

NEWSLETTER

Claiborne Chamber of Commerce

Congressman Jim McCrery

Serving his eighth full term in the U.S. House, Jim McCrery represents Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District, encompassing northwest and west central Louisiana.

He was first elected to Congress in the spring of 1988. His victory made him the first Republican elected from Louisiana's Fourth District in 114 years.

He has been recognized as one of the most thoughtful members of the US Congress, focusing on solving America's challenges by looking past politics of the moment and toward long term, permanent solutions.

I know you will want to come to the 40th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet and help give Mr. McCrery a warm Claiborne Parish Welcome. Mark your calendars and make your reservations well in advance for the January 10, 2005 event.



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Special points of interest:

- *Pictures on the Web*
- *New Members*
- *After hours in Haynesville*
- *News Brief*
- *Pancake Breakfast*
- *New Board of Directors*
- *Ribbon Cuttings*

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The Old and The New

By John Watson

We have all really enjoyed working with Board Members Ann Burton, Pete Pearson, and Judy Padgett but it is almost time for them to rotate off. Thank you for your service. The Chamber has made great progress through your leadership. We also want to welcome the new Board Members that have been elected and have agreed to serve. From Homer, Wesley Emerson, Kevin Green, and Brian Smith; from Haynesville, Beverly Killgore and Dr. Eddie Butler; and from Athens, Patricia McMullan. They will join current members J.T. Taylor, Steve Koskie, Melissa Watts, Ann Freeman, J.R. Oakes, Bubba McClung, Gurvis Vines, John Wesley Cooper, Karlene Sanford, Melody Kelly, Fred Lewis, and Yamada Burks.

Advertise on the Web

By John Watson

We now have fifteen (15) Chamber members that are advertising with pictures on the claiborneone.org web site. There is only a \$35.00 setup.

What are you waiting on?



"Taste of Homer"

By John Watson

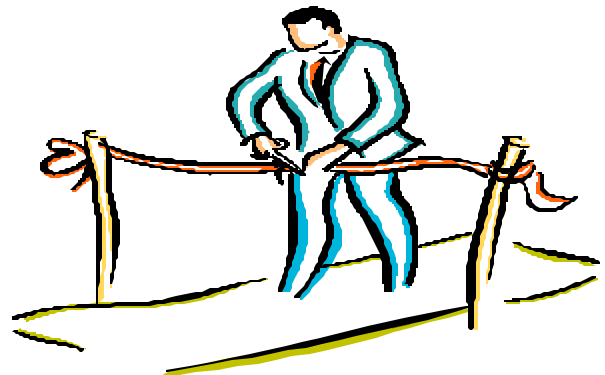


This year the "Taste of Homer" was on Saturday, November 13, at Homer City Hall. If you didn't make it to this event you really missed a treat. There was over 100 different food items to taste. The tickets were \$10.00 and the proceeds went to the Christmas Festival. I attended for the first time this year and was amazed at the variety and quantity of food. What a deal for \$10.00!!! Participating merchants in Homer & Haynesville had an open house to start your Christmas holiday shopping. There were plenty of sales and a \$250.00 shopping spree was given away. I definitely plan to make this event next year.

Ribbon Cutting

By John Watson

I am happy to report that we have conducted ribbon cutting ceremonies for Foster's Farm & Home in Haynesville, Gray's Jewelry and Claiborne Physical Therapy in Homer since our last publication.



Field of Dreams: *Build It and They Will Come*

The theme for the 2005 Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be Field of Dreams. With a forward looking approach, we will be highlighting several new parish business projects. Build it and they will come is a positive approach to the future of Claiborne Parish. We are honored to have Congressman Jim McCrery as our quest speaker. Please help give Mr. McCrery a great Claiborne Parish welcome. Make your reservation as soon as possible so we can make final preparations for a memorable evening. For your convenience, you will be receiving reservation cards for attendee listing, table reservations, and/or sponsorship.



PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

by John Watson

Thanks to all of the early birds for making this a success. If you failed to come to the pancake and sausage breakfast on November 9 you really missed some good food and fellowship. Thanks to some generous donations and great volunteers, the Chamber was able to clear around \$975.70 on this fund raiser.



North Louisiana Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Center

By Gurvis Vines

The project finance committee met to discuss various ways in which to establish funding for this project. Some of the information that the group looked at concerned funding provided by court costs levied on all felony and misdemeanor prosecutions; charges for services provided by the detention center; grants from the Department of Corrections, State of Louisiana. The committee will be meeting in Baton Rouge with representatives from the Juvenile Department of Corrections in the near future. Present for the meeting were; Ken Bailey, Gurvis Vines, Ben Booth, Kenneth Volentine, J.R. Oakes, J.T. Taylor, John Wesley Cooper, Michael Allen, and ,not pictured, John Watson.



Chili & Soup

By Gurvis Vines

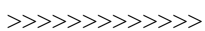
The Claiborne Chamber held its first after hours in Haynesville on October 28, 2004. Chili and soup with all the fixings was served and we had a good turnout. The event was held at the Haynesville Fair Barn. We plan to schedule such events in Haynesville as well as all other areas of the parish as often as possible.

Chamber News Brief

At the November Chamber Board meeting, the board passed a resolution authorizing the creation of a Water and Transportation Committee. Jerry Williams from Claiborne Electric will serve as chairman and the committee will focus on securing funding for the Homer By-Pass and the creation of additional lakes in Claiborne Parish. Future water needs is a subject we should all be concerned with and a problem that we all will share if action is not taken. Experts agree this is a problem that can be avoided with timely planning and aggressive action. The Chamber committee will be promoting and assisting in new lake projects in Claiborne Parish, focusing on the recharge of the Sparta Aquifer and surface water treatment plants to meet our drinking water needs.



The list of new members just keeps on growing.



- 1) Henderson Advertising in Arcadia
- 2) Foster's Farm & Home in Haynesville
- 3) Heckel Logging in Homer
- 4) Miss Lizzies in Homer
- 5) Dependable Pump in Haynesville
- 6) Nelson Philpot in Homer
- 7) Toney Johnson Real Estate in Homer
- 8) Killgore Pharmacy in Haynesville
- 9) Don Grimes in Homer
- 10) Ronny Anderson in Homer
- 11) Pelican Car Wash in Homer
- 12) Bubba McClung in Homer
- 13) Claiborne Construction in Athens
- 14) Robert S. McClendon in Homer
- 15) Louisiana Directories in Shreveport
- 16) Parden's Paadise on Lake Claiborne
- 17) Dr. Allen Nipper in Homer
- 18) Fowler Transportation in Haynesville
- 19) Tall Timbers in Homer
- 20) Johnny Schwaller
- 21) Shelby Duay
- 22) Claiborne Physical Therapy in Homer
- 23) Colvin Rentals, LLC
- 24) Barnette & Benefield Inc. in Haynesville

