



Tishomingo County  
Development Foundation

# FY 2022 Annual Report

## TISHOMINGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Alvia Blakney;  
Michael Busby, President,  
Tishomingo County  
Board of Supervisors;  
Darrin Caldwell;  
Ken Cooley;  
Peyton Cummings,  
Chancery Clerk,  
Tishomingo County;  
Dale Curtis;  
Eric Daniel, Past Chair;  
Neil Davis;  
Ralph Farr;  
Harold Gist;  
Robert Grisham;  
Don Hall, Chair;  
Brenda Kennedy;  
Malcolm Kuykendall;  
Second Vice Chair  
Steve McAnally;  
Jena McNatt;  
Mike Montgomery;  
Mayor David Nixon,  
Burnsville;  
Mayor Pam Oswalt, Paden;  
Jimmy Ramsey, Chairman,  
Tishomingo County  
Economic Development  
Authority;  
Mayor Joel Robertson, Iuka;  
Mayor Sherry Shook, Golden;  
Mayor James Tennyson,  
Tishomingo;  
Donald R. Thomas;  
Fred Truesdale, Vice Chair;  
Butler Whitehead;  
Sid Whitehurst; and  
Mayor Buddy Wiltshire,  
Belmont.

### Staff:

Gary Matthews,  
Executive Director; and  
Ferrin Rainey-Calvert,  
Tourism Administrator &  
Administrative Assistant.

We thank our economic development partners listed here and on the next two pages. None of the projects in this report would be possible without their help.



**FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Representative Trent Kelly  
 Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith  
 Senator Roger Wicker

**STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Representative Lester Carpenter  
 Representative Donnie Bell  
 Senator Daniel Sparks

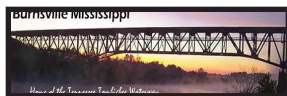
# Tishomingo County

**TISHOMINGO COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Eric Booker, District 1  
 Nicky McRae, District 2  
 Michael Busby, District 3  
 Jeff Holt, District 4  
 Greg Collier, District 5  
 Peyton Cummings, Chancery Clerk  
 Pattie Cook, Board Secretary  
 Phillip Whitehead, Board Attorney  
 Sean Bullard, Site Manager,  
 Tri-State Commerce Park

**TOWN OF BELMONT:**

Buddy Wiltshire, Mayor  
 Board of Aldermen:  
 Craig Bell  
 Ken Dulaney  
 Mike Harris  
 Sonya Harris  
 Brandon Pharr

**TOWN OF BURNSVILLE:**

David Nixon, Mayor  
 Board of Aldermen:  
 Jason Blakney  
 Niesha Carpenter  
 Robert Davis  
 Billy Don Hamm  
 Denise Timbes

**TOWN OF GOLDEN:**

Sherry Shook, Mayor  
 Board of Aldermen:  
 Sandra Collums  
 Linda Epps  
 Myra George  
 Dixie Honeycutt  
 Brian Thompson

**CITY OF IUKA:**

Joel Robertson, Mayor  
 Board of Aldermen:  
 Emily Bell  
 Kenny Carson  
 Sandra Perkins  
 Johnny Southward  
 Nancy Stripling

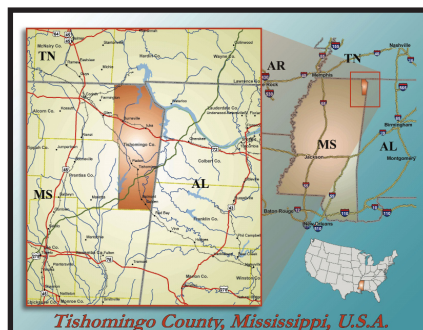
## Village of Paden

**VILLAGE OF PADEN:**

Pam Oswalt, Mayor  
 Board of Aldermen:  
 Kristy Deaton  
 Tony Falkner  
 Jean Luttrell  
 James Murphy  
 Carl Whitehead

**TOWN OF TISHOMINGO:**

James Tennyson, Mayor  
 Board of Aldermen:  
 Gary Harlan  
 Barbara Oakes  
 Hal Southward  
 John Savoy  
 Anne Taylor



Tishomingo County, Mississippi, U.S.A.

