

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TOP STORIES

1 Community, Local Businesses Donate 494 Toys for Gadsden Children

2 ADAGE Announces Proposed Gadsden County Biopower Facility

3 Midway Hosted Ground Breaking Ceremony for Sidewalk Infrastructure

4 Welcome New Members

NEWS

4 ReInvest Local Job Fair & Expo

4 PAEC Plans to Help Retrain/Educate Past Workers in Agriculture

5 Training Opportunities Available in the Growing Healthcare Industry

5 Incentive Newsbrief from Enterprise Florida

6 GROWFL Statewide Program Targets Second-Stage Businesses

7 Buy a Chance to Win an Original Masterpiece

7 Get Motivated Seminar Coming to Tallahassee January 25

7 Yoga Dog Announces Holiday Schedule

8 Dear Gadsden County Business Owner.....

Community, Local Businesses Donate 494 Toys for Gadsden Children

The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Eagle Sales, and the Gadsden County Men of Action are pleased to announce the collection of at least 494 toys for the Gadsden County Toy Drive. The Gadsden County Men of Action picked up the toys from Tri-Eagle on Friday, December 18 to begin organizing them for distribution to Capital Area Community Action Agency, PAEC Migrant Program and other organizations that assist needy families throughout Gadsden County. The Men of Action plan to deliver the sorted toys to area agencies and churches along with 60 cases of Juicy Juice donated by Tri-Eagle Sales throughout the week of Christmas.

"We were amazed and grateful for the overwhelming generosity of our employees and the people and businesses of Gadsden County in helping to spread joy to needy children," said Kristen Black, the director of community affairs for Tri-Eagle Sales.

Additionally, the Chamber would like to give special recognition to the following businesses for their large quantity donations: Quality Discount Meats, Buy-Rite Drugs - Chattahoochee, Hampton Inn and the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Wal-Mart of Quincy assisted greatly by maximizing the number of toys that were purchased with monetary donations.

"We really appreciate every donation, no matter how big or small," said Michelle Burdick, the Chamber's vice president of membership. "Each item, whether it's an UNO game, football, sidewalk chalk or a baby doll will instantly bring a joyful surprise to these children."

"Many families in our county are dealing with an economic crisis; ultimately having an impact on the children. Each gift will help lift the spirit of our children by instilling in them that they live in a caring community," said Maria Pouncey, the PAEC migrant coordinator.

Reverend Tony Hannah, a board member of the Gadsden County Men of Action, wishes good tidings to Gadsden County. "May the spirit of this holiday season bring you peace, good health and the joy that will extend to the upcoming year."



UPCOMING EVENTS
www.gadsdenfla.com

Select Events from the top menu categories for current event listings. Please note the Chamber's 2010 schedule will be available in mid-to-late January.

ADAGE Announces Proposed Gadsden County Biopower Facility

City of Gretna, Gadsden County, regional and state officials, along with key Gadsden County business leaders and representatives from the media, were invited to attend an announcement at the City of Gretna on Wednesday, December 9 as the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Gretna declared the proposed placement of a clean, biopower facility in the Gretna area. The ADAGE LLC facility will generate green electricity for Florida by using bioenergy technology.

ADAGE is a joint venture between AREVA and Duke Energy created to provide, clean biopower energy solutions to electricity customers such as utilities and municipality electric companies in the United States. It is the first biopower partnership in the United State between major energy companies.

The Gretna site is the second proposed Florida location in a series of fifty megawatt plants in the United States that will use clean wood excess as a fuel to produce electricity. ADAGE announced its partnership with Hamilton County on May 27, 2009.



Art Rendering

The United States Department of Energy (www.energy.gov) states "bioenergy technologies use renewable biomass [plants and plant-derived materials] resources to produce an array of energy related products including electricity. Biomass offers America a tremendous opportunity to use domestic and sustainable resources to provide its fuel, power, and chemical needs." The ADAGE renewable energy facility in Gretna will use wood and excess products [i.e. tree limbs] from pine trees which are readily accessible throughout Gadsden County and the surrounding area. Biopower is a sustainable, natural resource that will create a long term positive economic impact for Gadsden County by providing local investment opportunities and hundreds of green jobs.

