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## Rails to Trails MDOT grant submitted



The development of a 40 mile biking, walking and equestrian trail from New Albany to Houston, Mississippi called Tanglefoot Trail came one step closer to becoming a reality July 31 with the submission of a Mississippi Department of Transportation Enhancement grant application

The grant, if funded as submitted, will purchase the abandoned rail corridor from New Albany to Houston and provide 80% of the development cost of the trail.

"This trail will be a tremendous economic development and quality of life asset for not only New Albany and Union County, but the entire North Mississippi region," said UCDA Executive Director Glenn Duckworth. "Trails, similar to the one proposed here, have been very successful across the country."

All three counties and six municipalities have passed resolutions to create the GM&O Rails to Trails Recreational District of North Mississippi. The district will be the governing agency for the proposed Tanglefoot Trail. Each county and municipality that is a member of the district will have one voting member on the Trail District board.

For more information about the Tanglefoot Trail and the efforts of the Rail Corridor Alliance, visit [www.tanglefoottrail.com](http://www.tanglefoottrail.com).

## RiverFest T-Shirts on sale now

The 2006 Tallahatchie RiverFest T-shirts are now on sale. The T-shirt, with design by local artist Leslie Gray, will be discounted until the festival for a special price of \$10. At the festival all shirts will be \$12 with sizes XXL—XXXL being \$13.

To purchase a shirt, come by the UCDA office from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our office is now located at 135 East Bankhead in the old Post Office Building.

Children and adults sizes are available .



Would you like to receive this newsletter and other community news and events via e-mail?

You can register online @ [www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com) or call the UCDA office (534-4354) with your email address.

## UCDA considering business incubator

UCDA has engaged Stacey and Associates of Mobile, Alabama to conduct a feasibility study for a business incubator in Union County.

Business incubators are designed to provide space and assistance to new businesses in their critical start-up phase. Services may include some or all of the following: reduced space costs; shared office space, conference room, copier, fax machine, telephone, secretarial and receptionist staff; and management consulting services.

Additional benefits of incubators may be the networking opportunities, moral support, and advice among the incubator tenants. After a reasonable period of time, tenants are expected to "graduate" from the incubator into their own space, thus freeing up space in the incubator for additional start-up businesses.

The feasibility study will include an analysis of past, current, and projected local economic trends; a study of past and current business start-up activities; identification of potential support providers and their willingness to participate; and identification of possible facilities.

After the feasibility study is completed, recommendations will be made on the structure and organization of an incubator or in the event the study indicates a full-fledged incubator is not feasible for Union County, recommendations will be made on alternative activities to support and encourage entrepreneurial development.

Stacey and Associates is a recognized and highly respected consultant in the business incubator field. Besides his work as a consultant, company founder Lynn Stacey has extensive practical experience in the field, serving as the Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence and Business Innovation Center in Mobile.

The Union County Board of Supervisors and the City of New Albany are helping to fund the feasibility study.

## UCDA forms Tourism Committee



UCDA serves New Albany and Union County in a variety of capacities. One of the many functions UCDA has performed over the years is tourism development and promotion for our community. However, as our "Fair and Friendly" city has grown, so have the tourism attractions and the amount of promotion needed.

Therefore, UCDA is implementing its own Tourism Committee to help facilitate and plan the tourism development and promotion work of our community.

The UCDA Tourism Committee will have its first meeting in October. The first meeting will be a very informal meeting about the current state of tourism affairs in our community. The committee will gather again in January for a meeting that will be facilitated by an outside tourism/economic development professional. During this meeting, the committee will develop short and long-range tourism goals and the community's five-year agenda.

This is an exciting time in our community for tourism! We have many positive developments happening right now. UCDA looks forward to working with the committee to ensure positive and planned tourism development.

# RiverFest receives MAC mini-grant



The Tallahatchie RiverFest in New Albany has been awarded a \$334 mini-grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1 million in grants the Commission will award in 2006-2007 and will be used to support the “Gollywhoppers!” segment of the festival and a storytelling session by Rosia Wade Crisler. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Organizations across the state who receive grants from the MAC continue to prove that arts programs are vital to the cultural and economic development of their community. These grants provide funding for arts organizations to stage festivals, theatre performances and other arts-related events. MAC’s grantees also realize the effect the arts have on the education of their children and the life-engaging activities art offers retired adults. Further, arts-based activities have a proven positive impact on at-risk youth, arts-in-education children and those enrolled in after-school programs,” said Malcolm White, Executive Director of MAC.

Renasant Bank of New Albany has contributed toward the match amount to make the grant and the Gollywhoppers! segment of the festival possible. The Gollywhoppers! famous storytelling will be held Saturday, September 23 at Cooper Park in downtown New Albany. Members of the Gollywhoppers! are Kay Bain, Pud Graham, Phyllis Harper, Hilda Hill and Merlene Reedy. Rosia Wade Crisler with the MAC will make a special appearance and tell some of her stories.

