



"Commit to a Cleaner Community"

SUMMER 2011



Kim Dowdy
Delta EDC Chairman

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

FIRST, THANK YOU to our Levee Board management, staff and board of directors who worked so hard during these last couple of months to ensure that our levees did not break. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and talented people right here in Washington County and the Delta. Our appreciation cannot be fully expressed in words, but we do owe you a huge THANK YOU!!!

Look around Washington County and what do you see? My answer is GROWTH! (And yes, I see the glass half full.) Let us review some new businesses: Subway in Hollandale; Luxe ala Mode, Foxfire Media, Delta Teaching Supply, and McDonalds in Greenville; and The Community Store in Metcalfe. To anyone I left out, I apologize. These are good signs for Washington County and its citizens. Also, thank you to the businesses and individuals who have invested in our community, past and present. Your dollars and commitment continue to make this a wonderful place to live and raise our families.

Congratulations to the 2011 Leadership Class of Washington County!!! Under the direction of Larry Cazavan, these individuals worked for nine months as a team, learning about various topics in Washington County and the great state of Mississippi. After attending their graduation, I witnessed a "true" kinship between individuals that might not have ever really gotten to know each other even though they lived in the same county. These future leaders demonstrated how people from different areas of business can work together to obtain a final goal. The beauty of this example is this group had fun and it showed. KUDOS to the class and their leader.

As we move into a very hot Delta Summer, enjoy the celebration of our country and the freedoms we enjoy due to the diligence of our Armed Forces. Share the positive message and be proud of where you work and live. Washington County is the most "southern place on earth."

Thank you for your continued support of Washington County!!!

Kim C. Dowdy

Kim Dowdy, Chairman

DELTA EDC STAFF:

Larry Jones
Executive Director

Sheree Hobart
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Larry Jones
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am thankful that everyone has made it through the flood and we are moving into the hot days of summer. We are all on the move at the Economic Development Center of Washington County. There are good things happening in all of our communities.

One of our important industrial employers, Center-Moeller Products, has renewed their lease at 1381 Thornton Street for another ten years and has promised to maintain or expand the current number of jobs at the 20,000 square-foot facility. Our long-time employer Moeller, in Greenville since 1961, has recently been acquired by Center Manufacturing. The new Center-Moeller has greater potential for expansion and growth into new markets around the country and the world. The company manufactures heavy equipment parts; its customer list includes companies such as John Deere, Caterpillar, Terex, Kenworth, Paccar Parts, Komatsu Dresser, and Cummins. It is exciting that they have shown this commitment to this area.

In retail, Sears will be returning to the Greenville Mall by mid-November as a Sears Hometown store, covering approximately 8,000 square feet, with new full and part-time positions. Doc Hardy, the owner, said that the store will be similar to the Cleveland store. The EDC provided retail sales and demographic data to Sears corporate real estate managers that helped them decide to locate in Greenville.

On the horizon is an event that we hope will continue to grow in its positive impact on Washington County, the Tax Free Weekend. Mark your calendars. Friday, July 29th and Saturday, July 30th, are the two days that the state of Mississippi has set aside for "sales tax free" individual clothing purchases of less than \$100 per item to help families buy clothes for back to school. It's a good thing for all of our Mississippi residents, and our strategic location as a regional commercial hub should provide the opportunity for citizens from Arkansas and Louisiana to come spend here. This is the third year of the program and it has grown each year. Help spread the word. Saving 7% or more is a good deal.

Larry Jones, Executive Director



Sheree Hobart
Chamber Director

CHAMBER DIVISION OVERVIEW

It is refreshing to see new establishments opening around town! Just this past month Luxe alla mode, Foxfire Media and the new McDonald's on Hwy 1 South have opened their doors for business. These businesses, as well as Fred's Dollar Store/Hwy 82, Delta Teaching Supply, and Shelter Insurance/David Bush have joined the Chamber of Commerce! Thank you all for your support in the Chamber and the DEDC! Let us help you GROW YOUR BUSINESS!!!! Yes, let's all "Buy Here" and keep our dollars in Greenville and Washington County!

