

# Board of Aldermen gives outlook for 2020

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Clinton's elected officials were asked to submit their 2019 outlooks. Received responses are published below.

## Ricki Garrett, PhD Aldermwoman-at-Large

As I look around Clinton, I am proud of the progress that has been made in our city but also recognize that there are many goals that still need to be accomplished. January provides an opportunity to look both behind us and into the future.

On a positive note, the Clinton Public School District has again ranked among the highest in our state and continues to provide an outstanding educational experience for our children. A recent article in *The Wall Street Journal* recognized the Clinton Public Schools as a model of desegregation in 1971, and the successes continue today.

Clinton continues to win awards for its Main Street Program, and its wastewater treatment facility was named Plant of the Year in 2019. Departments such as Therapeutic Recreation and the Clinton Visitors Center have significantly increased participation, providing our citizens with meaningful recreational and historical experiences. Clinton's parks are in the process of being upgraded and expanded in order to provide the highest level of outdoor experiences for our families.

Clinton's Police and Fire Departments have made significant strides this year in terms of protecting our citizens and their property. The Clinton Police Department was recently recognized with a valuable accreditation, which will assist with recruitment, acquisition of grants, and other benefits.

On a less than positive note, Clinton, as a city in Hinds County, continues to struggle with perceptions as realities that have not plagued other cities in the metropolitan area. In order to overcome those handicaps, the leadership of Clin-

ton must go above and beyond in promoting the city and attracting first-rate business and industry. We must make sure that Clinton is perceived as welcoming and eager to work with builders, developers and those who want to make Clinton their home. And we must have a culture in City Hall that promotes an openness to new and different ideas, respect, and transformational and visionary thinking.

We must also make sure that Clinton is putting its best foot forward in terms of the appearance of our city, assuring that it is pristine, codes are enforced, rental requirements are stringent, and focus is placed on revitalizing our older neighborhoods. We must think big while also paying attention to detail.

As your Aldermwoman-at-Large, I encourage you to share with me your ideas, concerns, and hopes for our city.

"Progress is not inevitable. It's up to us to create it."

## Jim Martin Ward 2

Sometimes, it seems, we overlook the opportunities that we have, while desiring things that we would like to have. While a vision for improvement and growth is important, we do not need to overlook what we have. We are blessed to have a great school district and a great university. While space does not allow review of the many City, business and civic events, this look ahead article focuses on opportunities available with our schools. There is a plethora of activities available at our schools – sports, educational and entertainment.

On the entertainment front, Attache' has well-attended performances. The "Attache'-in-training" students in our Jr. High's Ambassadors show choir offer performances. There are a number of musical performances and plays at Mississippi College throughout the year.

Mississippi College offers many lecture and other educational opportunities and events available to everyone.

Our students excel in sports. There are plenty of sports events to attend. Our youth league sports are always fun and competitive and are priming for high school teams. In 2019, Clinton High School ranked eighth in the State in Division 6 all sports awards. Twenty-one Arrow varsity sports competed in post-season play, with thirteen teams winning district or regional titles. Highlights were the Lady Arrows track team's seventh straight MHSAA 6A State Championship, Lady Arrow Volleyball 6A State Championship and Lady Arrow Kingpins repeating as Class III Bowling Champions.

Mississippi College recently completed transition from NCAA Division III to Division II and are now competitive at this higher level. MC competes in the Gulf South Conference, one of the best conferences in Division II. 2017-19 highlights were GSC championships in men's soccer, women's soccer, baseball, softball and track and field. NCAA Tournament appearances in women's soccer, cross country, baseball, softball, women's tennis and track and field. MC's difficult transition to Division II in football provided a 2019 competitive team with a victory over Delta State for the first time in many years.

We have a lot of good things going on in Clinton. The school events mentioned are only a part of events available in Clinton. I encourage everyone to find something they enjoy and participate. The more support we show to city and school events, businesses and restaurants, the more success and expansion we can expect.

Looking forward to a great 2020!

## Bill Barnett Ward 3

As I look to 2020, I feel good about the positive things that are happen in the city and in Ward 3.

Constructions of new homes along Pinehaven make

Ward 3 the fastest growing ward in the city. I anticipate many new families moving to Clinton.

One area that I am especially excited about for 2020 is in Parks and Recreation. With the additional funds received by the department, they are going to be able to upgrade Traceway Park, rebuild Kids Towne Park and upgrade Robinson Park.

Lions Club Park will become a reality. This park has been a vision of the Lions Club and has been in the making for some five years. Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Lions Club International, a concerted effort was started to get the park built. With the mayor's buy in of the new park and with help of Chelsea Brannon, Tara Lytal and many others, we will have a state-of-the-art handicapped-accessible park by early 2020.

As your Alderman, I will continue to support the goals this Board set when we began this term - crime prevention, better fire protection, economic development and maintaining property values.

If you have any concerns or problems that you would like to discuss with me, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 601-924-7249 or cell phone 601-954-9610. My e-mail address is wobarnett@aol.com.

## Keith Perritt Ward 4

First of all, I would like to say thank you all for letting me serve you as your Ward 4 alderman.

Your support is appreciated and has been an

uplifting experience for my family and me throughout the last two years. We've enjoyed seeing you at events around town and being a part of such a wonderful community.

This year, Clinton has undergone a course of cutting-edge upgrades. One of these upgrades includes faster cell networks, with Clinton being one of the first 5G cities in the state. Another is the new ADA-compliant million-dollar Lion's Club Park. This park will make op-

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3 YEARS



5 YEARS



8 YEARS

