

Landscaping & beautification services outsourced by City

By Katherine R. Dougan

With a unanimous vote at the Board of Aldermen and Mayor's October 15 meeting, the Board approved accepting a bid from Schoggen Scapes Inc., in the amount of \$40,620 for the landscape maintenance services at the Olde Towne Depot, City Hall, the Clinton Police Station, Clinton's Visitor Center and Towne Spring Park.

According to City officials, the decision not only guarantees professional, quality beautification for the city, but also represents a cost savings, because there is not a need to hire or assign City employees to handle the work.

"Beautification of Clinton is a high priority for me, and the move to privatize is the most efficient and economical way to produce the best look. I believe using Schoggen Scapes will produce a timelier and consistent appearance around town at a cheaper price than the City has been able to do with our limited assets," Mayor Phil Fisher said. "I have a goal, when fiscally responsible, to continue privatizing the landscaping throughout our community, because I believe the private sector will do a better job, and Schoggen Scapes is very good at what they do."

In addition to the beautification throughout the city, Schoggen Scapes has also been working on a wildflower project in the I-20 median near the Norrell Road exit, Mayor Fisher said.

"This is the City's second attempt at this project. The first, a Public Works effort, was unsuccessful, because we lacked the equipment needed to properly prep the soil. The current test patch will cover a one-acre area in the median. If successful, over time we will expand the wildflower planting in the I-20 median to cover as much of the six mile strip as practical."

"Beautification efforts within a city indicate

a community is moving forward. It is a quality of life opportunity that separates Clinton from other cities. For example, Public Works took the grass cutting responsibilities from MDOT in 2014 to maintain a better look along I-20 than our east and west neighbors. People living in Clinton, and traveling through, notice this and recognize Clinton as a city that has pride in its appearance. We also remove the grass and weeds under the bridges on I-20 to further make the point that our city has pride in the image we project."

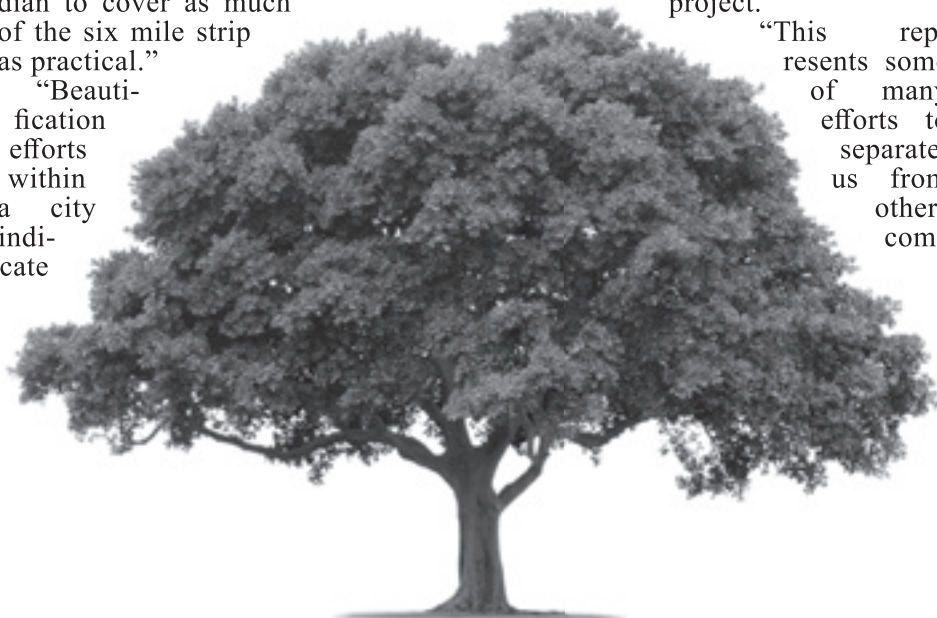
"This represents some of many efforts to separate us from other com-

munities, and establish Clinton as a city on the move," Fisher stated.

Schoggen Scapes is a family owned business located in Clinton and serving the central Mississippi area. The business is owned and operated by brothers, Will and Phil Schoggen.

"Our passion for the landscape industry started at a young age while we were mowing yard in the summer months as kids," the brothers' website states. The Schoggens pledge to stand by their vision to provide exemplary professional customer service, abiding by safety principles and offering a broad range of services to customers.

A testimonial on their website from Bo Barksdale, Director of Building and Grounds for Clinton Public Schools, serves as a strong recommendation about Schoggen Scapes' services: "Will and Phil Schoggens are hard-working, dependable and honest landscape designers. They listen to the client and develop a design that fits perfectly with the clients' vision. The design of the front landscaping and flagpole at Clinton High School far exceeded our expectations. They have a talent for updating and improving the grounds to existing buildings. Their level of service and professionalism is impeccable."



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