

August 2010



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.

Soladigm to Locate Manufacturing Facility in Olive Branch

Soladigm has announced it will be locating its first-ever manufacturing facility in Olive Branch which will add 350 jobs to the Desoto County economy.

Governor Haley Barbour, company, county and state officials have called Soladigm a “cutting edge technology company.”

The company will be making a \$130 million investment in the new facility which will make energy-efficient windows using a patented technological process.

The glass in the windows can change from clear to tinted on demand, which will allow the

amount of light and heat that enters a building to be controlled more efficiently. This should result in energy savings for the buildings that have the windows installed and could revolutionize the way buildings are built.

Soladigm will locate in an existing building at Polk and Kirk roads in Olive Branch in the IDI Crossroads Distribution Center. Hiring will start next quarter and manufacturing at the facility should start by the end of 2011.

The company has chosen Olive Branch for this facility because of the State of Mississippi is

known for its excellence in manufacturing, quality of the workforce, and the proximity of the site to Memphis which is the nation’s logistics and distribution hub. Soladigm is headquartered in Milpitas, California.

Below: Soladigm window



Hospital Approved for Olive Branch

The Mississippi Department of Health has granted Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare’s certificate of need request to build a hospital in Olive Branch. Olive Branch officials have been working for over twelve years to bring a hospital to the area.

Methodist plans to build a four-story patient tower on a 20-acre campus on the southeast corner of US 78 and Bethel road. The company has an option to purchase an addi-

tional 20 acres on the site. The investment will be \$137 million for the 100-bed hospital.



The hospital will be called Methodist Healthcare-Olive Branch Hospital and it will be designed and built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design stan-

dards and will be the first green hospital in the state of Mississippi.

The hospital will bring 480 full-time jobs with a total payroll of \$35.99 million after the first year the hospital is complete. The new hospital is expected to lose \$12.9 million in the first year, \$2.9 million in its second and end its third year with a net income of \$2.9 million according to studies.

Methodist Healthcare has cleared additional hurdles in that area hospitals who previously opposed a hospital in Olive Branch, no longer are opposed to the Methodist request.

Methodist officials will finalize its planning for the hospital over the next several months. Construction is expected to begin early next year, and could be complete in 2013.

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McKesson to Open Facility in Olive Branch

McKesson Corporation has chosen Olive Branch as the location for its new logistics and supply chain facility.

The company will be consolidating two facilities in Memphis and Shelby County when it opens the new facility in Olive Branch.

The new facility is projected to bring more than 300 new jobs to the area and could cost more than \$135.2 million to complete. The estimated cost of the new project includes \$6.8 million in land costs, \$66.1 million in real property improvements, and \$62.3 million in tangible property improvements.

MCKESSON

Empowering Healthcare

The company has chosen a 68 acre site located at the intersection of Polk Lane and Polk Extended, near the existing Williams- Sonoma distribution facilities in Olive Branch.

Construction on the building could start later this year. The two facilities being consolidated in Shelby County would close by 2012 at the completion of the new logistics and supply chain facility.

McKesson is a health care technology com-

pany.

The company is the largest pharmaceutical distributor in North America. The company provides services and products to health care providers and payors. They provide services including pharmaceuticals and supplies to sophisticated medical workflow solutions.

Their supplies help customers reduce costs, streamline processes and, most importantly, improve patient care and medication safety.

www.mckesson.com

Hamilton Beach Relocating to Olive Branch

Hamilton Beach Brands Inc. is moving its large distribution center and 125 jobs from Memphis to Olive Branch. Hamilton Beach has signed a 10-year lease to occupy all of a 1.17 million square foot building at 11624 South Distribution Cove.

By moving across state lines into Mississippi, the company is moving from one tax abatement program to another. The company will receive significant rent and operating expenses savings by relocating to Olive Branch. It is expected that over the 10-year lease, the com-

Hamilton Beach
Good Thinking

pany could save almost \$2 million in taxes by making the move from Tennessee to Mississippi. The company's lease was up at its Memphis facility. The company enjoyed previous tax abatements in TN that they no longer qualified for in Shelby County.

