

Chamber's Friday News!

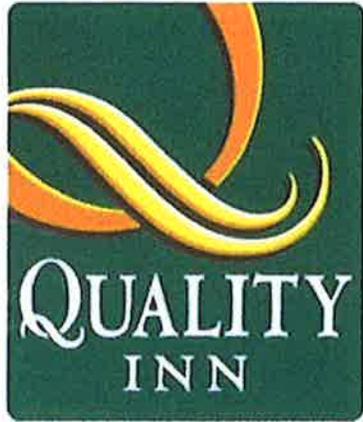
March 21, 2014

 Congratulations!



Several representatives from Fitzgerald High School and the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Chamber of Commerce attended the Star Student & Star Teacher Banquet which was held in Valdosta on Thursday, March 12th .

Both John Foster, the STAR student, and Debby Reynolds, the STAR teacher, spoke as did the other STAR students and teachers from our region. They both represented Fitzgerald very well! We are proud of them!



QUALITY INN of Fitzgerald

263 Ocilla Hwy
423-5151

Located behind the Huddle House

**INVITES YOU TO COME FILL OUT AN ENTRY FORM
FOR OUR - ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

“Birthday Bash” Grand Prize Drawing

to be held Thursday, April 3rd, 6pm

(limit one entry per person per day, entry forms located at the hotel)

*Book Repair and Custom Handmade
Journals, Photo Albums, Wedding Sets, Etc.*

DAVID'S

Book Repair & more

DAVID REYNOLDS
229.423.3090
229.457.2252

288 Benjamin Hill Drive, Suite 1
Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750
Mon. - Fri. 9-6 and Sat. 9-4

NEW!

Chamber Member's Packet....

Shopping "Local" and "Patronizing" other chamber members... When we have a new member join the Chamber, they are given a welcome package. Which includes their membership plaque and welcome letter.

The Chamber is wanting to promote our members better by allowing current members to include something from their business in the package as well.

We are not asking for a huge or expensive item just an ink pen, notepad or even a letter that welcomes the new member to the Chamber.

This is a way to let the new member know about our current members and to promote our members.

If you would like to donate items we will need at least 15 of the item. Please let us know by calling us at 229-423-9357 or emailing derindalewis@mchsi.com.

Remember the Chamber is working for you and we want to make sure that we promote you in every way possible.



Showcase your business or advertise
your event in the Chamber's storefront
window...give us a call and let us tell
you how!!

join us on

facebook

www.facebook.com/fitzgeraldbenhillchamber.commerce

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE NEW CRAFTING CLASS AT THE CARNEGIE CENTER! We are excited to announce our newest Fitz Arts in Education crafting class! Crafting @ the Carnegie Center with Greener Grass on March 24th 6:30pm. This class is taught by Melissa Hunter Dark. The first project is a cute Easter bunting \$25 covers all supplies. 229-426-5035 or fitzgeraldbenhillartscouncil@gmail.com



CHANGES
ARE *Coming*

In the next few weeks you will see some changes to our webpage, we are hoping to make it easier to navigate...

Rancho Grande

February & March Specials

Lunch Menu #1 -14

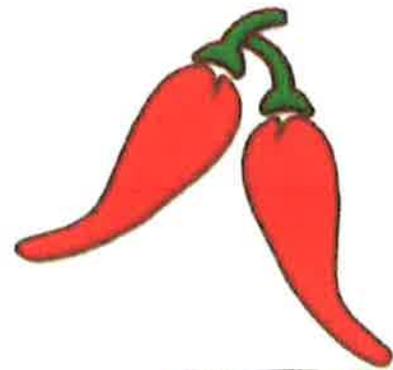
\$\$\$ 2.99 + tax

Margaritas

Monday—

Thursday

Buy 1 Get 1 Free



Domestic Beer .99

Imported Beer \$1.50



708 S. Grant Street
Fitzgerald, GA 31750
423-2323



2014 Ben Hill – Irwin Boy Scout Invitational

Here is the opportunity to enjoy a golf outing at Turkey Creek Dining and Golf and support the youth of our area. This golf tournament will help provide needed funds to help deliver a quality program to scouts across all of Ben Hill County and Irwin County of the South Georgia Council. Thank you in advance for your support!!

