



# acorn

## The Oak Ridge Business Connection

A Publication of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce  
January 2009 Volume 2 Issue 1

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**Members at Work**

**Global Entrepreneurship Week**

**Online Small Business Management Training**

Cover Photo by Mark Hardy



### Three R-words



The economy is taking up a lot of front page and web page space these days. And as I've listened to the panicked pundits, read the gloom-and-doom columnists, I've been struck by the fact that only one free enterprise r-word is gaining much attention. That r-word is recession. Two other free enterprise r-words that I seldom hear or see are risk and reward.

I believe that recession is our current economic diagnosis; I am convinced that risk and reward are the cures for that economic illness.

Over the last few days, I've been reminded of that by two new Oak Ridge entrepreneurs. One has recently opened an insurance agency. The other has started a small retail store. It is possible that these two entrepreneurs will never meet. They are of different ages and different backgrounds. Their businesses are in different

parts of town. But, in spite of their many differences, they have much in common. They share a willingness to risk their own capital; they are not afraid to work long hours; both have a commitment to quality; they are dedicated to superior customer service. And both believe that they will be rewarded for the risks they have taken.

Will either make the Fortune 500? Probably not. Will they ever become listed on any stock exchange? Highly unlikely.

But they – and every other American entrepreneur pursuing the dream of small business success – should be high on our list of economic heroes. These Oak Ridge entrepreneurs know what free enterprise is about and they are acting on the dream of risk and reward in a time when others are paralyzed and panicked. They and others like them in Oak Ridge and in countless other towns and cities are the wheel horses will pull America from our national economic ditch. I respect them; I admire them; I salute them.

Sincerely,

## Stay Connected with the Chamber

The Oak Ridge Chamber now has a Facebook page. Facebook is a free social networking website. Many of our member are already on Facebook.

To view the page, join Facebook and search for Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. This is just one more way we keep in touch with our members.

Also, as mentioned in a previous issue of *acorn*, the Chamber is now using Constant Contact as a way to keep our members informed.

If you are not receiving our weekly *Chamber Briefs* electronic publication, please contact Christy Holt at the Chamber at 483-1321 or [holt@orcc.org](mailto:holt@orcc.org). She will add you to our distribution list.



# Photo Album



Eliza Ross with Shelter Insurance celebrated a ribbon cutting with Chamber members in December.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at North Town Self-Storage in November.



Former UT and NFL kicker Fuad Reveiz was the guest speaker at ORUD's recent coffee.



Students at St. Mary's School entertained Chamber members and other guests at their November coffee.



JS Ridenour Construction hosted a coffee at their Powell location.



Chamber members enjoyed the chamber's holiday reception and annual meeting.



Tom Hilton, incoming board chairman helps outgoing chair Mark Harvey try on his gift of appreciation.



Over 120 entries participated in the Chamber's annual Christmas parade.\*



Both Oak Ridge middle school bands combined to march in the parade.\*

\* Photos provided by Linda Ripley.

# Members at Work

*The Tombras Group* successfully pitched and won the “agency of record” contract for the Augusta, Georgia Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau promotes tourism in the metropolitan Augusta area, which is best known for hosting the Masters Tournament each year at the Augusta national Golf Club. [www.tombras.com](http://www.tombras.com)

*Secret City Films* announces The Grits-n-Gravy Southern Film Festival to be held Sunday, March 22, 2009, in Oak Ridge. This one-day festival is designed to showcase short films by southern filmmakers.

All film genres will be considered, including: narrative, documentary, student, experimental, animation and music video. First, second and third place awards will be presented at the end of the festival as well as an audience favorite award. In addition, craft awards will be presented in various categories (acting, directing, cinematography, etc.). [www.secretcityfilms.com](http://www.secretcityfilms.com)

The State of Colorado has announced that *Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.* has been selected to study issues surrounding the electric transmission of the ever-increasing renewable energy generation in Colorado. Energy and Environmental Management Group, LLC, is the teaming partner with *Navarro* for the contract award. *Navarro* and E2MG will provide recommendations for a strategic path forward to a state advisory board.

The analysis and recommendations will be provided to the Renewable Energy Development Infrastructure Advisory Board to provide practical pathways for decision-makers facing financing and policy choices for the integration of renewable energy resources into the Colorado transmission system. [www.navarro-inc.com](http://www.navarro-inc.com)



*CapitalMark* has received approval from federal and state regulatory agencies to exercise trust powers for its Wealth and Trust Management Division, lead by **James W. Byron, Jr.** Executive Vice President & Trust Officer. **Debra J. Sanders** and **Jill Livingston**, both join *CapitalMark* as Client Service Managers & Trust Officers. The group offers multi-generational Wealth & Trust services, using a “family office” approach, to include an emphasis on retirees and the emerging affluent -- business owners, executives and professionals.

