

C H A M B E R L I N K

January
2013

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Microtherm to Bring 40 Jobs

Microtherm, Inc., a subsidiary of the Etex Group headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, announced today that it is moving into the Blount Partnership spec building located at 1731 Fred Lawson Drive in Partnership Park South in Maryville, Tenn.

Microtherm anticipates employing a workforce of least 40 by the end of 2014 including a dozen office positions with the balance being machine operators including some sewing/textile skills, press operators, mixing machines, hand labor and maintenance.

Initial production is slated to begin this summer with more positions added as various equipment and processes are added over the next two years. Microtherm and Promat will initially invest \$3 million in 2013 and 2014.

Promote Your Business by Participating in Operation Thank You

Looking for that extra kick to your business marketing plan? Promote it during the Blount Partnership's "Operation Thank You," Feb. 20-22, 2013. For \$150, send us 1600 gift certificates, brochures or promotional pieces (not to exceed 8 1/2"x11") and we will distribute them in the 2013 Chamber membership packets. The inserts should be delivered to the Chamber no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6.

During this three-day event, Chamber members, staff and Board of Directors will personally deliver 2013 member information packets. You can help out by calling on as many members as your schedule permits. If you, someone (or several people) from your business, organization or group are interested in participating, please contact Amy Lawson as soon as possible at alawson@blountpartnership.com or call 865-983-2241. This is a great way to get out and meet some new Chamber members.

Blount Young Leadership and Development group to hold Social

The Blount Partnership along with Rachel Ragland and Daniel Ramsey are excited to tell you some great news! We have officially started a young and rising leaders group in Blount County. The name of the group is Blount Young Leadership and Development (BYLD). We tried to come up with a catchy name and this is where we landed; we hope you like it.

Now on to the important stuff. We would like to personally invite you to mix and mingle with each other and continue to lead and develop our community as we want it.

We will be having gatherings, socials, etc., on the last Thursday of every month. The first BYLD Social is Jan. 31 at Bel Air Grill (104 Keller Lane, Maryville, TN 37801), from 5:30-7 p.m. The topic of conversation will be fun and fellowship. Not only will we have fun and great conversation, but with our support, we will also be helping a local restaurant have a great economic evening as well. We hope you all can attend and look forward to growing our group, our community and ourselves.

Please RSVP by email to Claire at infodesk@blountpartnership.com or call 865.983.2241.

Glenn Shepard Returns with New Seminar in March

Glenn Shepard of Glenn Shepard Seminars will present a half-day seminar "How to Supervise People and Lead a Team," based on one of his books, How to Manage Problem Employees.



The seminar takes place at the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, 201 S. Washington St., Maryville on Friday, March 8 from 8:30-noon.

Shepard will be giving away lots of freebies at the event. He will also be available after the program to answer any questions that you may have. You can earn HR credits as well.

You, as a Chamber member, may attend this event in Maryville for only \$129. Non-chamber member tuition is \$149.

If you are interested in participating in this training opportunity, please complete the registration form by going to the link below and return it to the Chamber no later than March 7.

www.blountchamber.com/news_events/glenn_shepard.aspx

Winter Heritage Festival Set for Jan. 31-Feb. 3 in Townsend

The seventh annual Winter Heritage Festival in Townsend, Tenn., kicks off with reception at the Townsend Artisan Gallery (7843 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway) on Thursday, Jan. 31 from 5-7 p.m.

The four-day event, complete with hiking, photography workshop, live music, dowsing class, book signings and special presentations about East Tennessee history, Appalachian traditions and the natural beauty of Townsend, Cades Cove and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, takes place at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center (123 Cromwell Dr.) and the Smoky Mountain Visitor's Center (7906 E. Lamar Alexander Pwy.).

Find out more at www.smokymountains.org/do/events_festivals.aspx

Chamber Offers New Tiered Membership Levels

The Chamber's new "tiered" system provides increased benefits with comparable dues – plus many new benefits, even at the entry level. Members now choose the benefits that they want and need, then invest accordingly.

We hope you make use of your membership and during this year of transition, the Chamber staff will work with you to get you to a tier you are comfortable with. We will discuss all the benefits and opportunities while working to accommodate your budgeting cycle.

You're probably wondering why the Chamber would make such a change in the way we do business. Why would we adjust our price structure and change our revenue stream? The answer is simple: It guarantees equity and choice when choosing a membership package that is important to your business and is aligned with the Chamber's mission of developing a robust economic base.

Find out more here:

www.blountchamber.com/membership/tiered_membership.aspx

Premier & Presidential Partners



New Members

We'd like to welcome new members to the Blount County Chamber of Commerce who joined since December. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, please call 865.983.2241 or log on to www.BlountChamber.com

AVS Design Concepts — www.avsdesignconcepts.com

Tech Time Computer Repair —
www.facebook.com/TechTimeComputerRepair

Computer Catering — 865.229.6611

CLIMB Works Canopy — www.climbworkscanopy.com

The Fitness Hub — thefitnesshub1.wix.com/the-fitness-hub

Event Calendar

The event calendar on www.BlountChamber.com allows Blount Countians to post their events directly to gain added exposure. These are great opportunities to connect and network with potential customers. The events and meetings below will be held at the Chamber unless otherwise noted. Visit our website to receive notices of events and meetings you would like to attend – www.BlountChamber.com, click on Events Calendar. For more information, call 983-2241.

- Jan. 25-26 Historic Palace Theater presents Steve Kaufman Mandolin Workshop at Mainstay Suites in Alcoa
- Jan. 26 Historic Palace Theater-East TN Bluegrass Band
- Jan. 26 Talk is Cheap Tour @ Maryville College
- Jan. 28-29 Third Annual Business & Education Showcase
- Jan. 31 Small Business Counseling
- Jan. 31 Coffee Club at Hilton Knoxville Airport
- Jan. 31 Winter Heritage Festival Reception - Townsend
- Jan. 31 Blount Young Leadership & Development Social
- Feb. 1-3 Winter Heritage Festival
- Feb. 2 The Clayton Center - Travis Tritt Solo Acoustical Concert
- Feb. 7 93rd Chamber Annual Meeting
- Feb. 8 Maryville-Alcoa Rotary Annual Auction
- Feb. 9 East TN Beer Festival - Miss Lily's Cafe Event at Laurel Valley
- Feb. 11 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
- Feb. 13 Ambassador Training
- Feb. 14 Beginner Basket Making- Karen Kenst at the Visitors Center
- Feb. 15-16 Steve Kaufman Guitar Workshop
- Feb. 18 President's Day Holiday Office Closed
- Feb. 19 SMTDA Board of Directors Meeting
- Feb. 20-22 Operation Thank You Delivery

To schedule a free small business counseling session or to make an appointment with a representative from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center call Claire at 983-2241.

Virginia Hardwick, Chair
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Blount Partnership