

MDA E-News September 21, 2009**Eagle Capital Corporation and Sister Companies Expanding, Stimulus Funding Webinar Registration, Team Mississippi Selling State to Consultants, October Energy Efficiency Events, Travel Leadership Summit****In this Issue:**

- [Eagle Capital Corporation, Sister Companies Expanding in Tupelo; Creating Approximately 35 New Jobs](#)
- [Register Now for Stimulus Funding Opportunities Webinar to be Held Next Week on Tuesday, Sept. 29](#)
- [Team Mississippi Continues Selling Mississippi to Leading Site Selection Consultants](#)
- [October Packed with Events to Promote Energy Efficiency During Energy Awareness Month](#)
- [4th Annual Travel Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., Stresses the Economic Importance of the Travel Business](#)

Eagle Capital Corporation, Sister Companies Expanding in Tupelo; Creating Approximately 35 New Jobs

Eagle Capital Corporation, along with its four sister companies, Vector Transportation, Timberlake Foods, Southern Belle Refrigerated and Heritage Memorial Funding, recently announced the expansion of its Tupelo operations and the opening of its new corporate headquarters, known as the Magnolia Business Centre. Currently, the five companies employ roughly 85 people. As a result of the expansion, approximately 35 new jobs will be created. MDA provided the companies with job training assistance, helped the Magnolia Business Centre become an approved data center and provided direction to the businesses to help them take advantage of various tax incentive programs. The new headquarters facility, which is owned by Tupelo natives Joe and Kim Estess, represents a multi-million dollar company investment.

The five companies were all founded by the Estesses. Vector Transportation, a full service freight brokerage company serving the U.S. and Canada, was founded in 1994. Timberlake Foods, established in 1995, is a commodity trading business, trading in excess of 75 million pounds of meat and poultry products annually. Eagle Capital Corporation provides

funding and cash flow programs to the transportation, construction, medical and other service-based industries across the United States; the company was founded in 1997. In 2001, a commercial cold storage facility, Southern Belle Refrigerated, was founded, with expansions added to the facility in 2002 and 2005. The most recent venture, started in 2009, is Heritage Memorial Funding, a program for funeral homes across the nation to provide families a source of funding to cover funeral and other costs associated with the loss of a loved one.

Register Now for Stimulus Funding Opportunities Webinar to be Held Next Week on Tuesday, Sept. 29

The first of two stimulus funding Webinars to be hosted by MDA will be held next week on **Tuesday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m.** The Webinar will concentrate on the funding opportunities available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA). MDA Community Services Division Director Steve Hardin will cover the **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)**, the **Community Development Block Grant - Recovery (CDBG-R) Program** and the **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)**. Kathy Gelston, MDA Financial Resources Division director, will discuss the **bond programs** available through ARRA, and Manning McPhillips, MDA stimulus director, will discuss the **Broadband Deployment and Adoption and Workforce Development programs**.

This informative event will be beneficial to city and county officials, local economic developers, representatives from the state's universities and community colleges and others. To learn if the programs to be covered in this Webinar can benefit your organization or community, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org. Interested parties can register now for this event by [clicking here](#).

On October 13, at 10:00 a.m., MDA will also host a Webinar concentrating on energy-related stimulus programs. This particular Webinar will benefit a diverse audience, ranging from city officials to the general public, so make plans now to attend. More information will be available in the coming issues of MDA's e-News, but you may register now by [clicking here](#).

Team Mississippi Continues Selling Mississippi to Leading Site Selection Consultants

One of MDA's guiding principles is to pursue and cultivate strategic partnerships. Team Mississippi, a strategic partnership between MDA and the state's utility providers, recently hosted 10 site selection consultants to the state to learn more about doing business here and, at the same time, to experience the Mississippi Blues Trail and some of the state's

vibrant musical heritage. In difficult times, the Team Mississippi approach remains the same: to be relentless in marketing Mississippi to ensure the state is well-positioned for new investment as the economy recovers. The consultants' event is designed to showcase the creative spirit behind the state's musical and cultural legacy and to demonstrate how that spirit translates into a productive workforce. According to MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope, many states and communities compete for these consultants' time, but the unique Blues Trail experience gave team members a chance to provide them with an experience that no other state can replicate.

The two-day event allowed Team Mississippi members to develop relationships with key site selection professionals while encouraging future projects throughout the state. To learn more about Team Mississippi, please visit www.teammississippi.org.

October Packed with Events to Promote Energy Efficiency During Energy Awareness Month

October is Energy Awareness Month, and MDA will once again be participating in various events throughout the state to promote energy efficiency and raise energy awareness. This year's theme is "A Sustainable Energy Future: Putting All the Pieces Together," and the schedule of activities for October follows:

- **Friday, October 2** - MDA's Renewable Energy Day at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This event is designed for students and adults interested in participating in a hands-on learning experience relating to energy and the environment.
- **October 7** - Energy Star Day - Be sure to take the ENERGY STAR® Pledge from your computer. Simply visit www.energystar.gov/changealight, and be sure to select MDA as your referral.
- **October 20** - Stennis Space Center Energy Awareness Day - MDA will continue its "Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR®" campaign at Stennis Space Center, home to thousands of employees of numerous federal agencies, companies and research organizations.
- **October 23** - *Performance Contracting 101 - Energy Efficiencies via a Budget-Neutral Approach* at the MSU CAVS Extension in Canton, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Join MDA and other community stakeholders to explore the best practices to fund energy efficiencies with a budget-neutral approach. \$40 per attendee, \$400 per exhibit booth.
- **October 28** - *Utilizing Renewable Energy in Mississippi* - Vicksburg

- Convention Center, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Join MDA to learn ways your building or facility can save energy and money. \$40 per attendee.

MDA encourages its partners to mark their calendars and help promote energy awareness throughout the state. More detailed information regarding the events will be published as the events draw near. For more information, please call MDA's Energy Answerline at (601) 359-6600.

4th Annual Travel Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., Stresses the Economic Importance of the Travel Business

MDA's Tourism Division, in partnership with the Mississippi Tourism Association and accompanied by several city convention and visitors bureau directors, participated in the United States Travel Association's 4th Annual Travel Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., last week. The summit is a high-profile event sponsored by the U.S. Travel Association and is designed to facilitate contact between travel industry leaders and state congressional delegations. The goals of the Mississippi delegation included increasing visibility for Mississippi tourism in the nation's capital and contributing to the awareness of the economic, social and cultural impact of tourism, business travel, meetings and conventions with the administration, Congress, state and local government and the media.

Prior to the event, the U.S. Travel Association was pleased to receive word that the Travel Promotion Act, a key piece of travel legislation, received approval from the U.S. Senate. The Act will create a publicly subsidized advertising campaign aimed at attracting more overseas tourists to the U.S. The campaign will be funded through a \$10 fee imposed upon travelers entering the U.S. from countries not requiring a Visa, as well as from industry contributions. The Act is designed to bring millions more travelers to the U.S., provide a \$4 billion economic stimulus and generate \$321 million in new federal tax revenue.

For more information, please e-mail Sandy Bynum at sbynum@mississippi.org. For more information about tourism in Mississippi, please visit www.visitmississippi.org.

For more information on any of these articles, contact us by clicking on the links below. If you have been forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please contact [Melissa Medley](#) or [Tammy Craft](#) .