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2014 9:00 am shotgun start.
3 Man Scramble - \$120 per team, includes event appreciation item, lunch, and cart (for first 20).
Mulligan Package - \$30, includes: – 2 mulligans, 1 "throw mulligan", and 1 "closest to the pin" , 1 package per player

Prizes: Cash - 1st place team - \$400, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$150
20 carts available, teams welcome to bring own carts.

"Double Diamond" Sponsors are a \$1,000 level which includes a name banner with logo*, and a team.

"Diamond" Sponsors are a \$500 level and includes a "yard sign" with logo* and a team.

Hole Sponsors are \$100 each and includes a sign with name, no logo.

**** Logos – camera ready, must be furnished by March 14, 2014**

For additional information contact Roland McCarthy, South Georgia Council, 1841 Norman Drive, Valdosta, GA, 31601, 229.343.1615.

**Easter
Egg Hunt**

April 15, 2014

4:00—6:00 p.m.

Downtown Fitzgerald



Great Day of Service

May 17, 2014

If the Chamber didn't, who would...

- Maintain an office with professional staff devoted to the civic, commercial, and industrial concerns of our area?
- Answer the hundreds of questions about our community made in person, by mail, and by telephone?
- Speak up for business with government leaders regarding proposed and existing laws and regulations with impact on business?
- Coordinate the talents of local business people in tackling basic issues such as planning, housing, taxes, and industrial growth?
- Stand ready to pursue and matter that can make our area a better place to live and make a living?

How do I market my small business

A question I hear a lot is: how do I market my business when I have a very small marketing/advertising budget? There are many ways to do this and here are some tips that I would recommend:

1. Write a press release :: Send out a press release detailing your business proposition and what makes it unique. Do this often!
2. Use Twitter :: You need to make people aware of you and your products or services. Twitter's also a fantastic way to spread discounts and offers: tweet out every time you're offering a bargain.
3. Use Facebook :: Upload photos of your products and update your status to let customers know what you're up to. It's another way of letting people know you exist and makes you look professional.
4. Start a blog :: You should style yourself as an expert on your particular field or industry. It's the perfect way to enforce brand messages and engage with customers. If people read and like your posts, they'll respect your brand even more.
5. Create a Website :: The first thing a customer will do when trying to find out about your business is Google it. An attractive website can make your business look ultra professional and should be the home of your online presence.
6. Email marketing :: Get customers to fill in a form with their email address on it whenever they buy from you and have a 'Sign up for more information' field on your 'Contact us' page. This will help you build a list of email addresses to contact whenever you have a new product or offer.
7. Make a memorable business card :: Business cards are cheap to make and a great way of ensuring people remember your business. When you meet potential customers at an event, give them your business card. If it's fun and memorable they may show it to friends. Effectively they're marketing your business for you.
8. Offer a discount card :: It's a great way to reward customers for their loyalty and persuade them to keep using your business.
9. Have happy customers write you a review and put it on your website :: Encourage customers to write a short email or letter about the positive experience they had when using your business. Put these testimonials on your website and maybe frame some exceptional ones in your shop/office. People will be more willing to use you if they see that other customers have had a positive experience.



WIREGRASS
GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

QUESTIONS
80918
ServSafe

Coffee Campus

April 7

9am-6pm

\$180.00

**For more information or
to register contact:**

Gail Giddens

229-468-2074

Registration Deadline: March 19

WGTC is a Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia/An Equal Opportunity Institution



Donate to Cancer research and win an iPad!!!

Raffle ticket prices are \$2.00 or 3/\$5.00

Winner will be announced on April 11th at the Relay

You don't have to be present to win

***Because of donations like yours, Breast Cancer
survival rate is up to 98% when detected early. Let's
make that 100%.***

**Tickets available at
Colony Dental Care
423-4500**

RAFFLE



Boat Give-Away

Sun Dolphin Sportsman Boat

Tickets 1 for \$5/5 for \$20

Drawing April 11th

Proceeds to Benefit ACS Relay for Life

Do Not Have to be Present to Win

Sponsored by:



Health & Safety



Advanced PLC



Leadership



Mechanical

NEED TRAINING?

The Economic Development Department at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College can serve all your business and industry training needs through one of the following affordable options:

Customized On-Site Training
Peer Group Classes at One of Our Campus Locations
Individual On-line Courses

We have a full list of training courses available in the following categories:

Advanced PLC/Industry
Mechanical
Leadership & Supervisory
Health & Safety

Contact Bill Tillman at (229)219-1379
or email bill.tillman@wiregrass.edu



WGTC is a Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia/An Equal Opportunity Institution



Great Day of Service

May 17, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We need your HELP/VOLUNTEERS!

"Be a **volunteer** to help our neighbors in our community who may need minor repairs to exterior of their homes such as, painting, pressure washing, or yard work. We will focus on those homeowners in difficult circumstances, who are elderly, disabled, single-parent household, or may have an illness that keeps them from being able to do the work themselves."

What Should I Bring?

*Your own work gloves or gardening gloves.
If you have other small gardening tools, bringing those will be also be useful.*

Where do I sign up?

Online: www.fitzgeraldchamber.org
Chamber of Commerce office: 121 E. Pine Street
Facebook: www.facebook.com/fitzgeraldbenhillchamber.commerce
Give us a call at 229-423-9357

~~Breakfast & Lunch will be served~~

POWER IS THE
ABILITY TO DO
GOOD THINGS
FOR OTHERS.

eco Ballroom & Boutique
Let us plan your party and dress you!

ecoboutique@ymail.com
105 east roanoke drive
Fitzgerald Georgia
229.423.0004
Follow us on Facebook



ECO Ballroom has happy hour every Friday 5-7 with specials!



ECO Boutique has daily spring arrivals and all winter items are marked down!



GOLD & SILVER BUYERS OF FITZGERALD

*Just In Time
For Valentine's
Day*

201 E. Pine St.
Fitzgerald
423-8427

*Great
Valentine's Day
Gifts*

Announcing the Addition of:

DOVE JEWELERS

**Carrying a Full Line of
New Sterling Silver Jewellery**

Also introducing the debut of:

- Beautiful Stainless Steel Jewelry
- Fine Rhodium & Zinc Jewelry

At Prices Anyone Can Afford!

(Open: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday & 10:00-2:00PM Saturday)

— Plus —

***We can order Guitar, Drum & Wind
Instrument Accessories.***

(Order by 2:00PM for next day delivery)

Still Paying the Best Prices for Your Gold & Silver!

COLONY CITY COLOR CHASE 2014

5 K & 1 MILE FUN RUN

WHEN

Saturday, May 10, 2014
8:00 am

WHERE

**Start/Finish Line at
Jaycee Stadium**

Fitzgerald High School 601 W. Cypress Street Fitzgerald, GA

**Wear a white shirt!! • A different color powder thrown at each
Kilometer on the 5K race route • Powder will be thrown along
the 1 mile route to cover the kids!! •**



www.fitzgeraldrotary.org

ENTRY FEES

**By May 5: \$20 for adults/
\$15 for children 12 and under**

**After May 5: \$25 for adults/
\$20 for children 12 and under**

THERE WILL BE RACE DAY REGISTRATION

AWARDS & PRIZES

**T-shirts & race sunglasses
to all preregistered
participants.**

**5K: Trophies awarded to the
top 3 in each age group.**

**1 Mile: Finisher medals to all
participants 12 and under.
Trophy to 1st place male and
female 12 and under.**

CONTACT ANY ROTARIAN FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER.

**Colony City Chase
PO BOX 557
Fitzgerald, GA 31750
(229) 425-3400**