



SMPDD

Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District

BUILDING A STRONGER MISSISSIPPI

SMPDD WELCOMES FIRST LADY DEBORAH BRYANT



Eric Chambless, SMPDD Board Member; Allison Beasley, Economic/Workforce Development Division Director; Robert Moore, Senior Services Director; Mary LaRosa, Chief Financial Officer; First Lady of Mississippi Deborah Bryant; Kristyn Gunter, Business/Outreach Development Director; Leonard Bentz, Executive Director; Marshall Eleuterius, Community Bank

In addition to opening our new Gulfport, MS location in May, SMPDD was honored to receive a visit from our very own First Lady of Mississippi, Deborah Bryant. Mrs. Bryant received a tour of our new facility and was able to visit with everyone while she was here. Our division directors presented their programs and discussed our partnerships of how we are working together to build a stronger Mississippi.

SMPDD PROUDLY PARTNERS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES:



Covington
Forrest
George
Greene
Hancock

Harrison
Jackson
Jefferson Davis
Jones
Lamar

Marion
Pearl River
Perry
Stone
Wayne

MAC CENTER AND THE CITY OF GULFPORT HOST THE MAC MILE

SMPDD's Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center, in collaboration with the City of Gulfport, hosted the "MAC Mile" in beautiful Jones Park. Over 35 participants enjoyed the warm coastal breeze as they walked the paved path under the swaying palm trees. City of Gulfport Mayor and SMPDD Board Member, Billy Hewes, welcomed participants and started the walkers on their way. The group was enthusiastic and expressed sincere appreciation for the opportunity to participate in such a meaningful event. Mary Maynard of DeLisle said, "that was a cool walk, I've never walked this before and this is awesome."

The walk was held to promote the many services offered through the MAC Center, including information relative to Low Income Support "Extra Help" application assistance efforts. Attracting participants as old as 78, this local wellness event was held in conjunction with the Senior Summer BBQ, an annual event attended by over 500 seniors from all parts of Harrison County and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Always willing to partner with the MAC Center, Mr. Adam Tyler, District Manager at Valley Services, sponsored the Photo Booth for the Senior Summer BBQ. The MAC Center staff would like to thank Mayor Hewes, the City of Gulfport, Boyington Health and Rehabilitation Center, Silver Slipper Casino and The Port of Gulfport for their support of the MAC Mile walk.



SMPDD FALL 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Since 2015, SMPDD has been awarding scholarships to students throughout our fifteen county service area. The SMPDD scholarships recognize one academic and one technical student each school year that have met the qualifications and are attending Pearl River Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College or Jones County Junior College.

For the fall 2018 semester, SMPDD awarded 26 scholarships totaling \$19,500. Our board members are honored to be able to award these scholarships and make a difference in the lives of the students and their communities. To date, SMPDD has awarded \$108,750 in scholarships.

SMPDD FALL 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Pearl River Community College

Student	SMPDD Board Member	County	Amount
Brailey Smith	Darrin "Bo" Ladner	Hancock	\$750
Trey Hobgood III	Calvin Newsom	Marion	\$750
Kelly Martin Jr	Calvin Newsom	Marion	\$750
Tanisha Abram	John Thompson	Jefferson Davis	\$750
Patricia Reese	John Thompson	Jefferson Davis	\$750
Hannah Steverson	Charles Marshall	Forrest	\$750
Ricky Mosley	David Hogan	Forrest	\$750
Savannah Byrd	Donald Hart	Pearl River	\$750
Mallory Lee	Donald Hart	Pearl River	\$750
William Rankin	Phillip Carlisle	Lamar	\$750
Mary Matheny	Phillip Carlisle	Lamar	\$750

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Madison Scott	Troy Ross	Jackson	\$750
Ryan Davis	Larry McDonald	George	\$750
Kyle Estes	Larry McDonald	George	\$750
Kaylan Williams	Scott Strickland	Stone	\$750
Thomas Griffin	Connie Rockco	Harrison	\$750
Bailie Roberts	Connie Rockco	Harrison	\$750

Jones County Junior College

Madison McIlwain	Jerry Hutto	Wayne	\$750
Ty Allen Smith	Jerry Hutto	Wayne	\$750
Amelia Buckley	Guy Easterling	Covington	\$750
McKenna Pippen	Guy Easterling	Covington	\$750
Dustin Dunnam	Bobby Bolton	Perry	\$750
Lynda Bazor	Bobby Bolton	Perry	\$750
Cole Taylor	Johnny Burnett	Jones	\$750
Calla Pitts	Morris Hill	Greene	\$750
Anna Schrimshire	Morris Hill	Greene	\$750

