

February 15, 2008

Chamber Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

- Communication Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

- Leadership Catoosa – Capitol

Thursday, February 21, 2008

- 12 @ 12 Colonnade Board Room

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

- Executive Board (3 p.m.)
- Board Meeting (4 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

- Membership Retention (8:30 a.m.)
- 12 @ 12:00

12 Chamber Members join
President Martha Eaker for lunch

Thursday, February 28, 2008

- Tourism Committee (9 a.m.)

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

- Entrepreneur Friendly (9:30 a.m.)

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

- Leadership Committee (8:30 a.m.)

Thursday, March 6, 2008

- Ambassador Meeting (8:30 a.m.)

Friday, March 7, 2008

- Education Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

- Legislative Committee (9:00 a.m.)
- Entrepreneur Friendly (9:30 a.m.)
- Candidates College (6:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

- Small Business Council (8:30 a.m.)

Thursday, March 13, 2008

- Chamber Luncheon Meeting (11:50 a.m.)

Friday, March 14, 2008

- New Member Reception (10 a.m.)

Monday, March 17, 2008

- St. Patrick's Day
Networking at Panera Bread (8:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

- Communication Committee (9:00 a.m.)
- Entrepreneur Friendly (9:30 a.m.)

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

- Leadership Catoosa (8:00 a.m.)

Weekly Chamber Meetings

Tuesdays: FTO Leads Group (8:00 a.m.)

Thursdays: Catoosa Leads Group (8:30 a.m.)

Isakson Introduces Legislation Offering Tax Credit to Homebuyers

Cites Success of Similar Tax Credit in Mid-1970s

WASHINGTON – Drawing on more than three decades of experience in the real estate industry, U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, R-GA., today introduced legislation to provide a \$15,000 tax credit spread out over three tax years for anyone purchasing a new home, a foreclosed home or a home where foreclosure is pending. Isakson said he believes such a tax credit would provide an immediate boost to the housing market and to the nation's economy, just as a similar tax credit did in the mid-1970s.

Co-sponsors of Isakson's legislation include Senators Judd Gregg, R-N.H., Wayne Allard, R-CO., Saxby Chambliss, R-GA., and Larry Craig, R-Idaho.

“Our country and our economy face a serious challenge in the next 12 months. The number of unsold new homes and foreclosed resale homes will reach unprecedented numbers. Lenders will be forced to liquidate their real estate holdings, which will result in lower home values and less equity for homeowners,” Isakson said. **“Today, we need the same bold incentive to restore the housing market and consumer confidence. Just as it did in the mid-1970s, this proposal will reduce inventories, reduce foreclosures and stabilize market values.”**

In the mid-1970s, America faced a similar housing crisis when a period of easy credit and loose underwriting flooded the market with new construction. Interest rates rose, the economy slowed and America was left with a three-year supply of vacant homes. Congress responded by passing a \$6,000 tax credit spread out over three tax years for anyone purchasing a new home for their principle residence. Isakson believes the results were clear and swift as home values stabilized, housing inventory dropped and the market recovered.

Specifically, Isakson's legislation, S.2566, will provide a direct tax credit for the purchase of a single-family home in the amount of \$5,000 a year for three years on homes purchased between March 1, 2008, and February 28, 2009. Buyers must occupy the homes as their principle residences to be eligible, and purchases of homes from investors or by investors are ineligible. Homes eligible for the tax credit include:

- New homes where the building permit was issued and construction began on or before September 1, 2007;
- Owner-occupied homes whose first mortgage loan is in default; and
- A single-family home that has been foreclosed on and is owned by the mortgagor or its agent.

Isakson spent more than three decades in the real estate business, beginning his business career in 1967 when he opened the first Cobb County office of a small, family-owned real estate business, Northside Realty. Isakson later served as president of Northside for 20 years, presiding over the company's growth into the largest independent residential real estate brokerage company in the Southeast and one of the largest in America.

ONE MORE TIME!

If you attended the 2008 “Dancing with the Stars” Gala,
we would love to have your feed-back!

Please go to

www.catoosachamberofcommerce.com

click on

Please Give Us Your Gala Feed-Back

It only takes a minute!

Have you heard of the Pandemic Flu?

Have you wondered what it is and how to protect your family?

Then wonder no more!

Just visit the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce's website at www.catoosachamberofcommerce.com, click on Community News, and take it from there!

Did ya Know?

As a member of the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce you can access your information on our website, www.catoosachamberofcommerce.com and update your business information. It's simple—just click on the "Member Area" on the left, request a password, then in just a short time you will be able to manage your information.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

This is a special announcement to all Chamber Members. In order to be good stewards of your money, effective May 1, 2008, we will start emailing all invoices for the Chamber.

We need the CORRECT contact name and email address for invoices. We need this no later than April 15, 2008. Please email this information to eboyles@catoosachamberofcommerce.com.

If any member RSVPs to a Chamber sponsored event and does not attend and we have to invoice them and this balance goes unpaid past 30 days, we will begin charging \$1.00 per month until it is paid. This will also be effective May 1, 2008. If you have any questions, please email eboyles@catoosachamberofcommerce.com, and we will do our best to address your concerns.



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