



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Economic Development Agency Unveils 'Work in Gallatin' Initiative Website Creates Awareness of Employment Opportunities to Attract Local Talent

The Gallatin Economic Development Agency unveiled its "Work In Gallatin" initiative today. The program, created as part of the agency's GEAR – Gallatin Expansion and Retention – program, is designed to create a higher level of visibility and awareness about the many career opportunities that are available in Gallatin, which has become the employment hub for Sumner County.

"Our GEAR meetings are great forums to identify and address common issues among our major primary employers and, like most of our existing business and industry initiatives, 'Work In Gallatin' came from those meetings," EDA Executive Director Clay Walker said. "A couple of our largest employers were perplexed that such a low number of job applicants came from Gallatin, or for that matter, Sumner County. Once that was brought up, other companies expressed the same experience with all of them stating the desire for a more local workforce."

The EDA formed a subcommittee of GEAR which created the 'Work In Gallatin' initiative. The program's centerpiece is the launching of a website, WorkInGallatin.com, which went live today. The site is designed to demonstrate the numerous career opportunities that are available within the city's major employers, highlight positions that are currently open, and provide resources to citizens that are designed to help them obtain employment.

Among the features of the site is a list of all major employers, including detailed descriptions of what companies do and what types of careers they offer, as well as how to apply at each.

"Most of our companies simply drive you to their websites, and we are linked to them, so that makes it much easier. Still others, like Servpro, have a job board on their websites and we take you to that. Hoeganaes, for one, utilizes the Career Center, and you can link to that from this site," Walker said. "We also have a section of the site titled, 'Now Hiring.' Some companies will post current open positions there and it links to other sites where some of our companies also post opportunities."

Walker said that companies prefer to hire a local workforce whenever possible for many reasons, including reliability, a better quality of life for their staffs, and creating a

greater presence in the community. He said that the feeling of the EDA and the city's major employers has been that many residents, particularly those new to the area, view Sumner and other counties that border Nashville as bedroom communities and don't consider the professional opportunities here.

"Having a migrant workforce is part of the culture of the South. Commuting a half hour to an hour is as common here as it is in Los Angeles; the difference being in Los Angeles, you're commuting only 5-10 miles in that amount of time compared to 30 or 60 here," Walker said. "Still, having a 5-10 minute commute adds a great deal to your quality of life and is preferred by most employers. Our agency works for the mutual benefit of our citizens and corporate citizens. 'Work In Gallatin' is designed to equally serve both of those groups."

Companies wishing to have a presence on the 'Work In Gallatin' website or to be involved in the GEAR program, should e-mail Gallatin Economic Development Agency Administrative Assistant Shirley Smith at shirley.smith@gallatin-tn.gov. To learn more about the existing industry services and other activities of the Gallatin EDA, go to www.gallatintn-eda.com.

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