Investing in your Chamber of Commerce is a wise decision! By being a Chamber Member you will benefit in so many ways. You can receive great discounts with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Air Evac (helicopter service). There are a multitude of networking opportunities through various events, committees and workshops. Our volunteers also have opportunities to serve in leadership positions on a variety of committees, all benefiting Greenville and Washington County. You will receive free internet

listing on our website as well as referrals for Chamber Members only.

Get great exposure by taking advantage of our quarterly newsletter! Let us know when you have something new to promote, whether it is a new service, a new product or even someone you would like to recognize in your business! We can also promote you through our Chamber Blitz that goes out each week to hundreds of people! Let us help you and your business!

Just last month the Chamber hosted a variety of workshops to help your business! Dr. Cooper Johnson and Dr. Jamye Long of Delta State University facilitated a Customer Service workshop. Niki Henry of Stems facilitated a Facebooking One-on-One workshop, sharing a wealth of information on how to promote your business, as she does for her own business, on Facebook! These workshops were well received, and members left saying they could hardly wait to take the information they learned back to their own businesses.

The Chamber loves to host Ribbon Cuttings and Business After Hours events

to promote your business! Let our RED COAT AMBASSADORS come out and help! As the public relations arm of the Chamber, this is what they love to do! If you have any questions about any of the services above or would like some more information, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 662-378-3141 or email me at shobart@deltaedc.com. I would love to come to your business and share more information about the Chamber.

Have a great Summer!

Sheree Hobart, Chamber Director



Facebooking One-on-One Workshop. Pictured left to right: Angela Holmes, Niki Henry, Facilitator, Pam Cockrell, Alicia Bariola and Sheree Hobart.



Dr. Cooper Johnson, DSU
Small Business Leadership Series Facilitator

CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Front row: (l-r) Peter Fisher, Cynthia Eiland, Ashley Gardner, Lesa Wise, Rodney Whitley; second row: Lisa Buckner, Janice Jelks, Eloise Brooks, Amanda McCall, Cassandra Pete, Elizabeth Montgomery; third row: Woodrow Wilkins, David Cunningham and Chairman, Larry Cazavan.

LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON COUNTY CLASS 2010-2011, sponsored by The Delta Economic Development Center, recently had their graduation ceremony with fourteen participants.

The yearlong class runs from August until June graduation. Larry Cazavan, Chairman, expressed appreciation to the employers who committed their employees to this year. The year's curriculum consisted of monthly meetings that included: Government Day: city and county government and Federal courthouse; Agriculture/Health Day: Stoneville (USDA and Miss. State) and Delta Regional Medical Center; Greenville History Day: Four Museums (Greenville History, Greenville AFB, Jewish Synagogue, and McCormick Book Inn) and the Levee Board; Education Day: area schools; Business Day, area businesses; and Human Relations/Diversity Day, which included applicable topics for discussion and exercise. Additionally, they attended Delta Legislative Day in Jackson and the Ropes Course, designed to make them more effective leaders through team exercises.

Cassandra Pete, class participant, stated, "Since I am from Greenville, I thought I knew everything about Greenville; this class year proved me wrong. It was an educational experience for us all."

Letters and class applications will be mailed in July to The Delta EDC membership, seeking participants for next year's class. "We encourage employers or prospective participants to call the office if you have any questions or you wish further information. We are pleased to announce that Larry Cazavan will be Chairman of next year's class," states Sheree Hobart, Chamber Director, DEDC.

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUMS

On Thursday, May 26, the Delta Economic Development Center, the Young Professionals, and Main Street Greenville sponsored a Night at the Museums. Approximately 90 people arrived at the Wetherbee House at 5:30 for cocktails before the scavenger hunt at 6:00. Ten teams were assembled and were asked 20 questions and then challenged to find the answers at the Flood Museum, Greenville Museum, and Jewish Museum.

After 30 minutes, the teams returned to the Wetherbee House to have their answers tabulated while they enjoyed appetizers and music by Guitar Charlie. Food, fun and fellowship (and networking) were the highlights of the evening.



