

2019 anticipated to be a successful year for county

By Hinds County District 2 Supervisor Darrel McQuirter

With great anticipation, I look forward to the 2019 calendar year. We have experienced many highs and lows over the past few years, but it is with prayerful expectation that we are now moving in the right direction. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors has worked diligently to address many of the daily problems facing our county. From major political division on the national level, delayed funding on the state level and crumbling infrastructure in our city and county, I am still very optimistic about our future.

In April 2018, a State of Emergency was declared by Governor Bryant because of deficient bridges throughout the state. Over 411 bridges were affected in Hinds County – more than any other county statewide. A local state of emergency arose when 47 of those bridges were deemed insufficient and closed. At that time, Hinds County was preparing to reinvest over \$30 million in road resurfacing projects; \$5 million in bridge replacement and repairs; \$5 million in emergency operations and rural fire stations and \$5 million in infrastructure projects. This would, however, only address about thirty percent of the county's infrastructure needs. We anticipated an additional \$3 million from recent state funding to assist with infrastructure projects and also applied for over \$20 million in federal dollars to help with future economic development projects.

Diligent work by the Hinds County bridges and road crews put temporary measures in place to allow most of these bridges to remain open to local traffic until permanent measures could be taken. I proudly acknowledge the support of our local cities and communities in addressing these physical needs.



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A local bond fund initiative for the county was secured at a premium rate, and we successfully replaced thirteen bridges in 2018 alone. We anticipate the completion of sixteen additional bridges in 2019 – accounting for over thirty new bridges in less than twenty-four months, while the Board also approved approximately 300 roads for resurfacing in our cities, towns and rural areas.

Administratively, we continue to work with the courts, sheriff and others to address DOJ/Detention Center issues, while also addressing numerous in-house matters in order to maximize much-needed County funds and resources.

We proudly continue to be a part of over \$2 billion in new local Hinds County Economic Development Projects. Over 3,000 jobs are part of the successful launching of many county support projects, such as Premium Water, Westin Hotel and several multi-use developments. With heavy investments in work force and economic development, 2019 will continue to usher in successful projects, starting with Continental Tire's grand opening. We have accomplished a lot, but I realize we still have a long way to go.

Nature Center has a full slate of programs for 2019

By Clinton Community Nature Center Education Director Sarah Hammond

Make this your "get outside" year with the Clinton Community Nature Center! Located at 617 Dunton Road, CCNC features miles of beautiful, shaded walking trails, a kids Play Forest,



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Splashing Frog Water Feature and Nature Kitchen, amphitheater, wildlife and our Price Hall rental facility. Please join us in 2019 for one of our educational programs, recreational events or just to take a quiet hike through our thirty-acre urban forest.

The Clinton Community Nature Center is funded by the generous support of our community through our flag program, memberships,

donations and volunteers. Thank you, and come join us!

We are pleased to announce that we were awarded the Recreational Trails Program grant with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Come see the new improvements on our three miles of hiking trails.

Ongoing programs include Nature Nuts for preschoolers, Homeschool Wednesdays, Ladies Paint Night, and yoga classes. Annual events include native plant sales in February and November, Nature Day and Monarch Celebration in April, golf tournament in May, nature day camps in July, the great Pumpkin Trail in October and Deck the Trails in December.

Call us to schedule your class field trip or to reserve Price Hall for your next event. You can see all of our events on our Facebook Page at facebook.com/ClintonNatureCenter, or call us at 601-926-1104 to be added to our email list.

Come see what we have to offer!

Dining!

Salsa's
GRILL
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Services!

International Tours
of Clinton

TURNAGE
FAMILY DENTISTRY

McRaney & McRaney
A Lawyer and a Friend

Shopping!

Karats.
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The Sesame
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