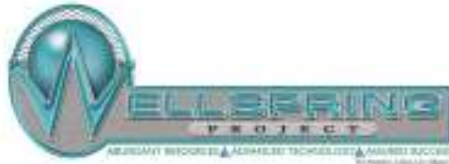


**In this issue:**

- ▶▶ Email Newsletter sign-up
- ▶▶ UCDA has new home
- ▶▶ Membership Drive Underway

# House Passes Wellspring Funding



On Thursday, January 5, the Mississippi House of Representatives voted by a margin of 77 to 40 to issue \$14.5 million in bonds to purchase the property and do limited clearing on the site for the Wellspring Project. The Wellspring Project is an effort by the PUL (Pontotoc-Union-Lee) Alliance to

locate an automobile manufacturer. The PUL Alliance has options on approximately 1,700 acres of property near Blue Springs. The PUL Alliance has committed \$4.5 million to match the state funds. The measure must now pass the Senate before going to the Governor.

# UCDA unveils two new websites



The Union County Development Association unveiled two new websites this month. One website is a revamped UCDA site: [www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com). The other is a new City of New Albany site: [www.visitnewalbany.com](http://www.visitnewalbany.com).

“We are proud of our new sites,” remarked Amanda Kent, Tourism/Community Development Specialist. “These new sites are professionally designed and developed websites that our membership and the City of New Albany can be proud of.”

The sites are much more user friendly and jam packed with local information and news.

“We knew the sites we had were no longer competitive with other community websites” said Executive Director Glenn Duckworth. “In the economic development world, communi-

*(Continued on page 2)*



**WEBSITE NEWS: We need your company information!  
Please complete the form on Page 4 today!**

You can email the information to [amanda@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:amanda@ucda-newalbany.com) or fax it to 662-538-4107

# Economic Development

## *From the Executive Director*

In recent months, UCDA has been extremely busy, with two projects in particular being extremely high profile!

One of course is the Wellspring Project that has attracted attention not just locally but statewide. An article on the front page of this newsletter reports that the Mississippi House of Representatives passed a bill to provide \$14.5 million of state funds to assist in purchasing the property and doing selective clearing.

While everyone associated with the Wellspring Project was justifiably excited about that vote, the two remaining steps before the bill becomes law are much more problematic.

However, we must remember that the proposed legislation is a means to an end and not the end itself. Regardless of the outcome of this legislation, efforts to locate an automotive manufacturer at the Wellspring site will continue.

Elected officials and economic developers from all three participating counties are putting forth every effort to make the project successful.

UCDA's second high profile project is more localized; the renovation of New Albany's former Post Office building into offices for UCDA and a Welcome Center for the community.



UCDA moved into the building the week after Christmas. It took years of planning and work to reach this point. While much work remains before the renovation is totally complete, UCDA is excited, proud, and honored to be located in this historic treasure in the heart of New Albany. An open house will be held after the remaining items are completed but we invite all UCDA members and friends to visit the office at any time.

Although these two projects are certainly the most visible, they comprise only a portion of UCDA's workload. Please read the remainder of this newsletter and check both the City's and UCDA's new websites regularly for more information.

*(Continued from page 1)*

ties are all too often eliminated as a potential location by site selectors before a call, visit, or Request for Proposal. That's because site selectors are viewing and judging our community by our website."

With that in mind, the UCDA site was designed to be easy to navigate for a site selector.

"The UCDA site has to be a "one-stop-shop" location for someone looking to locate a business in our community," remarked Duckworth. "However, we are not finished with the UCDA site. A good bit of information still needs to be added. We expect to have the bulk of the work completed within the next month"

The City of New Albany site, designed with the tourist and local resident in mind, is complete except for minor adjustments and additions. This site is full of local information, news, events, attractions, and government information.

UCDA plans to continually update, change, and add new features to both sites.

"These are excellent websites," remarked Kent. "And they will only continue to get better."

## **THANK YOU!**

Special thanks to UCDA member **Glenda Conlee of Downtown Interiors** for all of her help with the development of the new UCDA office. Glenda continues to assist UCDA in developing the professional appearance of the office space. Her business also generously donated an area rug for the Executive Director's office.

## UCDA has new home

The former Post Office building, constructed in 1936, has undergone a historic restoration, and is now home to the Union County Development Association.

“We are proud to be here,” said UCDA Executive Director Glenn Duckworth. “It’s been a long time coming, with lots of planning and trying to figure out ways to come up with the money to do the project. But we are excited about our new home.”

The lobby area of the former Post Office has been historically preserved, so upon entering the building a visitor still receives the same sense of place as being at the old Post Office. Light fixtures have also been ordered to look like the originals.

Not only does the building now serve as home to UCDA, but the lobby area serves as a Welcome Center for the city and county. Community brochures and maps will be on display and available for visitors. Also, eventually brochures and information from neighboring communities will be available.

Behind the lobby are offices for the



New UCDA office—135 East Bankhead Street

UCDA staff, a work room, break room, and conference room.

