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# DEKALB COUNTY

*Office of Economic Development*  
Vernon Jones, CEO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## “INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS IN BUSINESS” AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

*TRASH VALET, SUPER SUPPERS & M. CARY PLUMBING GET TOP HONORS*

DECATUR – “The envelope please...”

DeKalb Chief Executive Officer Vernon Jones announced the winners of the 2006 Innovative Concepts on Business (ICB) Award, live on DCTV (DeKalb County Comcast Channel 23) at today’s Board of Commissioners meeting.

The DeKalb Office of Economic Development, under the direction of CEO Jones, created the award to promote new and exciting business ideas while celebrating the vibrant overall business community in DeKalb County. Applications were evaluated by the DeKalb Office of Economic Development, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce and the DeKalb Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.



CEO Vernon Jones (left) and Kevin Copeland, president of Trash Valet, Inc.

(MORE)

## **PAGE 2: INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS IN BUSINESS AWARD**

The 2006 Innovative Concept of the Year, the top honor, went to Kevin Copeland, president of **Trash Valet, Inc.** **Trash Valet, Inc.** has been servicing apartments and condominiums since 1997 by providing door-to-door garbage pickup. Normally, residents in these communities have to haul their own garbage on top of their car to a centralized trash compactor. In addition to household waste, **Trash Valet, Inc.** also hauls away large, bulky items from garages, basements and storage spaces.

“Having an innovative concept is only half the battle,” said Copeland. “It takes a great team to implement the concept and I want to dedicate this award to my employees who make it happen every day.”

Two companies were awarded the Innovative Excellence 2006 award:

- **M. Cary and Daughters Plumbing Contractors** has an excellent track record of professionalism and customer service. Often forgotten, that in this male-dominated field, this organization is run by women.
- Many people like to cook, but who wants to do all the shopping, the preparation and the clean up? That’s the specialty of **Super Suppers Decatur**. Owner Flo Gentry explains that you prepare your meals there, and they do all the shopping, chopping and mopping.



**Melissa Cary displays her Innovative Excellence award**



**Commissioner Kathie Gannon (left) congratulates Flo Gentry on her award**

**(MORE)**

### **PAGE 3: INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS IN BUSINESS AWARD**

In addition to the aforementioned awards, there were three more organizations that were recognized by the judges as Innovative Finalists. They are:

- Philip Bolton, Publisher **GlobalAtlanta News Service**, The only electronic media that focuses exclusively on the impact of international events as it pertains to the Atlanta Area.
- Doreen Carter, CEO of **Wealth & Wisdom Resource Group**, the developer of financial education software featuring a cow – called, appropriately, “Who Moo-ved My Money”
- Aileen Harris, founder of **GoDeKalb.com**, The only media outlet focused on DeKalb County news without using a newspaper. All the happenings in DeKalb County can be found on their website at [www.godekalb.com](http://www.godekalb.com).



**From Left: CEO Vernon Jones, Aileen Harris, Doreen Carter, and Philip Bolton at the awards presentation ceremony**

Any enterprise physically located in DeKalb County was eligible to win the award, as long as it held a valid DeKalb County business license for at least one year. The ICB recognition is one of several initiatives focused on small businesses and entrepreneurs in DeKalb County. DeKalb continues to seek the “Entrepreneur-Friendly County” designation from the state.

“Small business is big business in DeKalb,” said DeKalb Chief Executive Officer Vernon Jones. “A long time ago Microsoft was a small business started by an entrepreneur named Bill Gates. The next big thing could be right here in our own backyard.”

**(MORE)**

## **PAGE 4: INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS IN BUSINESS AWARD**

The awards presentation will be rebroadcast on DCTV, Comcast channel 23 on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m., Thursday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 a.m.



The winners, from left: Melissa Cary, Flo Gentry, Kevin Copeland, Philip Bolton, Doreen Carter and Aileen Harris

For more information about the winners:

**Trash Valet** – Kevin Copeland, 770-399-6602, or [www.justtrashit.com](http://www.justtrashit.com)

**M. Cary & Daughters Plumbing Contractors** – Melissa Cary, 404-370-0999

**Super Suppers, Decatur** – Flo Gentry, 404-370-0211 [www.supersuppersdecalur.com](http://www.supersuppersdecalur.com)

**Wealth and Wisdom Resource Center** – Doreen Carter, 678-526-9300, [www.wawrg.com](http://www.wawrg.com) or [www.whomovedmymoney.com](http://www.whomovedmymoney.com)

**Global Atlanta News Service** – Philip Bolton, 404-377-7710 or [www.globalatlanta.com](http://www.globalatlanta.com)

**GoDeKalb.com** – Aileen Harris – 770-310-1773 or [www.godekalb.com](http://www.godekalb.com)

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