"The people of Gretna share ADAGE's vision for creating new economic development opportunities through 21st century clean energy technology," said Gretna Mayor Anthony J. Baker.

"During these challenging economic times, it is critical to Gadsden County that we have a positive, credible, forward-looking and sustainable partner in renewable energy," stated David Gardner, the executive director of the Chamber. "We are excited about the opportunities ADAGE presents to our county and our workforce, and we are pleased to support this facility and the economic development it will provide."

This project will initially produce approximately 400 jobs during the proposed thirty month building process as early as mid-2010. Twenty-four high paying positions will be added for plant operations. ADAGE forecasts an additional 100 new jobs in wood fuel production and transportation. ADAGE estimates the direct local financial impact to be a capital investment over \$250 million, millions of dollars of increased property tax revenue to city and county governments and over \$20 million per year in wood fuel purchases, payroll and local services.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with the innovative community here in Gadsden County as ADAGE continues to work to build a biopower industry in Florida that will deliver both clean energy and new economic development to the State," said Reed Wills, the president of ADAGE. "ADAGE is working hard to deliver new job opportunities through renewable energy to Florida in 2010."

The construction of this state-of-the-art facility will be undertaken by AREVA, Inc. which has an

extensive background designing and building over 100 bioenergy facilities in Europe, Asia and South America. AREVA is a global energy company headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. Site operations will be handled by Duke Energy Generation Services which is a Duke Energy business unit that owns and develops renewable energy. Duke Energy, one of the largest electric power companies in the United States, is a Fortune 500 company with assets over \$43 billion based in Charlotte, North Carolina and traded on the New York Stock Exchange (DUK).

"We look forward to working closely with ADAGE to ensure green-tech jobs and maximize the project's countywide and regional economic impact," said Commissioner Eugene Lamb, the chairman of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners.

Community participation and support is encouraged by ADAGE as the company seeks to educate the public and government representatives about the renewable energy process as it relates to Gadsden County and Florida. In past months, ADAGE has negotiated with a local landowner for the project site, initiated a transmission interconnect study with Talquin Electric Cooperative discussed long term wood fuel supply with local landowners and discussed renewable energy sales with Florida electric utility companies. ADAGE aims to produce clean air energy for all, protect the planet and act responsibly towards future generations.

AREVA

As the leading U.S. nuclear vendor and a key player in the electricity transmission and distribution sector, AREVA Inc.'s 6,000 U.S. energy employees are committed to serving the nation and paving the way for the future of the electricity market. With 45 locations across the nation and nearly \$2 billion in energy revenues in 2008, AREVA Inc., through its subsidiaries, combines U.S. leadership, access to worldwide expertise and a proven track record of performance. In the U.S. and in more than 100 countries around the world, AREVA is engaged in the 21st century's greatest challenges: making energy available to all, protecting the planet, and acting responsibly toward future generations. AREVA Inc. is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. Additional information is available at us.areva.com.

Duke Energy

Duke Energy, one of the largest electric power companies in the United States, supplies and delivers electricity to approximately 4 million U.S. customers in its regulated jurisdictions. The company has approximately 35,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity in the Midwest and the Carolinas, and natural gas distribution services in Ohio and Kentucky. In addition, Duke Energy has more than 4,000 megawatts of electric generation in Latin America, and is a joint-venture partner in a U.S. real estate company.

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 500 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available online at www.duke-energy.com.

Midway Hosted Ground Breaking Ceremony for Sidewalk Infrastructure

The City of Midway hosted a ground breaking ceremony for the planned sidewalk infrastructure from funds received from stimulus dollars generated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The ceremony was held at the City Hall on December 14. The construction for the sidewalk infrastructure was to begin the same day.

For more information, please contact the Midway City Hall at (850) 574-2355.