The company's current employees and managers will staff the new Olive Branch facility.

Hamilton Beach designs, markets and distributes small electric household appliances as well as commercial products for restaurants, bars and hotels. It is one of the largest small appliance marketers and distributors in North America. Its brands include Hamilton Beach, Eclectrics, Proctor Silex and TrueAir. The company is headquartered in Glen Allen, Virginia.

www.hamiltonbeach.com

Fiskars Opening Distribution Center in Southaven

Fiskars Corp. is relocating its Wisconsin warehouse and distribution operations into a 260,000 square foot space at Southaven Distribution Center Building One.

The relocation will bring 100 new jobs to Desoto County. Plans are to move in to the facility in September and be fully operational and transitioned from existing facilities in Sauk City and Wausau, Wisconsin by June of 2011.

The move will allow the company to operate more efficiently in filling orders to retail companies located in the South.

Company officials have said the move was a "multifaceted decision because the area of-

FISKARS[®]

ferred great facility options, an available workforce and a centralized location for operations.

The Southaven facility will include primarily distribution with some light assembly for Fiskars's garden and school /office/craft divisions.

Southaven Distribution Center consists of two Class A warehouse buildings with 1.66 million square feet on the northeast corner of Stateline and Airways. Building One, where Fiskars will be re-locating, is a 910,000 square foot building located at 330 Stateline Road.

Fiskars is the oldest company in Finland, founded in 1649. It is a global supplier of home, garden, and outdoor consumer products. It is best known for its orange-handled scissors. The Fiskars scissors are the number one scissor brand in the world.

Additionally, the company also distributes a portfolio of brands including: Litala, Gerber, Silva, and Buster.

www.fiskarsgroup.com

Guardian Fiberglass Expanding Operations

Guardian Fiberglass, Inc. is expanding its existing operations facility which will create 30 new jobs in Olive Branch.

The expansion is to accommodate an increase in production of its fiberglass insulation for the residential and commercial construction industries.

The expansion is a \$9.5 million investment and will allow the company to rebuild their main production line in the plant. The company hopes the new housing market starts to



improve in late 2010 and beyond. The improvements will allow the company to meet the increased demands of the insulation industry going forward.

Guardian Fiberglass operates its Olive Branch facility at 7046 State Line Road. The plant is a subsidiary of Guardian Building Products, which is a subsidiary of Guardian Industries Corp. of Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Guardian Industries and its subsidiaries employ more than 18,000 workers at facilities in North America, Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Imperial Toy Moving Distribution Center to Southaven

Imperial Toy LLC is consolidating its Memphis-area operations by leasing 312,000 square feet at Southaven Distribution Center Building Two.

The company currently leases two buildings in Memphis covering 240,000 square feet. The company states the ability to operate everything under one roof as one of the reasons for relocating to Desoto County.

The company's employment fluctuates because its work load is seasonal. It currently employs

45 people who will relocate from Memphis to Southaven. No jobs will be lost during the transition and move. During peak season the company can hire up to 150 temporary workers.

Imperial Toy is a Los Angeles-based company that manufactures and sells 3-D blowing bubbles and novelty toys and holds licenses for brands including SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer.

Imperial Toy has been in business for over 40 years and is one of the fastest-growing toy companies in the industry.

www.imperialtoy.com

International Paper Makes Move to Olive Branch

International Paper has announced it will be closing its corrugated container plant in Jonesboro, Arkansas, as it moves most of the Jonesboro business to its Olive Branch plant.

The company will be adding a third shift and approximately 20 jobs at the Olive Branch facility. Displaced Jonesboro employees can apply for the jobs at the Olive Branch plant.

Company officials stated the reason for closing the Jonesboro plant and moving to Olive Branch was due to larger customers in Jonesboro who had relocated out of the area over the last few years. Combining that along with declines in the Mid-South economy over the last year, it became necessary to consolidate to



remain competitive. Officials stated that taking care of its customers and improving productivity is important to the company and this move allows both.

