



WEAKLEY COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



P.O. Box 67 ~ Dresden, TN ~ 38225 ~ (731) 364-3787 ~ FAX (731) 364-2099 ~ www.weakleycountychamber.com ~ November 2011

DRESDEN - GLEASON - GREENFIELD - MARTIN - SHARON

Proudly serving our community since 1959

Weakley County Earns Three-Star Certification



Pictured at the plaque presentation (l-r): Jerry Brigance - TLM Architects, Weakley County Chamber Board of Directors, and Weakley County Economic Development Board; Jake Bynum - First State Bank Dresden Business Development, First State Youth Leadership and Leadership Weakley County Board of Directors Chairman, and Weakley County Chamber President; Barbara Virgin - Executive Director Weakley County Chamber, First State Youth Leadership and Leadership Weakley County Program Coordinator, and member Weakley County Economic Development Board; Bill Hagerty - Commissioner of Department TN Economic and Community Development; TN Governor Bill Haslam; Dr. Phil Young - UT Martin Hendrix Chair of Excellence, First State Youth Leadership Board of Directors; Blake Swaggert - Regional Director of Northwest TN Economic and Community Development; and Jenna Hellums - Assistant to Regional Director of Northwest TN Economic and Community Development.

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty announced that Weakley County has achieved certification under the state's Three-Star program for excellence in economic development.

"Our goal is to create a business friendly climate that gives companies the confidence to invest and expand in Tennessee," Hagerty said. "Solid community development is a crucial aspect in this process by providing the foundation needed for successful economic development."

Weakley County is now eligible to receive additional incentives under the guidelines of the Tennessee Three-Star program.

In order to receive the certification, communities are required to meet criteria in planning, leadership, community, business and education, and work force development categories. Incentives for receiving the certification include identification on all FastTrack infrastructure and job training applications; eligibility for matching grants, if criteria set by ECD are met; earning points in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; assistance from ECD's regional field staff and the sharing of "best practices" in community development; and the establishment of a strategic plan that is updated annually with measurable goals, specific actions, responsible parties and a timeline.

Beginning in 1980, the Three-Star program has now grown to 89 programs certified, representing more than 340 cities and towns.

About the Tennessee Department of economic and Community Development

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's mission is to develop strategies which help make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs. The department seeks to attract new corporate investment in Tennessee and works with Tennessee companies to facilitate expansion and economic growth. To find out more, go to www.tn.gov/ecd.

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First State Donates to Chamber Courtyard



The Weakley County Chamber has added a courtyard to its property on the square in Dresden. The Chamber Board of Directors' vision for the courtyard is to make it something that our members and the community would take pride in. In March of this year, a request was presented to Chamber members and citizens to consider making a donation to help offset the cost of the project. Our vision is to honor those who give with a plaque in the courtyard.

Recently, First State made a donation to the Weakley County Chamber Courtyard. Present for the donation were (l-r) Sam Lewallen, President First State Community Bank Martin; Chamber President Jake Bynum, First State Bank Dresden Business Development Specialist; Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin; Andrea Hughes, President First State Community Bank Dresden; and Joe Brasher, President First State Community Bank Sharon and Trust Officer. Others who have made contributions include Volunteer Express, H.C. Spinks, A Country Pet Resort & Spa, Fuller Partners Real Estate Inc, and Cheryl Lehmkuhl.

If you or your business would be interested in helping make the Chamber Courtyard the gem it can truly be for various outdoor activities, please contact the Chamber office at 731-364-3787, mail a check to P.O. Box 67, Dresden, TN 38225, or drop off your donation at the Chamber office located at 114 West Maple in Dresden. Thanks to all who have already helped and thanks in advance to those who plan to help make the Chamber Courtyard a place all Weakley Countians can be proud of!

