

# A \$10,500 check, plus several other opportunities

Before I discuss a \$10,500 opportunity that seems to be slipping under the radar, there are several other opportunities coming up you should mark in your calendar.

On September 15th, the Better Way Shoppe in Rainsville will host Rainsville Business After Hours. The meet and greet style event starts at 5:00 PM and will provide an opportunity to fellowship with other people in a relaxed, after-work setting. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcomed. The Shoppe is a ministry of the Upper Sand Mountain Parish.

September 11th through November 8th is this year's window of opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds at Down on the Farm. Call 638-6200 for information.

It's only 10 weeks until the third annual Sand Mountain Dessert Bake-Off on November 21st. The Chamber sponsors the event along with an auction on the same day. First place winners in the dessert contest will have the opportunity to win at least \$100 cash. The auction will provide the opportunity for anyone to help the Chamber raise money for its scholarship program.

The 2009 Holiday Open House has been tentatively set for the weekend of November 21st, as well. The event provides several opportunities for shoppers and merchants alike. I would love to get some feedback from merchants on how I can help carry out the event this season.

Lastly, a \$10,500 opportunity provided for in the Recovery Act of 2009 is coming to an end soon. How did I come up with \$10,500? Many individuals and couples who have not owned a home in the last three years will be able to claim a tax credit of 10 percent of a home purchase price with a maximum credit of \$8,000. Homes priced at \$80,000 and above would qualify for the full \$8,000. Add the average federal tax refund of about \$2,500 for a total refund of about \$10,500.

I know what I would do if I could keep \$10,500 of my own money.

October will be too late in many instances since the home purchases must be closed by November 30th in order to claim the credit on 2009 tax returns, and closings can take several weeks. Contact a real estate agent, mortgage lender or tax professional to learn more about the credit's limitations and qualifications.