

DICK HUTCHINSON: MCEDA CHAIRMAN AND MCBL&F PAST CHAIRMAN



Dick Hutchinson

and Foundation.

“One Vision – One Voice” is our objective, and it makes sense that, while the MCEDA staff is working tirelessly to promote Madison County for expansion of existing business and enticing new business to come to the county, we have all of you as “foot soldiers” to sing the praises of what we have to offer to industry in Madison County. We can waste our time and get wrapped up in the gossip surrounding social media or we can, on a continual basis, have land now known as MegaSite, natural resources, workforce training, etc..., to ensure that Madison County continues to grow and solidify new jobs for our economy. Any company looking to create new business or expand an existing business is crazy not to come

Greetings from MCEDA! Here is a thumbnail update of our activities during the past several months in an effort to keep all the members of the Madison County Business League

meet with Tim Coursey and his staff at MCEDA to see what Madison County will offer to them.

1. We have renamed our 2000 acre MegaSite, and those of you who attended the event, if you look at that magnificent property and visualize what it could be in the future. We have already had a year's worth of inquiries regarding potential bookings for the MegaSite in only five months!

2. Through the incredible efforts of Tim and his staff, the Collaboratory has turned into a monster. We on the board find ourselves scratching our heads, considering expansion, and when we will begin making decisions. Five tenants currently occupy the facility, and we are in discussion with another one. This healthcare vision of having companies in the facility and networking can – and is – occurring. I believe the vision of this facility, a vision of Dr. David Powe and Time, is going to be a treasure for not only our country, but for our state. I believe we will have many visitors coming to see it, and many of them will be inclined to build a similar creation in their own communities. This is cutting edge – please promote it.

3. MCEDA now has a new freestanding office building located on Mississippi Parkway, just off Nissan Parkway in Canton. Once we have fully moved into the building, it will be a nice facility

to improve economic development in Madison County.

4. Time is in a constant whirlwind of keeping all the balls in the air regarding, not only where we are now, but folded into what is a constant incoming inquiry of new economic development.

To all of you in the MCBL&F, I encourage you to be the face of Madison County. We will get there with your help, and we certainly can't keep moving into the future without you. Remember: One Vision – One Voice.

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CONSTRUCTION

NEW MCEDA HEADQUARTERS



The New MCEDA Headquarters is 5,500 Total Square Feet providing a central location adjacent to the Nissan Parkway in Canton. The new building will enable MCEDA staff the ability to react and recruit new industry, retain existing industry/business, pursue more economic development projects and promote Madison County in a modern office environment. The new building provides for MCEDA's executive offices, MCEDA Board Room, the Madison County Business League &



Foundation Office Suite, a conference room, kitchen, and records storage. The New HQ comes complete with a Large Event Meeting Room wired with Audio/Visual and capacity for 60-65 in classroom or round table arrangements for presentations and meetings. The Large Meeting is lined with glass and doors that empty to an outdoor courtyard and patio for additional event space.

Building Features:

- MCEDA Executive Office Suite
- MCBL&F Office Suite
- MCEDA Board Room
- Conference Room
- Large Meeting/Event Room with A/V (60-65 Seating Capacity/900SF)
- Outdoor Courtyard & Patio



WE'VE MOVED!

135 MISSISSIPPI PARKWAY
CANTON, MS 39046

P: 601.832.5592
F: 601.407.2835

E-mail: Collins.Jan01@gmail.com

www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com

Directions:

- Take exit 118B off I-55
- Take first left onto MS Parkway
- First building on the right

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

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MADISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE



Gail Pitman

Recently the MCBL&F unanimously passed a resolution in support of moving forward with the concept of a new Conference Center in Madison County.

As part of the Madison County Strategic Plan for Economic

Development the need for a meeting space for a gathering of more than 250 people was identified. A Conference Center Feasibility Study conducted by Johnson Consulting, Inc. helped define what would be appropriate for a conference center in Madison County.

The study finds that a Conference Center with a building space of 60,000 square that would include a 15,000 square foot ballroom or multi-purpose hall, 10,000 square feet of meeting rooms, and built to have a future adjacent hotel of approximately 200 rooms is appropriate for the market. Although no particular sight was named the study stated that the Conference Center should be conveniently located to restaurants, hotels, and shopping areas.

