

Anderson County Coalition Awarded Chancellor's Award

2018 has been a great year for the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce and more importantly for Anderson County.

On Friday, December 7th, the Chamber of Commerce, the Anderson County Economic Development Association, and the Anderson County Coalition was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy by the College System of Tennessee. The Anderson County Coalition is made up of the following organizations: Aisin Automotive, Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, Anderson County Economic Development Association, Anderson County Government, the City of Clinton, the City of Norris, Darrell Hensley, the Education Foundation for Clinton City and Anderson County Schools, and SL Tennessee, LLC.

The award was presented during the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Anderson County Higher Education Center that is in partnership with Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville and Roane State Community College.

This \$11 million facility will be built on nine

acres that were completely donated by SL Tennessee, LLC. "To have a facility like this in Anderson County, or even in the state of Tennessee, is really something unique. Typically a higher education facility is operated by an independent

company, such as TCAT. Whereas with this particular education facility, you have Roane State Community College and TCAT partnering together to bring a new education center to Anderson County that will really make an impact on the community and East Tennessee area," says Rick Meredith.

"The Anderson County Higher Education Center will provide the technical training that is required to staff our current industry needs. Additionally, this will prepare students within the community for the new skills that are required with new technology in the future. Students will have the opportunity to earn a degree and certain certificates at the same time that will lead to successful career opportunities. With workforce currently being the most important factor in recruiting new industries and existing industry expansions, this facility will help to insure Anderson County's future job creation," says Director of the Anderson County Economic Development Association, Tim Thompson.

In September, the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce President, Rick Meredith, was awarded the Tennessee Chamber Executive of the Year Award. 2018 has opened many doors of opportunities for Anderson County and it can only continue to get better from here.



MEMBER FOCUS



JD'S AUCTIONS

After a combined 28 years of military service in the U.S. Army, Jason and Natalie Deel decided to move to the Knoxville area to raise their family. They both knew that they wanted to continue to help others thus resulting in them opening JD's Auctions right in the heart of Historic Downtown Clinton. As a child, Jason collected many items and even continued to do so during his time in the Army. Both Jason and Natalie are well experienced and equally educated. After completing his MBA, Jason enrolled in Indiana University to complete his Certified Auctioneers Institute Course. Whereas Natalie also has a degree from the University of Portland Oregon. Natalie's passion is helping families through difficult times and planning fundraising events.

With a full team of staff, JD's Auction specializes in quarterly fine antiques, art, jewelry, live auctions, and weekly estate auctions. This veteran-owned and operated business is located at 316 Market Street. If you're looking to set up an estate sale or an auction- give them a call!



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YOUR CHAMBER AT WORK



The Community Partners Appreciation Breakfast took place at the Museum of Appalachia where catering was also provided by the venue.



Chamber of Commerce President, Rick Meredith thanks the Community Partners for their dedication and support to the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce in 2018.



Michael Foster, City Manager of Rocky Top and Tom Bundy with Oak Ridge National Laboratory discuss Chamber talk prior to the breakfast.

The Community Partners Appreciation Breakfast

The Anderson County Chamber of Commerce hosted their first annual Community Partners Appreciation Breakfast on December 5th at the Museum of Appalachia. The event was a way for the Chamber of Commerce to say thank you to the 34 Community Partners who graciously give their time and support to the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce.

Without these Community Partners, the

Chamber of Commerce would not be able to successfully operate throughout the year. With the help of many of the Community partners, the Chamber has been able to host many successful events throughout the year. The Chamber of Commerce would also like to thank the Museum of Appalachia for allowing the event to be hosted at their facility as well as catering the event.

Interested in joining the Anderson County

Chamber of Commerce and becoming a community partner?

We are always welcoming new members! For the month of December, all new Chamber Memberships are 25% off.

For more membership information, please email the Member Services Coordinator, Jared Forgety at Jared@andersoncountychamber.org or call the Chamber at (865) 457-2559.

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Chamber Members!

Chamber News

The Clinton Christmas Parade "The Songs of Christmas"

The Anderson County Christmas traditions will continue this Saturday, December 15th with the Clinton Christmas Parade. The parade this year has returned to being held as a night parade and will go with the theme, "The Songs of Christmas." The parade will begin at 6:00 pm in Historic Downtown Clinton. The Chamber of Commerce encourages anyone in the community to come out and attend this night of Christmas fun!

Kicking Off the Holiday Season

Every year the Chamber of Commerce, Anderson County Economic Development Association, and Anderson County Tourism partner up to host a Christmas Open House for the holiday season. This year's Christmas Open House was on November 29th- just the perfect time to kick off Christmas festivities! The fun holiday event was catered by Apple Blossom Catering and took place at the lobby of Regions Bank in Clinton. Adding a bit of a spin to this year's event, the Chamber of

Commerce asked for party guests to donate non-perishable food items for Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. The night was a success and the Chamber of Commerce, Anderson County Economic Development Association, and Anderson County Tourism would like thank all of those who attended as well as who donated towards Second Harvest Food Bank. Special thanks to Apple Blossom Catering and Regions Bank of Clinton!



Susan and Joey Smith along with Corey Wooten enjoy some holiday fun!



When you end up matching hats at the Christmas Open House!



The Chamber Ambassadors pose for a photo at the photo booth.



Great crowd at the 2018 Christmas Open House!

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SCHOOL NEWS

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

CHS Becomes a Path to College School Destination



CHS Principal, Dr. Caleb Tipton along with Guidance Counselors; Mary Tuskan, Debbie Hawk, Carrie Jenkins, and Melissa Fey.

Clinton High School was awarded the 1st Annual "Path to College School Designation" for the 2017-2018 academic year by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). The school was given this distinction for "taking a leadership role in forging Tennessee's college-going culture" and helping THEC/TSAC "fulfill the mission of increasing the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential." CHS was 1 of 101 (of the 318 high schools in TN) to earn this designation. During the 2017-2018 academic year, Clinton High School supported the state's "Drive to 55" post-secondary initiatives by hosting all four Path to College events: College Application and

Exploration Week, TN FAFSA Frenzy, College Planning Night, and College Signing Day.

These events focused on educating students and families on post-secondary options, financial aid opportunities, and also celebrated students' decisions about continued education after high school graduation.

Additionally, Clinton High School provided feedback to THEC after each event in order to continue improving and expanding future Path to College events. Clinton High School students also experienced a 3% growth in the number of students reaching all 4 college-readiness benchmarks on the ACT exam. This distinction is a credit to CHS's administrative team, staff, counselors, and GEAR UP TN partnership.

CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS

Veterans Day Hangout



On Thursday, November 8, Mrs. Guidish's third grade classroom at Clinton Elementary School participated in a Veteran's Day activity that will be one to remember!

During instruction time, students learned about the meaning of Veteran's Day as well as proper interviewing skills. This included reading real interviews with soldiers, creating their own questions, and practicing verbal interviewing skills.

As a culminating activity, students were able to take classroom lessons and apply them to a live interview with a soldier. Google Hangout is a part of the Google Suite technology management platform that students use on individual Chromebooks. Google Hangout allows video interaction between computers, much like Skype and FaceTime.

With the help of the CCS technology team, students had a surprise Google Hangout "call" from a familiar Veteran, Ms. Guidish's fiancé, Staff SGT

Poore, who is currently deployed overseas. During this "hangout" each child was able to ask SSGT Poore about his life in the military, schooling, training, and a plethora of other related questions. Students were able to present and read aloud as a real interviewer. After this call was completed, the classroom had an entirely new view on this federal holiday; and consequently, a better appreciation of the word honor. Not only did this activity address classroom standards, but it used a real-life learning experience to make it meaningful while building patriotism.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

ACT Success Celebrated Among High Schools

CHS and ACHS have enjoyed celebrating ACT success this fall in a variety of ways that honor high achieving students. Both high schools held celebrations at football games to honor students with 30+ ACTs, students who met all ACT benchmarks who are honored as the Elite 100, and those who earn state designation as "Ready Graduates" by earning a score of 21 or better. Each level of ACT achievement qualifies a student for different prizes sponsored by GEAR UP and their high school. The goal of the tiered recognition to help students aspire to higher scores to earn greater honors and bigger scholarships. The ACT is a four hour exam given twice to each graduating class during school and on Saturdays selected as national testing days. A student should take their first ACT when they complete Algebra 2 regardless of their grade level as the majority of the math tested is covered by the end of the Algebra 2 course. ACT tutoring is offered at each high school. For more information about tutoring, contact the ACT Prep Coordinator at either high school.



