



## NEWS YOU CAN USE!



## UPCOMING

Please review the below projects and contact Brenda Brown at 706-798-3236 on how to take advantage of these business opportunities.

**Custodial Services Contract** - A Mandatory pre bid meeting is scheduled on February 26, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Procurement Department 530 Greene Street Room 605 706-821-2422.

**Concessions Area Improvements** - Mandatory pre bid meeting will be scheduled in the near future so be looking out for that in the coming weeks. **Construction projects** scheduled in the very near future that will include the following trades, this is not an all inclusive list: - Flooring \* Lighting/Electricians \* Carpentry \* Hauling \* Grading \* Concrete/Asphalt paving \* Signage. An open house to show case all of our upcoming projects is tentatively scheduled for February 19th, however the date is subject to change.

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE NEWS

It is tax filing time and below are a few of the changes in the tax code that may directly effect you as a Small Business Owner. Many commercially available tax preparation software tools take these changes into account, but do your due diligence first and contact the IRS or your tax advisor

**First-Time Homebuyer Credit** - Originally set to expire on November 30, 2009, this refundable credit was extended last Fall to apply to first-time homebuyer sales occurring on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. If you operate your small business from an office situated within a first-time home purchase, you may eligible for an \$8,000 credit - which is the equivalent of a 15 year interest-free loan!

**Expensing Business Property and Equipment** - What

## PROJECTS

business expense write offs can you plan on this year? According to the IRS, many small businesses that invest in new property and equipment will be able to quick write off up to \$250,000.00 on their 2009 returns. The IRS has more information available and you can get addition information at Section179.org, a free resource for small businesses which offers advice on when and how to take the deduction.

**Cancellation of Business Debt** - The ARRA also enables certain businesses to elect to delay recognition of income from the cancellation of business debt in 2009 or 2010, up until the 5th year after the reacquisition. If you wish to elect this option refer to the guidelines from the IRS..

**Business Credit for COBRA Premium Assistance to Employees** - Another ARRA benefit, if your small business provided COBRA assistance to terminated employees in 2009 the Act provides for a 65% credit against COBRA amounts paid. The credit is taken against employment taxes on Form 941, Form 944, or Form 943.

**Business Energy Credits** - Expected to expire after 2008, the business energy credit of \$4,000 for purchases of qualifying fuel cells property, micro turbine property, and solar energy property are now extended through 2016. More tax changes that may impact or benefit your small business can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) under Tax Changes for Business, visit [www.ga.gov](http://www.ga.gov) for changes to state tax laws.

## Links of Interest to Business Owners

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTER AT GEORGIA TECH visit their website at [www.georgiambec.org](http://www.georgiambec.org)

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ECONOMIC FORUM information at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy/jobsforum>.

Keeping you Informed

**MBDA News**

The Minority Business program of the U. S. Government is administered by the Commerce Department, under the direction of St. Louis, MO native David Hinson. The website for the agency is <http://www.mbda.gov>.



The Georgia Statewide Minority Business Enterprise Center under the direction of Ms. Donna Ennis is operated by Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute. the website can be found at <http://www.georgiambec.org/>.

The GMBEC is committed to working with all Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) needing assistance in start-up, expansion, and sustainability. The center performs Business Assessment to analyze financial and operational health. Access to Capital and Finance Management through business advisors who offer extensive experience in: Commercial lending and banking, Financial, credit and risk analysis, SBA and conventional loans qualification and evaluation, Loan and grant identification and packaging and General finance counseling. The Office also will assist you in Increasing market share through the identification of new markets or increasing your customer base in an existing market, Strategic Business Consulting and Business Process Improvement,



*Quote of the Month*

*We must have a theme, a goal, a purpose in our lives. If you don't know where you're aiming, you don't have a goal. My goal is to live my life in such a way that when I die, someone can say, she cared.....Mary Kay Ash*

**SBA News**

Visit the Small Business Administration website to find valuable information in regards minority, women and veteran owned businesses at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and the SBA Georgia District office website at <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ga/index.html>

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The Emerging 200 initiative of the SBA is a program used to identify and support inner-city small businesses that have substantial potential for growth and provides them with executive level MBA-like training, networking, and other resources necessary for success. Visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) for additional info.

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**UGA SBDC Office of Minority Business Development**

Pricing for Minority Contractors: Pricing to Survive during Tough Times, Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, \$30.00, (Discounted Fee; Regular Price \$69), Small Business Development Center, 1180 East Broad Street, Athens, GA 30602-5412, Online registration: [www.georgiasbdc.org/ce/athens](http://www.georgiasbdc.org/ce/athens). The course will introduce participants to the various components of an effective pricing model. Participants will learn ways to identify and calculate variable and fixed costs in order to determine unit costs for products and services. Class will also cover how to effectively use accounting software packages such as QuickBooks to track costs.

**Upcoming UGA SBDC Events in Augusta**

- Writing an Effective Business Plan - Feb 9, 6:00 PM, 2.5hrs, \$69.00
- Introduction to QuickBooks - Feb 19, 9:00 AM, 7hrs, \$149.00
- Starting A Business - Mar 2, 6:00 PM, 3hrs, \$69.00
- Starting A Business - MILITARY ONLY, Mar 15, 11:30 AM, 1.5hrs \$0.00
- OSHA: 2010 Regulation Updates - Mar 23, 9:00 AM, 7hrs, \$30.00
- OSHA: Record Keeping Requirements - Mar 23, 9:00 AM, 7hrs, \$30.00
- How to Get Started in Import/Export - Mar 25, 6:00 PM, 3hrs, \$69.00
- Starting A Business - Apr 13, 6:00 PM, 3hrs, \$69.00
- FastTrac Growth Venture - Apr 20, 9:00 AM, 7hrs, \$895.00

**Stimulus Funds, Jobs, and GSA Schedules** - Though the economy may be getting better, unemployment is still high and stimulus money is only partially spent, way behind the administration's original schedule, which bodes well for federal contracting. GSA schedules are being used extensively by federal buyers because new jobs can be created quickly with minimal red tape. A quick federal contract to green a federal facility can happen much faster than an infrastructure project at the state and local level, even if it is shovel ready. Download a complimentary copy of the book [GSA Schedules: The Shortest Path to Federal Dollars](#) or call 301 652 9504, press 2.

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**From President Barack Obama's State of the Union address** - So tonight, I'm proposing that we take \$30 billion of the money Wall Street banks have repaid and use it to help community banks give small businesses the credit they need to stay afloat. (Applause.) I'm also proposing a new small business tax credit -- one that will go to over one million small businesses who hire new workers or raise wages. (Applause.) While we're at it, let's also eliminate all capital gains taxes on small business investment, and provide a tax incentive for all large businesses and all small businesses to invest in new plants and equipment. From the day I took office, I've been told that addressing our larger challenges is too ambitious; such an effort would be too contentious. I've been told that our political system is too gridlocked, and that we should just put things on hold for a while. For those who make these claims, I have one simple question: How long should we wait? How long should America put its future on hold? (Applause.)

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Are you a Veteran, service connected disabled, spouse of a veteran, active duty about to transition, Reservist or National Guard member, or widowed spouse of any of the above, contact the SBA about the Patriot Express Loan program for those looking to expand or start a small business. Please visit [www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/index.html) for additional information.

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Take advantage of the SBA's assessment tool at <http://www.sba.gov/assessmenttool/index.html> to assist you in understanding your readiness for starting a small business. It is simple to use, takes less than 5 minutes to complete and will prompt you with questions and assist you in evaluating skills, characteristics and experience as they relate to your preparedness for starting a business. Your responses will be scored automatically and an assessment profile provided, when you click the submit button. You will also receive, based on your score, a statement of Suggested Next Steps .

