



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

October, 2008

Leadership Meriwether Off to a Great Start

Chamber Officers:

President: [Greg Schmieg](#)
 President-Elect: [Bruce Maloy](#)
 Past-President: [Lori Quinlan](#)
 Secretary: [William Moran](#)
 Treasurer: [Allen Parham](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

[United Home Care](#)
 99 Hill Haven Road
 Greenville, GA 30222
 770.362.2450
 Contact: Sally Turner
sturner@uhs-pruitt.com

[Dr. Scott Reddoch](#)
 5997 Spring Street
 Warm Springs, GA 31830
 706.655.9300
scotreddoch@yahoo.com

[Amedisys Home Health Care](#)
 113 Crawley Drive
 Thomaston, GA 30286
 Contact: Kim Tyson
 706.648.1152
ktyson3347@amedisys.com
 Contact: Barbara Rawlins
 678.423.9171
brawlins3346@amedisys.com

[Friends of Roosevelt's](#)
 Little White House
 401 Little White House Road
 Warm Springs, GA 31830
 Contact: Robert Prater
 706.655.2027
fd1@windstream.net

[Sideline Sports](#)
 233 West Main Street
 Manchester, GA 31816
 Contact: Mike Brening
 706.846.2699
mjbrening@yahoo.com



The Leadership Meriwether program, launched in September, held its October session at the County Courthouse in Greenville. Hosted by session coordinator, Paul Penn, County Administrator; the day included an overview of county operations and administrative structure by Mr. Penn. This session was followed by individual presentations from a variety of county officials, including sessions on Probate Court; Magistrate Court and Superior Court. Rounding out the legal and county safety presentations were those from Assistant District Attorney Robert Peterkin and Sheriff Steve Whitlock. The session also included a review of the tax assessor's role and process and an update on West Georgia Technical College. In the afternoon, the class was invited to attend a meeting of the county commissioners and the day closed with a demonstration from the county's drug dog. The audience was treated to a memorable demonstration of the dog's ability to "sniff out" illegal substances, and came away with a greater appreciation of the complexity and hard work of our county officials.

Chamber Hosts Legislative Forum

Lori Quinlan, Chairperson of the Meriwether County Chamber's Legislative Committee organized and served as moderator for the Legislative Forum held on October 23, 2008. Greg Schmieg, Chamber President welcomed the group of citizen attendees and the individuals seeking office. Wes Brewer, a staffer with Lynn Westmoreland's office read a prepared statement. This was followed by a question and answer session for incumbent Seth Harp and his challenger Evelyn Thompson-Anderson. Joining incumbent Carl Von Epps for another round of debate questions was challenger Gene King. Questions were prepared in advance and included a wide range of issues such as school vouchers; access to health care; property taxes; economic growth and funding for social programs. Each candidate was also given an opportunity to make introductory and closing remarks. The forum was a great opportunity to understand more about the positions of all those seeking to serve our community.



Chamber Board Meets at West Georgia Technical College

Chamber Board of Directors held its October meeting at the West Georgia Technical College's Workforce Development Center in Greenville. Linda Jones, VP of Economic Development for the college reviewed some of the current programming with particular emphasis on the success of the Greenville site. Mayor James Bray, city of Greenville joined the directors and provided an overview of some of the ongoing and planned improvements for the city. He noted the lighting, sidewalks and bench improvements to the downtown area, and discussed plans for new capital improvements in the city including a new city hall, a swimming pool and the creation of a municipal complex. Greenville is planning to use their SPLOST (Special Local Option Sales Tax) funds to re-do the water tank.

The Board is committed to increasing its presence and visibility throughout the county and equally committed to inviting local businesses to attend to share information and ask questions. If your company is interested in hosting the Board or inviting Chamber members for a Member Showcase, contact the Chamber at 706.655.2558

THANK YOU
RENEWING MEMBERS

Thomaston Ford, Inc.

