



For Immediate Release

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Area Construction Firm Connects with Oak Ridge through the Chamber

September 18, 2007 – Can membership in the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce build relationships with both area businesses and the community? According to Betsy Prine of H-S Whitson Construction, it absolutely can.

“Since our company joined the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce in June, we have been so warmly received,” said Prine. “Our involvement in the Chamber has allowed us to get to know people from a variety of different companies. I look forward to going to the business networking coffees each week. It’s a great way to network and get to know people in the community.”

H-S Whitson has built two facilities in Oak Ridge familiar to most Oak Ridgers: National Fitness and the Shops at Briarcliff. The company also works with the Boeing Corporation in Oak Ridge as well. Whitson Construction is a family-owned construction company which will celebrate its 15-year anniversary in October of this year. In addition to the construction in Oak Ridge, Whitson Construction has been involved in a variety of projects in and around Knoxville.

According to Prine, “Being a part of the Chamber has been wonderful for us. I would highly recommend that others join and become involved. You just can’t go wrong!”

“We often hear comments like those from Betsy,” said Tom Hilton, President of Y-12 Federal Credit Union and Chair of the Chamber’s Organizational Value Task Force. “If you ask members of the Chamber, you will hear over and over again the positive impact membership in the Chamber has on a business.”

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Ben Andrews, General Manager of Oak Ridge Utility District and Chairman of the Chamber Board remarked, “Not only does the Chamber work to help business people network, we also work with area professionals to meet today’s complex business and community challenges.”

“The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce works to make Oak Ridge a better place to live and do business. We focus on six strategic progress areas: Political Action, Image, Organizational Value, Housing/Population, Retail/Commercial, and Job Creation/Capital Investment. Through the efforts of more than twenty task forces and committees, the Chamber is the voice for the business and professional community on critical issues,” added Chamber President Parker Hardy.

One of those task forces is near and dear to the heart of Whitson Construction President Stephen Whitson. Whitson is serving as a member of one of the Housing/Population task forces, “Live Where You Work.” Whitson and his family are sold on Oak Ridge and will become some of its newest residents as soon as construction on their new home is complete.

Says Whitson, “Not only have I seen what a great place Oak Ridge is to do business, I have seen what a great place it is to raise a family. My wife and I have looked at many communities in the area to determine where we’d like to live. The decision was very easy – we look forward to being Oak Ridgers and enjoying the quality of life available to us in this community.”

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce kicked off its membership campaign in early September. Team captains and their teams will be calling area businesses to share with them the benefits of membership and to answer any questions potential members might have about the Chamber.

For more information or to become a member of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, call 483-1321 or visit the Chamber’s website www.orcc.org.

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is a Four-Star Accredited Chamber of Commerce with approximately 700 members.

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