

April 2011



Building for the Future

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The DeSoto Council's mission is to facilitate, promote and provide effective, unified leadership for economic development and improved quality of life.

WPG Americas to Locate in Southaven



Officials from WPG Americas, a worldwide electronics distributor, have announced the company is locating distribution operations at the Airways Distribution Center in Southaven, Miss., in DeSoto County. The project represents a \$1.5 million investment by the company and will create 60 jobs over the next three years.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) worked closely with company and local officials to provide assistance for the project, utilizing the Momentum Mississippi incentive program to assist the company with its move to Southaven. The DeSoto County Economic Development Council also provided assistance for the project.

"I am delighted that WPG officials have chosen to locate distribution operations in Southaven," said Gray Swoope, MDA executive director. "Mississippi provides companies in the distribution and logistics sectors with strategic locations to better serve their customers and a supportive business climate. We are pleased to welcome another leading distribution business to the state."

Headquartered in San Jose, Calif., WPG Americas (WPGA) was founded in 2007 and is a franchised partner to technology leaders such as Avago, Cree, Kemet, ROHM, Samsung and Vishay.

WPGA is a member of WPG Holdings, a worldwide distributor of semiconductors, passive electro-mechanical and display products. WPG Holdings' subsidiaries include five leading semiconductor distributors in Asia, and the company serves as a franchise partner for more than 200 worldwide brands. WPG Holdings has annual sales in excess of \$5 billion and is the third largest distributor of electronic components in the world.

To learn more about WPG Americas, please visit the company's website at www.wpgamericas.com.

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Myers Tire Supply to Open Distribution Operations in Southaven

Officials from Myers Tire Supply, an industry leader in the tire service market, has announced the company is locating distribution operations in a 50,000 square-foot facility at the IDI Airways Distribution Center in Southaven.

The project represents a \$650,000 company investment and will create 25 new jobs.

The Mississippi Development Authority's Executive Director

Leland Speed, says, "The decision by Myers Tire Supply to set up distribution operations in

Southaven reinforces the fact that Mississippi's prime location is ideal for companies with distribution needs." The Mississippi Development Authority worked closely with Myers Tire Supply and local Desoto County officials



to provide assistance for the project. The agency also provided the company

with guidance on available tax incentives to help facilitate the company's location to Southaven.

Headquartered in Akron, Ohio, Myers Tire Supply provides tire, wheel, and under-vehicle service tools, equipment and supplies.

The company has 43 locations in North, South and Central America, allowing for widespread coverage and rapid delivery for its customers. Myers Tire Supply is a Myers Industries Inc. Company.

More information on Myers Tire Supply can be found on the company's website: www.myerstiresupply.com.

Soladigm Announces Scholarships for DeSoto County Students

Soladigm, a developer of highly energy-efficient dynamic glass for next-generation buildings with commercial manufacturing facilities in Olive Branch, Mississippi, has announced the launch of the Soladigm College Scholarship for DeSoto County high school seniors.

The Soladigm College Scholarship Program, will award two full-tuition college scholarships to Olive Branch and DeSoto County high school seniors annually.

The program has been created to support the development and education of the state's next generation of engineers and scientists. To be considered, students from the region must be in good academic standing and planning to pursue a degree in physical science or engineering at any four-year Mississippi college or university.

“DeSoto County is extremely proud to have a partner like Soladigm that contributes to the



community's economic development and believes in investing in the local people,” says Jim Flanagan, president and CEO of the *DeSoto County* Economic Development Council. “By providing these generous scholarships and building its manufacturing facility in Olive Branch, Soladigm is helping shape the community into a hub for cleantech manufacturing jobs.”

Each Soladigm scholarship pays 100 percent of the winning student's college tuition expense for four years. One scholarship will be awarded to an Olive Branch, Miss. student, and the other to a DeSoto County student.

“Soladigm's engineers and scientists have enabled significant advancements in Dynamic

CEO of Soladigm. “Through these scholarships, we would like to play a positive role in preparing Olive Branch and DeSoto County students for a future in science and technology.”

