

HAWKINSVILLE/PULASKI COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHAMBER FOCUS



E-Letter

February/March 2011



Hawkinsville/Pulaski
County

Chamber of
Commerce

P.O. Box 300

46 N. Lumpkin Street

Hawkinsville, GA 31036

478-783-1717 Office

478-783-1700 Fax

www.hawkinsvillechamber.org

Chairman of the Board

Brent Lowe

Chamber Staff

Lee Slade

President /CEO

Kimberly Brown

Executive Director

Therisa Patton

Event Coordinator

**2011 Hawkinsville Harness Festival
And Barbecue Cook-Off**

April 15 –16, 2011

Lawrence L. Bennett Harness Track,
290 Abbeville Highway, Hawkinsville

Featuring:

Friday Night 6-11:30 PM

- Fireworks • Live Music by the Kinchafoonee Cowboys
- GBA Sanctioned Cook-Off

Friday Admission \$10

Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

- 5K Road Race • Harness Racing • Parade • Live Music & Entertainment • GBA Sanctioned Cook-Off Judging • Inflatables
- Bungee Jump • Face Painting
- Food • Vendors • Arts & Crafts

Saturday Admission \$5

**Don't miss Historic Downtown Hawkinsville Shopping and Restaurants and
Mustang Sally at the Opera House 7:30 PM!**

For more info visit www.harnessfestival.com or call 478-783-1717



ATLANTA, March 21, 2011— Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), designated 73 Georgia counties Camera Ready at the Georgia State Capitol today. The state's Camera Ready Community Program was launched as part of the state's ongoing efforts to bolster Georgia's growing film and television industry.

"We have experienced a significant increase in jobs, investment, infrastructure and film induced tourism, making Georgia's entertainment industries among the state's fastest growing sectors," said GDEcD commissioner Chris Cumiskey. "The statewide response has been tremendous from Georgia counties that want to become Camera Ready in order to help bring jobs and investments to their local communities."

Camera Ready is a designation put in place by the state to offer film and television production companies easier, faster and better access to local resources and information. A Camera Ready Community must designate a liaison who can assist film and television production companies on a local level. The first 16 Georgia counties were designated Camera Ready at EUE/Screen Gems Studio in Atlanta on October 7, 2010.

The 73 Georgia counties that received the 'Camera Ready Community' designation were Appling, Baldwin, Banks, Barrow, Berrien, Bulloch, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Chattahoochee, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coffee, Columbia, Crisp, Dawson, Decatur, Dooly, Douglas Elbert, Fannin, Fayette, Franklin, Glynn, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hancock, Haralson, Harris, Hart, Henry, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Laurens, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Macon, Marion, McDuffie, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Montgomery, Muscogee, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Pulaski, Rabun, Richmond, Rockdale, Schley, Screven, Stephens, Sumter, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Terrell, Toombs, Towns, Upson, Walton, Warren, Washington, Webster, White and Whitfield.

The 2008 Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act helped the state's entertainment industry achieve record numbers. The economic impact of production activity increased 440 percent between fiscal years 2007 and 2010, surging to \$1.4 billion. Georgia is now among the top five states in the nation for film and TV production with more than 335 productions shot in Georgia in FY2010 bringing in more than \$759.3 million in investment to Georgia.

The Georgia Production Partnership (GPP), a not-for-profit coalition of companies and individuals active in the state's film, video, music, and interactive game industries, founded the original Camera Ready program formerly known as Fast Forward. Established in 1998, this professional group has been instrumental in the grass roots organization of the production community and the development of key legislative incentives.

Hire Work Ready

To help Georgia small businesses defray the cost of on-the-job training, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce launched an outreach program called Hire Work Ready. Utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) support, the program is designed to provide funding to small businesses – those employing 50 or fewer – that hire Work Ready Certified people to assist with costs associated with hiring and training new workers.



Small businesses can apply for Hire Work Ready funding without ever leaving their place of business. The two-step process includes an on-line application on the Georgia Work Ready Web site (www.gaworkready.org) and a 30-minute informational conference call. Approved business owners will be provided with information on using Georgia Work Ready in their hiring process and be given access to an exclusive database of Work Ready Certified job seekers. Small businesses will be eligible for \$250 per certified Work Ready individual hired up to \$1,250. GOWD estimates Hire

Work Ready will encourage the hiring of 1,000 Work Ready Certified workers by as many as 400 firms.

Benefits of Hire Work Ready include:

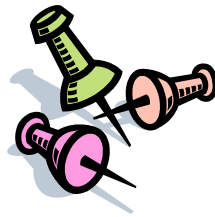
Supporting Georgia's small businesses by defraying hiring and training costs

Creating demand among job seekers for earning a Work Ready Certificate

Showcasing the benefits of hiring Work Ready Certified employees

New Chamber Members

* **Curtis Coody Plumbing, Inc.**



CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

- First Baptist Church
- GA Department of Labor
- Jodi's
- Lawrence L. Bennett Harness Training Facility
- Way Brothers
- David Venable & Associates
- Middle GA Consortium
- Ocmulgee EMC
- Bemby Vet Clinic
- R & W Farms
- Hollingsworth and Vose
- United Hospice
- Patricia D. Coussens, MD
- Middle Georgia Technical College
- CENGA Company, Inc.
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Surrey Plaza Associates, LLC
- Westfield Schools
- U.S. Renal Care
- Budget Inn

**We Appreciate
Your
Membership!**

2011 Youth Leadership Pulaski County

The 2011 Youth Leadership Class began on February 28th with a team building exercise conducted by Robert Herman with Middle Georgia EMC. This new leadership class consists of nine students from Pulaski County High School and one student from Westfield.

On March 7th the students attended a Hawkinsville City Commission meeting and on March 15th they enjoyed a tour of the Go Fish Education Center in Perry. They also have seven additional events plus two volunteer projects left before they graduate on May 19th.



“Friends of the Park” Celebration Lunch

Thursday May 19, 2011 at 12:00pm

Mile Branch Landing on South Jackson Street

Minimum \$5.00 donation. All proceeds will go toward further park improvements.

Menu will include Black Angus Burgers, all Beef hot dogs, Chicken Tenders and a variety of sides.

RSVP

Karen Bailey at 478-783-9294

Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Opera House 2011 Events

April 16, 2011

Mustang Sally

7:30 PM



Please call 478-783-1884 for ticket information.