**TISHOMINGO COUNTY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

Charles Emmons, Vice Chair  
 Harold Gist  
 Malcolm Kuykendall  
 Toney Mobley  
 Charlotte Orick, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Jimmy Ramsey, Chair  
 Donald Ray Thomas  
 Butler Whitehead  
 Tommy Williams

**TISHOMINGO COUNTY  
TOURISM COUNCIL:**

Ellen Ayers, Vice Chair  
 Kayleigh Bode  
 Dustin Brandon  
 Natalie Coker  
 Theresa Cutshall  
 Deb Daniel  
 Mary Ann Grant, Chair  
 Sandra Medlin, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Lee Ann Robertson  
 Denise Timbes  
 Buddy Wiltshire  
 Shae'a Murphy  
 Ferrin Rainey-Calvert, Administrator

**TISHOMINGO COUNTY ELECTRIC  
POWER ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Gerald Barnes, Chair  
 Erik McDonald  
 Josh Clark  
 Colton Sims  
 John Castleberry  
 Janie Cummings  
 Richard Davis  
 Jeff Holt, Vice Chair  
 Jimmy Hughes  
 Brett Malone, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Jeff Butler  
 Steve Ratliff  
 Harold W. Turner  
 Tim Wigginton, General Manager  
 Cody Durham,  
 Assistant General Manager

# PARTNERS IN PROGRESS:

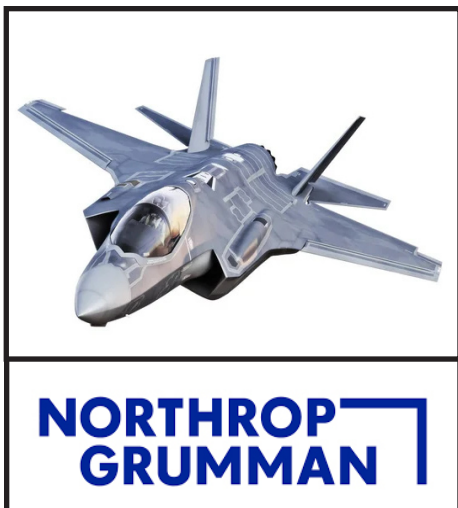
## 2022 Members of the Tishomingo County Development Foundation

20th Century Club  
American Legion  
American Red Cross  
Avalon Medical Clinic  
B & G Equipment of Iuka  
B & J Grocery  
Barnett Apothecary  
Bearded Villains North Mississippi  
Belmont City  
Belmont Parts Supply  
Belmont Pharmacy  
Belmont Promotional Association  
Belmont-Tishomingo Journal  
BEST WAY  
Big Star of Belmont  
Blue Spirit Smoke & Vape Shop  
BMSI, Inc.  
Boys & Girls Club of Iuka  
Eddie Bobo Gunsmithing  
Bridge House  
Brooks Grocery  
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce  
Burnsville City  
Burnsville Medical Clinic  
Burnsville Tire  
John Castleberry  
Thomas E. Childs, Jr.  
Coleman Park Studios  
Community Spirit Bank  
Cook-Coggin Engineers  
Ken & Shelia Cooley  
Cooper Marine & Timberlands  
Corinth Coca-Cola Bottling Works  
Cornerstone Insurance & Financial  
Crane Clothing Company  
Cricket 5G  
Cutshall Funeral Home  
Cutshall & Sons Logging Company  
Daughters of the  
    American Revolution  
Neil Davis  
Dean-McRae Engineers  
Deaton Funeral Home  
DHP, Inc.  
Donathan Enlow  
Fairless Hardware  
Ralph & Dorothy Farr  
First American National Bank  
Fite Building Company  
Forest Resource Advisors  
Friends of Tishomingo State Park  
Gatlins Pharmacy  
Gigi's Station  
Amelia Ginn  
Harold Gist  
Golden City  
Hammer Fishing Rods  
Hampton Inn of Corinth

