

THE **Bolton** NEWS

Hinds, HCSD partner to open Early College Academy

Special to Bolton News

Hinds Community College and Hinds County School District (HCSD) have established an Early College Academy on the college's Utica campus that will provide high schoolers with a faster path to a postsecondary education and workforce readiness.

The academy will be in the former Hinds County Agricultural High School building, closed twelve years ago. Set to launch in the fall in the refurbished school, the academy will be open to juniors and seniors at Raymond High School and Terry High School, with room for up to one hundred students. Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik and HCSD Superintendent Dr. Mitchell Shears formalized the partnership with a dual signing of a Memo of Understanding (MOU).

Dr. Vacik said the academy will help the high school students get a head start on college in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Students can obtain their high school diploma and an associate's degree at the same time, saving time and money.

"One of the things we're excited is the commitment to STEM education we've made on this campus," said Vacik. "I'm looking forward to these students have the potential to move on to professions in medicine, re-



Special to The Clinton Courier

Hinds Community College President Dr. Stephen Vacik and Hinds County School District Superintendent Mitchell Shears sign a partnership agreement and unveil the logo for Early College Academy, to be located on the Hinds CC-Utica campus in the fall.

search and technology and being the leaders for the future of Mississippi."

Dr. Shears knows the Hinds CC-Utica Campus well. He attended high school there and returned a decade ago as Dean of Academics before eventually becoming HCSD superintendent. He currently serves as a member of the Hinds CC Board of Trustees.

"We are very excited about this partnership, because it opens access and opportunities for our students to earn up to an associate's degree while they are in high school," Dr. Shears said. "We are thrilled to allow our students to be a part of this innovation here at the college as well as the school district."

According to the agreement, a ninth-grade cohort of fifty students will begin at the academy in fall 2027, and tenth graders will be eligible to attend in fall 2028. Students will take a full academic course load with instruction from Hinds CC faculty. All students must meet admission requirements for dual enrollment students.

HCSD will pay regular Hinds CC tuition and fees for all participating students and provide transportation to and from the Utica Campus. Hinds CC will provide classroom facilities and support services for all enrolled students, as well as office space and campus resources for the school's director and counselor.

TOWN OF BOLTON



PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF BOLTON ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

On May 5, 2026, the Board of Alderman for the Town of Bolton adopted by unanimous vote the Animal Control Ordinance to regulate ownership, control and care of animals within the Town limits.

The Animal Control Ordinance sets forth pertinent definitions to aid understanding of its measures, prohibitions for allowing animals to run at large, proper restraint requirements, and sanitation and shelter conditions.

Owners are informed that the Board may declare a dog dangerous upon the occurrence of certain events. Once the dangerous dog designation is declared, owners are required to follow certain safety precautions.

Residents are limited to having three (3) dogs on their premises. Possessing more than three (3) dogs requires an annual permit, inspection and approval of the Board.

Animals may be seized and impounded. The ordinance provides the manner by which an owner may reclaim its animal. Further, the ordinance explains the duty of law enforcement to kill any dog above the age of three (3) months found running at large on whose neck there is no collar and appropriate vaccination tag. It notifies the owner that the law prevents them from suing for such killing.

The ordinance also provides procedures for enforcement and penalties for violations when necessary.

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PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF BOLTON JUNK, DEBRIS, AND JUNK VEHICLE ORDINANCE

On May 5, 2026, the Board of Alderman adopted by unanimous vote the Junk, Debris, and Junk Vehicle Ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town of Bolton by preventing the accumulation, open storage, and maintenance of trash, debris, junk vehicles, appliances, and other materials that constitute a public nuisance or safety hazard. This ordinance will also rid the Town of abandoned or dilapidated buildings, fences or other structures that pose a danger to the community.

Definitions are included to aid residents understanding of the ordinance. Prohibited conditions are detailed. The ordinance provides for a specific Notice to be delivered to the offending property owner.

The size of the property dictates the procedural steps that the Town will take before cleaning the property and/or contracting with a company to clean the property. Upon expiration of the deadline to clean the property, the Board will declare, by resolution, whether the cost and any penalty shall be collected either by suit against the owner or by lien on the property. Either option, costs, penalties, court costs, reasonable attorney's fees, and interest will be collected. Penalties and criminal fines are clearly explained in the ordinance.

Property owners are responsible for keeping their property free from conditions that may create health hazards, attract pests, lower property values, or negatively impact neighboring properties.

The Town encourages voluntary compliance and cooperation from all residents. Together, we can help keep Bolton clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

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