

DEVELOPMENTS

THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2009

www.medc.ms

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Chamber Development - Barbara Smith
Community Dev. Foundation, Tupelo

Communications - Elizabeth Fargason Stanga
Mississippi Dev. Authority, Jackson

CEDA - Christy Knapp
Oxford-Lafayette Co. EDF, Oxford

Conferences - Larry S. Barnett
Harrison County Dev. Commission, Gulfport

Legislative - Phillip D. Hardwick
Stennis Institute, MSU, Jackson

Membership - Elizabeth Taylor
Mississippi Dev. Authority, Jackson

Scholarships - Joy Foy
Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson

Staff:

Executive Director and COO - Carol Hardwick
Manager, Member Services/Admin. - Chris Hinton

Mississippi Coast Beckons MEDC Members



Larry Barnett

It is exciting to have the MEDC Summer Conference in Biloxi and at the Beau Rivage, overlooking the Mississippi Sound. Although we're blessed to live in a beautiful state with many different landscapes, we believe you will enjoy the water, basking in the sun, or a stroll along the beaches of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

As we began planning for this conference, we thought about how the presentations might help us prepare for the future. Technology and its accompanying tools need to be explored constantly. The young professional members of MEDC need to be involved, encouraged and mentored to sustain their professions in our state. We must be innovative and on the "cutting edge" of everything we do in this competitive world and in a world of tightened budgets. Therefore, the theme "Communicate Educate Innovate - A Beacon for the Future" came about.

So why should I attend these sessions? The sessions cross the line between chamber of commerce and economic development functions because we are talking about communication, both electronically and individually. Mark James has always presented contemporary tools to use and the Internet Aces will be on site to answer questions and help with putting suggestions into action.

Economic Development Headlines

Tupelo - InnOvation Seating Solutions LLC has moved into the former Westwood Industries building in Tupelo and officials at the new furniture manufacturing company say they hope to employ 100 workers by June 2010.

Ripley - The Tippah County Development Foundation announced the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Verge™ plant at **Oil-Dri Production Company**.

...continued on page 2

Learning and education are valuable parts of this conference. There are several Young Professional organizations throughout the state, and there are young professionals in every community that need to be involved. Your participation in MEDC's conference can provide an outstanding professional networking as well as learning opportunity. Kimberly Nastasi has an excellent presentation on the differences between Older Professionals and Young Professionals, while Dr. Martha Saunders will talk about the importance of innovation and the University of Southern Mississippi's role in innovation.

I always look at conference agendas for something new and challenging I can learn. I trust you will say we lived up to the theme and gave you something new to think about.

Larry Barnett

*Executive Director, Harrison County Development Commission, Gulfport
President-Elect, MEDC and Chairman, MEDC Conference Committee*

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“Experience” Social Media at MEDC Summer Conference

How many conferences have you attended where the speakers tell you that you need to be blogging, using Facebook and Twitter and uploading photos for all of your members? Probably quite a few. But how many have you attended where there were computer-savvy people onsite to answer your questions about how to use these applications and even walk you through the process?

Fear no more. *The Internet Aces*, an elite group of techies from the MDA IT Department, will be on hand during the MEDC Summer Conference to do just that.

Go now to the MEDC website and look for the links to join the MEDC Group and/or the MEDC Chamber Group on Facebook where you can share information, or chat, with other MEDC members. We will also ask conference attendees to sign up for Twitter allowing us to send messages before and during the conference about conference happenings and even let you provide input for the Friday morning panel on Young Professionals.

If you’ve attended a past MEDC conference, you already have seen how photos can be organized and embedded in the MEDC website using Picasa. We will be doing this again, and showing you how to do this for your event.

Also, check out Carol’s Blog where all the weekly Monday morning economic development news is posted along with the links. We will be using this blog site during the conference to provide information on speaker presentations.

This is a great opportunity to learn something that you can take back and put into practice to improve your communications, not only with your members, but also with potential members.

Will *The Internet Aces* be on call after the conference to answer your questions? Nope. Sorry. They will go back to being full-time MDA IT people. (Even Superman returns to being Clark Kent.) But you can schedule an appointment with them during the conference if you want to take full advantage of their expertise while they are *The Internet Aces*.

