



"Commit to a Cleaner Community"

FALL 2011



Kim Dowdy
Delta EDC Chairman

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A broad term that refers to the sustained, concerted effort of policy makers and community leaders and citizens to promote the standard of living and economic health in a specific area. In other words, Washington County working together as a team to promote the area to retain and recruit business to improve the quality of life for the citizens that reside and work in the area.

Seems like an easy task on paper but in reality, the "working together" piece is sometimes missing. There are many people that speak or act on negative attitudes that reflect on our cities and county. Who does that benefit? NO ONE PERSON!!! It is time for all of us to "clean our own house" and stop the negativity and work together. During the recession, all cities and states are working to gain every bit of revenue that they can which means our competition outside of area is intense. We should not be competing against each other but should be doing the opposite, whatever we can to improve our community.

Investing in the Delta Economic Development Center or joining the Chamber of Commerce is vital to the growth and sustainability of Washington County. Larry Jones, Executive Director, and his staff work tirelessly to recruit, retain, and promote Washington County on a daily basis. But, five people can't do the work without an "army" to support them. It is time for everyone to join!!!

On an extremely positive note, this is a belated congratulations to the Etheridge Family and Stareka Grocery for winning the Jake Stein Award at the Delta Extravaganza. (Apologies for forgetting in the last newsletter). Stareka has been a part of all our families for a long time and we thank them all for their commitment to Greenville and Washington County.

Also, kudos to Greenwood for having secured the movie "The Help." If you haven't seen the movie, you missed some wonderful acting and scenery. There are also some of our neighbors in the movie which adds to the fun.

This is our time to become involved and work together to make Washington County THE place to work and live. Raising a family is the most important job one has on their plate so what better place to be than right here in the heart of the Delta.

If you are interested in more information concerning the Delta Economic Development Center, call 662-378-3141.

Kim C. Dowdy
Kim Dowdy, Chairman

DELTA EDC STAFF:

Larry Jones
Executive Director

Debra Wintory
Chamber Director

Sam Russell
Planner

Tom Daly
Development Intern

Richard T. Clark
Controller

Carolyn Baker
Administrative Assist.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE Debra Wintory as the new Director of the Chamber of Commerce. Debra brings over thirteen years' experience in the public and private sector. Most recently she was the Public Relations Specialist at Delta Regional Medical Center where she has been deeply involved in many local activities. She also has direct Chamber experience in Little Rock, Arkansas. We urge everyone to show support for Debra's efforts to re-invigorate the Chamber and re-capture some of our "lost sheep."



Debra Wintory
Chamber of
Commerce Director





Larry Jones
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By the time you read this we will have past the tenth anniversary of the events of 9-11-01. The Economic Development Center of Washington County was very pleased to co-sponsor a 911 Remembrance Ceremony with the St. James Episcopal Church to honor all Emergency Responders to this year's flooding event and to commemorate all those who died on 9-11-01. The ceremony began a weekend of observances across the country and allowed each of us to pause from our daily routine and remember how precious life is and how lucky and blessed we really are.

The President has identified "jobs" as being the number one issue for economic recovery and several recent reports have shown that we are not creating enough jobs. Jobs are the priority for this agency. Some have questioned the re-orientation to focus more closely on job creation in Washington County, either through growth in the companies that are already here or in having new companies locate here. The Delta EDC had branched out into other types of growth and has re-focused more

narrowly on jobs – here and now. There are other groups in the community that are focusing on development of housing, educational enhancement, and other quality of life issues, and the EDC will continue to support those agencies as possible. However, the main efforts of this organization will be focused on direct creation of jobs in Washington County through the recruitment and encouragement of new and existing industries and businesses.

There have also been some recent news/controversy about "budgets" – the County Board of Supervisors reduced all of their outside agencies by 25% and the City cut the budgets of their outside support agencies completely. This represents a significant cut to the DEDC operating funds, but it is not a blow that will cripple us. We have money to support economic activities and believe that we have the resources to continue to do our job. We need the support of all public and private stakeholders to successfully carry out our mission.

And, as usual there are several projects "in the works" but things seldom move as quickly as one would hope and sometimes bog down without any obvious reason. We have had a number of Chamber activities as noted, and hope / anticipate having some (more than one) big announcements in the near future. We have identified approximately twenty specific potential projects that EDC personnel have provided some sort of support efforts this year.

The EDC will remain focused and "do the right things" regardless of the events, controversies, or people that are encountered. We believe in Washington County and will work tirelessly to make this a better place with more and better opportunities for all of the people who live and work here.