Norris Middle Heads to Nashville

The Norris Middle School 6th Grade Nashville club had the trip of a lifetime in October. They started at the Adventure Science Center which focuses on hands on science for children. Along with many other must see spots, students enjoyed a tour of the Capital Building.

Their trip culminated with a guided tour through downtown Nashville and the universities. Of course, a trip to Nashville is not complete without visiting President Andrew Jackson's home, The Hermitage!



CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS

The Invasion of Maker Spacers

This year, Clinton City Schools has achieved our goal of becoming a 1:1 District. This means that every student has access to an individual electronic device to enhance learning. Living in the age of technology, education must adapt itself to meet the demands of society. Several years ago, having a computer lab was deemed as prestigious and state of the art. However, now that students have their own individual device, schools are beginning to formulate a different concept for this space in collaboration with libraries. Thus, the idea of Makerspaces was born!

Makerspaces are a multi-purpose space in an educational setting that allows for student exploration, creating, problem solving, and project base learning. At Clinton City Schools, technology teachers will work collaboratively with librarians to set up and plan for this new learning space. When visiting a Makerspace, a wide variety of activities can be seen. At times, students will be exploring with the materials in a creative fashion as they work to invent and develop their own ideas. Other times, they will be working to solve a real-world problem using a variety of resources in the Makerspace. Students have the ability to hear about a concept in class and come



to the Makerspace to develop the concept further using the materials of his/her choice.

This space allows for students to use creative, analytical, and critical thinking skills using a variety of mediums. Students can be seen coding, creating electrical circuits, building, problem solving, participating in robotics, implementing STEM activities, imagining, and inventing.

The beauty of a Makerspace is the flexibility that it provides to students and teachers.

Each school, grade, class, and student can use this multi-purpose space as needed to enhance learning. Now is the perfect time for parents and community members to get involved! Have you been wanting to clean out your children or grandchildren's toys in preparation for new Christmas presents?

If so, we can use them! If you have any Legos, Lincoln Logs, or Tinker Toys, we can put them to good use immediately! You can drop them by Central Office or have your child deliver them to the front office.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

If you would like to know more about the **Anderson County Chamber of Commerce** and see how it can benefit your business, please contact Jared Forgety, Member Services Coordinator, at Jared@andersoncountychamber.org or call the Chamber at (865) 457-2559

LEADERSHIP

The Class of 2019 Takes on Industry Day

The Leadership Anderson County Class of 2019 set out on December 5th for the program's Industry Day. The entire day was devoted to learning about Anderson County's leading manufacturing industries.

The day began with a tour of the Eagle Bend MAGNA facility. Leadership participants were able to see exactly what all this manufacturing plant does for countries around the globe right in Anderson County. After the tour, the group departed for Clayton Homes, where they were able to tour and see the process of building manufactured homes. The group took a brief break for lunch at Harrison's where Director of the Anderson County Economic Development Association, Tim Thompson spoke to the class about Anderson County's current economic projects.

Following lunch, the leadership participants continued with the industry tours making stops at AISIN Automotive, SL Tennessee, DURA Line, and ending the day with a presentation by Chamber of Commerce President, Rick Meredith.



Leadership Participants toured the major manufacturing industries in Anderson County including Clayton Homes.



Director of the Anderson County Economic Development Association, Tim Thompson spoke to the Leadership Class during their lunch break at Harrison's.

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NETWORKING EVENTS



Community Bank of East Tennessee hosted their annual Networking Coffee on December 6th. SCES Students performed a few Christmas carols to set the Christmas spirit.



Ameriprise Financial Services, Keeton and Associates hosted a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate their new office location!



Y-12 Federal Credit Union hosted their annual fall Networking Coffee at their Clinton location by the Interstate.



Community Bank of East Tennessee received their Community Partners plaque for their commitment to being Bronze Community Partners with the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce.



We'll see you at the Anderson County Christmas Parade Saturday, December 15th

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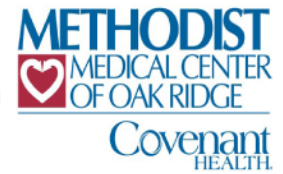
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