Manchester Housing
Authority

Mullin Insurance
Agency

Upson EMC

Trammell Camp LLC

Jaynie Nesmith

Hinson's Pest Control

Curves of Manchester

Crawford Grading &
Pipeline, Inc.

David Adkins Contractor

Greenville United
Methodist Church

Manchester Kiwanis
Club

Big Truck Tree Service

Workforce Investment
Board

Greenville Commons
Apartments

American Red Cross

Cox Funeral Home

Rotary Club of
Meriwether County

Hotel Warm Springs
B & B

Dr. Abel Aguilar

Vote "Yes" Says



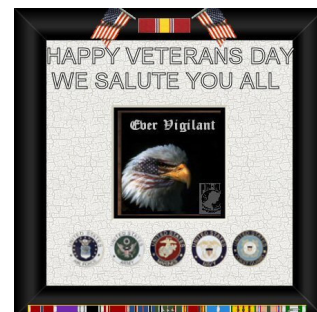
Three amendments which are being supported by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce will be on the ballot this November for Georgians to decide. Amendment 1 addresses Forest conversation—recognizing that Georgia forests contribute \$25 billion a year to our economy and produce more than 5000 products. But, as our state grows, millions of acres of forest are expected to disappear in the next few years. Amendment 1 is designed to protect these benefits by promoting forest conservation through a property tax relief for owners of 200 acres or more who pledge not to develop their land for at least 15 years.

Amendment 2 relates to the Tax Allocation District (TADs) which enable communities to pay for infrastructure improvements like roads; environmental cleanup; streetscape improvements and sewer lines in neglected; blighted; slow-growth or distressed neighborhoods. The Amendment on the ballot clarifies the state's TAD law to let school boards help finance these critical projects and in so doing generate millions of dollars in property tax revenue for school systems. If passed, the amendment would authorize counties, municipalities and local school boards to use tax funds for redevelopment purposes and programs.

Infrastructure Development Districts (IDDs) are the subject of Amendment 3 and assist in the funding of infrastructure development like roads; bridges; water; sewer and power in primarily undeveloped areas. IDD's have been overwhelmingly successful in the 17 states where they are used today. Amendment 3 would make Georgia the 18th state to adopt them.

Honoring our Veterans

Please join our entire community in celebrating and honoring our veterans. The Annual Veteran's Day Parade will be held on November 8, 2008 in Manchester. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. at Manchester High School and promises to be a great testimony to our community spirit and to the special place of honor we give to all those who have served, and to those who continue to nobly serve our country. A special thank you to parade organizers Wanda Crowder and Gary Jones.



Saluting Leadership Meriwether—Class of 2009

Eddie Cardin (Georgia Power)
Gail Coffee (Mer. County Animal Shelter)
Tyler Dunn (Manchester High School)
Rhonda Fuller (Roosevelt Warm Springs)
Kye Gibson (Office of Superior Court)
Jon Hale (Meadows Insurance & Realty)
Will Keller (Pebblebrook Investments)
Sheila Lee (Warm Springs Welcome Center)
Margaret Long (Warm Springs City Council)
Bruce Maloy (AngioDynamics)

Laura O'Neal (Warm Springs City Hall)
Allen Parham (F & M Bank and Trust)
Tracie Porter-Carmichael (MC Interagency)
Chuck Smith (Mer. County Sheriff's Dept.)
Lisa Thompson (G & S Metals)
Sally Turner (United Home Health)
Pat Turner (Manchester Better Home Town)
Joey Ward (Mer. County Tax Assessor)
Melanie Ward (Amedisys Home Health)
Marlene White (Mer. County Tax Comm.)
LaShunda Woody (Unity Elementary)

Watch for more
info

Pre-legislative Briefing in November by
Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Annual Candlelight Tour Run
November 21, 2008



P.O. Box 9—91 Broad Street
Warm Springs, GA 31830
706.655.2558

meriwetherchamber@windstream.net
<http://meriwethercountychamber.org>