



## Jubilee Offers New Look

**D**elta Jubilee 2008 marked the 25th anniversary for the event. Fireworks once again lit up the sky to signal the beginning of a spectacular weekend of Jubilee! Miller Spectacular Shows kicked off this year's festival two nights in advance, with Family Nights at the carnival, followed by 2 days of music and merriment. Many activities provided opportunities for the entire family, including arts and crafts, 5K run and walk, horseshoe pitching, basketball shootout, bicycle ride, frog jumping contest, cheerleading camp, step show, live musical entertainment, pet show, softball, and children's fishing rodeo. New events this year included a gumbo competition, pie contest, children's art exhibit, and Jubilee Idol competition. Ideas for other family-oriented events are always encouraged to keep this family event fun and exciting for all. We would like to give much-deserved credit and thanks to our dozens of volunteers and sponsors. Without the continued support and hard work of these individuals and organizations, this event would not be possible from year to year. Thank you!

*Festival goers were taken back in time as members of Funk de Ville performed the hits of the 70s. The crowd took to the dance floor and enjoyed the trip.*



*Youth participants in the step show were right on beat and energized the crowd with their rhythmic, synchronized steps.*

Sponsors for this year's festival included the following:

**Platinum Sponsor:** Northwest MS Regional Medical Center

**Gold Sponsors:**

- The Clarksdale Press Register
- Covenant Bank
- Fiser Insurance Agency
- Isle of Capri Casino
- Kansas City Power & Light
- MAP of Easton
- Unicel
- Wal-Mart

**Silver Sponsors:**

- CableOne
- CB&S Bank
- Delta Bus Lines
- Double Quick, Inc.
- First National Bank
- Forrest Plantation

**Silver Sponsors (cont.):**

- Dr. Carole Mangrem
- RC Cola
- SaffCart
- Southern Bancorp
- Southern Duplicating
- Weiner Heart & Cardiovascular Institute
- The Woman's Clinic

**Bronze Sponsors:**

- Atmos Energy
- Ellendale Planting Co.
- Phelps Security Systems
- Hugh Jack Stubbs
- Sherwin-Williams
- Walls Law Firm, PLLC

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*This year's pet show attracted both the small and the large. Here, two cute little contestants get ready to strut their stuff in front of the judges.*

*Arts and crafts offered all types of wares, including purses, quilts, clothing, jewelry, and even pets for adoption.*



*Several cheerleading groups worked diligently teaching youngsters on hand the techniques of spirit-filled cheers.*



*The frog-jumping competition was still a hit with the kids and the winner won by leaps and bounds.*



*The only fool bigger than the person who knows it all is the person that argues with him.*



*Approximately 60 runners took to the hot pavement bright and early Saturday morning to complete the 5K run.*



*Douglas Smith won the slam dunk contest hands down and nearly brought down the goal in the process.*

**Other Sponsors (cont.)**

**Friends of Delta Jubilee:**

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Angelo's Frame Shop
- The Brick Gallery
- Cook's Roofing
- Cooper-Pang Eye Clinic
- Delta Oil Mill
- Delta Rent All
- Energy & Water Consultants, Inc.
- Alan Foster, Inc.
- Roosevelt & Peggy Howard
- Howard Flying Service
- Mag-Pie Gift & Art Shop
- Massey Planting Co.
- Sonic
- Otis & Yvonne Stanford
- Westgate Drugs
- Westside Farms
- Wong's Foodland
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

**5K Run Sponsors:**

- Barnes-Petty Financial Advisors
- Delta Wire Corporation
- Darnell Felton
- Henke-Bufkin
- Hunt Ross & Allen
- Merkel & Cocke
- Mississippi Distributors, Inc.
- Ed Peacock, III
- W. L. Walters

**Softball Tournament Sponsor:**

- Mid-America Insurance

**Bicycle Ride Sponsor:**

- Hal Fiser Agency

**THANK YOU!**

**Delta Jubilee 2008 Contest Winners**

**Jubilee Idol**

Tamera Canslor

**Gumbo Competition**

1st Place: David Rybolt

2nd Place: Amber King

3rd Place: Gordon Keith & Tripp Williamson

**Pie Contest**

Best in Show: Laura Farmer

1st (Cream): Laura Farmer

1st (Fruit): Mary Jane Russell

1st (Nut): Rachel Scarbrough

1st (Berry): Laura Farmer

**5K Run**

Men's Overall: Jesse Scheider

Women's Overall: Katie Apfelbaum

**Horseshoes**

Men's: James Lewis & Jon Joy

Women's: Cassie Hudson & Stephanie Bodkins



### July Membership Events

The Chamber Membership Services and Recruitment Committee has been working on several new efforts recently for members and we encourage you to take advantage of each of them:

**Summer Quarterly Membership Meeting - Wednesday, July 9 (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) at Coahoma Community College.** Lunch will be provided and Anne Clark, Dean, Career-Technical Education will be guest presenter. Let's hear what you think. Reservations are required by July 2. Call 627-7337.

**Business After Hours/Open House - Thursday, July 17 (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.) at the County Building (former Federal Building).** We will visit all agencies of the facility, including the post office, WIN Job Center, Delta Regional Authority, DHS Division of Family & Children's Services, and Social Security Administration.

**Member Health Fair - Thursday, July 24 (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at the Chamber of Commerce.** NW Regional Medical Center will sponsor this event and offer free blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol screenings for Chamber members.

**Customer Service Training - July 29 and July 31 at CCC Workforce Development Center.** In an effort to make a first-class impression upon visitors to our community, especially in preparation for the upcoming Sunflower River Blues & Gospel Festival, this first training will be limited to gas stations, hotels, restaurants. If you are interested, please contact Tana Vassel at 627-7337 to register your employees.

### Chamber Special Projects Going Well

The Chamber of Commerce Special Events Committee is still busy at work on its two newest projects--Clarksdale Walk of Fame and Crossroads Half-Marathon. The half-marathon has been postponed until November 14, 2009 in order to better prepare for such a huge event. The Walk of Fame has hit the ground running, with two plaques already installed and several more planned for installation this year. A dedication is planned for Early Wright (sponsored by Chris Overton) on August 8, Marshall Bouldin (sponsored by Vivian Hannah) on September 6, Tennessee Williams (sponsored by NW MS Regional Medical Center) on September 26, and plans are being finalized on dates for John Clark (sponsored by the City of Clarksdale), Aaron E. Henry (sponsored by Johnny Newson), and a surprise dedication. Anyone wishing to sponsor a specific honoree or to get more information should contact Tana Vassel at the Chamber at 627-7337 or Martha Harthcock at 627-3211.



The Chamber of Commerce is always seeking businesses to host Business After Hours events for fellow Chamber members. If you are interested in hosting such an event, please let us know. Call 627-7337 to schedule a date.

## Industrial Report

Be sure to visit the Chamber/Industrial Foundation website at [www.clarksdale-ms.com](http://www.clarksdale-ms.com). You'll find a much improved site that has been under construction for the past year thanks to the outstanding efforts of Larry Blades, Consultant, and Tana Vassel on our staff. The site features a complete listing of our membership, available industrial properties with details on each listing, links to other vital sites, quality of life video, and more. The website is an ongoing process and is now designed so that the staff is able to access the site easily and to update data and add new features as needed. The effort was funded in part by a 2007 Marketing Match Grant from the Mississippi Development Authority. The Chamber/Industrial Foundation has recently been approved for additional 2008 matching grant funds to expand our community's economic development marketing capabilities through the use of direct mail and hosting of consultants. • Prospect activity remains good despite a slowdown in the economy brought on by extremely high fuel costs. Thanks to the efforts of the Industrial Authority, Board of Supervisors, and the City of Clarksdale, we have quality available buildings to be able to market to potential prospects. The likelihood of prospect interest in our community is greatly enhanced by the ability to show a quality building that may only need cosmetic and minor improvements. The former Taylor Chair Building and property and the Coca-Cola Building are certainly valuable assets in generating interest in our community. • Standard Industrial Corporation is in the process of moving into the former Waterfield Building in the Leonard Pharr Industrial Park and is looking forward to beginning production in a much larger and more efficient facility.



