

Road maintenance, elections coming up in new year

By Hinds County Supervisor
Mike Morgan

Happy New Year to residents of Clinton and surrounding areas! I am grateful that *The Clinton Courier* gives elected officials the opportunity to reach out to constituents with regular updates. We are fortunate to have a strong community newspaper.

I hope you have noticed the paving activity in and around Clinton in re-



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cent months. I am proud that the Hinds County Board of Supervisors has been cooperative in working with local municipalities such as Clinton to aggressively catch up on road maintenance. All of the major arteries entering Clinton from the south have been paved in the last year or so (Clinton-Raymond, Midway Road, Wells Road and Springridge), and we have made substantial progress on the north side of the county, as well (Supervisor McQuirter's district). In 2019, we plan to continue aggressively investing taxpayer dollars into road maintenance and bridge repair.

I should also point out that 2019 is an election year. Not only will the Supervisors be up for re-election, but

we will also hold elections for most county-wide seats such as sheriff, tax collector, etc. In other words, get ready for the circus to come to town. You can expect unprecedented rhetoric and social media saturation to the point that you might want to turn it off. But it is important to get to know the candidates for county offices. In many ways, local and county officials have as much or more bearing on quality-of-life issues than officials at higher levels. The DA, Sheriff and Justice Court races in 2019 have a direct bearing on the direction of the county and of Clinton, so please try to get involved and be informed. And of course, I would appreciate your continued support in my re-election bid

for Supervisor of District 4.

Every year at this time, I also like to take the opportunity to ask residents to slow down, watch for pedestrians and cyclists, and please don't text and drive.

As I am limited by the editors to 400 words and I have only used 300, I will close with a list of some roads in District 4 that the county paved in 2018 in addition to the ones listed above... Airport Road, Snake Creek Road, Palestine Road, Thigpen Road, Jackson-Raymond Road, McFarland, Dry Grove, Oakley-Palestine, Vance Drive, Spears Trace, Parks Road, Parks Road Place, West Parks Road, Davis Road, Oak Ridge, Pine Hill, Dupree/Ratliff, Gore Road, Memory Oaks.

Clinton children come to kindergarten prepared, study shows

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An announcement this month from the Mississippi Department of Education shows that children in Clinton come to kindergarten prepared and ready to learn.

"This is a testament to the high quality of the pre-schools in our community," said Dr. Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. "When students come to us with the basic skills they'll need for kindergarten, they are prepared to succeed academically from that point on."

The fall 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment placed Clinton children in the top five statewide on this assessment. Statewide, the average score on the fall 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment was 501. Only sixteen out of 141 school districts had an average score of 530 or above.

"Clinton families are making a commitment to education from day one, well before their children come to Clinton Park," said Assistant Superintendent Anthony Goins. "The families in our community understand that this early emphasis on ed-



The fall 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment placed Clinton children in the top five statewide on this assessment. Pictured are Clinton kindergartners from Clinton Park Elementary School, the district's kindergarten and first grade school.

The top five school districts in the fall 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and their scores are:

1. Clarksdale Collegiate Public Charter School District - 560
2. Western Line School District - 559
3. Hollandale School District - 557
4. Quitman Municipal School District - 554
5. Clinton Public School District - 543

Results are available at
mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Assessment/2018-19.

ucation is critical to their children's success."

Research from a four-year study shows that eighty-five percent of students at the beginning of kindergarten with a score of 530 or above

on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment are on track to become proficient readers by the

end of third grade. The assessment evaluates early literacy skills such as the ability to recognize letters and match words to their sounds,

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