According to the study a new Conference Center will have a projected local economic impact of more than \$16 million dollars in direct spending by convention-goers in Madison County and provide an attractive marketing tool for other companies looking to locate here.

You can view the highlights of the Conference Center study at mctheroadahead.com

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE CENTER IN MADISON COUNTY

Whereas, the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) is a member-driven organization of over two hundred business leaders and decision makers in the Madison County and Metro Jackson Area whose mission is to unite with elected officials on all levels of government to speak with one voice on matters of economic development and quality of life; and to serve as stakeholders for the Madison County Economic Development Authority; and

Whereas, Madison County is currently without a conference or meeting facility to properly accommodate a gathering of more than 250 people.

Whereas, MCBL&F is in possession of a Conference Center Feasibility Study ("Study") conducted by Johnson Consulting, Inc. on the viability of a conference center ("Conference Center") in Madison County.

Whereas, the Study finds that a Conference Center consisting of approximately 60,000 square feet of building area, and containing a 15,000 square foot Ballroom or Multi-Purpose Hall, 10,000 square feet of meeting rooms, and built to have a future adjacent lodging element of approximately 200 rooms is appropriate for the market, and viable in its operations.

Whereas, the Study's findings are based upon projected event demand, comparison to regional and comparable facilities, economic, and demographic, factors.

Whereas, the estimated cost of the Conference Center is \$18.27 million dollars, and can be funded by various finance mechanisms, tax options, and or public-private partnership.

Whereas, MCBL&F believes that there are numerous advantages to having a Conference Center in Madison County, including but not limited to the following:

1. A new Conference Center will have a projected local economic impact of more than \$16 million dollars in direct spending by convention-goers in Madison County.
2. A new Conference Center would provide a much needed meeting, convention, and corporate event site for companies that currently call Madison County home.
3. A new Conference Center would provide an attractive marketing tool to utilize in negotiations with other companies looking to locate in Madison County.

Whereas, MCBL&F believes that it is in the best interest of economic development in Madison County and would ensure to the common benefit, and quality of life of the corporate citizens in the area, to have a Conference Center in Madison County.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by unanimous decision, that the Madison County Business League & Foundation wholly supports moving forward with the concept of a new Conference Center in Madison County.

Adopted this the day of May 14, 2015.

Bob Williams, Co- Chairman
*Madison County Business League
& Foundation*

Mark Garriga, Co-Chairman
*Madison County Business League
& Foundation*

Madison County Business League & Foundation

View the Madison County Conference Center feasibility study, Airport feasibility study and Strategic Plan at www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com or at www.mcherald.com



MADISON COUNTY MEGASITE EVENT



Dick Hutchinson, Danielle Winningham, Jan Collins
and Governor Phil Bryant

The Madison County Economic Development Authority hosted an event to celebrate the renaming of Panther Creek Commerce Park. Governor Phil Bryant announced the new name as the Madison County Megasite ~ a Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing Park. Madison County Business League & Foundation members, along with elected and appointed officials and special guests were on hand for the event.

THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION

"The mission of the Madison County Business League & Foundation is to bring together, under one organization, the voice of numerous entities in order to establish a clear and concise message for the future. This organization, which is comprised of elected, appointed, business, and individual leaders of Madison County, will enable all partners in business and economic development to participate collectively in bringing together the overall vision for Madison County. Simply put... one vision, one voice."

MCBLF EVENTS

North Madison County Excel by 5 Back to School Rally and Health Fair

Saturday, August 1, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

St. Paul AME Mt. Zion Church

S. Union Street, Canton

MCBL&F Health & Wellness Committee Luncheon

(open to entire membership)

Monday, August 3, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mississippi Hospital Association

116 Woodgreen Dr, Madison, MS

Our hospitals share their plans to promote healthy lifestyles and workplaces in Madison County!

