

STONE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

“Unique is Normal Here” Highlights 2008-2009

Business Development Division

- Initiated regular SBA meetings at SCEDP office
Made SBA available for business consultations and programs
- Sponsored series of Small Business workshops
- Conducted 17 ribbon cuttings
- Developed cooperative marketing and promotional strategies for member businesses
Produced Unique Antiques brochure
- Assisted businesses affected by Pine Hill renovation
- Took seven member businesses to Mississippi Wholesale Market in Jackson
- Completed all phases of Get Snap Happy Photo Contest
Distributed related news releases
Acquired new stock photos for SCEDP materials
- Created new ad and published it in South MS Living and Newcomers and Visitors Guide
- Published seven articles featuring Stone County in the Newcomers' and Visitors' Guide
- Met with writer for Mississippi Magazine on Wiggins article, resulting in article in the January-February 2009 issue
- Hosted Mississippi Tourism Week May 9-17
All Told-You-So Tour stops participated
Hosted hospitality at Dizzy Dean Rest area.
- Conducted Stone County Hospitality Week
Greeted Cruisin' visitors at the Dizzy Dean Rest Area
- Conducted hospitality service at the Dizzy Dean Rest Area to promote murals and guest actor, “Cooter,” as Dizzy Dean
- Held Mississippi Tourism Association Luncheon sponsorship to discuss creating cooperative arrangement with Flint Creek and Hampton Inn for Told-You-So Tour groups. Special guest was Sen. Tommy Dickerson
- Worked with Chamber to administer and promote the Merchants Trick-or-Treat, Halloween Costume Contest, Movies in the Park, Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa, Pine Hill Festival 2009, Mardi Gras Parade. Supported MLK Parade
- Pine Hill Festival estimated crowd attendance 6500. First time to locate billboards on the south and north ends of Highway 49 to promote Festival.
- Conducted Told-You-So Tour meeting with tour businesses
Held 4 Told-You-So Tours
- Posted new tourism flyer around Stone County
- Sponsored Explosion of Excellence -- student and teacher recognition awards
- Met with Dr. Brent Hales, USM Economic Development Department, and Stone County School officials to discuss initiating entrepreneurial classes at Stone High School

Industrial

- Welcomed new, “green” industry, Piney Woods Pellets Assisted with their Grand Opening
- Welcomed Gulf Coast Filters to Ten Mile Industrial Park
- Welcomed Derksen Portable Buildings to Wiggins
- Became joint recipient with Harrison County Development Commission of a \$400,000 grant to fund growth study
- Developed and implemented customer service employee training program
- Developed and produced industrial brochure with customizable CD
- Continued to hold quarterly industrial leaders' breakfast
- Installed new sign at Ten Mile Industrial Park
- Completed landscaping improvements at Ten Mile Industrial Park
- Followed through on 7 project inquiries
- Completed annual visits with all Stone County industries

Social Infrastructure

- Initiated discussion about a wellness program for Stone County
- Supported Watchdogs Neighborhood Crime Watch program to prevent drug-related crimes.
- Initiated Stone County flag design contest.
- Wrote grant recommendation for further improvements for walking track at McHenry Library
- Sponsored second annual National Night Out Against Crime
- Assisted and supported local entries to national photo contest: Preserve America: This is Our Place.

Physical Infrastructure

- Began development of long-term recycling solutions. Applied for \$25,000 grant to recycle aluminum and paper county wide.
- Held multiple discussions with MDOT about road improvements in Stone County
- Supported Stone County Utility Authority in efforts to bring \$38 million of water and wastewater backbone infrastructure to Stone County

Legislative

- Met with Senator Roger Wicker and Congressman Gene Taylor at SCEDP office
- Met with elected officials in Jackson

Administration

- Improved design of SCEDP Web site and added Pay Pal feature
- Initiated weekly members' promotional e-mail blast
- Created an end-of-the-year report, distributed at Annual Dinner and Meeting
- Relocated SCEDP to Old Depot
- Continued distribution of tourism materials at Flint Creek, Courthouse, City Hall and Dizzy Dean Rest Area
- Assisted Mississippi Development Authority with asset mapping in Diamondhead
Plan to have asset mapping conducted for Stone County
- Created a Face Book group page for SCEDP.
- Began study to determine using You Tube and networking web sites as promotional tools for SCEDP.
- Conducted retreat/summit of City, County, SCEDP boards