Larry Jones, Executive Director

CHAMBER DIVISION OVERVIEW

We hope that most of you were able to enjoy Labor Day! Tropical storm Lee has just passed and has left in its place a bright blue sky and cool temperatures – a welcome break from the hot summer and a hint of fall weather to come. With school back in session and footballs flying, many people are thinking about getting "back to business" after the summer vacation. Well, look around! There have been many people who have been getting "down to business" all summer long. The Chamber has been busy with ribbon cuttings, openings, classes, and seminars.

In July we had an inspiring Small Business Leadership class, a fun and useful Mobile Aptitude seminar (thanks Cellular South), a successful Tax Free Weekend, a ground-breaking for Atmos Energy, a ribbon cutting for Scoops, and celebrated the expansion of Guaranty bank's location on Highway 1.

In August, we celebrated Montage Marketplace's first anniversary of being open, a ribbon cutting for Professional Staffing Services, another excellent Small Business Leadership class, the United Way's Kick-off for Fall, and the Delta Democrat Times unveiling of their wonderful new magazine, Delta Focus.

September continues with a grand re-opening for Hardees, a Business-After-Hours with Lagniappe, a ribbon cutting at The Fountain, the BLUES FESTIVAL, the Monsanto Tour & Gathering, the Jim Henson celebration in Leland (Frog Fest) and more to be scheduled.

For the fall we already have a couple of ribbon cuttings set for October, and Small Business Leadership classes in October (10/19) and November (11/16) with Dr. Johnson and Dr. Long from Delta State University.

"Change" is becoming a continuous state of affairs, and at the Chamber we all have had to accept the change that Sheree Hobart has taken leave of us. We will miss Sheree and the work that she did in this office for many years, but we must continue our efforts to increase business opportunities in Washington County and make this a better place to live and work. But, as people move on... new ones move in to pick up and continue the work... (hint: there will be a new person for you to meet in late September).

We need all Chamber members to help us make membership mean more to you and your businesses. We will do a better job in the future of explaining to you why you should belong to the Chamber, and demonstrating to you the value that is in the membership for you. We provide a number of opportunities for you, through the website, our newsletter, our events & training, our email weekly 'Blitz', our Facebook page, etc., but you must make some sort of effort to help us help you.

Sam Russell

CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS

GROUND-BREAKING AND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



Atmos Energy, Highway 82



Professional Staffing Solutions, 306 Washington Avenue



Luxe alla moda, Highway 1 South

TALK IT UP!

Some of the Latest News and Happenings in Washington County

BUSH AGENCY, INC., SHELTER INSURANCE®

Bush Agency, Inc. began serving as a property, casualty and life insurance provider for Shelter Insurance® in March of 2010. Owner David Bush started the company after serving the Delta for nearly 6 years as a banker. "It's been a dream come true to operate my own business and be able to serve our community as well as others by providing insurance solutions that best fit our client's needs," Bush said. The company specializes in providing auto, home, and life insurance products throughout the states of MS, AR, LA & TN. David adds that "Myself and my staff take pride in providing our clients with the level of service they deserve from an insurance agency. Please call or drop by for an insurance review today." The business is located in Greenville, east of Highway 82, at 365 W Reed Road, Suite D. The office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. The office can be reached at 662-332-1111.



David Bush

1ST ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT MONTAGE

Over 300 people joined Montage Marketplace as it celebrated its First Birthday Party Thursday, August 11. The celebration featured champagne, cupcakes, music, and art by Dr. Janice Neill Dean. The fun started at 5:00 and lasted until well after 8:00 with Aubrey Holman playing his guitar. Many of the Montage exhibitors including Crown Foods, Indianola Pecan House, and Sanders furnished their specialty foods which filled the 19' cotton table in the center aisle.

Janice Dean, a member of Delta Artists and the American Society of Botanical Artists exhibited over 20 exquisite hand painted botanicals. Dr. Dean, a Leland native, had the opportunity to visit with old friends and meet many new ones.

Montage Marketplace wishes to thank the Delta Economic Development Center for their "Business after Hours" sponsorship of this party.

TALK IT UP! CONTINUED

LELAND'S FROG FEST A SUCCESS!

Although the world lost Jim Henson more than twenty years ago, the roots of his legacy have lived on in a permanent display at the Jim Henson Delta Boyhood Exhibit in Leland since 1991. The museum celebrated its 20th anniversary this past September and commemorated the milestone with an arts festival, which coincided with what would have been Henson's 75th birthday. Since his legacy is characterized by fun, imagination and wonder, those Henson attributes permeated the Leland atmosphere this past September 24.

The day featured art in every form centered on historic downtown Leland along Main and Third Streets. To set the mood local bands wafted through the air in a variety of musical art. Beneath the awnings on Main along the wide sidewalk adjacent to HobNob, Leland's art gallery, veteran artists offered budding artists opportunities to discover their own talents in the visual arts. Inside the gallery patrons were invited to view paintings from local youth. Incidentally, the youngest artists had already submitted their artwork, "My Favorite Muppet" placemats, and can now be found in your favorite local restaurant for use and for sale. Plus, vendors were set up along Third Street to satiate appetites for food and shopping in general.

