



The Clinton Courier

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Robinson Park playground renovation complete

Special to *The Clinton Courier*

Installation of the new playground at Clinton's Robinson Park, located in the historic Sarah Dickey neighborhood, is complete. Robinson Park is the first public Playcore Play On! Promoting Physical Activity National Demonstration Site in the state of Mississippi.

"Achieving this designation as the first play structure of its kind at a public park in the State of Mississippi is a noteworthy achievement by our Parks and Recreation Department," said Mayor Phil Fisher. "It is even more rewarding for the playground to be at Robinson Park, undergirding this administration's continued support of all areas of the city. The Sarah Dickey neighborhood is an important part of our city's history and an equally important part of our city's future prosperity."

The National Demonstration Site is built towards allowing children to exercise while playing on the playground equipment. With childhood obesity continually becoming a problem in the nation, these playgrounds allow the child to play and exercise at the same time, while also having fun.

The playground structure has six key play elements that promote fitness – balancing, brachiating, climb-

cont. on page 38

Community invited to help rebuild Clinton's Kid's Towne Park



A rendering of the soon-to-be-installed play structures at Clinton's Kid's Towne Park. The community is invited to volunteer to help with the installation of the equipment January 25-27.

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The Clinton Parks and Recreation Department is inviting residents to participate in the installation of the new playground at Kid's Towne Park on January 25-27.

The community-involved installation will highlight the City of Clinton's commitment to preserving and enhancing the legacy of the twenty-three-year-old community-built park. Involving

the community in the renovations will serve as a reminder of the significant contributions of those who worked diligently to make the park a reality over two decades ago, when the park was built as a Leadership Clinton project that encompassed the entire community in its scope.

Kid's Towne Park was closed on November 6, 2019, to allow for crews to remove the existing wooden playground. Installation of the new playground is

slated for completion and reopening on January 27 (weather permitting).

"This park holds a very special place in the heart of our community, as Kid's Towne was a gift from many Clinton residents in monetary and labor efforts," said Mayor Phil Fisher.

The opening of the Bark Park adjacent to Kid's Towne has brought new visitors to what is now Clinton's most popular park. Renovations will reflect the additional foot traffic.

Once completed, Kid's Towne will join Robinson Park in Clinton as the second PlayCore Play-On! public playground in Mississippi. Play On! structures are built towards allowing children to exercise while playing on the playground equipment.

Parks and Recreation Director Adam Wade stated that the playground elements are designed to stimulate the mind and imagination as well as provide physical activity.

Additionally, the new play structure at Kid's Towne Park will allow better sight lines for parents and children utilizing the updated park that rests beneath the natural shade structure.

Those interested in registering to assist with installation are asked to call the Clinton Parks and Recreation department at 601-924-6082. Pre-registration by groups and individuals is recommended to allow for the Parks and Recreation Department to adequately plan for the installation.

Board votes to rescind \$272k American Tower buyout

Special to *The Clinton Courier*

In their December 3, 2019, meeting, Clinton's Board of Aldermen approved a one-time payment of \$272,000 from American Tower, a company that leases a cell phone tower in the city, for a permanent easement, by a 6-1 vote. Ward 2 Alderman Jim Martin was the dissenting vote.

American Tower currently pays the City \$1,400 a month to lease the tower. During their December 2 work session, Mayor Phil Fisher and the Board discussed options that the company had proposed, together with changes and details that Fisher had negotiated, regarding extending their contract with the City or buying out their lease.

Initially, the company proposed ex-

tending their contract with the City through 2057 at a price of \$1,098 a month, or paying the City \$228,000 in cash and never making any more monthly payments. Fisher negotiated with them, and eventually had three adjusted options available for consideration: a \$272,000 one-time buyout; a second option to make payments of \$5,318 per month over five years (60 months) for a total amount paid of around \$319,000; or a third option of paying \$3,182 a month for 120 months, or ten years, with a total amount paid of around \$381,000.

The acceptance of the one-time buyout was expected to add \$272,000 to the City's coffers. However, at the January 7, 2020, Board meeting, a motion was made by Ward 1 Alderman Dave Ellis

to bring the matter back up for consideration. The motion passed, and the issue was raised for consideration.

During the new discussion, some Board Members said they were confused about which tower was being discussed for a buyout. Some also thought the vote was made without enough information provided and therefore needed to be brought up again for reconsideration.

A new vote to approve the acceptance of the buyout payment failed, 4-3. Alderwoman-at-Large Ricki Garrett, Martin, Ward 5 Alderwoman Cossitt and Ellis voted against the buyout.

"The matter was first mentioned to Aldermen by the Mayor at their December 2, 2019, work session," said Martin.

cont. on page 32

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