Students interested in applying for Soladigm's future scholarships may visit www.soladigm.com/scholarship/application

for program details. Complete applications, will require a written essay and letters of recommendation, must be received via email or postmarked by the deadline set annually by Soladigm. This year's Scholarship winners will be announced in May 2011.

About Soladigm

Soladigm is a developer of next-generation green building solutions designed to improve energy efficiency. The company's highly energy-efficient Dynamic Glass switches from clear to tinted on demand, resulting in significant cost savings, environmental benefits, and quality of life enhancements. Soladigm is headquartered in Milpitas, California. For more information, visit www.soladigm.com.

Methodist Healthcare Reviewing Bids for New Hospital

Methodist Healthcare officials are reviewing proposals from architects and construction companies hoping to construct the new Methodist Olive Branch Hospital.

Once the architect and construction manager are chosen, a timeline for construction will be developed. Methodist Healthcare officials are expected to make a final decision by mid-May.

Groundbreaking for the new 100-bed hospital is planned for September or October of this year and the hospital could be completed by the spring of next year.

The hospital is expected to be the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified hospital in Mississippi.



The hospital plans to provide obstetrics, open heart surgery, diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization and magnetic resonance imaging.

The new Olive Branch Hospital will be located on a parcel of land located at the corner of Highway 78 and Bethel Road.

The Mississippi Department of Health granted a certificate of need to Methodist Healthcare

last July to green-light the construction of the new hospital in Olive Branch.

City of Olive Branch officials, including the mayor and aldermen, Mississippi State Senators, Representatives, business leaders, and others have been trying for years to bring an additional hospital to DeSoto County.

More information can be found on Methodist Healthcare's website: www.methodisthealth.org

Greenways Update: Earth Day Celebration on April 30

The 41st anniversary of the first Earth Day will be celebrated in DeSoto County on Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. until noon, on the historic court square in Hernando, MS.

The celebration is being held in conjunction with the opening day of the 2011 Hernando Farmers Market season.

Partners planning the event include the cities of Horn Lake, Olive Branch, Southaven, Hernando and Walls, DeSoto County Board of Supervisors, DeSoto County Greenways,

DeSoto County Soil and Water Conservation, Leadership DeSoto, and DeSoto County Extension Service/Master Gardeners/Master Urban Foresters.

The event will concentrate on three primary areas of interest: sustainable living, energy efficiency, and natural resource conservation.

Sustainable living activities will include local farmers markets, community gardens, home gardening, DeSoto greenways and water trails, and local sports and recreation

programs.

Energy efficiency will focus on LEED certified buildings, sites and neighborhoods, home and business energy savings, energy efficient transportation and new energy technology.

Natural Resource Conservation activities will feature the DeSoto County Stormwater Committee, the DeSoto County Ozone Committee, water conservation, recycling and land conservation activities in the county.

Governmental Affairs Update:

STATE CAPITOL BREAKFAST:

On February 17, the DeSoto Council hosted the annual "Fried Pies" Breakfast at our State Capitol.

Business leaders and elected officials met again with the Mississippi Legislature and highlighted the quality of life found in our county and municipalities.

This has also been an opportunity to express our thanks to our exceptional local legislative delegation.

WASHINGTON CONGRESSIONAL

BRIEFING:

The annual trip to Washington was comprised of our municipal and county elected officials and Council business leaders including our Board Chair, Ken Purvis and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Bryant Cashion.

On March 3, they met with the Mississippi congressional delegation to discuss issues important to Desoto County.

Some of the issues that were presented at meetings included: Regional Wastewater System, Storm Water Removal, Interstate 269, Air Quality, Nail Road Interchange, Homeland Security, Arkabutla Lake Nature and Environmental Education Center, I-269/McIngvale Road Interchange and a Municipal Post Office.

Both the state and congressional events were supported by corporate sponsors of Governmental Affairs.

Northwest Mississippi Association of Realtors to Host Chick-fil-a Leadercast

The Northwest Mississippi Association of Realtors is hosting a one-day leadership event featuring the world's best leaders speaking about the leadership principles that matter most, May 6.

