

itawamba Trends

OCTOBER 2015

THE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE ITAWAMBA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Itawamba County Area Job Fair is November 5

The Itawamba County Area Job Fair is November 5th at the ICC Intramural Gym from 9AM-1PM. We expect around 30 businesses to exhibit at the job fair. This will be a wonderful opportunity for those that need a job. We will have companies from Itawamba County and surrounding counties all under one roof. We ask job candidates to pre-register at www.jobfairs.ms.gov. It is not required to pre-register, but it will give the job candidate an advantage. If you pre-register you will be allowed to enter thirty minutes before the job fair opens to interview with potential employers! If you have any questions, you may call our office at 862-4571. Please help us ensure our first MS Governor's Job Fair in Itawamba County is a success!

The Governor's Job Fair Network is a unique, proactive, employment assistance resource for the unemployed, employers and communities of Mississippi. The Job Fair creates an environment that facilitates the hiring process with an ultimate objective being job placement. Our goals are accomplished through community based job fairs offered throughout the state. The job fairs, coordinated by the Governor's Job Fair Network are presented in conjunction with local community efforts to provide people looking for jobs the opportunity to apply for jobs with a number of different employers in a centralized, user-friendly setting. For business and industry, the job fairs provide their human resource representatives the opportunity to interview a variety of potential employees. Many job seekers receive job offers on the day of the job fair, while others are required to complete additional screening for current and future position vacancies.



Preparing for the Job Fair are Adam Todd (Mississippi Governor's Job Fair), Vaunita Martin (ICDC Business Development Manager), Brian Quinn (ICDC Board Member), Tyler Camp (Itawamba Community College).



*Led by Dr. Roberto Gallardo-MSU
Extension Service*

ICDC Fiber Optic Network Meeting Held

Itawamba County's first meeting to learn how to obtain great access to broadband services was held at the ICDC Board Room. The Itawamba County Board of Supervisors, Fulton Telephone Company, Itawamba School District, Itawamba Community College, Itawamba County MSU Extension Office, Mayors, and several businesses attended the meeting. Dr. Gallardo presented a slideshow representing Itawamba County's existing fiber infrastructure, showed comparisons to other counties fiber network, and reviewed the current needs with strategies of how to possibly obtain the necessary funding. This meeting was the first with many more to come. Everyone understands the need and will work together to ensure Itawamba County moves forward in order to land economic development projects, support

existing businesses in the county, and move towards greater access to fiber for households.

We commend the work that Fulton Telephone Company has done in regards to the fiber network we currently have and look forward to our continued partnership to help secure funding for future projects.



*Part of the group in attendance at the
ICDC Meeting Room*



Tour Group from Grenada Visits Itawamba County

Fulton hosted a wonderful group of Senior Citizens a few weeks back from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada, Mississippi. The group tours a new city every month as a part of their fellowship group. They toured the Gaither House, downtown Fulton, Small Chef for lunch, The Midway Marina, and the Jamie Whitten Historical Center.

This group was a pure delight to be with and raved about the wonderful time they had with us. We want to thank Marilyn Leary for

hosting this group and giving a historical perspective on Itawamba County and the City of Fulton! We will be reaching out to more churches and creating brochures with the help of Molly Loden-Fulton Chamber of Commerce in the near future to encourage them to visit Itawamba County. If you know of a church group that is interested in this adventure, please contact our office at 862-4571.

ICDC Annual Membership Meeting Held

ICDC held the Annual Meeting on October 22nd at 11:30AM. C&P Automotive Supply, Inc was awarded the 2015 Small Business of the Year Award and Kline Mechanical Systems was awarded Large Business of the Year Award. We appreciate their business and dedication to stay and grow in Itawamba County! ICDC was delighted to also present the most important award granted by ICDC - the Lifetime Achievement Award-to Jack Creely! With over forty years of dedicated service Jack Creely has exhibited the attributes of a true leader, supporter of growth for Itawamba County, and selfless service to his friends and neighbors. We want to say a special thank you to Mayor Lynette Weatherford, Larry Pate, and Tom Childs for helping to present this award. Thank you to the ICDC Members for your kind and generous support. We value your contribution and look forward to the next year of service to Itawamba County.



ICDC Goals for Fiscal Year 2016

Support and Grow Existing Industry – Work with all relevant parties to support, communicate and assist existing industry and business as they seek to maintain and grow their business so as to retain and increase job opportunities in Itawamba County

Recruit and Support Small Business Start-ups in Itawamba County – Work with Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses to help in starting, building and/or growing their business while helping to provide planning and marketing support

- Develop a start-up guide including local requirements & regulations

- Marketing and Advertising Support Package incorporating Web & Social Media Initiatives

Provide Coordination and Marketing Support for County Tourism Attractions and Events

Re-Establish Itawamba County Leadership Program and Committee System – Work with Fulton Chamber to re-establish a viable Itawamba County Leadership Program. Engage volunteers in this effort to provide mentorship, support activities and programs to help develop and support the next generation of leaders

Enhance Itawamba County and ICDC's Web, Social Media, and Electronic Communication Tools



One stop website for Itawamba County coordinated by ICDC, relevant site links, advertising opportunities

Market Industrial Sites – Work with Three Rivers & Itawamba County Board of Supervisors to help prepare and market Taylor/McFerrin Industrial Park and Port Itawamba Industrial Park helping to recruit jobs and capital investment in Itawamba County

Increase Efficiency and Transparency – Transition to one time annual billing, shared expenses with Fulton Chamber, joint promotional opportunities, event sponsors and personnel support, public access to ICDC records including financials

Martin Speaks to Pleasant Grove RCDC



Vaunita Martin presented to the Pleasant Grove RCDC the ICDC goals for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Martin is available to speak to clubs, groups, and any organization. Call the ICDC office at 862-4571 to schedule her to speak.

Itawamba Industries Appreciation Luncheon

A luncheon was held to show appreciation to businesses that hire disabled workers through Itawamba Industries and to show their appreciation to the disabled workers hard work throughout the past year. If you are in need of workers, we ask you to consider hiring through Itawamba Industries. They have workers that are willing to work, have a wonderful attitude, and appreciate any job given to them. Give Chris Dulaney a call today to set-up a meeting to discuss the opportunities today at 862-3392.



Reception for Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann

The City of Fulton was pleased to host Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann last Friday at Fulton City Hall. Check out his newest website to support businesses in MS at the following url: <https://yallbusiness.sos.ms.gov/> . We thank Secretary Hosemann for his support of Itawamba County and our businesses!