Reservation required

MCBL&F Education Committee Luncheon

(open to entire membership)

Update on Madison County Schools & Initiative 42

Speaker - Dr. Ronnie McGehee, Madison County Superintendent of Schools

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

McGowan Workplace Training Center at Holmes Community College
412 W Ridgeland Avenue, Ridgeland, MS

Reservation required

"Coffee with the Congressman" Luncheon

(open to entire membership)

Honoring Congressman Gregg Harper

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Country Club of Jackson

345 St. Andrews Drive, Jackson, MS

Reservation required

Government Relations Committee Luncheon

(open to entire membership)

Speaker of the House Representative Philip Gunn - Initiative 42

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location TBA

Reservation required

2015-2016 MCBL&F Youth Leadership Class

Meetings

October 28, 2015 - Career Day

January 20, 2016 - Lifestyles Day

February 24, 2016 - Government Day

2015 VISION Celebration

(open to entire membership)

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Country Club of Jackson

345 St. Andrews Drive, Jackson, MS

Reservation required

MCBL & F Membership

Reception for County Wide Elected Officials
November (TBA)

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

MCEDA office

Reservation required

MCBL&F Government Relations Committee

Breakfast hosting

Madison County Legislators

December

Location/Time (TBA)

Reservation required

COFFEE WITH CONGRESSMAN: GREGG HARPER

Gregg Harper is currently serving his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives after having been first elected to Congress in November of 2008. In 2012, he was honored to be reelected with 80 percent of the vote. Mississippi's Third Congressional District stretches from Wilkinson County to Oktibbeha County and includes the northeast corner of Jackson and the I-20 corridor into east central Mississippi.

Background

Gregg has lived in Mississippi's Third Congressional District since 1972 and currently resides in Pearl with his wife of 35 years, Sidney, and their two children, Livingston and Maggie. The Harpers are active members of Crossgates Baptist Church in Brandon, Mississippi, where Gregg has served as a deacon.

The son of a former petroleum engineer and a mom who worked two days a week until she was 88 years old, Gregg learned at a young age the value of hard work and the importance of a solid education. Gregg and Sidney are both graduates of Mississippi College where he majored in Chemistry. He then earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981.

Prior to his service in Congress, Gregg practiced law for twenty-seven years, including serving as the prosecuting attorney for the cities of Brandon and Richland. He also served on the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board, and remains active in his community as a member of both the Pearl and Rankin County Chambers of Commerce.

Committees

In Congress, Gregg serves on the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he is a member of three subcommittees: Environment and the Economy; Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade; and Energy and Power. Gregg has recently been appointed vice chair of the Subcommittee on the Environment and Economy.

The state's senior House Republican also sits on the select Committee on House Administration, a special appointment made by House Speaker John Boehner. Additionally, Gregg serves as vice chairman of the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress.

Priorities

A longtime advocate for American-made energy, Gregg believes that Congress must advance ideas that stabilize fuel prices and build a steady supply of American energy. He is also devoted to working with families raising special needs children. As a member of Congress, he has relentlessly aimed to streamline federal programs and services intended to be a support to youth with significant disabilities in transition from adolescence to adulthood. A strong advocate for our Second Amendment rights, he is a Life Member of the National Rifle Association. Gregg has also championed laws removing burdensome and unneeded federal mandates, the promotion of innovative drug developments for neurodevelopmental disorders, and honoring public servants. He recently authored the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act that was passed into law

which ends taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns and conventions, and redirects that funding to pediatric medical research.

It is Gregg Harper's desire to serve the State of Mississippi and our country with honor and integrity. In his work in the U.S. House of Representatives, he is committed to advocating conservative values in the important tasks and challenges facing America.



Coffee ★ ★ ★
WITH THE
Congressman

HONORING
U.S. Congressman Gregg Harper



A LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

COUNTRY CLUB OF JACKSON
345 St. Andrew's Drive
Jackson, MS



Reserved seating only
RSVP by August 26th to
collins.jan01@gmail.com

ADD VALUE TO YOUR MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP BY JOINING A COMMITTEE. COMMITTEES HOST BREAKFAST OR LUNCHEON MEETINGS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE SPEAKERS TO DISCUSS INTERESTING, INFORMATIVE TIMELY TOPICS. TO VIEW COMMITTEE LISTS, PLEASE CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

EDUCATION

madisoncountybusinessleague.com/about/education-committee

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

madisoncountybusinessleague.com/about/government-relations-committee

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

madisoncountybusinessleague.com/about/entrepreneurship-committee

HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS

madisoncountybusinessleague.com/about/healthcare-wellness-committee

LEAGUE AND LEGISLATURE LUNCHEON



Representative Rita Martinson

The Madison County Business League & Foundation hosted the 7th annual "League & Legislature" luncheon on Friday, February 27, 2015, at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson. Governor Phil Bryant gave remarks prior to introducing Speaker of the House, Representative Philip Gunn, as the keynote speaker. State Treasurer Lynn Fitch presented a special tribute to Representative Rita Martinson who has served 6 terms in the Mississippi House of Representatives. A video tribute included testimonies from Representative Bill Denny, Mayor Gene McGee, JoAnn Gordon, Nancy Perkins

and Billy Martinson. Madison Alderman-at-large, Warren Strain presented Rep. Martinson with a gift on behalf of the City of Madison.

