

Calendar of Events

Oct – Dec 2010

October 4th, 2010

11:30 am – 1:30 pm - First Monday Lunch presented by Georgia Power. Keynote Bernie Mullin, Principal, The Aspire Group, LLC. Topic: "Creating a Winning team through sales and branding".

October 6th, 2010

11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Network DeKalb Leads Group. Sponsored by the CDC Federal Credit Union

October 14th, 2010

8:00 am – 9:30 – Special Breakfast Meeting – The Honorable David Strickland – Administrator National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

October 14th, 2010

10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Email Marketing Mega Workshop – Presented by Constant Contact

October 20th, 2010

11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Network DeKalb Leads Group. Sponsored by the CDC Federal Credit Union

October 25th, 2010

8:00 am – 6:00 pm – 6th Annual DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

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Message from a DeKalb Chamber Member

A Businessperson's Most Trusted Ally

Jessica Holt is Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending with Bank of North Georgia and Chairs the Membership Committee of the DeKalb Chamber Board of Directors.

In today's tough economic climate, the business community needs every resource available to remain profitable and competitive. One of the first places to look is the Chamber of Commerce. Operating under the mantra, "Voice of Business," the DeKalb Chamber advocates for small businesses at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Not to be focused solely on policy, the DeKalb Chamber facilitates introductions to potential customers through business referral programs, marketing businesses online and in print, and offers special discounts through various affinity programs such as insurance, health and worker's comp and office supplies, just to name a few.

The DeKalb Chamber is a one-stop shop for business information, including market access information for small businesses of

thinking about expanding, economic profiles of the community, workforce statistics, contact information for government officials, and regional trend studies. If you are seeking new clients or thinking about expanding your business, make the DeKalb Chamber your first call.

The DeKalb Chamber is also one of the best places to make business connections. Our First Monday Lunch Speaker Series, After-hour networking programs and networking luncheons feature relevant topics from some of Atlanta's most respected leaders. These programs not only help you stay in the game, you gain a competitive edge to win.

The business community as a whole benefits from a strong, well funded chamber. A strong chamber symbolizes a strong community, and a strengthened community enhances the quality of all aspects of life: business, personal and spiritual. In addition, participation in the Chamber leads to enhanced credibility on key community issues.

The DeKalb Chamber of Commerce isn't just a prudent choice, it's the right choice for you, your business and your community.

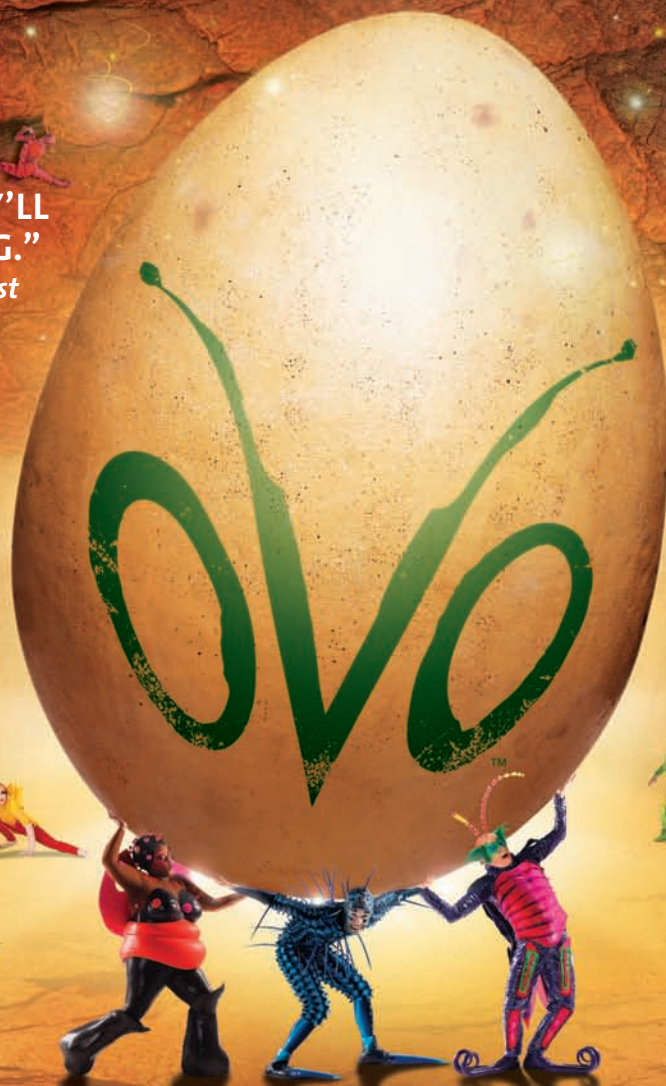
To Advertise in our Newsletter
email jleonard@dekalbchamber.org