CREST Grant Helps Young Entrepreneurs



The University of Tennessee at Martin's Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, a Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), along with the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce recently applied for and received a grant to promote local entrepreneurship. The purpose of the Creating a Rural Entrepreneurial System in Tennessee (CREST) pilot program was to encourage rural communities to improve their local economies through entrepreneurship and small business development. The Weakley county CREST committee chose to use grant monies to help the Dresden Middle School's Lions' Den to help educate area youth by expanding their comprehension of entrepreneurship and possibly stimulate future economic development in Weakley County.

Coach Leigh Hart stated, "Dresden Middle School's motivation for creating the Lions' Den was to put an incentive program in place to motivate our students to have a better work ethic, to promote good character, meet student needs, and to teach life skills. The Lions' Den is sponsored by the DMS Beta Club. These members have the opportunity to hone entrepreneurial skills that may benefit them in their future endeavors.

"Through the overwhelming generosity of the Dresden community, the Lions' Den became a reality. Local businesses, people associated with the school, and individuals giving of their time, talent, and donations made this dream come true."

Landy Fuqua, Interim Director of the REED Center said, "When the committee discovered the students were actually operating the Lions' Den like a small business, we wanted to encourage and support their efforts. The business concepts these children are acquiring will no doubt impact future economic growth in our community."

For more information on UT Martin's REED Center/TSBDC, visit www.utm.edu/reed. To make an appointment for a free consultation, contact the office at (731) 587-7333.

Pictured at the check presentation are: (l-r) Jamie Rickman and Coach Leigh Hart, Dresden Middle School; Landy Fuqua, Interim Director of the REED Center; Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin; and Eric Markin, REED Center Small Business Specialist.

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**Proudly sponsors this page and welcomes all new businesses and individuals to
Weakley County!**



Welcome New Member



Tony's Sports Bar & Grill and the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting. Joining owner Tracy McGehee and his staff for the event were Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin, Ms. Audrey Roberts, Congressman Stephen Fincher's Field Representative Dale Hendon, and representatives from Westan Insurance, Cardon Locksmith Service, Cary Insurance Services LLC., Fuller Partners Real Estate Inc., Reelfoot Bank, WCMES, Thunderbolt Broadcasting, BancorpSouth, Office Products, Rountree Business Equipment, Weakley County Fence and Larry's Lawn Care, Vickie's Designer Touch, Martin Business Association, family, and friends.

Tony's Sports Bar & Grill is located at 112 Lovelace St., Martin, TN. Business hours are 11:00 am till 11:00 pm daily. For more information call 731-587-2423.

"Our goal is to have a positive upbeat atmosphere where everyone can come and experience great food, drinks, and service"



Welcome New Members



Colors, Cuts, & Styles



A Ribbon Cutting / Grand Opening was held at Colors, Cuts, and Styles in Dresden, TN. Present for the celebration were: (l-r) Terri Brundige, BancorpSouth; Jimmie Spain, Rountree Business Equipment; Deborah Ellis, Death Row Doggies Rescue - Weakley County; River King; Brent Cox; Amy Cox, owner / operator; Mark and Vickie Earls; Shelly Bowers, Weakley County Municipal Electric System; Jennifer Branscum, Dresden City Recorder; Dresden Mayor Danny Forrester; and Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin.

Colors, Cuts, and Styles is located at 110 E. Main Street, Dresden, TN. Business hours are Tuesday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm and Monday's by appointment only. To make an appointment, or for more information, call Amy at (731) 364-5922.



SMART DOLLARS



Smart Dollars was welcomed to Dresden with a Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting. Present to welcome Owner / Operator Tommy Wu was Dresden Mayor Danny Forrester, Chamber President Jake Bynum, Congressman Stephen Fincher's Field Representative Dale Hendon, along with representatives from City of Dresden, First State Bank, WCMES, Larry Jolley Realty, Road Runner Driving Academy, Thunderbolt Broadcasting, Rountree Business Equipment, family, friends, and customers.

Smart Dollars sells salvaged groceries, gift cards and bags, health and beauty aids, school items, pet supplies, assorted household items, novelties, discount merchandise and many other items for \$1.00. To find out what Smart Dollars has to offer, visit their location at 325 Morrow St., Dresden, TN, or call (731) 364-2004. Store hours are Monday through Saturday 11 am until 8 pm.



