

Welcome West Lothian's monthly round up of local business news, upcoming events, new business support schemes, new developments and up to date economic facts and figures. To view all the stories in full, use the links below, which will take you to West Lothian's online resource for business - www.westlothian.com.


NEW DEVELOPMENTS www.westlothian.com/news

SIBBALD TRAINING have recently opened their new £1.2 million training facility at Blackridge, West Lothian.



THE UK'S FIRST Howards Storage World store has opened in Livingston. The successful Australian brand is planning a series of UK stores to sell its innovative storage products for the home.

LAND SECURITIES has suspended the introduction of parking charges in its Livingston car parks for the next 15 months.

BUSINESS SUPPORT 

THE *E-BUSINESS WEST LOTHIAN* lunch on 11 November will look at Priority Management in the Digital World. Tom Heron from Priority Management will give his expert insights and some simple strategies as to how you can use various PC workload management tools (such as MS Outlook) to help manage your priorities. Find out more about this event and book online at. <https://www.eventelephant.com/pmdw>



AN EXHIBITION will be held in Livingston in November to showcase young people who have made the step of starting their own business. The exhibition is part of this year's celebrations of 20 years of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) in West Lothian. It will take place at The Centre in Livingston on 19 November.

THE SCOTTISH Business Crime Centre (SBCC) has issued the Autumn 2009 issue of their quarterly Newsletter. <http://sbcc.org.uk/public/News-and-Events/News/Newsletters.jsp>

YOUNG PEOPLE who are leaving school and looking for work or training during the recession are competing for jobs against older, more experienced personnel. Support is available for employers who are prepared to work with a young person to help them into employment. Call Evelyn Simpson on 01506 777913 to find out more.

WHATEVER your reasons for needing information on a company, West Lothian's business information service can help. Using some of the UK's major business information suppliers, we can help you access company reports, accounts & profiles; industry trends & news reports; market research and industry profiles. Call Lenna Gray on 01506 777910 or email enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk

ALL MAJOR CONTRACTS (including OJEU tenders) currently advertised by West Lothian Council can be found on the **Public Contracts Scotland** website at www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk. The site provides free access to all public sector procurement in Scotland and also includes contracts and OJEU tenders advertised by Procurement Scotland, Scotland Excel, APUC and other local authorities and public sector organizations. By Dec 2009 all 185 public sector contracting bodies in Scotland will be advertising their contracts on the website.

BUSINESS GATEWAY's series of FREE workshops to help businesses win large-scale public and private sector tenders is now fully booked but it is hoped to run the programme again early in 2010. To register your interest email bgateway@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 777400.

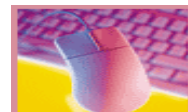
**ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES** 

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for September '09 (latest data released at October '09) is 4.4% (4,651 - a decrease of 97 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.0%) and Great Britain (4.2%) rates. KEEP UP to date with 15 Key Economic Indicators on our website at: http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/fact_figures

BUSINESS LEARNING www.westlothian.com/events

BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian has organised a number of FREE workshops in Livingston:

- **Tax Tips for Owner Managed Businesses** on 5 November (in association with Springfords accountants)
- **Reducing Utility Spend** on 10 November (in association with the Business Environment Partnership)
- **Trading Online** on 11 November
- **Get Real Results from your Website** on 18 November
- **Improve your Search Engine Ranking** on 24 November



OTHER **FREE** workshops are available in Edinburgh, Dalkeith or Haddington. Start up workshops also run in Livingston each month. For more information call 01506 777 400.



WEST LOTHIAN engineering firm Almond Engineering Ltd has celebrated its thirtieth year in business with a prestigious new order. The company was established in Livingston in 1979, and recently won a contract that will provide the firm with secure work until 2011.

LIVINGSTON BASED software developer Bloxx has been listed in the prestigious Deloitte Technology Fast 50 awards.

FIBRE PHOTONICS, the Livingston based Fibre Optics manufacturer has expanded with the opening of a branch in Berlin.

FASHION FOOTWEAR retailer Schuh which is headquartered in Livingston has relaunched its website and is outperforming the market with a 21% leap in earnings.

WALKER PARTNERSHIP (Scotland) LLP has won the Institute of Financial Accountant's prestigious award for 'UK Accountancy Practice of the Year'.

LIVINGSTON BASED biomedical firm Intercell has announced Phase III clinical trials of its Travellers' Diarrhea Vaccine Patch.

BATHGATE BASED property letting agents Martin and Co and sister estate agency firm Property Connections have re-located to larger premises in Bathgate Town Centre after a period of expansion.

CENTRAL BLASTING AND PAINTING, and Paterson Arran Ltd, two of West Lothian's most environmentally friendly organisations have been shortlisted for the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards 2009.

WHAT'S ON

www.westlothian.com/events

DIRECTOR DISPUTES AND DAMAGE LIMITATION is the subject of a free breakfast seminar organised by the Alba Innovation Centre on Thursday 12 November, 8.30am – 10.30am. The seminar which includes a light breakfast is presented by MBM Commercial to offer expert commercial legal advice to high growth innovative businesses. To register email albaevents@innovationcentre.org or contact Michelle on 01506 592100.

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER'S joint lunch with Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce on 4 November offers an ideal opportunity to strengthen your business network. Representatives of Network Rail will provide an update on the Bathgate-Airdrie rail line at the event which will be held at The Vu near Bathgate.

SPEED UP DURING THE SLOWDOWN - a FREE event with Google (UK) on 5 November, 6-8pm, City Chambers Edinburgh. Did you know that 17p from every pound of UK consumer spend is spent online? That equates to £26.5 billion a year! With over 70% of UK consumers online and increasingly turning to the internet to make purchases, that figure is estimated to rise to 50p in the pound by 2015. In the current economic climate, reaching new customers through online trade is key to fuelling growth. The City of Edinburgh Council Economic Development Service, in association with Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Business Gateway and the Federation of Small Businesses invite local businesses to a free seminar delivered by Google (UK). Register your company details to: BuildingOurEconomy@edinburgh.gov.uk

THE WEST LOTHIAN BRANCH of the FSB (Federation of Small Business) is holding a dinner on 20 November at the Hilcroft Hotel, Whitburn. Speaking will be Deputy First Minister and Minister for Health, Nicola Sturgeon. Tickets £25 - 4 course meal and wine - non-members welcome. To book your places email wfsbdinner@blueyonder.co.uk

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS is hosting a lunchtime event on 24 November. To book or for more information email laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 777 400.

DON'T MISS West Lothian Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Excellence Awards dinner on 27 November! To book your table or for more information contact Brenda Cumming on 01506 777 937 or email brenda.cumming@wlchamber.com

THE WEST LOTHIAN COFFEE MORNING takes place at the Winter Garden at The Centre in Livingston every Friday from 8am. Why not try this Business Networking event? No membership, no fees, no speakers, no agenda. www.wlcm.co.uk

FREE EMAIL UPDATE

Would you like to receive this FREE Business Update by email?

Contact andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506-777911 to be added to our mailing list.

TALK TO US

If you would like to send us your feedback or comments, a FEEDBACK link is provided at the bottom of every web page on www.westlothian.com or you can email us at enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk