



Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber *Clarion*



May 2010– July 2010 Issue

DUBLIN, GEORGIA, TO BE NEW HOME TO GERMAN-ROOTED SOLAR COMPANY

Ravensburg (Germany), May 17, 2010 – MAGE SOLAR GMBH, part of the globally operating MAGE GROUP, and the Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, today announced the setup of the solar company’s North American headquarters and production facility for photovoltaic modules in the state of Georgia. In the city of Dublin in Laurens County MAGE SOLAR will invest \$30 million to create 350 jobs within the next 5 years.



The new North American corporate campus of MAGE SOLAR will be home to the company’s headquarters, a large manufacturing facility as well as a solar academy. All administrative and operational processes necessary to serve the growing U.S. solar market will be managed by the new headquarters. The manufacturing facility for MAGE SOLAR’s crystalline photovoltaic modules will satisfy the market demand respectively. In the first phase, the production capacity will be 40MW with a total capacity of 800MW after the last stage of expansion. Due to the great potential of the American continent and the steadily increasing demand, the production of MAGE POWERTEC PLUS modules is scheduled to begin around the end of this year. MAGE SOLAR also plans to build an academy for solar education to promote solid solar knowledge and training in the industry.

“We are certain that we have found the perfect home for our company based on the excellent infrastructure, impressive workforce known for its productivity, integrity and skill, as well as a keenly business oriented leadership, who during the whole process also never lost focus of what is best for the future of Georgia, Laurens County and the City of Dublin,” said Norbert Philipp, CEO of MAGE SOLAR GMBH.



Pictured above left to right: State Representative DuBose Porter, Development Authority member James Malone, Development Authority member Roger Folsom, State Senator Ross Tolleson, and Sylvia Minton, Sr. Vice President, Corporate, Institutional, and Government Relations–Americas, MAGE SOLAR.

“We are pleased to welcome MAGE SOLAR to Georgia as we celebrate another headquarters coming to our state. MAGE gives us the opportunity to expand our leadership position and industry competitiveness in the renewable energy sector,” said Governor Perdue. “The growth of renewable energy is important to our state and nation, so I believe MAGE SOLAR will be successful for years to come in Dublin.”

Chairman of the Dublin/Laurens Development Authority, Guy Cochran, praised the decision of MAGE SOLAR to locate in Dublin, Georgia. “We are confident that MAGE SOLAR will be extremely pleased with their decision to locate in our wonderful community. Our excellent workforce and community leadership eagerly anticipate the opportunity to assist MAGE SOLAR in achieving all their corporate goals. We are committed to the immediate success of MAGE SOLAR and pledge any and all support necessary to expedite that success”.

The expansion of MAGE SOLAR’s manufacturing capacities into the North American market is a crucial step to further strengthen the company’s international position in the industry. The new North American corporate campus is designed to swiftly become a highly innovative enter for photovoltaics that will exert its influence worldwide.

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED

35th Annual Industry & Business Appreciation Day



The 35th Annual Industry and Business Appreciation Day took place on May 27th. Over 300 participated in the events including a golf tournament, bowling competition, social, and dinner. Industry golf champions were YKK AP America. Pictured above left are YKK AP America team members Akira Miyazaki, Yuichi Toyoshima, and Chip Wilson. The bowling winner was Bobbie Ranis of Curry Companies (not pictured). The \$500 jackpot winner was George Durden of Century 21-Durden & Kornegay (pictured above with his wife, Jackie).



Industry and Business Appreciation Day 2010





Ribbon Cuttings May 1, 2010-July 31, 2010



Dr. Soos Pediatrics, PC
102 Bowling Lane
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478) 272-0203
Office Manager: Robyn Soos
Category: Pediatrician; Physicians



Curves
907-F Hillcrest Parkway
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478) 272-4741
Owner: Sharon Giambrone
Category: Fitness Center



Chick-fil-a of Dublin
"First Bite" ribbon cutting
2002 Veterans Blvd.
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478) 272-3007
Owner: David Roberts
Category: Restaurant



Dublin High School
1127 Hillcrest Parkway
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478) 272-4727
Superintendent: Chuck Ledbetter
Category: Education



Special Recognition

Small Business of the 3rd Quarter Sports Emporium

Pictured left: Frank Youngblood of Sports Emporium is presented a plaque from Chairman Jay Studstill and the Chamber Board of Directors.

Special Recognitions

**Student of the 3rd Quarter
Aimee Johnson
Trinity Christian School**



**Student of the 4th Quarter
Kristin Dixon
Dublin High School**



**East Laurens High School
Weightlifting Team
GHSA AA State Champions**



Welcome Home



The Alpha Co. 148th BSB was welcomed home on July 10th with a parade and family event at the Market on Madison. The soldiers and their families enjoyed lunch and games. State Senator Ross Tolleson, State Representative DuBose Porter, and local representatives were on hand to welcome the soldiers. Pictured above Senator Tolleson and Chamber Chairman Jay Studstill hand out hamburgers and hot dogs. The event was sponsored by the City of Dublin, the Laurens County Board of Commissioners' office, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Development Authority. We send a big thank you to all who helped with this event.

