

**PANOLA  
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# Partnership Progress

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

## Mississippi Development Authority praises Panola County

The Partnership is excited about the big announcements from two of our local industries. MDA and GE Aviation have announced a unique research partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi designed to aid in technology and advanced material development at GE's jet engine component factory in Batesville. The factory produces and assembles advanced composite engine components which are unique to the aviation industry. We are pleased that GE has chosen to keep their investment right here in the State by developing partnerships with Mississippi universities to assist with the process and material development of products which will be manufactured at the Batesville facility. The partnership between GE Aviation and University of Southern Mississippi's School of Polymers and High Performance Materials focuses on developing advanced materials for the new GEnx engine, which is GE's fastest-selling, high-thrust jet engine, and it is the world's only jet engine with composite fan blades, fan platforms and fan cases. Three University of Southern Mississippi graduate students have already completed internships at GE's Global Research Center in New York as part of the university-industry partnership; 15-20 students will be a part of the one-year research program.

GE Aviation opened its 300,000 square-foot facility in October 2008, and the company has plans to expand its workforce to more than 100 employees.

In addition to GE's announcement this week, United Solutions, a leading manufacturer of plastic house wares, recently announced the expansion of operations at its Sardis facility. The expansion will allow the company to increase production of its consumer plastics products and will create at least 20 new positions. Currently, the manufacturing plant employs 75 full-time workers. To facilitate this expansion, United Solutions is investing \$1 million in new equipment. MDA provided \$344,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for public infrastructure improvements, and the Panola Partnership provided more than \$39,000 as a required match to receive the grant. United Solutions manufactures quality plastic items for use around the home and office. Under its own brand name, the company produces such items as trash cans, laundry baskets, storage bins, pails and clothes hampers. Additional lines will be added as new machines become available. To learn more about United Solutions, please visit their corporate website at [www.unitedsolutions.bz](http://www.unitedsolutions.bz).

## Sponsor Spotlight



ACI Building Systems, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of custom engineered metal buildings, roofing systems, and components for the construction industry. We focus on providing innovative building and roofing solutions to the Architectural, Commercial, and Industrial (ACI) markets. ACI operates one of the largest facilities in the industry totaling over 270,000 sq. ft. along with seven technical offices located throughout the southeast. The company distributes its products through a strong contractor base that promotes ACI building

systems and roofing solutions in their local market. ACI was established in 1990 and will celebrate its 20-year anniversary in the coming months. ACI is privately held and employs approximately 200 employees throughout the year.

If you are considering building a new facility, expanding your existing facility, or need metal roofing expertise, please contact us at 662-563-4574, or [www.acibuildingsystems.com](http://www.acibuildingsystems.com).

## Some small businesses are still thriving despite these tough economic times



Farm Bureau Insurance and Sta-Home Health and Hospice are among some small businesses in Panola County who are growing despite these tough economic times. Manager John Thomas and Farm Bureau Board of Directors formally broke ground at their new office site at 158 Cracker Barrel Drive on June 8. The staff is excited about the move and hopes they will better be able to serve our area at their new location.

If you have visited the Batesville Clinic or Court Street Catering lately, you may have noticed construction in the parking lot. Contractors were working hard to get the doors open for a beautiful new office for Sta-Home Health and Hospice. A Ribbon Cutting and Open House were held on June 23 to make this move to 109C Eureka Street official. The Sta-Home staff welcomed visitors with great food, informational materials and door prizes.

Panola Partnership is happy to welcome both of these new offices to Batesville and Panola County.

If you have an event, you need help promoting, please feel free to contact Panola Partnership at 662.563.3126 or [partnership@cableone.net](mailto:partnership@cableone.net) !

## Existing Industry Series Luncheon



Kathy Gelston, Tax and Credits Manager of the Mississippi Development Authority visited Panola County on Thursday, June 18 for our Existing Industry Quarterly Luncheon. Ms. Gelston gave our existing industry an abundance of valuable information concerning the wonderful tax credits and incentives available

to our Panola County industries. She is a wealth of knowledge and will gladly assist any of you with any paperwork or other information involving your industry. Kathy Gelston can be reached at the MDA office in Jackson at 601.359.3449.

We hope you all will join us for future Existing Industry events. If you have any

concerns regarding your industry or business, contact Sonny Simmons at 662.563.3126.



