

Chamber's Friday News!

May 23, 2014

Christi is out visiting...



Lisa Branam & Christi Schirack

Wanda Ussery, CPA office

You may have noticed several Chamber members have received a green plant from the Executive Director Christi Schirack, of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Co. Chamber of Commerce. If you have not received one yet, yours is coming shortly.

Christi has made it one of her goals this year to visit all of the Chamber members in 2014. She is not wanting money or door prizes; she is just wanting to say, "Hi" and see how you are doing as a member.

When we conducted the survey a few months back, one of the concerns from the Chamber members was that they would like to see the Chamber out and about in our community.

The Chamber has an open door policy and welcomes you to visit anytime; or if you have a problem, we would love to help solve it for you.

So be on the look out for Christi, she will be by soon to visit you!

We are indeed proud of every member of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Co. Chamber of Commerce. Every member's investment strengthens the Chamber and contributes to the economic development of the community.



Do you have a special announcement, new product, new staff or company-related award you'd like others to know about?

Email: derindalewis@mchsi.com to put your notice in the next "Friday News."

FITZ-BEN HILL ARTS COUNCIL

ARTWORK BY JOSE ELDER - 3RD GRADE

SUMMER ARTS CAMP

FOR AGES 4-14

June 2-6, 2014

Children ages 7-14
attend from 9:00am-3:00pm
Monday-Friday
Children ages 4-6
attend from 9:00am-11:30pm
Tuesday-Friday

Summer Arts Camp is a collaboration between the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Arts Council, The Grand Theatre and the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Library. This week campers have the opportunity to learn and participate in various forms of art throughout the week. Summer Arts Camp culminates in a stage production performed and run by the children.

Contact Brandy Elrod at (229)426-5035 or Fitzgeraldbenhillartscouncil@gmail.com

Turkey Creek will be open for lunch on Saturday, May 24, after graduation from 11-2.

Turkey Creek will NOT be open for Saturday night dinner, so the staff can be with family and celebrate graduation.

Turkey Creek will reopen on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. for lunch.

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP?

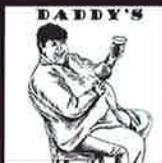
- * Do you update the Chamber with any changes in your email, website or contact change?
- * Do you receive the "Friday News" we send?
- * Do you have your business card showcased in the Chamber's lobby?
- * Are you part of the New Member's Packet or Relocation Packet?
- * Do you attend Ribbon Cuttings?
- * Do you sponsor any of our events throughout the year?
- * Have you considered being an Ambassador to help welcome new members to the Chamber and promote your business?

To what extent are you taking advantage of your membership?

To take advantage of these and many more benefits give us a call at 229-423-9357

www.fitzgeraldchamber.org

Support our Restaurants that are a members...



Come and enjoy GREAT food, friendly people & fun environment at **FAT DADDY'S**. Open **Thursday—Saturday, 5:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.** Located at 116 S. Grant Street downtown Fitzgerald.



Always smiling faces to greet you with some of the best "Southern" cooking around. **Nabila's Garden Restaurant** is open **Monday—Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, 10:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.** Located at 201 S. Main Street.



Need a Mexican restaurant that will satisfy all your Mexican food cravings? **Rancho Grande** is the one. **Opened Monday—Sunday** with buffet style or you can order from the menu. Located at 708 S. Grant Street.



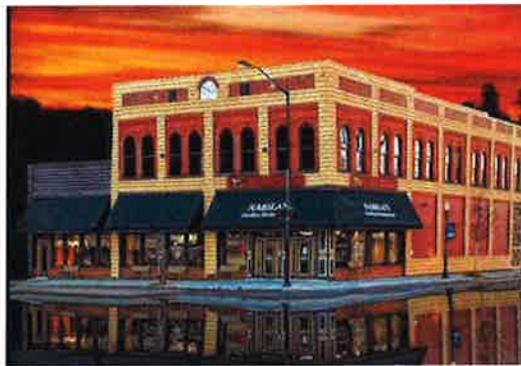
Need an elegant place to dine ? **Turkey Creek Dining & Golf** is the place. Lunch buffet available every **Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.** Located at 330 Old Ocilla Road.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our

Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Co. Chamber of Commerce

May – Business of the Month



201 S. Main Street

Fitzgerald, GA 31750

229-423-0389

Members, residents and visitors are encouraged to patronize Chamber member businesses...