Harbin Heating & Air  
Heavener's Lawn Service  
High Point Bingo  
High Point Timber Management  
Hollingsworth State Farm  
Hometown Pizza Belmont  
IDEA Group  
Industrial Electronics Repair  
Iuka Animal Clinic  
Iuka City  
Iuka Discount Drugs  
Iuka Heritage  
JC Media WKZU & WSKK  
J. P. Coleman State Park  
J. C. Jourdan Lumber Company  
Nelson & Bess Johnson  
John's Garage/J & S Auto Sales  
Joiner & Raynard Construction  
Junior Auxilliary  
Just a Kind Word Florist  
Keep Iuka Beautiful  
Brenda Kennedy  
Dr. Ben Kitchens  
Vonnie Ledgewood  
Littrell Lumber Mill  
Lisa Koon, Attorney at Law  
Harold Lomenick State Farm  
Fred & Grace Long  
Mike Lyon  
Magnolia Medical Clinic Burnsville  
Steve McAnally  
Mike & Dennie McRee  
McWright Insurance Group LLC  
Mill Creek Marina & Resort  
Mississippi Silicon  
Catherine Mitchell  
Toney & Amanda Mobley  
Mike Montgomery  
Moore's Jewelry  
Mike Nelson Contractors, Inc.  
NE Mississippi Community Services  
Northrop Grumman  
NUCOR Skyline Steel  
Scott Nunley  
Office Pro  
Old Courthouse Museum  
Ole Country Store  
Charlotte Orick  
Peden's Prop Shop  
Pickwick Cabin Rentals  
Pickwick Pines Resort  
Piggly Wiggly of Belmont  
Piggly Wiggly of Iuka  
Pilot Club  
Plant Process Support  
Pray Pottery  
Jimmy Ramsey  
Reconnect 4 Autism  
Billy Rainey

Renasant Bank  
Rising Willow Farms  
Riverhills Bingo/  
    Tri-State Educational Foundation  
Rotary Club  
Route 366 Salon & Boutique  
Rustic Roots  
Salon Two Twelve  
Samuel Roll Form Group  
Segars Clinic  
Sid's Trading Company  
Silver Dollar Sales  
Sonic Drive-In Belmont  
Sonic Drive-In Iuka  
South Tishomingo County Museum  
    & Jerry Martin Research Center  
Southern Forestry  
Sparks CPA Firm  
Sun-air Products  
Taco Bell  
Tempur Sealy/Comfort Revolution  
THE BREW  
THE SHACK  
Third Base Liquor & Wine  
Dr. Don Thompson  
Three Sisters Discount Appliances  
Tiffin Motorhomes  
Timbes Tire  
Tishomingo Arts Council  
Tishomingo City  
Tishomingo Chamber of Commerce  
Tishomingo Connect  
Tishomingo County Board  
    of Supervisors  
Tishomingo County Community  
    Coalition  
Tish Nutrition  
Tishomingo County Electric  
    Power Association  
Tishomingo County Foster Rescue  
Tishomingo County Historical &  
    Genealogical Society  
Tishomingo County Master  
    Gardeners  
Tishomingo County Youth Services  
Tishomingo County News  
Tishomingo State Park  
Train Up Learning Center  
TRAXYS  
Triple D's Bucket Truck Service  
Fred Truesdale  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
VM Squared  
Wiley Discount Tobacco  
Evelyn J. Wooten  
Quaye Yarber  
Yellow Creek Coating Service





**NORTHROP GRUMMAN INNOVATION SYSTEMS.** Northrop Grumman is creating a significant number of new jobs to manufacture parts for the F-35 jet fighter and for various classified projects. The project is being implemented in 320,000 SF and 169,000 SF buildings at Tri-State Commerce Park.

For more information or to apply for one of the new jobs, go to [www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com).