TALK IT UP!

Some of the Latest News and Happenings in Washington County

NAAMAN NAMED REGIONAL PRESIDENT

Guaranty Bank & Trust Company announced the promotion of its Greenville branch President, Mickey Naaman, to Regional President, overseeing Guaranty Bank's Greenville, Batesville, Senatobia and Hernando branch locations. A graduate of the University of Mississippi and the Graduate School of Banking of the South, he began his banking career with the former Deposit Guaranty National Bank, Greenville, in 1982.

Naaman has been active in numerous civic, professional and charitable organizations, including past Board of Directors' member of the Chamber of Commerce. He is married to the former Elizabeth Gee Lucas and has two children – Michael and Lacey.



Mickey Naaman



FOXFIRE MEDIA

Foxfire Media, founded in 2008, produces TV commercial and videos of your special events (weddings, concerts, reunions, festivals, etc.) as well as photos of your memorable moments. Foxfire Media provides an alternative solution to advertising agencies and television stations by using state-of-the-art equipment to give each client a custom product. Productions are tailored and focused on our client's needs and visions.

For a personal consultation, contact Darick Jones, General Manager at (662) 820-0592 or e-mail us: info@foxfiremediagroup.com. Please visit our websites www.foxfiremediagroup.com or www.marriedinthedelta.com. Capturing Moments, Creating Memories!!! 10% discount on first order to all Delta EDC Members.

TALK IT UP! CONTINUED



Dr. Larry Bailey

PRESIDENT ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Larry Bailey, President of Mississippi Delta Community College, has recently been elected to Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Bailey is one of six institutional representatives on the board of directors, which is elected by the membership. AACC is a nonprofit organization whose overriding mission is to “Build a Nation of Learners by Advancing America’s Community Colleges.” The association represents almost 1,200 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 11 million students, as well as a growing number of international members in Puerto Rico, Japan, Great Britain, Korea, and the United Arab Emirates. The colleges are the largest and fastest-growing sector of U.S. higher education, enrolling close to half (46 percent) of all U.S. undergraduates.

Founded in 1920, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has, over four decades, become the leading proponent and the national “voice for community colleges.” The association was conceived when a group of presidents representing public and independent junior colleges met in St. Louis, Missouri, for a meeting called by the U.S. Commissioner of Education. Originally named the American Association of Junior Colleges (AAJC), the association was to function as a forum for the nation’s two-year colleges. In 1972, the name of the national organization was changed to the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC), reflecting the community orientation of most public, two-year institutions. In 1992, the association’s name was simplified to its present form.

Headquartered in the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C., AACC is the primary advocacy organization for community colleges at the national level and works closely with directors of state offices to inform and affect state policy. In addition, AACC is a member of “The Six” large, presidentially based associations and collaborates with a wide range of entities within the higher education community to monitor and influence federal policy and to collaborate on issues of common interest. The association has ongoing interaction with key federal departments and agencies including the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, and Commerce and the National Science Foundation.

AACC supports and promotes its member colleges through policy initiatives, innovative programs, research and information and strategic outreach to business and industry and the national news media. Its efforts are focused in five strategic actions areas:

- Recognition and Advocacy for Community Colleges
- Student Access, Learning and Success
- Community College Leadership Development
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Global and Intercultural Education

MEET THE NEW EARTHLINK BUSINESS

EarthLink Business™ a division of EarthLink, Inc., is one of the nation’s largest providers of managed IP services, integrated communications and equipment solutions to businesses of all sizes across the United States.



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“IN ORDER TO BE IRREPLACEABLE, YOU MUST BE DIFFERENT.”

~ Coco Chanel

That is the entire concept behind Luxe alla moda, Greenville’s newest, coolest boutique! Owner Alicia Bariola’s goal is to have items that you can’t get everywhere else. She also knows the challenges of finding trendy clothes for larger figures, and has worked very hard to accommodate those women, too. We won’t duplicate products. Once it’s gone, it’s gone! We also provide full image and style makeovers, including skin care and cosmetics. Shop like you mean it today!! Come to Luxe ~ 1436A Highway 1 South, open 10-6 Monday thru Friday and 10-5 on Saturday, 662-332-9161.