*CapitalMark Bank & Trust* offers a wide range of Banking, Trust and Wealth services to businesses and individuals. *CapitalMark* has locations in Chattanooga and Knoxville. [www.capitalmark.com](http://www.capitalmark.com)

*The Oak Ridge Junior Playhouse* will present “The Secret Garden” on January 31 at 2:00 and 7:00 pm and on February 1 at 2:00 pm. Tickets will be available online beginning January 19.

The *Playhouse* is also sponsoring two Youth Audition Workshops. The workshop for students in grades 9-12 will be held on February 14. The workshop for students in grades 6-8 will be held March 14. [www.orplayhouse.com](http://www.orplayhouse.com)



**Jack Norris**, master mechanic in the Engineering department at *Methodist Medical Center (MMC)* has been named MMCEr of the Month for December. **Norris**

has been with Methodist since 2000. His duties include service and repair of equipment throughout the hospital, HVAC, electrical and surgery.

Those who nominated **Norris** say that he goes out of his way to find solutions to difficult problems and he can ease a tense situation with his calming influence and wonderful sense of humor.



For 11 years, the Hospitality Houses of the *Methodist Medical Center Foundation* have provided a home away from home for patients and their

families who come to *MMC* for treatment. Nearly 3,000 guests have been welcomed into the Hospitality Houses. Thanks to the community’s generosity during the Holiday Lights for Health campaign, the houses will continue to provide lodging, food and comfort to the guests who pass through their doors.

Holiday Lights for Health is the annual fund raiser that supports the Hospitality Houses through the sponsorship of lights. *The Methodist Medical Center Foundation* held a dedication ceremony on Dec. 9 to thank this year’s donors, who gave their support by contributing more than \$36,000 to Holiday Lights, an amount which has continued to grow even as the official campaign comes to a close. The money raised through the campaign is used to pay for the houses’ daily operations, utilities, food and overall upkeep.



*Groves Park Commons*, a new residential development in Oak Ridge is making tremendous

progress toward being ready for new residents. Mike Stevens homes has the first two single family homes nearing completion. *Christopoulos & Kennedy* have the first townhomes under construction as well. [www.grovesparkcommons.com](http://www.grovesparkcommons.com)

**Ronald “Todd” Richardson** has joined *Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)* as Information Systems Department director. His hire marks the second time **Richardson** has worked for *ORAU*, where he previously served as manager of Network and System Operations during the early 1990s.

In his new position, **Richardson** will provide leadership in all aspects of information technology for *ORAU*, including planning, architecture, standards, measures, and company-wide policy. He will direct the company’s Information Systems Department and represent *ORAU* for information technology-related administrative issues with federal sponsors and regulatory bodies. [www.orau.org](http://www.orau.org)

*To submit news about your Chamber-member company, contact Kathy Gillenwaters: [gillenwaters@orcc.org](mailto:gillenwaters@orcc.org)*

## Online Management Training Sessions Now Available



“Your Success is Our Business”  
 Current economic conditions are threatening my business survival...  
 I need a financial strategy  
 I need a cash flow plan  
 I need to use my time better  
 I need more sales  
 I need more control  
 ... and I need it now!

Learn what you need when you need it!

- Interactive sessions
- Step-by-step learning
- Real-world case studies
- Tailored business systems

- Network building
- Customizable worksheets
- Cash flow management
- Business development
- Marketing communications
- Time management & more

For more details, visit [www.smlsonline.com](http://www.smlsonline.com).

For help or more information on remaining competitive during challenging economic times, contact the TSBDC at 865-483-2668 or e-mail at [jbangs@tsbdc.org](mailto:jbangs@tsbdc.org).

*The TSBDC offers free, confidential counseling by appointment. Our counselors can assist with a range of needs to facilitate in the growth, success, and development of your small business.*

## Tennessee Named #1 State in the U.S. During First-ever Global Entrepreneurship Week

Oak Ridge joined communities from across Tennessee and the globe to celebrate the first-ever Global Entrepreneurship Week, Nov. 17 – 23, 2008. More than 30 events across the state reached over 1,000 entrepreneurs, business owners and young people who aspire to be entrepreneurs.