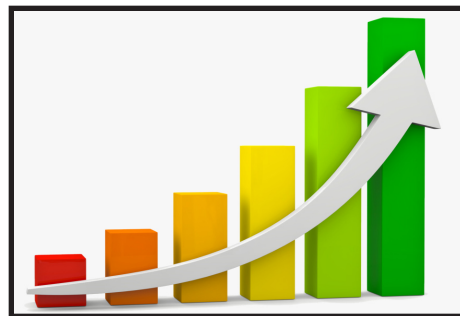
**SPEC BUILDING.** The port authority has leased the Burnsville spec building to a packaging company that will serve the new sawmill in Alcorn County. The company is completing construction on the building. Up to 30 new jobs are expected. Congratulations to Yellow Creek Port Authority.

Yellow Creek Port Authority is also working on expanding the FerrouSouth building, completing the spur rail at Burnsville, and constructing additional improvements at two barge facilities.

More information can be found at [www.yellowcreekport.com](http://www.yellowcreekport.com).



**JOB FAIR.** The Governor's Job Fair Network has scheduled a job fair on Thursday, January 19, 2023, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Tishomingo County Fairgrounds building in Iuka. A number of employers will be present with over 300 career openings.



**PERCENT JOB GROWTH AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE USA.** In January 2020, Tennessee Valley Authority Research Services issued an economic assessment of TVA valley counties over the past decade.

The Tishomingo County job growth rate is more than double the job growth rate for the nation (15.4% for Tishomingo County and 6.9% for the USA).

Manufacturing is the largest employer in Tishomingo County, five times the national average.

This success, however, has created a critical shortage of qualified workers. Your development foundation has devoted most of its time and resources over the past three years to seeking workers for local industries and construction contractors and working with partners in outreach and education. Partners in this effort include the local schools, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, the Governor's Job Fair Network, career and technical instructors in the three state region, certain churches in the region, and others.



**GENERAL ATOMICS.** General Atomics has completed a \$3 million renovation project on a Tri-State Commerce Park building and site. Plans are to build parts for the new class of nuclear submarines. These large parts would have to be shipped by water. A significant number of new jobs may be created.

More information about General Atomics can be found at [www.ga.com](http://www.ga.com).



**THE WATERMAN.** Tishomingo Spring Water was started by Tom Childs and later operated by Danny Davis. The source of spring water is the Town of Tishomingo.

The 7,200 SF water bottling plant was sold to The Waterman in 2022.

The new owners plan an expansion of their five gallon spring water service in the region.

More information can be obtained at 662-286-6706 or email [corinthwaterman@yahoo.com](mailto:corinthwaterman@yahoo.com).



**HAGO AUTOMOTIVE.** hago Automotive has received additional contract work from BMW. Tishomingo County is applying for loan funds from the Mississippi Development Authority to finance a building expansion at hago Automotive. The building expansion will include \$5,000,000 for new equipment, primarily stamping equipment and robotic work cells.

The company has a number of career openings. hago Automotive also offers apprenticeship positions to students each year.

More information about hago Automotive can be found at [www.hagoautomotive.com](http://www.hagoautomotive.com).



**FLIBE ENERGY.** Flibe Energy is a Huntsville based research and development company that is leasing land at Tri-State Commerce Park. The company plans to produce medical isotopes via thorium. No uranium or plutonium will be involved. This is a long-term project.

To learn more about Flibe Energy, visit the web site at <https://flibe-energy.com/>.



**CAREER COACHES.** Tishomingo County has a career coach at both high schools funded by Accelerate Mississippi. Leslie Marlar is the career coach at Tishomingo County High School and Amanda Seals is the career coach at Belmont High School.

Perhaps the most important long-term economic development action in decades, career coaches can be instrumental in changing the perceptions of students, teachers, and parents about manufacturing and trade jobs. The NEMCC regional workforce council also plans additional actions that will be implemented in the current and future school years.

