



WEAKLEY COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



P.O. Box 67 ~ Dresden, TN ~ 38225 ~ (731) 364-3787 ~ FAX (731) 364-2099 ~ www.weakleycountychamber.com ~ September 2009

DRESDEN - GLEASON - GREENFIELD - MARTIN - SHARON

Proudly serving our community since 1959

2009-2010

Chamber Board of Directors



The 2009-2010 Weakley County Chamber Board of Directors held their first meeting for the fiscal year on August 18, 2009. Present at this meeting were:

Seated left to right: Danyelle Williams (Dresden) with Hamilton-Ryker Co.; Junior Moore, Ex-Officio; Shelly Bowers (Gleason) with W.C.M.E.S.; Richard Horn (Gleason) with Gleason Hardware; and Mayor Jack Dunning (Gleason).

Standing left to right: Rob Newbill (Dresden) with First State Bank; Faron Collins with W.C.M.E.S.; Jerry Brigance (Sharon) J & B Custom Framing; President Randy Huffstetler, Jr. (Greenfield) with Greenfield Banking Company; Dusty Frazier (Presidential Appointee) with First State Bank; Ken Smithson (Presidential Appointee) with Best Wade Petroleum Company; Sherri Wright (Greenfield) with First State Bank; Past President Mike Wilson (Gleason) with Gleason Lumber Company; Steve Vantrease with UT Martin; Joe Brasher (Sharon) with First State Bank; and Executive Director Barbara Virgin.

Present but not pictured: Joe Sarrio (Presidential Appointee) with State Farm in Dresden; and Marguriet Frazier, Chamber Administrative Assistant.

Directors not pictured: Mayor Randy Brundige (Martin); Traci Crawford (Dresden) with On The Square; Mayor Danny Forrester (Dresden); Mayor Bob Gardner (Sharon); Gary Hall with Farm Bureau; Martin Hamlin (Presidential Appointee); President Elect Todd Hampton (Martin) with Edward Jones; David Lackey (Sharon) with Sharon Furniture & Appliance; Tracy McGehee (Martin) with Office Products; Mayor Eddie Joe McKelvy (Greenfield); Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick; Dee Pritchett (Martin) with Fuller Partners Real Estate; Allen Strawbridge with W.T.P.U.D.; Deloris Wright (Greenfield) with Greenfield Banking Company; and Dr. Phil Young (Presidential Appointee) with UT Martin.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President -
Randy Huffstetler, Jr.
Past Pres.- Mike Wilson
President Elect -
Todd Hampton

Board of Directors

Shelly Bowers
Joe Brasher
Jerry Brigance
Faron Collins
Traci Crawford
Dusty Frazier
Gary Hall
Martin Hamlin
Todd Hampton
Richard Horn
David Lackey
Tracy McGehee
Rob Newbill
Dee Pritchett
Joe Sarrio
Ken Smithson
Allen Strawbridge
Steve Vantrease
Dannyelle Williams
Delores Wright
Sherri Wright
Phil Young

Ex-Officio

Randy Brundige
Jack Dunning
Danny Forrester
Bob Gardner
Eddie Joe McKelvy
Junior Moore
Houston Patrick

Staff

Barbara Virgin
Executive Director

Marguriet Frazier
Administrative Assistant

Weakley County To Benefit from Governor's Three Star Status



Seated (l to r): Sherri McCarter, Regional Economic Development Specialist, and Barbara Virgin, Chamber Executive Director. Standing (l to r): Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick and Chamber President Randy Huffstetler, Jr., Vice President Greenfield Banking Co.

“Weakley County’s certification is one of the most important responsibilities the Chamber coordinates and facilitates throughout the year,” stated Barbara Virgin Executive Director of the Weakley County Chamber. “The Three Star program either directly or indirectly impacts every citizen in Weakley County. It takes our cities and county governments, special committees, business and organizations’ participation to make this program a success. The certification process is an annual project maintaining many hours of dedication and work. The Chamber collects data from the communities in areas of government, education, health, industry, and leadership programs throughout the county, submits for review all paperwork to the Regional Economic Development Specialist. After an extensive annual review, the report card result declares Three Star Certification.”

The status as a Three Star Community allows the municipalities and governments to receive additional points when applying for additional Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Fast Track Grants. These grants are very competitive and often communities lose grant funds by one or two points. The match we must pay is reduced because of our participation in Three Star.

The CDBG’s are used primarily for infrastructure and development of water and sewer lines.

Fast Track Grants are used for the economic development and industry site / expansion and recruitment.

