

# 2026 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

May 4-8

#EconDevWeek



**JRA JACKSON**  
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



VISIT  
*Jackson!*  
MISSISSIPPI



**WOODFOREST**  
NATIONAL BANK

**HINDS COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**THE BEANPATH**

*Monday*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Thalia Mara Hall - RISE & BUILD: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE & PROCLAMATION KICKOFF** - Hosted by: City of Jackson & Hinds County Economic Development Authority; A one-stop shop for entrepreneurs and business owners to connect with permitting, licensing, funding, technical assistance, and development partners. Mayor John Horhn will issue the official proclamation launching Economic Development Week.

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm: **Union Station - FROM VISION TO VICTORY: ENTREPRENEURSHIP 4 ALL** - Hosted by Woodforest Bank; Local entrepreneurs share how they started, scaled, and sustained their businesses, offering real stories that inspire and inform the next generation of business leaders.

*Tuesday*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Jackson State University - PITCH THE FUTURE: THE BEAN PATH COMPETITION** - Hosted by The Beanpath; Got an innovative idea? Pitch for a chance to win a portion of \$15,000 in prizes. Network with entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors while gaining valuable feedback to grow your venture.

*Wednesday*

11:00: Smith Park - **Hump Day on the Rise: MIDWEEK MARKETPLACE FEATURING FRANK THE CAMEL** - Hosted by Downtown Jackson Partners; A high-energy downtown activation featuring local vendors, food, music, and the return of the beloved Hump Day brand—complete with Frank the Camel. Join us for a fun, engaging midweek experience that celebrates small businesses and community vibrancy in the heart of Jackson.

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm: **Union Station - FROM LOCAL to LEGENDARY NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL VENDOR LAB**; Learn how to become a food or marketplace vendor for the 83rd National Folk Festival (November 13–15). Ideal for small businesses looking to expand their reach and visibility.

*Thursday*

11:30 am – 1:00 pm: **Mississippi State Capitol, Room 204- POWER, POLICY, PROGRESS & PIZZA: A COMMUNITY FORUM** - Hosted by: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter; A dynamic conversation at the intersection of policy, development, and community impact. Engage with leaders and gain insight into the policies and initiatives shaping economic growth across the Jackson Metro Area.

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm: **Capri Theatre - CHAMPIONS OF THE RISE: HOMETOWN HEROES AWARDS** - Hosted by Visit Jackson; Celebrating individuals and businesses making a meaningful impact on Jackson's growth, culture, and community.

*Friday*

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm: **Union Station - RISE TOGETHER: JRA OPEN HOUSE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINALE** - Hosted by: Jackson Redevelopment Authority; Close out the week with a look at JRA's work, key projects, and opportunities shaping Jackson's growth. Designed for the full economic development ecosystem, this event brings together bankers, real estate professionals, developers, and community partners to connect and collaborate.

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: **Union Station - POSTMARKED RISING: JACKSON AFTER FIVE - WHERE CULTURE, COMMERCE & COMMUNITY CONVERGE** - Hosted by Visit Jackson & JRA; The signature closing celebration of a transformational week—join us for a Happy Hour & Networking Mixer to unwind, connect, and celebrate a week of progress, partnership, and momentum as we continue building what's next for Jackson.

*Event Lineup*

2026  
Economic  
Development  
Week  
May 4-8



# CELEBRATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK





**RISE & BUILD  
DEVELOPMENT  
SHOWCASE**

**MAY 4, 9:45 AM**

**Thalia Mara Hall  
255 E Pascagoula St  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**





ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT

WEEK



5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Union Station

# FROM VISION TO VICTORY: ENTREPRENEURSHIP 4 ALL

Hosted by:  
Woodforest Bank

Local entrepreneurs share how they started, scaled, and sustained their businesses, offering real stories that inspire and inform the next generation of business leaders.

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4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Union Station

# FROM LOCAL to LEGENDARY: NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL VENDOR LAB

Learn how to become a food or marketplace vendor for the 83rd National Folk Festival (November 13-15).

*Ideal for small businesses looking to expand their reach and visibility.*

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11:00 AM

Smith Park

# HUMP DAY ON THE RISE:

## MIDWEEK MARKETPLACE FEATURING FRANK THE CAMEL

*Hosted by:*

Downtown Jackson Partners

A high-energy downtown activation featuring local vendors, food, music, and the return of the beloved Hump Day brand—complete with Frank the Camel.

Join us for a fun, engaging midweek experience that celebrates small businesses and community vibrancy in the heart of Jackson.



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9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Thalia Mara Hall

# RISE & BUILD:

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
SHOWCASE & PROCLAMATION KICKOFF**

*Hosted by:*

City of Jackson &  
Hinds County Economic  
Development Authority

A one-stop shop for entrepreneurs and  
business owners to connect with permitting,  
licensing, funding, technical assistance,  
and development partners.



**Mayor John Horn** will issue the official proclamation  
launching Economic Development Week.

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11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Mississippi State Capitol, Room 204

# POWER, POLICY, PROGRESS & PIZZA: A COMMUNITY FORUM

*Hosted by:*

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. –  
Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter



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of policy, development, and community  
impact.

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growth across the Jackson Metro Area.

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5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Union Station

# POSTMARKED

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WHERE CULTURE, COMMERCE & COMMUNITY CONVERGE



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12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Capri Theatre

# CHAMPIONS OF THE RISE: HOMETOWN HEROES AWARDS

Hosted by:



Celebrating individuals and businesses making a meaningful impact on Jackson's growth, culture, and community.

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