

LaFayette Lands New Industry

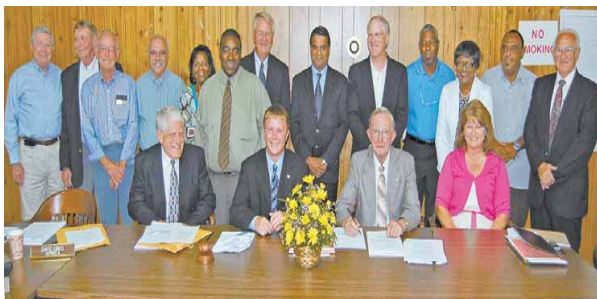
by: *The Valley Times News*

A Canadian industrial company will locate in LaFayette, effectively doubling the city's industrial presence, said Mayor Matt Hurst. Commercial Spring and Tool Company Limited made official the move on Monday, July 13th at LaFayette's City Council meeting, where the company's officials inked a deal with the city, Chambers County and the Industrial Development Authority to move into the building at 13438 C.L. Torbert Parkway, formerly occupied by King Power. The LaFayette location will be the first United States location for the Mississauga, Ontario,-based company, which is expected to hire 75 full-time employees within the first 36 months of operation.

CST manufactures springs, wire forms and clips; and develops special assemblies; metal stamping, tool and die assemblies; and heat treating and plating. It has operated since 1972 and employs 450 people at its six Canadian facilities.

The city passed a resolution before the official announcement of the deal, agreeing to terms with the IDA for the project, including a provision that incentives paid by the city or county to be repaid if the project defaults.

The work to get CST began in April 2008, according to IDA officials, with help through the Alabama Development Office and Economic Development Partnership of Alabama. The company is expected to begin hiring later this year to early next year.



Pictured are from left, front row, Frank Martinitz, President, Commercial Spring and Tool; LaFayette Mayor Matthew Hurst; Commission Chairman Jack Bunn; Commissioner Debbie Wood; back row, Rep. Richard Laird, Commissioner Danny Kendrick; Commissioner Wayne White; Councilman David Ennis; Councilwoman Tammy Williams; LaFayette City Clerk Louis Davidson; IDA Board President James Williams; Gurnail Gill, Vice President, Commercial Spring and Tool; Councilman Allen Tucker; Councilman Steve Rowe; Commissioner Rosa Dunn; Councilman Cornelius Reese and Commissioner Henry Osborne



Pictured here signing are Mr. Martinitz and Mayor Hurst, Louis Davidson with the City of LaFayette and Mr. Gill are witnessing.

On June 9th, the Board of Directors officially changed the name of the IDA to the Chambers County Development Authority (CCDA). This name change will more accurately reflect our mission to promote economic development in Chambers County. The CCDA has now become a "one stop shop" for retail, commercial, work-force and industrial development.

Our Website can now be accessed at www.chambersda.com. Please remember to change your links and bookmarks. Our email addresses have changed and are as follows:

Valerie Gray -
vgray@chambersda.com

Bruce Emfinger -
bemfinger@chambersda.com

Tammy Johnson -
tjohnson@chambersda.com



Remember,

Supplier applications must be delivered in person to the Alabama Career Center in Opelika or the SUSCC Valley Campus.

All applications are being handled through AIDT.

Springwood School – A New Vision and New Direction!

By: Bill Parsons, Headmaster



Pictured here, Springwood K4 student, Mary Beth Brown, is shown participating in a letter recognition activity at the Promethean board in her classroom.

Springwood School has provided a world-class education for students in the Valley Area for almost forty years. Now, under the direction of the new Headmaster Bill Parsons, the school has embraced a new direction with enthusiasm and passion that has the entire Valley area talking.

K4 teacher, Mrs. Julie Dewberry commented, “the possibilities of using interactive whiteboard technology in the K4 classroom are endless.”