Photos by Joey Wilson

Chamber Networking Events



The May Business after Hours was held at Moore Station Village. Sponsors were Bank of Dudley, Curry Companies, Don's Rentals, Flexsteel Industries, and YKK AP America. Over 272 guests enjoyed pulled pork, Brunswick stew, potato salad, and much more. Door prizes included barbeque sauce, gift bags, gift certificates, and a recliner. Pictured left is Clift Crews of Bank of Dudley, Louie Curry of Curry Companies, Yuichi Toyoshima of YKK AP America, Chamber Chairman Jay Studstill, Marcia Dixon of Flexsteel Industries, and Don Thompson of Don's Rentals.

The June Business and Breakfast was held at Middle Georgia Business Products. Sponsors were Chick-fil-A of Dublin, Citizens Bank of Laurens County, Classic Florist and Home Décor, Medical Center LLP, and Middle Georgia Business Products. Approximately 108 guests enjoyed chicken biscuits, fresh fruit, and cinnamon rolls. Door prizes included gift baskets, plants, umbrellas, coolers, and much more. Pictured right is Chamber Chairman Jay Studstill, Dr. Kirk Kolbie of Medical Center, LLP, Blake Daniels of Classic Florist and Home Decor, Jeff Cannon of Citizens Bank of Laurens County, Franz Bruckmair of Middle Georgia Business Products, the \$ 425 jackpot winner Janice Canady of Page House Bed & Breakfast, and Chamber Board member and sponsor David Roberts of Chick-fil-A.



The June Business After Hours was held at the Dublin Elks Lodge. The event was sponsored by Choo Choo Build-it-Mart, Dublin Elks Lodge, Thigpen, Jones and Seaton, Holiday Inn Express, and local State Farm Insurance agents. Over 150 guests enjoyed a low country boil. Door prizes included gift baskets, coolers, t-shirts, and gift cards. Pictured left: Chamber Chairman Jay Studstill; Rhonda Norris of Thigpen, Jones, and Seaton; Tim Howard of Choo Choo Build-it-Mart; the \$350 Jackpot winner Doyle McGowan; John Mark Butler of State Farm, Dale Nifong of State Farm, and Danny Davis of State Farm. Not pictured: Angel Webb-Dick of Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Krista Anderson of State Farm, and Patti Hendley of State Farm.

The July Business after Hours was held at Dublin Cadillac, Nissan, GMC. The event was sponsored by Bass Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation, Dublin Cadillac, Nissan, GMC, Hill Realty, and Orr Insurance. Over 115 guests enjoyed shrimp, croissants, chicken fingers, and fresh fruit. Door prizes included Shop at Home checks, gift bags, t-shirts, and tote bags. Pictured right is Chuck Bass of Bass Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation, Denise Bass of Bass Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation, Lock Wilford of Dublin Cadillac, Nissan, GMC, Elaine Wilford of Dublin Cadillac, Nissan, GMC, Chamber Chairman Jay Studstill, Chamber Board member and sponsor David Gay of Hill Realty, and Chamber Board member and sponsor Erwin Orr of Orr Insurance.



Healthcare Presentation

Moore Hallmark of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce visited in June and gave a presentation regarding the recent healthcare legislation. Pictured left is Willie Paulk, President, Governmental Affairs Committee Chair and Board member Ted Short, Moore Hallmark, Emily Kight, Vice Chair of Community Development & Tourism, and Chamber Chairman Jay Studstill



Renewal Members

5-1-10 to 7-20-10

ABC Women's Clinic
Ambassador
American Sales and Lease Purchase
Mary Ballard
Benton House of Dublin
Betty's Cooking
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Laurens Co.
Brookdale Senior Living
Central Georgia Lock & Safe, LLC
Richard K. Clardy, DMD, LLC
Edwards B. Claxton III, LLC
Confederate Packaging
Jackie H. Dalton
Dublin Air Service, Inc.
Dublin Chrysler
Dublin Tire Co.
Dublin Vision Care, Inc.
Econo Lodge
Edward Jones
Elite MRI of Laurens
Energy Rater Corp.
Enterprise Rent-a-Car
Everett Bros. Plumbing Co.

Fred's Inc.; Southeast Distribution Center
Fred Glenn
Golden Corral
Green Acres Golf Club
Amy Harrelson
Heart of GA Tech College Foundation
Hospice of Laurens County, Inc.
Penny Manning Mackey, Attorney at Law
Ralph Jackson, PC
Moore Station Development
The Peppercorn Restaurant
Pine Forest United Methodist Church
Premier Development
Salvation Army
Shoney's
Shred-Cycle, Inc.
Lindsay M. Swida
Jerry H. Vincent
WEDB-98.1-FM
West Laurens High School
Laurie Wicker
Williamson's Bakery

New Members *5-1-10 to 7-20-10*

Fairway Outdoor Advertising
Mr. Charles Pritchard
245 Dr. Pittman Rd.
Uvalda, Georgia 30473
(912) 293-3355

Gillis Photo Gallery
Mr. Gil Gillis
213 South Monroe Street
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478) 274-9988

Mariette's Back to Basics, LLC
Mrs. Mariette VandenMunckhof-Vedder
205 Winfield Rd.
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478) 272-4397

State Farm Insurance– Krista G. Anderson
2376 West Highway 80 Suite 6
Dublin, Georgia 31021
(478)272-6605

Overview

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 a new 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.