The goal of the week was to inspire young people to embrace innovation, imagination and creativity. More than 75 countries are carrying the banner of the Week, including Australia, Brazil, China, France, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa and the United States. Tennessee was named the #1 state in the U.S. by the Public Forum Institute confirming the entrepreneurial spirit of the Volunteer state.

As part of the celebration, three separate speed networking events were held in Oak Ridge. Marketing students at Roane State Community College, the Oak Ridge High School Virtual Enterprise class and members of the ORHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) had the unique opportunity to ask questions one-on-one of local entrepreneurs. The rooms were buzzing with conversation as every five minutes a bell rang and the students rotated to the next entrepreneur.

The organizers of the events were Kathy Barber, Existing Industry Manager with the Oak Ridge Economic Partnership and Jutta Bangs, Senior Business Specialist with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center in Oak Ridge.

Forty-five students were exposed to a broad sector of industries including manufacturing, retail, staffing, service, engineering, medical and science. All of the participants, students and entrepreneurs, enjoyed the experience and agreed the time went by too quickly.

Founded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in the United States and Make Your Mark in the United Kingdom, the Week is a combination and expansion of two successful initiatives—the debut of Entrepreneurship Week USA in 2007 and the inspiration behind it, Enterprise Week in the UK, which was kicked off in 2004 by now-Prime Minister Brown.

To read more about Global Entrepreneurship Week go to: [www.unleashingideas.org](http://www.unleashingideas.org) To get involved in next year’s activities, call Kathy Barber at 483-1321 or e-mail: [barber@orcc.org](mailto:barber@orcc.org)



ORHS Virtual Enterprise Class dressed for success as they met with **Henry Perry**, left, President of *HME* and **David Bradshaw**, President of *SunTrust Bank*.



**Barry Stephenson** of *MCL, Inc.* talks with Roane State Marketing students during a speed networking event. Also pictured: **Chuck Hope** of *Chuck’s Car Care Center* and **Joy Fisher** with *UT Research Foundation*.



# Membership Update

## New Members

*Please join your Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce in welcoming these businesses to the membership of our chamber. It is our pleasure to have you as part of the business advocacy organization for the Oak Ridge area.*

### **Acraloc Corporation**

Richard Scott Bruce  
113 Flint Road  
P.O. Box 4129  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

### **Alphagraphics**

Mike Gibson  
9648 Kingston Pike, Suite 1  
Knoxville, TN 37922

### **ARC of Anderson County**

Melanie Hensley  
728 Emory Valley Road  
P.O. Box 4823  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

### **Armec Corporation**

Michael Tuck  
8113 Beaver Ridge Road  
Knoxville, TN 37931

### **Bryant Research**

Rebecca Bryant  
P.O. Box 23274  
Knoxville, TN 37933

### **Burns & Roe Enterprises, Inc.**

Rod Warner  
800 Oak Ridge Turnpike,  
Suite A-700  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### **Central Equipment Leasing**

Jack Mills  
200 Prosperity Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37923

### **Integrity Merchant Services**

Al Wanderlingh  
1716 Bomgay Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37932

### **Knoxville Opera Company**

Brian Salesky  
612 East Depot Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37917

### **Landmark Development**

Tammy Barringer  
708 Brunson Drive  
Albemarle, NC 28001

### **Mayes Bus Lines, Inc.**

Bruce Mayes  
1307 East Emory Road  
Knoxville, TN 37938

### **Melton Heating & Air Conditioning**

Lisa & Tim Melton  
104C East Centre Stage  
Business Park  
P.O. Box 778  
Clinton, TN 37717

### **Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation**

Lila Metcalf  
130 Badger Road  
P.O. Box 117 MS 22  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

### **Plant Concepts**

Debbie Roberts  
9100 Hines Valley Road  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

### **Roadkill Running Club**

Carl Sexton  
100 Tulsa Road, Suite 18  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### **Scarboro Day Care Center**

Kenneth Herring  
148 Carver Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### **Secret City Films**

Keith McDaniel  
115 Bradley Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### **Senior Citizens Home Assistance Program, Inc.**

Tricia Stooksbury  
215 Bearden Place  
P.O. Box 3025  
Knoxville, TN 37927

### **Ron & Patti Shelton**

146 Liberty Court  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### **Carol Smallridge**

108 Carnegie Drive  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### **V3 Technical Services, LLC**

Eddie Watson  
2210 Award Winning Way,  
Suite 202  
Knoxville, TN 37932

## Renewing Members

*Please join your Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce in celebrating the continued commitment of these returning members. Our members are the reason we exist and we appreciate your continued support.*