The Jonesboro plant had made corrugated boxes for poultry and industrial companies since 1982.

International Paper is a global leader in the paper and packaging industry and supplies a wide range of products that people rely on every day. The company produces uncoated papers and industrial and consumer packaging.

Through xpedx, its North American distribution business, the company also offers printing, packaging, graphic arts, and maintenance and industrial products.

The global headquarters for International Paper is located at 6400 Poplar Avenue in Memphis, TN.

www.internationalpaper.com

Desoto County Greenways Focus: Arkabutla Lake



Mississippi State University's Natural Resources Enterprises Program recently

published information on the economic impact of outdoor recreation in Mississippi. For example, the annual economic impact from hunting was \$1.2 billion; fishing - \$690 million; and wildlife watching - \$791 million for a total economic impact of \$2.7 billion. This economic activity included both private and public lands and supported over 71,000 jobs.

Desoto County is fortunate to have Arkabutla Lake and the Coldwater River system that not only provides recreational opportunities, but generates an economic impact to the local community.



The money spent by visitors to Corps lakes on trip expenses adds to the local and national economies by supporting jobs and generating income. Visitor spending represents a sizable component of the economy in many communities around Corps lakes. According to the Corps natural and recreational resources at Arkabutla Lake already provide social, economic and environmental benefits for residents and visitors generating over \$ 21.4 million in annual visitor spending with 55% being captured by the local economy.

Desoto County residents are fortunate to have diverse outdoor recreational opportunities readily available with public land access with Arkabutla Lake and surrounding public lands. Whether it's hunting, fishing, boating, or just enjoying the outdoors, Arkabutla Lake pro-

vides a variety of opportunities for all outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. Activities and areas established for recreation include: trails for hiking and biking, picnic areas, picnic shelters, ADA parking spaces at the boat ramps and recreation areas, an ADA accessible fishing pier, 3 swimming beaches including one that is ADA accessible, ADA accessible playgrounds, a variety of campgrounds. Recreation on the lake provides for some of the best fishing in the Southeast and some of the best sailing east of the Mississippi River. The Arkabutla lake area has over 30,000 acres of land open for public hunting.

Desoto County Greenways is proud to be partnering with the US Army Corp of Engineers – Arkabutla Lake to promote their outdoor recreational activities –specifically with the construction and promotion of the Arkabutla Nature Center Trails system and the connection of Greenways with the Public lands around Arkabutla Lake. A few of the activities at Arkabutla include:

Hiking – Arkabutla Lake has four trails for hiking, mountain bike riding, or just enjoying the outdoors. The North Outlet Channel Recreation Area provides access to the Cold-



water River Nature Trail System. This network of trails encompasses two hiking trails (one trail is 3 miles in length and the other is 5 miles in length) and the Big Oak Nature Trail which is a self-guided interpretive trail. The area includes pristine bottomland hardwood and pine forests where an abundance of wildlife and native plant species can be found throughout.

The Arkabutla Lake Nature and Environmental Education Center trails, which opened this spring, consists of 2 miles of woodland walking trails located 10 miles west of Hernando on Highway 304 just west of Fogg Road. Look for signs and parking area on the left just past Panther Creek.



Biking – As a result of the partnership between the Corps of Engineers and the Mid-South Trails Association an off-road, 4.7 miles mountain bicycle trail has been established at Bayou Point.

Disc Golf – A partnership between the Corps of Engineers and DeSoto county Disc Golf Club has rendered an 18-hole disc golf course near Pratt Road below the dam. The Lost Indian Spring Disc Golf Course is 5,623 feet. Use of the trails system and disk golf is free.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake and local stakeholders are jointly caring for the environment for our Nation's present and future generations. Environmental stewardship incorporates both hands-on and passive management techniques in order to sustain healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, and conserve natural resources so the conditions of our lands and waters will be left in an equal to or better status than when they were first acquired.

The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. Its Natural Resource Management Mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations.

