



WEAKLEY COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



P.O. Box 67 ~ Dresden, TN ~ 38225 ~ (731) 364-3787 ~ FAX (731) 364-2099 ~ www.weakleycountychamber.com ~ October 2008

DRESDEN - GLEASON - GREENFIELD - MARTIN - SHARON



Weakley County Earns Three-Star Certification



Pictured at the Governor's Three-Star Award presentation to Weakley County are (L-R): Matthew Kisber, ECD Commissioner; Houston Patrick, Weakley County Mayor; Dr. Andre Temple, UTM; Dr. Paul Crapo, UTM; Jerry Brigrance, TLM; Barbara Virgin, Weakley County Chamber Executive Director; Governor Phil Bredesen; Ronnie Price, WCEDB CEO; Hollie Holt, UT Martin REED Center; Tracy McGehee, Office Products; Kimberly Craddock, Martin Community Development Director; Bobby Goode, USDA; and Rick Meredith, ECD Assistant Commissioner.

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

"This designation is a sign of Weakley County's tremendous hard work, and I am proud to offer my congratulations," Kisber said. "Strong community development is the basis for sustainable economic growth, and Weakley County has demonstrated their commitment to improvement by accepting and meeting Three-Star's challenging requirements. This dedication has yielded progress, and Weakley County is more prepared than ever for long term success in the economic, and every other, arena."

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 89 counties and one city, represents more than 348 Tennessee cities, making this year's participation the largest ever.

"It's an honor for me to celebrate with Weakley County in their achievement of Three-Star certification," said ECD Assistant Commissioner of Community Development Rick Meredith. "Weakley County is truly taking a strategic approach to economic development in their community, and its success in the Three-Star program is evidence that it is poised for marked growth. ECD is proud to provide support to this forward-thinking community."

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.tnecd.gov and click the "Photo Gallery" button. To find out more information about the Three-Star program, visit www.tnecd.gov.

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Chamber Trivia



In honor of the Weakley County Chamber's upcoming anniversary, we have come up with a Chamber Trivia Game. Each month a different question concerning the Chamber or Weakley County will be included in the newsletter. You can call the office for the answer or wait till the next newsletter to get the answer. At our anniversary celebration, all the questions will be asked again to see who has the most correct answers.



This month's question:

When was Greenfield incorporated and how did the name originate?

Answer to last month's question:

Incorporated in 1903 and was named after W.W. Gleason, owner of a general store.

LEADERSHIP
WEAKLEY COUNTY

Early nominations for the 2009 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.

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Howell's Auto Repair & Bed Liner held a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on September 18. Present for the celebration was Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick; Martin Mayor Randy Brundige; Sharris Diggs-Chandler, Hamilton-Ryker; Tereasa McMinn; David Sudberry, Frontier; Lynn Howell, Owner; Kaern Saldana, WCMT/WCDZ; Amy Keathley, WCMT/WCDZ ; Kimberly Craddock, Martin Community Development; Larry Randall, WCMT/WCDZ; Shelly Bowers, WCMES; Paul Tinkel, WCMT/WCDZ; and Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin. Howell's is located at 102 N. McComb St., Martin, TN. To find out how Lynn can help you with your foreign and domestic car needs, please call 731-588-1188 for more information.

Business After Hours

October 7, 2008

5 - 6:30 pm

**Volunteer Community Hospital
Martin, TN**



Business After Hours



Hosted by:
*Weakley County
Chamber of Commerce*
Sponsored by:
*Lake Nowhere Mule & Donkey Farm
and
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Important Date

Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Reception. It will be Thursday, December 11th, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Dresden Elks Lodge.



“What’s It Worth” in Weakley County



Dresden Iris Festival



Martin Soybean Festival









Sharon Corn & Music Festival

“What’s It Worth” and WPSD TV’s Mike Mallory, Mike Spissinger, Jerry Snook, and Richard Berry have been part of three Weakley County festivals this year. On April 24 they were at the Dresden Civic Center for the Iris Festival, September 3 at The Lindell in Martin for the Soybean Festival, and September 17 at the Sharon Fire Department for the Corn and Music Festival. Pictured above with the WPSD crew are Mrs. Winnie Moore, Dresden; Danny and Diann Lackey, Sharon; and Marguriet Frazier, Chamber Administrative Assistant.

Chamber Newsletter Update

The Weakley County Chamber News is now on-line. You can go to www.weakleycountychamber.com, click on newsletters under Chamber Information, and select the month you wish to see.

Calendar of Events

- October 4* *UT Martin Homecoming*
Martin, TN
- October 6 - 11*  *Fire Prevention Week* 
Greenfield, TN
- October 7*
5:00 - 6:30 pm *Business After Hours*
Volunteer Community Hospital
Martin, TN
- October 12*  *Airport Extravaganza* 
12:30 - 5:00 pm *Everitt-Stewart Regional Airport*
Union City, TN
- October 14* *Healthy Woman Expo*
UTM University Center
- October 21* *Chamber Board Meeting*
Chamber Office
- October 31 - November 3* *Brad Cameron Mule Clinic*
McWherter Ag Complex Arena
Sponsor:
Lake Nowhere Mule & Donkey Farm
- November 18* *Chamber Board Meeting*
Chamber Office
- December 11*  *Chamber Christmas Reception* 
5:00 - 7:00 pm *Dresden Elks Lodge*
- February 13, 2009* *Legislative Breakfast*
(time to be announced) *UTM University Center*
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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

Are you looking for new ways to advertise? The Chamber Newsletter is mailed to approximately 400 members. These include Chamber members, elected officials, schools, and civic organizations. If your business or organization would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter, please contact Marguriet Frazier at (731) 364-3787.



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