

# MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

---

---

---

# FRIDAY FACTS

Volume 6, Number 3

January

---

## WIN JOB CENTER MOVES DUE TO GROWTH

The Canton WIN Job Center has moved to a new location. It is now at 3142 South Liberty Street in Canton. The phone number remains the same.

Silver Johnston, manager of the Canton facility, said due to added services at the center and the influx of new businesses the area, especially the \$930-million Nissan assembly plant under construction south of the city, more space was needed.

Under the Workforce Investment Act, former Employment Service offices, now known as Workforce Investment Network (WIN) Job Centers, have been renovated and enhanced. As a WIN partner, the Job Corps Placement Services also provides services at the new location. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will soon be providing services in the Canton WIN Job Center, as well.

For more information, contact the Canton WIN Job Center at 601-859-9022 or visit the website at [www.wininmississippi.org](http://www.wininmississippi.org).

## COMMUNITY SERVICES HOST WINTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

Community Services, a division of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) conducted a winter symposium, January 16 at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson.

According to Sam Mozee, director, Community Services, "The purpose for this event was two-fold. Our objectives were to assist local officials in understanding the various components to successful economic development and share with our local officials the various funding sources available for community/economic development such as CDBG, HOME, Rural Development, HUD, State Foundations, Colleges

and Universities."

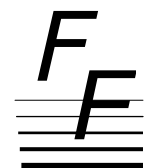
"Mississippi has been a leader and an innovator in its economic development efforts, particularly with the Advantage Mississippi Initiative passed last year. We must continue to work to attract business and industry. This event proved to be extremely beneficial to our progress," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

The program consisted of opening remarks by Governor Musgrove followed by a presentation by the executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr. on his economic development philosophy. A panel discussion of the building blocks of economic development followed. A round table discussion focused on public/non-profit funding opportunities. The event concluded with a wrap-up and summarization.

For more information about MDA's programs and services, contact the Community Services Division at 601-359-3179.

*"In the face of a national recession, we have had unprecedented success in creating high-quality, good-paying jobs for the people of Mississippi."*

*-- Governor Ronnie*



## **MISSISSIPPI TOURISM ASSOCIATION HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON**

On Tuesday, January 29, 2002, Mississippi Tourism Association (MTA) will host its annual legislative luncheon at the Mississippi Trade Mart Center in Jackson. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. and speakers will address issues pertaining to tourism and its strong impact on Mississippi's economy.

"The purpose of this presentation is to impress upon our state leaders the value of tourism," says Webster Franklin, President of MTA. "The Mississippi tourism industry employs 93,000 people and creates a payroll of 1.7 billion dollars. Also, our tourism industry generates \$488 million dollars for the state's general fund. One out of every seven dollars in the fund came from the tourism industry."

Featured speakers include: Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority (MDA); Webster Franklin, President of MTA and Executive Director of Tunica County Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Beau Whittington, Chair of MTA Legislative Committee. Entertainment for the luncheon will be a showcase of the music and musicians of Mississippi.

Tickets are \$25 each or \$250 per table. For reservations or additional information, contact MTA at 662-751-4626.

## **ALLIANCE HOLDING REGIONAL RETAILING MEETING**

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), in conjunction with the Economic Development Association of Alabama, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), is presenting the Gulf South Alliance Program on Feb. 26, 2002, at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama.

The program will bring together shopping center professionals and local government officials to explore how the public and private sector can work together to implement successful and responsible retail developments.

The program's agenda includes:

- "Secrets of Retail Site Selection" - Leaders share their "secrets" of site selection

research, steps in the evaluation process and working with third parties.

- Keynote address by William A. Shiel - Shiel, CLS, senior vice president-facilities development for Walgreens, will provide insight into the history and expansion plans of the drug store chain.
- "Who is in the House? Your Community's Changing Demography and What it Means to America's Retailers!" - This session will focus on how shifting buying habits affect retailers.
- "The Real Estate Investment Model" - Panelists will evaluate the financial model utilized by retail developers to determine return on a real estate investment.

The Gulf South Alliance Program will conclude with a networking event, "Meet the Cities Trade Fair, Networking, and Deal Making Forum." Beginning at 5:30 p.m., officials from communities, counties and parishes in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama will discuss business development opportunities in their respective states.

Advance registration is \$160 (\$95 for non-profit community groups and local government officials). Advance registration must be received by Feb. 12, 2002. Registration at the door will be \$190 (\$95 for community groups and local government officials).

For more information, contact Pat Werne with MDA at 601-359-3064 or the International Council of Shopping Centers at 646-728-3800 or on the World Wide Web at [www.icsc.org](http://www.icsc.org).

## **BUSINESS/PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 6-7**

The Mississippi Business/Procurement Opportunities Conference/Trade Fair will be held March 6 - 7, 2002 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi.

The conference/fair is designed to promote partnerships between private business -- particularly small, small-disadvantaged and women-owned -- and government purchasing offices at all levels -- federal, state and local. Conference participants will get up-to-date information on the latest federal acquisition reform initiatives, as well as a chance to market to and network with government purchasing

representatives and industry leaders from across the nation.

Several federal and state agencies have been invited to participate in the event, including: U.S. Small Business Administration, branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. Postal Service, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Department of Transportation and many other entities.

Register on-line at [www.msccpc.com](http://www.msccpc.com) or by contacting MCPC at [mprogoff@msccpc.com](mailto:mprogoff@msccpc.com) or (228) 396-1288.

## **METRO MECHANICAL CELEBRATES BANNER YEAR**

Building contractor Metro Mechanical Inc. enjoyed yet another year of growth in 2001. In its first monthly newsletter of 2002, the company listed the following accomplishments:

- Two million square feet of new retail development completed
- Completed projects in eight states
- Over one million pounds of ductwork installed
- Expanded the company's facilities for the fifth time in six years
- A 70% increase in specialty projects through Metro Mechanical's fabrication shop
- An increase of 50% in design/build projects
- Presented the *Mississippi Business Journal's* Fast 40 Award as one of Mississippi's fastest growing companies for the second consecutive year

Metro Mechanical began as a small contracting firm based in South-central Mississippi before moving to Bolton. Employing 78 workers, current projects include the Holy Savior Catholic Church in Clinton, Target stores in Louisiana and Arkansas and the Dogwood Festival retail complex in Flowood.

The Mississippi Development Authority's *Friday Facts* is distributed to MDA staff, economic and community development professionals, legislators and other interested parties. Inquiries regarding this publication or information should be submitted to Stephen Martin, Communications Office, telephone 601.359.3555, fax 601.359.3596, email [smartin@mississippi.org](mailto:smartin@mississippi.org). Visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).