



Camden County Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Your Chamber News

June 2009

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Dear Christine,

Are you enjoying this awesome Summer? We sure are and you have got to love this heat!! The past month was filled with events and we are off to another great start for this month!

We would like to introduce our newest member to our team, Julie McCullough. Julie is our new Membership Development Coordinator and she is excited to begin meeting all of you. Please either stop by and say "Hi" or come to our New Member Welcome Open House tomorrow at 8 am and meet her.

Congratulations to our **Chick-fil-A** June Business of the Month - TDS Telecom.

Sincerely,
Chris, Christi & Julie



Service Offerings

Find New Customers on the Internet

Save a Life and Donate Blood

Quick Links

[Register Chick-fil-A Business of the Month](#)

[Last Month's Newsletter](#)

[Camden County Upcoming Events](#)

Leadership Camden **[Brochure](#)** & **[Application](#)**

[Small Business & Entrepreneurial Spirit of the Year Awards Nomination Form](#)

[Sign Up for 60-Day Free Trial for Constant Contact Email Marketing](#)

Thank you to our May Sponsors

Business After Hours

Bennett Suzuki

Business of the Month

Chick-fil-A

Leadership Camden

St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation

Door Prizes

Bennett Suzuki.

Coastal Oaks Home Inspections

Camden County Chamber of Commerce

St. Marys Kiwanis Club

Restoration Hands of Aloha

TDS Telecom

Georgia Power

H&R Block

LOWE'S Home Improvement

Lil Stitches

Chick-fil-A

NAMI

United Way

Welcome May New Members

BugSlayer of St. Marys - Juane Albright

Thank You May Renewing Members

Golden Isles Office Equipment - Eddie Lee (1 year)
Furniture Factory Outlet - Don Crews (13 years)
 Camden Pharmacy - Anthony Kicklighter (3 years)
Ellis & Gross Construction - Jim Gross (15 years)
 Quality Cleaners - Corey Dawson (3 years)
 Yellow Book USA - James O'Grady (9 years)
 Crooked River Baptist Church - Keith Hamilton (1 year)
 Goodbread House - Mardja Gray (2 years)
Kentucky Fried Chicken - Jim Burney (21 years)
 Howe Construction, Inc. - Stan Howe (1 year)
Camden's Office City - Jeff Harrison (19 years)
 Jameson Inn - Abigayle Cotter (2 years)
 Kings Bay Honda - John Bryan (4 years)
 Laurel Oaks Animal Hospital, Inc. - Julie Clark-Blount (3 years)
Fleet & Family Support Center - Debbie Lucas (11 years)
Spencer House Inn Bed & Breakfast - Mary Neff (17 years)
 Family Matters Counseling - Molly McCue (2 years)
 Georgia Pacific - Joel Youngblood (9 years)
Cecily Hill - Prudential Magnolia (18 years)
Ann Stansfield - Watson Realty Corporation (13 years)
 City of Woodbine - Sandy Rayson (9 years)
 Marino's Bookkeeping Services - Lisa Marino (2 years)
 McDonalds - Rick Fey (4 years)
 Seabags, Inc. - Bill Lewis (3 years)
St. Marys Submarine Museum - John Crouse (12 years)
 Wal-Mart - Ken Bradley (9 years)
 Aim Three LLC/Independent Rep. of Discovery Map - Tricey Godfrey (1 year)
 Lee Durant - ERA Kings Bay Realty - (1 year)
 Hancock Appraisal Services, Inc. - James Hancock (8 years)
 Coastal Car Care - Steve Ellison (3 years)
 Public Records Publications/Fax1 - Paul Meschke (4 years)

Highlighted members are Milestone Members 10+ years as Chamber Members!

May Business After Hours

Thank you to Allen Eldridge from Bennett Suzuki for sponsoring and hosting an outstanding Business After Hours. If the threatening weather kept you away, you missed Allen's awesome cooking! The food was outstanding and the networking and fellowship was lively. If you haven't been by Bennett Suzuki, stop in and say "Hi" to Allen and his staff. Our June Business After Hours is sponsored and hosted by Bhosted

located at 860-C Kings Bay Road, St. Marys on Thursday, June 18th from 5-7 pm. The theme is New York...Join us for great networking, food and fun!



Bennett Suzuki site of May BAH



Everyone was eyeing that car!



Members enjoying fellowship, food and drinks

Leadership Camden 2009-2010 Program



The next Leadership Camden Program will kick off with a Retreat at Cabin Bluff on August 21st and 22nd. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in Leadership Camden, now is the time to fill out the registration form and send it back to the

Chamber. [Leadership Camden Application](#) and [Leadership Brochure](#). Deadline for applications will be June 19, 2009.

Leadership Camden Class of 2008 - 2009 Graduated May 16th!



Charlie Smith receiving his plaque and pin during the Graduation ceremony.



