



SMPDD

Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District

BUILDING A STRONGER MISSISSIPPI



EMLYN JACKSON, DR. JOHN FLEMING, ALLISON BEASLEY, GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT, NIC LANE AND LINDSAY WARD



MAYOR TOBY BARKER, DR. JOHN FLEMING AND MORGAN McCARTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

Assistant Secretary Dr. John Fleming, visited South Mississippi on June 20th to make two major grant announcements. The first stop was in George County where the Board of Supervisors was awarded a \$1,411,708 grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The funds will be used by the County for road infrastructure improvements that support the location of Enviva, the world’s largest producer of industrial wood pellets – a renewable and sustainable energy source used to generate electricity and heat.

Larry McDonald, President of the George County Board of Supervisors, stated “This EDA Grant is a critical component to Enviva building its newest wood pellet plant in the George County Industrial Park. This grant is providing the necessary funding to redesign and build a safe, main trucking entrance to the plant off of Highway 198. This grant will directly support the creation of 85 full time jobs and almost 300 indirect jobs.”

Dr. Fleming’s second stop was in Hattiesburg, where the City of Hattiesburg was awarded a \$1,700,000 grant for much-needed improvements to Lamar Boulevard. The grant funding provided by EDA will support the increased traffic volume from Regions Bank’s Loan Operation Center. Regions will create 90 new jobs at the facility, retain 329 existing employees and invest \$23 Million in the new Hattiesburg facility. It is anticipated that road rehabilitation will spur additional growth along the commercial corridor, according to Mayor Toby Barker.

SMPDD completed the EDA applications for both George County and the City of Hattiesburg. The Economic/ Workforce Development team will also administer both grant projects through the construction phase.

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

SMPDD RECEIVES 2019 EPA BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected 149 communities to receive 151 grant awards totaling \$64,623,553 million in EPA Brownfields funding through the Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Programs. SMPDD received a \$300,000 Community-wide Brownfields Assessment Grant for target areas of downtown Waynesboro, the Hattiesburg Mobile Street/Twin Forks Rising Community, and the D'Iberville Southern Waterfront Region. Community-wide hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, develop cleanup plans and a reuse plan, and conduct community outreach activities.

Nationwide, brownfields funding will assist those under-served and economically disadvantaged communities in Opportunity Zones and other parts of the country in assessing and cleaning up their abandoned industrial and commercial sites. The goal is to take those contaminated sites and transform them from neglected properties into community assets that create jobs while also improving public health and the environment.

Brownfields grants have been shown to increase local tax revenue and residential property values; facilitate job growth; and utilize existing infrastructure, this leading to a boost in a region's economic development. This program brings true revitalization and transformation to the distressed communities of America.

We invite the public to submit questions/concerns to our program website at www.smpdd.com/brownfields.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND SPOTLIGHT - POP BROTHERS

Pop Brothers was formed in January 2015 by husband and wife Shannon and Octavio Arzola and Shannon's brother Chuck Kelly. Pop Brothers hand crafts and sells artisan popsicles. They began operation in downtown Gulfport and have expanded to Ocean Springs and Bay St. Louis. Pop Brothers also has a presence at various other locations such as the Biloxi/Gulfport International Airport, Memorial Hospital and many of the MS Gulf Coast casinos and resorts. Pop Brothers is also currently selling at Hattiesburg locations such as the Hattiesburg Zoo, Saenger Theater, Lake Terrace Convention Center and USM food outlets. There are plans to enter into more Mississippi college campuses in the future.

Octavio has 20+ years of culinary experience and is the creator of the recipes used. Octavio's expertise in creating extraordinary taste in experiences using fruit, cream spices and herbs is the reason Pop Brothers has been so successful. Shannon brings many years of customer service and sales experience to handle social media, brand marketing, catering, event and wholesale sales and community involvement. Chuck has over 30 years of successful business ownership and brand awareness; his name is synonymous with award winning customer service all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Pop Brothers was showcased on Billion Dollar Buyer in December 2016. SMPDD was honored to provide financing through its RLF funds for working capital needs. The Mississippi Gulf Coast and the State of Mississippi is fortunate to have Pop Brothers.



POP BROTHERS LOCATIONS

1501 25TH AVE.
GULFPORT
228-206-0656

800 CASH ALLEY
OCEAN SPRINGS
228-447-4792

111 MAIN ST.
BAY ST. LOUIS
228-304-0024

SMPDD FALL 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

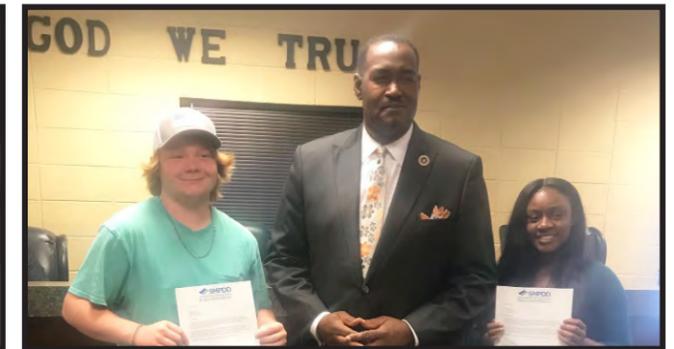
Since 2015, SMPDD has been awarding scholarships to students throughout our 15 county service area. The SMPDD scholarships recognize one academic and one technical student each school year that have met the qualifications and are attending Jones County Junior College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College or Pearl River Community College. This year SMPDD doubled the number of students awarded and raised the amount of the scholarship from \$750 to \$1,000. Trinity Cowles of Jackson County stated, "I am so grateful to the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, Supervisor Troy Ross, and the Jackson County Board of Supervisors for the scholarship presented to me. This scholarship is an opportunity to be one step closer to achieving my dreams of becoming a dentist, not just for my local community but also to serve internationally and help those without any access to dental care."

For the Fall 2019 semester, SMPDD awarded 61 scholarships totaling \$61,000. Our board members are honored to be able to award these scholarships that make an impact in these students' lives and communities. To date, SMPDD has awarded \$172,000 in scholarships to 209 students.

Donald Hart, Supervisor for Pearl River County, expresses his gratitude, "I must say that one of the highlights of serving on the Pearl River County Board of Supervisors, has been my appointment to the SMPDD Board of Directors. The District's scope of services is far reaching. Not only do they provide a wide range of services to our county government but I've been able to realize the impact they have in the community. Congratulations to the recipients of this scholarship and the Class of 2019!"



CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, SUPERVISOR GUY EASTERLING, HAYDEN FAIRLEY, SUPERVISOR BOBBY BOLTON AND SAMAYIA LAKYRA WALKER, BREANNA WILLIAMS AND HUYEN DANG OF COVINGTON COUNTY



HAYDEN FAIRLEY, SUPERVISOR BOBBY BOLTON AND SAMAYIA BOLTON OF PERRY COUNTY

Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball Courts

Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball is a grass roots group that promotes pickleball as a recreation to improve the lifestyles of seniors through physical activity and social interaction. Cities along the Gulf Coast have incorporated this sport into their senior programs after witnessing the benefits to seniors who suffer from various illnesses and residents from all six coastal counties are participating in the sport offered in their area. One may ask... What is Pickleball? Pickleball, is a paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. This is a growing sport among the senior communities, especially those who enjoy tennis since they are similar in various ways.



In late 2017, the City of Biloxi provided a four-court tennis facility for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball to develop into a twelve-court pickleball complex. Through local private and non-profit efforts, they were able to complete the renovations and opened the courts in the fall of 2018. SMPDD helped with the gate entry improvements for the courts and is proud to support the healthy lifestyle for our large and growing senior population.

For more information please visit the Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball Facebook Page.