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

"THRILLING ... THEY'LL
LEAVE YOU GASPING."

— *New York Post*



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DEBORAH COLKER

PRESENTED BY



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AT ATLANTIC STATION

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Pictures from the 2010 Everest Awards



New MEMBERS

- AECOM
- American Signal Company
- Artis Group Inc., The
- Blackwell & Associates, Inc.
- Botha Steel Erectors
- Buhter Up
- CCI (Corseault Commercial, Inc.)
- Charge N Go Networks
- Cook's Warehouse & Sherlock's Wine Merchants
- Core Landscape, LLC
- Courseault Commercial, Inc.
- Courtyard Executive Park / Emory
- Courtyard Northlake
- Crawford Media Services
- Dwayne Sullivan Photography
- E65 Corporation
- FedEx Office
- First Intercontinental Bank
- Hamby & Aloisio, Inc.
- Home Medical Equipment & Supply Store, The
- Jenarations Community Services
- Jim Duffie
- JVT Enterprises, LLC
- Keep DeKalb Beautiful
- KH International, Inc.
- Legal Process Courier
- Lem Howard Insurance (State Farm)
- Lindsay Mullen State Farm
- Mike Cagley State Farm Agency
- MLA Gourmet
- New Orleans SnoBall Cafe
- Noa Bank
- NRI Construction, Inc.
- Parker & Son Screen & Glass Inc.
- Premier Home Inventory Inc.
- Printed Communications, Inc.
- Priority Payment Systems
- Providence of Northlake
- Southeast Residential Group
- Speede Staffing Services Inc.
- Stories by Josie
- Suburban Lanes
- Subway Development Corp.
- Towne Place Suites
- Verizon Wireless
- Village at Northlake
- WBY, Inc. dba The Follies
- World Toyota
- Xerox - PSO



Education Committee

OFF AND RUNNING

As part of its continued efforts to impact local education, the DeKalb Chamber hosted its first Education Council meeting on August 20 at the new DeKalb County Schools administrative complex in Stone Mountain. With approximately 40 members companies in attendance, business professionals were updated by Chamber Board member and education committee co-chair Eric Wilson and Chamber President Leonardo McClarty on initiatives undertaken by the Chamber. Meeting attendees were informed of the council's intent to advocate for policies and solutions that ensure that the DeKalb County Schools are academically challenging and responsibly governed.

It was added that the group would seek to develop partnerships with educational institutions in DeKalb County and Georgia that strengthen educational opportunities for the region thereby strengthening the local workforce making DeKalb County an attractive location for business and industry.

Not to be solely a board driven effort, Chamber members were invited to share their thoughts and ideas as it relates to business involvement in the schools. It was reported that the Chamber would seek to implement three to five initiatives during the current school year with two of those centering on Principal for A Day and a reading initiative. The group will meet again September 30. For more information and to get involved, interested persons may contact Kim Davis Mitchell, VP of Programs and Operations at kdavismitchell@dekalbchamber.org.



DeKalb Superintendent Keynotes Chamber September Luncheon

Speaking before 120 business professionals and community leaders, Interim DeKalb County Schools Superintendent Ramona Tyson provided an update on the current state of the school system. Tyson who assumed the helm of the system in April touched on a variety of subjects ranging from the systems response to a recent SAC's inquiry to \$18.3 million dollars in federal monies to be received for teacher salaries and benefits. The superintendent also information attendees of the systems intent to update Board of Education policies of which four have immediate priority – Purchasing, Employee Ethics, Staff Conflict of Interest, and Whistle Blower. The superintendent drew overwhelming support from those present for her candor and honesty.

RIBBON CUTTING ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 26th - Hampton Inn Stone Mountain:

(770) 934-0004 | 1737 Mountain Industrial Blvd., Stone Mtn., GA 30083



August 25th - NOA Bank:

(678) 385-0840 | 5938 Buford Hwy., Suite 110, Doraville, GA 30340



August 19th - Home Medical & Equipment:

(770) 939-7160 | 4377-A Hugh Howell Road, Tucker, GA 30084-4809



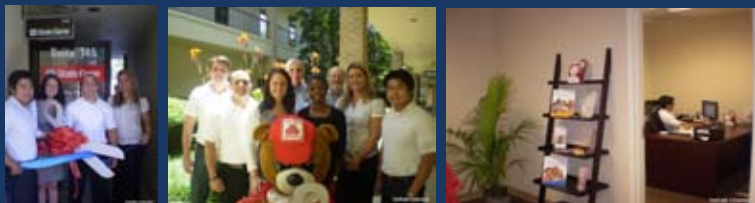
July 31st - SnoBall Cafe:

(404) 788-9141 | 340 W. Ponce DeLeon Ave., Ste 100, Decatur, GA 30030



July 14th - State Farm:

(404) 728-1000 | 2250 N Druid Hills Road NE, Ste 145, Atlanta, GA 30329



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Ph: 404-378-8000

Government Affairs

DeKalb Chamber Spearheads Infrastructure Task Force

by Et Gentin, Associate - Brown & Caldwell, DeKalb Chamber Board of Directors and Chairperson Government

Affairs Committee Demonstrating its commitment to DeKalb County Government and in the spirit of collaboration, the DeKalb Chamber has created an Infrastructure Task Force with specific focus on three areas: Environmental (water/wastewater/storm water); Transportation (both policy and construction); Parks & Recreation/Public facilities/Libraries (county buildings and libraries). Within these areas, the group will be providing support in answering questions related to:

Community visioning;

Branding of DeKalb County (from a Green/Sustainability perspective);

Preparing for future Growth and the interaction with the Comprehensive Plan; and

Preservation of and the Enhancement of facilities

This effort is part of counties strategic plan which is in progress as we speak. The task force will be taking an objective approach focused on the county as opposed to geographic locations and commission districts. With the help of the Chamber, DeKalb County Infrastructure professionals hope to create a framework around key issues. Those issues pertain to needs as historically the County has budgeted primarily for expansion with limited funds for preservation. Consequently, the County has a host of areas requiring attention, namely bridge deterioration, limited sidewalks, and aging water system to name a few.

The task force will meet for a period of approximately nine months with a report due in the spring. The DeKalb Chamber staff and board will continue to provide updates in the months to come.

Healthcare

Healthcare Op-ed

By Terri Denison SBA Georgia District Director

For decades, America's small business owners have asked for more affordable health insurance coverage and more tax relief. The new health reform law – the Affordable Care Act – provides both.

First, it offers tax credits for small employers who pay at least half of their employees' health insurance premiums. Starting this year, businesses with less than 25 employees who make an average of \$50,000 or less may be eligible for a credit of up to 35 percent of the premiums they pay on their employee's behalf. For small nonprofits, it's up to 25 percent. In 2014, those credits will increase to up to 50 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

Also in 2014, health insurance "exchanges" for small businesses will open in every state. Currently, small businesses pay as much as 18 percent more than large firms for the same coverage. The exchanges will allow businesses with as many as 100 employees to pool their risk together, lower their administrative costs, and negotiate more effectively with insurance companies. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this could help drive down premiums by as much as 4 percent in the marketplace of small-business health plans.