The luncheon was attended by over 350 Madison County Business League & Foundation members, guests, local and state wide elected officials and legislators from all over the state. The 2014-15 Madison County Youth Leadership Class was recognized as a part of their Government Day activities. MCBL&F Co-Chairmen Mark Garriga and Bob Williams made a champagne toast to celebrate the merger of the MCBL and the MCF and to the future success of the MCBL&F.

The National Anthem was sung by Guy Hovis, star of Lawrence Welk fame. The Raphael Semmes Ensemble also entertained the guests with jazz. Green Oak florist designed the floral arrangements and the greenery was provided by Plants Unlimited.

View all the photos at

www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com



YOUTH LEADERSHIP GOVERNMENT DAY



The 2014-15 Madison County Youth leadership Class participated in Government Day on Friday, February 27, 2015. Madison County Business League & Foundation Co-Chairman Mark Garriga welcomed the class to a breakfast hosted at Butler Snow law firm. Attorney Tray Hairston, former policy advisor for Governor Phil Bryant, presented the keynote address. The breakfast was also attended by local elected officials.

The Class traveled to the Mississippi State Capitol where a tour was conducted by the Capitol curator. Governor Phil Bryant visited with the students in his office. The class also met with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, Senator Will Longwitz and Chief Justice Bill Waller in the Senate chambers. Representatives Rita Martinson, Bill Denny and other legislators met with the class in the House of Representatives.

The class returned to the Capitol where they were visited by State Treasurer Lynn Fitch. The Government Day events conclude the 2014-15 program. The participants will received special recognition at their junior awards day programs.

Youth Leadership Government Day Chairman was John Taylor. Other Committee members include Dean Sherry Chance, Dr. Don Burnham, Pat McNulty, Rochelle Culp, Amanda Fontaine, Monte Barton, Monica Harrigill and Susanne Sullivan.

Stay In the Know!

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TEXT MCBLF TO 95577

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCLAIM MAY 10-16, 2015, LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION WEEK!



Shown signing the resolution are (l-r) front row: Supervisor John Howland; Board President, Supervisor Karl Banks; and Supervisor Gerald Steen. Back row (l-r): Supervisor John Bell Crosby; MCBL & F Executive Director Jan Collins; Madison County Sheriff Randall Tucker; and Supervisor Paul Griffin.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to declare May 10 - 16, 2015, as Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. The week is designated to thank, celebrate, and commend the outstanding work of the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

CHAMBERS CELEBRATE LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION WEEK



Planning the week's activities has been a joint effort with the MCBL&F, all the Chambers of Commerce in Madison County.

Photo: Madison County area economic development organizations and chambers of

MCLEAW BALLOON RELEASE



In celebration of Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, a balloon release ceremony honoring fallen officers was held at Sheriff Randall Tucker's office in Canton on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at noon. Sheriff Tucker, Chief Deputy Jeremy Williams and several Madison County elected and appointed officials were in attendance.

The Madison County Creative Economy Council comprised of all the Madison County area Chambers of Commerce sponsored the first county-wide Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week May 11- 16th.

commerce announce plans for the first annual Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week May 10 -16. Preparing for the week of events include (l-r) Kristy Daniels and Linda Bynum, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce; Jan Collins, Madison County Business League & Foundation; Betsy Dear, Madison County Chamber of Commerce; Toya Veals, Canton Chamber Main Street; Elizabeth Bryant, Madison the City Chamber of Commerce; Jodi Maughon, Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Lisa Bonds, Flora Area Chamber of Commerce.

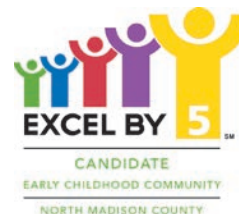
MADISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The Madison County Business League & Foundation contracted services for a facilitator to provide a formal review of its long-range strategic plan. Dr. Shannon Campbell, Director of the Trent Lott National Center at the University of Southern Mississippi, served as facilitator for the review designed to reflect on the status and accomplishments of the plan adopted in 2012.

