

## Lake Martin Area Economic Development Alliance E-News!

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Welcome to the latest issue of the LMAEDA E-News.

As you know it's often difficult to plan ahead. Two reasons: The first is there are daily emergencies that take precedent. The second is that in good times, it's difficult to imagine bad. Consider all those property owners looking out over the beautiful gulf coast, enjoying its beauty and their investment. Dramatic events are often a reminder that in life, things change. Sometimes the changes create minor emergencies, other times, disaster. Having a plan minimizes the effects of change.

It's unfortunate that complacency lulls so many into an "it's not my problem" attitude. Whining and crying to each other will change nothing. Whining and crying to the right people might affect little things, but real change will come from getting passionate about the problems that threaten our quality of life and being willing to fight for what's right. Hoping for the best does not constitute planning for tomorrow. We can't assume something magical will happen and everything will work out or hope someone else will do the worry and work.

Protecting our investment is a personal responsibility - it's a community responsibility.

### CONTRIBUTOR SPOTLIGHT!

Our contributor spotlight is **Tallapoosa County**. Tallapoosa County is the largest financial contributor to the Lake Martin Area EDA. They were part of the beginning of the Alliance and have been part not only financially but have put much sweat equity into the Dadeville park and have helped with the development of the Airport park. Thanks to Tallapoosa County for being part of the Lake Martin Area EDA and their commitment to improve the quality of life for the two counties.

Special thanks to the commissioners for their commitment to Tallapoosa County. T.C. Coley, district 1; Charles Shaw, district 2; Dylan Oliver, district 3; William Thweatt, district 4 and Johnny Allen, district 5.

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*Life as it should be...*

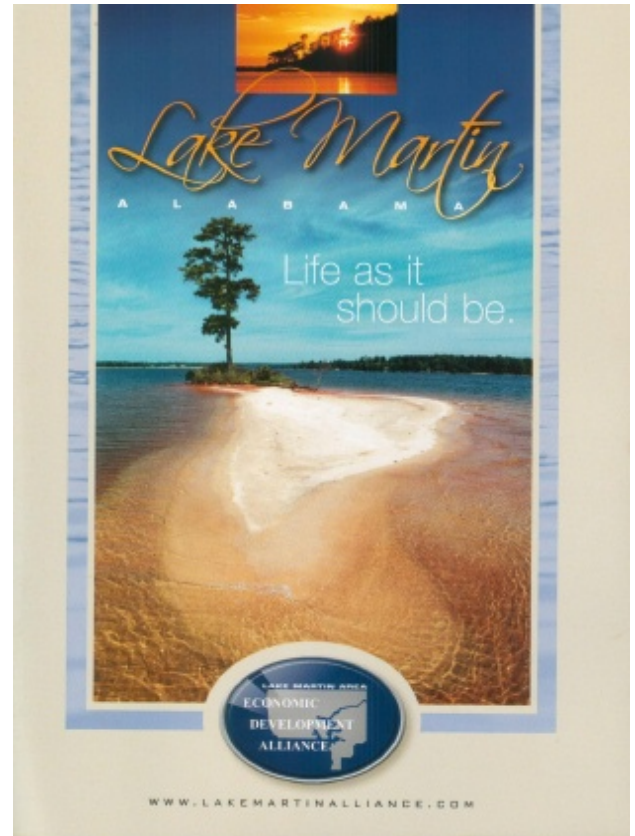
## LMAEDA publication highlights Lake Martin

Economic development isn't just about selling a piece of property; to members of the Lake Martin Area Economic Development Alliance it's also about selling a lifestyle. That's just what a recently published magazine from the LMAEDA aims to do. Don McClellan, project manager for the Alliance, said "Lake Martin, Alabama: Life as it should be," highlights every aspect of the two-county region the LMAEDA represents. From health care and education to industrial park space and recreation, McClellan said the publication shows what life is like in the Lake Martin area. "We tried to highlight a little bit of everything" he said. This is the first publication of its type the LMAEDA has released in about five years. So far, it has been distributed to about 200 developers around the state.

Glenn Thomas, chairman of the Alliance said it would be a useful tool for industry because it shows the economic climate of the area, while highlighting the infrastructure here. "I also think it projects the vitality of the general economic climate of this area and how healthy it is," he said. "It shows this area is a good place to come and raise children, and it's also a good place to come for a company to prosper and make money."

While the ultimate goal is to show potential industries just what the area has to offer, McClellan believes the publication will go beyond that. "I think it would be great for those looking to retire here," he said. "One of the things I think they'd be interested in is health care. That's part of quality of life. Then there are going to be other people locating here with children who would want to learn about our schools. This gives information on the education system and all that too."

If you would like to receive a copy of the magazine please email us at [info@lakemartinalliance.com](mailto:info@lakemartinalliance.com)



## Update on Tallapoosa County Industrial Park

**Lee Apparel, Inc.** is open for business. Lee Apparel started production the week of August 14, 2005. Also, the footings for the new **Speculative Building** are in place and construction is moving right along with this project. The 40,000 square foot building is expected to be completed by the end of year 2005.

## New turn lane expected to improve access

The portion of U.S. Hwy 280 in front of the Tallapoosa County Industrial Park is already four-laned, but soon it will have an additional lane that officials say will make the entrance to the park safer and more accessible. The Alabama Department of Transportation has given the initial approval to add a turning lane on U.S. Hwy 280 in front of the entrance of the industrial park. According to Tallapoosa County Commissioner Bill Thweatt, "it's something the park has needed for some time. It's going to be a safer situation, and there's no doubt that it will be more convenient."

"The turning lane also will make the park more accessible for potential industries wanting to locate there," said Don McClellan, project manager for the Lake Martin Area EDA. McClellan said, "with a park that large, industries that locate there are likely to have 18 wheelers entering the park on a regular basis. With a turning lane at the entrance it will allow them to have better access to it. It will really make it more appealing to industry."

With this in mind, Representative Betty Carol Graham said, "she has been working with the department of transportation to make the turning lane at the industrial park a reality." Graham said Joe McInnis, director of the state department of transportation, told

her the turning lane was approved. Because the entry to the park was a safety concern, Graham said the department of transportation was quick to agree a turning lane was needed for the entryway to the park. "There were safety issues there, but I think this will really be the added plus the park needed," Graham said. "The park in Dadeville is progressing, and things are beginning to happen in that area. There is a very active group promoting that park, and I wanted to do my part in helping do what needs to be done to attract any industry to the county."

### **Update on Lake Martin Regional Industrial Park**

**A&E Metal Roofing Supply** is nearly finished with their building; the curbing and gutters are in place. The sprinkler system is in the median and we are getting ready to lay sod. **Good News** - we have two local industries in Alexander City that are planning expansions and will be adding jobs and additions to their present building locations.

### **GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT WORK TOGETHER by Don McClellan**

I will refer to a book written by Vaughn Grisham and Bob Gurwitt about the transformation of Tupelo in economic development by the title of "*Hand in Hand - Community and Economic Development in Tupelo*".

According to Dr. Grisham's book in 1940 annual rural income in Lee County, Miss. which includes Tupelo was only \$600. George McLean was the owner of the Tupelo Journal at that time and he decided something needed to be done to improve the welfare of every citizen in Lee County. He began to go up and down Main Street to spark interest, gather ideas, and raise capital to do something about the economic conditions. He called this "coffee-cup diplomacy" later on. His goal was to plant three fundamental ideas in the minds of merchants and town leaders.

- Tupelo's future lay as much in the country side around it as it did in the town itself;
- It depended as much on Lee County's poorest residents as it did on its most favored; and
- Citizen's who could afford to do so, ought to invest their money and time in raising the quality of life of all the area's people.

George McLean believed that if people put their money and time into improving their community they would reap handsome dividends. There is no magic in these ideas, but in looking at Tupelo today they sure did work. In 1967 and 1969 Lee County gained more industrial jobs than the other 81 counties in Mississippi combined. It can be accomplished with the entire community working together.

For the past 15 years Tupelo and Lee County have added more than 1,000 industrial jobs each year. They have also built more than one million square feet of industrial space every year for the past 13 years. The county has added almost twice as many service jobs. In 1998, Lee County could boast of having 53,000 jobs in a county with a population of only 72,000. The county's poverty rate is approximately one-half of the national average. Lee County, Miss. is the second wealthiest county in the state.

It hosts more than 200 highly diversified manufacturers including 18 Fortune 500 companies and 45 international corporations. Lee County's economic success both derives from and supports a rich community life that seems surprisingly robust for what is, after all, a modestly sized rural county. The public school system is consistently ranked as one of the best in the nation, and Tupelo supports a thriving symphony, art museum and theater. Economic development came about because of community development - the ability of citizens to identify and work together on issues of common concern. Their dedication to educating children and adults, their constant search for ways of providing each other with needed resources and skills made it possible.

This exercise of looking at Tupelo, Miss. is designed to excite us to the possibilities for our community and encourage us when we see what can be accomplished when all entities come together. We need a common goal and a plan to implement those goals. We are a community of two counties with great natural resources with people being the greatest resource. Parks and recreation has a slogan that all of us should adopt, "**the possibilities are endless.**"

### **Alabama Technology Network**

Alabama Technology Network - Alexander City is offering classes on **Forklift Safety - Train the Trainer**. The classes will be held on Wednesday, September 15 and Wednesday, October 13 at Central Alabama Community College - Alexander City Campus.

- Course information -
- 6-Hour hands-on training with training materials provided
- Certificate & Forklift Operating License upon completion
- Cost: \$195.00 per person
- Time: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Lunch will be provided

For more information please contact Greg Barnett, industry coordinator at (256) 215-4307 or (205) 960-2999 cell or email [gbarnett@atn.org](mailto:gbarnett@atn.org). You can also register online at [www.atn.org](http://www.atn.org).



**40,000 Sq Ft Speculative Shell Building - Tallapoosa County Industrial Park.** This building will be available late 2005.

**60,000 sq ft Speculative Shell Building - Lake Martin Regional Industrial Park.** This building is available now - ready to move into.

**30,000 sq ft Industrial Building - Lake Martin Regional Industrial Park.** This building is available immediately for sell.

For more information on these buildings, please call Don McClellan, project manager at (256) 215-4410 or email at [dmccllellan@cacc.cc.al.us](mailto:dmccllellan@cacc.cc.al.us).

#### **2005 Board Members**

- Glenn Thomas
- Jerry Allen
- Frank Harris
- Tom Lamberth
- Steve Crowe
- Les Sellers
- T.C. Coley
- Gloria Sinclair
- Terry Mitchell
- Bobby Davis
- Mayor Barbara Young
- Mayor Joe Smith
- Susan Foy
- Cal Johnson
- Lynn Patterson
- John Patten
- John Webb
- Robert Parsons

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#### **Contact Us**

The Lake Martin Area Economic Development Alliance is open Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm to serve our members. If you need to contact us please call (256) 215-4410.

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