Welcome New Members

ADAGE
Chadds Ford, PA
Prospective Site: Gretna
www.adagebiopower.com
Renewable Energy/Utilities

Classic Shirts, Inc.
Quincy
(850) 875-2200
www.classicshirts.com
Screenprinting/Manufacturers

ReInvest Local Job Fair & Expo

WORKFORCE plus is excited to present ReInvest Local Job Fair & Expo – a professional exposition for job seekers in the Big Bend Area. This event will take place on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at the Leon County Civic Center and will give businesses the opportunity to market their services and recruit valuable new employees. This year's event will mark the 7th annual job fair!



With today's tough economy, **WORKFORCE plus** understands the needs of our business community and how important lowering recruitment costs can be. We

encourage you to take part in this valuable event provided at no-cost to you!

WORKFORCE plus staff is dedicated to making this year's event a successful recruitment tool for the business community and a true resource for our job seekers. Based on recent inquiries and last year's level of participation, they believe that attendance will reach record numbers for this event. In 2008, **WORKFORCE plus** saw over 2,400 job seekers in attendance!

The ReInvest Local Job Fair & Expo will take place from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Again, there is no charge for booths. However, a pre-registration is required. Booth space will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you are interested in joining us, please complete the attached registration form and fax to 922-6747, Attention: ReInvest Local Registration or call (850) 413-0315. Please submit forms prior to December 31, 2009.

PAEC Plans to Help Retrain/Educate Past Workers in Agriculture

The Panhandle Area Educational Consortium Migrant Program (PAEC) is pleased to announce its partnership with the Agriculture and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI) to provide employment and/or educational opportunities to the citizens of Gadsden and surrounding counties. PAEC's Adult Farmworker Program Services (AFPS), in collaboration with educational institutions and/or agencies will be offering assistance to workers of the agriculture industry to advance their career opportunities by providing short-term courses. These courses may include, but are not limited to CDL, CDA, CNA, Information Technology, Heavy Equipment Operator, and others as needed. The program will also assist in arranging training opportunities for certifications and licensures, job search, completion of job applications, On-Job Training, and job placements.

Eligibility for participation in the AFPS is limited to farmworkers and their dependents who:

- During any consecutive 12-months within the 24-month period immediately preceding the date of application for enrollment who were employed in agriculture work,
- Are a citizen of the United States OR a lawfully admitted permanent resident alien, or other immigrant authorized to work in the United States, AND
- Have been identified as a member of a disadvantaged family who receives public assistance, excluding Food Stamps OR whose annual family income is less than 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level or the Poverty Level, AND
- Received at least 50 percent of his/her total earned income from farmwork OR was employed at least 50 percent of his/her total work time in farmwork, AND

- Been employed at least 25 days in seasonal farmwork OR earned at least \$800 a year in seasonal farmwork.

Special circumstances may apply and for more information, please call Salvador Torres or Rita Vazquez at the PAEC Migrant Program (850) 875-3806 or visit the office at 315 North Key Street, Quincy, Florida 32351.

Training Opportunities Available in the Growing Healthcare Industry

WORKFORCE plus is excited to announce the opportunity for **FREE** short-term training in healthcare to Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla residents who are currently experiencing unemployment or meet income requirements.

Through two local initiatives, Healthcare Resurgence and Healthcare Community Challenge, **WORKFORCE plus** seeks to train upwards of 500 people in the areas of Certified Nursing Assistant, Health Information Management, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assisting, Home Health Aide and more.

This effort takes into account the growing number of jobs found in the healthcare sector and provides individuals who lack healthcare related skills an opportunity to obtain “just in time” training to quickly re-enter the workforce.

“In spite of the difficulty seen among individuals currently seeking employment, retraining in an area that offers continued job growth is a viable alternative that should strongly be considered,” said Kimberly A. Moore, CEO of **WORKFORCE plus**. “The programs that are being offered are short and take into account the need to complete the training and obtain employment quickly.”

Anyone interested in learning more about these training opportunities is invited to call **WORKFORCE plus** at (866) WFP-JOB1 or visit their local office. To determine eligibility, interested parties are encouraged to bring an ID, social security card, copy of HS Diploma/GED, proof of residency and proof of income from the last six months.