The Tallahatchie RiverFest is held each year around the Union County Courthouse. Festival activities include a Friday night street party, Literary Fest, William Faulkner Writing Competition, arts and crafts, KidsFest, a 5-K Run and Fun Run and a variety of music featuring headline entertainment Little Big Town all free to the public.

The Union County Development Association staff and many dedicated volunteers organize the Tallahatchie RiverFest.

## Fast Facts ▶▶▶



▶ James Cook with the City of New Albany Street Department recently installed 20 “Litter Bugs Me” signs around town. Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful received a \$500 grant from UNITE to purchase the anti-litter signage. Thank you, UNITE and James!

▶ UCDA recently applied for a Mississippi Development Authority Division of Tourism Match Grant to assist with the City of New Albany Tourism advertising efforts the association does each year.



▶ UCDA Executive Director Glenn Duckworth and Tourism/Community Development Specialist Amanda Kent recently attended the Mississippi Economic Development Council Summer Conference in Tunica, MS.

▶ UCDA submitted several City of New Albany Tourism Grants to assist with a variety of projects, including tourism promotion.

▶ UCDA assisted the Rail Corridor Alliance and Three Rivers with the submission of the Rails to Trails MDOT grant application.



UCDA News



## Community Calendar

The events listed below are not necessarily UCDA sponsored events.



### Muffins at the Magnolia

Thursday, July 20, 2006  
(Muffins at the Magnolia will be the Third Thursday of every Month)  
Magnolia Civic Center  
127 Bankhead Street  
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

The event is come and go.

For more information:

Call 534-3438, 538-0014, or 534-4354.

Sponsored and Coordinated by:

New Albany Main Street Association  
UNITE

Union County Heritage Museum

Union County Development Association



### New Albany/Union County Farmer's Market

The New Albany/Union County Farmer's Market officially opened on June 28, 2006. The Farmer's Market will be open every Wednesday beginning at 7:00 a.m. and will officially close after November 29, 2006.

This year the Farmer's Market will be located at the Union County Fairgrounds.

Want to be a vendor at the market? Call 534-1916 for a list of rules and an application.

### Tallahatchie RiverFest

September 22 & 23, 2006

Around the Courthouse

Annual Festival featuring arts, crafts, KidsFest, Literary Events, Music, Food, Fun and much more.

Free Little Big Town concert on the Cellular South music stage Saturday.

662-534-4354

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



### "Dial M for Murder"

Presented by

The Tallahatchie River Players

Magnolia Civic Center

127 East Bankhead Street

October 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m.

October 22 at 2:30 p.m.

For ticket information: 662-534-3438

To volunteer or participate: 662-317-0561

### 21st Annual Mississippi on Wheels Charity Car Show

October 21, 2006

Historic

Downtown New

Albany

Come see over

200 classic cars

from across the

Southeast.

Entertainment, food and more

A family event to be enjoyed by all

For more information, call 662-534-7663



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.

## UCDA members offered display in Welcome Center

UCDA has occupied the former Post Office Building and now operates the official City of New Albany Welcome center in the lobby. The City of New Albany/UCDA Welcome Center functions as an extension of the warmth and hospitality of New Albany residents to visitors by providing them with information and services designed to promote travel spending in New Albany.

In addition to providing visitors with travel information, UCDA members are invited to display information in the center as well. As a benefit of UCDA membership, UCDA members may place brochures OR business cards in the center.

The material must meet the same criteria and format all other publications are required to meet. Space will be limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and it will be the responsibility of the member to maintain an adequate stock of materials in the center. No one from the UCDA office will contact the member regarding the amount of materials remaining. No additional copies may be left at the UCDA office. If the brochure space or business card space becomes empty, the next waiting member will have first option at the available space.

For a complete list of Welcome Center rules, call 534-4354 or log on to [www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com).



*Display in Welcome Center*

## Calling all Volunteers!

UCDA and the RiverFest committee need volunteers to assist with festival activities in the UCDA office prior to the event and/or during the festival on September 22 & 23. If you are interested in helping with this fantastic community event, please call Amanda at 534-4354 or email her at [amanda@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:amanda@ucda-newalbany.com).



# UCDA News



Looking for home grown vegetables, canned items, jellies and more?

Visit the New Albany/Union County Farmer's Market.

Every Wednesday

7:00 a.m. till Noon or all items sold

Union County Arena Fairgrounds

Call 534-1916 for more information.

President, Mike Staten

Executive Director, Glenn Duckworth

Administrative Assistant, Nancy  
Moore

Tourism/Community Development  
Specialist, Amanda Kent



For all the latest news and events, be sure to visit UCDA online at [www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com) and the City of New Albany online at [www.visitnewalbany.com!](http://www.visitnewalbany.com!)



## Advertising placed in *Mississippi Magazine*

UCDA recently purchased a full page ad in the September/October edition of the *Mississippi Magazine*.

The advertising is a portion of the tourism promotion UCDA does each year for New Albany. Funding for the advertisement was paid by a City of New Albany tourism grant UCDA received for Fiscal Year 2006 New Albany Tourism promotions.

The September/October edition of *Mississippi Magazine* will also feature a story on New Albany.

Be sure to pick up your copy!