## Other Related News & Events

### *Business League News & Views*

**A**re you in need of a professional looking office or conference room to meet with your clients? Contact The League and lease our Timeshare Office, equipped with a computer, phone, printer, wireless and wired internet access and Conference room with seating for 12, also equipped with a phone, wired and wireless internet access. Each lease by the hour. We also have office space for lease, we offer flexible terms and rates that are affordable. Call us at 706 722 - 0994 for additional information.

**W**e need you to join the League and assist us in providing support for Women, Minority and Disadvantaged Businesses in the CSRA. The League will celebrate its 40th Anniversary this year and we are working hard to reclaiming our position as the go to organization for information in regards to contracts, networking and procurement opportunities. The time is right for the CSRA to fulfill the promise of the Disparity Study, which is working to ensure all segments of the community will be treated fairly when it comes to awarding contracts. Tell us what we can do to assist you in being successful, many small business owners claim they want to be successful, however they fail to take the steps to do so, in 2010, take the first step by purchasing a CSRA Business League membership.

CSRA Business League  
Board of Directors and Staff

R. Calvin Brown, Chairman  
Veronica Shareef, Vice Chairwoman  
Carol Martin, Secretary  
Kirkatina Banks, Treasurer  
Renata Boston  
Helen Godbee  
Earnestine Howard  
Charlie McCann  
L. C. Myles

Ellis Albright, President/CEO  
Il—hwa Bowman, Staff Assistant

821 12th Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30901  
Phone: 706 722 — 0994  
Fax: 706 722 — 3115  
Email: info@business-league.org  
Website: www.business-league.org

The CSRA Business League, Inc. has been “Serving our Community with Pride” since its founding in 1970. Our mission is to support and assist small, minority and disadvantaged businesses in their efforts to become successful and prosperous. Our goal is to serve as an information clearinghouse and referral source, in addition to providing networking opportunities and technology training for small, disadvantaged and minority owned businesses.

As a 501© 3 not for profit organization, we are dedicated to providing those we serve with modern strategies and services that gives the business owner the tools to maintain a thriving and successful small business.

Membership Corner

Are you or have you ever been a member of the CSRA Business League, Inc.? The League is having a Membership Drive, please assist us by purchasing a League membership. Please contact us for the benefits of a League membership and take a moment to visit our revamped website at \* \* [www.business-league.org](http://www.business-league.org).

Our Newest Member's

- \*\* Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites \*\*
- \*\* Carl T. Dugger, CIM Of Augusta, LLC, \*\*
- \*\* Bryan Dobey, 3D's Security & Self Defense, LLC \*\*

MEMBERSHIP FEES

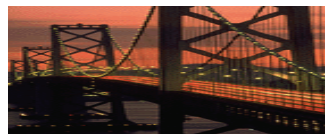
STUDENT	\$25.00	NON-PROFIT	\$50.00
INDIVIDUAL/LLC	\$100.00	CORPORATE	\$150.00

SERVICES

- Application Assistance
- Business Plan Development Assistance
- Business Incorporation
- Business Networking Meetings and Seminars
- Computer Lab
- Computer Training for Business Owners
- Copying, Fax and Mail Services
- Partnership Facilitation
- Educational Business Seminars
- Grant Research and Recommendations
- Marketing & Advertising Assistance
- Small Business Incubator Office Space
- Technology Assistance and Resources
- Coming Soon*
- Youth Entrepreneur Program

Happy Valentine's Day

From the  
CSRA Business League  
Board of Directors  
&  
Staff



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT  
CLUB NIGHTFLIFE WITH  
CHER BEST  
5:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
NETWORKING EVENT

SINCE 1970  
THE BUSINESS LEAGUE  
HAS SERVED AS A BRIDGE  
TO SMALL BUSINESS  
SUCCESS IN THE CSRA