



# WEAKLEY COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



P.O. Box 67 ~ Dresden, TN ~ 38225 ~ (731) 364-3787 ~ FAX (731) 364-2099 ~ [www.weakleycountychamber.com](http://www.weakleycountychamber.com) ~ October 2009

DRESDEN - GLEASON - GREENFIELD - MARTIN - SHARON

*Proudly serving our community since 1959*

## *Weakley County Earns Three-Star Certification*



Pictured are (l - r) Senator Roy Herron, Weakley County Chamber Director Jerry Brigance, Weakley County Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin, ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber, Governor Phil Bredesen, ECD Assistant Commissioner Rick Meredith, Tennessee USDA Director Bobby Goode, Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick, and Weakley County Economic Development Board CEO Ronnie Price.

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

"The Three-Star designation is the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of Weakley County," Kisber said. "Three-Star communities know that sustainable economic development is always built on solid community development, and ECD is proud to support Weakley County in its dedication to long-term economic growth and success."

Weakley County and the cities of Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, Martin, and Sharon are now eligible to receive additional incentives under the guidelines of the Tennessee Three-Star program.

The Three-Star program has set high standards and incentives like no other state-run program in the nation. Governor Phil Bredesen's five-year asset-based economic development strategic plan is the cornerstone of the program. In 2005, the Southern Growth Policies Board, a bipartisan public policy think tank devoted to strengthening the South's economy, recognized the Three-Star program as a best practices program and a Southern leader in community certification programs.

Tennessee's Three-Star program helps urban and rural communities develop strategic economic and community development plans that meet the needs and challenges of an ever-changing economic environment. It helps communities preserve existing employment, create new employment opportunities, improve family income and develop a strong leadership base for economic development.

The Tennessee Three-Star Program, which is currently active in 88 counties and one city, represents more than 340 Tennessee cities.

"On behalf of ECD, I applaud Weakley County on its accomplishments and dedication to the Three-Star program," said ECD Assistant Commissioner of Community Development Rick Meredith. "This prime demonstration of Weakley County's commitment to economic development is indicative of more success to come."

In order to receive the certification, communities are required to meet criteria in organizational, community, business, 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; and the advantage of earning points in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

To view and download photos of Weakley County with Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Kisber at the Recertification ceremony, visit [www.tn.gov/ecd](http://www.tn.gov/ecd) and click the "Photo Gallery" button. To find out more information about the Three-Star program, visit [www.tn.gov/ecd](http://www.tn.gov/ecd).

## Board of Directors

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Todd Hampton

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Executive Director  
  
Marguriet Frazier  
Administrative Assistant

# LEADERSHIP

WEAKLEY COUNTY

**Applications for the 2010 Leadership Weakley County Class are now being accepted. Anyone wanting to be part of the class, or wanting to nominate a person, please contact the Chamber Office at 364-3787 or email [wccc@crunet.com](mailto:wccc@crunet.com). Application deadline is November 2, 2009.**

## *Help Us Serve You!!*

The Weakley County Chamber of Commerce is needing your help so we can better serve you. The Chamber is updating the email address book and would like all members to send current email addresses. Please send your name and email address, along with the name and email address of anyone else you wish to receive messages, to either:

1. Email - [wccc@crunet.com](mailto:wccc@crunet.com) or [wccassistant@crunet.com](mailto:wccassistant@crunet.com)
2. Fax - (731) 364-2099
3. Mail - Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 67, Dresden, TN 38225

Email is the number one way to tell members not only what's happening at the Chamber, but also activities and events concerning businesses, organizations, and the community. By updating our information WE can keep you informed.

