

The Chamber Perspectives online

Upcoming Events

Oct 17

Combating The Stresses
of Life and Work

Oct 20

Sister City Business Luncheon

Oct 24

Sustaining Your Business
During and After A Natural
Disaster - Seminar

Oct 25

Chamber In Session

Oct 26

Board of Directors' Meeting

(More Events)

Preparing
and
Sustaining
Your Business
in the event of an
Emergency

October 24th

**FREE Full
Day Seminar**

8:30am - 3:30pm
Tuscaloosa Toyota
Conference Room

Call 758-7588 to Register

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Congressman Spencer Bachus To Keynote Chamber In Session



The Honorable Spencer Bachus, a member of the United States House of Representatives from the 7th Congressional District, will keynote the next edition of "Chamber In Session" on Wednesday, October 25th at the Northport Civic Center. The luncheon event will begin at 11:30 AM. Reservations are required for the program in advance at \$20.00 per person. The program is open to the public.

Congressman Bachus is a native of Birmingham and is a graduate of Auburn University and The University of Alabama School of Law. After serving in both houses of the Alabama State legislature, Congressman Bachus was elected to the Alabama State Board of Education and served one term. His first Congressional race was in 1992, and he has since been re-elected six times.

While in Congress, Congressman Bachus has compiled a number of notable achievements, including securing transportation funding for the State of Alabama; opposing the availability of illegal internet gambling; advocating legislation to give consumers free credit reports and new protections from identity theft; and advocating the establishment of the new National Cemetery at the American Village in Montevallo. He is the author of both the legislation that created the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge and the recent bill to expand it.

Congressman Bachus and his wife, Linda, have five children and live in Vestavia Hills.

"We are delighted to have Congressman Bachus with us to discuss current legislative issues and a wide array of concerns at the Washington level. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to meet with one of our key Congressmen," emphasized Chamber President Johnnie Aycock.

Chamber In Session is a program of the Governmental Affairs Division of The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. For information or to make reservations, contact The Chamber office at 758.7588 or go online to <http://www.tuscaloosachamber.com/>

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Chamber Offers Two Excellent, Reasonably Priced Seminars in October

One of the great benefits of membership in The Chamber is being able to take advantage of some outstanding training opportunities at prices that just can't be beat.

On **October 24**, the Tuscaloosa County Local Emergency Planning Committee and The Chamber are collaborating on a workshop to help business owners and managers more effectively deal with the threat and/or results of a disaster like a tornado or hurricane.

The workshop will be held in the conference room of Tuscaloosa Toyota, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and it's free. But you have to register, and you can do so by calling The Chamber at 758-7588 or emailing The Chamber at chamber@dbtech.net.

According to a recent study, 40% of those businesses involved in a major disaster eventually go out of business.

The workshop will deal with how to prepare for such a disaster, how to sustain your business during a disaster, and how to protect crucial assets.

Finally, on **October 31**, you or some of your associates can learn how to more effectively use a powerful business tool: Microsoft® Outlook.

The seminar will be from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and will be held at the Fire College Building that sits in front of Bruno's Supermarket on McFarland Blvd.

Cost for Chamber members is only \$20, while non-members can attend for \$40.

How to configure Outlook, navigate the display, manage appointments, tasks and e-mails are some of the subject areas to be covered.

Register by calling The Chamber at 758-7588 or send a registration by e-mail to

chamber@dbtech.net. The deadline for registering is October 27.

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Chamber Directors Enthusiastically Support Pre-K Initiative

The Chamber's Board of Directors, at its September meeting, heard Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox and Educator Shelley Jones discuss an initiative to help academically at-risk children and their families, and then unanimously voted for The Chamber to support the effort.



The Tuscaloosa Pre-K Initiative, developed after several months of study and research, is scheduled for implementation in the 2007-2008 school year and will provide children the opportunity to start school ready to learn. The program will offer the best education and health services available.

"This program certainly reflects our basic policy on public education," said Johnnie Aycock, Chamber President.

A special task force is coordinating the effort; co-chairs of that task force are Jones, past chair of the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education; Earnestine Tucker, current City Board of Education member; and Dr. Stephen Black, attorney and Director of the Initiative for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama.

Aycock said a strong coalition of community partners has helped the task force with the Pre-K project. Mayor Maddox and the City of Tuscaloosa, the Tuscaloosa City Schools and Pre-K teachers, the University of Alabama, Stillman College, the Tuscaloosa Ministerial Alliance, Head Start, United Way, Success By Six have played a role, he said. Support has come from U. S. Rep. Artur Davis and local business leaders Jim Harrison Jr., and Tom Joiner.