The tax credits and the exchanges are just two of the new tools that will help small businesses get health insurance, some for the first time.

Even if a small business owner with 50 or fewer employees still decides not to buy health insurance with these incentives, there is no penalty. They're exempt from the employer responsibility provision of the new law. In this case, small business workers will be able to use individual tax credits to shop for insurance in the exchanges. And it's important to note that 96 percent of businesses with more than 50 employees already offer coverage.

The new law will go a long way toward supporting America's entrepreneurial spirit. For example, it will outlaw pre-existing conditions, giving more Americans the ability to break out of "job lock" and start their own companies. Prospective entrepreneurs should not be held back just because they fear losing their employer-sponsored coverage. The new law will also prohibit insurance companies from dramatically increasing premiums for a small business just because one worker gets sick.

Overall, the Affordable Care Act is a critical tool that will help millions of small business owners provide health insurance to people who they often consider to be members of their extended family – their employees.

As a nation, we owe them nothing less as they work to grow, create jobs, and lead us toward full economic recovery.

[For more information about how the Affordable Care Act can help your small business, visit www.healthcare.gov.]

Renewing MEMBERS

A.C.T. Investments
Allgood Pest Solutions
American Family Insurance
AMLI Management Co
Brandsmart
Cadillac Fairview
Cannon Express
Carver & Associates
Centerless Grinding
City of Atlanta
Comfort Suites - Northlake
Communities in Schools
of Atlanta
CS Truck & Trailer
DeKalb County School
System
Delta Community Credit
Union
Dunwoody Baptist Church
Emory University
enervision
Flexible Metal
Friendship Foundation
Georgia Concrete &
Products
Hampton Inn Stone
Mountain
Hormel Foods
International Paper
ITRof Georgia
Kidz Cabz LLC
Laboreres SE Training
Fund
Malcolm Cunningham
McCullough & Associates
Medicine Ctrs of Atlanta
Microtel
MWH, Inc.
Nathans Driving School
Oakhurst Medical Ctrs
PBS&J
Prestige Golf Arrangements
Roberts Resource
Steel Frame Housing
Steele Program Manager
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Contact the Drug's Don't Work Coordinator for more information on establishing certified drug-free workplace programs at 404-378-8000 ext. 223.



emerge into the Chamber

The mission of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce is to support, promote, and sustain business development in DeKalb County through public policy, business advocacy, educational involvement, and community awareness.

Visit the
Chamber's
website
for
additional
Calendar
of event
listings.

Calendar of Events... cont'd from cover

NOVEMBER 2010

November 1st – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm - First Monday Lunch presented by Georgia Power. Keynote Dr. W. Cliff Oxford, Entrepreneur Advisors. Topic: "Entrepreneur Rising – Rebuilding Capitalism"

November 3rd - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Network DeKalb Leads Group. Sponsored by the CDC Federal Credit Union

November 9th – 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm – New Members Lunch Reception – Sponsored by GA State University / Brookhaven Center and Jason's Deli

November 11th – 8:30 am – 10:00 am – Business Builder Series Sponsored by Resurgen's Bank

November 17th - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Network DeKalb Leads Group. Sponsored by the CDC Federal Credit Union

November 18th – 5:30 pm – 7:00 – Business After-Hours. Sponsored by Hilton Garden Inn @ Stonecrest

November 25th – 26th – Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed

DECEMBER 2010

December 1st - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Network DeKalb Leads Group. Sponsored by the CDC Federal Credit Union

December 9th – 8:30 am – 10:00 am – Business Builder Series Sponsored by Resurgen's Bank

December 15th - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Network DeKalb Leads Group. Sponsored by the CDC Federal Credit Union

December 24th – 27th – Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

December 31st – New Year's Day Holiday – Office Closed.