

# The Clinton Courier

April 16, 2019 ■ Volume 10, Number 8 ■ Clinton, Mississippi

## New train rolls into Clinton Depot; cabooses to follow

By Katherine R. Dougan

The dream of a train to carry passengers around Olde Towne Clinton became a reality a few weeks ago, when an engine and four passenger cars rolled into Clinton. According to Anna Boyd, Assistant Director of Main Street Clinton, who operates the Clinton Depot, Mayor Phil Fisher tried for several years to find funding for a land train. A land train looks like a regular train, but has tires instead of train wheels and can travel on city streets.

"When we saw a similar train at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson, we realized we could have one built just like we wanted," Boyd said. John Jacobsen designed the train at the Ag Museum and provided a "wealth of knowledge for us." Jacobsen, a board member of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Foundation, helped Boyd and others to get the Depot museum going in Clinton, providing assistance with the model train displays and much more.

Independent Metal Craft in Clinton fabricated the train by using Jacobsen's design and also applying their own special brand of ingenuity. Dee Warren, the owner and president of Independent Metal Craft, or IMC, said his crew was given a Kubota tractor to use for the train's engine.



Special to The Clinton Courier

Turner the Train is at home at the Olde Towne Depot, ready to give rides around Olde Towne for special events.

"We stripped it down and clad it in metal to make it look like a locomotive," he said. "We designed and built the fender well, a barrel shape for the front of the train, and made all of it removable."

The engine's exhaust and cooling system had to be reworked, and the design had to be as safe as possible. Joey LaRue did all of the metal fabrication,

and Dylan Butler handled all of the painting.

When asked if building a train was an unusual project for IMC, Warren said: "It seems like our shop always gets unusual projects."

The cars for the city's train were constructed using a base of four small trailers.

"We redesigned them, installed

stainless steel seats, and put a canopy on top." On Friday, April 5, IMC was working on the final car for the train, a handicap-accessible caboose. Warren explained that the trailer is being redesigned to drop down lower in the back to accommodate a sort of drawbridge that will lower to allow wheelchairs to board the caboose.

The train pulls four passenger cars plus the handicap-accessible caboose behind it. The passenger cars accommodate four to six adults or six to eight children, Boyd said.

"It will be used mostly at city special events, some at the park, some Main Street and some Depot events."

The Depot hosts monthly reading events for kids called the Reading Railroad. Children read a book and do a craft. Beginning in May, after reading a book and doing a craft, kids will get to go for a short train ride through Olde Towne.

During city events, particularly during park events, the train will serve as a shuttle. The train is also available for rent by nonprofit organizations for public events within the city limits, Boyd said.

"The train will be a great asset for City use," said Mayor Phil Fisher. "It will take people from Traceway to Olde Towne when brick street events

cont. on page 6

### INSIDE:

Jazz band concert.....	3
"Pop-up" market.....	7
The Great Hangout.....	11
Wandering Warriors.....	14
Attache' Spring Revue.....	18
Makos team goes to state meet ...	21
Depot celebrates one year.....	25
Proctors needed.....	28
MC inauguration pics.....	34-35
Legislative update.....	37

## Taste the Town comes back to brick streets

Special to The Clinton Courier

Main Street Clinton and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce are hard at work to bring one of 2018's biggest highlights back to Olde Towne Clinton.

"Taste the Town" is set for Thursday, April 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the brick streets, with a host of local restaurants on hand with samples of their best menu items.

For only \$20 per person, hungry samplers can taste an array of different offerings, with each restaurant showcasing two dishes for the crowd to sample in tents lining Jefferson Street.

Tea, lemonade or water will be included in the ticket price, but adults can also enjoy the Olde Towne Entertainment District with a craft beer, wine or

mixed drink available for purchase from downtown restaurant 303 Jefferson and The Bank by Pizza Shack.

Live music will be played as guests roam from table to table satisfying their appetites with local favorites like Froghead Grill's bread pudding or a sweet treat from Meme's Brick Street Bakery.

"This is a great opportunity for our citizens to enjoy food from our local restaurants that they may not have eaten at yet," said TJ McSparrin, Director of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce. "We will have samples from new establishments like Dutch's Oven, The Country

Kitchen and Fuzzy's Taco Shop, as well as new items from longstanding restaurants like Fox's Pizza, Taste of India, Mazzio's and Chick-fil-a. We are excited to spotlight these restaurants and

remind our community what is offered in their own backyard."

A variety of foods will be available to sample. Southern comfort food, Mexican favorites and Italian cuisine will ensure everyone will find something to curb their cravings.

To purchase tickets, visit [www.mainstreetclintonms.com/taste](http://www.mainstreetclintonms.com/taste).

For additional information, contact the Main Street Clinton office at 601-924-5472.



**ROBERT BOYD AND ASSOCIATES**  
LAW FIRM PLLC  
103 Woodchase Park Drive  
Clinton, Mississippi 39056  
601-925-5511

Have you been injured?  
Do you know your legal rights?  
We do. Call us: 601-925-5511  
Helping clients since 1985.  
Put our experience to work for you.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
[TheCarWreckLawFirm.com](http://TheCarWreckLawFirm.com)

- Car Wrecks
- 18-Wheeler Wrecks
- Motorcycle Wrecks
- Bicycle/Pedestrian/Car Wrecks
- Serious Slip and Fall Injuries
- Other Injury Claims
- Workers' Comp Claims
- Offshore/Riverboat/Dock Injuries

Free Background Information Upon Request