



CALHOUN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

CEDA Gets New Home On Web, Pittsboro

CEDA is putting its best face forward as the county web site is completed and can be visited at www.calhouneda.com. This site is a recruitment tool to let industries learn about Calhoun county and is a comprehensive and inclusive site for all aspects and communities in our county. Members are encouraged to submit photos or suggestions to make the site even better. On the home front, the CEDA office in Pittsboro, formerly M&F Bank, is open for business with an open house planned in the near future.

The board secured a potential southeast industrial site, completing an option to purchase 90 acres off Hwy 8 between Derma and Vardaman. Three Rivers approved a \$20,000 grant to support industrial site reviews.

Renovation work will start later this year toward a new county Career and Vocational Center, to be located in Kellwood building on Madison in Calhoun City. After great collaboration by CEDA, Calhoun City, Three Rivers and the MDA, a \$150,000 grant was approved for renovation work on the Kellwood building to accommodate Athletix, Inc.'s move and expansion; however, due to slumping sales and the poor economy, Athletix has postponed their expansion for at least two years

Other highlights include, Supervisors renew director's contract for another year. Membership increases from 12 to 71, with a new goal of 140 set by CEDA Board.

From The Director's Desk : Terry Fales

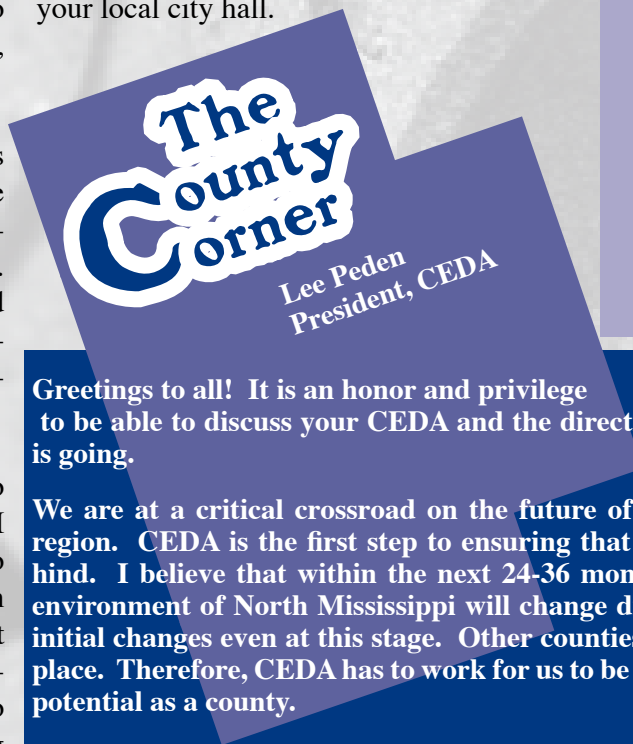
It's hard to believe that CEDA is almost a year old. Time flies when you're having fun. Again, a big thank you to all who have supported this effort—the county Board of Supervisors, the CEDA Board, and all of our members. And a special thank you to the city majors who, with the help of others, made this happen.

While we have accomplished a lot, there is still so much more to do. We still need more members to broaden and solidify our support and enhance our chances of success. And while many people have already heard me say this, I'll say it again—we must remain patient, as success will take time, particularly as we face a "down" economy.

As some of you know, I was reluctant to take this "part time" job. But I am glad I did, as it has afforded me the opportunity to meet many of the great people of Calhoun County. Any success that we have will not depend on just me—it will take all of us getting fully behind this effort. In addition to our patience, we will need to make a long term investment of our time and resources, and we must be willing to change. As I see it, the biggest change will be everyone thinking and doing what's best for the County. If we are to help Calhoun County grow, we must put aside any differences we may have and

stop thinking of ourselves as just individual cities. We are the County—all of us!!

If you haven't joined CEDA yet, please do. Brochures for joining can be picked up at your local city hall.



Greetings to all! It is an honor and privilege to be able to discuss your CEDA and the direction in which I hope our county is going.

We are at a critical crossroad on the future of economic development in our region. CEDA is the first step to ensuring that Calhoun county is not left behind. I believe that within the next 24-36 months the economic development environment of North Mississippi will change drastically. We are seeing those initial changes even at this stage. Other counties already have organizations in place. Therefore, CEDA has to work for us to be competitive and realize our full potential as a county.

CEDA has to not only be on the front lines fighting for new industry and businesses, but it must be the strongest advocate for our existing industries and businesses. As a county, we must be able to put aside any differences and make the success of CEDA a truly united effort. I believe that we have the right person, Terry Fales, leading this organization. Terry is excited and working hard to see CEDA and Calhoun county succeed. Let's spread the word about CEDA and continue our membership growth.

If you ever have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Terry to discuss these items. Thank you for your interest in CEDA and the success of Calhoun county!

Goals & Related Progress

- Web site completed.
- CEDA office opened.
- One potential industrial site in the southeast is now under option; another one in the north is still needed, pending improvement in our nation's economy.
- Initial membership goal was achieved; new goal of 140 recently set by the Board.
- Effort to initiate action to improve property appearance is in progress.

Financial Report

Revenue From County/Cities	\$14,650
Revenue From Members	\$11,300
Other Revenue	\$ 1,256
Expenses	(\$4,705)
Total Net Revenues	\$22,501

CEDA CHALLENGE: Every member bring in at least one new member by July 31st.

Visit our home on the web: www.calhouneda.com