GREENVILLE CELEBRATES AMERICA!

Bring your lawn chairs and come join the fun on Monday, July 4th at Schelben Park, Downtown Greenville. The event begins at 6 pm with local entertainment, kids’ activities and plenty of wonderful food! All these activities lead up to our headliner, Hotel California - A Salute to the Eagles. For more than two decades, Hotel California has touched the hearts of fans all over the world by faithfully and accurately reproducing the Grammy-award-winning sounds of the Eagles. This dynamic, highly acclaimed show incorporates their very own world renowned vocal harmony and authentic instrumentation, including all specialty instruments in a stage spectacle that is both modern and exciting. Each concert presents an exciting, showcase of The Eagles megahits such as “Take it Easy,” “Heartache Tonight,” and of course “Hotel California,” as well as selected titles from the solo works of Don Henley, Glen Frey, and Joe Walsh.

Betty Lynn Cameron invites you to “Come join us now on a trip down memory lane and sing along with your favorite Grammy-award-winning sounds. It will be a great experience in downtown Greenville.” We have weathered the Flood of 2011, now it’s time to celebrate!

Bring your families, friends and neighbors to enjoy the festivities. Mosquito/gnat control will be activated. No coolers please.



TALK IT UP! CONTINUED

Some of the Latest News and Happenings in Washington County



THANKS TO FOUR DECADES OF SUPPORT

from the Greenville community, Retzer Resources opened its third McDonald's restaurant in Greenville Tuesday, June 7. Located on South Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, this new location, the largest built by McDonald's Corporation, created approximately 120 new jobs in our community and will add significantly to the sales tax base for Greenville. "We have been planning for this new location for years," said McDonald's Owner-operator Mike Retzer, "and we invite everyone in the community to visit and experience our commitment to quality food and excellent customer service. I'm lovin' it!"



CROP TOURS WITH MONSANTO

Monsanto's Scott Learning Center will be hosting crop tours during the growing season where new varieties/hybrids, novel biotechnology and advanced agronomic management techniques are demonstrated.

The primary crops grown in Scott include corn, cotton, soybeans, and a variety of vegetables. Plot work demonstrating insect control, weed control, fertilizer application techniques and other farming practices is included on the tours. The public and the farming community are invited. Please call 662-742-4281 to arrange a tour.

MONSANTO



Meghann Sheppard
MSN FNP, BC

GOOD SAMARITAN HEALTH CENTER WELCOMES NEW NURSE PRACTITIONER

The Good Samaritan Health Center (GSHC) in Greenville has a new certified family nurse practitioner, Meghann Sheppard, MSN FNP, B.C. Meghann is employed with Delta Health Alliance and works as the lead clinician at the Center.

Recently Meghann stated, "As the new nurse practitioner for the Good Samaritan Health Center, I am excited to care for our current

patients and invite other uninsured individuals to consider making the GSHC their medical home. The current health care team is very professional and caring, and I am excited to be the newest member."

Sheppard adds, "There are many residents in this area that are uninsured and yet are suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Our team really works to help patients learn to self-manage these disease processes, and many are experiencing positive treatment outcomes and an improved quality of life."



"DELTA TEACHING SUPPLY HAVE OPENED THEIR DOORS FOR BUSINESS and are excited to fill your needs," says owner Dominic Tominello. Delta Teaching Supply have a vast amount of supplies for the classrooms as well as school projects. They are located at 417 Washington Avenue, downtown Greenville. You are welcome to place orders with Dominic at 662-822-1845 or 662-537-4912. You can also fax in your purchase order at 662-537-4912.

FARMERS INCORPORATED JOINS LAND O'LAKES TO HELP LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Under the Land O'Lakes Foundation Member Co-op Match Program, Farmers Inc., also known as The Co-op, presented a check for \$2,000 to the Greenville Salvation Army to help with their local feeding program. Farmers Inc. also presented a check for \$2,000 to the Sharkey-Issaquena 4-H Club for their 4-H Shooting Sport program.