The NWMAR and area Chick-fil-a stores are sponsoring the broadcast of the Chick-fil-a Leadercast at the NWMAR office located at 2795 Highway 51, in Nesbit.



Erin Gruwell, Robin Roberts, Sir Ken Robinson, Suzy Welch, Frans Johansson, John Maxwell, Dan Cathy and Mack Brown.

The Leadercast is designed to enhance leadership skills by hearing from top executives, coaches, and leaders from around the country.

On May 6, they will be broadcasting live the Chick-fil-a Leadercast from 8 am until 3 pm, that will feature speakers including: Seth Godin, Dave Ramsey, Muhtar Kent,

The cost of the Leadercast is \$87 per person and this includes: materials, a gift, breakfast and lunch. Special group rates are offered by calling the NWMAR office at 662.449.3553.

Leadership DeSoto Makes Trip to Jackson and State Capitol

The 2010-2011 Leadership Desoto Class recently toured the state capitol and met with members of the Desoto County elected delegates in Jackson, MS. The class traveled to Jackson to learn more about Mississippi's system of government.

While at the Capitol, the class was invited to watch both the House of Representatives and the Senate while in session. As the class watched the sessions, Representative Wanda Jennings introduced the class from the floor of the House, and members of the House gave the class a standing ovation. Senator Merle Flowers introduced the class from the Senate floor.

While the class was at the Capitol, members heard from members of the DeSoto County Legislative Delegation and had lunch with State Senators Doug Davis and Merle Flowers. The group also heard from Secretary of State Delbert Hoseman, and Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant.

All the speakers praised the class for being community leaders and stressed the important role DeSoto County plays in the growth and prosperity of the State of Mississippi. Other topics of discussion covered with elected delegates included the funding of education, state budget cuts, and the state of the economy.

The class will continue to meet once a month



until graduation from the program is held at Bonne Terre in May. The class began the program last November.

Other monthly session topics include: Economic Development, Education, Healthcare, Community Service, and Local Government as it relates to Desoto County.

Leadership Desoto Class of 2011 Includes:

Cory Brady, *Integrated Land Solutions*, **John Caldwell**, *Strategic Financial Partners*, **John Camp**, *BancorpSouth*, **Jennifer Daniel**, *Atmos Energy*, **Dennis Davis**, *Exel*, **Debra Doyle**, *Community Bank*, **Julie Hollingsworth**, *Baptist Memorial Hospital-Desoto*, **Rob Hughes**, *Porter Leath*, **Jay Joel**, *First Tennessee*, **Lisa Johnson**, *Junior Auxiliary of Desoto County*, **Mike Jones**, *Future Electronics*, **Sibonie Jones**, *Southaven Chamber of Commerce*, **Russell Jordan**, *Hickman, Goza, Spragins, LLC*, **Ken Kirkpatrick**, *Baptist Memorial Hospital-Desoto*, **Carmen Kyle**, *Mississippi Secretary of State*, **Michael Leonard**, *Trustmark*, **Lynn McAdams**, *First Tennessee*, **Charles McGhee**, *Entergy*, **John**

Mitchell, *Desoto County Board of Supervisors*, **Marc Montgomery**, *State Farm*, **Anthony Osijo**, *Future Electronics*, **Walt Parker**, *BancorpSouth*, **Kawana Phillips**, *Marietta*, **Pamela Pittman**, *LaQuinta Inn & Suites*, **Gordon Shaw**, *Walker, Brown and Brown*, **Adam Sowell**, *UBS Financial Advisors*, **Colin Tackett**, *Guaranty Bank*, **Randy Taylor**, *A & B Distributing*, **Patrina Williams**, *Parkwood Behavioral Health System*

If interested in nominating or applying for Leadership Desoto 2011-2012, please contact Leadership Desoto Coordinator Lisa Biglane, at the Desoto Economic Council Office by email at lbiglane@desotocounty.com or 429-4414. The new application can be found on the Economic Development Council webpage by selecting "Leadership Desoto." The 2011-2012 class will begin next November.

