



**Mary Jo Gunter**  
President

**Linda Lewis**  
Executive Vice  
President



April—May, 2007



**Athletic Arts Center joins the Chamber.**

Athletic Arts Center, which opened in March, offers dance, gymnastics and yoga to children and adults. Its mission is to create an atmosphere that fosters creative expression and fitness. The facility, located at 401 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Jasper offers two studio spaces, a gymnastics area and pro-shop.

Current programs offered include pre-school/recreational gymnastics, yoga and a variety of dance disciplines including; Classical Ballet, Jazz, Move 'n Groove, Hip – Hop, Irish Dancing. The facility, conveniently located at the intersection of highway 195 and highway 78, is also available for private events and birthday parties.

Maria Ross, Owner, has over 10 years experience in the dance and gymnastics industry, training both competitive and recreational dancers and gymnasts in Alabama and New York. "I have been so lucky to work with so many talented artist, educators and athletes", says Ross. As the former Director of Children's Phys. Ed. & Gymnastics at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y in New York City, Maria developed and managed programs for over 800 students. She worked in the education and training department of American Ballet Theater in New York.

Maria earned a BA in dance from the University of Alabama; a yoga teaching certificate form New York Yoga. She is a USA Gymnastics safety certified judge and is certified in Movement Education and Lesson Plan Development (MELPD) and Kinder Accreditation for Teachers (KAT) through USA Gymnastics.

Other teachers include her sister, Elizabeth Ross, who is a senior at Florida State University and finishing a BFA in Dance and Amy Mahan, who was a dance major at the University of Alabama.

For more information call  
**205-387-9337**  
or email [info@athleticartsctr.com](mailto:info@athleticartsctr.com)  
or visit our website  
[www.athleticartsctr.co](http://www.athleticartsctr.co).



Mayor Posey joins a host of Chamber members and Walker Breast Center Employees at their recent ribbon cutting event.

**INSIDE:**

Page 2  
Summer Fun

Page 3  
10 Reasons why you  
need a Website

Page 4  
Leadership Walker  
County



**Mountain District Day Camp**

Date: May 29 – June 1, 2007  
 Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM  
 Location: Camp O'Rear – Jasper, AL

First and foremost Cub Scout Day Camp is fun! Day Camp is a four day camp where boys are grouped into dens of 6-8, by grade. Each den has an adult Den leader and a Boy Scout Den Chief. Dens participate in activities such as archery, BB guns, cooking, crafts, nature hikes, games, water games and much more including advancement. Each boy will receive a Day Camp T-shirt on Tuesday and a Day Camp Patch on Thursday. Each boy will need to bring a sack lunch including a drink. Additional drinks and snacks will be provided. Boys need to wear comfortable clothing such as shorts and tennis shoes, and send a towel and swim trunks on water game days.

Volunteers are needed to help. You can volunteer for a day or for the whole week. There is no better way to spend time with your son. You'll have a great time.

Cost: Registered Cub Scout \$50.00  
 Non-Registered Youth \$60.00

Late Fee: After May 15<sup>th</sup> \$10.00 Addition

All parents who volunteer four days will receive a \$10.00 gift certificate redeemable for merchandise at the Black Warrior Council Scout Shop

For More Information Contact: Zac Lollar (205) 221-7014

**Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama  
 Walker County Summer Camp**

Date: June 4-29, 2007 & July 9-27, 2007 (Closed week of July 4)

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Sherer Auditorium, 17<sup>th</sup> Street West, Jasper, AL

For: Girls 6 – 18 Years of Age

Cost: \$25 Membership Plus \$200 Program Fee which includes: Program and Swimming Fees, T-shirt, Van and Bus Service (Van pick up and drop off services will be provided to girls living in the Blanton, Massey, Carver and Haley Housing Centers; only 9 spaces available) Activities include: gymnastics, dance, sports, health, arts and crafts, swimming, Spanish, economic literacy, SMART (Science, Math, and Relevant Technology), field trips and more!

