

*Robin McCrory

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. An additional BCBS Healthy Heroes grant of \$47,900 was spent on playground and adult outdoor fitness equipment. A total of \$99,976 funded through MDWFP Recreational Trails Program was spent on the construction of a one-half mile walking track. COVID-19 did not allow the full use of this park last year; but it is there, available for public use, once the restrictions are lifted. The ball park has just received grant funding in April in the amount of \$10,624.43 to purchase bats, baseballs, helmets, catcher's equipment, bases, home plate, batter's box template, field chalk and chalker, backstop netting, fencing, lumber for bleachers, dugout benches, waste receptacles, weed eater, and way finding signage.

Knowing that public safety and protection are of utmost importance to our constituency, we secured police department grants during this term totaling \$232,476. A \$45,000 USDA Rural Development Community Facilities grant was awarded to purchase two new police cars. A COPS Hiring DOJ grant of \$147,476 was awarded to assist in hiring two new additional police officers, spread over a three-year period. A third grant of \$40,000 was used to purchase a 2020 Ford Explorer, ballistic vests, and body cameras for the police department. Through collaboration with the Cities of Ridgeland, Brandon, and Byram, we were donated seven used vehicles, radios, and vests. A much needed Fire Truck was also purchased for \$86,500 using Fire Rebate Funding.

Of vital importance to any city is its infrastructure, which includes roads, water, and sewer. Through a \$155,000 Rural Impact Fund grant, we were able to resur-

face Swinney Lane, Olive Street, and Kickernick Street for the expanding manufacturing coffee business, which will create at least ten new jobs. Through IMF funding, we were also able to resurface Jaycee Drive.

A CDBG PF grant of \$449,443 funded the replacement of Beall Street and McGee sewer lift stations, as well as bank stabilization to the wastewater lagoon levees. An additional USDA Emergency Watershed Protection grant of \$78,585 was used to stabilize washout of the embankment and road leading to the wastewater treatment facility; and an additional \$20,000 grant from MDA was used to complete road improvements at the wastewater treatment facility.

As previously stated, there are major projects, totaling \$3.7 million, that are funded, but not yet completed. Notice of funding was received in March, with bid advertisement set for April, to repave portions of Tchula Street, Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Elder Rodgers Street, College Street, and Baker Streets in the amount of \$100,000.

Advertisement for bids will take place in May for improvements to the east exit off the Square, which includes sidewalks, historic lamppost lighting, benches, waste receptacles, treescaping and drainage with a \$750,000 grant from MOOT. Now, the east exit off the Square will be as inviting and safe, as is the south exit.

In conjunction with this project, there will also be a bid letting in June for the construction of a new bridge over Moccasin Creek, complete with a pedestrian walkway. Estimated cost of this project is \$1 million dollars.

The largest of these funded improvements, however, is a \$2 million-dollar project for the repaving of Court Square; Highway 17 South from the Square to Saints School; Highway 12 East

from Square to Black Creek/mobile home plant; Liberty Parkway Bypass; Highway 12 West from the Square to Old Tchula Road; and parts of 1st and 5th Streets in Pecan Grove. This project includes painting, striping and installation of reflectors for night driving. Requests for bids for this project will take place in June, 2021. This much needed funding required hard work, long hours, and a true commitment to public service.

Unquestionably, 2020 was a difficult year because of COVID-19; but as a result of our early response to the crisis, the City of Lexington was more fortunate than most communities of its size. Early on, we partnered with Mississippi State Department of Health to se-

cure face masks and hand sanitizer, distributed by drive-thru giveaways at the Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex. Drive-thru testing sites at the parking lots of the library, former Fred's, and Multi-Purpose Complex provided early COVID-19 tests for our citizens; and the City partnered with Lexington Food Pantry to provide food boxes, supplied by the USDA Farm to Families program and Mississippi Food Network distributing over 277,000 pounds of food. Even though COVID-19 impacted our Christmas parade, we were still able to celebrate the season with a drive-thru candy giveaway for the children, that included a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, the elves, and Christmas music by a local disc jockey.

In my first two terms as your mayor, the city received \$6.9 million in grants for needed improvements. The most notable of these improvements was the enhancement of Court Square with new sidewalks, historical lamppost lighting, benches, and landscaping at a cost of \$1,600,000. However, there were many other accomplished projects that included the following: converting the National Guard building in to our much needed Multi-Purpose Complex at a cost of \$450,000; improvements to the water and sewer service at \$800,000; construction of nine new homes through HOME program grants; and stabilization of ditches to prevent erosion at a cost of \$500,000.

On a personal note, I am a

lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church and a summa cum laude graduate of Mississippi State University. I have been married to my husband, Frankie McCrory, for 45 years, and we have been blessed with three children and four grandchildren. I serve on many boards, both civic and professional.

On Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at City Hall, I ask that you, my fellow citizens and friends, vote for and return me, Robin McCrory, to the Office of Mayor of our City. Together we can show the world that Lexington is a place of opportunity for all and a place we are proud to call home. With over 14 million dollars in funding secured, we are moving in the right direction. Let's stay the course and keep on track.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Holmes County Consolidated School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 on **June 3, 2021 at 5:00 pm** at the Holmes County Consolidated School District Central Office, 313 Olive Street, Lexington, MS. The Holmes County Consolidated School District is now operating with a projected total revenue budget of \$37,242,224.36. Of that amount 17.89 percent or \$6,661,444.00 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has a total projected revenue of \$32,590,335.37. Of that amount, 18.72 percent or \$6,099,862 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the proposed increase in ad valorem tax effort by Holmes County Consolidated School District may result in an increase in the ad valorem tax millage rate. Ad valorem taxes are paid on homes, automobile tags, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property.

Any citizen of the Holmes County Consolidated School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax effort, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

Dr. Debra Powell
Superintendent of Education
Holmes County Consolidated School District
Lexington, MS 39095

University of Mississippi Announces Spring 2021 Dean's Honor Roll

OXFORD, MISS. - The University of Mississippi recently announced students named to the Spring 2021 Honor Roll lists, including Dean's Honor Roll.

The following students were named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74:

Christian Niahla Faith Davis of Lexington, MS.

Corryn Alexis Timmerman of Lexington, MS.

Jon'na Bailey of Pickens, MS.

Anna Grace Rigby of West, MS.

In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business. Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action. Recognized among the nation's most beautiful, Ole Miss' main campus is in Oxford, which is routinely acknowledged as one of the country's best college towns.