Dresden Mayor Danny Forrester,
River King, and Deborah Ellis

Death Row Doggies Rescue - Weakley County

Deborah Ellis
P.O. Box 271
Dresden, TN 38225
(731) 514-2005

Email: deathrowdoggies@frontier.com

Dog rescue & shelter also promoting pet spay & neutering



Calendar of Events

November 3
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Small Business Specialist,
Erik Markin
Chamber of Commerce Office

November 5



Veteran's Day Parade
Martin, TN
(731) 587-9742



November 11

Veteran's Day

November 12 & 13

Lions Club / Local 6 WPSD
55th Annual
Telethon of Stars

November 15
5:30 pm

Chamber Board Meeting
Chamber Office

November 24 & 25



Thanksgiving
Chamber Office Closed



December 1
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Small Business Specialist,
Erik Markin
Chamber of Commerce Office

December 8 - 11



Santa's Village
Ned McWherter Ag Complex
Martin, TN

December 15
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Chamber Christmas Reception
Dresden Elks Lodge
Sponsored by:
Dresden Chamber Members



The Weakley County Chamber of Commerce would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! We hope you are blessed with lots of love, joy, and happiness through the rest of 2011 and all through 2012!



CHRISTMAS IN WEAKLEY COUNTY

Dresden

- *Dresden Comm. Thanksgiving Service
Dresden First Baptist Church
Nov. 20, 6 pm 364-2212
- *Christmas Open House
November 20, 1 - 5 pm 364-2270
- *Christmas Open House Weakley County
Office on Aging / Dresden Senior Center
Dec. 20, 1 - 5 pm 364-5678
- *Simple Things Open House
Nov. 20, 1 - 5 pm 364-5800
- *First State Open House
Dec. 16, 10 am - 2 pm 364-3131
- *First United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Sermon
Dec. 24, 5 pm 364-2419

Gleason

- *Home Town Christmas
To be announced 648-5547

Greenfield

- *Christmas Open House
Nov. 5
- *Greenfield Comm. Thanksgiving Service
Greenfield First Presbyterian Church
November 23, 7 pm 235-2259
- *Christmas Greenfield Style
Dec. 3, 9 am - 8 pm 235-2207
- *Santa at Greenfield Banking Co.
Dec. 3, 6 - 8 pm 235-2207
- *First Baptist Church of Greenfield
Christmas Cantata
December 18, 6 pm 235-3365
- *First State Open House
Dec. 16, 10 am - 2 pm 235-2690
- *Greenfield Banking Co. Open House
Dec. 16, 9 am - 5 pm 235-2207

Martin

- *Martin Retailers Preview to Christmas
November 12 587-3126
- *Country Christmas Bazaar
St. Jude Catholic Church
Dec. 3, 8 am - 3 pm 587-9777
- *City Wide Christmas Open House
December 3 587-3126
- *C.E. Weldon Public Library
Christmas Open House
Dec. 3, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm 587-3148
- *Santa & Elves Arrive at Festival Park
Dec. 3, 11 am - 5 pm 587-3126
- *Tree Lighting Ceremony at Festival Park
Dec. 3, 5 pm
- *Annual Kiwanis Christmas Parade
Dec. 5, 7 pm 587-9526
- *Santa's Village
Ned McWherter Ag Complex
December 8 - 11 587-6784
- *Westview Project Graduation
Tour of Homes
Dec. 11, 2 - 5 pm 587-5767
- *Rotary Ham Breakfast
Martin Elementary School
Dec. 10, 6 - 11 am 588-1295
- *First State Open House
Dec. 16, 10 am - 2 pm 587-9561

Sharon

- *Tracy's Place Christmas Open House
December 1 - 3 456-2655
- *Tracy's Place Men's Night
Dec. 15, 5 - 8 pm 456-2655
- *First State Open House
Dec. 16, 10 am - 2 pm 456-2613



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