

February 2010 Newsletter

Humboldt Chamber of Commerce

1200 Main Street,
Humboldt, Tennessee 38343
731-784-1842

www.humboldttnchamber.org

Established 1905

Home of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival...since 1934!

www.wtsf.org

Our members are our lifeblood. If your neighbor is not a Chamber member, ask them to join, or call us...we'll be glad to visit with them.

Thank you to each of our members for your support!

Call on us as we may assist you.

Calendar of Events -February, 2010

2nd...7:30 a.m. Chamber's Business Development Committee (Chamber office)

9th...8:00 a.m. Downtown Business Association @ Peoples Furniture

11th...Youth Leadership Gibson County..."Living Well/Community"

15th President's Day...Chamber office closed

16th... 7:30 a.m. Humboldt Chamber Board Meeting

17th...7:30 a.m.....Leadership Gibson County Orientation (Dyersburg State Community College in Trenton)

18th..1:00 till 4:30 p.m. TSBDC Business Specialist at Humboldt Chamber...FREE and Confidential Business Advice (Call Chamber for details or appointment)

Mondays @ 12:15 p.m. Pray4Humboldt (at the Abbey on Main)

Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m. Humboldt Library Story Time

Third Thursday...from 1-4:30 p.m. TSBDC Business Specialist at the Humboldt Chamber

Save the Dates:

March 11th @7:30 a.m...Industrial Council...Topic: "Crime in the Workplace"
(at Humboldt General Hospital Conference Center)

March 20th...Bike Show (Viking Park)...benefits Relay for Life
(sponsored by Humboldt Parks and Recreation)

Business Specialist Available to our Chamber Members

Through a partnership with the Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDC), the Chamber is able to offer free and confidential business advice for those planning to start a business or who simply want to "fine-tune" some aspect of an existing business.

Denise Newton will be in our office each 3rd Thursday of the month, from 1:00 p.m. till 4:30 p.m....or if another time works better for you, contact the Chamber at 731-784-1842 or Ms. Newton at 731-587-7333. Her credentials:

Denise recently joined the TSBDC after spending 16 years working on Wall Street. Her experience includes extensive financial statement analysis, portfolio analysis, strategic planning and business development. Prior to that, she spent 10 years as a Corporate/Commercial lender for various commercial banks specializing in small business lending, structuring, and financing. Denise was born and raised in West Tennessee, attended Vanderbilt University, where she graduated with an Economics degree, and University of Miami, where she obtained her MBA.

We hope you will take advantage of this service or refer someone who might benefit from it.

It is another "Community Building Block" for existing and new businesses... and remember, **"All business is BIG BUSINESS in Humboldt!"**



Diversity and Determination Define Us!

Our community is fortunate to have a varied workforce and variety of business types...agriculture, manufacturing, retail, wholesale, health care, service professionals, education, entertainment, tourism, government...and the list goes on.

Admittedly, we have taken a hit as a result of the recent economy, jobs have been lost and tax dollars are down...however we have all heard "it is not the number of times we get knocked down that counts, it's the number of times we get up".

And we are getting up...our diversity and willingness to work together will prevail once again...we just have to believe we can and will! We have proven before the ability to "pull together"...witness the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival (an ongoing highlight), the Humboldt General Hospital Dunlap Rehab and Conference Center, the Humboldt Higher Education Center, the West Tennessee Regional Art Center, the Humboldt Baseball Complex, and on and on.

So why not take this opportunity to grow our way out of the economy...tell us how we can better serve our community and then become part of the progress...we will all be better for the effort!



Census 2010 Update

The census process is important to our community as it is critical that every resident be counted...for future tax dollar determinations, grant possibilities and so many advantages for our community.

It is also an opportunity for fraudulent activity by those only claiming to be census workers. Be aware of the following and pass the word along to all.

