



2009 *Year In Review*

Industry Development Projects

- Federal grant monies applied for and awarded for existing industry projects and expansions = \$ 1.54 million
- Federal grant monies applied for and awarded for new industry projects = \$ 1.53 million
- Projects involved eight companies with public and private investments totaling \$ 5.57 million
- Total jobs created by all new projects, expansions, rehires, and grants = 417
- Total public and private investments on the twelve projects totaled \$29.3 million



Work Project Highlights

- + With the assistance of a Mississippi Development Authority grant, a new Chamber webpage was completed that is second to none in promoting our county worldwide to industrial prospects, site consultants, and visitors.
- + With the assistance of a TVA grant, commercial signs were placed on five of the counties top industrial sites.
- + Tiger Grant Opportunity— A grant under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was applied for as part of a group effort with the other ports along the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway. \$4.5 million for the Aberdeen Port for a rail spur to the port and \$4.5 million for a barge fleet space expansion for the Amory Port were applied for. Will learn of grant status by Feb. 20.
- + With the assistance of our Chamber Ambassadors and Board members, 55 new Chamber members were obtained in 2009. Total membership now stands at 308 businesses and individuals.
- + 27 individuals completed the Monroe Leadership Institute leadership training program.
- + The very first promotional visitor guides for Amory and Aberdeen and Monroe County Magazine were published.

While our area and our country continue under the influence of very challenging economic times, your Monroe County Chamber of Commerce just wanted to highlight many positives that occurred in 2009. We are committed to maintaining our existing job base while recruiting new businesses and industries to our communities. Thank you to our Board of Directors, our local elected officials, our state officials, and our economic development partners at Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Mississippi Development Authority, North Mississippi Industrial Development Association, Tennessee Valley Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, and Itawamba Community College for their assistance and support of all of our 2009 projects.





Economic Development Activities

- One Stop Shop for Business Location or Expansion
- Focused on Existing and New Business
- Maintain Accurate Database of all Industrial Properties
- Maintain a Very Visible and Highly Informational Website: www.gomonroe.org
- Maintain Strong Partnerships with key organizations including: TVA, NMIDA, MDA, Three Rivers PDD, TTWDA, ARC, Create Foundation, & ICC
- Maintain Strong Partnerships with all elected officials
- Aggressively recruit and market our county to all interested and viable industry projects
- Be the Primary Contact on all ED projects involving govt funding and/or publically owned real estate
- Work with local govt leaders and assist with recommendations concerning infrastructure and industrial property
- Be the Liaison for all parties involved in ED, govt officials, ED partners, and industry representatives
- Seek grant and funding opportunities for all viable ED projects

Community Development Activities

- Community Development Activities
- Maintain Office Locations in Amory and Aberdeen
- Annual Banquet & Awards: Volunteer, Community Focus, Business, Industry
- Membership Retention: Phone calls and in person visits
- Industry First Events: Luncheons, seminars, and legislative updates
- Supporting Role: Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau, Aberdeen Main St., Amory Main St., and Keep Monroe County Beautiful, City of Nettleton
- Coordination of Special Events: Ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking, and receptions
- Liaison between Business & Industry and the Education Community
- Council of Governments' meetings (all elected officials)
- Christmas Parades: Aberdeen and Amory
- Primary Liaison Between Local Business and Industry and all govt entities
- Produce and Distribute City/County Maps
- Communications: Monday Moments, Monthly Calendar of Events, Media Contact for ED projects & Chamber

To learn more about your Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and more about Monroe County go to our new website: www.gomonroe.org.