

Augusta Activities

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Development Authority of Richmond County

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T-Mobile to bring 750 new jobs to Augusta

T-Mobile USA Inc., the nation's highest-ranking national wireless carrier for customer care, will establish a new customer service center in Augusta and create 750 new jobs. The announcement was made last Friday, March 9th by John Birrer, Group Vice President of Customer Service for T-Mobile USA and Governor Sonny Perdue. More than 125 local business and elected officials attended the announcement at the Augusta Marriott.

Also making the announcement were Augusta Mayor Deke Copenhaver, Charlie Gatlin, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), and Walt Sprouse and Loren Perry of the Development Authority of Richmond County, who recruited the company to Augusta with The Staubach Company. T-Mobile chose to locate their new \$30 million operation in Augusta after a multi-state search and a year-long process.

Development Authority Chairman Perry said, "We thank everyone involved in the process of bringing T-Mobile to Augusta, especially our staff and board, Wendy Bibb of GDEcD, and Terry Elam of Augusta Technical College. T-Mobile and Staubach are true professionals, and we were thrilled to work with such outstanding people to bring the company to Augusta. T-Mobile is a welcome addition to the Augusta corporate community."

Augusta Grabs #1 Nationwide Ranking for Housing Costs

We're Number One!

The latest research by BizJournals, publishers of business journals in the USA, ranks Augusta as the most affordable city for housing in the United States. A long-time selling point to businesses by the Development Authority of Richmond County, the affordable cost of housing in Augusta also reflects an overall low cost of doing business. For the past three years, Augusta has also been ranked as one of the most affordable places to do business.

In the Bizjournals research from March 5, 2007, the publication stated, *"The housing picture is much brighter in Augusta, Ga., a manufacturing, military and health-care hub of half a million people located about 150 miles east of Atlanta. It easily took first place as the most affordable metro to own a home. The typical house in the Augusta market was valued at \$103,300. Mortgage and property-tax payments for such a home, based on Bizjournals' estimates, would be \$613 per month. Those expenses would consume just 17.4 percent of the monthly income for the area's typical household. No other major market had housing costs below 18 percent of income. Only 12 of the 95 metropolitan areas in the study group did better than 20 percent."* The Bizjournals research has already been distributed to all major economic development consultants throughout the United States.

Existing Industry Visits = Triple Play

The Development Authority of Richmond County, Georgia Tech and the Georgia Department of Economic Development have joined forces to visit Richmond County industries. Visitations began on March 13th to various companies by Laurie Davis of the Development Authority, Eliot Price of Georgia Tech, and Wendy Bibb of GDEcD. Visits will be scheduled at least twice per month, until all local companies in Richmond County are contacted personally.

DID YOU NOTICE?

This edition of Augusta Activities honored T-Mobile with the masthead and headlines printed in T-Mobile colors!