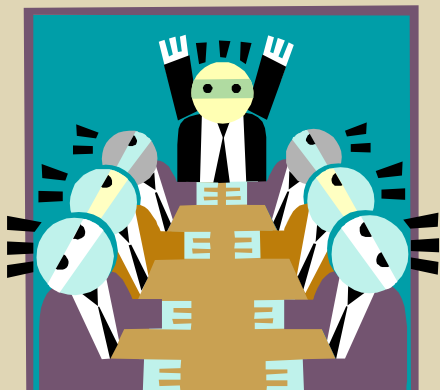




Attend Your Local Government Meetings!



Camden City Council:
1st & 3rd Monday at 6pm,
Camden City Hall

Pine Hill City Council:
2nd Monday at 7pm
Pine Hill City Hall

Wilcox County Board of Education:
2nd Wednesday at 6pm
Central Office

Wilcox County Commission
2nd & 4th Monday at 5:30pm
Commissioner's Courtroom,
Courthouse Annex

Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce *Board Officers*

Hunter Hines
Chairman

Sulynn Creswell
Vice Chairman

Richard Wright
Treasurer

Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews
Secretary



A new manufacturing plant will be built near Pine Hill and will employ more than 300 people, according to an announcement from Governor Robert Bentley's office. The new, \$100 million Golden Dragon Copper of China plant will bring many needed jobs to the state's Black Belt region. Once the facility is operational, GD Copper (U.S.A.), Inc. expects to employ 300 people. The potential to increase employment numbers to 500 is said to be possible. The company will work with the Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) for work force development.

"I am committed to putting Alabamians back to work, and this is welcome news for a part of the state that has long been in need of new jobs," Governor Bentley said. "The GD Copper (U.S.A.), Inc. project is a prime example of how quickly the industrial marketplace can change," The City of Thomasville partnered with Wilcox County in securing the new site, proving county lines should never be a deterrent in luring projects to a region of Alabama."

George Alford, manager of the Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority, said the project is one of the largest economic development events in the county's history. "Recently, we were named the 15th-poorest county in the United States," Alford said. "We believe this project is the first major step in reducing our high unemployment and poverty rates." , I would like to recognize the efforts of the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission for coordinating the activities of the five (5) local entities involved in our Thomasville-West Wilcox Partnership. I believe one of the main reasons we were able to bring this project to a positive conclusion is the fact that local governments and organizations were able to put aside any differences and work together for one common goal, creating jobs for the citizens of North Clarke and Wilcox counties. Again, let me acknowledge the hard work and cooperation of the Wilcox County Commission, the Town of Pine Hill, the City of Thomasville, the Thomasville Industrial Development Board, the Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority, the Alabama Development Office, the Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

"We are very encouraged to have this company coming to Wilcox County," Pine Hill Mayor Harry Mason said. "It is an exciting economic development opportunity for the area."

The Alabama Development Office is a sponsor of the Alabama China Partnership's Spring Symposium on March 15 and 16 in Monroeville. Several Chinese government, business, and media officials are expected to attend the event, including representatives of up to 50 businesses from China. Information about the symposium may be obtained at www.alabamachina.com.



Big Crappie Tournament & Derby
April 14 – May 13, 2012

Please visit our website or call the Chamber office for official rules, prizes, ticket outlet locations, lodging or camping recommendations, dining, and bait and tackle locations in the area.

Crappie Tournament and Jackpot Derby tickets are available at locations in Camden, Gee's Bend, & Thomasville. They are also available by mail using the order form available on our website.



www.wilcoxareachamber.org



Cook-Off
April 28, 2012
11:00am – 4:00pm
Camden Courthouse Square

Come and enjoy some delicious BBQ from our teams competing in grilling their best Chicken, Ribs and Pork Butts. (Assortment of lunch plates available for purchase by each team)

Participate in being a Taster's Choice Judge. Stop by the Chamber table and purchase your wrist band for only \$5.00 and receive 2 tickets to vote for your favorite Team. Wrist bands go on sale at 11am.

Cash prizes will be awarded at 2:30pm.

Community Fun and Live Music
You will not want to miss!!



The Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to sponsor the Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association State Championship, May 5, 2012 at Millers Ferry – Roland Cooper State Park.

The Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association is the grassroots umbrella organization in Alabama leading the way for the development of Student Angler Chapter Clubs that combines the sport of bass fishing in a way that promotes angler education by passing along traditions associated with the thrills of the outdoors on our great Alabama rivers and lakes. The Alabama Bass Fishing Association is dedicated to the recruitment and successful development of tomorrow's future anglers to excel in the areas of leadership, personal, professional, and educational development while fostering an appreciation of the great outdoors and the love of bass fishing as a sport through competitive tournaments, activities, and contests.

The
“World's Widest Yard Sale”

is scheduled for May 31 – June 2, 2012,
beginning in Phenix City,
Alabama and following Highway 80 West
throughout Alabama's Black
Belt region for more than 350 miles of great bargains.



Demopolis	Faunsdale	Marion
Hayneville	Linden	Marion Junction
Livingston	Lowndesboro	Phenix City
Pintala	Pike Road	Tallassee
Shorter	Selma	Uniontown
Tuskegee	Whitehall	York

Ron Sparks, Director of the Alabama Rural Development Office hopes that this new annual event will grow and be as successful as the “World's Longest Yard Sale”, which runs from North Alabama to Michigan. This is a project of the Marketing and Tourism Committee, Black Belt Commission and the Alabama Rural Development Office.

Director's Note!

The Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce wishes to welcome our new members and thank our existing members for all your contributions and sponsorships.

The WACOC is very active in promoting the economic, social and industrial growth of our area. Our membership has increased tremendously over the past year and we attribute this to the numerous Chamber sponsored events that is bringing outside revenue into Wilcox County.

Golden Dragon (USA) has heightened expectations of the Chamber and our merchants since announcing that they are locating here in Wilcox County. GD will be creating 300-500 jobs with their initial plant construction.

The Chambers direction of communication and growth is underway with the creation of a new interactive website for its members, retirees and vacationers. We are excited about Wilcox County's growth and the role that the Chamber plays.

Thank you members! *Sandy Curl*



1001 Earl Hilliard Rd.
Camden, AL 36726