

# *itawamba* Trends

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

## **PORT ITAWAMBA ACQUIRES NEW CARGO HANDLER**



A much-needed addition at Port Itawamba is the new cargo handler recently purchased for the port. This new addition to the port will enable the facilities to continue to grow and be much more marketable for future development and business. Cargo-on-barge is a new trend that is quickly becoming embraced by the shipping industry on the inland waterways of the United States and with this addition to the port, Port Itawamba will certainly be at the fore-front and leading edge of shipping on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Look for exciting new developments at Port Itawamba in the near future.



Itawamba Habitat for Humanity is currently building the organization's sixth house in Itawamba County. Located on North Rose Street in Fulton, plans are to have the house finished and the family moved in by Christmas. The local organization will soon have a new website located at [www.itawambahabitat.org](http://www.itawambahabitat.org). "We are very excited about this new website," says Angelia Gough, local habitat office manager. "It will be a place where visitors can go online and see the work we are doing in Itawamba County."



*Local Habitat for Humanity volunteers are busily working on a new building project on North Rose Street in Fulton on a recent Saturday. Progress is moving swiftly on the new home thanks to the many volunteers turning out to help.*



# Firecracker Festival

The 2009 Itawamba Firecracker Festival was a huge success with an extremely large turnout of spectators. Itawamba County residents enjoyed good food, spectacular fireworks, and great entertainment. Also included with this year's festivities was a watermelon eating contest and several booths by local organizations. One of the highlights of the evening was local resident and new American citizen Michi Guess singing The National Anthem as the fireworks spectacular began. *Photographs courtesy of Ira Verbois*

## **HUD Approves CDBG Recovery Plan**

Jackson, Miss. (August 17, 2009) – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved the State of Mississippi's plan to administer the Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) Program, which is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Approximately \$8 million has been allocated to the state to implement the program.

"The Community Development Block Grant-Recovery Program will promote economic recovery investments in communities across the state of Mississippi," said Gray Swoope, executive director of

the Mississippi Development Authority, which is administering the one-time program in addition to the state's regular CDBG programs. "The program will not only help communities improve infrastructure, but it will also promote job growth and creation."

The CDBG-R Program will fund needed infrastructure projects, basic services to residents and activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. Some proposed projects around the state include: new or improved public buildings, such as fire stations, town halls and libraries, new storm drainage systems and road improvements.

Additional details about the CDBG-R Program are available at <http://stimulus.mississippi.org>. The Web

site will be updated regularly as more information about the program and the implementation process becomes available.

amba.com. By publishing *The Guide* in-house, changes can be easily made and can be published in small quantities on an as-needed basis.

## **Council Produces New Visitors Guide for Itawamba County**



The Itawamba County Development Council has published a new visitors' guide for Itawamba County. This six-page full-color publication gives detailed information about Itawamba County including government information, an introduction to the county, a dining and lodging guide, a guide for county attractions and a business guide featuring businesses relating to banking and finance, insurance, real estate, medical and dental. Also included in the guide is detailed information related to utilities, parks and education.

Each week the council, acting as Itawamba County's Chamber of Commerce, receives many requests for such information, and with the publication of this new guide, all this information can be easily distributed. A digital copy of The Guide is also published on the council's website at [www.itawamba.com](http://www.itawamba.com)

## **HELP SPREAD THE WORD**



The Itawamba Development Council is often the "Front Door," welcoming newcomers, visitors, industrial prospects and all others inquiring about Itawamba County.

We are a results-oriented organization designed to meet our community's needs. A volunteer-driven organization, we work to advance the industrial, educational, retail and civic interests of Itawamba County.

If you seek a better Itawamba County, please support the council. It is simply an investment in your community.

Help promote the Itawamba County Development Council by spreading the word of our work so others can take advantage of what Your Partner in Business has to offer.

**The Itawamba County Development Council**  
**PO Box 577**  
**Fulton, Mississippi 38843**

Visit us Online at  
[www.itawamba.com](http://www.itawamba.com)



The Itawamba County Development Council building on West Wiygul Street in Fulton recently underwent a major re-decoration thanks to Fulton business, Fulton Home Center. Business owner Brenda Childers and her excellent design staff completely refurnished the building's front foyer area and created an informal seating area behind the board meeting room.

Many visitors to Itawamba County pass through the council's facilities in Fulton including tourists and potential businesses and it is important the council create a nice environment to receive those visitors. As part of its community involvement, Fulton Home Center donated furniture, fixtures and decorative items throughout the council's facilities,

including sofas, chairs, and tables. Childers and her designers – Bo Patterson and Paul Hood used colors and decorative items to compliment the colors of the building. The focal point of the building's foyer is a tapestry from the Biltmore collection accented with metal art. A hand-painted side table was placed by the entrance and original oil paintings were used in the room.



The council would like to thank Brenda Childers and her staff for their time, effort and donations to the council. The gift is sincerely appreciated.