TOTAL FALL 2018 SCHOLARSHIPS \$19,500

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE \$108,750

PINK UP

SMPDD breast cancer survivor encourages women to be mindful of chemicals



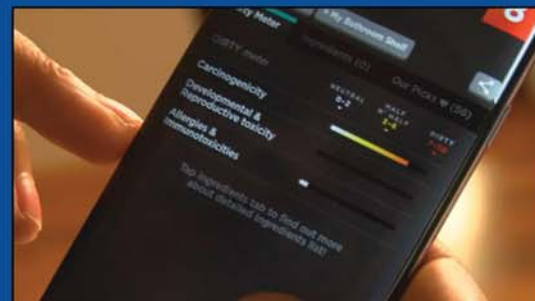
After overcoming her battle with breast cancer, SMPDD's very own Celeste Brown, started the non-profit organization "The Pink Lady" to help other women in the fight against breast cancer. Through her organization, Brown encourages women to be more

mindful of harmful chemicals they put in their bodies.

Pillows and prayers, care packages, tips and tricks and a system of support are things Brown offers as a part of her non-profit. Brown completed chemotherapy and radiation coming out on top. However, she still had questions about her diagnosis of triple negative breast cancer which prompted her to do some research of her own.

During her research, she came across an app called "Think Dirty". Brown always tells people, "Think dirty, shop clean". This app lists potentially harmful ingredients, carcinogens and parabens which are chemicals absorbed by the skin that can cause changes in estrogen receptors of breast cells. To use the app, a user has to scan the bar code of the products. Afterwards, a rating pops up along with a list of ingredients, both good and bad.

Though more research is being done on links between chemicals and breast cancer, Brown said it's just one way women can have more control over what goes on and in their bodies.



Source: WDAM Staff

MIPPA IN THE COMMUNITY

The month of May was filled with Wellness and Health Prevention throughout South Mississippi as SMPDD sponsored four events with funding provided by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). MIPPA requirements were fulfilled by assisting with LIS/MSP application and preventative/wellness efforts in the form of public outreach at the following events below and on the next page.

The first event took place on May 9th at the Collins Community Center. Grandparents from Pinebelt Association for Families (PAFF) conducted Senior Fitness Tests for participants from the Prentiss Congregate Site, Mount Olive Congregate Site and PAFF Covington County Center. Covington County Hospital performed digital cuff blood pressure, resting pulse and blood oxygen readings for each participant. Mississippi State University Extension Services provided nutrition facts and tips. At the end of the stations, all participants received their ratings and were given the opportunity to learn more about ways to improve their scores and overall fitness.



On May 11th Spring Field Day/Health was held by the City of Moss Point. Jackson County Civic Action Committee, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Singing River Health and Rehabilitation and Ocean Springs Health and Rehabilitation all provided games, refreshments, activities and information to seniors from Moss Point Senior Center, Ocean Springs Senior Center and the Pascagoula Senior Center. Lunch was provided to participants after the activities were complete.



On May 17th and 18th the Third Annual Senior Games were hosted by the Senior Center of South Pearl River County at the EL Patch Senior Center in Picayune. This signature event serves as a qualifier for the National Senior Olympics. More than 50+ seniors participated in a One Mile Run/Walk and Sprint Run/Walk, horseshoes, corn hole, Wii bowling, team line dance, freestyle dancing, archery, bean bag baseball and darts. The event closed with a "Celebration of Athletes" luncheon where 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals were awarded.



On May 24th Harrison County Board of Supervisor Angel Kibler-Middleton hosted Harrison County's Senior Fun, Fishing & Recreation Day at Hay Fever Farm in the Lyman Community. 140 seasoned "Coasties" made the pond side their home away from home for the day, ranging from the experienced anglers to the novices and everyone in between. Frances Frederick's Senior Center, Woolmarket Senior Center, Saucier Senior Center, Biloxi Senior Center, D'Iberville Senior Center, Lobouy Senior Center and Lyman Senior Center all attended. After the day of fishing concluded, a huge recreation area of covered pavilions became the stage for a picnic and door prizes were provided by Walgreens, Senior Insurance Services and Triad.



SMPDD UPDATING LAMAR COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



The Economic Workforce Development team is currently updating the Lamar County Comprehensive Plan. First written by SMPDD in 2008, the plan is being revised based on the past ten years of growth in the County as well as projected new growth. The updated plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in early fall.

Comprehensive plans are usually written in 25 year increments. However, it is important for local government to review the plan periodically and make necessary adjustments.

If your jurisdiction is in need of a plan or update, contact Allison Beasley at (228) 868-2311.

