

MDA E-News March 30, 2009

**\$1.2 Million in Improvement Projects, 2009 Mississippi Market Registration, Pilgrimage Season has Arrived, MDA Webinar Available on Website**

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**MDA Awards Approximately \$1.2 Million for Three Improvement Projects in State**

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded CDBG Economic Development (ED) and Capital Improvements Revolving Loan (CAP) funding for three improvement projects in the state. CDBG ED funds are designed to help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. CAP loans are provided to counties or municipalities to finance capital improvements such as water, sewer, industrial draining and fire protection improvements, industrial access roads, construction of multipurpose facilities for tourism development and recreation improvements. The awards, which total approximately \$1.2 million, include:

- **CDBG ED**
  - Tishomingo County (G&G Steel) - \$650,000 for infrastructure improvements
- **CAP Loan**
  - Tate County - \$141,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck
  - Yazoo County - \$425,000 for the purchase of new fire trucks

To learn more about the funding programs offered by MDA, please visit [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).

**2009 Mississippi Market Registration Surpasses 2008 Registration; MDA Partners Encouraged to Share Market Registration Info with Local Businesses**

Two months before the show, registration for the 2009 Mississippi Market Wholesale Show has already surpassed registration from 2008 - reinforcement that the resources provided by MDA's Existing Industry and Business (EIB) Division help Mississippi's businesses thrive and remain competitive. Mississippi Market is a vehicle for Mississippi manufacturers, artisans and wholesalers to exhibit their

products during a business-to-business event. A typical mix of products found at the show includes gifts, jewelry, home accents, personal accessories and gourmet foods.

All Mississippi-based companies with products for resale in stores are encouraged to exhibit at the event as well as companies with products or services to be used by exhibitors or retailers. In 2008, over 600 buyers participated in the event, resulting in more than \$487,000 in sales for the exhibitors.

The 2009 Mississippi Market will be held June 4-5 at the Mississippi Trade Mart Building in downtown Jackson. MDA encourages its partners to pass this information along to local entrepreneurs and businesses. For more information, please visit [www.mississippimarket.org](http://www.mississippimarket.org), or call 888-886-3323.

#### **From MDA's Tourism Division: Pilgrimage Season has Arrived**

It's spring in Mississippi, and that means it's pilgrimage season. Several of the most beautiful, charming and architecturally important towns in Mississippi open their doors to visitors who love history and want to enjoy a glimpse into life in antebellum times. Now is the time to delight in the authentic celebrations that pilgrimages have to offer. Mississippi welcomes visitors from all over the world to experience her charm and heritage-in Natchez, Columbus, Vicksburg, Aberdeen and Holly Springs.

- Natchez, March 7-April 11
- Columbus, March 30-April 11
- Vicksburg, March 13-April 6
- Aberdeen, April 23-26
- Holly Springs, April 17-19

More information can be found by visiting [www.visitmississippi.org](http://www.visitmississippi.org). Be sure to spread the word!

#### **Webinar Now Accessible On MDA Website**

If you were unable to take part in the MDA Webinar "Positioning Mississippi Businesses to be Prepared for Opportunities Ahead," you can now access the informative session by visiting [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org) and clicking on the "Webinars and Programs" button at the lower right corner of the page.

The Webinar provided an overview of the services that MDA offers small to mid-sized businesses, entrepreneurs and minority businesses to make the most of opportunities during tough economic times. Watch your MDA e-News for articles regarding upcoming events.

**CORRECTION:** In the March 16th issue of MDA's e-News, it was reported that EcoSteel Recycling in Amory was the recipient of a "2009 Corporate Investment and Community Impact Award" from Trade and Industry Development magazine. The name of the company, however, is Steel Development Corporation, not EcoSteel Recycling. We apologize for the error.

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