



Kosciusko-Attala Development Corporation

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2008

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Strategic Planning Session Held

With the assistance of TVA the KADC held it's first Planning Workshop on January 14, 2008. This meeting was attended by approximately 40 Business and community leaders. The group was asked to list the major accomplishments in Attala County in the past 1-2 years. They also listed the forces that were moving us forward and what issues were holding the community back from making more progress. The most important discussion was centered on what we want to accomplish in the next 1-3 years.

These recognized top priorities, are exactly what the KADC will be focusing a great deal of attention on in the coming months. These priorities are listed in no rank order but all made the Top 10 based on the number of votes received. The priorities are as follows:

1. Continue push for a four lane highway access to the interstate;
2. Find a committed individual for the state legislative representation;
3. More offering of Holmes

Community College training and educational programs;

4. Medical community growth represented by more specialists, updated equipment and treatment availability, with updated or new facilities;
5. Development of a complete "Shovel Ready" industrial site;
6. Combined city-county efforts;
7. Locate a new major employer;
8. Plan for retention of existing industries;
9. Accountability of planning session;
10. Educate community on potential opportunities.

Our thanks goes to Holmes Community College for hosting this meeting and to all those who took the time to participate and provide valuable information. There is still time to get involved in the implementation of these objectives. There are several standing committees that will function this year to begin implementation. If you are interested in serving on a committee please contact our office.

If you would like to receive a complete summary of the

planning session call our office and we will email or send you a copy. Watch for updates on many of these topics in the local news or in future newsletters. We value your input so if you have ideas or suggestions contact one of the staff at the KADC office.

Calendar of Events

- June 10th - KADC Board Meeting
- June 27th - June Jam & Breezy Bar-B-Que Battle



2008 Leadership Attala Graduating Class

Leadership Attala Graduates 11th Class

Graduation speaker Sid Salter, in comparison with Brett Favre, challenged the class to throw interceptions. If you do not try then nothing good or big will happen. Brett Favre ended his career with the most interceptions but also had the most touchdown passes.

The 9 participants completed seven months of leadership training and community awareness. They chose three community action projects and presented their results both written and oral to three out-of-town evaluators on March 6, 2008 before receiving their plaques.

Their projects were (1) Welcome to Kosciusko Signs on Highway 12 (2) Fundraiser to purchase a bus for the Boys & Girls Club (3) Leadership Attala Web Site.

Joining an alumni base of over 100 is the class of 2008. They are: Charlene Coleman (The Citizens Bank), Justin Develin (M&F Bank), Ralph Edwards (Entergy Mississippi, Inc.), Kenneth Gentry (Milwaukee Electric Tool), Ryan Gibson (Ivey Mechanical Co.), Jackson Jordan (Jordan Furniture Co.), Kelvin McGruder (Oprah Winfrey Boys & Girls Club), Liz Peteet (City of Kosciusko), Steven Tiller

(Ivey Mechanical Co.), and Amy Whittington (Ivey Mechanical)

At the Leadership Attala Banquet, two alumni were honored by receiving the 2008 Paragon Awards. The winners of this distinct award were, Lisa Dendy (Ivey Mechanical Co.) and Wallace Simmons (City of Kosciusko).

Leadership Attala is a biennial project of the KADC. Regina Parks (Milwaukee Electric Tool) and Kevin Gibson (Ivey Mechanical Co.) served as co-chairmen.



Melanie McKnight featured artist for the 2008 Natchez Trace Festival

Natchez Trace Festival Soiree Held

The kick-off for the 39th annual Natchez Trace Festival was held Monday, February 25th at Jordan Furniture Company. The unveiling of this year's artist is always an exciting time. The featured artist this year is Melanie McKnight. Melanie is the art teacher at Kosciusko High School. The theme for the 2008 NTF is "Trace Your Past for Future Memories". Melanie has

taken one of the oldest landmarks in Attala County and done just that. She created a depiction of the Courthouse with the original structure and the existing one. Jenny Cook, chairperson for the this year's festival, was excited about all of the artwork this year. "This is one of the most talented years yet for art" stated Ms. Cook.