Reviews The best southern food ever! Salad, vegetables, fried chicken and huge selection of homemade desserts!

This is the BEST buffet I have ever eaten at!! We traveled 80 miles on our bikes to come eat yesterday! It was definitely worth it!!

30 Guns in 30 Days



A chance to win all 30 guns.
Fundraiser for the Fitzgerald Wrestling Club.
Sponsored by Jerry's Sports Center.
Drawing held September 1-30, 2014.



Cash 3 GA Lottery Drawing at 7 p.m. determines the winner! Each ticket has a chance to be a multiple winner. Prizes must be claimed within 30 days of winning.
\$50 Per Ticket

Winner must pass background check and meet state/federal requirements.

9/1 Colt AR 15 M4 556/Model 6920

9/2 Glock S&W 40

9/3 Savage Model 11/Nikon Scope 243

9/4 Taurus Judge Stainless 2 1/2

9/5 Beretta Camo A400 Extreme

9/6 Browning A5 Wood

9/7 Ruger Vaquero 46cc Revolver

9/8 Glock 9mm

9/9 Benelli Nova Camo 3 1/2 Pump

9/10 Martin 17 HMR Syn/Hvy Barrel

9/11 Ruger LCP 380

9/12 Benelli Camo M2 12

9/13 Browning X-Bolt Syn/Blu Std Cal

9/14 Savage Model 11/Nikon Scope 308

9/15 Smith & Wesson Shield 40

9/16 Stoeger M 3000 Camo

9/17 Marlin XT-22 Walnut 22 mag

9/18 Smith & Wesson AR16 Sport 556/223

9/19 Browning A5 Camo

9/20 Beretta Outlander 300 Wood

9/21 Savage Model 11/Nikon Scope 30-06

9/22 Ruger Vaquero 357 Revolver

9/23 Smith & Wesson SD 9 mm VE

9/24 Ruger 10/22 Syn

9/25 Browning A-Bolt 3 270/30-06/7 mm

9/26 Benelli Camo M2 12

9/27 Beretta Camo A400 Extreme

9/28 Ruger American 270/30-06/308

9/29 Smith & Wesson SD40VE

9/30 Beretta Outlander 300 Camo

For more information contact: John Jordan 229-425-3006



www.facebook.com/fitzgeraldbenhillchamber.commerce



www.fitzgeraldchamber.org

A HUGE thank you to everyone that participated in the "Great Day of Service" on Saturday, May 17th. The turnout was amazing and it was due to all the hard work by the committee and the team captains and their team members.

The Community Comes Together For The 1st Annual

Great Day of Service

300 volunteers gathered
Saturday to give to others



Ad courtesy of The Herald Leader...

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR
FATHER'S DAY

June 15, 2014

FORESTRY SUPPLY

236 Frank Road • Fitzgerald, GA 31750



KOHLER
engines

 **Husqvarna**



STIHL[®]


HUSTLER

We Service What We Sell

(229) 423-3426 Phone

(229) 423-7778 Fax

Clint Tucker

Needing a great gift for Father's Day...

Forestry Supply offers a wide variety to chose from!





Escort Vehicle Certification

All Escort vehicle operators are required to complete the Georgia Department of Transportation Oversize/Overweight Permit Unit's Escort Vehicle Operator Certification class as part of their certification process. All participants must pass this course with an examination score of at least 80% to obtain the official certification of the state.

Cook County Workforce Development Center

May 17

8am-5pm

\$79

Forklift Operator Safety

This course is designed to teach individuals safe forklift operation procedures. Presentation is through lecture, discussion, written tests, and hands-on training. Students practice driving a sit-down forklift and are required to complete a driving course.