## *New Chamber Members*



**Marci Floyd, Weakley County Trustee**

P.O Box 663  
Dresden, TN 38225  
(731) 364-3643  
Email: [marcifloyd70@msn.com](mailto:marcifloyd70@msn.com)  
Web site:  
[www.weakleycountyttn.gov](http://www.weakleycountyttn.gov)  
[www.tennessee trustee.com](http://www.tennessee trustee.com)

### **Hope of Martin Community Development Corp.**

Gene Busby, President  
P.O. Box 354  
327 N. McCombs St.  
Martin, TN 38237  
(731) 588-5057  
Email: [homcdc@frontiernet.net](mailto:homcdc@frontiernet.net)  
Non-Profit

### **Elme Americas Inc.**

Jeff Floyd  
P.O. Box 282  
193 Industrial Park Drive  
Martin, TN 38237  
(731) 588-0220  
Email: [elme@frontiernet.net](mailto:elme@frontiernet.net)  
Parts Sales and Distribution

### **Holt Family Farms**

Andy or Ellie Holt  
461 Jewell Store Rd.  
Dresden, TN 38225  
(731) 364-3459  
Email:  
[email@holtfamilyfarms.com](mailto:email@holtfamilyfarms.com)  
Pumpkin patch / farm tours

### **Pope's Concessions**

James Roy Pope  
202 Church St.  
Greenfield, TN 38230  
(731) 235-3576  
Email:  
[popeconcessions@bellsouth.net](mailto:popeconcessions@bellsouth.net)  
Food concessions, games, carnival  
rides



### **Modern Woodmen of America**

Bo Keltner or Jarrett Glosson  
2038 Greystone Office Park  
Jackson, TN 38305  
(731) 668-0767  
Email: [William.D.Keltner@mwarep.org](mailto:William.D.Keltner@mwarep.org)  
Email: [Jerrett.Glosson@mwarep.org](mailto:Jerrett.Glosson@mwarep.org)  
Web site: [www.modern-woodmen.org](http://www.modern-woodmen.org)  
Financial Services

### **Big Joes Pizza**

James Roy Pope  
2161 N. Meridian St.  
Greenfield, TN 38230  
(731) 235-1001  
Email: [petrina66@bellsouth.net](mailto:petrina66@bellsouth.net)  
Pizza and sub restaurant

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wendellalexander@frontiernet.net

731-364-5368

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



*Welcome New Member*



**3's Company  
Consignment  
Shoppe**



The Weakley County Chamber of Commerce welcomed 3's Company Consignment Shoppe with a ribbon cutting. Present were:

Front row (l-r): Ivey Kate Callins; Nikki Callins; Nancy Fortner, Owner; Paula Stout, Owner; Sandy Capps, Owner; Lynette Calhoun Wagster, WENK/WTPR; and Barbara Virgin, Weakley County Chamber Executive Director.

Second row (l-r): Randy Huffstetler, Jr., Greenfield Banking Company & Chamber President; Ronnie Fortner; Martin Mayor Randy Brundige; Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick; and Kimberly Craddock, Martin Community Development.

Third row (l-r): Blake White, Reelfoot Bank; Dr. Phil Young, UT Martin; Lynne Davis, Fuller Partners Real Estate; Michele Siler, Fuller Partners Realestate; and Jull Dunning, J J's Quick Shop.

Visit 3's Company Consignment Shoppe at 622 Elm Street in Martin, TN or call them at 731-587-3303 for more information.

***Ribbon  
Cutting***

**October 22, 2009  
9:00 am**

**J & D Taxidermy  
346 Chestnut Glade Rd.  
Martin, TN 38237  
(731) 799-3101**

# USEFUL TIPS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS / MANAGERS

## TELEPHONE ETIQUETTE IS A 'MUST' FOR ALL BUSINESSES

Workplace rudeness is one of the major complaints of customers and at the top of the list is the annoyance created by employees using the telephone improperly. From an unfriendly greeting to being put 'on hold' too long, to an 'unintelligible' response by an employee, many customers have good reason to become a 'prior customer'. Here are some tips to help improve the telephone habits in the workplace:

\* **BEING FRIENDLY.** The first voice a person hears when calling your business will generally set the tone for a good business conversation. SMILE when answering. By being friendly and professional, a 'Positive' impression is established.

