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Local Companies Participate in Georgia Work Ready

Toombs County continues to make progress in becoming a Certified Work Ready Community. The Toombs County Development Authority would like to recognize the local companies that have joined the effort. They are Georgia Power, LIT Industries, Meadows Regional Medical Center and Mount Vernon Bank.

Not only are these companies taking an active role in helping the community achieve the Certified Work Ready Community status, but they will soon realize the benefits of the program to Georgia companies. Among them are improved employee selection & advancement procedures, reduced overtime, reduced turnover, increased productivity and higher employee morale.

Other local companies interested in participating should contact David Yarbrough at 912.538.3119 for more information.

Toombs Corporate Center at U.S. 1 Recognized at GEDA Annual Conference

Bill Mitchell, Executive Director of the Toombs County Development Authority, and Pollyann Martin, Chair of the Toombs County Development Authority, recently attended the 47th Annual Conference of the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) in Savannah, Georgia. They were pleasantly surprised when the Toombs Corporate Center at U.S. 1 was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for complying with the requirements set forth by the Georgia Allies for the Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) Program.

The Georgia Economic Development Association (GEDA) is a statewide agency that promotes industrial development through both existing industry growth and locating new industries to the State of Georgia. The Authority has been a member of GEDA for years and uses its membership to promote Toombs County to state developers, brokers, consultants and other economic development professionals that work directly with industrial clients interested in expansion or relocation.

In addition to GEDA, the Authority is a member of the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority (MCUDA) and the Southern Economic Developers Council (SEDC).



Toombs County Development Authority Participates in SEDC Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana

Bill Mitchell, Executive Director of the Toombs County Development Authority, attended the Annual Conference of the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) and Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) on August 14-17 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Among those representing communities in Georgia at the SEDC Annual Conference were (l-r): Susan Peacock, Georgia EMC and incoming chair of SEDC; Greg Wright, Coweta County; JoAnne Lewis, Coffee County; Bill Mitchell, Toombs County; Peggy Chapman, Bulloch County and Mike Pennington, Georgia Economic Developers Association.

As the oldest and largest regional economic development association in North America, SEDC is a 850 member association of economic development professionals from 17 southern states. Its mission is to shape and improve the economic destiny of the American South.

Photo provided by Mr. Greg Wright, Coweta County.



Pictured (l-r): Bill Mitchell, Executive Director of the Toombs County Development Authority, and Heidi Green, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Photo provided by Mr. Zack Fowler/Vidalia Communications, Inc.

Commissioner Heidi Green Visits Toombs County

The Toombs County Development Authority recently had the privilege of hosting Heidi Green, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Ryan Waldrep, Regional Project Manager with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, on a visit to Toombs County.

Commissioner Green spent the morning touring several of Toombs County's existing industries - Trane, Dot Foods and Savannah Luggage Works. She spent the afternoon with area legislators and local leadership at the Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. She complimented the Board of Commissioners of Toombs County for funding local economic development efforts with one mil of local tax revenue collected each year; and, the Toombs County Development Authority for investing those funds back into community projects such as Toombs Corporate Center at U.S. 1 and Toombs Corporate Speculative Building that provide a product which allows state developers to host prospect visits to Toombs County.



Pictured (l-r): Wayne Hartley, Robin Builders; B.J. Davis, Georgia Power; Mike Gay, Peoples Bank; Wendell Dixon, Montgomery Bank & Trust; Bill Mitchell, Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce & Development Authority; Ryan Waldrep, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Michael Grimes, Thriftway Food Store.

Spotlight on Local Industry Robin Builders, Inc.

Located in Lyons, Toombs County, Georgia since 1974, Robin Builders, Inc. manufactures and distributes a complete line of high quality residential and commercial portable storage buildings, offices, guardhouses, greenhouses, backyard barns, metal utility structures, wood work sheds, garages and garden sheds into market states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee. The Company services distributors throughout the Southeast United States. The local facility currently employs 42 persons and produces 16-18 portable buildings per day.

For more information about Robin Builders, Inc., please visit <http://robinbuilders.com>.



Tri-County Regional Entrepreneur Support Team (Tri-CREST) News

Twenty-three small businesses will be sharpening their financial management

Funds Availability

The Toombs County Development Authority, on behalf of Toombs County, is currently accepting applications for low interest funds under the Revolving Loan Program. Successful applicants will have demonstrated new job creation/retention, private capital investment, and provision of jobs to low and moderate income persons. Funds must be used only in the corporate limits of Toombs County.

skills as they participate in the 5-week Maximum Money course starting on October 7, 2010. Most entrepreneurs are very familiar with the technical aspects of the product or service they produce or provide. Often, they need help with the management of the financial component of their businesses. Effective financial management and budgeting can make the difference between a business' success or failure, especially during the tough economic times. The Maximum Money series is being provided to only a few communities in Georgia, including ours, by the Georgia Southern Small Business Development Center with a OneGeorgia Authority Grant. Businesses participate at no cost.

A Small Business Expo will be conducted at Southeastern Tech's Economic Development Center on November 4th from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tri-CREST is hosting the event to help existing or prospective small businesses locate the resources they need to be successful. Financial, business development and technical resources will be represented at the Expo. Startup or existing small businesses are invited to visit with the different resource tables and find the answers they need to move forward.

Eligible activities include: acquisition of real property; acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of buildings, infrastructure, site improvements and utilities, and commercial or industrial buildings or other structures; and other commercial and industrial real property improvements. Ineligible borrowers include passive income companies, lending and investment institutions, unregulated media, speculative ventures and charitable organizations.

To obtain an application and to learn more about program requirements and eligibility, individuals may contact Michele Johnson at 912.537.4466. They may also stop by the Chamber & Development Authority office located at 2805 East First Street, Vidalia.

Community + Commerce + Connectivity

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