Jennifer Lewis, Kevin & Cherrie Kilner and Dianne Feine enjoying great conversation



Mary Smith, Pat Lee, Alex Blount visit with our Chef for the evening John Minor while he prepares the awesome Low Country Boil

Leadership Camden Alumni 1st "Success Series" a Huge Success

The Tribune & Georgian was the setting for the 1st ever Leadership Camden Alumni "Success Series". Our keynote Speaker, Dink NeSmith, Owner of the Tribune & Georgian "WOWED" the group of Leadership Camden Alumni Members. "Even if I was told no, I never gave up. My persistence paid off and some of the noes turned into yeses!", Dink explained.

Thank you to the NeSmith family for taking time to meet with the Alumni and share your successes and family recipes! Everyone enjoyed the evening. Special thanks to Mary Smith, Leadership Alumni Chair for creating & organizing the "Success Series".

Any Leadership Camden Graduate can become a member of the Leadership Alumni by filling out a member application and sending in your membership fee of \$25 for a year or \$100 for 5 years. That will be the **ONLY** way you can attend future "Success Series" events. [Click Here](#) for membership brochure.

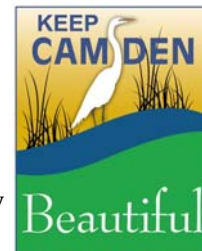


Dink NeSmith & Mary Smith

Keep Camden Beautiful

On Wednesday, June 3, 2009, Camden County officially earned their Keep Georgia Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful Certification. Camden County is the 77th county in Georgia to earn this designation.

The ceremony went off with out a hitch and the weather was absolutely beautiful as over 80 community leaders and members joined in the celebration.



The Certification Team, led by the Committee Chair Doug Cooper worked over a year to earn the Keep Camden Beautiful Certification. The process involved forming a Board of Directors, completing a Litter Index and conducting a Focus Survey.

During the ceremony, Cooper presented the Mayors, County Commissioner, Base Commander and Keep Camden Beautiful Chairman of the Board a framed Joint Resolution recognizing Keep Camden Beautiful as the Anti-Litter Program for Camden County.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this designation possible and a special thank you to Doug Cooper for his leadership and commitment. Barbara Ryan, founder St. Marys EarthKeepers summed it up for everyone, "You've (Doug) done a fantastic job and have left a legacy that will benefit Camden County for years to come".

Thank you all and remember to Keep Camden Beautiful...we all have to do our part!!



Louise Mitchell, Councilwoman City of Woodbine; Chip Hollis, Chairman Keep Camden Beautiful; Rowland Eskridge, Mayor City of St. Marys; David Rainer, Commissioner Camden County; Kenneth Smith, Mayor City of Kingsland; Capt. Wes Stephens, Commander Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay

Ribbon Cuttings

Monday, June 15th - 10 am

Day Light Donuts

Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting

Bring a copy of this article and receive a free coffee & cake donut during the ribbon cutting.

Thursday, June 18th - 12 pm

Fast Eddies Espresso

Come out and taste ALL the flavors of coffee, smoothies, and more!

**J Green & Co. Fine Jewelers
Ribbon Cutting / Grand Opening**



Chamber Member Milestone's Congratulations!

Shannon Wainright, RN, BSN, is now the assistant administrator of Patient Services for Southeast Georgia Health System at the Camden Campus! Shannon is a past graduate of Leadership Camden 2008. Congratulations Shannon!

Camden County Government earns four 2009 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
NACO stated they are proud to confer these awards to Camden County and recognize the county's hard work to promote quality, efficient, and responsive management and administration. The following programs were recognized:

- 1) Stars programs: Suggestions to Assist in Reduced Spending
- 2) Strategic Planning Initiative
- 3) Open Communications in Government
- 4) Institute of Organizational Excellence

Key Ingredients: America By Food - The Georgia Tour. "Peaches On My Mind" Camden County's Exhibition of Local Flavor was a huge success and congratulations go to Kelly Wagner, owner Creative Catering & Design on winning the "Key Ingredients Best Drink" with her Georgia Peach Punch.

The Power of Email Marketing & Getting Started with Constant Contact Seminar

Sponsored by the Camden County Chamber of Commerce

Date: July 20, 2009

Time: 10 am - 3 pm

Where: St. Marys Economic Development Building
St. Marys, GA
Cost of Seminar is \$15 for Lunch
[Program Details](#)

Amelia River Cruises & Cumberland Sound Ferry Designated Official East Coast Greenway Connection & Nominated for Phoenix Award

Cumberland Sound Ferry has been designated an official connection as part of the East Coast Greenway. On May 15, 2009, Kevin McCarthy and Willie Sweatt were informed that the Bald Eagle, an 80 passenger ferry boat to and from Fernandina Beach, Florida and St. Marys, Georgia has been formally recognized as the final connection in the East Coast Greenway.

This connection now links cyclists non-stop from Maine to Key West, Florida. The Cumberland Sound Ferry is equipped to handle bicyclists and pets, alike. On the heels of this announcement, Kevin McCarthy was also notified that the Cumberland Sound Ferry has been nominated for The Society of American Travel Writers Phoenix Award. The Phoenix Award recognizes organizations whose efforts significantly contribute to the conservation, preservation and beautification of the travel area involved; as well as enhancing travel and tourism in the area.