Leadership Desoto Alumni Group to Begin Next Fall

When this year's Leadership Desoto class graduates in May, it will graduate as the 20th class of Leadership Desoto. The first Leadership Desoto Class graduated from the program in May of 1991.

Lisa Biglane, the current Leadership Desoto Coordinator, is forming a committee to work with her existing Leadership Desoto Board of Directors to start a Leadership Desoto Alumni program next fall.

Previous coordinators and graduates of the

program have mentioned that "graduates" have asked for an alumni group for years. The alumni Group will provide a way for Leadership graduates to stay in touch after the program ends each year.

The committee will discuss ideas for what the "Alumni Group" will look like, how often it will meet, programs, and more.

One of the hardest tasks will be locating Leadership Desoto graduates from the last 20 years. Please help us.

If you are a Graduate of Leadership Desoto please contact the Desoto Economic Development Council office with your current employer, address, and email address.

662.429.4414 or email

lbiglane@desotocounty.com with current contact information.

Thanks!

Desoto Council's Golf Tournament is May 12

The 19th annual Salute to Industry Golf Tournament will be held at Cherokee Valley Golf Club in Olive Branch, on Thursday, May 12.

The Desoto Council tournament is one of the county's biggest golf tournaments with two tee times available on Thursday for golfers to choose the best golfing time that works best with their schedule. Morning tee time is 8 am. Afternoon tee time is set for 1 p.m. on Thursday.

The day will include a catered, net-working breakfast at 7 am, a lunch at noon,

and golf awards and an evening BBQ dinner reception at 6 pm. There will be two "longest-drive", and "closest-to-the pin" contests as well.

Cost for a four-man team in the tournament for members of the Economic Council is \$600, with \$100 being donated to the Foundation for Education. The cost for a team includes : breakfast, lunch, the barbeque dinner, golf gifts, and a listing in all Foundation for Excellence in Education printed materials.

The signature sponsor of this year's

Economic Development Council Golf Tournament is BancorpSouth. A complete listing of all sponsors, and an entry form to this year's tournament can be found on the Economic Council Webpage.

For more information, including tee time availability, please contact the Desoto Council Office at 662.429.4414. All team entry forms must be received at the Economic Council office by May 5.

Ken Purvis Becomes new Chairman of Desoto Council Board



Ken Purvis, Desoto County President of Sycamore Bank, is the new Chairman of the Desoto County Economic Development Council Board of Directors.

Purvis says one of the perks with his new position is working with Jim Flanagan and the entire staff at the Desoto County Council office. He says this new position has really

allowed him to see the work the Desoto Council does in always looking for ways to attract new industry and business to the county. He is also excited about continuing to work with the five mayors and other county leaders through the Council of Government. He is honored to be able to work with our elected officials across the county in finding ways to further improve our communities.

Purvis has worked for Sycamore Bank for 10 months but has been in banking and in Desoto County for 23 years. He is a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking from LSU, and a

graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking. He currently serves on the Board of the Hernando Main Street Chamber of Commerce. He is also a former Hernando Rotary President.

He is married to Ginger Baker Purvis and has two children: John Michael Purvis and Caroline Purvis. He enjoys playing golf and tennis in his free time.

Purvis will serve as the Chairman of the Desoto County Economic Council Board of Directors until December.

The DeSoto Council welcomes its newest members:

- Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz
- H&H Services Group
- Joyce Signs
- Imperial Toy
- Independent Planning Group
- Pacific Logistics Corp

