

Augusta Activities

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www.AugustaEDA.com

Equity Residential Locates in Augusta; Brings New Jobs to Downtown

Equity Residential will bring 35 new jobs to downtown Augusta, adding to their current 60 employees, by the end of the year. Equity Residential will relocate from their current offices on Ellis Street to the 10th and 11th floors of the SunTrust Building on Broad Street.

Equity Residential is the largest publicly traded owner, operator and developer of multifamily housing in the United States, with nearly 160,000 apartments in 25 states and the District of Columbia. They are an S&P 500 company and have been named one of America's Most Admired Companies by *Fortune* magazine.

The Phoenix office of Equity Residential will be closed, with those jobs coming to Augusta. Tom Berraducci of Equity's Chicago office, who worked with the Development Authority of Richmond County this summer on the relocation project, said, "Augusta had the right combination of amenities needed for the expansion of our business. It was a pleasure to work with the Development Authority and property owner Bettis Rainsford of the SunTrust Building to make it happen in Augusta." The company looked at several properties in Augusta, both downtown and suburban sites, before deciding on the SunTrust Building.

Equity Residential has been in Augusta since 1998, when they merged with Merry Land and Investment.

Economic Statistics Expanded

A trip to our website at www.AugustaEDA.com will reveal major new changes to our Community Data economic statistical data section. All the entries have been updated by the Development Authority of Richmond County during the past few weeks.

New data now includes the latest information for retail sales by month and by zip code for Richmond County. Other data includes information about Fort Gordon and the Richmond County School System.

Development Authority to Produce New DVD

The Development Authority of Richmond County is in the beginning stages of producing a new marketing DVD about Augusta's strong business climate. The new marketing tool will feature local business people from all walks of life, talking about Augusta and the benefits of working and doing business here. The DVD will be shown on our website and copies will be mailed to the top site selection consultants, state developers, allies, and prospects in early 2008.

Walton Rehabilitation, MCG Incorporated, and Trinity Hospitals to Add Value with Development Authority Bonds

The Development Authority of Richmond County approved inducement resolutions for three major expansions, renovations and new equipment at Walton Rehabilitation Hospital, Trinity Hospital of Augusta, and MCG, Incorporated during the September and October meetings of the Authority's Board of Directors.

The expansion at Walton Rehabilitation is estimated at \$13.5 million and will include the conversion of double rooms to single rooms. MCG Incorporated, an operating non-profit organization working with the Medical College of Georgia, plans a \$145 million refinancing and capital improvement project for MCG. And, Trinity Hospital of Augusta received approval for the inducement resolution of \$30 for the purchase of the former St. Joseph's Hospital, and \$16 for new equipment for now and the immediate future.

T-Mobile's "First Call " to be held November 13th; Grand Opening in 2008

T-Mobile's new Augusta facility will celebrate their "First Call" on Tuesday, November 13th, at their new location on Wheeler Road.

A large "Grand Opening" celebration of the new T-Mobile facility will be held in early 2008. At that time, T-Mobile will be introduced to the Augusta community through this official opening celebration. T-Mobile currently employs about 200 people at their Augusta facility, with most of those employees currently undergoing training through Augusta Technical College and Georgia QuickStart.

The November 13th event will be held for current employees and those involved in the location of T-Mobile to Augusta. The grand opening will following in early 2008 for the community.

Participating in the First Call ceremony will be Development Authority Chairman Loren Perry and the Board of Directors of the Development Authority of Richmond County, Mayor Deke Copenhaver and members of the Augusta Commission, state officials, officials from T-Mobile's Bellvue, Washington, headquarters, representatives from The Staubach Company and Holder Properties.

The Augusta T-Mobile facility is modeled after a very successful design in Boise, Idaho.

Project Manager Position Redefined, Readvertised

The position of Project Manager for the Development Authority has been redefined with more specific duties included, and an increase in the salary range. At the October meeting of the Board of Directors, the members agreed to increase the salary upward, and the HR Committee agreed to include existing industry projects as part of the job description. The position is currently being advertised through the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA), the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Executives (GCCE), the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the International Asset Management Council (IAMC) and by direct email to local, state and national developers, consultants, and economic development professionals. The deadline for receiving resumes is November 15th. The board would like to have the new employee on board within 90 days.