IMPACT 2012

IMPACT ACTION

Feb. 08 Newsletter

Dear IMPACT 2012 Investor:

IMPACT ACTION **will be sent to all investors in IMPACT 2012 on a monthly basis to keep you informed of our progress. IMPACT 2012 is designed to accelerate our economy by creating new jobs and generating significant new capital investment in the Valdosta-Lowndes County area. We now have a well-crafted business plan that will benefit every segment of our community, both public and private. We are proud to be a part of this exciting initiative and look forward to 'partnering' with each of you as we move our community forward.**

David Durland, Chairman
First State Bank & Trust

The following people have agreed to serve on the IMPACT 2012 Oversight Committee:

David Durland, Chairman
First State Bank Trust
Walter Hobgood
Express Personnel Services
Bill DeCoudres
Guardian Bank
Jeff Hanson
Park Avenue Bank
Mike Godwin
Ambling
Tim Jones
Ameris Bank
Walt Gill
Pinnacle Prime
Terri Lupo
Georgia Power Company
Curtis Fowler
Fowler, Holley & Rambo, P.C.
James McGahee
South Georgia Medical Center
Paul Nichols
Nexxtep Technology Services

The Oversight Committee has agreed to meet quarterly to ensure your IMPACT 2012 investments are working to benefit every segment of our community.

Workforce Development/Education

Rusty Griffin has agreed to lead the 'Task Force to Determine the Impact of School System Organization on Economic Development in Our Community'. The following people have agreed to serve on the Task Force:

Minister Leroy Butler
Woodlawn Forest Church of Christ
Joe Cordova
Community Leader
Walter Hobgood
Express Personnel Services
J.C. Riley
Riley Church Pew
Roy Copeland
Copeland, Haugabrook & Walker
Carolyn Eager
Smith Barney
Rev. John Manning
John's Body Shop, Inc.

The first meeting took place on February 13 with the Carl Vinson Institute. More to come later…

Expansion of Targeted Businesses

The business plan has been approved by the Chamber board. The Environmental Technology Showcase will be held on February 20th at the conference center. Dr. Carol Couch, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, will be the keynote speaker.

Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development

The S.E.E.D.S. Center served 42 clients during the month of January. The Ameris Bank Business Outlook 2008 breakfast took place on February 7th and was a huge success with a total of 102 business leaders in attendance.

"Business community support for IMPACT 2012 that focuses on expanding and building business, and attracting amenity-seeking retirees will help the greater Valdosta area avoid the recession effects that are likely to impact the rest of the country. "

Dr. Cynthia Tori,
Associate Professor of Economics
Valdosta State University

Retiree Attraction

In the month of January 4 retiree households were recruited to the Lowndes County area. In the February edition of Georgia Trend magazine Valdosta was sited along with only three other communities in Georgia as a great place to retiree. The article emphasized V.S.U. and quality healthcare as the lure for retirees. The Triple Crown Hometowns Annual Retiree Survey was sited in the article along with Ballard's plea to the State to start looking at retiree attraction as serious economic development and help programs by funding national advertising. Triple Crown Hometowns joined with the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County Commission, Valdosta-Lowndes County Tourism Authority, and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority on a full page advertisement in Georgia Trend.