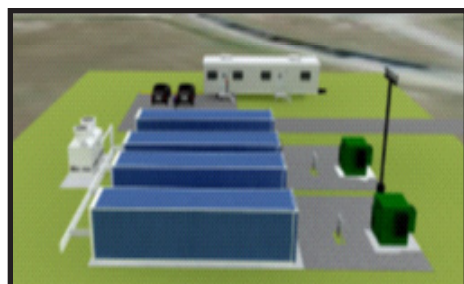
It is important for both government and industry to understand that workers with skills and a work ethic are in limited supply and that younger workers have a different concept of work. Therefore, more employers are implementing four-day work weeks, flexible work hours, and higher pay scales. Frequent training and retraining and opportunities for advancement are key to employee retention. Those industries that implement an onsite child daycare facility have a strategic advantage in competing for workers with preschool children.

More information on Accelerate Mississippi can be found at <https://acceleratems.org>.



**SAMUEL ROLL FORM GROUP.** Samuel Roll Form Group completed its expansion and is seeking a significant number of new team members.

To apply, go to <https://www.samuel.com/careers/iuka>.



**ENERHASH.** Once called Hydroco, then Enerhash (the corporate parent), and now called Deep South Operating, this project is a data center. Financed by a Hungarian company, this project may create up to 30 jobs and use 5 MW of electric power at full capacity.

Enerhash has a web site if you want to know more about the parent company: <https://enerhash.com/>.



**TRI-STATE PROFILE.** Tri-State Profile manufactures wood cabinets for Vanleigh RV. The company expanded into another building at Tri-State Commerce Park to produce welded aluminum frames for Vanleigh RV.

With the explosive growth of the manufactured housing industry, the company is expanding and hiring an additional cabinet assemblers, molders, painters, CNC router operators, and panel saw operators.

Contact John or Michelle Morris at 662-279-0313 if you are interested, or if you know of anyone who may be interested, in one of these new jobs.





**2022 TISHOMINGO COUNTY BUSINESS DIRECTORY.** Tishomingo County Development Foundation updated and printed 5,000 very costly copies of the 92 page *Tishomingo County Business Directory*. Free copies are available from TCDF.

The directory is updated online as we learn about new businesses opening and old businesses closing or moving. The online version is at [www.tishomingo.org/PDFs/Business%20Directory%202021%20Update.pdf](http://www.tishomingo.org/PDFs/Business%20Directory%202021%20Update.pdf).

The directory is not a recommendation of any particular business. Normal business practice, for example, checking references for service providers, is recommended.

The intent of the business directory is to increase sales by Tishomingo County businesses and to encourage individuals to start a small business.

Locally owned small businesses are the most serious economic development need in Tishomingo County. Locally owned small businesses:

- Hire local people and usually treat them well;
- Use local services and suppliers;
- Keep their money in local banks;
- Support local schools and civic organizations;
- Serve as examples and mentors for others interested in starting a small business; and
- Pay local and state taxes.



**NEMCC REGIONAL WORKFORCE ACTION TEAM.** Northeast Mississippi Community College regional workforce action team has developed videos and other actions to address the lack of knowledge of students, parents, and teachers about career opportunities in manufacturing and construction trades in Northeast Mississippi.

These action plans are being implemented in the current school year and are intended to be continuous.

The 2022 Annual Workforce Summit was held on November 9. Whereas the 2021 summit focused on actions to attract students, this summit focused on actions to attract more adults into manufacturing and trade careers.

Tishomingo County representatives on the NEMCC workforce action team include:

- Eric Daniel, G&G Steel;
- Alfred Geiger, HAGO Automotive;
- Terry Lauderdale, Ecowater;
- Buzz Sanderson, TRAXYS;
- Jason Southward, G&G Steel;
- Katie Crane, TCSD;
- Jeff Boren, TCSD;
- Rhonda Bonds, TCSD;
- Jonathan Jones, TCSD;
- Van Roberts, TCSD;
- Wenea Gean, Waterway, Inc.;
- Kathy Best, Tishomingo County Community Coalition;
- Christie Holly, TCSD;
- Jackie Beals, TCSD;
- Heather Gaylor, TCSD; and
- Gary Matthews, TCDF.



**JOINER & RAYNARD.** In spite of supply and labor issues, Joiner & Raynard completed renovation of ten housing units at Coleman Park Studios and is nearing completion of the 53 room Pickwick Inn of Iuka (former Sunset Lodge at the intersection of Highway 25 and Heritage Drive). The company continues renovation of the 63 room Pickwick Lodge of Iuka (former Victorian Inn on Highway 72).

