

Upcoming Olde Towne Events necessitate short-term road closures

Special to The Clinton Courier

Over the next week, a multitude of events in Olde Towne Clinton will necessitate some short-term road closures on the brick streets.

Due to inauguration festivities for Mississippi College, which will soon install its new president, Dr. Blake Thompson, several Olde Towne streets will be closed on March 23, 28 and 29. Then, on March 30, streets in Olde Towne will be impacted for the Junior Auxiliary's Crawfish Boil Fundraiser.

On Saturday, March 23, College Street between Monroe to Capitol Streets will be closed for the annual Mississippi College Crawfish Boil. The road closure is set for 2 until 8 p.m.

On Thursday, March 28, Mississippi College will be hosting a community Dinner and Concert in Olde Towne Clinton from 5 until 9 p.m. Main Street between Jefferson and Capitol Streets will be closed beginning at 9 a.m. to erect an event tent. Beginning at 1:30 p.m., the intersection of West Leake and Jefferson Streets will close.

Jefferson Street from Main to Leake Street and Main Street east of Jefferson Street will remain open until 4 p.m. and will then close until 9 p.m.

Residents are invited to attend the event, and tickets are available at www.mc.edu/inauguration.

Olde Towne restaurants will be open for business. Patrons of Olde Towne restaurants are encouraged to park behind 303 Jefferson and behind City Hall.

On Friday, March 29, College Street will have three closures.

To accommodate inauguration pedestrian traffic, College Street from the Clinton Parkway to Jefferson Street will be closed to traffic from 9

a.m. until 11 a.m.

Additionally, Monroe Street from College to Madison Street will be closed for the dedication of the statue in the Rhoda Royce Prayer Garden.

Later that afternoon, two blocks of College Street from Monroe Street to Capitol Street will be closed from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for additional inauguration activities.

On Saturday, March 30, the Junior Auxiliary of Clinton will be hosting



Date	Closure Time	Street Closure	Details
Sat. Mar. 23	2-8 p.m.	College Street between Monroe and Capitol Streets	MC Crawfish Boil
Thurs. Mar 28	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Main Street between Jefferson and Capitol Streets	MC Dinner and Concert
	1:30 - 9 p.m.	Intersection of West Leake and Jefferson Streets	
	4 - 9 p.m.	Jefferson Street from Main to Leake Streets and Main Street east of Jefferson Street	
Fri. Mar. 29	9 - 11 a.m.	College Street. from Clinton Parkway to Jefferson Street	MC Inauguration Activities
	3 - 5:30 p.m.	College Street between Monroe and Capitol Streets	
Sat. Mar 30	3 - 9 p.m.	West Leake Street from The Bank east to Monroe St and Jefferson Street from the Wyatt Waters Gallery north to Leake Street	Junior Auxiliary Spring Thing event / Crawfish Boil

the Spring Thing Fundraiser with a crawfish boil and silent auction in Olde Towne.

Road closures that Saturday will be for Leake Street and Jefferson Street, which will begin at 3 p.m. Jefferson Street will be closed from the Wyatt Waters Gallery north to Leake Street. West Leake Street will be closed from The Bank by Pizza Shack east to Monroe Street. Street closures for the Spring Thing event will run from

3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Local restaurants will be open with parking available in front of 303 Jefferson, along Main Street, behind 303 Jefferson and behind City Hall.

For more information about the Spring Thing Fundraiser, which benefits Clinton community projects, visit the Junior Auxiliary of Clinton's Facebook page.

To view all street closures in Clinton, visit www.ClintonMS.org/roadclosures.

Toughening human trafficking laws goal of legislature

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

With the Session winding down, the House has been focused and determined in our work. I am very happy to report that House Bill 571, our bill to strengthen human trafficking laws, has not only passed the House, but also the Senate. The House passed the legislation unanimously.

Human trafficking is compelling someone to do any type of work against their will. It is any labor with



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a commercial exchange with some type of force, fraud or other course of nature.

This is a problem happening all around us, in our own backyards. I'm proud of House members for recognizing the severity of this in Mississippi. We are working together to strengthen our laws to help some of our most vulnerable citizens.

As originally presented, House Bill 571 would:

- Ensure that all minors under 18 are immune from prosecution for prostitution charges.
- Allow law enforcement to take child sex trafficking victims into emergency protective custody for purposes of referring them to specialized services.

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- Require child welfare to respond to and provide holistic care to child sex trafficking victims, regardless of parent or caregiver fault.
- Require child welfare to use multi-disciplinary teams in child sex trafficking cases.
- Require training on human trafficking for law enforcement, child welfare employees, and foster parents.
- Require child welfare to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the number of child sex trafficking case referrals received and the types of care that were provided.

The Senate has suggested adding that any person who purchases or attempts to purchase sex with a child is an offender of child sex trafficking; any child who is bought or sold for sex is a victim of sex trafficking, regardless of whether the child has an identified trafficker or controlling third party; and increasing penalties for traffickers.

This legislation was crafted with the support of national experts and local law enforcement and advocacy groups. We are looking forward to putting strong policy into practice and seeing the improvement in response to the horrific crime of human trafficking. This legislation is the beginning of a much stronger response in Mississippi.