Letter From the President



David Rumbarger

Come one, come all to the Beau Rivage for the MEDC Annual Summer Conference July 22-24. Chairman Larry Barnett and his committee have assembled a quality program, and the fellowship of our association is always a benefit. The tours of Trinity Yachts and Lazy Magnolia Brewery are sure to be highlights of this year’s conference. The sessions will give us tools to help our business make the needed changes to work effectively in the new economy.

Recently, I have attended a number of national meetings focused on the economic stimulus, the national and world economy, and business development trends. Although the conditions are different and the speculation is intense, the overall conclusion I have reached is it is still up to each community to seek out their own path to prosperity. There are always programs, incentives and trends; but, the existing businesses that are located in your own back yard are the most assured path out of the recession. Truly help them and make their success your focus. As they are renewed and encouraged, your local economy will recover and prosper.

Personally take time in this recessionary period to do what noted author Stephen Covey says and “sharpen the saw.” Suggestions are to

increase your personal knowledge through education and training in a new area of economic development, ask for a new idea from your staff or board; create a new committee for the new economy, and investigate a new source of income and prosperity for your organization. In short, don’t sit on the side line and wait for the national media to tell you the recession has ended. Instead get in the starter’s blocks and go in preparation for the run ahead.

You have honored me this past year by allowing me to serve you as MEDC President. My perspective on our association is that we are blessed with an involved membership and a top notch staff professional, in Carol Hardwick. With all this going for us, we could easily just coast into the future and let the winds of change take us. However, we are a determined bunch setting our sights on accomplishment in the mysterious economic development future where we struggle for relevance and achievement in the new century and new economy.

There is much work to be done in the future at MEDC. I would ask you to look at our organization and find a place to raise your commitment to service investing your time and talent into MEDC. I look forward to seeing you at the Conference as we work together for the betterment of our communities and our beloved Mississippi.

David Rumbarger
President and CEO
Community Development Foundation

Headlines continued from page 1

Tupelo - Each year, **Site Selection** magazine selects the previous year’s Top Economic Development Groups based upon various aspects. Community Development Foundation in Tupelo was once again named in this Top 10 Group of Economic Development Groups.

Blue Mountain - Big M/Diesel Express Trucking is moving its headquarters from Hickory Flat to a larger facility in Blue Mountain. Michael Massengill, president of Big M/Diesel Express, said, “These facilities will allow our company to see immediate growth, and we are proud to be able to continue our growth by providing good quality jobs to Tippah County and its citizens. The Hickory Flat facilities will continue to operate as a logistics facility for the foreseeable future.”

Noxubee County - The Noxubee Alliance and **Thomasson Company** celebrated Noxubee County’s newest industry with a ribbon cutting

and grand opening. Macon Treating Company, along with sister company East Mississippi Pole Company, represents a total investment of \$6 million and approximately 30 new jobs.

Olive Branch - Cardinal Health, Inc., is expanding local operations with a 211,000-square-foot lease at ProLogis Park DeSoto. The company outgrew its existing 170,000-square-foot space in Southeast Memphis and needed room to expand. “The Olive Branch area met all our needs,” company spokesman Troy Kirkpatrick says. “Also, the state of Mississippi really worked with us to make it an attractive place.”

Pontotoc - Enerkem Inc., an advanced biofuels company has unveiled plans to build and operate a second-generation biofuels production facility located in Pontotoc. It is expected to create 150 jobs, and to generate an additional 300 jobs during construction and start-up phases.

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Communicate Educate Innovate - A Beacon to the Future

2009 MEDC Summer Conference Schedule Oxford Conference Center . Oxford, MS

Wednesday, July 22

9:00 AM Registration

11:30 AM Luncheon
"Success One Pint at a Time"

Speaker: Leslie Henderson, Founder/Owner, Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company, Kiln, MS

Founded in September 2003 as Mississippi's first packaging brewery since prohibition, Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company now produces five different beers that are sold in three states. Their mission: "We do not tell people what to like, we just give them great choices."

1:30 PM "Closing the Generation Gap"

Speaker: Kimberly Nastasi, IOM, CEO, MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport, MS

In today's ever changing workforce, multiple generations are working together. Understanding how to manage, how to motivate and what drives each generation ensures a successful workplace. Learn the ABC's of each generation and what makes them tick.

2:45 PM Ice Cream Break
Sponsor: AT&T

3:15 PM "Using Social Media to Your Advantage!"