Mayor Maddox referred to studies that show for every \$1 invested in Pre-K education and early learning programs, there is a return on investment of \$7, in the form of reduced costs later on to society and to the individual.

Various innovative programs and initiatives are underway through resources at the University of Alabama and Stillman College, Aycock said. Among these are the "Jump Start Power Aides" program that involves college students from all academic disciplines, work-study interns, service learning volunteers, and a variety of academic support services.

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Why Don't You Consider Discounts For Chamber Members?

When Curtis and Mirian Hubbard joined The Chamber recently, they took two initial, important steps: they had a Chamber-coordinated ribbon-cutting ceremony at their PAK Mail location on Highway 43 North, and they told The Chamber they wanted to offer a discount to other Chamber members.

Except for postage and stamps, PAK Mail is offering Chamber members a 15% discount on all other products and services the store offers.

PAK Mail joins a growing list of Chamber members who have recognized the marketing opportunity that's available in the Member Only section of The Chamber's website.

If your company would like to offer a discount (or discounts) to Chamber members, call Dick Johnson at 391-0561. There's a simple form to complete.

In addition to PAK Mail, the following companies/organizations offer Chamber members **and their associates** discounted products/services:

9th Street Creative: three months free web/email hosting, free creative brainstorming session and \$200 off on a new website.

HR Solutions-AFFLINK: 10% discount on any HR Solution package.

American Window: 10% discount on regular prices for all size windows.

AmSouth Bank: Several free banking services for both business and personal banking and for a business's employees.

Bryant Conference Center: 10% discount on meeting room charges.

C & A Coffee: free first month's rental on Keurig Coffee System. Free box of coffee for home models of the system.

University Medical Center: 15% discount for executive physicals to Chamber members.

Cingular Wireless: free Nokia 6340 with contact; waived activation fee; 100 text messages free each month.

Country Inn & Suites: 10% off any room type.

db Technology Internet Services: discounts on website hosting and design: \$50 discount on web design or re-design; \$25 discount on hosting.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car: 10% off retail rates.

Eye Care Associates of Northport: 25% off glasses/prescription eyewear.

First Federal Bank: a number of free banking services, and member is assigned a personal banker to handle all banking needs.

IKON Office Solutions: 10% off digital copier; 20% off digital copier with network print option.

Ingram & Ingram LLC: initial consultation fee waived (\$100 value); 10% discounted fee on first 12 months of payroll, accounting and tax services; free electronic filing for individual tax return.

Kincaid TV/Stereo: 10% off outdoor, weatherproof speakers.

Southern Times Publishing Co.: one-eighth page ad free to **new** Chamber members.

Pearle Vision Center: 35% off complete pair of prescription eye glasses; buy one get one free.

Premier Marketing: free initial client interview and marketing audit.

Sprint Nextel: 20% off handsets or accessories with new activation.

Tidwell DeWitt LLC: initial consultation fee waived (\$200 value); 25% discounted fee on all Tidwell DeWitt Training Center Programs.

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Kentuck Festival Returns For Its 35th Year, October 21-22



Every October in Northport, thousands of people come for the week-end to experience a cornucopia of sights, sounds, smells and tastes.

They're all a part of the annual Kentuck Festival. This year's event will be held October 21-22, and more than 300 artists will be exhibiting their arts and crafts. And, of course, there's always some good food around, too.

Legendary musicians will entertain on two stages, and innovative, interactive art events make Kentuck one of the South's most talked about arts festivals.

Additional information about the festival can be obtained at <http://www.kentuck.org/>.

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Sister City Partnerships With Narashino And Shorndorf Celebrate

Tempus fugit is Latin for time flies. Don't know what the Japanese or German words are for the same phrase, but time flies in any language.

Tuscaloosa County residents might be taken aback when they're told that the City of Tuscaloosa's Sister City partnership with Narashino, Japan, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. And the Sister City relationship with Shorndorf, Germany, has been in existence for a decade already.

Various events are planned to observe these two significant anniversaries. One of those is a business luncheon for delegations from both cities, to be held October 20, at Indian Hills Country Club. More details about this event later, but go ahead and mark your calendar and plan to have lunch with our friends from Japan and Germany.

Make that calendar note now because you know how time can get away from you!

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More And More Businesses Invest In The Chamber In 2006

Seventeen new businesses have joined The Chamber since the end of August. Since the first of 2006, 126 companies and individuals have invested in the Voice of Business. We welcome the following new members of The Team:

- Worldwide Travel & Tours
- Traveln Alabama
- Newk's Express Café
- Gillis Jewelers
- University of Alabama Office of Advancement
- Sticky City Painting Service
- MOSTraining Inc.
- Tuscaloosa MedCenter North
- Narnia Gallery
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6022
- Quiznos Sub Shop 10856 (Rice Mine Road North)
- Tuscany Podiatry
- Tuscany Spa
- The Willow
- Southern Sole
- Chuck's Fish
- Wells Fargo Home Mortgages
- ESPN Regional Television

If you run into a representative of one of these new members, welcome them to The Chamber.

We're glad to have them on board.

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Golfers, Tennis Players Raise Funds For Adopt-A-School Program

Thirty-four foursomes and 39 doubles teams-that's a total of 214 people-



spent September 28 with two objectives: have fun and raise money to support The Chamber's Adopt-A-School Program.

Also helping to raise funds were those companies or individuals who sponsored golf holes and/or provided prizes for the golfers and the tennis players.

Alabama gymnastics coach Sarah Patterson and her husband, David, were honorary chairpersons for the golf tournament, and Coach Patterson was honorary chairperson for the tennis tournament. Golfers played the Country Club of Tuscaloosa, while the tennis matches were held at the Indian Hills Country Club.

Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa was the title sponsor for both events. Involved as eagle sponsors for the golf tournament were Alabama Gas, JVC America, Jim Myers Drug, and NHS Health Management LLC. The same companies were also eagle sponsors for the tennis tournament.

GOLF

Woodland Forrest Elementary School received \$500 because the foursome playing for them shot the lowest score of the tournament. The team, representing Tri Cities Convenience Stores included Don Thomaston, Barry Letson, Russell MacDonald, and Nathan Richardson.

Other first place winners (gross and net scores) were: the team of Charles McKinney, A.D. Sanders, Hal Rozelle, and Chuck Bracknell; the team of Brad Springer, Kathy Black, Scott Ryan, and Mark Cole, and the team of Chris Ryan, Bryan McAbee, Dave Crenshaw, and Blake Thrasher.

Hillcrest Middle School received \$500 for having the most golfers playing for a school, while Rock Quarry also received \$500 for having the most golfers representing an elementary school. Brookwood Elementary got \$500 from a random drawing.

Joel Lake was golf tournament chairman. Loo Whitfield of The Chamber staff heads up the Adopt-A-School Program, and is ably assisted by Carolyn Tubbs..

TENNIS

Co-Chairs Joyce Gurich and Paula Fridley provided the leadership that led to a successful women's doubles tennis tournament. The first place winners in the All American Division were Kristine Fitts and Marni Elmore. In the Letterman Division, the winners were Shirley Whitaker and Amelia DeLos Reyes, while in the Varsity Division, Kim Parker and Michelle Berry won first place. Finally, in the Preps Division, Dindy Davis and Susan Whitley won.

Alberta Elementary School received \$250 from a random drawing of the sixteen teams that had players in the tournament.

Robert Green Named Northport Citizen Of The Year; Five Others Honored



Observers said he was surprised at the honor, but Robert (Bob) Green was obviously a popular choice for Northport Citizen of the Year in 2006.

A large crowd was on hand October 3, when Green received his honor at the Northport Civic Center. Five other Northport citizens were cited for their community accomplishments. And LaVale Mills, publisher of *The Red Bay News* and the author of three books, was the program speaker.

James Barnett, and Dr. James (Ike) Adams co-chaired the committee that planned the ceremony. Adams was last year's Citizen of the Year in Northport.

Green, a graduate of Tuscaloosa County Schools who attended the University of Alabama and Nova University, is retired from General Telephone Electric. He and his wife, Charlotte, have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Green has been active in the West Alabama Regional Commission and at his church, St. Mark's United Methodist, where he taught Sunday School. He's a member of the Northport Lions Club and helped spearhead the club's project of providing assistance to families in need. Green also helped with the City of Northport's assistance to its adopted community, Bay St. Louis, MS, which suffered extensive damage by Hurricane Katrina.

