Peace University with Dave Ramsey

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014 at 6:00PM

Fellowship Church at 242 West Main Street in Manchester, Georgia

Facilitated by Aaron Mabon

Preview Hosted by Fellowship Church

Sponsored by Fellowship Church and

Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

FPU Classes Every Tuesday starting August 5 - September 30 (9 sessions)

Classes Hosted by Pine Mt. Regional Library on 218 Perry St. in Manchester, GA

+++++

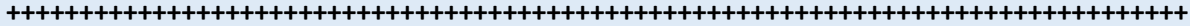
*The Village  
Art Studio  
Invites you  
to....*

*Business after Hours  
Tuesday, July 29, 2014  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
141 Callaway Street  
Suite 201  
Manchester, GA*

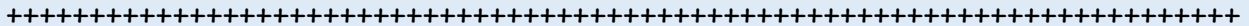




The Department of Public Safety will conduct a “Public Safety Appreciation Day” at Lake Meriwether on July 26<sup>th</sup>, to show appreciation to all of their firefighters, emergency medical, 911 dispatchers and law enforcement personnel. You are invited to show your support of the work these folks do by contributing food items, financial donations or items that could be used as door prizes. For more information contact Jason Ritter, Director at 706-672-4094 or email [j.ritter@meriwethercountyga.gov](mailto:j.ritter@meriwethercountyga.gov)



*Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting at Blackbird Café last week....everyone* had a great time with owners Vicky and Doug Matthews. Guests were treated to a variety of food and beverages. If you have not yet visited the Blackbird Café you are missing a real treat. Located on Main Street in downtown Woodbury.



*Exciting New Membership Benefit for Small Businesses*



The Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce – the **Georgia Chamber Small Business Alliance**. Through this new initiative, the state chamber will be providing a complimentary “Alliance” membership to companies who belong to their local chambers and have less than 10 full-time employees. The benefits of this Alliance participation include:

- Representation at both the state and federal levels as the Chamber advocates for pro-business measures
- Participation on statewide initiatives that create the Georgia Chamber’s legislative priorities
- Involvement in policy development through the Chamber’s grassroots network and member surveys
- Timely information on legislative issues and educational opportunities
- Invitations to regional events
- Special “Alliance-level” pricing on events and programs

We are excited to extend additional benefits and information as part of your membership investment at the local level. This new communication will be branded under the Georgia Chamber / Georgia Business Action Network, so please be on the lookout for these in the weeks to come!

For additional information please contact Carolyn McKinley at Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce 706-655-2558 ([meriwetherchamber@windstream.net](mailto:meriwetherchamber@windstream.net)) or Ashley Cody at the Georgia Chamber ([acody@gachamber.com](mailto:acody@gachamber.com) or 404-223-2266).

+++++



**CELEBRATE THE 2014 FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND AT CALLAWAY GARDENS’ STAR SPANGLED BEACH PARTY**

***Sun, Fun, Circus, Music, Fireworks and More***

**PINE MOUNTAIN, GA (6/23/14)** - Callaway Gardens is eagerly anticipating the **Fourth of July!** Come join us for a great day filled with a ton of fun in the sun and a spectacular fireworks show. Bring the entire family and enjoy a myriad of beach activities throughout the weekend.

Friday will feature a variety of activities and events to entertain all ages. Guests of all ages are sure to be thrilled by the acrobatics of the **Florida State University Flying High Circus** as they perform at 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. The **Callaway Gardens Farmers Market** will have holiday hours from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the day, DJ Mickey J will entertain beachgoers from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; a performance by **Secret Sauce** at 5 p.m.; dancing to the classic beach music of the **Swinging’ Medallions**, part of Callaway

Gardens' Independence Day tradition and fun for all ages, will begin at 7:30 p.m. The anticipated **patriotic fireworks finale** will shoot off at approximately 9:30 p.m. (weather permitting).

Saturday night will be packed with live entertainment. At 5 p.m., **Wicked Dixie** kicks off followed by **The Regulars**. Another thrilling **FSU Flying High Circus** performance will be in the big tent at the special time of 7:45 p.m. to make sure everyone is out watching the sky for the dusk jump by the **On Target Pyrotechnic Skydiving Team** (weather permitting)

++++  
The **Rev. Dan Dixon** has been appointed as the new pastor at **Manchester First United Methodist Church**. Rev. Dixon and his wife, Brenda, recently moved to Manchester from Sharpsburg, where he has served as pastor of Mt. Gilead UMC for the past seven years (2007-2014). They were warmly received by the congregation on Sunday, June 22 with a "Praise Service" and a covered dish luncheon. Dan has an Associate of Science degree in Business from Shorter College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion from LaGrange College, and a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.



++++  
Meriwether County's unemployment rate rose slightly for the month of May now at 10.7% from the 10.2% in April. The rate continues to significantly trail Georgia's rate at 7.5%. There are, however, job opportunities, including two upcoming Job Fairs. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, the West Georgia Technical College will host a job fair for Hyundai. This will take place at the Callaway Conference Center 220 Fort Drive, Lagrange, and GA from noon until 4:00 p.m. On July 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a job fair for Interval at

1239 O.G. Skinner Drive, West Point from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact the Georgia Department of Labor at 706-845-4000

++++

*Georgia is America's top state for business, CNBC said in a recently released survey.* Since CNBC began rating states for competitiveness in 2007, Georgia has always placed in the top 10. The Peach State is "the cream of the crop" said CNBC Senior Executive. Texas came in No. 2 overall, followed by Utah; Nebraska and North Carolina. Georgia's best category for the third year in a row is workforce and also ties for first in infrastructure.

*Savannah Harbor Expansion Project Moving Forward...*a great deal of effort went into the final Congressional passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act that the President signed into law in June. Most significantly for Georgia, this legislation authorizes the funding needed to deepen the Savannah Harbor to 47 feet, accommodating the increase in both size and number of ships expected after the Panama Canal's expansion completion in 2015. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project has been a top priority for the Georgia Chamber as it represents one of the most significant economic development projects in the state's history. With the support of Governor Deal and members of the General Assembly, the State of Georgia has already approved \$231 million for its share of the project's funding.

*Have News to Share?*

*Special Deals?*

*Staff Changes?*

*Special Events?*

*Send your news items to [meriwetherchamber@windstream.net](mailto:meriwetherchamber@windstream.net)*