“The building should not only be a source of pride for the UCDA membership and City and County officials, but for the entire community,” said Duckworth. “We hope the entire community is proud of this historic treasure.”

The building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since November 1996 and has been a Mississippi Landmark since September 1999.

## New contact information for UCDA

Our physical address has changed and our e-mail addresses have changed! Please update your address book with this information. *We will still receive all of our mail at our Post Office Box.*

### **Union County Development Association**

P.O. Box 125

135 East Bankhead Street (NEW!)

New Albany, MS 38652

662-534-4354

662-538-4107 Fax

info@ucda-newalbany.com (NEW!)

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

**Glenn Duckworth, Executive Director**

glenn@ucda-newalbany.com (NEW!)

**Nancy Moore, Administrative Assistant**

nancy@ucda-newalbany.com (NEW!)

**Amanda Kent, Tourism/Community Development Specialist**

amanda@ucda-newalbany.com (NEW!)

# UCDA Website

## ATTENTION UCDA MEMBERS!

UCDA has a new website! On the UCDA site, we have a listing of our members and their contact information. Also, to save postage, printing, and time, we would like to be able to send our newsletters out via email to those who prefer the electronic version. To that end, we need to update our membership database with the correct information. Please take the time to complete this form and return it to the UCDA office promptly. You can email it to Amanda at [amanda@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:amanda@ucda-newalbany.com) or fax it to **538-4107**. If you are not a member, join TODAY! A membership application is also in this newsletter.

**We need ALL members (new and old) to complete this form, please!**

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- No. Please do not list this contact name on the website.
- Yes. Please list this contact name on the website.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate phone \_\_\_\_\_ (Will not be listed on website, for UCDA office only.)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- No. Please do not list this email address on the website.
- Yes. Please list this email address on the website.

Web address: \_\_\_\_\_

- No. Please do not list this web address on the website.
- Yes. Please list this web address on the UCDA website and link to my site.

### Information and Newsletter Email Registration

Yes! I would like to receive news and information, plus the UCDA newsletter electronically. Please sign up the following email addresses.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# UCDA Membership Drive Underway

The 2006 UCDA membership drive campaign is underway. Renewal statements have been sent to all 2005 members and a telephone campaign will be held in early 2006.

"We always begin the drive with renewal notices to current members in December, then we will begin contacting potential new members in January," said UCDA Executive Director Glenn Duckworth.

The membership drive is UCDA's annual fundraising effort to help support the organization. By being a member you are investing in North Mississippi, Union County, and New Albany.

"The funds raised as a result of the UCDA Membership Drive help us carry out our day to day duties, furthering and progressing the quality of life for Union County residents."

Duckworth concluded, "Without funding from membership dues, it is impossible for UCDA to operate properly."

To renew your membership, an application has been provided in this issue of *The County Post*. Fill out the application located on page seven and return it to UCDA, P.O. Box 125, New Albany, MS 38652. We also need this information to update our new website and database. (see page 4)

## Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful plans Litter Awareness Programs in Schools

It's almost spring! The time of the year when everyone does their spring cleaning. And the Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful committee is planning some clean-up efforts of its own.

On March 21 and 22, Sarah Kountouris and Kim Nelson with Keep Mississippi Beautiful will present an energetic program for all county and city elementary students that will teach students the importance of not littering and how litter negatively impacts our community.

"We are excited about the programs," said Amanda Kent, co-coordinator for the program.

"Our group feels that educating children about the importance of not littering is the

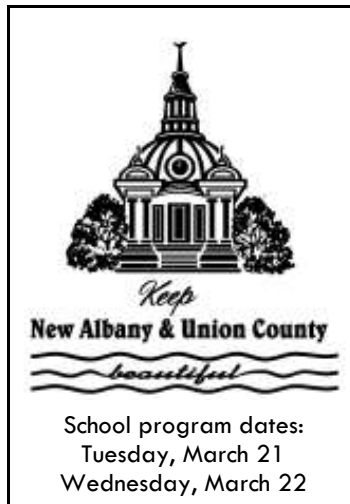
best plan we have for keeping our community clean now and into the future."

Each student who attends the program

will be asked to sign a "I promise not to Litter!" commitment form. In exchange, they will receive a "Litter Bugs Me!" bracelet.

The group is also planning the Cleanest Campus Challenge for all city and county schools in April and the Great American Clean-up in coordination with Keep America Beautiful for April 22, 2006. More information about those events will be in future newsletters. If your civic club or group would like to participate in the Great

American Clean-up, please call Amanda Kent at 534-4354 or Christy Grant at 534-3438.



UCDA News

*Editor's note: UCDA's Tourism/Community Development Specialist Amanda Kent serves as co-coordinator for the Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful program along with New Albany Main Street Director Christy Grant.*



## Community Calendar

The events listed below are not necessarily UCDA sponsored events.