At the other end of town where South Deer Creek Drive East meets



Highway 82, the Exhibit of Henson's own childhood was open for tours and hosted a birthday party in honor of him.

In the middle of town the festival showcased the performing arts at the Leland United Methodist Church Child Development Center, where Doris Jones captivated all with her mesmerizing storytelling, and magician Landon Stark amazed everyone with his hands that are quicker than our eyes. Truly a can't-miss performance, perhaps most in the tradition of Henson, was the Carnival of Animals Puppet Show

held at the Leland High School auditorium. It was described as "a grand zoological fantasy for orchestra... a hilarious romp through animal, clown, and other creature acts" and was under the direction of Peter Zapletal, an award-winning puppetry producer.

The highlight of that Saturday occurred at noon on the old Broad Street Bridge over Deer Creek. Leland Mayor James Lowe and Miss Mississippi joined Fran Brill, Emmy Award-winning actress and the first female puppeteer hired by Jim Henson for Sesame Street, in reading the resolution, cutting the ribbon, and unveiling the sign officially renaming the crossing "The Rainbow Connection Bridge in Honor of Jim Henson."

It was a grand day to not only rest, relax, and relish in a small-town festival, but also to pay homage to a native son of Leland of whom the city is justly proud.

Thank you to all that attended!

DELTA TERMINAL COMPLETES ANNUAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING

For businesses working around hazardous materials, performing everyday tasks and going home without serious incidents heavily relies on solid training. This is why Delta Terminal ensures that all employees complete the Hazardous Materials Refresher course. The 8-hour Hazardous Materials course is designed to offer a refresher to participants who handle hazardous chemicals and may respond to a chemical release. Each year, dock men, barge maintenance, truck dispatch, and operations personnel at Delta Terminal are given updates on regulations that determine how the petroleum is handled, stored, and transported. This course was designed specifically for businesses that prepare, package, or distribute DOT hazardous materials such as petroleum and may encounter hazards during the handling process.

"This type of class is a necessity for our business. Not knowing when a spill may happen, learning this will make a difference in how we respond", says Robert Triplett, Terminal Manager. "For each topic, we were tested to make sure we retained information. Most importantly, completing this annual class prepared us to successfully perform during a surprise agency drill by EPA. We were able to demonstrate deploying booms, skimming, and recovery of product. We would not have known what to do if we did not have the training."

Training topics include hazard communication, spill control, emergency evacuation, transportation safety, and security awareness. All topics included in the training are mandatory by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Participants who completed the class will receive a certificate for meeting the mandatory training requirements set forth by the regulatory agencies.

Delta Terminal is located on the Mississippi River at the Greenville Port Terminal and has been in operation since 1972. They receive petroleum products by barge from refineries to be further distributed by trucks. The terminal delivers products to Gresham Petroleum Company, one of the largest fuel line distributors in the Delta region. The Capps Center was proud to host this specialized training for Delta Terminal that will assist them in safely handling petrochemicals. For information about customized training for organizations, visit www.thecappscenter.com or call 662-887-2876.



The Charles W. Capps, Jr. Technology Center, Indianola

TALK IT UP! CONTINUED

Some of the Latest News and Happenings in Washington County



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

On Thursday, September 22nd, Monsanto along with the Delta Economic Development Center, hosted a Business After Hours. After a brief introduction to Monsanto's Learning Center in Scott, Mississippi, approximately 50 guests were given a crop tour where research and demonstration plots were shown with the latest corn, cotton, and soybean germplasm. Also, guests were able to view the newest technologies from Monsanto, which are currently in the development pipeline.

Upon returning from the tour, guests enjoyed mingling during a delicious shrimp and tamale reception followed by a prime rib dinner and divine chocolate caramel cheesecake. Thank you to David Horton, Site Lead at Monsanto, and Jay Mahaffey, Learning Center Manager at Monsanto, for organizing such a wonderful event. This was a great opportunity for members and prospective members to not only meet and socialize with the staff of Monsanto's Learning Center, but to enjoy the fun of networking.

RED BANNERS SAY "SHOP AND BUY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY" ...IT'S RIVERTOWN CHRISTMAS!

