

BUSINESS BUILDER

October 2008



BUGGY DAYS A HUGE SUCCESS

The 35th Annual Buggy Days Festival was a huge success! With record crowds in attendance, all aspects of the festival received rave reviews.

The street dance was outstanding. The bands were rocking and the people were dancing. The vendors all raved at how organized the festival was, how perfect the weather felt, and were amazed at the crowds. The kids park was a hit with the \$10.00 wristbands. The Craftsman's Village was a hit with wood turners, teak wood furniture, sculptors, potters, and so much more. Visitors loved the selections from the new vendors. "The festival was a hit and that makes it so rewarding," stated Buggy Days chairman Timothy T. Turner.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Buggy Days one of the best yet! It is not possible to put on an event of this magnitude without the help of an entire community.



TIPS For TaTas

During the Friday night concert, you may have seen girls selling beverages in hot pink tank tops with the words "Tips for TaTas" embroidered on the front. \$375.00 was raised in tips by the beverage girls and is being donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer fund.

Thank you to all of you who donated and to A Stitch in Time for donating the embroidery on the shirts. They looked great and what a great cause!



MISS BUGGY DAYS

Congratulations to Betsy Gladden for being selected as the 2008 Miss Buggy Days. She is the daughter of David and Amy Waller. She was crowned by the 2007 Miss Buggy Days (left) Ashley Holliday.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

October 30, 2008

5-7 pm

Hosted By:

Smith, Welch, and Brittain, LLP

Attorneys At Law

Scott Mayfield would like to invite all of you to a Fall themed After Hours.
Please be sure to bring business cards and a potential new member.
The jackpot rolled over to \$225.00!

POLITICAL FORUM: Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau

There will be two political forums held in the month of October in an attempt to better prepare the citizens of Lamar County to vote on November 4th. Due to the amount of candidates the forum has been split to reduce the length. The first forum was held on Oct. 7th and the second one will be on Oct. 21st at the Barnesville Civic Center at 6:30 pm. Please see the schedule below for the Oct. 21st forum.

October 21, 2008

Magistrate Court Judge:
William Thomas
Brenda Williamson

School Board:
Susan Byars
Danny Turner

County Commission:
Jimmy Hearn
Aaron Brown

Sheriff's Race:
Larry Waller
Joe Buice

LUNCH AND LEARN

TOPIC: Strategic Planning

Donald Rhodes of the UGA Small Business Development Center joins us for a session on Strategic Planning. The strategic planning process helps businesses adapt to environment changes. By creating a series of tools such as an overview and analysis of the business and its relevant environment, a current condition report, a list of factors affecting success and an action plan, a business can find ways to capitalize on its strengths and to minimize its weaknesses and threats.

November 13, 2008

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Gordon College Foundation Room

**Join us for a hot lunch and guest speaker,
Mr. Donald Rhodes.**

Mr. Rhodes is the Area Director of the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center. His background covers operations, customer service, accounting, and management. Mr. Rhodes has B.A. in Economics, Mercer University, a M.S.A. in Management, Georgia College and State University, and ED.S. in Educational Leadership, The University of Georgia. His area of interest include sales, service, and family-owned businesses.

Cost: \$17 (Chamber members receive a \$2 discount)

Advance registration and payment is required.

Please register before **November 7th.**

TAILGATE AFTER HOURS SCORED!!!!

Thank you to Spring Properties for hosting a wonderful after hours on September 25th. The tailgate was a huge success as everyone showed up in their sports gear.

**GO KART RACE DATES
October 11th & 25th**

Discounted Vision Plan Now Available to Chamber Business Members

According to a study by Bests Review, 2006, two-thirds of employees would trade a vacation day for **eye care** benefits! Vision care is an increasingly sought after insurance product. And business members of the Barnesville-Lamar County Chamber of Commerce are in luck! Your chamber participates in a statewide program that makes discounts available on a variety of employee benefit related insurance products. Vision coverage is the latest product to be added to the existing insurance program called *MemberCare Alliance of Lamar CountySM* insurance program.

The vision plans are offered through Avesis Incorporated (underwritten by Fidelity Securities) at a 10% discount off fully-insured premiums for Chamber-member businesses. Only five employees need to enroll, and the rates are guaranteed not to increase for two-years! Vision exams, spectacle lenses, frames, and contact lenses are covered—and there is no waiting period for benefits to begin. Avesis Incorporated has a nationwide network of more than 11,000 independent and national retail providers.

For more information on insurance products available as a part of *MemberCare Alliance of Lamar County*, call the Chamber, your Chamber-member insurance agent, or Gary Monteith of Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc., (the company that developed *MemberCare Alliance of Lamar County*) at 800-782-8254, ext. 3512.

LEADERSHIP LAMAR

The 2008 Leadership Lamar Class is on a roll learning about their community, leadership skills, and bonding with classmates. They have recently been involved in Almost Anything Goes, a farm and industry tour of the community and classes about communication, leadership, and diversity. They have 7 weeks still to go and their energy and enthusiasm is just as high as it was when they began!



LEADERSHIP LAMAR PLANT SALE

The 2008 Leadership Lamar class has chosen The New Trojan Learning Center (TLC) to make a donation to for their class project. The TLC helps provide credit recovery for High School students who need one or two credits to graduate, rotating remediation for students to receive core subject remediation, High School Evening Program for students who have dropped out of school for various reasons to still have an opportunity to work towards their diploma, and a Middle School Day Program for middle school students who exhibit disruptive behaviors that warrant out-of-school placement. The class wanted to contribute to education in the Lamar County Community and thought this was an amazing place to start.

As a fundraiser for their cause, they will be hosting a plant sale in the Stafford parking lot on Saturday, November 7th beginning at 8 am. Please stop by and support this great cause. For more information, please call Amanda at the Chamber of Commerce at 770-358-5884.

Membership BBQ

The Chamber Board and Staff would like to invite you to the 2008 Membership Appreciation BBQ!

Friday, November 7th at 7 pm.

DEATILS TO COME!!!!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICK-OFF

The Membership Drive will begin on October 14th.

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New Members

Park Services Bottle Water, LLC, Bill Mauldin, WBAF 1090 AM, and Walgreens

Calendar of Events

October 13th– BBQ & Blues Committee Meeting in
Chamber Boardroom at 6:30 pm

October 14th– Merchant's Committee Meeting at
Goggan's Florist 8:00 am

October 21st– Political Forum at Barnesville Civic Center
at 6:30 pm

October 24th– Membership BBQ

October 30th– BAH at Smith, Welch, and Brittain
From 5:00-7:00 pm

November 7th– Chamber BBQ



President's Box

Tension is in high gear with the election drawing closer. America is in an economic turmoil and this election, like so many in the past, is a pivotal one as to where our country will end up.

The Chamber and Farm Bureau are doing our part to help inform everyone on the local candidates and it is your responsibility as a citizen to gather all the facts for the presidential election, form your opinions, and choose your candidate.

The flexible voting policy of having 45 days advance voting is an attempt to get more people involved in this year's election. I urge you to practice one of your Constitutional rights.

My opinion is that you can not complain about the decision of our leaders if you are not willing to vote. It takes little or no time at all to put your mark on the path of our country. Let your voice be heard on November 4th.

-Amanda Rose