DeSoto Council 2011 Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|---|
| Lee Smart, Bank Plus | Barry Bouchillon, State Farm Insurance |
| Kevin Doddridge, Northcentral Electric Power Association | Wayne Spell, Entergy |
| Scott Carter, Gumps | Donnie Chambliss, Bob Leigh Realty |
| Marsha Spencer, Parker Hannifin | Matt Lipscomb, Lipscomb & Pitts |
| Greg Ryan, Keller Williams Realty | Bill Renovich, DeSoto Bank |
| Brian Walhood, BancorpSouth | Pete Bacon, Instaff |
| Karen Cummins, Atmos Energy Corp– MS Division | Mary Monteith, Austin Law Firm |
| Simon Weir, Community Bank | Jay Baum, American Contract Bridge League |
| Jimmy Gray, Jimmy Gray Chevrolet | Jim Rone, Newly Weds Foods |
| Tiffany Heard, SSR Inc. | George Ready, Attorney |
| David Barnett, Future Electronics | Shawn Clayton, Renasant Bank |
| Doug Ray, Conair | Dale Cole, Tegra Medical |
| Kim Knop, Residence Inn | Chris Brunetti, Elite Water Systems |
| Doug Davis, First Security Bank | Beth Corl, Marietta |
| Harvey Ferguson, retired-Trustmark | Ken Purvis, Sycamore Bank |

DeSoto Council Executive Committee

- Ken Purvis, Chairman
Sycamore Bank
- Greg Ryan, Vice Chairman
Keller Williams Realty
- Wayne Spell, Treasurer
Entergy
- Barry Bouchillon, Secretary
State Farm Insurance
- Simon Weir, Past Chairman
Community Bank

DeSoto Council Staff

- Jim Flanagan**
President/CEO
- Deborah Morgan**
Office Administrator
Education Foundation
- Cynthia Ramsey-Short**
Administrative Assistant
- Lisa Biglane**
Leadership DeSoto
Quarterly Newsletter
Education Foundation
- Larry Jarrett**
DeSoto Co Greenways

2011 Calendar of Events

Dates Subject to Change

<u>May</u>		<u>September</u>	
11	Governmental Affairs Committee	5	Holiday - Labor Day
12	Council Golf Tournament	8	Tax Advisory Committee
13	Golf Rain Date	15	Salute to Industry Committee Meeting
19	Tax Advisory Committee	15	Metro Industrial Park Luncheon
19	Leadership Desoto Graduation	16	3rd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
19	Salute to Industry Committee Meeting	16	3rd Quarter Membership Luncheon
19	Metro Industrial Park Luncheon	20	Nominating Committee
20	Executive Committee	27	Chamber Directors' Lunch
27	Council of Governments' Committee	30	Council of Governments Committee
31	Chamber Directors' Lunch	30	Classroom Teacher Grant Reception
<u>June</u>		<u>October</u>	
3	2nd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting	7	Infrastructure Committee
3	2nd Quarter Membership Luncheon	13	Tax Advisory Committee
9	Tax Advisory Committee	14	Executive Committee
10	Infrastructure Committee	20	Salute to Industry Committee
16	Salute to Industry Committee	20	Metro Industrial Park Lunch
16	Metro Industrial Park Luncheon	25	Chamber Directors' Lunch
24	Council of Governments Committee	28	Council of Governments Committee
28	Chamber Directors' Lunch	<u>November</u>	
<u>July</u>		10	Tax Advisory Committee
4	Holiday - Independence Day	17	Salute to Industry Committee Meeting
14	Tax Advisory Committee	17	Metro Industrial Park Luncheon
15	Executive Committee	17	Leadership Desoto- Opening Session
26	Chamber Directors' Lunch	18	Leadership Desoto- Ropes Course
29	Council of Governments Committee	18	Executive Committee
<u>August</u>		24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday
5	Infrastructure Committee	29	Chamber Directors' Lunch
11	Tax Advisory Committee	<u>December</u>	
18	Salute to Industry Committee	8	Tax Advisory Committee
18	Metro Industrial Park Luncheon	8	Leadership Desoto- Economic Development
19	Executive Committee	9	Infrastructure Committee
26	Council of Governments Committee	14	Governmental Affairs Committee
30	Chamber Directors' Lunch	15	Salute to Industry Committee Meeting
		15	Metro Industrial Park Luncheon
		16	4th Quarter Board of Directors
		16	4th Quarter Membership Luncheon
		23-26	Christmas Holiday
		27	Chamber Directors' Lunch



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Newsletter is also online: www.desotocounty.com