

Business news from Main Street

I would like to welcome the Chamber's newest member, Judd Heating & Cooling, to the Rainsville business community. Their new office is located at 367 Main Street East next door to the tech school. That's a new location for a well-established business. They have been selling, installing and servicing heating and cooling systems since 1998. They are one of Sand Mountain Electric's certified heat pump contractors, which means you can—with approved credit—use the coop's heat pump financing program when you purchase a new heat pump from them.

In other member news, RMC Rentals & Sales at 696 Main Street West is now 10 years old. They have been open in Rainsville since July 1999. Call or visit RMC when you need to rent equipment like a bobcat, mortar mixer, generator, or pressure washer. RMC is also a U-Haul dealer, so you can rent U-Haul trucks, trailers and other moving equipment at their location.

The Chamber emphasizes the "shop local" message at every opportunity for many reasons including job creation and retention. According to the Department of Industrial Relation's August estimate, there are currently 4,187 persons in DeKalb County looking for jobs. It's safe to say that all jobs—even entry-level and part-time service sector jobs—are critical to someone right now. When we choose to shop in another county or state, or online, we are choosing to spend our money where other people support their own school activities, where other people fund their own street and park maintenance, and—perhaps most importantly to some of our neighbors who are seeking jobs—where other people live and work.

Government officials and economic development organizations are working hard behind the scenes to bring new manufacturing and distribution jobs to our region. But, one small group among us—the litter bugs—seems to be fighting against it. Is

litter getting worse in northeast Alabama even with all the emphasis on being "green?"

Litter has been known to discourage economic development. In fact, industrial site-selection professionals list litter as one of the top factors that prevent manufacturers from choosing a community. When litter bugs litter they display laziness, carelessness and ignorance. Who would want those traits in their workforce?

While questions about litter are on the table, let me ask another one. Why would any numskull leave a used diaper in the parking lot of a park, a shopping center, or any other public place? That has to be one of the highest forms of cluelessness I have ever witnessed.