

# Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce

January 2007

110 Court St.

Camden, AL 36726  
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## Upcoming Community & Chamber Events:

- Jan. 23rd—Renewal Community Seminar
- Feb. 17—Gees Bend Play
- June 29—Riverbank Festival / Jazz Concert at State Park
- June 30—Fireworks Show at East Bank Park

The Chamber needs and appreciates your support! If you are not currently a member or if your membership has expired, we would like you to be a part of the ongoing efforts to promote Wilcox County. Contact the Chamber office for a membership application or visit the website and download a copy.

We are undergoing a website update and our hits are increasing every week. Get listed today by joining the Chamber!

## Our Newsletter Returns

The Chamber has been very active in promoting our county on numerous fronts. We look forward to bringing you the latest developments in our quarterly newsletter. Our website also contains valuable information of our ongoing efforts including more details on each of these subjects.

## Renewal Community Seminar

On Jan. 23rd from 10am to 1pm, the Chamber will be hosting a valuable seminar regarding the Renewal Community Tax Incentives that are available to every business in the county. The seminar will be held at the Auburn Experiment Station building on Highway 28 in Camden.

The speakers will include Jessica Dent, Planning and Economic Development Specialist for ADECA, Bill Morrison, Director of the Office of Economic Development within the Alabama Department of Revenue, and Nora Gunn with the Internal Revenue Service.

The Chamber is hosting this event to ensure that all area business owners are aware of the tax credits available.

Alabama Power Company and Alford & Associates will be sponsoring lunch, therefore, we will need an approximate head count for those planning to attend. Please contact the Chamber office by Friday, Jan. 19th with your reservation. The seminar and lunch are provided free of charge to all area business owners, regardless of membership in the Chamber.

**Don't miss this event! It could save you thousands of dollars!**

## Gee's Bend Ferry...think Tourism!

The ferry is not only providing a link between Gee's Bend and Camden, it is the county's most sought after tourist attraction. Tom Mitchell, General Manager of the ferry, says that the ferry's website is generating many hits each day and about 25 calls a week from tourists interested in riding the ferry to Gee's Bend. The calls have peaked as high as 100 per week when various news outlets have run stories on the ferry. These tourists want

to meet the world famous quilters and learn about the area's history. The Chamber is working with various organizations to develop a more rewarding experience for these tourists so that they will come back to visit and bring others with them.

Tourism is a clean industry that brings money into our county. Hornblower Marine, the company managing the ferry operation, is eager to promote the tourism aspect of the ferry and the overall positive impact on the county.

## Riverbank Festival

The Chamber is working with the Fireworks Committee to add an exciting attraction on the Friday night (June 29th) prior to the Fireworks celebration on June 30th. A Riverbank Festival is planned that will include a Jazz Concert at the State Park. The Alabama Dept of Tourism is helping to promote this event. Stay tuned for more details!

## Job Fair a Success

The Chamber hosted a job fair in Camden in October of 2006. The job fair featured representatives from five companies in the Selma area with job openings. Over 100 individuals from the Wilcox County area attended the job fair. We are currently working to determine just how many jobs were created by this endeavor.

## **Ferry Cruise**

The Chamber partnered with Hornblower Marine Services to sponsor a river cruise aboard the Gee's Bend Ferry on the evening of Dec. 28th. A full load of passengers (153) enjoyed a 2-hour cruise which included a live band. Special thanks to Alabama Power and Piggly Wiggly for donating the refreshments for the event. Also thanks to Jimmy Brock, Fred Sheffield, Brent Blackwell, Curtis Mitchell, and Chris Burford for

the entertainment. We hope that this cruise will be the first of many of its kind as the ferry seeks to boost ridership. Photos from the event can be found on the Chamber website.

The Chamber will continue to support and encourage this tourism potential.

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**[www.wilcoxareachamber.org](http://www.wilcoxareachamber.org)**