For more information on Arkabutla Lake activities visit: <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/lakes/ms/arkabutla/index.php>

Or Desoto Greenways at:
www.desotogreenways.org

2010 Leadership Desoto Class Graduates

Leadership Desoto has graduated its 19th class of community leaders for the county. Graduation from the seven-month-long program was held May 13, 2010, at Bonne Terre Inn.

Five group community service projects were presented by the program participants that included: updated work on a scholarship book for Desoto county students, a Mentoring Project at Hernando Elementary, a Cardiac Awareness Program, a Tree Planting Campaign, and a Volunteer Brochure for Palmer Home.

Certificates and trophies for completion of the program were presented to all graduates. Graduates, sponsors, board members, and guests were then served a lunch to honor the graduating class.

Leadership DeSoto

2009-2010 Leadership Desoto Graduates:

Stephen Bittick- LifeBridge Church, **Jon Bragg**-Community Bank, **Jonathan Bridges**-BancorpSouth, **Michelle Britton**- Baptist Memorial Hospital-Desoto, **Chris Brunetti**-Elite Water Systems, **Justin Burns**- Bancorp-South, **Brian Cagle**-Florence & Hutcheson, **Larry Churchill**- A&B Distributing, **Patricia Flynn**- First Security Bank, **Mike Foster**-Pickering Engineering, **Barbara Frier**-Exel,

Carrah Grandi-Renasant Bank, **Alderman Ronnie Hale**-City of Southaven, **Alderwoman Pat Hamilton**-City of Olive Branch, **Tiffany Heard**, **Len Hester**-Grinder Haizlip Construction, **Angie Hick**-Hernando Chamber of Commerce, **Craig Johnson**-Atmos Energy, **Chris Jones**-Delta Asset Management, LLC, **Andrea McDowell**-United Way of the Mid-South, **Greg Morris**-Marietta, **Brett Ray**-Fraenkel Company, **Mary Alice Ruleman**-Clifton Farms/Mid-South Dressage Academy, **Robin Simpson**-Baptist Memorial Hospital-Desoto, **Susan Stout**-Junior Auxiliary of Desoto County, **Mary Jane Thaxton**-Desoto County Board of Supervisors, **Marquita Thurman**-MS Department of Human Services, **Jay Treadway**-Northwest Community College, **Sam Wrigley**- SBEC

Leadership Desoto Class Accepting Nominations for 2011

Leadership Desoto is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 class. Individuals or businesses can nominate people to go through the seven-month program through October 1. Class participants are asked to attend a two-day opening orientation session in November, followed by a monthly 1-day session with a designated topic related to Desoto County. In addition, they are broken up into groups and must complete an outside-of-class group project before their "graduation" from the program in May of 2011.

If interested in nominating or applying for Leadership Desoto 2010-2011, please contact Leadership Desoto Coordinator Lisa Biglane, at the Desoto Economic Council Office by email at lbiglane@desotocounty.com or 429-4414. The 2010-2011 class will begin in November. Applications can be found on the Economic Council Webpage or by contacting the Council office.

Education Program Collecting Donations for Teacher Grants

The Foundation for Excellence in Education program is accepting donations to award teacher grants to deserving teachers and their students. The goal is to raise \$50,000 for this year's campaign which ends August 31.

The foundation has received about \$40,000 in donations to date for the 2010 campaign from various individuals and companies across the county. \$2,600 is the latest donation by Desoto County State Farm Insurance Agencies. The State Farm grant will provide grants for five or six classrooms.

The grant program allows teacher to submit grant proposals and the grant winners have their proposals funded up to \$500. The program is open to teachers at Desoto County

Schools, SBEC, Sacred Heart and home school teachers as well. The grants will be awarded at the September 30, Salute to Education Program at the Desoto County Schools administration building.

Money will be collected for the Foundation for Excellence in Education Program through the end of August. Please contact Deborah Morgan at the Desoto Economic Council for more information at dmorgan@desotocounty.com.