Valdosta Campus
May 13

Ben Hill-Irwin Campus
June 10

8am - 5pm

\$75



ServSafe for Managers

ServSafe certification is now the Law! How safe is your food? How safe is your service? Protect your customers, your business & yourself from potentially hazardous food & bad practices. Get the right training for all the right needs! Take this fast 1-day session and become certified in the program that is recognized by more than 95% of all state and local health jurisdictions while minimizing your time away from work.

Valdosta Campus
May 19

Coffee Campus
June 2

9am -6pm

\$180



10 Hr. OSHA General Industry Safety Class

This 10 hr. course is intended for individuals that need general safety instruction with emphasis on hazard identification, avoidance, control, and prevention within an industry or distribution center site. A certification card is awarded upon completion.

Cook Workforce Development Center
Friday, May 2 & 9

7:00am - 12 noon each day

\$195



HeartSaver First Aid, CPR & AED

This five-hour course will help you develop skills to effectively assess and maintain life from the critical minutes immediately following an emergency until the arrival of emergency medical services personnel. This course covers Adult First Aid, CPR and AED. A two-year certification card is awarded at completion.

Coffee Campus
June 27

Ben Hill-Irwin Campus
May 23

Valdosta Campus
May 24

8am-1pm

\$55



BLS CPR for Health Care Professionals

This four-hour training session includes Adult, Child and Infant CPR and AED. A two-year certification card is awarded at completion.

Valdosta Campus
May 3
June 7

Coffee Campus
May 16

Ben Hill-Irwin Campus
June 20

8am - 12 noon

\$70

For more information or to register contact:

Ben Hill-Irwin or Coffee Campus

Gail Giddens

229-468-2074

gail.giddens@wiregrass.edu

Valdosta Campus

Mattie Roberson

229-333-2122

mattie.roberson@wiregrass.edu

WGTC Continuing Education-4089 Val Tech Road, Valdosta, GA 31602

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



WIREGRASS
GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

2014 Career Expo

Sponsored by Colony Business Association, Irwin County Family Connections,
Fitzgerald Chamber of Commerce, Ocilla Chamber of Commerce, and
GA Dept. of Labor, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Thursday, June 26, 2014

11:00am to 2:00pm

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

**667 Perry House Road
Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750**

Open to the public!

Free Admission!

Dress for success and bring copies of résumés.



For further information please contact Susan Ranson 229-468-2008
or Mona Paulk 229-468-2102 at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College



Arc Flash

Electrical Hazard Awareness 2-hour Training

Instructor: Philip Poole, P.E.

The 2-hour Arc Flash Electrical Hazard Awareness Training course is designed for individuals who routinely work around equipment or in some type of environment where electrical hazards potentially exist. This course provides a general overview for electrical safety to prevent damage to facilities and equipment, prevent injuries and save lives.

This course will look at the following safety topics:

- OSHA Requirements
- NFPA 70E
- IEEE 1584 Standard
- Electrical Hazards
- Qualified & Unqualified Employees
- Biological Effects
- Shock Boundary
- Flash Boundary
- Flash Hazard Analysis
- Understanding the NFPA 70E Tables
- Hazard Risk Categories
- Selection of PPE



LOCATION & DATE:

Cook Campus - Sparks, GA

Friday, May 23rd

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am

Course fee: \$99/person

To register or for additional information, contact
Bill Tillman at 229.219.1379 or bill.tillman@wiregrass.edu

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From the Ben Hill County Information Desk

Notice of Public Hearing

Ben Hill County CDBG Grant # 10p-x-138-2-5267

Ben Hill County received approval of their request to de-obligate remaining funds awarded in the FY 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) competition due to inability to complete the water improvement activities described in the County's application/amendment.

Ben Hill County will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on **May 28, 2014** at **3:30 pm** at 402A E. Pine St., Fitzgerald, Ga. for the purpose of discussing the de-obligation of CDBG funds and receiving citizen comments. All citizens are invited to attend this Hearing.

