

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, PhD., Executive Director. It is intended for public officials, economic developers and community leaders, although anyone with an interest may subscribe to the list at no cost. Information is provided as a guide only, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The mailing list is not sold or shared with anyone. To be removed from the list send an e-mail to Phil Hardwick at Phil.Hardwick@msstate.edu or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

June 13, 2007

Greetings:

STENNIS INSTITUTE WEBSITE - Have you visited the Stennis Institute website lately? It can be found on the web at www.sig.msstate.edu. Once there you can find information about the wide variety of projects that the Institute is involved in, staff contacts, as well as political and technical briefs. Two of the more popular items of interest are the annual Municipal Salary Survey in the Policy and Research Publications section and The View, Dr. Marty Wiseman's bi-weekly column on politics and public policy.

FARMERS MARKETS - Does your community have a farmers market? In the five years between the 2002 Farm Bill and the upcoming 2007 Farm Bill, over 1,000 new farmers markets have opened in the United States. More about the growth in public markets and what they can do for communities at

http://www.pps.org/markets/info/pm_squared/new_paradigm

Link to Mississippi Farmers Market -

http://www.mdac.state.ms.us/n_library/departments/farm_mkt/index_farmmkt.html

Link to Belhaven public market -

<http://www.greaterbelhaven.com/market.html>

BETTER PUBLIC MEETINGS - The vague and lackadaisical way that public meetings are often conducted can frustrate anyone who watches local government at work. One city decided to do something about it. Read about it at

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070529/OPINION/705290331/1030>.

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES GRANTS PROGRAM. Details at

<http://www.mississippi.org/files/press/20070606Small%20MuncAppl.pdf>.

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION SYSTEM and voter identification law in place by 2008 in Mississippi federal judge rules. Read news article at

<http://www.djournal.com/pages/story.asp?ID=245015&pub=1&div=News>.

SOUTHERN PROGRESS - According to a new Southern Growth Policies Board publication the South's education and economic achievements levels have remained below the U.S. average for more than 20 years. Southern per capita income in 2005 is no closer to the national average than it was in 1995, and little better than it was in 1975. The South has also not made any sustained gains in closing the educational achievement gap. The gap between the South's and the nation's percentage of the over 25 population with a bachelor's degree or higher was greater in 2000 (U.S. 20 percent, South 24 percent) than it was in 1980 (U.S. 14 percent, South 16 percent). Read what's being done about it at <http://www.enterprisesouth.biz/>.

MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WEBSITE has new look and a new section featuring Mississippi economic development news in one place - check it out at <http://www.medc.ms/News.html>.

HYBRID TECHNOLOGY - Mississippi State University Students Win GM, DOE Challenge X 2007 Competition. Read how MSU engineering students achieved a 48 percent increase in fuel economy at <http://www.autospectator.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=10005>.

WHERE PAYCHECKS ARE GROWING FASTEST - Birmingham enjoys the nation's best record of long-term income growth, while New Orleans is mired in last place, according to a new Bizjournals study that looks at 25 years of changes in per capita income in the 100 largest metros in the country. Read the article at http://www.bizjournals.com/edit_special/52.html.

CALENDAR -

June 25 - 28: Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference
<http://www.mmlonline.com/conferencenew>

July 18-20: Mississippi Economic Development Council Summer Conference
<http://www.medc.ms/Conferences.html>

August 7: Primary Election

August 28: Primary Election Runoff

November 6: General Election

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

A brook would lose its song if the rocks were removed.
Anonymous

Phil Hardwick
Coordinator of Capacity Development
John C. Stennis Institute of Government
Mississippi State University
509 East Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39201
email: phil.hardwick@msstate.edu