Girls Inc. of Central Alabama is a United Way Agency. The Summer Program is sponsored by Girls Inc. of Central Alabama, the City of Jasper, Jasper City Park and Recreation, and the Bankhead Foundation.

For more information contact Janice Lee (205) 370-5065 or call Girls Inc. at 1-205-595-4475.

**WBMC Summer  
 Teenage Volunteers**

It is time once again for the Summer Teenage Volunteer Program at Walker Baptist Medical Center. Applications may be picked-up in the volunteer office at Walker Baptist. These forms must be returned to the Volunteer Department for processing by the end of April.

There are limited slots available in this program and not all applicants will be accepted.

Once the applications are completed and processed the interview process will begin.

Teen volunteers must have maintained a B average to qualify.

Each Teen Volunteer is required to go through hospital orientation, have a TB skin test and provide proof of your immunizations. Orientation date has not been set but it will be in June.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to call program coordinator, Ann Harbison at 387-4025.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer volunteer program! We know this will be a memorable experience for everyone.

**Summer Activities for kids at the  
 Memorial Park Natatorium:**

- Child Swimming Lessons
- Swim Team and Pre-Swim Team
- Club Nat Summer Camp
- Art in the Park (June 23rd)
- Silly Stretch (Child Yoga)
- Open Swim (\$2.00 for 11 and under)
- Introducing the new APEX accessible playground opening in May

For more information on these and all other activities call (205)384-9617.

*It's summer and its time for teenagers to be looking for babysitting jobs.*

*That's why Walker Baptist Medical Center is offering*



**SAFE  
SITTER**

*Safe Sitters is a medically accurate instruction series that teaches boys and girls ages 11 to 15 how to handle emergencies when caring for young children.*

**Better  
sitters  
today.  
better  
parents  
tomorrow.**

*Classes meet in the Education Center at Walker Baptist Medical Center. The exact dates and times will be announced.*

*A class fee of \$30.00 covers supplies and manual for the two-day course. Students may bring a sack lunch or money to buy lunch in the hospital cafeteria. Snacks and drinks will be provided daily.*

*To register your son, daughter or babysitter, please call 387-4169. Please leave your name, address, phone number and the class date you are requesting. Registration information will be sent to you.*

**walker**  
baptist medical center

*Answering the call.*



## 10 Reasons Why Your Business Needs a Website

By Lanny Capps, WalkerWeb, LLC

The Chamber of Commerce of Walker County now has several members who offer Web authoring services. If you are not an Internet user yourself you have no idea how many people are now making ALL buying choices by researching the products and services they want online... even when they go to a local retail store to make the purchase. Once you realize that you need a Website to compete in the 21st Century, select the Chamber member of your choice and get online with the rest of the world. Here is ten good reasons you should have a Website.

### 1. Improved Customer Service

By providing answers to questions on your website, sales and information requests can be processed automatically and immediately, whether someone is in the office or not. Online forms can be used to allow customers to request quotations or ask further information. Save costs by allowing users to download invoices, proposals and important documents.

### 2. It's Your Online Brochure / Catalog That Can Be Changed at Anytime

A website is easier, cheaper and quicker to update than print material. Its' capacities are almost limitless which allow you to provide users with more comprehensive information. This will save you money on printing and distribution costs as well.

### 3. Provides Instant Gratification

People are busy and don't like to wait for information. Give them what they want, when they want it. If your product is suitable, offer them free samples or trials to download. This includes pictures, brochures, software, videos, Power Point slides, music and more. Online shopping by "Impulse buyers" add sales. If they have to wait until tomorrow and fight the traffic, many change their minds.

### 4. Sell Your Products

Why pay expensive rent, overhead, electric bills, and all the other costs that go along with owning a bricks-n-mortar business? Selling in cyberspace is much cheaper and a good way to supplement your offline business. Providing secure online ordering is very affordable for even the smallest businesses.

