

Monticello-Jasper County Chamber of Commerce
Monticello-Government Complex – City Council Room
PRESIDENT'S UPDATE - June 11, 2017

Meetings:

Pam – County Commission Meeting, Development Authority Meeting, Meeting with DCA in Atlanta

Facebook LIKES:

1,486 Chamber of Commerce

262 Explore Jasper County

803 Market on the Square

2,181 Deer Festival

3,438 Georgia Monticello – friends

*posted about Larry's 4-Way. They were in April issue of Bon Appetit magazine. On Monday, June 5th, it had reached 11,080. 1,100 clicks, and 495 comments and shares.

**posted about Silver Rabbit and a shop small article on a pop-up clothing sale and it reached 1,700 with 614 clicks and 46 comments/shares.

Constant Contact: Average open rate 43% (we have 1,112 contacts overall – made into several lists)

Website: This month we had 4,562 visitors

Top search: Deer Festival, Membership Directory

Top pages: Home Page, Deer Festival, Chamber News, Jasper County History

Membership - 159 entries \$17,165.00 (to date). We continue to receive membership dues.

Our Cornerstone Membership is growing...

Abbey Hospice, Bank of Monticello, Central Georgia EMC, Evercore Insurance, Georgia Pacific, Harrison Family Farm, Heartland Clinic of Chiropractic, Lewis & Malone Heating and Air, Inc., Monticello First United Methodist Church, Norton Packaging, Paul and State Representative Susan Holmes, Reese Hall Gardens and Kitchen, Stitches of Monticello, The Monticello News, Tricia Armistead, CPA, PC, Venture Medical Associates, LLC

Downtown Development – the City of Monticello has asked the Chamber of Commerce to manage the Downtown Development Authority. It would be a part of the yearly Memorandum of Understanding the Chamber of Commerce enters with the city. The President, (Pam) would manage a seven member board – appointed by the City of Monticello. (The DDA Board is a working board – the Chamber is a governing Board) This would average 24 hours a week of work and the Chamber would average 24 hours a week.

The annual funds requested were \$38,400.00

\$26,000.00 Salary, \$2,000.00 tax match, \$2,000.00 DDA training, \$2,400.00 downtown events, \$2,000.00 downtown beautification, \$1,500.00 downtown marketing, meetings, promotion, \$1,500.00 annual audit, \$1,000.00. (\$38,400.00)

Bylaws

The bylaws have been updated and in your packet

Memorandum of Understanding(s)

The memorandum of understandings have been updated and in your packet. Still waiting to present it to the City and County. Need to be signed in June – effective July. The City’s memorandum will be presented Tuesday June 13. The County’s will be presented July 10th.

Monticello-Jasper County/DCA Pilot City

On Monday, May 22, 2017 a team from Jasper County visited the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a kick-off meeting with Commissioner Camila Knowles, her staff and the DCA resource team.

The next step will take place in June. DCA will be sending a resource team to Monticello-Jasper County – July 19th and 20th. More information to come...

The Jasper County team attending the meeting: City Clerk Lathaydra Sands, Mayor ProTem Stone Workman, Mayor Bryan Standifer, DCA Commissioner Camila Knowles, County Commission Chair Carl Pennamon, Chamber of Commerce President Pam Mayer, County Commissioner Don Jernigan, City Manager Doug White, Development Authority of Jasper County Director David Dyer, County Manager Mike Benton, and County Commissioner Craig Salmon

Camera Ready

Diary of a Wimpy Kid - The Long Haul will be in cinemas July 6th. Watch closely... a few scenes were filmed in Jasper County on Marben Farm Road.

Tremendous Entertainment - was filming this past week around the Monticello Square.

They filmed drone footage of the Square as well as photographs around town for the show Haunted Towns on the Destination America Network.

Trial By Fire – A movie scout and director of the production will be in town on Thursday, the 8th in the 2:30-3:30 hour and will be taking photos in the courthouse to determine if they would like to use the courthouse for their movie.

Event Ordinance

Pam and Tony met with Shane Sealy about the event ordinance for Jasper County on Wednesday, June 7th. A “Special Event Ordinance” rough draft is being compiled from several counties. There will also be an application. The fee application is \$50.00. Public events up to 100 will be approved by Planning and Zoning and events over 100 will need approval by Commissioners. The fee for an event facility business to register is \$300.00 – they will be able to have events under this umbrella. Tony, Skip, Tom, Mike B., Pam, and Shane have been in contact through group email.

Leadership Class

This month’s class will study Jasper County Industry. We will spend the day with Development Authority Director David Dyer. We will have a driving tour of the industry of the county. Arrangements are being made to tour Shire Industries. The group will eat at Robby and Cindy’s Café. The day will conclude with a lesson from facilitator Bob Troutead.

Market on the Square

To date, we have 46 vendors signed up. (we have 8 direct sale vendors that set up the 1st weekend of each month). They have really focused on being a "market" this year. Each vendor has been asked to have a market type item at their booth – plants, canned goods, honey, vegetables, fruits, breads, etc). If a vendor doesn't have any items, we get them to ask another vendor to put items on their table.

Lunch & Learn May 25th – Hamilton State Bank will be presenting SCAM AWARENESS

This was postponed/cancelled due to lack of response. We had zero sign-up for the lunch/learn.

First Friday Breakfast – June 2, 2017

This month's breakfast was a huge success. We had 46 in attendance. The featured industry was Shire. Gabe Khouli spoke to the group. We also featured Wholistic Farms Outreach....Shane Whitmire and his board prepared a fresh breakfast filled with items from the farm.

Poker Run June 17th

We will be sponsoring a dock for the Jackson Lake Association's Poker Run on June 17th. We will need several board members to sign up to be at the dock for the day to hand out "goody bags". We will be asking Chamber membership to put items in the bag. We will also need Board members to sign up to be at the booth during the day to hand out packets.

Training

2017 Executive Leadership Conference – August 1-4. The cost of the conference is \$250.00. I will be staying in my camper instead of the Jekyll Island Hotel which will save the Chamber \$150.00 a night. Other expenses will be camping fee and mileage.

2017 Georgia Downtown Association Conference – August 22-25. DDA Training 101 is a class offered. I have to retake the class as so many years have gone by since I took Training 101 and 102.