The company purchased and renovated the Tishomingo County News building and purchased Deer Park subdivision in Iuka.

The company is working on a tiny home development at Coleman Park Studios plus additional development throughout the area.

For more information or to book lodging, call 662-438-2100 or book via AIRB&B, Expedia, or Booking.com.



**One Million Square Feet of Import-Outlet-Closeout Merchandise**

**Belmont-Golden, Mississippi, USA**

**Arts, Crafts & Antiques Tour**  
Iuka, Mississippi, USA



**Trash & Treasures along the Tenn-Tom**

**50 MILES OF YARD SALES**  
First Friday & Saturday  
in October



**TTC Tishomingo County Tourism Council**

1001 Battleground Drive  
Iuka, Mississippi 38852  
662-423-0051  
info@tishomingo.org  
www.tishomingofunhere.org  
Find us on Facebook

**Visitor's Guide**  
Tishomingo County, Mississippi



**TTC Tishomingo County Tourism Council**

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www.tishomingofunhere.org  
Find us on Facebook

**TISHOMINGO COUNTY TOURISM COUNCIL.** The Tishomingo County Tourism Council has published two new brochures and updated another for distribution to the state's 13 visitor centers and other locations frequented by travelers.

The Bargain Capital brochure promotes the outlet and bargain stores in Belmont and Golden. The Arts, Crafts & Antiques Tour brochure promotes the arts, crafts and antique stores in Iuka using the Iuka Development & Economic Association (IDEA) downtown map. The Trash and Treasures brochure promotes the annual yard sale and lists available lodging in Tishomingo County.

The tourism council is working on a grant for the Woodall Mountain project. This project would install security cameras and visitor amenities at the top of Woodall Mountain, Mississippi's highest point. Total cost of the project is \$50,000.

The tourism council is working with the board of supervisors and the fairgrounds board to make substantial improvements to the county fairgrounds with the intent of holding additional special events.

The tourism council worked with several community events during the year. The Pete Pyle marker was unveiled in Burnsville on September 24th. A number of special events were held during the holidays.

Almost 5,000 visitor guides were sent out and the tourism council is updating and revising the guide that will be reprinted in 2023. The tourism council is also updating and reprinting the pictorial guide called "What Can We See".

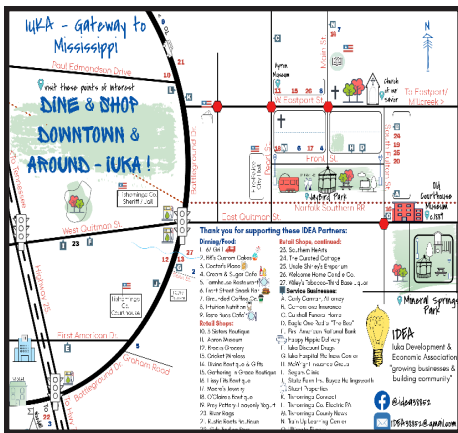
In addition to print ads and the tourism web site, the tourism council is trying table top ads at a famous restaurant. The ad includes a QR code that directs waiting guests to the tourism web site. The ad is for three years.

Late in the year, the tourism council was awarded a \$250,000 ARPA grant for a tourism marketing program that will be implemented in 2023 and 2024.

With one of the smallest marketing budgets of any tourism agency in the state, the Tishomingo County Tourism Council has documented success. According to the *FY 2021 Mississippi Tourism Economic Contribution Report* issued by the Mississippi Development Authority, Tishomingo County had \$19,203,283 in tourism-related sales, an increase of 23.5% over 2020, one of the highest increases in tourism sales in the state. J. P. Coleman State Park had 58,306 visitors in 2021, an increase of 17% over 2020. Tishomingo State Park had 72,243 visitors in 2021, an increase of 31% over 2020. 2022 numbers are not yet available.

