

COMMUNIQUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAIRMAN'S CLUB OF THE GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

From the President Get to Know Superintendent Alvin Wilbanks

By Jim Maran



GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC Schools (GCPS) began its new school year in August with 114 educational facilities, including 69 elementary schools, 20 middle schools, 17 high schools, and eight other educational facilities. Approximately 158,000 students and 11,000 teachers will fill those schools in the 2008-09 academic term.



Superintendent
Alvin Wilbanks

In leading the state's largest school district, CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks is dedicated to ensuring

that every student is prepared for the future by receiving a quality and effective education. GCPS provides an instructional program that is based on achieving world-class standards because that is what is required in preparing Gwinnett's future workforce. For the coming year, the district's focus will be on implementing the Board of Education's strategy for improving student achievement in every school, and on making GCPS a coherent organization that is capable of sustaining that improvement strategy.

The district's relentless focus on teaching and learning has made a difference in student achievement for well over a decade. GCPS has been and continues to be a leader in the state and region in students' academic

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Canvas Systems Makes VARBusiness 500 for Fifth Consecutive Year

CANVAS SYSTEMS, A LEADING, global IT life cycle management company, recently announced its inclusion on the prestigious 2008 VARBusiness 500 list. Recognized for the fifth consecutive year, Canvas is ranked No. 237 on the list. The company's fast and eco-sensitive green IT solutions served as the main catalyst for this year's ranking. Also contributing to the ranking is Canvas' ability to help clients cut spending on infrastructure, maintenance and procurement, and partnerships with several industry leading IT manufacturers.

The VARBusiness 500 ranking is a definitive listing of the most influential IT solutions providers, resellers, technology integrators, services divisions and consultants and direct marketers. The list's ranking is based on gross worldwide revenue of hardware and software sales, and earnings from professional and managed information technology services.

Sean Murphy, co-founder and vice president of Canvas Systems, said, "We're very excited to be ranked as one of the best solution providers in the North American IT reseller

channel. Canvas is continually helping clients reduce capital and operating expenditures with fast, affordable IT life cycle solutions. Our green IT services provide clients the luxury to



recycle, redeploy and reuse IT equipment, which eliminates waste and enhances a company's bottom line."

Founded in 1998, Canvas Systems is a leading, global IT life cycle management company that is based in Norcross, Georgia with offices in the United Kingdom and Netherlands. Canvas specializes in providing clients with fast and affordable green IT services, integration and financial solutions, third party maintenance, disaster recovery and business continuity planning, and asset management programs. The company focuses on flexible and innovative green IT solutions that recycle, redeploy and reuse equipment, data center relocations and rentals, data erasure and more. Canvas has an extensive \$100 million inventory, offers same day shipment to over 70 countries and saves significant money for clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses. Canvas is part of OHC, LLC, a \$150 million IT services holding company. For more information, call 1-877-CANVAS-9 or visit www.canvassystems.com.



Sean Murphy

New Chairman's Club Members



Len Moser

BARTON MALOW COMPANY

Ranked as one of the top 20 builders in the nation, Barton Malow Company has provided construction services in the Atlanta area for over 20 years. Our local knowledge and long-standing relationships are key to the success of the Gwinnett Braves Stadium,

currently under construction. One of the few ISO-certified construction firms in the country, Barton Malow also is a leader in LEED-certified construction practices. Please contact us to discuss your upcoming projects.



Jim Schrull

JUST RIGHT AUTO SALES

Just Right Auto Sales provides customers with less than perfect credit an opportunity to buy a quality used vehicle that is mechanically sound and bears a warranty. They get lifetime oil changes, loaner car protection, and they get their payment history

reported to the credit bureau. We do so in a new vehicle environment, where everyone is friendly and customers get treated like they are special. Our home office and #1 retail outlet is in Duluth right beside the mall, next to Fry's. We went from four to 12 stores last year. We have six other stores in Georgia, one in Alabama, one in Tennessee and three in Florida. We are opening our 13th store in the next four months. We employ a total of 291 people with over 100 in Gwinnett County. Jim Schrull the company's founder and CEO, began his career locally in sales, in the new car industry, rising to the level of president/owner before developing the Just Right Concept.