Operations

Small businesses can apply for Hire Work Ready funding without every 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



Receive \$250
per new Work
Ready Certified
employee.
Find out how at
[Hire Work Ready.](http://www.gaworkready.org)

Keystone Members

Twenty-one members of the Chamber contribute a \$1000 membership investment annually in addition to their membership dues. These funds are designated for professional development, such as training and salary enhancement for the Chamber and Development Authority professionals. If you would like further information on this program, please contact Ms. Willie Paulk at (478) 272-5546.

**Altamaha EMC
Bank of Dudley
Capital City Bank
Curry Companies
Custom Shower & Pro Glass
Dublin Cadillac Nissan
Dublin Rotary Club**

**Farmers HOME Furniture
Flexsteel Industries
GA Power Company
Little House Self Storage Warehouse
Little Ocmulgee EMC
Mohawk
Morris Bank**

**Nelson & Dixon, LLC
Nichols, Cauley, & Associates, LLC
Oconee EMC
Pitts Toyota/Scion
Sumner & Avery, LLC
The Kight Law Firm
YKK AP America, Inc.**



Dear Ms. Willie, Mr. Jay, and the members of the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce,

Thank you so much for the Shop at Home Gift Checks and for the special reception for the honor graduates of the local high schools. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Love,
Ajaye

Dear Willie:

Thank you for your service this year as a mentor for the Georgia Education Mentorship Program. Georgia College students who are part of the GEM program are fortunate to have leaders like you who are willing to share experiences and insights with them. Exposure to the professional world provides students with learning opportunities not available in the classroom as they observe leadership in action. I appreciate your dedication to the GEM program and your continued commitment to furthering public liberal arts education.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Leland
President, Georgia College & State University



Early Clover, local native and former member of the musical group "The Coasters", recently stopped by the Chamber. He was in town performing a concert at Theatre Dublin. Pictured left is Early with Ms. Willie Paulk, President.

Letters



Dear Friends,

Hallelujah for Dublin—Dublin Transmission and Dublin Enterprise Rent a Car. Recently, on a trip from Slaton, Texas to Savannah, Georgia, we had the bad luck to have our transmission blow and the good luck to land in Dublin.

Following several recommendations and directions, we got to Dublin Transmission where our car was rescued and repaired—and ready in one day's time.

The transmission folks arranged for a rental car at Enterprise and delivered us to their location. Whereupon, we received excellent service and helpful advice about our trip to Savannah.

What was a disagreeable situation was made very "un-disastrous" by the good folks and businesses in Dublin.

Thanks to all of them.

Sincerely,
Lisa Nowlin
Robin Carter
Slaton, Texas

Member to Member



J.C. Penney of the Dublin Mall was honored with JC Penney Co.'s Chairman's Award, presented annually to top performing stores, districts, or teams. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Premier Construction associates Phil Best Jr. and Chris Davis on recently being honored with the Associated General Contractors' 2010 Build Georgia Award for the Construction Management Firm at Risk category \$5 million to \$20 million.

Middle Georgia Mechanical has been named one of Ruud Reliable Top 10 contractors in the country for 2009. Congratulations!

Calendar of Events

August

- 17 Georgia Chamber of Commerce Congressional Luncheon, Perry, Georgia
17 Business After Hours , LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 5:30 p.m.
19 Development Authority Meeting, McGrath Keen Sr. Conference Center, 8:00 a.m.
24 Chamber Board Meeting, McGrath Keen Sr. Conference Center, Noon
26 9th Annual Membership Luncheon, McGrath Keen Sr. Conference Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

September

- 3 Business and Breakfast, Bank of Dudley (East Dublin branch), 7:30 a.m.
6 Labor Day (offices closed)
8 Development Authority Meeting, McGrath Keen Sr. Conference Center, 8:00 a.m.
21 Chamber Board Meeting, McGrath Keen Sr. Conference Center, Noon
21 Business After Hours , TBA, 5:30 p.m.

Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce

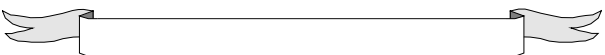
1200 Bellevue Avenue
P.O. Box 818
Dublin, GA 31040
(478) 272-5546 Fax: (478) 275-0811
Email: chamber@dublin-georgia.com
Visit our website at www.dublin-georgia.com

STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 161
DUBLIN, GA 31040



**BUY SHOP AT HOME GIFT
CERTIFICATES FOR ANY
OCCASION!**

**CALL 478-272-5546 FOR MORE
INFORMATION!**



Proudly serving Cadwell, Dexter, Dublin, Dudley, East Dublin, Montrose, and Rentz