

NEWS FROM THE IDA

Daedong Hi-Lex of America Breaks Ground in the Cusseta Industrial Park

Daedong Hi-Lex of America broke ground on Friday, May 30, 2008 in the Cusseta Industrial Park. Company executives from both Japan, South Korea, and Michigan were in attendance. The company plans to build a 65,000 square foot facility that will produce door hardware system modules for KMMG in West Point, Georgia.



Hi-Lex will be located at 1195 CR177, at the corner of CR 79 and CR 177. DDHLA has selected RACO to manage the earthwork and construction of its facility. For more information about being a sub-contractor for the project, please contact RACO Alabama.

Daeki America Begins Site Work on New Facility



Daeki America has selected RACO to be the construction management firm for their new plant in the Cusseta Industrial Park. Clearing and grubbing the project site is complete. Interested sub-contractors and parties should contact RACO Alabama in Montgomery.

AJIN USA Moving Ahead Quickly with Earthwork in Cusseta Industrial Park

IICC, the contractor for AJIN USA, is moving quickly to complete the earthwork on the AJIN site in the Cusseta IP. Crews have already mobilized to install culverts on the site. The site work is approximately 60% complete. The design of the building is ongoing. Advertisements for team leader positions have been run in local newspapers. Interested candidates must apply at the Alabama Career Center in Opelika, Alabama.



MeadWestvaco Becomes MWV in Global Rebranding, Renaming Initiative

Global packaging solutions leader MeadWestvaco Corporation (NYSE: MWV) recently unveiled its new corporate identity as "MWV: How brands take shape". The company's new brand is designed to articulate in a unified voice its global packaging capabilities designed to protect and promote products, deliver supply chain efficiencies, meet sustainability promises and increase customers' marketplace competitiveness. In essence, MWV reflects the company's ability to help customers' brands take shape.

MeadWestvaco Corporation provides packaging solutions to many of the world's most-admired brands in the food and beverage, media and entertainment, personal care, home and garden, cosmetics, and healthcare industries. The company has market-leading positions in its Consumer & Office Products and Specialty Chemicals businesses, and operates in more than 30 countries. MWV manages all of its forestlands in accordance with internationally recognized forest certification standards, and has been named to the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index for the fourth consecutive year. For more information, please visit us at www.meadwestvaco.com.

IDA Welcomes New Look!

Over the next few weeks, please note the changes to the IDA's image. We are working on a new website, email addresses, and logo. Effective immediately, please change your address book to reflect our new email addresses:

Valerie Gray -
vgray@chambersida.com
Carrie Yeats -
cyeats@chambersida.com
Tammy Johnson -
tjohnson@chambersida.com

Our website can now be accessed at www.chambersida.com. Please remember to change your links and bookmarks.

MPTECH America Selects Contractor

MPTECH America has selected IICC to be their general contractor. Farner Barley and Associates is in charge of the mass-grade and design plan for the site work. Design work is currently underway on the building and site preparation should begin very soon.

THANK YOU
NORBORD
for your patience
during the relocation
of your entrance sign
and street lights.

GLMS Continues to Grow Its Alabama Facility

Owners Keith and Betty Hettig have announced to the IDA of Chambers County that they will continue to expand their operations in the Cusseta Industrial Park in order to keep up with the automotive industry's unprecedented growth in Alabama. The \$2.5 - 3million expansion will account for an additional 7 - 12 jobs and machinery and equipment that includes a 660 ton press with a bed size of 61" x 144".

"It is great to see the ongoing expansion of the industrial park along with the new and exciting developments throughout the community. We are proud to be a part of Chambers County," said Keith Hettig.



The first to locate in the park, Great Lakes selected the Cusseta Industrial Park as its home in October of 2006. GLMS supplies various industries with metal stampings and welded sub-assemblies. Soon GLMS will have new equipment for a specialized industry that requires flow-thru deburring, oiling, drying and roller straightening of parts.

The 38,000 square foot facility began production in May 2007 and currently employs 40 team members from the surrounding area.

"The IDA Board of Directors is grateful to the Hettigs and their commitment to Chambers County and to the State of Alabama," stated IDA President James Williams. "They have quickly become part of our family and are wonderful corporate citizens to this community."

At the May 19th, Chambers County Commission meeting, Commissioners unanimously approved the tax abatements for this expansion project. Commissioner Jack Bunn was the first to make the motion and comment that it was "his pleasure to play a role in assisting GLMS bring quality jobs to his district."

Chambers County Commissioner Reflects on Trip to South Korea and China

- by Debbie Wood, Vice Chairman, Chambers County Commission



When I decided to run for the office of Chambers County Commissioner, I understood that I would be representing the county in many capacities. Never did I dream that this role would take me across the Atlantic Ocean to China and Korea.

Several critical items had to be handled immediately, before I could go and take on this new world! I had to apply for a passport, thank you Charles Story for your assistance, get a visa, (not a visa card, I have one of those, but rather a visa permitting me access into the country), attend a Korean Etiquette Class sponsored by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, decide what to wear and get it all in ONE suitcase, and prepare the office and family for my 7 day absence.

Now aboard the plane I had mixed emotions, what would the food taste like, would I have to stand in the back of the line because I am female, would we have nice rooms and hotels to stay in, and finally how would we be treated by the locals.