SMPDD EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION CELEBRATION



“ It takes every single one of you in this room to make SMPDD a successful organization. I thank all of you for your dedication through the years to SMPDD.”
 - Executive Director, Leonard Bentz



On May 24, 2019, Sunkist Country Club in Biloxi hosted SMPDD for its Inaugural Employee Appreciation Celebration. The staff enjoyed themselves with music by Super Dave from Coast 102, pinching crawfish tails and participating in outdoor games. During the luncheon, Executive Director, Leonard Bentz presented several milestone awards to the team members. Congrats to the following:

30 Year Milestone

- Shari White
- 25 Year Milestone**
- Joan Williams
- 15 Year Milestone**
- Ronda Mullins
- Linda Hubbard

10 Year Milestone

- Tina Mozingo
- Jan Hale
- Ken Mustered

5 Year Milestone

- John Burton
- Ann Carlock
- Anicia Barnes
- Latonya McCullum
- Chasity Harrison
- Sandra Brock
- Libby Rawls

5 Year Milestone

- Grant Wesley
- Taylor Woolbright
- Tosshia Gandy
- Theresa Kemp
- Sandra Mathis
- Kathy Yard

New WIN Job Center on Indian Reservation

On Friday, May 10, 2019, a ribbon cutting was held in Choctaw MS for the WIN Job Center satellite office located at the MS Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Manpower Building. 2018-2019 Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Jade Tangle, Tribal officials, representatives from the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, and Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) were on hand to help celebrate this exciting new partnership. Several members of the Twin Districts Workforce Development Area Board were in attendance including: David Stephens, Calvin Newsom, Donnie Bond, Julia Lindsey, and Lucretia Williams. Following the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to a celebratory reception and tour of the facility.

The WIN Job Center satellite office will be fully staffed on Fridays with a representative from the East Central Community College providing computer classes and MDES staff providing job search and career services. The new office opened on Friday, May 17, 2019.



PRINCESS SYDNI TANGLE, DAVID STEPHENS AND CALVIN NEWSOM AT THE RIBBON CUTTING.

MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE HOSTS 88TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mississippi Municipal League's 88th Annual Conference, "Hitting a Homerun with Home Rule", was held June 24-26 at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. An estimated 3,000 municipal elected officials, municipal employees, state agency representatives, legislators, exhibitors and others attended the annual event. Many of Mississippi PDD's were in attendance for the event, including SMPDD, who had an exhibitor booth and staff who attended the conference. At this year's convention, French Camp Mayor, Glen Barlow, passed the gavel to the new MML President, SMPDD Board Member, Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes.



"The MML Annual Conference allows municipal elected officials from across the state to participate in education sessions taught by subject matter experts on topics critical to the operation of municipal government. We also have the opportunity to network and share ideas with each other," said French Camp Mayor Glen Barlow, 2018-2019 MML President, expressing the importance of the conference each year.

For more information about the Mississippi Municipal League visit mmlonline.com

CREATING A NEW CULTURE IN DEMENTIA CARE SUMMER EDUCATION SEMINAR 2019

Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program presented the first of two community education seminars on June 27, 2019. The "Creating a New Culture in Dementia Care-Summer 2019" was held in Gulfport, at the Handsboro Community Center and provided three continuing education units for social workers and nursing home administrators.

There were 79 registered participants present, that serve our elders and vulnerable populations in nursing homes, assisted living, hospice, hospitals, Alzheimer Centers and more.

The agenda provided two excellent topics, which were presented by certified trainers in the Montessori Method of providing elder care and activities for dementia residents:

- "Introduction to the Montessori Method for working with people with Dementia", presented by Chuck E. Parish, D. Div., Director, Home Care Hospice, Hattiesburg and Tate Harper, CTRS, Tiger Consultants, Red Banks, MS
- "Music Therapy & Activities for Dementia Residents", presented by Theresa Jackson, AC-DC, Director, Servant's Heart Consulting, Liberty, MS

Informational booths supporting aging services and elder care provided brochures and handouts by SMPDD, Home Care Hospice and Brookdale Assisted Living & Memory Care. Evaluations were completed and provided valuable feedback, confirming another successful educational offering by the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.



