

MDA E-News Dec. 15, 2008

Improvement Projects, Telecast, 2009 Planning and New Construction

MDA Awards Funding for Nine Improvement Projects throughout Mississippi

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded funding for nine improvement projects in cities and towns throughout the state. The projects received funding through the Capital Improvements Revolving Loan (CAP), CDBG Community Self-Help, CDBG Economic Development, CDBG Emergency Public Facilities, Emergency Shelter Grants and Mississippi Rural Impact Fund (RIF) programs. The awards, which total over \$1.97 million, include:

CAP Loan

Town of Byhalia - \$90,000 for access road improvements

Town of Pelahatchie - \$150,000 for the construction of a bike trail

CDBG Community Self-Help

City of Louisville - \$100,000 for park improvements

Town of Puckett - \$100,000 for park improvements

CDBG Economic Development

Benton County (Abby Manufacturing Co., Inc.) - \$353,206 for access road improvements

CDBG Emergency Public Facilities

Town of Lake - \$63,500 the repair of a water pump

Emergency Shelter Grants

Center for Violence Prevention - \$33,139.81 for operations and maintenance

Community Care Network, Inc. - \$57,777.50 for operations and maintenance

RIF Grants

City of Flowood (Copper Structures, Inc.) - \$150,000 for access road improvements

For more information regarding these programs, please visit

www.mississippi.org.

MCDP Offers First Telecast Sessions; Prepares to Graduate Participants

In October, the Model Contractor Development Program (MCDP) kicked off in Gulfport. Co-sponsored by MDA, the program teaches small construction contractors the business practices required to improve their company's operations and increase bonding capacity. Participants must be enrolled in the Mississippi Contract Procurement Network System, and each contractor's representative must agree to attend seven of the nine sessions.

For the first time, the MCDP has offered a telecast of the Gulfport sessions at the eCom Direct, Inc. Corporate Office in Gloster. According to Richard Speights, MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Director, the telecasts were created for contractors in remote areas of the state that may have otherwise not been able to participate in the program. Ten contractors are participating in the Gloster telecast sessions, approximately 50 are attending the Gulfport sessions and another 50 are attending the Jackson sessions.

The Gulfport/Gloster participants will graduate from the program on Tuesday, December 16. The Jackson sessions will conclude on Jan. 8, 2009. Following both graduations, over 200 Mississippi companies will have been represented at the MCDP. To learn more about the program, please visit www.msccpc.com.

Mississippi Main Street Board Meets in Jackson to Plan for Upcoming Year

The Mississippi Main Street Association's Board of Directors met recently in Jackson to finalize strategic plans for the upcoming year. The 2009 Board Officer's slate includes: President Chuck Ueltschey, Mississippi Power Company, Gulfport; President-elect Randy Burchfield, Bancorp South, Tupelo; and Past President Suzanne Smith, Renasant Bank, Tupelo. While in Jackson, the group took in a tour of downtown Jackson and the historic Fondren and Belhaven neighborhoods.

Mississippi Main Street is a program of MDA and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. An economic development program, the association focuses on the historic preservation and downtown revitalization of communities with populations of 5,000 - 50,000. MDA funds a large portion of the association's budget.

To learn more about the Mississippi Main Street Association or how you can become involved, please visit their website at www.msmainstreet.com.