2/10/2006  
**Arbor Day**  
 Celebrate and plant a Tree!

March 10, 11 at 7:30 PM  
 March 12 at 2:00 PM  
 March 8, 9 (Time TBA for Schools)  
 Ticket Information: TBA  
 Call the UCDA office at 534-4354

2/21/2006, 12:00 PM

### Lunching with Books

Union County Library

Lunch Provided

February Speaker: Joe Marshall Davis

February Book: "Ghost Ship"

534-6915 or 534-8717

3/26/2006, 1:00 PM

### Grand Opening of the Interpretive Exhibit: "The Land, The Resources and the People" A Timeline of Union County History

Union County Heritage Museum

114 Cleveland Street

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

662-538-0014

[www.ucheritagemuseum.com](http://www.ucheritagemuseum.com)

3/10/2006, 7:30 PM

### The Tallahatchie River Players present, "The Diary of Anne Frank"

Magnolia Civic Center/Cine Theatre

127 East Bankhead Street

If you have an event you would like included, please email Amanda Kent at [amanda@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:amanda@ucda-newalbany.com) or call 534-4354.

*UCDA reserves the right to exclude any events deemed not appropriate for its newsletter.*



### » Fast Facts

*Rusty Berryhill of Kevin Charles Furniture and UCDA Executive Director Glenn Duckworth stand behind one of the four pieces of furniture Rusty's company donated to the new UCDA office. UCDA appreciates Kevin Charles Furniture's generous donation to our new home.*

## Museum accepting items for new medical exhibit

### *From Jill Smith, Museum Director*

The Union County Heritage Museum is in the process of creating an exhibit telling the medical story in ***From House Calls to Hospitals***. We need your help. Early photographs of doctors, nurses, and midwives are needed for the exhibit that will open in March. Objects and articles of clothing related to the medical field that will help tell the story are also requested. Objects with a story that relates to local physicians, nurses, or midwives are especially sought. Call the Union County Heritage Museum and tell us what you have to share for this exhibit. Or better yet, come by to see us. The Museum is located at 114 Cleveland Street in New Albany. Our hours are 10 – 5, Monday through Friday and other times by appointment. Call us at 538-0014.



*Union County Development Association*

P.O. Box 125  
 New Albany, MS 38652  
 662-534-4354

## Membership Application

**Classification**

**Annual Investment**

**Industrial, Wholesale, Retail, or Service:**

Number of Employees

1-5	150.00
6-10	175.00
11-20	250.00
21-50	325.00
51-100	425.00
101 & over	425.00 + 1.25

For each employee over 100

**Professional:**

150.00 per professional

**Hotels/Motels/Bed & Breakfast/Apartment complexes:**

150.00 + 1.00/unit

**Individual**

75.00

Name of Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Web address: \_\_\_\_\_

If branch, address of home office: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Professionals: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

My Membership Payment is enclosed.       Please send me an invoice.

Please send me more information about UCDA and its efforts.

Yes, I am willing to serve on a committee for UCDA. Please send me more information.

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**Email: [info@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:info@ucda-newalbany.com)  
[www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com)**

# UCDA

*Union County Development Association*

P.O. Box 125  
135 East Bankhead Street  
New Albany, MS 38652

Phone: 662.534.4354  
Fax: 662.538.4107  
Email: [info@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:info@ucda-newalbany.com)

Bulk Rate  
Permit  
#25  
New Albany,  
MS 38652

*President, Kelton McClinton*

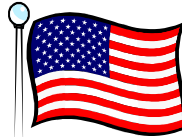
*Vice President, Mike Staten*

*Executive Director, Glenn Duckworth*

*Administrative Assistant, Nancy Moore*

*Tourism/Community Development*

*Specialist, Amanda Kent*



Welcome Home 155th! THANK YOU!!

## UCDA office wins Beautification Award



The new Union County Development Association Office (135 East Bankhead Street, Former Post Office Building) was recently awarded with the 1st Quarter City Beautification Award in the Government, Non-Profit, or Church category.

Each quarter the City of New Albany Beautification Committee awards area businesses, churches, residences, and downtown merchant planters with an award for the most clean and beautiful property.

Other winners this quarter are:

Residential—Owners Malcolm and Norma Hill, 102 Magnolia Drive

Business—Game Stop, Cellular South, and Pay Day Loans Shopping Center (Park Plaza Drive)

Downtown Planters—Blue Rose Antiques and Collectibles (110 W Main Street)

## New Albany Anchors assist in UCDA Office and Welcome Center



The New Albany Anchor Club has signed up to help in the UCDA office over the next

couple of months. The girls will be assisting office staff with light clerical duties, including assisting with the large mail-outs to members. Above Anchors Cierra Bradley, Laquisha Ray assist with mailing membership certificates.



Would you like to receive this newsletter and other community news and events via e-mail? Complete the form on page 4 and send it to the UCDA office today. You can fax it to 662-538-4107 or email it to [amanda@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:amanda@ucda-newalbany.com).