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DOWNTOWN GREER GOES WIRELESS

The Greer Development Corporation (GDC) and the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the recent launch of the wireless network for downtown Greer and the website www.wirelessgreer.com. The wireless network and website are provided by a sponsoring partnership between **the City of Greer, the Greer Commission of Public Works (CPW), the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, the Greer Development Corporation, CompuNet and YourMark.com.**

The wireless internet access is a free service to visitors and patrons of downtown Greer. The service can be utilized by simply powering on your laptop or wireless device and accessing the internet within the range of the network. Once that is conducted the network will automatically detect your request and send you to www.wirelessgreer.com; this is the login or home page and will require you to click a button to access the network. The network provides a connection speed of 256K and no username or password is required for this free service.

The website also provides information concerning the sponsoring partners, has links to their specific websites, and provides brief information on Greer, SC. Connection to the wireless network or what is known as a wi-fi network will be monitored to deter access to sites that may be inappropriate and the network will limit connection time to 20 minutes. This time limit is set in place to deter businesses or people from relying solely on the free internet connection.

The City of Greer provided money towards this project so it could be a free service and **Greer CPW** put into place the infrastructure so the network could exist. Greer CPW is also responsible for monitoring the network and is currently evaluating the reach of the network in hopes that the service will reach Kid's Planet and the other parks in Greer. Scott Stevens, *President* of **YourMark.com**, designed the website and its' content with technical assistance from **CompuNet**. "This is a wonderful tool for downtown in this age of technology and wireless. This site and wi-fi network puts into place a business infrastructure necessary to conduct business in today's world," said Mr. Stevens.

Lynn Pascazio, *Director of Marketing* for the **Greer Chamber**, added "that downtown Greer is a unique downtown because it possesses so much charm due to the historic features of having over forty historic downtown buildings on the National Historic Register. Yet with this historic appeal, we have now put into place the twenty-first century technology that will allow downtown Greer to continue to experience a growing and vibrant business climate."

“As an economic development practitioner you must have the necessary infrastructure in place to attract new businesses and having formed this partnership to put a great tool like this in place will aid in recruitment efforts because this will make downtown Greer a wonderful place for a business location. Another reason for having a wi-fi network in place is it will aid our existing business base. There are over 90 business in downtown Greer and this acts as a marketing tool to get more people to visit our downtown whether it is for shopping, eating or now to check their e-mail,” said Richard K. Blackwell, *Commercial Development Director* for **GDC**.

For more information on the wi-fi network in place, please either visit www.wirelessgreer.com or make a visit to one of the businesses in downtown Greer and attempt to utilize the network firsthand.

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The Greer Development Corporation is a non-profit organization established to promote and enhance economic growth and development in the Greer community. GDC is a 501c(4) public-private partnership focused on business recruitment and retention activities, targeted marketing, and product development.

The mission of the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce is to “Champion Economic Prosperity for our members and the Greater Greer community.” The Greer Chamber serves the community as: the collective advocate and mentor for area businesses, the incubator of community initiatives, to provide community information to visitors and to assist with the creation and execution of events in the Greer Community.