Farmers Incorporated was developed by Delta farmers in order to provide farmers with the goods and services needed to meet the ever-changing demands of the agricultural industry. For more information about the Co-op, phone 662-332-7264 or visit www.theco-op.net.



Floyd Trammell, General Manager of Farmers Inc. presents check to Major Osborne Mills.

Grand Openings, personnel changes/promotions, awards/recognition/special achievements, special events, or business expansion/relocation/change? Please send us your news to be included in our next issue of Bridging Progress no later than **September 10, 2011**.

Articles should be 100 words or less. Pictures can be glossy or digital. Send to shobart@deltaedc.com.

For more information on linking to The Delta EDC's website, www.deltaedc.com, please reply to shobart@deltaedc.com.



**THE DELTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**
342 Washington Ave. • Suite 201
P.O. Box 933
Greenville, MS 38702



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 1-29.....	4th Biennial Juried Invitational Exhibit.....	E E Bass Auditorium
July 3	Stunt Fest.....	WC Convention Center
July 3	Sister Lucille Comedy Show	WC Convention Center
July 4	4th of July Picnic.....	WC Welcome Center
July 4	Greenville Celebrates America	Downtown Schelben Park
July 4	July 4th Celebration	Lake Washington
July 7-9.....	Leland Homecoming.....	WC Convention Center
July 7	Greenville Renaissance Scholars Celebration	E. E. Bass Cultural Arts
July 8	Cocktails at the Carousel	E. E. Bass Cultural Arts
July 11-15.....	Winterville Adventures.....	Winterville Mounds
July 20	Small Business Leadership Series	DEDC Board Room
July 24	WWISCAA Food Festival.....	WC Convention Center
July 27	DEDC/Cellular South, Mobile Aptitude Workshop ...	Greenville Country Club
July 28-31.....	Delta Center Stage presents "Hairspray"	E. E. Bass Auditorium
July 29-30.....	TAX FREE WEEKEND	Greenville
July 29-30.....	Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters Tourney	Lake Washington
July 30	Crappie Masters Kids Rodeo & Tournament	Lake Washington
July 30	Glamour's Plus Size Fashion Show	WC Convention Center
Aug. 5-31	H.C. Porter's Mississippi Gallery Opening.....	E. E. Bass Cultural Arts
Aug. 12	Cocktails at the Carousel	-E. E. Bass Cultural Arts
Aug. 14	Teen Idol.....	WC Convention Center
Aug. 17	Small Business Leadership Series	DEDC Board Room
Aug. 20	Family Day at Winterville Mounds.....	Winterville Mounds
Aug. 24	DEDC/ChamberPlus, Lunch & Learn	DEDC Board Room
Sept. 1-16.....	H. C. Porter's Mississippi Gallery Opening	E. E. Bass Cultural Arts
Sept. 3	Annual MS Jazz & Heritage Festival	Edwards Center/Southern Whispers
Sept. 9	Blues Festival Event	WC Welcome Center
Sept. 10-16...	Blues Week	Nelson Street
Sept. 17	Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival 2011.....	WC Convention Center
Sept. 24	Jim Henson's 20th Anniversary.....	Downtown Leland

Being a DEDC and Chamber member has a lot of perks. One of them includes being a part of something BIG that affects your community! Join one of our Center Committees and make a difference!

CENTER COMMITTEES:

- Education/Healthcare/Workforce
- Retail & Financial Services
- Special Events/Ambassadors/Young Professionals
- Transportation & Infrastructure

2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Kim Dowdy | Dowdy Dental Clinic

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Suresh Chawla | Chawla Hotels, Inc.

TREASURER

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Andy Dixon | Guaranty Bank

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Mayor Melvin Willis | City of Hollandale

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To find out the latest news and events happening in Washington County, follow us on **FACEBOOK** (The Delta Economic Development Center)!