Funding for these short-term training opportunities is provided through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama in February 2009. The Act has a number of strategic elements that are designed to help stimulate the economy and create or sustain jobs.

Incentive Newsbrief from Enterprise Florida

Did You Know?

... New Average Annual Wages are out?

Enterprise Florida has compiled data to update the state and county average annual wages. These new wages will take effect for applications received on or after January 1, 2010. The new wage data is attached to this email or you can visit the Project Assistance Tools section of the My eFlorida Intelligence Center at www.EFlorida.com to download the latest wage data.

... Economic Stimulus Exemption Applications have been mailed?

The Economic Stimulus Exemption applications have been mailed out to eligible companies with claims due January 2009. Local economic development partners have been notified of companies in their area who are receiving the ESE applications. If you have any questions about the Economic Stimulus Exemption legislation, please contact Molly Weller at 850.298.6634 or mweller@eflora.com.

... Changes have been made to incentive applications?

The General Project Overview and corresponding incentive attachments have been updated. Please visit the Project Assistance Tools section of the My eFlorida Intelligence Center at www.EFlorida.com to download the latest version of the applications. Always be sure to use the latest versions of the applications and information sheets from the website when distributing to clients.

For further information on incentives or related information, please contact Joseph Bell at (407) 956-5622, Molly Weller at (850) 298-6634 or Marty Wilson at (407) 956-5633

GROWFL Statewide Program Targets Second-Stage Businesses

Hundreds of Florida businesses are about to become beneficiaries of a visionary program designed to help them grow and create jobs by providing access to an elite team of business analysts specially trained in a variety of disciplines and equipped with sophisticated tools designed and targeted for what are known as “second-stage” companies.

GrowFL will deploy its team of analysts at no charge to provide qualified companies with technical assistance and access to a suite of information and decision-making tools, including:

Information Tools

Database Research
Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Network Mapping
Social Media Strategies

Decision-Making Tools

Strategy Analysis
Management Team Temperament
Capital Referrals
Labor Referrals

Patterned after a proven program pioneered in Colorado, the Florida Economic Gardening Institute (FEGI) was funded by the Florida Legislature to cultivate growth companies – privately-held, resident firms that employ 10-50 workers, generate \$1 million to \$25 million, and had revenue and employment growth in three of their last five years.

FEGI has created a first-of-its-kind strategic partnership that will draw on the nationally recognized assets of the Edward Lowe Foundation, which for more than 20 years has been developing programs to encourage entrepreneurship as the key strategy for economic growth and community development. The Edward Lowe Foundation has committed to bringing together a team of trained analysts to provide both initial services to the chosen companies and to train Florida teams.

“The **GrowFL** program is a unique statewide partnership that includes the Florida Economic Development Council, Enterprise Florida, Workforce Florida, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council and others working to identify and cultivate hundreds of growth companies,” said Program Administrator Dr. Tom O’Neal, associate vice president of research and founder of UCF’s highly acclaimed incubation network. “We’re looking for companies I’d describe as teenagers. They are beyond the startup phase but need the tools to take them to adulthood.”

Companies may apply at www.GrowFL.com. “Our team is already conducting screening interviews to rapidly ramp up this effort and get the tools in the hands of the companies most likely to create new jobs in Florida,” said O’Neal.

Edward Lowe Foundation President Mark Lange said 8 percent of Florida businesses statewide meet the profile, and pointed out that between 2005 and 2007 second-stage companies in Florida were responsible for 36 percent of job growth. “At a time when jobs are so critical to our nation’s economic recovery, Governor Charlie Crist and Florida’s Legislature were visionaries to invest in cultivating the companies that have proven their ability to grow and create employment.”

“In every community large or small, urban or rural throughout the state we have economic development professionals helping to make the work of GrowFL a priority,” said Amy Evancho, president of the Florida Economic Development Council, whose 500 members are economic development professionals and public and private economic development agencies serving all of the state’s cities and counties.