The upcoming holiday season is right around the corner. The Delta Economic Development, Chamber Division is again sponsoring this year's event. This year's event will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2011. Participating chamber member retailers and restaurants will open their doors for a special holiday preview of their new merchandise, sale specials, wonderful refreshments, and more. Wonderful prizes will be given away during the afternoon including grand prizes of \$300, \$150, and \$50 gift certificates that can be redeemed at any participating Rivertown Christmas merchant. Visit and buy from our Greenville and Washington County



merchants and register at each location for these prizes. Rivertown Christmas hours: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Sunday, November 6, 2011. For more information, please call Debra Wintory at 662-378-3141.

DELTA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Drs. Kathleen & Michael Mansour

Delta Regional Medical Center is pleased to announce that Michael Mansour, MD, FACC recently assumed the role of Mississippi Governor to the American College of Cardiology. In addition, Dr. Mansour will concurrently serve a three year term as the President of the Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. He represents the interests of Mississippi cardiologists and their patients at National Forums on Cardiovascular Medicine and Policy and facilitates implementation of national healthcare initiatives that serve to advance the practice of cardiology with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

Delta Regional Medical Center is pleased to announce the addition of Timothy E. Watkins, RN, BSN to our staff. Watkins is joining DRMC as the new Assistant Chief Nursing Officer (ACNO). As the new ACNO, Watkins will be providing support to DRMC's Senior Vice President of Nursing Services, Mazie Whalen, RN, MSN.

Watkins comes to DRMC from Memphis, Tennessee. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Union University in Germantown, Tennessee and his Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Administration from Strayer University in Memphis, Tennessee.



Timothy E. Watkins, RN, BSN

Delta Regional Medical Center has been recognized for participating with Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH), the state's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, in a project focused on reducing the rate of healthcare-associated Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) infection.

"Delta Regional Medical Center is honored to be recognized for our partnership with IQH," comments Amy Walker, RN, MSN, Vice President of Quality. "Our partnership with IQH allows us to access nation-wide resources and best practices all developed and proven to positively impact patient safety and other key clinical quality initiatives across the continuum of patient care here at DRMC."

For more information about Delta Regional Medical Center visit www.deltaregional.com.



Amy Walker, RN, MSN, VP of Quality (left) & Melinda Grubb, RN, CCRN, Infection Prevention Nurse

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 **December 10, 2011**.

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

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

Oct. 1	Rivercity Festival and Balloon Glow	Greenville Mall
Oct. 1, 2	“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”	Delta Center Stage
Oct. 4, 5	Sweet CeCe’s Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening	Sweet CeCe’s
Oct. 7	Cellular South Ribbon Cutting	Cellular South
Oct. 8	Fall Carnival	Washington Care Center
Oct. 11	Atmos Energy Ribbon Cutting	Atmos’ NEW Bldg
Oct. 11	Peter Rabbit	Jake & Freida Stein Hall
Oct. 14	Brews at Bass Building Fundraiser	Jake & Freida Stein Hall
Oct. 19	Small Business Leadership Series	Delta EDC Office
Oct. 20-31	Frightmare 2011	EE Bass Cultural Center
Oct. 29	Halloween Carnival	Carousel Pavilion
Oct. 29	Walking Tour of the Greenville Cemetery	Greenville Cemetery
Nov. 2-5	Native American Days	Winterville Mounds
Nov. 3-5	5th Annual Gumbo Nationals & Weekly Racing	Greenville Speedway
Nov. 4	Artistic Utility Gallery Opening	Roger D Malkin Gallery
Nov. 6	Rivertown Christmas	Participating Chamber Members
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday	
Nov. 16	Small Business Leadership Series	Delta EDC Office
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov. 24	Good Samaritan Health Clinic 5K Run/Walk	Good Samaritan Health Center
Dec. 4-31	Christmas on Deer Creek	Leland
Dec. 5	Christmas Open House	Winterville Mounds
Dec. 8-11	“Love Me a Tenor”	Delta Center Stage
Dec. 9	WWISCAA Annual Banquet	Washington Co. Convention Center
Dec. 9	Christmas Open House	Mississippi Welcome Center
Dec. 10	Holiday Extravaganza	EE Bass Cultural Center
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday	

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

CHAIRMAN

Kim Dowdy | Dowdy Dental Clinic

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Suresh Chawla | Chawla Hotels, Inc.

TREASURER

Dave Clarke | Clarke, Bradley, Baker & Co., LLP

Andy Dixon | Guaranty Bank

Cary Karlson | Montage Marketplace

George King | Sudden Link Communications

Bryan Oakes | Oakes Toyota

Courtney Phillips, CFO | Delta Regional Medical Center

Jack Turnipseed | DPL Management

Paul Watson, President

Washington County Board of Supervisors

Mayor Heather McTeer | City of Greenville

Mayor Corey Holmes | City of Metcalfe

Mayor James Lowe | City of Leland

Mayor Melvin Willis | City of Hollandale

Mayor Cora Burnside | City of Arcola



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