

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

2009: New Year, New Faces!

Congratulations to Erin Cook who will serve as the 2009 Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Erin is employed at Southern Rivers Energy and is excited about the opportunity to lead the Chamber. She has picked her 2009 Executive Committee. T.J. Imberger will serve as Vice Chair, Rick Klepper Secretary/Treasurer, and Scott Leverett as Past Chair.



Special Thanks!

2008 was a great year for the Chamber and that has everything to do with our Chairman Extraordinaire, Scott Leverett.

Scott– Thank you for your tireless dedication to the Chamber and to the community.

Thank you!

Thank you to Phillip Bell, Jan Hatten and Bobby Ferris for serving a 3 year plus term on the Chamber Board. We hope you enjoy a much needed rest but please don't change your phone number!!! :-)

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

LOCATION: ONE TOUCH WIRELESS

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2009

TIME: 5-7 PM

THE JACKPOT WILL BE \$300.00!

Be sure to make plans to attend and be sure to bring a business card!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Empty Stocking Fund After Hours. It was a huge success and many children received Christmas this past year because of your willingness to give.

New Health Insurance Products available to Employers!

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa) has been busy creating new products! Much needed choices have been developed and are now available through the *MemberCare Alliance* program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

A new product called Employee Elect allows each of your employees to select the best plan for their situation from as many as 30 different plan options. This benefit program can help employers to stabilize their costs while giving each employee more control over what they want.

Another product, Blue Essentials, was designed specifically for businesses that want to offer coverage for their employees but struggle with the cost. Blue Essentials plans provide less benefits than BCBSGa's standard plans but at are very reasonably priced.

And remember, all of BCBSGa's plans are available at reduced premium rates to eligible business members of our Chamber of Commerce!

Using the group "buying power" of the *MemberCare Alliance of Lamar County*, we are part of a statewide network of over 120 Chambers of Commerce offering discounted insurance products to Chamber member businesses. The *MemberCare Alliance of Lamar County* program includes a variety of discounted insurance products, such as: group term, voluntary and dependent life insurance, group health insurance, long term and short term disability, accidental death and dismemberment, long term care and dental insurance. All these products are available through participating Chamber-member insurance agents.

For more information on any of these insurance offerings, please call the Chamber, one of your participating Chamber-member insurance agents, or Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc., (the company that developed *MemberCare Alliance of Lamar County* program) at 770-579-1214 or 1-800-782-8254 ext. 3512.

Middle School Career Fair

Lamar County Middle School will be hosting a career fair on Thursday, March 12 from 8:00-12:00. Any businesses interested in participating can contact Kim Coursey at 770 358 8652 or Kcoursey@lamar.k12.ga.us

AFTER HOURS

If you are interested in booking a Business After Hours for 2009, please call the Chamber office ASAP!

The dates fill up fast.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Lunch and Learn
March 26th**

Details to come!!!

JOB POSTINGS

There is a free service for posting jobs available on the Chamber of Commerce official website at www.barnesville.org. If you have any available please email the details to amandarose@barnesville.org.



HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY: GOT SKILLS?

The Chamber of Commerce Education Committee is organizing the 2009 Career Fair at Lamar County High School. If you are interested in participating in this community event on April 2, 2009, please call Amanda at the Chamber of Commerce at (770)358-5884.

There is no fee to register and lunch will be provided to participating businesses.



New Member:

Ryan Rogers

Renewing Members As of Dec. 19th:

Purchasing Alliance Solution
Carter's Drug Store
The Herald Gazette
Burnette Painting Company
Balamo Building Supply
Heritage Inn of Barnesville
Jim Cole, State Representative
Lamar County Cooperative Extension Service/4H
Martin and Martin Attorneys at Law
Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine of Barnesville
Lamar County Water and Sewer Authority
Dora Cox Realty
Flint River Technical College
Bush Farms, LLC
West Central GA Workforce Development Corp
Richard Milam, District Attorney
Circle A Christmas Tree Farm

Bush Farms
Alan and Elanor Steckor
County Line Farm
Eyesore, Inc.
JoBest Mortgage
Mid GA Ambulance
City of Barnesville
Charles and Jean Dukes
Fred and Kendall Morris
Farm Bureau
Jordan Forest Products
Continental Tire
LC Schools Board of Education
Rayonier
GA Dept. of Labor
William Berner
Peter Banks

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Calendar of Events

**January 12th – BBQ & Blues Meeting
Chamber Board Room at 6:30 pm**

**January 15th– Board of Directors
Strategic Planning Session**

**January 22nd– Business After Hours
One Touch Wireless
5-7 pm**



President' s Box

With a new year comes promise and hope for change. I believe this year we are all hoping that change will be for the better and not for the worse. We have a new president, a troubled economy, and lots of opportunity for great things to begin to happen. We only have one way to go and that is up.

Let's pray for our country and our leaders on all levels of government. We all need encouragement on a daily basis and these people are no different.

I wish you all a Happy New Year! Be encouraged that we are the land of plenty and let's keep working to maintain and multiply our resources with positive attitudes and hope for great things ahead.

-Amanda Rose