

# Small businesses to get assistance

## Development authority pens plan to work with Chamber of Commerce

By Ashley Fuller  
*Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer*

The Development Authority of Cherokee County has put small businesses on its agenda for next year.

On Monday, the authority approved its 2006 business plan, which includes an effort to work in conjunction with the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce to earn Entrepreneur Friendly Certification.

The certification, which is given by the Georgia Department of Economic Development, will give the county recognition as a good place to do business, according to authority Executive Director Misti Martin.



Misti Martin

As part of the certification process, a committee appointed by the authority and the chamber will interview entrepreneurs in the county to find out what can be done to help local small businesses.

"It is hard for us to know what needs small businesses have because we are not a small business," she said. "But these surveys will be one-on-one so we can get before someone who owns a small business and we can find out how we can be of more help. We can develop programs based on the results of those surveys and it will help us be more effective."

The authority in 2006 also will continue projects that began this year and were successful.

One program the authority will repeat next year is Developers Day, a golf tournament inviting brokers and project managers to play golf at a local

### Authority meeting

The Development Authority on Monday considered the following items:

- Heard an update on The Bluffs at Technology Park in Atlanta. The closing date on the property has been pushed back to the original closing date of Feb. 24.
- Heard an update on a 16.6-acre site in the Airport Industrial Park near Interstate 575. A report is being compiled, which will state there are no environmental problems with the site.
- Approved a Business Plan for 2006.

course and check out the county as a possible location for future projects.

Authority Chairman Marshall Day said this year's Developers Day, held at Hawks Ridge Golf Club in Ball Ground, was a "raging success."



Marshall Day

"There has been an increase in activity since then," he said of interest among developers.

The authority also will continue its marketing plans to attract industries to the county. Ms. Martin said the authority would make more improvements to its new Web site at [www.cherokee.org](http://www.cherokee.org) with up-to-date information about sites and buildings.

The authority will participate again in the Georgia Chamber's red Carpet Tour, an event that is attended by 50 prospects looking at Georgia as a possible business location.

Another project: to continue marketing development in The Bluffs of Technology Park and the Airport Industrial Park.

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