As our group stepped off the plane all my fears diminished! We were greeted by individuals waving American flags, thanking us for being in their Country. Our accommodations were plush and the hospitality shown to us was impeccable. The facilities we toured were spotless of debris and full of modern robotic equipment. After my visit I am more excited about the bright future of Chambers County.

Many thanks to the IDA board, Valerie, Carrie, Tammy, the legislative delegation, the state of Alabama, and my fellow commissioners for working so hard to recruit Ajin and MP Tech. Good jobs are coming, just hang on.

Some 900 in attendance at Jobs Focus '08

An excellent turnout of some 900 individuals showed up between 1 and 4 p.m. EDT on June 12 for Jobs Focus '08 at Valley Community Center. This was a project of The Lanett-Valley-West Point Jobs Alliance. With about 33 employers there, job seekers found a variety of current opportunities, as well as others coming in the foreseeable future.

Among those taking part was AIDT, the Alabama state agency handling applications for automotive suppliers located in Chambers County. While not all of the suppliers are accepting applications yet, AIDT was able to explain the process to interested applicants. KIA, Ajin and many existing industries were manning employer booths.

"We recognize that there are a number of people out there still transitioning from textile jobs eliminated over the past months, and we wanted to help these people understand that this area does have other jobs right now, as well as those we can look forward to in coming months," said Foy Fisher, of The Jobs Alliance.

Federal Grant Locates Small-Business Resource Center at Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce

The new Small-Business Resource Center at the Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce is available to anyone in the area – both Alabama and Georgia – needing guidance and information on starting or expanding a business or industrial operation. There is a computer with access to the Internet and to the Alabama Virtual Library, a printer so that users can take information with them and a wide range of printed material on hand. There's no charge for the use of any of the material.

With the launch of the Small-Business Resource Center on June 19, GVACC became part of the Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network (AERN), a network of 15 rural Alabama counties that offers to local entrepreneurs the kinds of programs and resources usually found only in metropolitan areas.

"People wanting to start their own business or industrial operation are often overwhelmed by all the questions and issues that have to be resolved before startup," said GVACC President Jody Elmore. "In the past, we've referred them to the Small Business Development Center at Auburn University; now we have excellent resources right here at home."

The new resource center is open to the public by appointment five days a week from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. A staff member will be available to help locate needed material. "All you need to do for an appointment is call the Chamber at 334.642.1411 or come by the office at 2102 South Broad Ave. in Lanett," said Executive Director Elinor Crowder.

In addition to all the online resources offered by the Alabama Virtual Library and the Internet, there are print volumes with step-by-step guidance on developing a business plan, as well as business models and targeted information on subjects such as obtaining a franchise, marketing your own products with major retailers and starting a restaurant. The AERN website features "Ask a Librarian," where a potential entrepreneur in the Greater Valley area can ask a business research question that will be individually handled by a University of Alabama professional library researcher and quickly answered with an in-depth, personal response.

IDA Board Retreat

The IDA Board of Directors held a two-day planning retreat during the month of June. Powersouth and Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative covered the cost of the facilitator of the event. The focus of the retreat was to determine the IDA's direction for the upcoming fiscal year and to take a realistic look at the ability to continue economic development for the citizens of Chambers County with the very limited funding sources available. Nearing 100% attendance, the IDA Board left the retreat with a simplified plan of work to focus its efforts on industrial recruitment to replace lost manufacturing jobs over the past two years.

Hennon King Sr. Honored with Bridge Dedication

During the 2008 Alabama Legislature Session, the Chambers County Legislative Delegation honored IDA Board member Mr. Hennon King, Sr. with a proclamation naming the Exit 77 bridge over Interstate 85 in honor of him. Mr. King is a valuable member of the IDA Board of Directors and respected business man in Chambers County and Alabama. More details are to come regarding the official ceremony that will be jointly hosted by the Chambers County Legislative Delegation, the City of Valley and the Industrial Development Authority of Chambers County.

Staff Member Yeats returning to Texas

Carrie Yeats, Assistant Director of the IDA of Chambers County, has officially notified the IDA that she and her family will be returning to her homestate of Texas at the end of July. Carrie has been a tremendous asset to the IDA by orchestrating workforce roundtables, preparing detailed demographic information, publishing the IDA's materials, changing the website, working industrial projects and playing a major role in the successful recruitment of four Tier 1 KIA suppliers that will be creating nearly 900 jobs. Ms. Yeats will be joining her husband Dave and their 3 children in Austin, TX at the end of this month. She will truly be missed by the IDA and her colleagues in the Valley and in the economic development arena in Alabama.

Current IDA Board Members

James Williams
President
Cary Baldwin
Vice-President
Tim Blanks
Secretary
Robert L. Johnson
Treasurer

Harvey Brown
Grady Harmon
Ray Hemrick
Allen Hendrix
Bonnie Jarrell
Hennon King, Sr.
Marcus Moreman
Kevin Pigg
Richie Terry
Mac Tucker

**INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
of Chambers County

2102 South Broad Avenue
PO Box 269, Lanett, AL 36863
tel: 334.642.1412
fax: 334.642.6548
www.chambersida.com