The Florida Economic Gardening Institute was created by the 2009 Florida Legislature as the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program to stimulate investment in Florida’s economy by

providing technical assistance for expanding businesses in the state. Qualified companies must be engaged in the following sectors: Manufacturing; Finance & Insurance Services; Wholesale Trade; Information Industries; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Management Services; and, Administrative & Support Services. Additional information is available at www.GrowFL.com.

Buy a Chance to Win an Original Masterpiece

Buy your chance to win an original masterpiece by two of the region's most highly acclaimed artists, Dean Mitchell and Dean Gioia. The artists have generously donated original paintings for the drawing, which will raise funds to underwrite the Gadsden Arts Center's free and low cost youth education programs.

Quincy native Dean Mitchell, a leading watercolor artist who has won more than 450 awards internationally, has donated a painting entitled Fort Scott Barrels, 5.25 x 10 inches, watercolor, which retails for \$4,500. An award-winning painter of figures depicting black middle and lower class people and landscapes from his southern background, Dean Mitchell's work is inspired by his personal experiences: grizzled laborers, time-worn elderly faces, Gadsden County landscapes with tobacco barns.

Inspired by Southern culture and the nature that surrounds him, Dean Gioia captivates viewers with his ethereal interpretation of light and atmosphere. He has donated for the drawing a painting entitled The Autumn in the Field, 16 x 20 inches, acrylic on canvas, which retails at \$2,100. Chances are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 – stop by Gadsden Arts or visit www.gadsdenarts.org/events to reserve your chance to win. The winners will be drawn at the Gadsden Arts Center winter Gala on the evening of January 30, 2010. (You do not have to be present to win.)



Get Motivated Seminar Coming to Tallahassee January 25

The Get Motivated Seminar featuring legendary motivator Zig Ziglar, America's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, legendary president of Microsoft Rick Belluzzo and Florida State head football coach Bobby Bowden is coming to the Tallahassee Civic Center Arena. The day-long presentation will take place on Monday, January 25 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Additional speakers will include communications expert Krish Dhanam, top sales expert and author of Get Motivated Tamara Lowe and other renowned teachers and motivators. The seminar takes place in about 30 cities annually and has for more than 35 years.

Among the speakers' topics will be "How to Stay Motivated" (Ziglar); "The Tenacity to Persevere: How to Make It Through Any Crisis" (Giuliani); "How to Manage, Lead and Succeed" (Belluzzo); "How to Lead Your Team to Victory" (Bowden); "How to Perfect Your Communications Skills" (Dhanam) and "How to Strengthen Your Sales and Negotiation Skills" (Lowe).

An entire office of people can attend this seminar of a day of training, inspiration and motivation for a total investment of only \$4.95 per person and \$19 for an entire office. To take advantage of this very limited-time offer, call 1-800-217-1339. Admission at the door if attending singly will be \$225.

Yoga Dog Announces Holiday Schedule

The Yoga Dog Studio will be closed December 24 and 25. Yoga classes will resume on Saturday, December 26 including a special morning post-Christmas de-stress class and the first ever Yoga Dog kids class.

Saturday, December 26

Rachel’s Flow Yoga 2 Class at 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Snack and tea

10:30 – 12:00 Sonia’s Yin Flow/Restorative Class

Give this gift to your yourself and your loved ones.

Wednesday, December 30

YOGA DOG KIDS YOGA !!!!!!!

1:30 – 3:00 – snack included

Ages 5 – 12, \$10 per child

Sign up now – Limit 8 students per class

Drop off your aspiring yogini and run your holiday errands.

Dear Gadsden County Business Owner.....

My name is Rachel Furlow. I am a member of the “Gadsden County Coalition for Change” (GCC4C). We are service oriented group looking to make a difference in our community. We have gathered food for local food banks and we organized the *Shanks Middle School Makeover* this summer.

Our latest project is putting together boxes for the troops. We want to focus on the men and women serving overseas from Gadsden County. Our plan is to have boxes ready to ship by the second week of January, so that they will get there for Valentine’s Day; “Love from Gadsden County, Florida!”

We are asking local businesses to help by either donating items, or making a monetary donation so that we can purchase items to put in the boxes.

Below is a list of suggested things that our men and women would appreciate while they are so far from home.