2010 Census workers will carry a badge, Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. To protect yourself from scams, ask to see the badge and identification before answering any questions. Never invite a stranger into your house, even census workers, and especially if you are alone.

2010 Census workers may contact you by phone, usually regarding surveys. If you question any phone call, confirm that the caller is a legitimate Census Bureau employee by calling 1-866-226-2864.

2010 Census workers may contact you by email regarding surveys. However they will never ask for personal information through email. To protect yourself from scams, never click on links on email pretending to be from the Census Bureau. If you suspect a fraudulent email, forward it to itso.fraud.reporting@census.gov. Then delete the message.

2010 census workers may ask for basic information, including name, age, gender, race, salary range, but they will never ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers. To protect yourself from scams, never volunteer that information.

2010 Census workers must keep all information confidential. To protect us from scams, they take an oath not to divulge any information they obtain and are subject to prosecution if they break the oath. The Census Bureau cannot share your answers with any government agency or court of law. That includes Welfare Departments, FBI, [IRS](#) or Immigration. The answers you provide are used for statistics. You are never individually identified.

Portions of this article reprinted from the Census 2010 website

Leadership Gibson County

is a great opportunity to:

- ...learn aspects of our County you may not be aware of
- ...network with other leaders and potential leaders in our County
- ...sharpen your leadership skills or those of an associate you might enroll in the program
- ...identify areas where you, individually, or your business might become involved

There are 9 sessions in 2010 plus graduation, as follows:

February 17th	Orientation Breakfast (7:30 a.m. till 8:30 a.m.)
March 3rd	State Government (day-trip to Nashville)
March 18th	Leadership Development/Diversity Awareness
March 31st	Agriculture
April 15th	ACES (Ropes Course-Teamwork and Leadership)
April 29th	Tourism/Retail
May 10th	County Government
May 25th	Industry visits/Economic Development emphasis
June 7th	Living Well
June 10th	Graduation 6:30 p.m.

All this and more by calling the Chamber office to register, you and/or a staff member, or just to get more information.

The program fee is only \$250 and covers all materials, meals, etc.

We hope you will be represented in the 2010 class...you will not be disappointed!

Respectfully submitted,

Gil Fletcher

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

The Department of Revenue collected and allocated (less administrative costs) the following funds for December, 2009.



Gibson County	\$ 55,253
Trenton	\$ 80,829
Bradford	\$ 8,500
Dyer	\$ 33,907
Gibson	\$ 2,951
Humboldt	\$202,291
Medina	\$ 13,300
Milan	\$254,844
Rutherford	\$ 11,221
Yorkville	\$ 233
Kenton	\$ 6,293
TOTAL	\$ 669,620

2009-2010 Board of Directors:

Roger Swaim, President - Cell Plus (Verizon)
Gary Caraway, President-elect- Caraway Motor Company
Jessica Alsobrook-Pritchard Realty
Jocelyn Bundy-The Bank of Humboldt
Terri Crider-Flippin & Atkins PC
Dwayne Curtis-Delta Contracting Company, LLC
Harry Davidson-Peoples Furniture
Laurie Gamble-Strawberry Festival President
John Hale-First State Insurance
Larry Johnson-Mid South Industrial, Inc
Ralph Jones, III-Jones Companies, LTD.
Greer Lashlee-Lashlee-Rich, Inc.
Michael Longmire-Humboldt Plaza 3 Theater
Matt McLean-Humboldt Higher Education Center
Joan Smith-Coldwell Banker Creswell Realty
Randy Terry-State Farm Insurance
Jared Wilkerson-Professional Cuts Barber Shop
Jennifer Wilson - Dwight Hawks Law Firm
Roger Ziegler-Edward Jones
Chuck Lovell, Alderman - City Liaison
Ex Officio: Janeice Frisbee-BancorpSouth

Chamber Staff:

Gil Fletcher, Executive Director
Cindy Acree, Executive Assistant

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Thanks Christa for sponsoring the February Chamber newsletter!

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