Weakley County’s status for Three Star allows the county to receive reduced match and higher loan limits on CDBG and Fast Track monies, which is a monetary saving incentive of the Three Star Program. Participation has especially paid off the past two years in savings for Dresden and Greenfield on CDBG and Fast Track money estimated approximately \$1,616,000.00. By participating in the Three Star Program all cities (Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, Martin, Sharon) and Weakley County are eligible for Economic Community Development Grants.

A community must meet six basic requirement programs to qualify for certification: Adult Leadership (Leadership Weakley County), Health Care Committee, Existing Industry, Education Committee, Enhanced Web Site, and Community Emergency Preparedness.

There are Three Benchmarks to achieve: Benchmark I - Assessment - Where are we?, Benchmark II - Plan for the Future - Where do we want to go?, and Benchmark III - Implement. Each benchmark is focused on actions in five key areas of development. There are targeted actions and strategic actions in order to comply for benchmarks: Planning and Infrastructure including Technology Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure, Community Development, Leadership Development, Economic Development, and Education and Workforce Development

The County must submit a five-year asset based strategic plan, establish priorities, prepare effective measurable actions, responsibilities, estimate a timeline, endorse the plan, implement the plan, and measure the outcome. The Strategic Plan is an important direction and guideline for the community’s future actions. The Strategic Plan was approved by the Weakley County Commission for 2009. The Strategic Plan can be obtained from the web site www.weakleycountyttn.gov.

The incentives do not take effect and certification is not official until Governor Phil Bredesen makes it official at the September 14th and 15th Governor’s Conference. Everyone is encouraged to celebrate the progress and attend the 56th Annual Governor’s Conference titled “Powering New Growth” and the Community Award ceremony to celebrate the certification. For registration information about the Governor’s Conference and Three Star Award Ceremony please contact www.tnecd.gov.

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



Welcome New Member



***Lynette
Calhoun Wagster***



The Weakley County Chamber of Commerce welcomed Lynette Calhoun Wagster as the newest member. Present were (left - right) Karen Y. Johnson, Reading Railroad Outreach Director for the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation; Barbara Virgin, Chamber Executive Director, Lynette Calhoun Wagster, and Sharye Hendrix, Weakley County Reading Railroad. Mrs. Wagster is a Marketing Consultant working with print, broadcast, and social media. She is also a 2008 Leadership Weakley County graduate. For help with your marketing needs, call (731) 431-8156 or email Mrs. Wagster at lcwagster@frontiernet.net.

New Members

J & D Taxidermy

John or Debbie Davis
346 Chestnut Glade Rd.
Martin, TN 38237
(731) 799-3101

Email: jandtaxidermy@frontiernet.net



King's Pressure Washing

Richard King
4294 Hwy 118
Dresden, TN 38225
(731) 799-3154

Email: rasrking@citlink.net



Nominations 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.

Contracting with Local, State, and Federal Governments!

This **FREE** seminar will be presented on **September 9, 2009**, from 9 am - noon, at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 114 West Maple (across the street from the County Courthouse), Dresden, TN 38225.

The event is sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (Jackson State Community College), Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, and the REED Center, Martin.

Pre-registration is suggested due to limited seating. Call the Weakley County Chamber office at 731-364-3787 to register. There is **no charge** and it is open to the public, but we do request that you pre-register.

Details of the seminar are indicated below:

Basics of Government Contracting

This information covers how to do business with the local governmental entities, the State of Tennessee, and introduces the basics of Federal Government Contracting. Also included are overviews of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program, Small Disadvantaged Business Program, and Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) initiative. All attendees receive resource material that contains information necessary to become Certified to qualify for government contracts.

Advanced Government Contracting

You will learn how to find contracting opportunities within General Services Administration, Veterans Administration, Department of Defense, and the U.S. Postal Service. Step by step instruction and actual examples will be used to help you interpret a bid match, invitation to bid (ITB), request for proposal (RFP), and a request for quotation (RFQ). This session will also include information on packages from the State of Tennessee and local governments.

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

August 31 - September 6

*Tater Town Special
Gleason, TN*

September 5 - 13



*Tennessee Soybean Festival
Martin, TN*



September 7

*Labor Day
Chamber Office Closed*

September 12



*Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival
Greenfield, TN*



September 13



*Airport Extravaganza
Everett - Stewart Airport
Union City, TN*



September 13 - 19



*Corn and Music Festival
Sharon, TN*



September 22

*Chamber Board Meeting
Chamber Office*

September 25 - 28

*Brad Cameron Mule Clinic
UTM Ag Pavilion, Martin, TN*

October 5 - 10



*Fire Prevention Week
Greenfield, TN*



October 5 - 11

*UT Martin Homecoming
Martin, TN*

November 7
10:00 am

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

December 10 - 13

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

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: September 5th, October 10th, and November 14th

Dresden: September 19th, 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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