David Johnson

OLYMPUS MEDIA, LLC

Olympus Media is a family of professionals with the experience, creativity and dedication to help our customers grow their businesses through the oldest form of advertising—the billboard. Independently owned, we offer our clients a wide variety

of advantages, such as, quick turn-around, award-winning creative design, affordable rates, customer service assistance, and friendly employees.



Sammy Powell

J.B. TRIMBLE, INC.

At J.B. Trimble, Inc. our goal is to develop long-term relationships with clients and to provide exceptional value and service to those clients project after project and year after year. We work to be a part of our client's team and believe that most of them want

their engineers to work WITH them, gain a firm understanding of the needs and project objectives, and to provide creative solutions based on sound engineering. Since 1968 successful bridge design, inspection and rehabilitation have been the mainstay of J.B. Trimble's business. But over the last 35 years, JBT's experience and expertise have broadened into providing full-service civil and environmental engineering.

This 'n' That

WIKA appoints 3 to senior level

Metro Atlanta-based WIKA Instrument Corporation (WIKA) recently announced the appointments of three of its employees to new senior level positions within the organization: Stan Schultz as Director of Strategic Accounts; Cameron Reebals as Director of Marketing; and Ron Imhof as Director of Sales Operations. Schultz, Reebals and Imhof will all report directly to Drew Firestone, Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing.

Meggitt Training Systems relocates

Meggitt Training Systems has moved its corporate headquarters and manufacturing and repair facilities to Brogdon Road, Suwanee, Ga., seven miles away from its former premises at McGinnis Ferry Road. Over 325 employees work at the Suwanee site while the total workforce at facilities in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, UAE, Singapore and the United Kingdom is over 600.

Emory Eastside gets new Critical Care Nursing Director

Teresa Scoggins, RN, MSN, has joined Emory Eastside Medical Center as the Critical Care Nursing Director, bringing excellent clinical skills in emergency, trauma and critical care nursing. She has a certificate in forensic nursing and has advanced training in neuroscience and trauma nursing.

Evermore CID Commends Flagstar Bank for "Giving Back"

IF THERE IS one trait that an organization such as a Community Improvement District (CID) can appreciate, it is businesses that truly demonstrate a commitment to the community in which they are established. CID district members give back to their respective communities through additional voluntary tax dollars; and many businesses give back to the community beyond-the-dollar through a more "hands-on" approach. The Evermore CID is pleased to recognize district member, Flagstar Bank, for their exceptional contributions that improve our community.

When Flagstar Bank renovated a vacant building and opened their Snellville Branch in October of 2006, Banking Center Manager, Cindy Poole, implemented an aggressive community outreach plan. With a grass-roots understanding of the Evermore Business Community, this seasoned banking professional of 20 years has established Flagstar Bank as one of Evermore's most respected businesses.

After a long and successful career with the same national banking firm, what attracted Mrs. Poole to Flagstar Bank can be summed up in three words; "community not commercial". "What I admire most about Flagstar Bank are the exceptional services that are offered to our customers", explains Poole. "With



Monday through Sunday banking center hours and no cut off time for deposits, our customers have seven-day-a-week access to our staff and 24/7 access to their money", concludes Poole.

As a growth-oriented community bank, Ms. Pool appreciates the business philosophy that allows her to involve Flagstar in worth-while community events and civic organizations. Through area business associations, Mrs. Poole has effectively executed the formula to key business development. In addition to hosting networking events at the Snellville Banking Center, Ms. Poole also recently participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) Tri-City Lock-up; an event that raised over \$54,000 for the organization. Customer appreciation events are always on the calendar and

Mrs. Poole has also volunteered her time to participate in Evermore CID sponsored programs for high school business and economic students.

Mrs. Poole is very familiar with the Evermore CID and its proposed transportation projects. Mrs. Poole shared that she is "impressed with the overall design concept and is excited to see the reversible lane system disappear".

Additional information about Flagstar Bank can be located on their Web site at www.flagstar.com.

Yerkes Research Center Receives Continued Full Accreditation from AAALAC

THE YERKES NATIONAL PRIMATE Research Center, Emory University, has received continued full accreditation from The Council on Accreditation of the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), the gold standard of laboratory animal care. This latest review begins the 23rd consecutive year of full accreditation for the center.