*The secret to success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching.*


### Support for Youth Leaders

The 2008 Class of Youth Leadership Clarksdale (YLC) of 23 students recently graduated. YLC works with high school sophomores and juniors from all four local high schools. Each of the participants is required to give a minimum of 30 hours of community service prior to graduation. The program is provided at no cost to the students and is possible only through donations from local businesses, civic organizations, and individuals. Donations are already being accepted for next year's class, which begins in the fall. Applications will be available once the school year begins. If you would like to support this worthwhile program, you may send any contribution to Youth Leadership Clarksdale • P. O. Box 160 • Clarksdale. For more information, please contact Tana Vassel at the Chamber at 627-7337. All help is appreciated!




# Dates to Remember



## July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 
- 9 Chamber Quarterly Membership Meeting  
Coahoma Community College - 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Business After Hours - County Building  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 24 Chamber Member Health Fair - Chamber  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.


## August

- 8 Walk of Fame Dedication - Early Wright  
Alcazar Hotel
- 8 - 10 Sunflower River Blues & Gospel Festival  
Blues Alley District 

## September

- 1 LABOR DAY 
- 26 - 27 MS Delta Tennessee Williams Festival  
Various Locations Around Town 
- 27 Walk of Fame Dedication - Tennessee Williams  
St. George's Church Rectory

## October

- 12 Pinetop Perkins Day / Cat Head Mini Blues Fest
- TBA Chamber / I. F. Annual Banquet
- 31 HALLOWEEN 

• Ray's Christian Bookstore  
*Thank you for becoming a part of  
 the Chamber of Commerce. Your  
 input is valuable to us.*

*Welcome New  
 Member*



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 Clarksdale, MS 38614  
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*Chamber & Industrial Foundation Staff*

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**Kappi Allen**  
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**Margaret Anne "Peg" Meek**  
 Administrative Assistant

**Sherry Carraway**  
 Secretary/Receptionist

If you have an event that you would like to have listed on our calendar of events, please contact us at least 2 weeks in advance of publication. *On Target* is published quarterly. Next publication date is October 2008.



**Actor Morgan Freeman  
to Narrate  
BBC Documentary  
of 2008 MS Delta  
Tennessee Williams Festival**

The 16th annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival will take place September 26 - 27 in Clarksdale and promises much excitement. The unveiling of the Tennessee Williams Walk of Fame Plaque in front of the St. George's Church Rectory will take place during the event. The biggest news is that the local celebration of America's great playwright has been selected for a BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Radio 2 documentary narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman, and promises to be a greatly expanded showcase of the arts and the cultural heritage of the Mississippi Delta. With an audience ranging from 13 - 17 million in the United Kingdom and via the Internet, the prestigious program will focus on the links between Tennessee Williams and Clarksdale, its influences on his works, and today's generation of young writers and actors. Legendary characters from his great Delta plays—Big Daddy, Brick, and Maggie from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Amanda Wingfield from *The Glass Menagerie*; Blanche Dubois and Stella from *A Streetcar Named Desire*; and Val Xavier with his blues guitar and snake-skinned jacket from *Orpheus Descending*—will dominate live drama presentations and captivate audiences experiencing front porch plays and theater stages.

The successful 2007 festival so attracted and impressed a corps of travel writers from Great Britain as well as visitors from London, including Paul and Susan Moser, that it reached the ears of BBC decision-makers. The Mosers praised the festival for "meeting interesting and knowledgeable people in such an informal setting. Being able to wander from porch to porch for performances was like nothing I had ever experienced and will certainly never forget. I was so impressed how the town encourages performances from their children, creating a love of the theater and a pride in Williams."

The 2008 festival will focus on Williams' play *Orpheus Descending*, which had its premiere on Broadway in 1957. As always, the festival will include presentations by Williams authorities and friends, performances, screenings of Williams films, a session with papers by scholars, and tours of the neighborhood where the playwright lived as a child. Also scheduled are workshops for

teachers and student actors and a high school drama competition, with prizes totaling \$2,500. Supported by grants from Coahoma Community College, MS Humanities Council, MS Arts Commission, the Rock River Foundation, and other businesses and individuals, the festival is free and open to the public. For additional information, please contact Coahoma Community College's Public Relations Department at 662-621-4157 or visit [www.coahomacc.edu/twilliams](http://www.coahomacc.edu/twilliams) for 2008 updates and photos from the 2007 Festival.



