



CALHOUN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

CEDA Asks Boards To Do More To Improve Property Appearance; CEDA To Host Leadership Seminar

CEDA Director, Terry Fales, recently delivered a message from the CEDA Board to County and City Boards regarding the need to improve property appearance in the county. Some actions in this area had already been started and there was general support for improvement. Every resident and business must get behind and support future efforts in this area, as it will help our chances of success in economic development.

CEDA plans to host a one-day seminar on Leadership in November 2008, at no cost to attendees. CEDA Director, Terry Fales, will be the instructor and will provide a condensed version of the training that he does for Shell Oil Company leaders and managers. The class is designed for business leaders, as well as future business leaders, and includes the sharing of experiences in the following areas: building relationships, influencing people that work for and with you, and performance management. To sign up, call Terry Fales, Lee Peden or Anna Zemek. Details regarding time and place will be provided later. Sign-up early, as there will only be a maximum of 15 slots.

CEDA members enjoyed refreshments and fellowship at the July 8th Open House. Over 60 members and county residents visited at the new office in Pittsboro. The CEDA Board wants to double membership and invites any business or resident to join. Boarder support from our businesses and communities will aid future success.

Environmental, geotechnical and cultural reviews were completed for our SE industrial site, located on Highway 8 between Derma and Vardaman. Three Rivers and MDA provided grant dollars that contributed over half the cost of about \$18,000. Plans are to continue looking for a site in the north near or in Bruce.

CEDA and the City Of Bruce are working with Weyerhaeuser to find new ownership for the Mississippi & Skuna Valley Railroad in order to keep rail active in our county.

Keeping the 21-mile line will be an important asset in our efforts to attract new business.

From The Director's Desk : Terry Fales

During my discussions with the County and City Boards about the need to improve property appearance, it was good to hear agreement and support, and see that some actions had already been taken in this area. If we are to be successful in getting new business in our county, we must eliminate any "ugly sights" in our communities and along our highways. All the experts I have talked to say the same thing: you can make the right investments in economic development and have good sites to sell, but if you have just a few "ugly sights" in your communities, it will likely eliminate any chance of success. All CEDA members and county residents must get behind this--we must get this done!

On another subject, the CEDA Board is trying to double our membership; but it seems we

have hit a "wall", as we are falling way short of our goal. This concerns me, as I believe we must have broad and continued support to be successful. I encourage all businesses to join CEDA and get behind efforts to improve our economy. It will be the best "small" investment you will ever make, as you will get your business listed in our new county web site and have a chance to influence CEDA's direction and agenda. Moreover, your support will contribute to our chances of success, which will help your business. So join CEDA today!!



Sheila M. Freely, Area Director VI
USDA, Rural Development

WOW! What a great time to be involved in Calhoun County's economic development. It is evident that we have joined together as "one unit" and plan to move forward as a team. I commend the elected officials of the county and towns and interested citizens for your hard work to secure the Economic Development Association's office building and hire the staff; it projects professionalism and dedication to our economic development efforts. I, along with a large crowd, attended the recent open house, visited with the staff, and toured the CEDA building. Utilizing this asset, along with Director Terry Fales as quarterback, I anticipate winning seasons for years to come.

Traveling throughout Northeast Mississippi, I have the pleasure of meeting and working with numerous economic development groups. Each group has experienced successes and failures, but continued toward their goals. I encourage everyone to support CEDA and its goal to help Calhoun County grow and secure more jobs through economic development. Every area will not secure a Toyota Site, but we can utilize our current wealth of human and natural resources to move Calhoun County forward.

We must all remember you eat an elephant "one bite at a time", and just pass the salt when necessary. We should continue our joint efforts of hard work, patience and team approach toward our CEDA endeavor.

My best wishes to CEDA and Director Terry Fales. If USDA, Rural Development can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

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