# Industry Appreciation Golf Scramble set for Sept. 17



The Panola Partnership will host our annual Industry Appreciation Golf Scramble on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at Mallard Pointe Golf Course. Each participating industry in Panola County will be invited

to select up to four participants to play. We are seeking sponsorships for this event and would like to invite you, our members, to be among those in our business community who wish to express their appreciation to our major industries for the outstanding work they do for our

workforce and our community. Sponsors will be invited to play along with our industry leaders based on your contribution level.

Tournament check-in will be held from 12-12:45 PM, with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM. The tournament will be in an A-B-C-D format, and cash and/or prizes will be awarded to the top three winning foursomes.

We are excited about this year's event and hope that all of you are as enthusiastic as we are about sharing this time with your area businesses and industries. We are changing things up this year by not serving lunch, but

rather hosting a post-tournament dinner around 6:00 p.m. for our sponsors and industry leaders. Players and their spouses are invited to join us for the dinner and for the awards ceremony.

If you are an industry interested in playing in this tournament, call us today to register your team of four or less!

Interested sponsors can contact us to inquire about the different sponsorships available.

Information is also available online at [www.panolacounty.com](http://www.panolacounty.com) !

## Sponsor Spotlight opportunities still available

Are you wondering how your business can be featured on the front page of an upcoming newsletter? Are you looking for an effective and low-cost way to promote your business?

Then take advantage of your membership and accept our invitation to sponsor an upcoming *Partnership Progress* newsletter that is published monthly in electronic

and print versions to our membership of 350 members. For only \$50.00 YOUR business can be featured as that month's "Sponsor Spotlight" printed on the front page. We will also feature you on the Newsletter page of our website, [www.panolacounty.com](http://www.panolacounty.com), for the entire month.

To see our Newsletter page online, visit our website and click

on Chamber of Commerce > Partnership Newsletters.

If you would like to sponsor an upcoming newsletter and be featured in our "Sponsor Spotlight", contact Meredith Fleming at 662.563.3126 or [meredithfleming@cableone.net](mailto:meredithfleming@cableone.net).

## City of Batesville hosts annual 4th celebration

The City of Batesville will host its annual 4th of July Celebration at the Batesville Civic Center on Saturday, July 4th. The gates open at 5:00 p.m. with activities including a Monster Truck Show, Cowboy Kiddie Carnival, pony rides, rock climbing wall, inflatables as well as food and beverage vendors.

Live music kicks off with Lighthorse Harry Band at 6:00 p.m. followed

by Electric Rodeo at 8:00 p.m. High Tech Special Effects of Memphis will present an interactive Fireworks and Music Show at 10:00 p.m. Free parking is available at the Civic Center. No coolers or pets are permitted.

The City of Batesville would like to thank their sponsors for this year's event: First Security Bank, Mississippi Distributors,

The Panolian, WBLE Country 101, Q93.7, Covenant Bank and High Tech Special Effects.

For questions or more information, contact the Batesville Civic Center at 662.563.1392 or visit them online at

[www.batesvilleciviccenter-ms.com](http://www.batesvilleciviccenter-ms.com) .



# New Members and Coming Events

## Welcome to our New Members

### **Goodwill Industries**

Keith Chapman  
449 Highway 6 East  
Batesville, MS 38606  
[keith.chapman@gimi.org](mailto:keith.chapman@gimi.org)  
[www.discovergoodwillms.com](http://www.discovergoodwillms.com)

### **Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS**

Post Office Box 885  
Batesville, MS 38606  
[jaofbatesvillems@gmail.com](mailto:jaofbatesvillems@gmail.com)

### **Sta-Home Health Agency**

Brandi Perry, RN/HCC  
109-C Eureka Street  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662.561.0785  
[www.stahome.com](http://www.stahome.com)

## Coming Events

July 2: Census Meeting for Volunteers @ Batesville Courthouse  
@ 1pm

July 3: Independence Day Holiday Partnership Office CLOSED

July 3: Boys & Girls Club Bag-a-Lunch Concert @ 12noon @  
Downtown Batesville Memorial Park

July 4: City of Batesville 4th of July Celebration @  
Batesville Civic Center

July 6-9: Healthy Kids Camp sponsored by Junior Auxiliary

July 9: Ribbon Cutting for Goodwill Industries @ 10am

July 23: Christmas in July Mixer @ Western Sizzlin' from 5-7pm

July 25-26: Panola Country Club 6-man Golf Tournament

August 1: Panola Country Club 70 & 80s Fundraiser

August 5: Healthy You 5K Walk/Run

August 18: After Hours Business Mixer @ Lakewood Place Apt.  
from 5-7pm

September 17: Panola Partnership Industry Appreciation  
Golf Scramble



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