



Retiree Attraction



2008 Goal: Attract 80 amenity-seeking retiree households to the area

• 10 retiree households were recruited to the Lowndes County area during the second quarter of 2008. Triple Crown Hometowns is working on a new and improved Web site. The Valdosta-Lowndes County area was nationally promoted on The Golf Channel during the 2008 South Georgia Golf Classic April 28th-May 4th. The commercial can be found at www.valdostachamber.com and www.georgiaretire.com. The commercial was designed to drive viewers to www.valdostageorgia.us, a landing page to promote each sponsoring organization's Web site including Triple Crown Hometowns and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce.

• Valdosta was chosen by Relocate-America.com as one of "America's 100 Places to Live" in 2008. The list was announced on June 4, 2008 and is being promoted nationally on the www.Relocate-America.com. This is the only list that is determined by statistics and feedback of the people who live, work, play, and retire in the communities. Valdosta will be featured in the September issue of the national publication *Where to Retire* magazine. This is the most widely used magazine by retirees and pre-retirees as they research a retirement destination. A travel writer spent three days in Valdosta touring the area, our amenities and interviewing retirees who chose Valdosta as their retirement destination. The magazine can be found at bookstores or ordered at www.wheretoretire.com.

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this issue

- Workforce Development & Education
- Retiree Attraction
- Expansion of Targeted Businesses
- Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development

Summer 2008



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

2008 Goal: To improve the management skills of 100 employees.

Boot Camp for Experienced Supervisors was held on May 20th at the Georgia Department of Labor. 33 supervisors from various companies were in attendance. In the first two quarters of 2008, we have reached 69 supervisors with boot camp. Topics discussed were Worker's Compensation, Role of the Supervisor, Human Resources Specific to Supervisors, Making the Transition from First Time Supervisor to Competent Professional, Dealing with Difficult Employees, Managing the Multi-Generational Workplace, and Harassment.



The Boot Camp was very beneficial to me and would be for any first-time supervisor. When you start out as a new supervisor so many things are thrown at you that you never even thought you might have to deal with. This seminar really gave a great overview of different issues that will help me be successful in my future. The presenters gave great insight on how to make the transition from a boss to a leader."

Brittany Jones, Honey Baked Ham Manager

2008 Goal: An independent study will be conducted to determine the impact of school system organization on economic development and quality job growth with appropriate action taken once the study is completed.



Officials from the Carl Vinson Institute met with Task Force members in June for a progress report. CVI will have the final study completed by September. Pictured are Harry Hayes (CVI), Walter Hobgood, Carolyn Eager, Task Force Chairman Rusty Griffin, John O'Looney (CVI), Minister LeRoy Butler, Joe Cordova, and Roy Copeland.

IMPACT 2012

Honor Roll of Investors

- ACE Electric
- Advanced Hearing Care / Hear Central LLC
- Alert-Tech Systems
- Allan Dear Real Estate
- Ambling Companies
- American Classifieds
- Ameris Bank
- ASA Engineering & Surveying, Inc.
- Astro Exterminating Services
- AT&T
- Atlantic Southern Bank
- Chet & Myrna Ballard (P)
- Bank of Valdosta
- Barnes Drug Stores of Valdosta
- BB&T
- Bemiss Citizens Bank
- Black Crow Media
- Blanton and Griffin Insurance
- Brandon, Rackley & Dukes, P.C.
- James Bridges (P)
- Bush Investment Group, LLC
- Carson McLane Funeral Home
- Cauthan Construction Company
- Citizens Community Bank
- City of Hahira
- City of Lake Park
- City of Remerton
- City of Valdosta
- CJB Industries, Inc.
- Classic Art & Frame Company
- Coldwell Banker Premier Real Estate
- Coleman Talley LLP
- Colony Bank
- Colquitt EMC
- Colson Printing Company
- Coombs Heating & Air Conditioning
- Covington's Dining & Catering / 306 North
- Cowart Electric and Industrial Contractors
- Culbreth, Minick & Associates, PC
- Cypress Lakes Development / Teamtemps Personnel Staffing

