

June 2009

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**INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY**  
of Chambers County

# NEWS FROM THE IDA

## IDA of Chambers County receives Award from Business Council of Alabama

Article from *The Valley Times -News*



*(Pictured Above: Tammy Johnson, Valerie Gray, Governor Bob Riley, Bruce Emfinger, James Williams, Representative DuWayne Bridges and Representative Richard Laird)*

The Alabama Development Office presented the 2009 Economic Development Achievement Award to the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) of Chambers County at the Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards luncheon hosted on Wednesday by the Business Council of Alabama and the Alabama Technology Network.

ADO Director Neal Wade (pictured here) presented the award to the IDA for its outstanding leadership, exemplary teamwork, and extraordinary effort, all of which are integral in building a growing community that nurtures existing industry, attracts new investment, spurs innovation, promotes job creation and creates robust economic opportunity. The Chambers County organization has helped retain and gain a significant number of jobs over the last few years for the Chambers County area.



Authority Executive Director Valerie Gray, along with other county leaders, was credited with having developed a diverse industry base that includes existing employers such as MeadWestvaco, Knauf Insulation, Great Lakes Metal Stamping and Intercall, among others. Statistically, Chambers County has the state's highest unemployment percentage, but several new companies are in various stages of construction in the Cusseta Industrial Park, according to ADO officials, thanks to the hard work of the Industrial Development Authority. The Business Council of Alabama is a statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly 5,000 Alabama businesses and industries that employ approximately 750,000 Alabamians. Manufacturers comprise the largest single segment of BCA's investors. BCA is Alabama's exclusive representative to the National Association of Manufacturers' National Industrial Council.

Our Website can now be accessed at [www.chambersida.com](http://www.chambersida.com). Please remember to change your links and bookmarks.

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We would like to welcome Bobby Williams and Greg Duffey our two newest members to the IDA Board.

**DON'T FORGET!**

Monday, June 22nd

10:00 am EDT

The Grand Opening

at

*Interiors*

by

J P Johnson Development

## DAEDONG HI-LEX Plant Tour: *By Valerie Gray*

*(Pictured Below: James Williams, Commissioner Henry Osborne, Commissioner Debbie Wood*

*Mac Tucker, Takuji Muryama, County Attorney Skip McCoy and Cary Baldwin)*



On Friday May 17, 2009 members of the Chambers County Commission and the IDA Board of Directors were invited to tour the newly opened DAEDONG HI-LEX of America (DDHLA) facility. Located in the Chambers County Industrial Park, DDHLA is a Tier 1 supplier to Kia Motors Manufacturing of Georgia plant in West Point.

After a brief introduction by Board President James Williams, DDHLA Chief Operating Officer Takuji Muryama welcomed everyone to their new facility.

Mr. Muryama gave the group a presentation on DDHLA, Hilex Controls Inc. and their presence in the global economy. Following the update, Mr. Muryama presented a plaque of appreciation to the Chambers County Commission and IDA for their support during the recruitment and construction process.

A tour of the facility and demonstration of the products that will be produced at the Chambers County plant were given to all parties present. Pictured is Grady Harmon, IDA Boardmember with COO of Hi-Lex Takuji Muryama inspecting a door panel produced at the Chambers County Plant. Commissioner's thanked DDHLA for choosing Chambers County and pledged their support to help make this new facility a success.



## Southern Union Announces New Building for Valley Campus

*Article from The Valley Times-News*



The chancellor of Alabama's Community College System and other state officials were on the Valley campus of Southern Union State Community College Wednesday morning to announce some exciting news for the campus. Chancellor Bradley Byrne unveiled plans for a 10,000-squarefoot Technology Building that could open on the Valley campus as early as the fall of 2010. "It will help with existing industries and help recruit new industries to the area," he said. "It will be a place we can take them to and say 'This is where we can train your workers.'" Shown from left, are State Rep. DuWayne Bridges; Betty Peters, District 2 representative on the State Board of Education; Dr. Amelia Pearson, interim

President, SUSCC; Chancellor Byrne; Valley Mayor Arnold Leak and Dr. Matthew Hughes, director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development.

Two Long Standing Board Members Retire: *by Valerie Gray*



On Tuesday April 14, 2009, the Industrial Development Authority of Chambers County Board of Directors held it's regularly scheduled meeting at the newly opened Hampton Inn & Suites. During the meeting, the IDA honored 2 of its long standing Board members, Tim Blanks and Richie Terry. Both

men were honored with plaques recognizing their many years of service to the Board. Mr. Blanks, Secretary of the IDA, has served on the Board for over 14 years and Mr. Terry has served on the Board for over 9 years. During the presentation Board President James Williams expressed that each man will be missed terribly and thanked them for their many years of servant leadership. Shown from left to right: James Williams, IDA President, Tim Blanks, IDA Secretary and Richie Terry.

**\$2 Million EDA Sewer Grant Awarded:** *from the Valley Times-News, April 22nd*

A major piece of funding for a \$5 million sewer project that will aid development in Chambers County has been approved by the federal government. Sen. Richard Shelby announced Tuesday, April 21st, that the Economic Development Administration has awarded a \$2 million grant to Chambers County, the Industrial Development Authority of Chambers County and East Alabama Water, Sewer and Fire Protection District for water and sewer infrastructure improvements. The EDA grant is a key piece of the funding for the \$5 million project that will enable East Alabama to bring sewer service to the Chambers County Industrial Park at Exit 70 on Interstate 85. East Alabama will run a line from around Givorns in Fairfax along Judge Brown Road to the Exit 70 area.

IDA Director Valerie Gray said the grant is good news for Chambers County and will be a big boost in residential, commercial and industrial development at Exit 70 and residential growth in nearby areas. In addition to the EDA grant, the project has \$220,000 in funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission with the balance coming from local funding. The Chambers County Commission is participating through its economic development infrastructure fund and East Alabama is also providing funding for the project. Gray said the project will allow East Alabama to upgrade its services and add infrastructure that will open up more areas of the county for development. At present, the industrial park has sewer service from Opelika, but that contract has a time limit on it, Gray said. Furthermore, Opelika was not going to expand its sewer service beyond the industrial park.

"It is critical that Alabama's local communities have a strong infrastructure in place to support area businesses and attract industries that bring new jobs," Shelby said. "Chambers County will use this grant to make much needed improvements to its water and sewer infrastructure. "The construction is necessary to support the new and existing businesses in the nearby Chambers County Industrial Park, as well as the county's emerging automotive industry. This investment will help transform and diversify Chambers County's economy from its reliance on textile jobs to higher-wage, higher-skill jobs." Shelby said the project will create 884 jobs and bring \$130.4 million in private investment to Chambers County.

## Current IDA Board Members

James Williams  
President  
Cary Baldwin  
Vice-President  
Allen Hendrix  
Secretary  
Robert L. Johnson  
Treasurer

Harvey Brown  
Greg Duffey  
Grady Harmon  
Ray Hemrick  
Bonnie Jarrell  
Hennon King, Sr.  
Marcus Moreman  
Kevin Pigg  
Mac Tucker  
Bobby Williams

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