

MDA E-News April 6, 2009

New "Project Ready" Sites, Stimulus Summit, Mississippi Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference and Trade Show, Delta Blues Tour, Community Leadership Award, and Energy Efficient Home Planning Seminar

In this Issue:

- [Two Sites in Mississippi Power Region Designated "Project Ready"](#)
- [Governor Barbour to Hold Stimulus Summit April 16 in Downtown Jackson](#)
- [Mississippi Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference and Trade Show to be Held May 5-6](#)
- [MDA Tourism Division to Host Journalists on Delta Blues Tour](#)
- [Entergy Mississippi Presents "Teamwork Mississippi Community Leadership Award"](#)
- [Energy Efficient Home Planning Seminar Held in March](#)

Two Sites in Mississippi Power Region Designated "Project Ready"

Two sites located within Mississippi Power Company's territory were recently certified by McCallum Sweeney Consulting (MSC) as "Project Ready" sites. Key Field in Meridian and the George County Industrial Park are the most recent to be designated as "Project Ready," and they join Howard Technology Park in Jones County which was certified in October 2008.

"Project Ready" is an unprecedented industrial sites program formalized by Mississippi Power's Economic Development Department to attract new industries to Southeast Mississippi. In addition to being an industrial sites program, it also helps communities become more prepared to accommodate businesses that might be interested in locating in their areas. Two primary objectives of the program are 1) to identify sites that are appropriate for development by companies in different industries, and 2) to improve the readiness of those sites in the inventory so they become more marketable to potential prospects.

For a site to become certified, the local economic development agency must do all of the pre-work on the site, understand ownership issues, engineering issues and any obstacles pertaining to development. They must also have a plan for addressing these obstacles. Additionally, they must understand the associated costs and how long it will take to bring infrastructure to the site.

MSC is responsible for providing site criteria, preparing the requests for information and conducting site visits. To learn more about Mississippi Power and "Project Ready," please visit www.mississippipower.com.

Governor Barbour to Hold Stimulus Summit April 16 in Downtown Jackson

Governor Haley Barbour will join state agency heads, legislators and local

government officials in a Mississippi Stimulus Summit on April 16 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson. The public is invited to attend; reservations are not required.

During the summit, participants are expected to detail the steps that are already being taken or planned by many state agencies in regards to handling funds from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. Participating agencies include MDA, State Department of Education, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of Employment Security, Department of Transportation and others. Governor Barbour has asked each agency's senior managers to present an overview of its intentions and be prepared to respond to questions from the audience.

The governor's office has created an e-mail address for inquiries pertaining to this issue; questions may be e-mailed to stimulus@governor.state.ms.us. For more information, please visit stimulus.ms.gov.

Mississippi Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference and Trade Show to be Held May 5-6

The Mississippi Business and Procurement Opportunities Conference and Trade Show will be held May 5-6 at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson. Sponsored by MDA, the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program and the Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing and Property Agents, the event is designed to provide businesses with information on procurement opportunities and encourage partnerships between private companies, governmental entities and larger corporations, the gaming industry and defense companies. It will also highlight procurement opportunities related to the federal economic stimulus package that was recently enacted.

To learn more about the event or to register online, please visit conference2009.mspsc.com.

MDA Tourism Division to Host Journalists on Delta Blues Tour

MDA's Tourism Division will host 10 journalists during a Mississippi Blues Tour from April 16-18. The journalists, from such publications as *Living Blues*, *American Road*, the *Associated Press* and the *History Channel* will begin their tour in Jackson. The group and its MDA guides will then proceed to Yazoo City and Cleveland, with the tour culminating at the Juke Joint Festival in Clarksdale. In addition to the festival, the journalists will visit Mississippi Blues Trail markers in each city as well as other sites pertaining to Mississippi's blues heritage, including: the 930 Blues Café in Jackson, the B.B. King Museum in Indianola and the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale. The journalists will also have lunch at actor Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale.

The tour is being held in an effort to provide the journalists with an up-close and personal look at the "Birthplace of America's Music," allowing them to experience Mississippi's rich cultural heritage, meet some of the area's hospitable residents and discover the tourism opportunities available in the Delta region. The itinerary has been planned so that it will imprint upon the journalists specific names, places and stories that will give their readers, listeners and viewers the motivation to travel to Mississippi based on the journalists' personal referrals.

For more information about tourism opportunities in the Delta region, please contact MDA's Tourism Division at (601) 252-2297 or visit www.visitmississippi.org.

Entergy Mississippi Presents "Teamwork Mississippi Community Leadership Award"

Entergy Mississippi, Inc., an MDA Team Mississippi partner, recently presented its 2009 "Teamwork Mississippi Community Leadership Award" to Linda Shepard, retired executive director of the Leake County Development Association. During her career, Shepard improved industrial, commercial and downtown development opportunities in Leake County and launched a number of community initiatives.

The award is designed to recognize area leaders who have achieved outstanding results in improving the quality of life for residents in their community.

For more information, please contact Mara Hartmann with Entergy at (601) 969-2520, or by e-mail at mhartma@entergy.com.

Energy Efficient Home Planning Seminar Held in March

The recent *2009 Energy Efficient Home Planning Seminar* helped prospective homeowners and builders prepare to make the best possible decisions in each step of the new homebuilding process while focusing on energy efficiency.

Information shared at the seminar included:

- Homeowners can save on energy bills and add value to their homes by having an EPA ENERGY STAR® home or a National Association of Homebuilder's Model Green Home.
- Air leaks in a home's envelope, improper sizing of the heating and cooling system and leaky ductwork are the biggest causes of energy loss; steps can be taken in the specification stage to avoid these "energy hogs."
- Many building science professionals say homeowners and homebuyers should target around five cents per square foot each month for all energy costs averaged over one year. This includes space heating and cooling, water heating, lighting and appliances.

The seminar was presented by MDA's Energy Division, Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, Central Electric Power Association, Dickens and Associates, Energy Insulation, Inc., HERSCO/TAGMA, Mississippi State Extension Service and Practically Free Energy.

For more information regarding ways to make your home energy efficient, please contact MDA's Energy Division at (601) 359-6600.

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