**Hambone Festival  
On Schedule**

Mark your calendars now for the **2nd Annual Hambone Festival on Saturday, November 1**. The event will once again provide lots of local music and southern hospitality. This one-day event will last all weekend, celebrating the birthday of local blues artist Stan Street, owner of Hambone Gallery. With good music, good people, and a great location in downtown Clarksdale, this is one festival you don't want to miss. For more information, visit [hambonefestival.com](http://hambonefestival.com) or e-mail Stan at [stanwstreet@bellsouth.net](mailto:stanwstreet@bellsouth.net).



The Cat Head Mini Blues Fest will be held on Sunday, October 12, following the Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival, formerly known as King Biscuit. The fest is free and open to the public and will be held in front of Cat Head, 252 Delta Ave., Clarksdale.

*Festivals, Festivals, Festivals*



Sunflower River Blues  
& Gospel Festival



The 21st Annual Sunflower River Blues & Gospel Festival is scheduled for August 8 - 10 in Clarksdale and will take place on and around Blues Alley. The line-up is as follows:

**Friday, August 8**

**MAIN STAGE (at Delta Blues Museum)**

- 4:00 p.m. South of Memphis
- 4:30 p.m. Delta Blues Museum Students
- 5:00 p.m. Stan Street
- 5:30 p.m. Joy
- 6:30 p.m. Ms. Jody
- 7:30 p.m. Guitar Mikey with Nellie Tiger Travis
- 8:30 p.m. Nathaniel Kimble
- 9:30 p.m. Latimore

**Saturday, August 9**

**MAIN STAGE (at Delta Blues Museum)**

- 1:00 p.m. Razorblade
- 1:45 p.m. Terry "Big T" Williams
- 2:30 p.m. Wesley Jefferson & the Southern Soul Band
- 3:15 p.m. Jimbo Mathus
- 4:00 p.m. Eddie Lee Coleman Band
- 5:00 p.m. Willie King and the Liberators
- 6:00 p.m. Little Howlin' Wolf
- 7:00 p.m. Early Wright & Julius Guy Awards
- 7:30 p.m. Super Chikan Johnson
- 8:30 p.m. Jimmy Burns
- 9:30 p.m. Shemekia Copeland

**ACOUSTIC STAGE #1**

**(Otha Turner Acoustic Stage - Depot Blues Club)**

- 9:00 a.m. Foster "Tater" Wiley
- 9:30 a.m. Terry "Big T" Williams and Arthniece "Gas Man" Jones
- 10:00 a.m. Eddie Cusic
- 10:30 a.m. Pat Thomas
- 11:00 a.m. Robert Belfour
- 11:30 a.m. Shardee Turner & the Rising Star Fife & Drum Corps

**Look Who's Coming to Town**



Clarksdale is known worldwide for its rich cultural heritage, particularly the blues. Having been cited recently as one of the top 10 places for America's music, Clarksdale attracts visitors from everywhere. Just scanning our guest book here at the Chamber office, we noticed just how many visitors we have had in the month of June alone and wanted to share that with you. (Note: these were just the ones that stopped in our office and that actually signed the book.) The following states/countries were represented: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Belgium, England, Sweden, and Puerto Rico. That's in one month. It lets us know that people are definitely visiting. We encourage you to notice these "noticeable" visitors and go out of your way to lend your assistance and make them feel welcome. After all, they have chosen to spend their time and resources in our community. Let's all be proud of what we have right here at home!

**ACOUSTIC STAGE #2**

**(Sunflower River Walk Acoustic Stage - Sunflower Ave. & Third St.)**

- 2:00 p.m. L. C. Ulmer
- 2:45 p.m. Cadillac John and Bill Abel
- 3:30 p.m. Terry "Harmonica" Bean
- 4:15 p.m. Jimmy "Duck" Holmes
- 5:00 p.m. Kenny Brown
- 5:45 p.m. Bill "Howlin' Madd" Perry

**Sunday, August 10**

**GOSPEL FESTIVAL (Gospel Stage - John Lee Hooker Lane)**

Lineup to be announced soon and posted on [www.sunflowerfest.org](http://www.sunflowerfest.org).

The Sunflower River Blues Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Funds from grants, foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals are used exclusively to pay performers and production costs. To keep the Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival free and open to the public, donations are always appreciated. Send your tax-deductible donations to:

**Sunflower River Blues Association**  
P. O. Box 1562  
Clarksdale, MS 38614