### 5. Your Business is Open to the World 24/7, 365 Days a Year

Unlike your company's office that may be open from 8-5, Monday thru Friday, your company 's website is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are many different time zones that may affect your business, which is why being on the web makes it time convenient for everyone.

### 5. Present a Professional Image

For a small business, a well-designed web site is a great way of instilling confidence and looking bigger than you actually are. In this day in age, customers assume that you already have a website. By now, your primary competitors probably already have a presence on the Internet. If they do, keep up with them and find ways to make yours better.

### 7. Promote Your Services

Lawyers, doctors, financial consultants, entertainers, realtors and all service oriented businesses should let customers know that they have a choice. Millions of users are referring to the web and are using company's websites to make major decisions when they need a specialized service.

### 8. Gather Information and Generate Valuable Leads

You can gather information about your customers and potential customers by using forms and surveys. Rather than going out and getting leads, let them come to you. This is a great tool for prospecting targeted customers looking to use your products and services.

### 9. Great Recruiting Tool

Whether you are looking for talent or posting job opportunities with your company, your website is a great recruiting tool for building your business.

### 10. Reach New Markets with a Global Audience

On the Internet, you aren't that local little business anymore. You have the potential to be seen by millions across the globe. Did you ever think your company would have the possibility of doing business around the world? Well, now you can. Without a doubt, the Internet is the most cost effective way to trade nationally and internationally.

One last tip. The quality of your website is like the quality of the sign in front of your business. It says a lot about the quality of your service and your business attitude. If you don't care enough to make your first impressions look professional, then your service will likely be just as lackadaisical. At least that will be the perception. So be sure to have a professional looking Website! And be sure to use one of the local Chamber members. If anything goes wrong (with electronic technology something will eventually go wrong) you want someone you know and can look in the eye to resolve your issue. Communicating with someone in another town, state or even another country can be very difficult.

## 13 Years of Effective Leadership Development . . .



### 2007 Leadership Walker County Graduating Class

- Dr. Carol Adams
- Darren Allen
- Suzanne Barnett
- Becky Dockery
- Christopher Edwards
- Larry Hood
- Jeff Kendrick
- Tenisha Lewis
- Susan McKinney
- Penny Mott
- Susanne Pugh
- Amy Rigsby
- Elizabeth Schwab
- Dr. Robert Sparkman
- Sandra Stewart
- Rick Taylor
- Ricky Vance
- Deleah Wade
- Brandi Woods

## Youth Leadership Walker County

### 2007 Youth Leadership Walker County

A Joint Partnership with  
The Chamber of Commerce  
of Walker County  
And  
Bevill State  
Community College



Web site: [www.walkerchamber.us](http://www.walkerchamber.us)

E-mail : [contact@walkerchamber.us](mailto:contact@walkerchamber.us)

**The CHAMBER**  
COMMERCE OF  
*Walker County*  
Serves  
**Carbon Hill, Cordova, Dora  
Eldridge, Jasper, Kansas  
Nauvoo, Oakman, Parrish  
Sipsey, Sumiton, and all of  
Walker County**

P.O. Box 972  
204 19th Street East, Suite 101  
Jasper, Alabama 35501  
Phone (205) 384-4571  
Fax: (205) 384-4901

Standard Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Jasper, AL  
35502

Chamber Chatter  
is prepared by



[www.walkerweb.net](http://www.walkerweb.net)  
Walker County's Internet Portal

WebMaster for  
[walkerchamber.us](http://walkerchamber.us)  
[walkercounty.com](http://walkercounty.com)  
[wceida.com](http://wceida.com)  
Walker County Economic &  
Industrial Development Authority  
[jaspercify.com](http://jaspercify.com)  
[jldb.us](http://jldb.us)  
Jasper Industrial Development Board  
[funciasper.com](http://funciasper.com)  
First United Methodist Church of Jasper  
and many more.