Speaker: Mark J. James, CEcD, Principal, ED Solutions, Inc., Powell, OH

Learn the latest social media tools to be more effective in business attraction, business

retention, attracting and retaining 'talent' and community development.

5:30 PM Welcome Reception
Sponsor: Government Consultants

Thursday, July 23

7:15-8:15 AM Networking Breakfast
Sponsor: Balch & Bingham LLP

7:30 AM Registration

8:30 AM "A Current Snapshot – Technology in Economic and Community Development"

Speaker: Mark J. James, CEcD, Principal, ED Solutions, Inc., Powell, OH

Can site selectors and visitors to your area access all the information you offer on your website using their mobile devices? An overview of websites (mobile and otherwise), contact management systems, the latest office tools, GIS, charting, email, marketing tools, etc.

9:45 AM Networking Break
Sponsor: Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC

10:15 AM "The Innovative University"

Speaker: Dr. Martha D. Saunders, President, University of Southern Mississippi

The role of the university in economic and community development.

11:30 AM Lunch: tickets provided for all attendees not involved in activities

Thursday Afternoon Activities – See page 7

Governor's Cup / Community Economic Development Awards

6:30 PM Reception

7:30 PM Banquet

Friday, July 24

7:15 – 8:15 AM Networking Breakfast

8:30 AM The YP Impact!

Moderator: Kimberly Nastasi, IOM, CEO, MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport, MS

Panelists:

Heather Brown, Co-Chair, Jones County Young Professionals, Laurel, MS

Sara Carmichael, Manager, Chamber of Commerce, Meridian, MS

Christen Hartley, Coordinator, Coast Young Professionals, MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport, MS

Young Professionals entering the workforce are requiring companies to rethink employee strategy. The way to recruit and retain this educated, diverse and tech-savvy new generation is by understanding and embracing these qualities.

9:30 AM "Tapping Into the Programs of the Economic Development Administration"

Speaker: Tonia Williams, CEcD, Economic Development Representative, U. S. Economic Development Administration, Atlanta, GA

Learn about the programs of the EDA, the agency's current funding priorities and evaluation process, along with updates related to recent federal funding opportunities (FFOs) such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act aka "stimulus" and Supplemental Disaster Relief assistance.

10:30 AM Business meeting

11:30 AM Door prizes and MEDC \$1,000 cash giveaway

2009 Summer Conference Cover Graphic

We've had many comments about the beautiful painting used for the cover of this year's MEDC Summer Conference brochure. It is the original art from the 2001 Biloxi Seafood Festival poster and was provided courtesy of the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, 228-604-0014, 11975E Seaway Road, Gulfport, MS 39503. All festival posters can be viewed and purchased on the Biloxi Chamber Store's website at <http://biloxi.org/chamber-store/>.

MEDC Welcomes New Members:

Lisa Bradley

Executive Director
Gulfport Main Street Association
Gulfport, MS

Stellanda Davis

Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community
Health Center
Lexington, MS

Paula DeYoung

Project Manager
Harrell Contracting Group, LLC
Ridgeland, MS

Justin Hall

Special Projects Manager
Marshall County Industrial
Development Authority
Holly Springs

Russell Hatten

CEO
Bigfoot Consulting Resources
Wiggins, MS

Michelle Lombas

Membership Director
Pike County Chamber of Commerce
McComb, MS

Arthur Marble

Mayor
Indianola, City of
Indianola, MS

William Mendenhall

Shareholder
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell &
Berkowitz PC
Jackson, MS

Dr. Pamela Smith

President
Mississippi Council on Economic Education
Jackson, MS

Michael Webb

Assistant Vice President/Project Manager
Economic Development
Area Development Partnership
Hattiesburg, MS

MEDC Regional Chamber Workshop

“Putting Your Chamber in Overdrive” held in Oxford

Chamber of commerce executives from over 40 chambers listened attentively to speakers, posed lots of questions and networked with one another at the Oxford Conference Center at the second MEDC regional chamber workshop in April.

Shane Moody, CCE, IOM, president and CEO of the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce did not disappoint as he talked about trends in Chamber work and the changes that should be made to stay relevant to their members in the community.

Rosie Vassallo, executive director of the Madison The City Chamber of Commerce shared details of her successful Ambassador program. It involves everyone, from high school age to retirees, and all in between, and she always has free Southwest Airline tickets to give away at her annual banquets.