A copy of the Final Quarterly Report will be available at office of the County Manager, 402A E. Pine St., Fitzgerald, Ga. 31750 for review. Any person desiring to comment on the performance of the project may write to the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners, 402A E. Pine St., Fitzgerald, Ga. 31750.

Ben Hill County is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its service, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Frank Field, County Manager, at (229) 426-5100 prior to May 28, 2014. This person can be located at County Commissioners Office, 402A E. Pine St., Fitzgerald Ga. 31750 between the hours of 9:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Individuals who are hearing impaired can contact the Georgia Relay Services, telephone number (TDD) 1-800-255-0056, (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.

Unemployment Statistics

County: Ben Hill

April 2014

1	Statewide Trust Fund Balance	5/21/14	\$372,923,686
2	Unemployment Rate	April 2014	9.2 %
3	Number of Workers in Labor Force	April 2014	5,920
	Number Employed	April 2014	5,374
	Number Unemployed	April 2014	546
4	Number of Insured Employees	QE 09/30/13	5,406
5	Total Covered Wages	YE 09/30/13	\$156,986,769
6	Average Annual Wages (all industries)	YE 09/30/13	\$28,831
	Average Weekly Wages (all industries)		\$554
7	Initial Claims *	April 2014	56
		Year to Date	396
8	Benefits Paid	April 2014	\$64,544
		Year to Date	\$306,912
		CY 2013	\$877,949
9	First Payments	April 2014	16
		Year to Date	185
		CY 2013	567
10	Average Weekly Benefit Amount	April 2014	\$203
11	Average Duration of Benefits (in weeks)	April 2014	7.4

* Includes intrastate initial and additional claims, as well as agent state initial and additional claims for regular UI only (no FE or X).

Please note that all of the above data are collected by place of residence except # 4-6, which are collected by place of work.

Georgia Department of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research

Contact Person: Deborah Hart (404) 232-3875 X21278

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Yoga *for* Relaxation



Relax and allow your stress to melt away. Breathe deeply and feel your body let go of tension. This 90-minute gentle yoga class is designed to facilitate total relaxation - leaving you feeling restored, rejuvenated, and renewed. You don't need to be able to touch your toes for this class - all levels welcome. Bring your yoga mat if you have one. We have a limited supply of mats and props for your use at no charge. Please arrive early. \$15/class.

First class is FREE! Take 9 classes and the 10th is FREE!

Mondays

9:30am & 6:00pm

The Carnegie Center

116 South Lee Street | Fitzgerald, Ga
www.fitzgeraldbenhillartscouncil.com



Jennifer Glenn
Registered
Yoga Teacher
229.457.1163



OSHA

10-hour OSHA GENERAL SAFETY TRAINING

Instructor: Jacob Dukes, Southern Safety Consultants

This 10-hour OSHA General Industry Training Course is intended for area employees who need general safety instruction that will emphasize hazard identification, avoidance, control, and prevention at an industrial or distribution center site.

All 10-hour OSHA General Industry Safety course completers will receive a certification card reflecting 10 total hours of OSHA General Industry Safety training.

This course will take a more in-depth look at the following safety topics:

- Introduction to OSHA
- Walking & Working Surfaces - Fall Protection
- Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, Fire Prevention Plans, & Fire Protection
- Electrical
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Hazard Communication
- Hazardous Materials
- Machine Guarding
- Bloodborne Pathogens



LOCATION & DATES:

Cook Campus - Sparks, GA

Two Fridays: June 20th & June 27th

7:00 a.m. – 12 noon each day

Course fee: \$195/person

**To register or for additional information, contact
Bill Tillman at 229.219.1379 or bill.tillman@wiregrass.edu**

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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

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**Fitzgerald Wrestling Club
Presents
Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament
June 13, 2014
Turkey Creek Golf Course
Tournament starts at 7pm
\$50 Buy-In, Unlimited Buy-Ins till 9pm
\$500 Top Prize
\$250 Second Place**

**For more Info Contact:
Roger Merritt or
Matt Cleghorn**