Suggested Items	
CANDY	PRINTED MATERIALS
Candy (heat resistant - no chocolate)	Books (novels, short stories)
Fruit Breezes (throat drops)	Newspapers (local)
Twizzlers, sweet tarts, ect.	Magazines
CORRESPONDENCE	TOILETRIES/HYGIENE
Writing Paper and Envelopes	Baby Wipes
Pens/Pencils	Chapstick
DENTAL	Cold Water Wash (Woolite)
Floss	Eye Drops
Mouthwash	Deodorant
Toothbrushes	Feminine Hygiene Products (for female soldiers)
Toothpaste	Foot Powder
DRINK	Hairbrushes
Coffee (instant)	Hand Lotion
Coffee Creamer	Hand Sanitizers (waterless)
Gatorade	Nail Clippers
Powdered Drink Mixes	Q-Tips
Tea Mixes (sweet) (or tea bags)	Razors (disposable)
	Shampoo
	Soap
	Sunscreen
	Tissues (heavy duty - i.e. Puffs)
	Toilet Paper (including travel size)

<p>KoolAid bursts- to freeze</p> <p>FOOD (including dry goods, snacks)</p> <p>Sugar packets Bars (Clif or Balance) Beef Jerky Canned Fruit (pop top cans) Cereal (in small boxes) Condiments Packages (ketchup, etc) Girl Scout Cookies Granola Bars Gum (no sticks) Oatmeal (instant) Pop-Tarts Ravioli (pop top cans) Tuna Kits</p> <p>GAMES</p> <p>Board Games Checkers (travel size) Chess (travel size) Crossword Puzzles Playing Cards</p> <p>MUSIC</p> <p>CD Fanny Packs CDs Tapes</p>	<p>Tylenol (individual packets) Wash Rags</p> <p>Other</p> <p>American Flags (small) Baggies (with zip lock) Batteries (AA, D,) Bug Spray (must be packaged in zip-lock bag) Duct Tape Disposable Cameras Flashlights (mini/maglite, extra bulbs, lots of batteries) Fans (battery powered - small - with extra batteries) Fly Strips Fly Swatters Pre-Paid Phone Cards Shoe Insole Cushions <u>Socks</u> (cushioned) Sunglasses (black - no brand names) Sweatbands (or pantli-liners for use in helmets)</p> <p>Seasonal</p> <p>Canned turkey and Thanksgiving food items Small unbreakable holiday decorations Christmas stockings</p>
--	---

Any help you could give our group as we gather together these small everyday items would be greatly appreciated. I can come and collect anything you are able to give.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Rachel Furlow, at 850-510-5344.

Thank you so much,

Rachel Furlow, GCC4C member

Upcoming Events

Visit www.gadsdenfla.com for a list of upcoming events. Please note the Chamber's 2010 schedule will be available in mid-to-late January.

From the top menu "Events" category, choose one of the following to view local events:

Member Only Events: This choice lists Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce events for Chamber members. It may also include events sponsored, in part, by the Chamber. Non-member businesses interested in participation should contact Michelle Burdick, the vice president of membership, at michelleburdick@tds.net or by calling (850) 627-9231.

Community Events: This category lists business and/or community event information submitted to the Chamber. An organization does not need to be a member of the Chamber to submit information for the online calendar.

To publicize your event via the Chamber by way of press releases, announcements, and the online calendar, please follow these guidelines:

Deadline: 15th of each month (**prior** to the event is preferred for ample promotional time)

Format: Microsoft Word/Publisher documents or plain text email. Announcements in PDF format may not appear in the Chamber Chatter e-newsletter.

Photos and artwork must be jpg, tiff or gif attachments. Do not insert or embed into document.

PDFed registration, vendor and other forms required to submit prior participation in an event are accepted for upload for the Event Calendars.

Email: gadsdencc@tds.net

Indicate press release, announcement or event title in the subject line.

Note: **Planning ahead is in the best interests of your event. The Chamber prefers receiving event information at least thirty days in advance. Not only does this help promote the event, it allows Chamber staff to answer inquiries efficiently.**