Other honorees were:



Nancy Dawkins, owner of Nancy and Co. Fine Jewelers: Business Leader of the Year

Sabrina Case, a teacher for 22 years: Educator of the Year

Michael Chism, Northport fireman: Public Safety Leader of the Year

Rev. Clarence Gary, pastor of New Prospect M. B. Church: Religious Leader of the Year

Julia Maxwell Hallman: Northport Pioneer Award

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Ribbon Cut For Cosmetic Spa Located On Veterans Memorial Parkway



Jim Harrison III, who will take over as Chairman of The Chamber's Board of Directors in 2007, cut the ribbon to officially open on September 28 the Cosmetic Aesthetic Spa, located at 1718 Veterans Memorial Parkway.

And Harrison took time to have his face "checked out" for any damaged area's by the Spa's laser system.

Left to right in the ribbon-cutting photo are: Jason Ward, a Chamber Ambassador who works for Alabama Central Credit Union; Lin Moore of Pritchett-Moore Insurance and Chamber Vice Chairman for Community Development; Dr. Ramesh Peramsetty, medical director and owner of the Spa; Chairman-Elect Harrison; Shannon McBride, Chamber Ambassador who works for the Tuscaloosa Association of Realtors, and Karen Thompson, also a Chamber Ambassador who's executive director of Temporary Emergency Services.

An open house followed the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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PAK Mail, Mayor Cut Ribbon For Northport Facility

As they say, there may not have been quantity at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for PAK Mail's Northport location on October 10, but there surely was quality.



In addition to the two owners of the store-Curtis and Mirian Hubbard-a member of The Chamber's Board of Directors, Lin Moore, was on hand. So was Northport Mayor Harvey Fretwell. Ditto Chamber President Johnnie Aycok. Chamber Ambassador Julia Smitherman of Coca-Cola Enterprises helped with the ceremony. And Banker Kevin Vann of Peoples Bank and Trust Co. stopped by. Ruby Avery, who's handled the accounting for the Hubbards for 20 years, was present, as were Bobby and Millie Leopard, friends of the Hubbards.

The PAK Mail Northport facility is located up Highway 43 near Tuscaloosa County High School. They offer all kinds of shipping services, mail box rental, courier and messenger service, and faxing. Office hours are 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday. The telephone number is 333-9596.

The Hubbards also have a PAK Mail location in Tuscaloosa on McFarland Blvd.

In the photo above, are (left to right): Julie Smitherman, Bobby Leopard, Lin Moore, Mirian Hubbard, Curtis Hubbard, Mayor Harvey Fretwell, Ruby Avery, Millie Leopard, and Kevin Vann.

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United Way Campaign Shooting For Record Fundraising Mark: \$3 million

Dozens of volunteers are hard at work among Chamber member-businesses trying to help the United Way organization reach a fundraising level it's never reached before.

The goal this year is \$3,000,060. The \$60 add-on takes note of the fact that 2006 is the 60th anniversary of United Way. Four agencies were members of United Way in 1946; this year there are 26 member agencies.

Chamber members and their associates are urged to support United Way generously this year.

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Westervelt CEO Enthralls Rotary Club With Startling Facts

In a recent talk to the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa,, Mike Case, chief executive officer of The Westervelt Company (formerly Gulf States Paper Corp.), dazzled about 125 Rotarians with some incredible facts.

In a prelude to his discussion of the new company and its different mission, Case cited some statistics on population growth, technology development, and the production of information.

Population Growth

The world's population today is more than six billion, and grows by 90 million people every year. That's the equivalent of a new New York City each month or a new Las Vegas every day. In fact, the world's population has doubled just since 1950. Another item: 32% of the world's languages are from the Asian continent.

Technology

The first industrial robot was invented in 1960. Twenty years later (1980), 32,000 computers were being produced in this country. Today, 25 million are produced. How is this possible? Because of the decline in the cost of computing power (microprocessors and memory). It's now 8,000 times less costly to produce these items than it was 30 years ago. If the automotive industry had kept pace: a Lexus would cost \$200, travel at the speed of light, and get 600 miles on a thimble of gas. In 2005, the world produced more transistors than grains of rice-and at a lower cost!

Information

More information has been produced in the past 30 years than in the previous 5,000 years. There's now more information in a week's output of *The Tuscaloosa News* than existed in the 17th century. The output of information doubles every five years. There are now two billion cell phone users worldwide. MySpace.com

adds 230,000 members every day.

(Our thanks to Mike Case and Robby Johnson of The Westervelt Company for allowing us to use this information.)

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