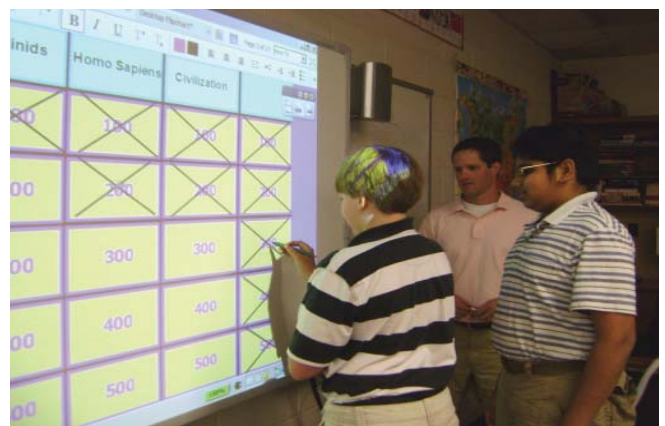
Parsons’ approach is simple. “It’s about returning to the vision of the Founding Fathers of Springwood. Their vision was to provide an education for every child second-to-none and guided by five core values.

These core values are a Christian environment, high standards of integrity, student centered classrooms, high expectations for students and teachers, and excellence in every area of the school.” Parsons has used these values as a beacon in transforming the school into a learning environment where the energy and enthusiasm is palpable.

Part of this transformation includes a commitment to Twenty-first century technology. Twenty-first century instructional tools such as Interactive Whiteboards are now part of every classroom, Pre-K through sixth grade, and in most classrooms in seventh through twelfth grade. They are also at the heart of several computer labs on campus which is open to all students. These boards allow students to interact with electronic content and multi-media which captures their attention and increases student achievement. This technology is coupled with Springwood’s successful student laptop program. As Parsons observes, “You can see how the use of these boards stimulate multi-sensory learning. Research shows that multi-sensory learning leads to long term memory retention and increased achievement for our students.”

During the 2009-2010 school year, Springwood’s fourth graders ranked first in the State among all AISA schools, and second grade took second among all AISA schools in the State. Parsons puts the accomplishments of the school in perspective. “While we take pride in the past, we realize there are areas in which we can continue to improve upon. Our motivation is a relentless commitment to excellence that will enable us to lead the nation as well as the State!”

This renewed commitment to excellence includes professional development, provided for all staff, designed to increase student achievement and instill character in students. Research-based instructional strategies based upon current brain research, character education, and connecting to students are just three of the initiatives already underway. More professional development for all staff is planned throughout the year. “Our motto is simple when it comes to professional development,” explained Parsons. “As an employee, if you are content with yourself then Springwood may not be the school for you. You must make and keep a total commitment to pursue excellence by becoming the best “you” you can be.” Students in Mr. Thomas Hill’s 8th grade history class are enthusiastic and eager to participate in lessons using the interactive white board. The incorporation of this new technology in the classroom enables teachers to enhance instruction and inspire students.



Above, Cameron James and Chirag Sharma, are taking part in the game of World History Jeopardy.

Valley to Host 2010 State Swim Meet

by: *The Valley Times News*



The 2010 Alabama Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) state swim meet has been secured for next July 29-31 at the Olympic-size pool inside Valley Community Center. It's an event that can make economic waves throughout the Greater Valley Area.

The meet will draw an estimated 1,200 swimmers from all over the state of Alabama. They will be accompanied by their families and team coaches, making for around 3,000 people in the local area for more than one day. The Valley Area Swim Team (VAST) will be the home team.

"This will be a significant tourism event for our entire area," said Valley Mayor Arnold Leak. "It will put people in our hotels, restaurants and retail stores for about three days. All of our visitors will have ample time to get out into the community between swimming sessions, and this area has plenty to offer them."

The swim meet became a reality Wednesday, July 8th when ARPA officials met in Montgomery to consider bids. Presenting Valley's bid were officials from Valley Parks and Recreation Department and the Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Executive Director Elinor Crowder opened the presentation with a pledge for the Chamber to support the event. Council Member O'Neal Shaw followed with a colorful PowerPoint presentation highlighting the advantages of coming to Valley.

Mayor Leak thanked VAST and its boosters for their dedication to bring the meet here and for their fundraising efforts. "We've had a great response in donations and pledges from area businesses and individuals who strongly feel this will be a big boost to our area," said the Mayor. "It's been an outstanding example of people from the entire local area working together for the funds needed to make this a reality."

"We're proud that Valley has a facility that's so well suited for state-level competition", Mayor Leak continued. "We're equally proud that our area has the amenities and the spirit of hospitality that will make these people remember us and want to come back for more visits. Hopefully in the future, we can host statewide meets in other sports."



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