### **3 Sisters Catering**

Absolute Salon  
AG Edwards  
All Occasions Party Rentals  
Axiom Machining, LLC  
Bacon & Company  
Barnhart Crane & Rigging  
Best Western Cedar Bluff  
Briarcliff Healthcare & Rehab  
Center

Dr. Gene Caldwell  
Christopoulos & Kennedy  
Construction Company  
Thomas L. Clary, M.D.  
Community Mediation Services  
Covenant Health Corporation

### **Donny Hitch Collision Repair**

Lou Dunlap  
Endoscopy Center of Oak Ridge  
The Estates of Oak Ridge  
Firehouse Subs  
GEM Technologies, Inc.  
Graphic Creations, Inc.  
Heritage Railroad Corporation  
HME, Inc.

Insignia Sign Company  
J & M's Butcher, Inc.  
K-9 Search on Site  
Knoxville Tourism & Sports  
Corporation

Lackey & Associates, Inc.  
Lamar Advertising  
Lamar Dunn & Associates  
Long Island Science  
Ruth Ann Maddux  
McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Inc.  
Randy McNally

MetLife-Jay Brock  
Michael Brady, Inc.  
Montessori School of Oak Ridge  
Oak Ridge Bowling Center  
Oak Ridge Housing Authority  
Oak Ridge Playhouse  
Park Med Urgent Care Center  
Park Vista Hotel & Convention  
Center

Philotechnics, Ltd.  
Premier Building Maintenance  
Protomet Precision  
Manufacturing  
Quality Machine & Welding.  
Herman R. Queener  
QuickShots Photography  
"Red" Williams Insurance  
Agency, Inc.  
Ridge Greenhouse & Florist, Inc.  
Right Choice Realty  
Security Walls

George E. Smith M.D.  
Southern Safety Supply  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Summit Medical Group  
TFE, Inc.  
The Tombras Group  
TTE Casting Technologies, Inc.  
Turnkey Transportation Services,  
LLC  
U.S. Cellular Premier Locations  
U.S. Department of Energy/  
O.S.T.I.  
USEC, Inc.  
USI Consulting Group  
Valley printers; inc.  
Visiting Angels  
Office of Congressman  
Zach Wamp  
Wheel 2 Wheel



# Holiday Thanks

Two of the Chamber's annual holiday events – the Holiday Reception & Annual Meeting and the Christmas Parade are successful each year because of the extra efforts of members and volunteers.

For nearly twenty years, Chamber member caterers and restaurants have provided food for the reception offering members a sampling of the many varieties of foods available from their fellow Oak Ridge Chamber members. For the 2008 reception, the following contributed to the event: *Manny's Catering; Chick-fil-A; Starbucks Coffee; Outback Steakhouse; Firehouse Subs; Riverview Grill; Oliver's Catering; Burchfield's at the Doubletree Hotel; and The Soup Kitchen.* Again this year, *Ridge Greenhouse and Florist* designed the beautiful centerpiece for the table.

A very special thank you to the individuals who spent the evening of Saturday, December 13 ensuring the parade was fun and safe for participants by serving as parade marshals. They were: Linda Brown, Kerry Trammell, Leslie Trammell, David McCoy, Linda Kimmel, Mike Twine, Jim Ownby, Jacob Ownby, Kelvin Campbell, Stacy Myers, Pat Myers, Lynn Holt, Chris Holt, Sharon Templeton, Lola Norbury, Alfred Swain, Ray Smith, Todd Butz, Betsy Prine, Dave Conrad, Nicky Reynolds, David Mosby, Angie Marshall, David Gilbert, Henry Perry, J.P. Hilton, Jessie Balin, Mary Cox, Ray Cox, Lydia Byrk, Jim Cape, Stan Mitchell, Jan Coe, Eric Westland, Dick Davis, Martha Drewry, Pat Powell, Sid Powell, Patricia Rowe, Gordon Fee, Norm Nelson and Jo Ellen Iacovino.

In addition, recognition to the following for their efforts in making the Christmas Parade successful: the City of Oak Ridge Police, Fire and Public Works departments, Waste Connections, the Altrusa and Breakfast Rotary clubs, University of Tennessee, ETEC, BBB Communications, M&M Productions, First United Methodist Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge Civic Music Association, Starbucks Coffee and Citizens First Bank.