Cumberland Sound Ferry Service is an outgrowth of Amelia River Cruises. It began 3-day-a-week operations during the summer of 2008. It carries up to 80 passengers and bicycles between Fernandina Beach, Florida and St. Marys, Georgia. The service re-connects these historic port towns by scheduled water service for the first time in 92 years. It facilitates day trips, overnight visits, help to extend visitor stays at both ends of its service, and eliminates the need for a 30-mile trip by car, or dangerously across a narrow two-lane road without shoulder, 35 miles by bicycle. By spring 2009, service has increased to six days a week.

The Cumberland Sound Ferry runs six days a week (Tuesday through Sunday), departing Fernandina Beach, Florida at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. (special late ferry on Saturdays at 8 p.m.). Return trips depart St. Marys, Georgia at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. (special late ferry on Saturdays at 9 p.m.). The ferry links two historic waterfront towns of Fernandina Beach, Florida and St. Marys, Georgia and provides water-bound access to the Cumberland Island Ferry out of St. Marys, Georgia.

Reservations are required due to limited seating. Press, RSVP's and inquiries can be directed to marketing coordinator, Lori Hoerl, (904) 491-7617, via email at lorbell1@aol.com or via our website at www.ameliarivercruises.com.

Website: www.ameliarivercruises.com.

Disaster Assistance is Now Available

If you sustained losses or damage in one of the counties declared a federal disaster area, you may be eligible for federal and state disaster aid.

For more information, to apply by phone or to check on your claim call:

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
TTY 1-800-462-7585 (For the speech or hearing impaired)
Apply on-line: www.disasterassistance.gov

Please have the following information available when you call:

- A phone number in case we need to call you back
- Social Security number
- Current mailing address
- Address of the damaged property
- Brief description of damages
- Insurance information (if you have insurance)

You may be eligible, but you MUST apply

Government disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate you for your entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered by an insurance policy. Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other forms of help may come in the form of loans.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SMA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, please call FEMA toll free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

Public Invited to Memorialize Loved Ones in Memory Garden Tribute Pathway

The St. Marys EarthKeeper announce the commencement of the construction of the Memory Garden on the corner of Bartlett and St. Marys Streets beside Oak Grove Cemetery.

Inscribed bricks - to be included in the Memory Garden's Tribute Pathway - are now available, in limited quantities. All members of the community are invited to purchase a brick that is engraved with the names of loved ones (pets included).

A Memory Garden dedication service will be announced at a later date. To order an inscribed brick, visit the EarthKeepers website at www.stmarysearthkeepers.com, fill out the form, and mail it to the address listed. For additional questions call 912-729-1103.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

Businesses planning to claim the newly-expanded work opportunity tax credit (WOTC) for eligible unemployed veterans and unskilled younger workers hired during the first part of 2009, hve until Aug. 17, 2009, to request the certification required for these workers. The newly-revised Form 8850 should be used by employers to request certification from their state workforce agency. Information about Form 8850 and the tax credit is available on the www.irs.gov website, and the form is available online. <http://www.irs.gov/instructions/i8850/index.html> - links you to the Form 8850 (5/2009) instructions

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8850.pdf> - links you to the Form, itself.

Dalton Signs Expands Service Offering!!

Dalton Signs, Inc is now able to offer service work, repairs, retro-fit and re-branding service to businesses with signs up to 65' high utilizing internal resources. With the addition of a 60' lift vehicle, Dalton Signs now has greater control over scheduling and availability, creating faster response time to customers needs.

Keep up the great work and customer satisfaction Dalton Signs!!

How Local Business Can Find New Customers for Free from the Internet

For the first time in 2008, there were more local business searches on Goggle. In the last few months there have been some fundamental changes in Goggles' local search. now a local small business can get in the NUMBER 1 position on the first page for specific searches that will send customers to you!

Discover the secret on Monday, June 29th at 6 pm - 7 pm held at the Kingsland City Hall. Bob Barrie, owner True Bearing, LLC will lead this seminar. Please contact Trish Jared, with the Kingsland DDA at 729-5613.

We Need You!

Actually, we need your blood. I'm sure saving a life appeals to you, and that's just what you might be doing by contributing blood. On Saturday, June 20, the St. Marys EarthKeepers will host a blood drive with the Blood Mobile parked by the Tribune & Georgian Building at 206 Osborne Street. We are scheduling appointments every 15 minutes from noon to 2 pm, so there would be no wait. Please think about this, and think of how a blood shortage could affect the outcome should one of your loved ones need blood. We really do need your help!

Call Alex Kearns at 912-673-6120 or email her at alexkearns1@msn.com if you can help out. If not, please forward this email to someone who could.

Remember giving blood is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Giving blood every two months, saves three lives!

[Forward email](#)

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