Pictured in the photo of Desoto County State Farm Agents are: Barry Bouchillon, Ryan England, Marc Montgomery, Garnett West, Sam Lauderdale, Eric Irmscher, Jim Flanagan, Neal Cannon, Stephanie Morrison, and Bill Gorman



DeSoto Council 2010 Board of Directors:

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 Greg Ryan, Keller Williams Realty
 Brian Walhood, BancorpSouth
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 Jimmy Gray, Jimmy Gray Chevrolet
 John Heard,
 David Barnett, Future Electronics
 Doug Ray, Conair
 Kim Knop, Residence Inn
 Doug Davis, First Security Bank
 Harvey Ferguson

Barry Bouchillon, State Farm Insurance
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 Chuck Roberts, Chuck Roberts Commercial Real Estate
 Matt Lipscomb, Lipscomb & Pitts
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Cynthia Ramsey-Short
 Administrative Assistant

Lisa Biglane
 Leadership DeSoto
 Quarterly Newsletter

Larry Jarrett
 DeSoto Co Greenways

2010 Upcoming Calendar of Events

Dates Subject to Change

September

- 6 Holiday - Labor Day
- 9 Tax Advisory Committee
- 16 Salute to Industry Committee Meeting
- 16 Metro Industrial Park Luncheon
- 17 Council of Governments Committee
- 28 Chamber Directors' Lunch
- 30 Salute to Education Reception
- TBD LBC Luncheon

October

- 1 Third Quarter Membership Luncheon
- 1 Third Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
- 12 Governmental Affairs Committee
- 14 Tax Advisory Committee
- 15 Infrastructure Committee
- 21 Nominating Committee
- 21 Salute to Industry Committee
- 21 Metro Industrial Park Lunch
- 26 Chamber Directors' Lunch
- 29 Council of Governments Committee

November

- 9 Governmental Affairs Committee
- 11 Tax Advisory Committee
- 18 Salute to Industry Committee Meeting
- 18 Metro Industrial Park Luncheon
- 18 Leadership Desoto- Opening Session
- 19 Leadership Desoto- Ropes Course
- 19 Executive Committee
- 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 30 Council of Governments Committee
- 30 Chamber Directors' Lunch

December

- 3 Infrastructure Committee
- 7 Education Committee
- 9 Tax Advisory Committee
- 9 Leadership Desoto- Economic Development
- 14 Governmental Affairs Committee
- 16 Salute to Industry Committee Meeting
- 16 Metro Industrial Park Luncheon
- 17 4th Quarter Board of Directors
- 17 4th Quarter Membership Luncheon
- 24 Christmas Holiday
- 27 Christmas Holiday
- 28 Chamber Directors' Lunch

Hernando Named "Healthiest Town in Mississippi"

Hernando has been named the State's healthiest town by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. Along with this honor, the city wins a \$50,000 grant. The city plans to use the money on a rubber fitness track.

The state of Mississippi is the "fattest state in the United States." So it makes the honor of being the state's healthiest town that much of a big deal.

The city of Hernando wins the award by offering its townspeople parks, outdoor events, healthy vending machines, a farmers market and even a community garden.

The city has made many allowances including adding bike lanes through town that allow walkers, bikers, and joggers accessible space to exercise.

The farmers market is open each Saturday on the Hernando Square through October and vendors from the area come to sell their home-made or home-raised goods. Products include fresh milk, eggs, butter, vegetables, fruit, bread and much more.

The city has a community center that offers dance and fitness classes. And located in front of the community center is a newly planted community garden. The garden was planted by volunteers and it is filled with

tomatoes, okra, cucumbers and other fresh veggies. The garden has been maintained by individuals and volunteer youth groups or other community volunteers. The community garden is truly "open to the community" and encourages the public to think about fresh veggies in making food preparations.

Hernando Mayor Chip Johnson is thrilled to receive the honor. He says he was surprised to win first place but says it is nice to be recognized for the work the city has been doing to promote a healthy lifestyle. He says the city is committed to its residents and will continue to find new ways to promote health.



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Newsletter is also online: www.desotocounty.com