

MDA E-News September 28, 2009**MDA Awards Funding to Improvement Projects, Cooper Tire Breaks Ground on Tupelo Expansion, MDA to Host Lake Development Field Trip, Stimulus Opportunities Webinar Tomorrow****In this issue:**

- [MDA Awards over \\$3.5 Million for Seven Improvement Projects throughout State](#)
- [Cooper Tire Breaks Ground on 32,000 Square Foot Expansion in Tupelo](#)
- [MDA to Host Lake Development Field Trip on October 14; Event to Highlight Benefits of Lake-Centered Developments in the State](#)
- [Stimulus Opportunities Webinar Tomorrow, September 29, at 10:00 a.m.](#)

MDA Awards over \$3.5 Million for Seven Improvement Projects throughout State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **Capital Improvements Revolving Loan (CAP)**, **CDBG Economic Development (CDBG ED)**, **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** and **Mississippi Rural Impact Fund (RIF)** funding for six improvement projects throughout the state. The **CAP Program** provides loans in order to finance capital improvements. **CDBG ED** funds help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. To receive **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The **RIF Program** is designed to assist with the location or expansion of businesses in rural areas by providing grants to rural communities. The awards, which total approximately \$3.5 million, include:

- **CAP Loan**
 - City of Clarksdale - \$650,000 for an addition to the blues museum
 - City of Louisville - \$1,000,000 for infrastructure improvements

- Town of Burnsville - \$50,000 for infrastructure improvements
- **CDBG ED**
 - Lowndes County (New Process Steel) - \$1,620,000 for infrastructure improvements
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - City of Crystal Springs - \$12,085 for infrastructure repairs
- **RIF Program**
 - Tishomingo County (Miltec Corp.) - \$149,850 for building improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org, and click on the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

Cooper Tire Breaks Ground on 32,000 Square Foot Expansion in Tupelo

Cooper Tire and Rubber Company held a groundbreaking ceremony in Tupelo last week for a 32,000-square-foot expansion of its more than 1.6 million-square-foot facility. The company is investing \$7 million in the expansion. Construction is slated to begin in September, with completion scheduled for April 2010. According to Cooper Tire's Tupelo plant manager Pat Jodon, the expansion could create up to 150 new jobs at the facility. He also said it will enable Cooper to produce more technologically-advanced products and improve the competitiveness of its operations.

In late 2008, Cooper Tire announced it had decided to retain its Tupelo operations; the company had previously indicated it would close one of its four U.S. facilities. The decision spared approximately 1,500 jobs in north Mississippi, and roughly 80 new jobs have been added since the company restructured. MDA, the Community Development Foundation, TVA, the City of Tupelo, Lee County and other economic development entities worked with Cooper Tire officials to keep the company in Tupelo.

For more information about Cooper Tire and Rubber Company, please visit www.coopertire.com.

MDA to Host Lake Development Field Trip on October 14; Event to Highlight Benefits of Lake-Centered Developments in the State

On Wednesday, October 14, MDA's Asset Development Division will host a Lake Development Field Trip to showcase lake-centered developments in two Mississippi counties while highlighting the benefits the developments have on the communities in which they are located. The tour will include visits to Dr. Bennett York's Canebrake Lake and Big Bay developments in

Lamar County, as well as a visit to Wallace Eddins' development, Lake Eddins, in Jasper County. York and Eddins will both be on-hand to answer any questions participants may have.

Guests will also enjoy a luncheon at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center featuring guest speakers Leland Speed, Chairman of the Board of Parkway Properties and EastGroup Properties, and James I. Palmer, Jr., former director of the Department of Environmental Quality and former director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 in Atlanta.

Since this is a bus tour, space is limited, so please register at www.mississippi.org/laketour by the October 2 deadline. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. For more detailed information, please visit the above link.

Stimulus Opportunities Webinar Tomorrow, September 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Don't forget to join MDA tomorrow, September 29 at 10:00 a.m., for the first of two Webinars designed to cover the funding opportunities available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA). Topics will include the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Community Development Block Grant - Recovery Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Broadband Deployment and Workforce Development programs and the ARRA bond programs. To determine 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](#). There is no cost to participate. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

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, or pre-register by [clicking here](#).

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](#).