Other artist are Jemeela Griffin (Official Shirt), Francisco Galvan and Samantha Blaine (Motorcycle Shirt), Paul White and Laikyn Pee (Gasoline Alley Shirt), Cole Windham (Run Shirt) and Jolande Jornsgard (Postal Cancellation).

Bunny Trails

By: Kimberly Mallet

The Kosciusko Annual Bunny Trails was held Saturday, March 22, 2008, and lasted from 8:30 am until 2:00 that afternoon. The beginning of the day actually consisted of the Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Breezy 101, which started at 9:30 am and ended when all of the eggs the Easter Bunny

had hidden had been found. All of the children from zero through twelve truly enjoyed themselves; especially the part of them having the honor of meeting the Easter Bunny who made his grand entrance on the Big Red Fire truck. Every child that attended also had the opportunity to take a picture with the Bunny and received a coloring sheet with crayons, which were given by the Bunny's helpers who are

members of the Kosciusko Mayor's Youth Council as well as Volunteers that attend Kosciusko High School. I can honestly say that this day was a great day to help plan along with the other Council Members and am truly glad that I could be a part of the Bunny Trail and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Washington Trip a Success

In late January Attala County and the City of Kosciusko joined together to visit the Mississippi Congressional Offices in Washington D.C. This trip culminated with reception hosted at the United States Capitol for our Mississippi delegation and their key administrative staff. The reception was jointly hosted by leaders from Choctaw, Winston and Attala County. Attala County and the KADC would like to thank Paul Powers and Entergy for helping us with the cost of the reception.

Those going to Washington D.C. from the City of Kosciusko and Attala County included Charles Fancher, President Attala County Supervisors, Kary Ellington, Supervisor Attala County, and Tim Pinkard Supervisor Attala County. Those going from the City of Kosciusko where Mayor Jimmy Cockroft and Alderman Henry Daniels, in addition Paul Powers represented Entergy and Steve Zea represented KADC. This group visited with each of Mississippi's congressional offices to discuss project important to Kosciusko and Attala County.

Included in the discussion was a request for a direct federal appropriation to four lane Highway 35 from Kosciusko towards Highway 25 at Carthage. The group also presented a request for funding for a proposed emergency operation center for Attala County and requested assistance funding technology training and education center. These proposed projects were all well received. The KADC is sending additional requested information to specific congressional staff.

This is the first time that a group from Kosciusko-Attala County has taken our specific funding request to Washington D.C. Having face to face time with key congressional staff and members of the Mississippi delegation was extremely important. The group attended scheduled meetings with Representative Bennie Thompson, Senator Thad Cochran and Senator Roger Wicker. The visit also included meetings with key staff in Representative Gene Taylor's and Representative Chip Pickering's office.

It was the consensus of the group that this first visit was successful but

was just the first step. The contacts and relationships must be built upon and maintained. Washington D.C. cannot visit Attala County so we must take our requests and needs to our nation's capitol.

This was our first trip, but all agreed we will learn and build on this experience and thus make future trips equally or more successful. We must keep our needs in Kosciusko and Attala County well known and in front of our leaders and decision makers in Washington D.C. The ultimate goal is to make our community a better place.



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Kosciusko-Attala Development Corporation

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We're on the Web!
www.kadcorp.org

Ribbon Cuttings



March 26, 2008
C & C Cleaners



November 30, 2007
Thomas Vision



December 4, 2007
Total F/X



February 27, 2008
Anderson-Williams



November 28, 2007
Wing Street

The Kosciusko Attala Development Corporation was founded in October 2007. The purpose of the KADC is to aid, assist and promote the development and expansion of the business, employment, and cultural opportunities in Attala County, Mississippi, by such means as the Board of Directors may deem best, including but not limited to providing assistance to the economic development of Attala County, Mississippi.

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KADC Board of Directors

Hollis Cheek— Chair

Andrew Frank— Vice Chair

Johnnie Tolleson— Secretary

Mark Jordan

Hugh Potts Jr.

Paul Powers

Larry Terrell

Kirk Dickerson

Mayor Jimmy Cockroft

Charles Fancher, Board of Supervisors President

Stephen Cheek

Rob Pickle



November 2, 2007
Frenchie's



October 24, 2007
Peeble's



November 1, 2007
Rib Alley



October 19, 2007
Galira's