SMPDD MAKES LOANS TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH TWO DIFFERENT LOAN FUNDS



EDA Revolving Loan Fund

The Economic Development Administration, through the Revolving Loan Fund program, allows for loans to local governments for the purpose of economic development. These loans can be up to \$500,000 and must fund projects that will create or retain jobs. A recent loan that SMPDD has made through the RLF program was to the City of Laurel. The City of Laurel and Jones County are involved in a joint project involving the addition of a traffic light at the corner of Highway 15 and West 12th Street in order to attract the construction of a new Chick-fil-A location. A loan was made to the City of Laurel for their portion of the project to add the traffic signal and ultimately

attract the new jobs that would be created through the addition of this new business.

Local Community Development

SMPDD established the Local Government Loan Fund a few years ago. Upon approval and direction from the SMPDD Board of Directors, local funds were used to establish this loan fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide loans to counties or municipalities for projects that do not fit into the economic development purpose of the RLF program, such as community development projects. The maximum loan amount through this fund is \$175,000. Two recent loans for community development projects were funded through this loan fund. Marion County borrowed funds from SMPDD to complete refurbishment of a building at the Marion County Business Plex to be used as a satellite office for the Fifteenth Judicial District Drug Court. Another project funded by this fund was the 6th Avenue residential street lighting project in Laurel. A loan was made to the City of Laurel for this project and is being repaid through a special assessment agreed upon by the residents of this area and the city. Both of these projects, being more community development related and not having a job creation or retention component, were more of a fit to be funded through the Local Government Loan Fund.



Through both of these loan funds, the local government applicant must be solvent as verified through annual audits. In addition, the verification of a specific repayment source is required.

Please contact Stephen O'Mara, SMPDD's Loan Program Manager for further questions at (228) 868-2311.

LINEMAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SHINES IN THE PINE BELT

Launched several months ago, the Lineman Apprenticeship Program in the Pine Belt area is progressing as planned by training more people for work in the utility industry. The companies participating in the program are Chain Electric Company, B & B Electric and MDR Construction. All of these companies project significant growth over the next five years.

“The aging utility infrastructure coupled with numerous disasters has dramatically increased the demand for experienced utility linemen. Working in concert with other employers, Pearl River Community College, Savio HR Solutions and Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District gives us an opportunity to train Mississippians for high paying jobs,” says Bob Chain, President and CEO. “We are excited that our state has made this effort a priority.”

Training for the new apprenticeship program is partially funded through a grant from MS Works. During the 2016 legislative session, Governor Bryant signed into law the establishment of the MS Works Fund to provide training that meets the needs of growing companies in Mississippi. Grant funds will be used to pay instructors, purchase books and other training materials. Employers will cover the wages of apprentices while in training. The new apprentices will be hired as groundsmen and progress to Lineman B at the end of the two-year program. The Lineman Apprenticeship Program reinforces the state’s commitment to provide job seekers with hands-on training and helps to create a pipeline of highly skilled talent for employers.



SMPDD PARTNERS WITH SKILLS FOUNDATION

SMPDD as fiscal agent for the Twin Districts Workforce Development Area is partnering with The Skills Foundation of Mississippi to encourage more people to pursue high-demand, skill-based job opportunities. As part of a statewide initiative, SMPDD is working to raise awareness about the need for more skilled workers.

Last year, each of the state’s four workforce areas developed a Sector Strategy to identify the in-demand occupations and to align training programs with the jobs available. Typically, these jobs require more than a high school degree but less than a four-year degree. The occupations usually call for specific skills and most of the training can be completed through community colleges. With assistance from the workforce areas, The Skills Foundation will create a web-based venue to share this information with job seekers. An individual will be able to explore the skills needed to obtain a job as well as the pathway to get there. Once the website is launched, there will be a link to the site from SMPDD’s website.

While this project is still in the works, SMPDD believes this will be an extremely useful tool to help fill the skills gap in Mississippi. Furthermore, these in-demand jobs pay good salaries and will help more Mississippians become self-sufficient.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



SHARI WHITE RECEIVES CGMS CERTIFICATION



Shari White, SMPDD's Economic Workforce Development Senior Fiscal Officer, is now a Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS). This is a formal recognition of expert-level knowledge of the full lifecycle of Grants Management. With White maintaining this credential, she will demonstrate her dedication to the highest standards of competency as a grants management professional. By earning this

CGMS certification credential, White will be able to enhance her professional reputation and represent a strong commitment to ongoing professional development with SMPDD.

SAVE THE DATES



2018 True South Economic Development Course
September 17th - 20th
USM - Trent Lott National Center
Hattiesburg, MS



2018 Gulf Coast Heart Walk
September 22nd 7:30am
2250 Jones Park Drive
Gulfport, MS



Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk
October 20th 9:00am
710 Beach Blvd.
Biloxi, MS

SMPDD is an Equal Opportunity Employer; auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities