



Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

AUGUST
2010

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *MEDC Awards*
- *EDA Stone County Award*
- *Workforce Development WIA Director Named*
- *NADO Award*
- *Business Development Small Business Loans*

SMPDD

Leslie Newcomb
Executive Director
9229 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
228-868-2311
les@smpdd.com

MEDC Presents Community Economic Development & Governor's Cup Awards

Mississippi Economic Development Council recognized outstanding communities and private sector businesses in the State of Mississippi by presenting the Community Economic Development Awards and the Governor's Cup Awards at the annual summer conference on July 22, 2010. The Community Economic Development Awards recognize Mississippi communities which advance the economic viability of their communities through economic and community development programs. These communities were acknowledged for their exceptional contributions in Business Retention and Expansion, Business Recruitment, Community Development and Community Involvement. The Governor's Cup Awards acknowledge private sector businesses that have made a significant impact in their local community. These businesses were honored for their contributions in the areas of Economic Impact, Community Involvement and Human Resources. Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District wishes to recognize awardees in our District region:

- **City of Ellisville, Mayor Tim Waldrup
Community Economic Development Award
Category 1, Population less than 5,000**



- **Shaggy's Harbor Bar & Grill, Pass Christian
Ron Ladner and Thomas Genin, Owners
Governor's Cup Award
Small Business South District Winner**

- **Dupont Titanium Technologies Delisle Plant
Pass Christian, Marc Holman, Plant Manager
Governor's Cup Award
Big Business South District Winner**



Photos are courtesy of Carol Hardwick, Mississippi Economic Development Council and Elizabeth Taylor, Mississippi Development Authority.

Stone County Awarded EDA Grant

Stone County was awarded federal and state grant funds to go toward a road improvement project to support timber-related jobs. The EDA (Economic Development Administration) funds will be combined with funds from Stone County and MDA (Mississippi Development Authority).

Senator Thad Cochran stated, "Stone County leaders have promoted this resurfacing project to improve the transportation infrastructure and improve the county's economic development outlook. This federal funding will be matched with county and state money to support and expand businesses moving into this area of Old Highway 49."

EDA approved the economic adjustment grant to help fund improvements to a one-mile section of Old Highway 49 which will help deal with heavy vehicle access. Two companies involved in producing wood pellets used in wood burning heaters will also benefit from improvements to this segment of Old Highway 49. The now gravel road is near the intersection of Inda Road, south of Wiggins. EDA feels the project will attract private investments and "improve access and allow utilization of the region's timber resources for production of alternative energy products."

Workforce Development WIA Director Named

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, Fiscal Agent, Twin Districts Workforce Area, wishes to announce the promotion of George Pollitz to Workforce Development Department, WIA (Workforce Investment Area) Director. George has worked for the District in the Hattiesburg Office since July 2000, following his retirement from Jones County Junior College. Join us in congratulating George in his new position.

SMPDD Wins NADO's 2010 Innovation Award

NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) awarded a 2010 Innovation Award to Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District for the Gulfport Trails Project. This award program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

SMPDD's Gulfport Trails Project was a collaborative effort with NARC (National Association of Regional Councils) and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). The GIS Department worked with local officials to identify the locations of existing greenways and sustainable streets in Gulfport, and proposed trails that would improve connectivity and accessibility where it is lacking or does not exist, thereby creating a potential contiguous greenway system. This data was used to develop an online interactive greenway map for Gulfport which also included bus routes so that people may take advantage of the Coast Transit Authority's Bike and Bus Program. To access this interactive map go to: <http://www.gis.smpdd.com/gulfporttrails/>.

Mike Norton, NADO President and Executive Director of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District stated, "For more than 20 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase creative projects like the Gulfport Trails Project, which make it possible to advance the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions. This recognition brings to the forefront the important work of regional organizations and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities."

Business Development Small Business Loans

Trying to start a small business, expand your business or know someone with that aspiration? The District has funding available to assist you in meeting your goals. SMPDD's loans have been set up with low fixed interest rates, and have minimal owner injection criteria. Contact us for the current rate.

This funding was established to help finance new and expanding businesses that are not able to obtain conventional financing. SMPDD bridges the financial gap between what a bank is willing to loan and what the prospective business owner has to inject into their business.

SMPDD's loan programs are funded by U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Development Authority.

There are four loan programs available: 1) EDA Revolving Loan Fund, which will loan one third of the total project up to \$200,000; 2) Mississippi Small Business Assistance Loan Fund, which will loan fifty percent of the total project up to \$250,000; 3) Minority Business Enterprise Loan Fund, which will loan up to fifty percent of the total project with a maximum loan of \$250,000; and 4) Minority Business Enterprise Micro Loan, which will loan from \$2,000 to \$35,000. The fourth program is the only loan available that does not require a bank to participate. Both minority programs require that the owner be certified by the state as a woman or minority owned business with at least a 60% ownership.

To get started, a person needs a written business plan that includes financials for a three year period, filed tax returns, statement of collateral, and a use of funds statement.

The process is easy. An applicant can provide SMPDD with the same info that a bank also needs to determine the viability of the business, the owner's

*The District's newest recipient of assistance from the loan program is David White, Owner of **Dave's Chevron** at the intersection of Highway 67 and East Wortham Road in Saucier. This new business created 14 new jobs. Dave's Grand Opening is Friday, August 13, 2010.*



experience, collateral, credit history, equity injection, and ability to pay back the loan through the business operation.

SMPDD's loan program statistics since inception:

- Funded over 316 businesses for over \$24 million dollars.
- Banks or other funding sources have assisted in financing over \$68 million dollars.
- Over 4,100 jobs created.
- Over 164 new business start ups, or 46% of SMPDD's loan portfolio.

Money is available for most small business needs including franchises, working capital, inventory, equipment, land purchase, building construction or renovation. For more information, contact Monica Walker or Elizabeth Ladner at 228-868-2311 or visit our website at www.smpdd.com.



**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

www.smpdd.com

**SMPDD
9229 HIGHWAY 49
GULFPORT, MS 39503
228-868-2311**