The review provided an opportunity for various sub-committees to review their goals, outcomes, and status of strategic actions committed in the original plan. Each committee identified what tasks were accomplished, what tasks still need to be implemented and what new actions need to be considered for adoption.

The Madison County Strategic Plan is a ten-year plan designed to address transportation, quality of life, education, workforce, and healthcare needs of the county. For more information about the plan, contact Jan Collins, Executive Director of Madison County Business League & Foundation at collins.jan01@gmail.com. Details of the audit will be shared with the MCBL&F membership and elected officials during a meeting in the near future.

NEW LOCATION FOR THE EARLY CHILDCARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL CENTER.



With the renovation of the historic Old Madison County Courthouse located on the square in Canton, the MSU

Extension Service has announced a new location for the Early Childcare Resource & Referral Center. It will move across the street to the Grand Old Post Office at 175 North Union Street in July. The resource center is a lending library for childcare providers, daycares and kindergartens and services Madison, Leake, Yazoo, Holmes and Attala Counties. The North Madison County Excel By 5 Coalition is proud to partner with MSU to provide this service for Madison County children in an effort to better prepare them for kindergarten.

EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI – GOOD AND BAD NEWS



At a recent lunch meeting sponsored by the Madison County Business League & Foundation, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carey Wright delivered an assessment of public education in Mississippi.

To her credit, Dr. Wright didn't sugarcoat the problems facing Mississippi's schools, acknowledging that Mississippi continues to sit at the bottom of state rankings in education. Among other problems, our state has a very low percentage of 4th and 8th graders who are proficient in reading and math (based on testing done at those levels). In many other respects, Mississippi standards fall far below national averages. Even the best school districts in the state still are at or slightly below national averages. So, in a real sense, Mississippi students are often ill-prepared for college level work, and Wright pointed out that "it costs a lot less to fix the problem early, versus the cost of remedial education at the college level."

From that candid overview, she then went on to discuss how she intends to create measurable positive results.

Among other things, she believes early intervention is the key to solving the problems, and this is particularly true in developing good reading skills, which she sees as vital to improving the whole educational picture.

"We've trained 10,400 teachers in the essentials of reading," she said. "We've hired 77 literacy coaches, whose goal is to improve reading skills and comprehension."

She also pointed out that we've seen an improvement in the ACT scores, for the first time in 20 years.

Among her ongoing goals: that all students show ongoing growth, however modest; to work hard at the early childhood level (pointing out that 2 of 3 kids are not prepared for school); to identify and work with kids through an early college program, where some can finish high school with both a diploma and an associate's degree; and to provide better counseling about opportunities for career

development and what will be necessary to take advantages of those opportunities.

She pointed to certain programs and procedures adopted by the state of Kentucky as proof that progress is possible, but she said it is important that we "stick to the things that will produce results in the long term".

She sees the importance of education as paramount to Mississippi's economic future, suggesting that "a quality, well-educated workforce is what companies look for when they consider locating to a particular state or region." She also sees trade and technical education as very important to the development of that workforce.

Asked whether she sees our state getting out of last place within the next five years, she answered emphatically "Yes! I'm a 100 percent optimist who believes that we can and will make a difference in our children's lives."

Article reprinted from MS Business Journal
written by Alan Turner



Health & Wellness Committee Luncheon

August 3, 2015
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mississippi Hospital Association

116 Woodgreen Place
Madison, MS 39046

Greg Centilli

Executive Director at the
Madison Healthplex Performance Center
Baptist Health Systems

Tobey Houston

VP of Network Development
Merit Health Madison

Deidre Bell

Executive VP/CFO
St. Dominic Health Services

Please join us as representatives from local hospitals
discuss their plans for promoting healthier lifestyles
and work places in Madison County.

R.S.V.P. by July 30, 2015
Jan Collins: 601.832.5592 or Collins.Jano1@gmail.com

TRANSPORTATION AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LUNCHEON



The Madison County Business League & Foundation hosted a Transportation and Government Relations Committees Luncheon on April 27th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ridgeland, MS. Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall was the special guest speaker. County Engineer Rudy Warnock presented an update on the 2015 Madison County Road Plan. There were 60 committee members and elected officials in attendance.