



# The Clinton Courier

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## School district shares designs for school renovations, additions

*Special to The Clinton Courier*

The Clinton Public School district school board is getting ready to put out bids for work at Clinton High School, with an expected start to construction this summer. The work, which includes adding classroom/lab wings for Career and Technical Education courses, will be paid for by a \$25 million bond issue that was approved by voters last September.

The first round of construction will result in the relocation of the CHS Career Complex from its current location on Lakeview Drive to the CHS main campus on Arrow Drive. Additional changes to CHS include expanding the band hall, adding classrooms and making electrical upgrades for technology.

School officials explain that relocating the Career Complex will eliminate the need to bus students to another campus to participate in career or technical programs. In addition, it will allow for the expansion of the Career Academy program.

CPSD recently released renderings, developed by Dail Bailey Partners,



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*As part of the Clinton Public School District's 2018 school bond, Clinton Junior High School will be renovated to move the main entrance to the center of campus and make the entrance safer and more modern, as shown in this architectural rendering.*

of some of the construction plans for CHS, as well as a design for the Clinton Junior High School. CJHS will be renovated to move the main entrance to the center of campus and make the entrance safer and more modern.

Once the CHS Career Complex relocates, the current Career Complex building, which sits adjacent to CJHS, will be renovated to house CJHS fine arts programs and elective classes. The current fine arts area will be

converted into administrative offices, and the current administrative area will be turned into classrooms. In addition, the school will get improved lighting and electrical upgrades.

According to CPSD officials, based on economic projections with the Continental Tire manufacturing plant and citywide growth, the bond issue should not require a tax increase and addresses a growing enrollment in Clinton's public schools. CPSD

officials say that, after nearly a decade of annual increases in enrollment, the district's facilities are at capacity. The bond issue passed last fall with a ninety-five percent approval rate.

In 2008, CPSD enrolled 4,710 students; as of May 2018, enrollment was more than 5,300 students.

At the time of the bond issue passing, Dr. Tim Martin, superintendent of CPSD, said, "With the passing of this bond issue, it shows that Clinton is looking toward the future and is willing, as a community, to improve the facilities where we are shaping our children for their futures."

Elementary schools will also see some upgrades and additions.

Lovett Elementary, the district's sixth-grade school, will have exterior façade renovations and will get a safer main entrance, along with additional classrooms and restrooms and adjustments to the school driveway. The school will get a new, more modern façade, and the entryway will be remodeled

*cont. on page 4*

## Total of \$232,500 raised so far for Lions Club Park

*By Katherine R. Dougan*

At the Board of Aldermen meeting on February 19, Ward 3 Alderman Bill Barnett took those in attendance on a time travel trip to seventy years ago. He started his discussion about Hillman-Berry Lions Club in 1949, because that is the year Clinton decided to build a city park.

In the 1940s, Clinton was a city of under 1,000 residents. By 1949, Clinton had grown to around 2,225 residents, Barnett said.

The community needed a park for its citizens to enjoy. Mississippi College offered to lease tree-filled acreage downtown for the park, and the Lions Club created a place for families to enjoy and children to play for more than sixty years.

Barnett then took a moment to recognize five Lions Club members



*A rendering of the possible Lions Club Park design, submitted by Chartre in December 2017.*

in attendance at the meeting. The members and Barnett all wore their bright yellow Lions Club vests as they stood at the meeting and were recognized for their service.

Barnett then continued with the history of the Lions Club Park. In 2015, Barnett met with the Parks and Recreation director at that time, who told him that when he inspected the Lions Club Park, it failed to pass a single safety regulation.

Barnett called Lions Club members to action, and they came up with a plan and cost estimate for improvements to the park, which included a pavilion, installing lighting and making the park handicap-accessible.

Then rumors started to make their way around the city.

*cont. on page 11*

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