In the official notification letter to the Yerkes Research Center from Kathy E. Laber, DVM, president of the AAALAC Council of Accreditation, she commended the staff for "providing and maintaining a quality program of laboratory animal care and use." Also, Laber noted the "outstanding administrative commitment to the animal program" and the "knowledgeable and dedicated husbandry staff." In sharing Laber's comments, Yerkes director Stuart Zola, PhD, expressed "AAALAC accreditation is paramount to maintaining the center's reputation for outstanding science and the highest quality animal care.



Dr. Stuart Zola

We welcome the review process, which always helps us be even better than before."

For more than seven decades, the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University, has been dedicated to conducting essential basic science and translational research to advance scientific understanding

and to improve the health and well-being of humans and nonhuman primates.

This 'n' That

New Associate Managing Director at The Private Bank

Robert G. Long has joined The Private Bank - Georgia as Associate Managing Director in the Commercial Banking group based in the Norcross, Ga., office. Long is responsible for working with companies that have \$20 million to \$200 million in annual sales to deliver the broad array of services The Private Bank offers to middle-market clients.

Bank of North Georgia Collects 2,627 Pounds of PB&J to Benefit Local Food Banks



Bank of North Georgia had tremendous success in hosting a *Back to School Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive* to benefit 17 local food banks near its 34 offices in metro Atlanta.

Bank of North Georgia

The timing was perfect with the busy school year kicking off at most area schools in early August. In total, the bank collected 1,804 jars at 2,627 pounds, which is over one ton of PB&J. That is enough to make more than 10,508 sandwiches for children in metro Atlanta (with approximately four ounces spread on each sandwich)! Creamy peanut butter was the clear winner over crunchy and the bank received more grape jelly than any other flavor.

According to Kessel Stelling, President and CEO of Bank of North Georgia, "Recognizing that there is an urgent need for food that offers good nutrition to children, the bank decided to focus on a staple lunchtime classic – peanut butter and jelly. We were very pleased with the outpouring of support expressed by our customers, team members and friends of Bank of North Georgia."

"The slumping economy combined with climbing food and gas prices have caused more and more local families to reach out to local food banks for assistance. At North Fulton Community Charities food requests are up nearly 20% this summer. Peanut butter and jelly is a childhood staple and one of the most requested

food items. We appreciate Bank of North Georgia's assistance in getting the word out about this need and helping fill each child's lunchbox with healthy food," said Barbara S. Duffy, Executive Director of North Fulton Community Charities.

BNG held its two week *Back to School PB&J Food Drive* from July 14 – 26. "Our goal was to help children get off to a great start this school year by doing our part in providing some essential nutrition in their lunch boxes," Stelling concluded.

Upcoming Events

September 10

General Membership Meeting Featuring Gwinnett County Public Schools Superintendent Alvin Wilbanks

Presenting Sponsor Rocket IT

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Atlanta Marriott-Gwinnett Place

Cost: \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members.

Chairman's club receives 1 free seat.

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/gmmregistration

September 12

Success Lives Here Featuring Hank Datelle

Presenting Sponsor: REALCORP Atlanta, Mike Runyan, Broker

Time: 7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Location: The 1818 Club

Cost: \$35 for Chamber members; \$45 for non-Chamber members.

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/slhregistration

September 25

The Verizon Wireless Government Relations Meeting – Candidate Forum

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Gwinnett Chamber John D. Stephens Education Center

Cost: Free to Chairman's Club members, \$15 for General Members and \$25 for Non-Chamber members.

RSVP: www.gwinnettchamber.org/govtrelationsregistration



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce

6500 Sugarloaf Parkway

Duluth, Georgia 30097

Phone: 770-232-3000

www.gwinnettchamber.org • info@gwinnettchamber.org



GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB

Wilbanks *continued from page 1*

performance. Looking toward the future, the Board, Superintendent Wilbanks, and the school district's employees will continue working on eliminating the achievement gap among various groups of students and building on the culture of success that has distinguished Gwinnett County Public Schools as one of the nation's top-performing public school systems.

To learn more about how Superintendent Wilbanks and GCPS are preparing our future workforce, be sure to attend the September 10 General Membership Meeting featuring the annual State of the School System address. Presented by Rocket IT.