

# itawamba Trends

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**THE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE ITAWAMBA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

## **Hodges Orthodontics Ribbon Cutting**



*Hodges Orthodontics, located at 1110 South Adams Street in Fulton held their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, November 11 in Fulton. Pictured (left to right): Kim Graham (ICDC), Samantha Hughes, Shannon Medlin, Frank Hodges, April Baker, Dana Reese and Diana West (ICDC).*

## **APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM ENDS**

The State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP), a rebate program implemented to encourage Mississippians to replace energy inefficient appliances with new ENERGY STAR®-qualified appliances, has officially closed. Since the first-come, first-served program's launch in April,

nearly 38,000 rebates for qualified appliances were reserved by Mississippi consumers.

“We experienced great success with the program, and it has garnered a substantial amount of interest in energy efficiency among Mississippians,” said Karen Bishop, stimulus director for the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), the agency that administered the SEEARP. “In addition to reducing energy consumption and lowering their monthly utility bills, Mississippians helped boost the state’s economy by purchasing their new appliances from local retailers. I commend everyone who took advantage of the program and appreciate the work our retail partners put into making the program a success.”

The program has concluded now that program administrators have received rebate applications and accompanying documentation for all remaining available funds. Although the program will no longer accept new submissions, the processing and mailing of final rebate cards is ongoing.

“We ask that individuals who reserved rebates and mailed in their paperwork, but who have not yet received their rebate cards, be patient as we work to close out the program,” said Bishop. All eligible rebates reserved prior to September 20 have been honored, and final waiting list rebates are currently being processed. Rebates reserved during the waiting list period will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed. Consumers may call 1-877-304-4451 for information regarding their rebate status.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allocated \$2.8 million to the State of Mississippi to administer the program. MDA partnered with many of the state’s utility companies and more than 250 retailers to encourage participation in the program.

The SEEARP kicked off in Mississippi on April 22,

and it was designed to stimulate the state's economy with the purchase of new energy efficient appliances, reduce energy consumption and save consumers money on monthly utility bills. The SEEARP offered

rebates ranging from \$50 to \$750 depending on the type of appliance purchased. Purchases had to be made in person from a Mississippi retailer.



*The annual Fall Festival in Fulton was a huge success this year. It was estimated more than 2,000 visitors attended the event in downtown Fulton on Thursday, October 28, where area businesses gave candy to the trick or treaters. Several community booths were set up around the court square and visitors enjoyed an excellent concert during the evening in the new Fulton Playpark. Entertainment was provided by the Justin Parker Band.*



**Downtown  
Floral &  
Company  
Ribbon Cutting  
Ceremony -  
Friday,  
November 5.**

## ***Groundwork Begins on Potential BlueFire Renewables Project Site***



On Wednesday, November 10, clearing and grubbing of the potential site for BlueFire Renewables began on a 38-acre site east of Access Road near Port Itawamba. Page Clearing Contractors of Red Bay moved in their heavy equipment the

preceding day and work began early Wednesday morning. According to the contractor, the site should be cleared and ready within two to three weeks.

BlueFire Ethanol Fuels, Inc. (now known as BlueFire Renewables) was established to deploy a patented Concentrated Acid Hydrolysis Technology Process for the conversion of cellulosic ("Green Waste") waste materials to ethanol, and other viable alternatives to petroleum derived fuels. BlueFire's technology has demonstrated production of ethanol and other petroleum displacing fuels from urban trash (post-sorted MSW), rice and wheat straws, wood waste and other agricultural residues.

BlueFire is one of four ethanol companies awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to construct a commercial scale cellulosic ethanol production facility.

Its biorefineries will be located in markets with the highest demand for renewable transportation fuels thereby dramatically reducing delivery costs while simultaneously increasing the areas biofuel supply and reducing the waste streams sent to landfills.

## CHRISTMAS AT MIDWAY...

The boaters at Midway Marina in Fulton invite you to their 20<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas at Midway celebration. Visitors are encouraged to walk all the docks and enjoy the beautiful decorations.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to vote for the boat they think is decorated the best. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will greet each of the children. This is Santa's 20<sup>th</sup> year of learning what gifts children want him to bring on Christmas.



The grounds are already beginning to be decorated for everyone's delight. The engineers are ready to take

visitors for a ride around the beautiful lake – adults and children alike.

This very special event will be held at Midway Marina located at 641 Joe Wheeler Brown Road north of Fulton, on **Saturday, December 4, from 4:30 pm until 6:30 p.m.**

## Council Golf Tournament a Huge Success

The ICDC annual Golf Tournament was held at the Fulton Country Club on Monday, October 25. More than twenty teams enjoyed beautiful sunny autumn weather while on the course.

Each year the tournament is a major fundraising event for the council and this year was no exception. The council would like to thank all the sponsors of the event in making this year's tournament a huge success. Planning is already underway to make next year's event even larger and better. Located on this page are scenes from our 2010 event.



*Council staff members are shown (above) at the Fulton Country Club during the 2010 Golf Tournament.*



## New Council Members for October

The council welcomes the following new members for October 2010: American Flooring, BlueFire Renewables, Nolan Brothers and Kristen Holley.