

Commissioner Dick Hall meets with Durant officials on train depot renovations



Attending the pre-construction conference this week for the Durant Depot North Building Rehabilitation Project were (from left, front row): Sharron Cauthen, Durant Historic Preservation Commission, Alderperson Freda Johnson, Alderperson Linda McDonald, Dot Blanton DHPC, Mayor Henry Robinson, Jr., Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall, Contractor Kendrick Gear, Geraldine Sturgis, DHPC, Charlie Mae Campbell, DHPC, former mayor Robert Johnsonm DHPC, Forise Minor, project observer, LaCharles Brown, construction supervisor; Back row (from left): Eric Morgan, MDOT District 3 LPA Coordinator, Alderperson Bo Patterson, Alderperson Rykki Fletcher, Architect Craig Bjorgum and Architect Landon Voller, both of Belinda Stewart Architects in Eupora. Alderperson Carolyn Riley, not pictured, and Rio Winters of NCPDD joined the conference when it was convened at Durant City Hall.

(Photo submitted)

Q and A with: West Police Chief Demarcus Peeples

The *Holmes County Herald* will feature a profile every other week of the county's acting police chiefs in each municipality. A questionnaire was sent to all acting chiefs and sheriff on August 10. Those who responded will be featured here in efforts to support local law enforcement and familiarize readers with local law enforcement.

Tell us a little about your family, spouse, children, parents, their careers, brothers and sisters (if any/if applicable)? I have two children, a 17-month-old girl name Aaliyah and a 10-year-old Son name Demarien! I have three brothers. One is a school teacher, and the other two are construction workers!

Where/When did you attend school? High school and college (if applicable), career training? I attended J.Z. George High School and graduated from Old Dominion Christian School. I attended Mississippi Delta Community College. I also finished welding school in 2009 and brazing class in 2011.

What influenced you in pursuing a career in law enforcement? Seeing my dad and cousin become law enforcement made me very interested! It's just a job that God called me to do.

What areas of law enforcement do you enjoy the most? Being able to help someone that you know really needed help! I enjoy being able to protect and serve the community!

Are there proven tactics and best practices you prefer? Hoping I can bring everyone closer.

What are some challenging areas working in law enforcement? Telling a loved ones family that their family member won't be able to come back home is a hard thing for me to do, but someone has to do it.

What are rewarding aspects working in law enforcement? The joy of just being able to be there for someone.

What do you see as some of the challenges the department and the city (county-sheriff) faces? Being able to get everything you need for the department and make sure the city is safe.

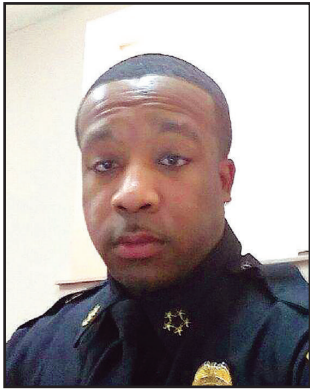
How do enjoy free time outside of work? I enjoy my free time by fishing, hunting, being with family and church.

What was your first job? Vaiden Police Department was my first job

What is the best advice someone has ever given you? To get closer to God.

What is your favorite book? The Bible.

What is your dream vacation? Going to Jamaica.



Chief Demarcus Peeples

By Sharron Cauthen
DHPC

City of Durant officials met this week with Central Mississippi Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall in a pre-construction conference for the Historic Durant Depot North Building Rehabilitation Project. Eric Morgan, MDOT LPA Coordinator for District 3, attended, along with Kendrick Gear of Greenville, the contractor on the project. Craig Bjorgum and Landon Voller of Belinda Stewart Architects, joined the discussion of plans for construction. Forise Minor of Durant, local project observer for the City of Durant, participated in the arrangements for daily and weekly observations and communications. The project was funded by a Federal Highway Administration grant and administered through the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Durant Historic Preservation Commission assisted Mayor Henry Robinson, Jr. and members of the Durant City Board, and City Clerk Ursula Perry with plans for financial arrangements on the project. DHPC and Durant officials expressed gratitude to Commissioner Hall and MDOT for extra funding provided in 2018 after the first round of bidding in 2017 revealed the need for a revision of the project scope. Other major grants for the depot renovation came from Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant) and Mississippi Development Authority (Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant). Rio Winters of the North Central MS Planning and Development office participated in the conference.

The construction contract for the Durant Depot includes complete renovation of the North Building exterior with repairs and renewal of the clay tile roof, wood trim, soffitt, windows, doors, gutters, downspouts, masonry, brick pavers, and other outside elements. On the interior of the north passenger section of the depot major restoration will be done in the waiting room and adjacent service area. Some basic repairs, such as replacement of the electrical system, will be done throughout the north building. The goal of the project is to provide community service space for meetings and other activities. The renovated rooms will include two restrooms, offices, and a warming kitchen.

Under the direction of

specialists from Mississippi Department of Archives and History many of the original elements of historical importance will be preserved. The ticket windows between the former waiting room and the former agent's office will be retained and restored. The construction plans include repair of plaster wall coverings and a return to the original high ceilings. Illinois Central built the Durant Depot in 1909 after the former frame station building was destroyed by a fire.



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September 8, 2018

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Levee Commissioners for the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta does hereby give notice to all concerned citizens that the following action was taken at the July 19th Session, 2018

- 1.) The Ad Valorem Tax rate for the counties of Coahoma, DeSoto, Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore, Quitman, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica and Yazoo be fixed at two (2.0) mills on the assessed valuation of all property, real and personal, and upon all public utilities, lying and being situate in each county and part of each county included the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District, as the same shall appear upon the Assessment Rolls of said counties;
- 2.) The Privilege Tax rate is hereby fixed at 100% of the Privilege Tax rate, as fixed by the State of Mississippi.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER of the Commissioners of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board.

KIMBERLY B. EASLEY
SECRETARY

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