## 2009 Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

**Tom Hilton**  
Chairman of the Board  
*Y-12 Federal Credit Union*

**Tom Ballard**  
*UT-Battelle/ORNL*

**Mike Belbeck**  
*Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge*

**Robert Brown**  
*U.S. Department of Energy*

**Bonnie Carroll**  
*Information International Associates*

**Tom Clary, MD**  
*Oak Ridge Pediatric Clinic*

**Brenda Curtis**  
*Wackenhut Oak Ridge Team*

**Leslie England**  
*ORAU*

**Peggy Hanrahan**  
*Realty Center*

**Chuck Hope**  
*Chuck's Car Care Center*

**Rex Jones**  
*Pinnacle Financial Group*

**Stan Mitchell**  
*The Oak Ridge Observer*

**Susanna Navarro-Valenti**  
*Navarro Engineering*

**Henry Perry**  
*HM Enterprises*

**Kathy Smith**  
*NetGain Corporation*

**Kerry Trammell**  
*NHC Oak Ridge*

**Tom Beehan**  
*Mayor, City of Oak Ridge*

**David Bradshaw**  
*SunTrust*

**Steve Buckley**  
*Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC*

**Jim Charles**  
*Edward Jones*

**Charles Crowe**  
*C&C Advertising*

**George Dials**  
*B&W Technical Services*

**Homer Fisher**  
*University of Tennessee*

**Mark Harvey**  
*The Cowperwood Company*

**Wayne Hope**  
*Enrichment Federal Credit Union*

**Darrel Kohlhorst**  
*B&W Y-12*

**Stacy Myers**  
*Advanced Management, Inc.*

**Jim O'Connor**  
*City of Oak Ridge*

**Lee Sloan**  
*National Fitness Center*

**Billy Stair**  
*UT-Battelle*

**Mike Twine**  
*G2 Engineering*

## Staff Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Parker Hardy  
President and CEO  
[hardy@orcc.org](mailto:hardy@orcc.org)

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Executive Vice President  
[ownby@orcc.org](mailto:ownby@orcc.org)

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Christy Holt  
Receptionist  
[holt@orcc.org](mailto:holt@orcc.org)

## Oak Ridge Economic Partnership

Kim Denton  
President  
[Denton@orcc.org](mailto:Denton@orcc.org)

Kathy Barber  
Existing Industry Manager  
[barber@orcc.org](mailto:barber@orcc.org)

Elisabeth Hammer  
Administrative Assistant  
[hammer@orcc.org](mailto:hammer@orcc.org)

## Economic Indicators

### Anderson County

### Unemployment Rate

September '08 – 6.1%

October '08 – 5.9%

### Business Licenses

October – 17

November - 10

### Building Permits

	Oct	Nov
Residential		
New –	4	10
Alterations –	21	13
Commercial		
New –	1	0
Alterations –	6	2

## Calendar of Events

January 15

### Developer's Forum

ORCC Joyce Conference Room  
1:30 p.m.

January 22

### Diplomat/Retention Team

ORCC Joyce Conference Room  
11:30 p.m.

January 26

### ORCC Executive Committee Meeting

ORCC Joyce Conference Room  
11:30 a.m.

January 27

### Chamber Coffee

Enrichment Federal Credit Union  
201 South Illinois Avenue  
7:30-9:00 a.m.

February 4

### ORCC Board of Directors Meeting

ORCC Joyce Conference Room  
12 Noon

February 5

### Developer's Forum

ORCC Joyce Conference Room  
1:30 p.m.

February 10

### Chamber Coffee

Hosted by: CH2MHill  
at Willowbrook Elementary School  
298 Robertsville Road  
7:30-9:00 a.m.

For additional information, check the calendar at our website:  
[www.oakridgechamber.org](http://www.oakridgechamber.org)



# Millennium Partners

## Titanium



## Platinum



Washington Division



## Gold



## Copper



FRA TECH



Your world. Delivered.



## Silver



THE COWPERWOOD COMPANY

## Bronze

Chuck's Car Care Center  
 CDM Federal Programs  
 LeConte Wealth Management  
 Advanced Management, Inc.  
 Oak Ridge Pediatric Clinic  
 Thermocopy

Proforma  
 NetGain Corporation  
 NHC Oak Ridge  
 Bacon Howard & Company  
 Kramer Rayson, LLP  
 Amedysis Home Health

U.S. Department of Energy  
 CH2MHILL  
 Oak Ridge Gastroenterology Associates  
 Endoscopy Center of Oak Ridge  
 Groves Park Commons Avisco  
 C&C Advertising