\* **SPEAK CLEARLY AND DISTINCTLY.** When answering the telephone, say your business's name followed by your name. Don't hurry the response - take the time to clearly pronounce your name. Also, don't speak while chewing gum, eating, or drinking as it will slur your words and make the caller feel that he/she is interrupting. Above all, don't SHOUT into the telephone, but make sure your voice is heard clearly by the caller.

\* **LISTENING.** Don't use the phrase, 'May I put you on HOLD' and then do so without waiting to hear the response from the caller. The use of the term, 'Hold for one second' or something similar is unrealistic. It is always important to repeat pertinent information back to the caller to avoid confusion.

\* **REMAIN FOCUSED.** While you are speaking to the customer, don't answer e-mails, talk to someone nearby, open mail, or do other work. If you are taking notes on your computer, advise the caller of this. It is very frustrating to a caller to hear the click of computer keys or whispered side conversation.

\* **KEEP THE CALLER INFORMED.** Should you have to check on a matter for the caller, inform that person of how long it should take and that you will place him/her on hold. The use of 'It will take just a second' isn't accurate. Tell the caller it will take several minutes and offer to return the call later if they cannot hold.

\* **PUT YOUR ENERGY INTO THE CALL.** If you sound bored or tired in your speech, the caller will consider you unprofessional and uninterested in assisting with his/her request. It is sometimes good to stand up when speaking as it may help you to breathe better and gain some energy and focus.

\* **KEEP YOUR VOICE MAIL CURRENT.** If you cannot personally answer a call, make sure that your voice mail message is just as professional and friendly as if answered in person. Always offer the caller to leave a message asking for their name and telephone number with a promise to return the call as soon as possible.

If you would like more information on this or other topics regarding your business, a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL visit with Ron Acree, Director of the TN Small Business Development Center, (JSCC), may be helpful. This counseling is offered as an additional service of the REED Center. Acree will be at the UT Martin REED Center located at 406 South Lindell Street in Martin, TN, on the 8th day of October from 9 am to 4 pm. Contact the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 for an appointment.

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Additional funding is provided by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the State of Tennessee. All SBA Funded programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact the TSBDC office at 731-424-5389 at make the arrangements.

## 2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

*Fall 2008*

*Spring 2009*

*Fall 2009*

*February - March 2010*

*April 1, 2010*

*May - July 2010*

*December 2010*

*March 2011*

Recruitment begins for local census jobs for early census operations.

Census employees go door-to-door to update address lists nationwide.

Recruitment begins for census takers to support peak workload.

Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

**Please fill out and return.**

Census Day

Census takers visit households that **did not** return a questionnaire by mail.

By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to the president of apportionment.

By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

# Calendar of Events

October 5 - 10



*Fire Prevention Week  
Greenfield, TN*



October 5 - 11

*UT Martin Homecoming  
Martin, TN*

October 12

*Columbus Day  
Chamber Office Closed*

November 1

*Daylight-Savings Time Ends*

November 7  
10:00 am



*2nd Ann. Veterans Day  
Parade  
Martin, TN*



November 11

*Veterans Day*

November 26 - 27

*Thanksgiving  
Chamber Office Closed*

December 10 - 13



*Santa's Village  
W. TN Ag Pavilion,  
Martin, TN*



December 11

*Chamber Christmas  
Reception  
Sponsored by:  
City of Greenfield*

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## *Recycle Events*

E.W James & Sons Supermarkets are teaming up with Frontier Net to do recycling events on E.W. James lots in Martin and Dresden. The dates are:

Martin: October 10th and November 14th

Dresden: October 17th and November 21st

Events are on Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm.



Items to be taken for recycling include TV sets, computers, and telephones. For more information please contact Mr. David Sudberry with Frontier at (731) 587-9437.



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