With 50,000 acres of lakes, two state parks, several Corps of Engineer parks, seven marinas, the Tenn-Tom Waterway, several museums, the Natchez Trace Parkway, beautiful scenery, picturesque downtowns, several retirement & vacation communities, arts and crafts shops, the bargain tour, and lots of special events, tourism and retiree attraction have the greatest potential for growth and wealth creation for residents and local businesses of any economic sector in Tishomingo County. In Mississippi, tourism is the fourth largest economic sector.





**IDEA DINE & SHOP GUIDE.** The Iuka Development and Economic Association has published a dining and shopping guide to Iuka and surrounding areas. The free guides are available at participating businesses, state parks, Tishomingo County Development Foundation, and other locations.

To learn more about IDEA, visit the Facebook page or e-mail [idea38852@gmail.com](mailto:idea38852@gmail.com).



**KEEP IUKA BEAUTIFUL.** Iuka won affiliate certification with Keep America Beautiful on October 26. To learn more about Keep Iuka Beautiful or to volunteer, e-mail [kib@iukams.com](mailto:kib@iukams.com) or call Emily Bell at 662-279-1224. Find us on Facebook.



**TISHOMINGO STATE PARK.** With the assistance of former Senator J. P. Wilemon, Senator Daniel Sparks, and Representative Bubba Carpenter, Tishomingo State Park received over \$1,000,000 for a renovated RV park.



**SOUTH TISHOMINGO COUNTY MUSEUM & JERRY MARTIN RESEARCH CENTER.** The South Tishomingo County Historical Society is working on opening a new museum in the former First American National Bank building in Golden.

For more information, call 662-279-0828 or e-mail [historicsouthtish@gmail.com](mailto:historicsouthtish@gmail.com). Find us on Facebook.

There are five museums in Tishomingo County: Bay Springs Visitor Center, Nature Center at Tishomingo State Park, Old Courthouse Museum, Apron Museum, and South Tishomingo County Museum and Jerry Martin Research Center.



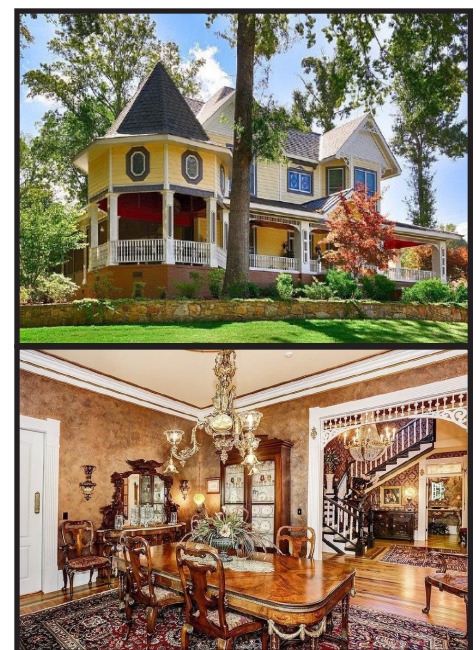
**WHAT CAN WE SEE & DO GUIDE?** The Tishomingo County Tourism Council is updating and will reprint the popular "What Can We See & Do" pictorial guide to Tishomingo County. You can see the online version on the web site at [www.tishomingofunhere.org](http://www.tishomingofunhere.org).



**HIGH POINT BINGO.** The Tishomingo County Community Coalition has opened High Point Bingo. The purpose of the new business is to support Safe Haven and to add space and staffing. The Coalition provides housing, transportation, clothing, counseling, and job outreach for homeless persons and people at risk of becoming homeless. The goal is to get people into careers.

Business hours for High Point Bingo are 4 PM to 10 PM Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

High Point Bingo is located at 2255 Highway 25 in Iuka. Find us on Facebook.



**PAINTED LADY.** An 1859 Victorian house with 5,800 SF of living space, the Painted Lady in Iuka opened for short term lodging and as a venue for corporate events, weddings, parties, and other special events.

For more information on the Painted Lady, contact [paintedlyvenue@gmail.com](mailto:paintedlyvenue@gmail.com) or check AIRB&B.