

Tech Briefs

New tourism web site for Summerville chamber

The Tourism Council division of the Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce has developed a new name and look for the area's official tourism web site, www.visitsummerville.com.

The new site encourages visitors to plan their trip online with a travel planner that lists attractions, shopping, events, lodging and dining options. Also included are getaway packages, a place to request a free visitor guide in the mail, a media room, meeting and convention planners' page and more to entice visitors to include the "Gateway to Charleston" on a trip to the Lowcountry.

The Tourism Council unifies the promotion of tourism related businesses throughout rural Dorchester County, St. George and Summerville and works to encourage visitation for the purpose of economic development and improved quality of life in the region.

Survey on workplace e-mail reveals unmanaged risks

According to a recent survey by the American Management Association, one in five U.S. companies in 2004 had employee e-mail subpoenaed in the course of a lawsuit or regulatory investigation, up from 14% in 2003. Another 13% have battled workplace lawsuits trig-

gered by employee e-mail.

Yet in spite of the fact that e-mail and instant messages are a primary source of evidence, many employers remain largely unprepared to manage e-mail and instant messaging risks, according to the survey.

The survey, titled "2004 Workplace E-mail and Instant Messaging Survey," polled 840 companies and was compiled by AMA and The ePolicy Institute.

"Most alarming is the business community's failure to retain e-mail and instant messages according to written retention and deletion policies," said Nancy Flynn, executive director of The ePolicy Institute and author of *Instant Messaging Rules* and *E-mail Rules*. According to the survey, only 6% of organizations retain and archive IM business records, and only 35% have an e-mail retention policy in place—just 1% more than in 2003.

According to Flynn, the failure to properly retain e-mail and IM reflects employers' failure to educate employees about e-mail and IM risks, rules and policies. "The fact that 37% of respondents do not know or are unsure of the difference between an electronic business record that must be retained versus an insignificant message that may be deleted suggests that employers are dropping the ball when it comes to effectively managing e-mail and IM use," Flynn continued.

This year, 54% of respondents say their organizations conduct e-mail policy training, a 6% increase over the 48%

reported in 2003.

The survey shows that employers are getting tougher about e-mail policy compliance, however, with 25% of 2004 respondents having terminated an employee for violating e-mail policy versus 22% in 2003 and 17% in 2001.

For more information, visit the AMA web site at www.amanet.org or The ePolicy Institute's site at www.epolicyinstitute.com.

Local companies partner to offer tech recycling

Summer Wind Importers Ltd., a Summerville-based, full-service international trading company, has partnered with Premier Logistics of Hanahan to provide technology recycling services to the Lowcountry.

The disposal of electronic scrap is governed by the Federal Resource Recovery and Conservation Act and is regulated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. The environment can be harmed by the release of electronic components, particularly lead, found in landfills containing obsolete technology equipment such as personal computers, printers and the like. An average color monitor may contain up to one-and-a-half pounds of lead and small amounts of cadmium, mercury and other toxic metals.

Now, SWI Technology Recycling will come to your office and pick up most types of office electronics including com-

puters, monitors, printers, fax machines, phone systems and cellular phones free of charge if manufactured after 1999. The majority of equipment that can be redeployed will be exported to assist developing and underdeveloped nations in meeting the increasing demand for technology professionals.

To schedule a pick-up or needs assessment, call Brian Cate at 873-1513 or e-mail sales@summerwindimporters.com.

The service is primarily designed to assist companies and organizations with disposition of obsolete technology equipment. However, individuals can also dispose of out-dated computer equipment by visiting one of three drop-off locations.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

Premier Logistics
904 Commerce Circle
Hanahan, S.C.
554-7529

Drop-off hours: Monday through Friday,
1 - 4 p.m.

South Carolina World Trade Center
385 Meeting Street, Suite 102
Charleston, S.C.
577-4080

Summer Wind Importers Ltd.
102 Cottonwood Dr.
Summerville, S.C.
873-1513
By appointment only.