

itawamba Trends

Volume 2, Number 2, Feb. 2010

THE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE ITAWAMBA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SITES IN ITAWAMBA COUNTY



Itawamba County Development Council staff members recently held a planning session with members of the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association (NMIDA) at the ICDC building about promoting Itawamba County's available industrial sites through the LOIS and TVA websites. Pictured above are council director Greg Deakle with NMIDA staff members Dixie Shirley, Kim Richards and Greg Word.

The primary goal of the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association is to help businesses and industries identify new sites or opportunities to expand existing operations in north Mississippi. NMIDA provides extensive information and assistance directly to industry leaders, and also supports the efforts of municipalities and local economic development agencies to promote positive

growth within our area of Mississippi. Headquartered in West Point, NMIDA is funded by the Electrical Power Distributors in our service area of northern Mississippi and the Tennessee Valley Authority. It is an organization committed to organizational excellence and to the improvement of leadership and communication across the region.

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS HONORED AT BANQUET



The Itawamba County Development Council hosted the annual Rural Community Development Council banquet at the American Legion Hall in Fulton on Thursday evening, January 28. A near-capacity group attended representing all six county rural community development councils. Five awards were presented to the various councils with Carolina RCDC receiving two of the five awards and tied with Ratliff RCDC for the Award of Excellence sponsored by Max

Rural Community Development (from page 1...)

Homes and the Itawamba County Development Council. Recipients of the awards were: Publicity Award sponsored by the Itawamba County Times was awarded to Carolina RCDC; Secretary's Award sponsored by Mantachie Printing and Marketing was awarded to Carolina RCDC; Award of Recognition, sponsored by Franks, Franks and Jarrell, PA was awarded to Pleasant Grove RCDC; Award of Merit,

sponsored by Chatham Builders was awarded to Ryan's Well RCDC.

The 2010 local RCDC scrapbooks were distributed by the Itawamba County Development Council to the six council's for their 2010 work. Those attending enjoyed a BBQ dinner with all the trimmings and good fellowship at the American Legion Hall in Fulton.

Welcome news from **MaxHOME**™



Max Home LLC, manufacturer of upholstered sofas, loveseats, and chairs located in Fulton is expanding its operations to accommodate an increase in production. The building into which Max Home is expanding is jointly owned by the City of Fulton and Itawamba County and is located approximately 200 yards from the company's current facility near the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Port Itawamba. Max Home is investing over \$850,000 in equipment and building upgrades for the expansion and is creating 100 new jobs at the facility, bringing the company's total number of employees in Itawamba County to 375. The company will continue operations at its

current facilities in Fulton and Iuka as well. "Max Home is a valued corporate citizen in Fulton, and I am pleased the Mississippi-based furniture company is expanding its operations and creating another 100 jobs in Itawamba County," Governor Haley Barbour said. "The company's decision to expand its workforce and further invest in its operations is great news for northeast Mississippi, especially in the current economic climate."

"We at Max Home are both happy and proud to be located in communities where people and government support industrial growth," said Martin Silver, Max Home LLC chairman.

Max Home (from page 2...)

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) has committed \$440,000 in assistance for the project. The agency provided Max Home with a \$200,000 Job Protection grant and the City of Fulton with a \$240,000 Development Infrastructure Program grant. The Appalachian Regional Commission also provided \$110,000 to assist with the expansion. All funds will be used for public building upgrades to help facilitate the expansion.

"I applaud Max Home officials for choosing to expand their operations in Fulton and for creating additional jobs for the residents in Itawamba County," said Gray Swoope, MDA executive director. "I would also like to commend the City of Fulton and Itawamba County officials for working together to help create 100 new jobs in the area. Their hard work demonstrates their commitment to the economic development and growth of Fulton and Itawamba County. I am pleased that we were able to assist with this project."

"We are extremely excited about this great news," said Greg Deakle, Itawamba County Development Council director. "Max Home is an excellent corporate citizen of Itawamba County and we are happy to work with them in supplying quality jobs in Itawamba County."

Max Home located into a facility known as the River Oaks building in Fulton in 2003. From the nearly 234,000-square-foot facility, the company manufactures mid-priced, upholstered furniture targeting the department store market. In 2007, the company located manufacturing operations in Tishomingo County, where it employs approximately 150 workers.

Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program
MDA Announces Round Two of Program

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) announced on February 3, 2010 it would begin accepting applications for Round Two of the Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program. This program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides grants to eligible Mississippi

businesses for energy efficient retrofits and upgrades to their facilities with the goal that the resulting savings would make the companies more competitive and enable them to save and create jobs. Approximately \$5 million is available for Round Two of this program.

MDA received a very high response to Round One of the Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program, which resulted in 24 grant awards to a variety of businesses in locations around the state. The agency anticipates a highly competitive selection process for Round Two of the program as well. Applications for Round Two are due by 3:00 p.m. CST on March 31, 2010.

Changes have been made to the Mississippi Job Protection through Energy Economic Development Program since Round One. Interested applicants, including those who applied but did not receive funding in the first round, must read the revised Round Two Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and submit an application for Round Two. MDA encourages businesses of all sizes to apply. To access the FOA, please visit www.stimulus.mississippi.org and select "Funding Opportunities and Announcements" from the menu on the left.

A webinar is scheduled for February 16, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for those inquiring about this opportunity and the application process.

To view additional information about this program or to learn how to register for the webinar, please visit www.stimulus.mississippi.org.

Mississippi Writer to Speak at Pratt Memorial Library February 26



Lunching With Books will be held at the Itawamba County Pratt Memorial Library on Friday February 26. Beginning at noon, the program will feature Mississippi writer Patricia Neely-Dorsey, who will be discussing her book *Reflections of a Mississippi Magnolia: A Life in Poems*. Patricia Neely-Dorsey is a 1982 graduate of Tupelo High School in Tupelo, Mississippi. She received a

Mississippi Writer (continued from page 3...)

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts.

After living for almost 20 years in Memphis, Tennessee, working in the mental health field, she returned to her hometown in August 2007. Her first book of poetry was published in February, 2008 (Grant House Publishers).

Neely-Dorsey currently lives in Tupelo with her husband James, son Henry, and miniature schnauzer, Happy. She is a proud, active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., an avid reader, and passionate writer.

Neely-Dorsey says that she has always considered herself a "goodwill ambassador" for Mississippi and the South in general, believing that many gaps of misunderstanding can be bridged across regional,

racial, cultural, generational and economic lines by simply telling/sharing our life stories.

The author hopes, through her writings, to have an intimate conversation with readers about the South... giving an up close and personal view of the southern way of life.

Using poetic storytelling, she seeks to not only entertain, but also educate and enlighten, while helping to preserve the beautiful, rich southern culture, history and heritage that she knows, along with promoting and fostering an appreciation and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity, individuality, self expression and regional pride .

Neely-Dorsey describes her work as "folk poetry" attempting to preserve the culture and customs of everyday folks in everyday life. *Reflections of a Southern Magnolia* has been called a poetic autobiography and a poetic love letter to the South. The author agrees with both.

Upcoming Community Events for February...

FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

6:30 p.m. at the IAHS Commons

Sponsored by Itawamba FIRST Foundation (Friends of Itawamba Responding to Secure Tomorrow). Guest speaker will be Beth Holloway (mother of Natalee Holloway). Tickets are \$35 (regular admission) with VIP tickets \$50 (VIP tickets include private book signing with Beth and light hors d'oeuvres before the banquet). Table of 8 is \$250 (regular admission) and \$350 (VIP admission).

BBQ DINNER

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Itawamba Christian Church

From 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Itawamba County Relay for Life Team Itawamba Christian Church.

OPEN HOUSE

The Old Fulton Grammar School Building

Sunday, February 21, 2010

From 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Attend and see the renovations that have taken place at this historic building, designated a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in September 2001.

SOUP LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Ratliff Community Center

11 a.m. until. Choice of homemade soups, bread, homemade dessert and drink. \$5. Eat in or carry out. All proceeds go to the Ratliff Community RCDC.

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MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Classes Begin on February 23, 2010

MSU-Itawamba County Extension Office

Classes will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. through April 1. The fee for this training will be \$85. Please call the MSU-Itawamba County Extension Office at 862-3201 to register so books can be ordered.

ANNIE

Thursday, February 25

The Old Fulton Grammar School Auditorium

Presented by the Indian Players. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Including a cast of more than seventy under the direction of Victoria Blake. The musical will run through February 27 with the Friday night (February 26) performance at 7:30 p.m. and a Saturday (February 27) mantinee performance at 2 p.m.

For a complete listing of upcoming community events in Itawamba County, be sure to visit the Itawamba County Development Council Community Calendar online at <http://www.itawamba.com/calendar>.