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Impact 2012
Honor Roll of
Investors, cont...
Darby Bank
Fred DeLoach (P)
Elliott, Blackburn, Barnes & Gooding
Ellis, Rickett and Associates Architects
ERCO Worldwide, Inc.
Express Personnel Services
Eye Associates of South Georgia LLC
Family Health Care
Farmers & Merchants Bank
Farmers Home Furniture Company
First State Bank & Trust Company
Fowler, Holley, Rambo & Stalvey, P.C.
Friendly Financial Services, Inc.
Full Circle Marketing & Advertising
Fusion Creative Marketing
Gary Minchew Realty
Genesis Christian School
Georgia Power Company
Mary & Tom Gooding (P)
Great Southern Yellow Pages
J. Glenn Gregory Architects
Griffin Corporation
Griner Automotive Group
Guardian Bank
H & S Supply Company
Henderson & Godbee
The Herndon Company
Holiday Inn/Comfort Suites/Days Inn
Home Builders Association of South Georgia
Home Instead Senior Care
Jodi's Accessories
Johnson Distributing Company
Keeman Petroleum Company, Inc.
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Lamar Advertising
Landis International, Inc.
Lovell Engineering Associates
Lowndes County
Lowndes County Farm Bureau
James McGahee (P)
Magic Media, Inc.
Mediacom
Mike Hill Real Estate
Miller Hardware Company
Moore, Clarke, Duvall & Rodgers, P.C.
Music Funeral Services
Nexstep Technology Services
Packaging Corporation of America
Park Avenue Bank
Pinnacle Prime Contractors / GPM
Presser Productions, Inc.
D/B/A Fox's Pizza @ Funstreet



Expansion of Targeted Business

Chris Miller (left; Creative Cities Consulting) and Bill DeCoudres (right; Guardian Bank) met with Doug Swords, Baha Zeidan, and Dan Henry during Miller's recent visit to Valdosta. "Azalea Health Innovations is the 'poster child' for the Chamber's Targeted Business Expansion Program," said Miller. "This is a perfect example of the types of businesses and the types of jobs we want to grow in Valdosta-Lowndes County."

2008 Goal: To facilitate the creation of 200 new jobs for college and university graduates in Information Technology, Environmental Technology, and Medical Services and Support.

Guardian Bank and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber, in partnership with Valdosta State University and Valdosta Technical College, announced the Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition winner at the Entrepreneurs In Action entrepreneur resource fair on April 12. This year's winner is Azalea Health Innovations, Inc. The new company received \$15,000 (provided by Guardian Bank) for start-up expenses, as well as \$40,000 in other services and advertising opportunities.

The Metro In Motion Speaker Series began on July 7th with Charles Landry, an international authority and leading expert on innovation inspired urban design, as the keynote speaker. "The key to attracting



and retaining well educated people in your community is to grow the kind of quality community they want to live in," said Landry.



"WHAT'S NEXT?"

- The School System Task Force will have a final report in September
- South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development will host the president of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce in August
- Are we 'business friendly'? VALET is asking businesses to rate our community — survey results in September
- MetroOne Young Professionals Day is set for September 5

MetroOne
One Voice • One Vision • One Community



Entrepreneurial and Small Business Develop-

2008 Goal: To serve 500 clients in the S.E.E.D.S. Center (Sowing Entrepreneur and Economic Development Success).

The S.E.E.D.S. Center has served 306 clients during the first half of the year.



S.E.E.D.S. Center Coordinator Hunter Harper consults with a S.E.E.D.S. Center client.

"My visit with the Chamber has been my one-stop-shop for everything the business needed. The S.E.E.D.S. Center has equipped me with the correct tools to help us compete and grow in today's market. I encourage all Chamber member to take advantage of all the benefits of being a member. Our management team at the Wingate by Wyndham would like to thank you for a terrific job."

Emma Scruggs, Sales Manager
Wingate by Wyndham



"Our mission is to provide state of the art health-care information technology and business solutions to streamline work-flow, enhance business processes, and improve the quality of patient care. Our vision is to be the premier innovator of medical practice services in the Southeast. We look forward to serving the healthcare providers in our community."
— CEO, Baha Zeidan.



Parrish Clark (Guardian Bank) presents a \$15,000 check to Azalea Health Innovations, winners of the 2008 Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition.

Impact 2012
Honor Roll of
Investors, cont...
Prince Automotive of Valdosta
Prudential ACS Real Estate
Quillian Powell Construction
Radiology Associates of Valdosta, PC
Regal Marine
Regions Bank
Regulatory Compliance Services
Richard Hill & Associates
Riley Church Pew Company
Ron Borders GMAC Real Estate
Larry Rodgers (P)
SAFT America
S. C. Barker Construction
The Scruggs Company
Scruggs Concrete Company
C. Byrd Simmons, P. C.
SMITH Northview Hospital
South Georgia Medical Center
South Georgia Vein Center
South Georgia Travel
Southeastern Capital Management Group, LLC
Southeastern Federal Credit Union
Southeastern Freight Lines
Sunset Farm Foods
Talk 92.1
U.S. Press Direct
Valdosta Daily Times
Valdosta Electric Company
Valdosta Insurance Services, Inc.
Valdosta Magazine
Valdosta Technical College
Valenti, Rackley & Associates, LLC
WALB TV10
Waller Heating & Air Conditioning Company
Wetherington Farms