SMPDD's Mississippi Access to Care Center sponsored this year's "MAC Mile" event at the Long Beach Senior Center Walking Track. The 2K Walk encouraged seniors and participants of all ages to participate in wellness events and get outside to enjoy nature. Despite the rain, seventeen seniors participated in the walk that was held in conjunction with the Long Beach Senior Center's Health Fair. Following the MAC Mile, participants joined the other seniors to enjoy food, vendors and games throughout the rest of the morning.

This event could not have been possible without our partnership with the Long Beach Senior Center, Long Beach Fire Department, SMPDD's Mississippi State Health Insurance Program and the many vendors that supported the health fair.

The Southeast MAC Center, covering the 24 Counties of SMPDD and East Central PDD, helped a total of 4,945 people from January 1 – June 30, 2019. This is 58% of all people that contacted the MAC Centers throughout the State during this time period.

For More information Contact: (844) 822-4MAC



2019 MAC MILE PARTICIPANTS



MAC STAFF WITH MEMBERS OF THE LONG BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

SCSEP Honors 2019 Host Agencies

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), sponsored by the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, held two Annual Host Agency Appreciation Luncheons this year. They recognized the tremendous contributions to their program participants made by the individual SCSEP host agencies in the 15-county territory. Enrollment into SCSEP allows low-income people over the age of 55 to earn subsidized wages as they update and upgrade their job skills. The goal for each SCSEP Participant is to be able to re-enter their local workforce and obtain permanent, unsubsidized employment. While SMPDD sponsors this popular job-readiness program and provides wages and workers' compensation coverage, eligibility determination and program oversight, it is their dozens of host agency partners in the 15 counties that provide on-site local training, supervision and mentorship. In many cases, the host agency is able to hire the SCSEP participant on a permanent basis, saving agency training dollars.

While all host agency supervisors who attended the luncheon with their SCSEP Participant were recognized for their mentoring achievements, Janie O'Keefe, Executive Director of Disability Connection, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her tireless commitment to training, supervising and hiring SCSEP participants.

Barbara Cones, SCSEP Participant Reception Assistant to Mayor Shea Dobson of Ocean Springs, MS, received a Certificate of Achievement in honor of her outstanding performance of duties at this assignment.

Finally, a plaque was presented to Richmond Vincent, CEO of Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi, to recognize his agency as SCSEP's Outstanding Host Agency for 2018 and honor his agency's tremendous contribution as partners, supervisors, mentors, and as a large employer of SCSEP participants in the southern six counties of South Mississippi.



Jane Hale, Janet Kirsh, Delinda Hanson, Lisa Parker, Kerrieal General, Richmond Vincent, Erica Myers and Forest Eubank



Jane Hale, Trisha Morrison, Jim Bullock, Kathy Yard, Julia Weeks, Theresa Moody and Sheree Tortorich

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
10441 CORPORATE DRIVE, STE 1
GULFPORT, MS 39503
PHONE: 228-868-2311 ~ FAX: 228-868-7094 ~ WWW.SMPDD.COM

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

SMPDD Applauds Adult Protective Services Program

SMPDD welcomed the Adult Protective Services Program (APS) to our agency in January 2019. We are pleased to be providing the investigative responsibilities for the APS Program in our 15-county service delivery area. SMPDD's APS investigates reports (received by the MDHS Call Center) of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. Not only does APS investigate, but the staff also provides assistance to our clients by providing information regarding available services and making referrals when necessary.

APS consists of six staff members that are available in our Gulfport and Hattiesburg offices. Investigators have a varied and distinguished background of experience in social work, mental health and long term care. Over the last six months, SMPDD staff has investigated 485 reports. Though SMPDD comprises only 18% of the states total counties, our staff has covered approximately one-third of the investigations statewide.

SMPDD's APS staff members look forward to working with our local county and city governments, law enforcement agencies and other service providers to ensure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable adults.



(L-R) RoShanda Culberson, APS Supervisor; William Glass, APS Investigator; Julie Sims, APS Investigator; Shatia Jones, APS Investigator; Auntra Singleton, APS Investigator; Paige Kennedy, APS Program Manager