Deborah Reynolds captured everyone’s attention when she told how she learned to recruit retail development from the ground up in her position as president of the Petal Area Chamber of Commerce, furnishing detailed charts of statistical information that chamber execs must have available at all times for this purpose.



John Brandon

John Brandon engaged everyone with his stories of successful small-town, locally-owned businesses that the Mississippi Development Authority had helped start. He gave a menu of offerings that chambers could use in their communities to strengthen their business climate.

Carol Hardwick closed the workshop with information about professional development

opportunities available locally at MEDC conferences and nationally through MEDC scholarships.

“The MEDC Chamber Workshop in Oxford was the first I have attended,” said April Parsons, newly appointed Director of the Greater Picayune Area Chamber of Commerce. “I found it very helpful and the excitement about chamber work was felt throughout the day from all the speakers. I appreciate MEDC for offering these workshops for chambers to learn new and update old information.”



Gwendolyn Woodson

Gwendolyn Woodson, Community Development Director of the Grenada Chamber said, “The workshop was **OUTSTANDING**. I always appreciate the opportunity to network with other chamber professionals and picking up innovative ideas from your events. Because the economy

has changed the shape of local chambers, I encourage MEDC to continue to sponsor workshops that will help us to enhance our programs.”

“The one-day workshop was more focused upon information relevant to the goals we are striving to reach at the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce,” remarked Amy Heaton, Executive Director. “The smaller group was more conducive to networking, and I was able to exchange a great deal of valuable information with my colleagues throughout the day.”

“The workshop did just what we wanted it to do,” said Barbara Smith, vice-president, of the Chamber of Commerce Division, Community Development Foundation in Tupelo, and MEDC vice president of Chamber Development. “We provided good professional training for MEDC members, and we also attracted those from chambers who had not had a chance to participate in anything like this before. This was quite a service for the chamber community.”

Headlines continued from page 2

Tupelo - The Tupelo region has been named to **Site Selection** magazine’s list of the most active micropolitan areas for new and existing industries in the country, for the fourth consecutive year, ranking second in the nation out of nearly 700 micropolitan areas designated by the United States Census Bureau.

Meridian - N.E.W. Customer Service Companies Inc. had their grand opening. Since October, the call center has brought 273 new jobs

to the area. “We’re excited about opening the call center and to support the workforce in Meridian,” said Ray Zukowski, NEW’s senior vice president, customer experience. “This is the second call center we have opened in Mississippi, and we continue to be impressed with the strong work ethic and commitment to customer service that we find in the candidates of this great state.”

[Congratulations to all involved with these successful projects. To submit your news, send a link to your news story to \[carol@medc.ms\]\(mailto:carol@medc.ms\).](#)

Mississippi's Eminent Domain Law Works

By Carol Hardwick



Meeting at the state capitol were MEDC board member Jack Zink, executive director, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission; Joe Geddie, executive director, NMIDA; MEDC president-elect Larry Barnett, executive director, HCDC; MEDC president David Rumbarger, president/CEO, CDF; and MEDC board member Tom Troxler, executive director, RankinFirst EDA.

During this last legislative session, economic development professionals and local elected officials came close to losing one of the most important tools for major job creation – eminent domain.

Job creation in Mississippi is very important, not only for the economic success of our communities and our state, but for the greater good – to improve the economic success and quality of life for all of our citizens and their children and grandchildren.

“Cities and counties have had eminent domain authority for decades and never abused it in the name of economic development,” noted David Rumbarger, president/CEO of the Community Development Foundation in Tupelo and president of MEDC. “While eminent domain is rarely used in practice and in the case of certain property issues where there is a “public necessity” for a taking, without this tool during negotiations, Mississippi may be left out of the competition. Experience tells us the authority of eminent domain during negotiations was critical in landing all recent major projects.”

Larry Barnett, executive director of the Harrison County Development Commission and president-elect of MEDC, said “Eminent domain is an extremely valuable tool that allows us to get large economic development projects into the state. We need to look to the long term and not take away a tool that we might need. It has not been abused.”

Current eminent domain laws in Mississippi are very strict and protective of personal property rights. MEDC members recently met with Lt. Governor Phil Bryant. Joe Geddie, executive director of the North

Mississippi Industrial Development Association, remarked, “The meeting was very positive, but also confirmed more than ever the work we have in front of us to educate everyone on how important this issue is to the future of successful economic development efforts in our state.”

Community leaders in Mississippi are eager to have major economic impact projects located in their areas, as these projects, such as PACCAR, Nissan, and NASA affect their economies very positively. Some of the benefits – quality jobs are created for current residents, new residents are attracted to the area, their college graduates can find meaningful employment, home-town businesses thrive, the need for new diverse local small business is created, additional sales taxes benefit municipalities, and property values increase, benefiting property owners and local governments.

Current law provides that if property is “taken” by eminent domain, owners are provided just compensation. Takings are already required for public use such as roads, bridges, and infrastructure as determined by the courts. If that value is disputed, the constitution provides judicial remedies for the owner who may have a jury decide the amount of compensation, rather than a state official.

Tom Troxler, executive director of RankinFirst Economic Development Authority, and MEDC board member, said, “It is important that we have an eminent domain bill that protects our rights as property owners and allows for the possibility of major impact projects to be attracted to Mississippi. Any barriers we put up on the front end create the real possibility of Mississippi being left off initially with no chance to ever be in the race for the project. Hopefully legislation can be crafted that creates undeniable property rights with safeguards and also allows for major impact projects to move forward in Mississippi. Together, we can make Mississippi the best place to live, work and play!”

This issue will certainly come up again in the future. Jobs have been created recently that have greatly benefited a large number of citizens, local small businesses and communities. Mississippi is receiving very good national and international attention and is successfully attracting major industry with high-paying jobs. We need to continue this trend.

Additional information is available on the MEDC website at www.medic.ms at In The News.

Restored Port of Gulfport to be Premier U. S. Port

Don Allee, executive director of the Port of Gulfport, was the speaker at MEDC's Member-to-Member Seminar in April at the Hattiesburg Country Club on “The Port of Gulfport: What the ‘Port of the Future’ Means to the Economic Development of Our State.”

The restoration of the State Port at Gulfport is expected to have a tremendous impact not only for the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast but also for the entire state of Mississippi. The Port of Gulfport's restoration is expected to generate \$1.6 billion in direct revenue to the local economy and create over 8,000 direct and indirect jobs over the next 10 years.

When compared to other ports in America, Gulfport has several competitive advantages for growth, including the ability to incorporate all of today's technological and design standards, a location more navigable than facilities on the Mississippi River, and more room to grow than any other port in the west or east Gulf of Mexico.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Port of Gulfport was the third busiest container port on the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. While other ports across the U.S. are nearing peak capacity, current shifting international trade patterns and the expansion of the Panama Canal are creating prospects for increasing trade through the Port. It is ideally positioned to rebuild and take advantage of these unique opportunities.

For more information on the Port, go to www.portofthefuture.com.



Photo: Larry Barnett, executive director, Harrison County Dev. Commission, Charlotte Koestler, executive director, Stone County EDP, Don Allee, and Jack Zink, executive director, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission.

Governor's Cup District Winners Announced



The Governor's Cup Trophy

Governor Haley Barbour named six Mississippi businesses as the district winners of the prestigious Governor's Cup, which recognizes businesses in the private sector that have made a significant impact within their communities. The winners are being recognized for their achievements during the 2008 calendar year.

"These businesses have earned this recognition because of their achievements and leadership, and I salute the contributions each is making to strengthen Mississippi's economy and improve the lives of the citizens in its community," Governor Barbour said. "They also reflect the diversity that marks Mississippi's modern economy and drives our economic development efforts."

The district winners in each category follow:

Small Business (50 or less employees)

- General Atomics, Shannon – North District Winner; nominated by Community Development Foundation
- Camgian Microsystems Corporation, Mississippi State – Central District Winner; nominated by Greater Starkville Development Partnership
- Metal Tech, Inc., Gulfport – South District Winner; nominated by Harrison County Development Commission

Big Business (51 or more employees)

- BancorpSouth, Tupelo – North District Winner; nominated by Community Development Foundation
- Entergy Mississippi, Inc., Jackson – Central District Winner; nominated by Hinds County Economic Development District

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MDA Update And Stimulus Programs

Given the current economic climate, states everywhere are faced with budget concerns as a result of declining revenues. Mississippi is no exception, and state agencies are working to tighten their belts while staying focused on their goals.

At the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), we continue to focus on our goals and our efforts to recruit and retain businesses with as much resolve as ever. However, while our objectives remain the same, we recognize the impact the economic downturn is having on Mississippi businesses and have re-evaluated our strategies to be sure they are the most effective way to accomplish those goals.



As a result, MDA has reallocated resources to provide additional support to existing industry in the state, adding two project managers to our Existing Industry and Business (EIB) Division to augment our ongoing retention efforts. We have also made it a priority to visit companies around the state to learn more about their operations and the issues they face; to supply information on our assistance programs and other ways we can provide support; and to continue building relationships with our corporate citizens. Of course, we will always work with the local developers first, so as not to not interfere with your business expansion and retention efforts. It is critical that we partner in this strategy.

Even with our renewed focus on business retention, the agency has not let up on its recruitment efforts. MDA project managers continue to actively pursue business prospects with the same determination, and we continue to have good news regarding companies that have chosen to locate in Mississippi. Cardinal Health, a Fortune 20 global company, announced in April it was locating a medical/surgical distribution facility in Olive Branch, and in May, the American Contract Bridge League announced it was moving its headquarters in Horn Lake.

MDA's Energy, Community Services and Financial Resources Divisions continue to stay busy administering economic stimulus programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

of 2009 (ARRA). Our Financial Resources Division will be administering the Small Issue Industrial Development Bond Program and the New Markets Tax Credits, in addition to the newly created Build America Bond Program.

MDA's Energy Division is administering the State Energy Program (SEP), which will fund or expand existing state energy programs that support energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. The division took into consideration recommendations and proposals from energy stakeholders and consumers when drafting its plan for the use of these funds. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is currently reviewing the draft plan.

The division is also overseeing the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) Program, which will assist local governments with activities designed to reduce fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency and conservation in transportation, building and other relevant areas. Twenty of the largest Mississippi counties and cities will receive direct formula grants, while the remaining local governments will have an opportunity to apply to MDA for these competitive funds through a request for proposals process. MDA must submit an application for these funds to DOE by June 25th.

MDA's Community Services Division is administering the Homelessness Prevention and Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and has submitted its HPRP action plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for consideration. MDA is also responsible for the additional Community Development Block Grant funds the state received through ARRA, and Community Services is developing an action plan for the use of these funds. Once the draft plan is complete, the division will submit it for public comment and will then send it to HUD for approval.

Community Services is also overseeing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) in Mississippi. This program includes a homebuyer assistance component, which will be administered by the Mississippi Home Corporation and will assist income-qualifying individuals purchase a foreclosed home. MDA has allocated \$23 million to the Mississippi Home Corporation for this activity. The NSP also includes a program that will help address foreclosed housing needs in the City of Jackson. MDA is granting \$16 million to one or more not-for-profit organizations in the City of Jackson to administer this program. Requests for Proposals are currently being reviewed and the agency will make grant awards later this summer.

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2009 Summer Conference Thursday Afternoon Activities

The Summer Conference Committee not only came up with some great topics and speakers, but they also have some interesting and different activities as well.

Golf at Sunkist Country Club:

Of course, golf is the number one activity and always one of our first priorities for the conference. Sunkist is one of the most popular courses to play in the area. This beautifully manicured course measures up to 6400 yards with three sets of tees. Sand and water come in to play on 13 holes, ensuring a pleasant experience for any skill level. This course was recently renovated with New Champions Bermuda Grass. The cost this year is a very affordable \$65. Thank you Mississippi Power Company for your sponsorship of this activity.

For the first time ever, we have tours of two very different facilities that make their home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast: Trinity Yachts and Lazy Magnolia Brewery.

Trinity Yachts Tour:

Their website says that Trinity Yachts has earned its place as one of the world's elite builders of custom superyachts with an emphasis on European quality, steel and aluminum constructions. Their goal is to build a truly custom yacht that fulfills all of a customer's unique cruising desires.

In a world where most yachts are constructed on a semi-production basis, they offer customers the ability to build to any design in any size up to 400 feet. They have worked with a number of the world's most renowned naval architects and interior designers.

Lunch at a local diner is on the schedule before arriving at Trinity.

The most-asked question so far about this conference: Will we get to board one of their

superyachts? The answer is: If they have one at the proper stage of completion that is still on the premises, maybe. Thanks to Larry Barnett and the Harrison County Development Commission for making this tour possible and for sponsoring it.

Lazy Magnolia Brewery Tour:

The Lazy Magnolia Brewery website says, "We love great beer, great food and all things Southern." They then go on to say, "Along the coast of Mississippi we enjoy a different speed of life." Feel their message at www.lazymagnolia.com. We will cruise down the coastline to a local restaurant at Pass Christian for lunch. Mike Turner from the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission will be your "tour guide" along the way. Thanks to Mike and the HCPHC for sponsoring this fun time and helping make arrangements.

At Wednesday's luncheon you will get to hear Leslie Henderson, founder and owner of Lazy Magnolia, tell us how that good Mississippi beer came to be in her presentation "Success One Pint at a Time."

Sailing on the Biloxi Schooner:

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has been kind enough to bring sailing back this year for our relaxation and general pleasure. We will sail along the coastline on this authentic replica of a Biloxi oyster schooner that sailed the coast from the late 1800's to early 1900's before marine engines and oyster harvesting laws forced them out of existence. We will have lunch and beverages on board. Wear shorts, sunglasses or other cool apparel and bring sunscreen.

For more information on these activities, go to www.medic.ms and click on Conferences and then on Agenda. Scroll down to the activities and click on the websites linked.

Be sure to sign up ahead of time. Space is limited for each of these. Don't miss out or you may just have to hang out at the Beau Rivage pool all afternoon. Hmmmm ...

MDA Update from page 6

To help oversee the development and implementation of these stimulus programs, Manning McPhillips has joined the MDA team. Manning will assist Chief Financial Officer Joey Deason to develop policy and manage the stimulus programs the agency is administering. He brings extensive legislative and Capitol Hill experience to MDA and will certainly be an asset to the agency.

Despite the current economic situation, MDA continues to work to "change lives and change minds" through all of our economic and community development programs. We are fully committed to our efforts to create jobs, retain and support existing industry and cultivate more vibrant, competitive communities throughout the state.

Governor's Cup from page 6

- United States Marine, Inc., Gulfport – South District Winner; nominated by Harrison County Development Commission

"The Governor's Cup awardees represent the business leaders across our state that are making a difference through community involvement and economic impact," said Gray Swoope, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). "They have demonstrated an outstanding willingness and ability to positively influence the communities around them."

At the MEDC Summer Conference Governor's Cup and Community Economic Development Awards (CEDA) Banquet, district winners in each category will receive an award and their nominating entities will receive \$1,000 each. From these district winners, statewide winners in each category will be announced and presented a trophy along with a \$5,000 Economic Development Marketing Match Grant for their respective local nominating entities.

All winners along with the Community Economic Development Awards (CEDA) winners will also be honored at the annual MEDC Awards Banquet on July 23, 2009, at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. Banquet tickets can be purchased by calling MEDC at 601-352-1909 or from the website at www.medic.ms.



MSWTC Offers Unique Global Intelligence Reports

The Mississippi World Trade Center (MSWTC) announces the addition of CenTradeX, a premier source for comprehensive global business intelligence, to its menu of international development services. Using this unique tool, the MSWTC can provide companies and local developers with detailed reports to locate prospects, track trade flows and identify opportunities for attracting foreign investment. For more information about CenTradeX capabilities or to register for a demonstration, contact Gina Regan at 601-353-0909 or rregan@mswtc.org



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THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Events

- July 22 - 24** **2009 MEDC Summer Conference**
Communicate Educate Innovate – A Beacon for the Future
Beau Rivage Resort, Biloxi, MS
- July 26 - 28** **SEUS-CP Second Annual Conference**
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
- August 5** **Export University-“Exporting 101”**
Long Beach, MS
- August 11 - 12** **Automated Export Systems & Bureau of Industry
Security Seminar**
Jackson, MS
- August 15-18** **SEDC 2009 Annual Conference**
Point Clear, AL
- August 26** **MS World Trade Center Summer Quarterly Luncheon**
Jackson, MS
- September 2** **International Logistics Seminar**
Gulfport, MS

MEDC SUMMER CONFERENCE 2009
JULY 22-24 BEAU RIVAGE BILOXI, MS

**Communicate
Educate
Innovate
A Beacon for
the future**

Don't miss your opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this premier MEDC event – networking with economic development and chamber of commerce professionals, informative educational sessions, recreational activities, and more!
See the complete agenda at www.medic.ms or call **601-352-1909** for a brochure.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 10

MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
For more info and to register, visit www.mwcdc.ms or call 601-352-1909.

For more information on these and other events go to www.medic.ms