

## Legislative session ends with good news

The 2011 Legislative session ended with good news on two bills that were introduced to help Madison County.

By the passage of Senate Bill 2938, hopefully the taxpayers of Madison County will avoid digging deep into their pockets to pay debt service on bonds that have been guaranteed by the county.

In order to build the East Parkway which parallels I-55, a Public Improvement District (PID) was formed. The property owners essentially agreed to tax themselves to construct the road, similar to the method that was used to construct the Highland Colony Parkway. The proceeds of the PID assessment paid by the property owners pays back the proceeds of the bond.

In the East Parkway development, the Madison County Board of Supervisors guaranteed the bonds with the full faith and credit of the county. This guaranteed the bond purchasers that if any of the PID property owners defaulted, the rest of the county taxpayers would pick up the slack. Unfortunately, a very large property owner did not pay their PID assessment, causing the property to be auctioned at the Madison County Tax Sale.

At the tax sale, no one bid on the property, and it was "struck" off to the Secretary of State's office for liquidation.

Under Senate Bill 2938, we altered the laws to allow Madison County another opportunity to sub-divide the property making it more mar-

ketable and hopefully putting it back on the tax rolls so that Madison Countians will not have to pick up the tab for the assessment. Credit is due to Rep. Rita Martinson, Tax Collector Kay Pace, Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston, Tax Assessor Gerald Barber, and County Lobbyist Steve Seale who helped in the passage of this legislation.



Senator Walter Michel

The other legislation requested by the Madison County Board of Supervisors was House Bill 1540. This legislation will allow gated subdivisions to exist in the unincorporated areas of Madison County. Previously, municipalities were granted this right, but subdivisions in the county areas could not be gated. This bill was enacted through Local and Private legislation, making Madison county the first to enjoy the privilege.

In order to be legal the electronic gates must open automatically upon approach by a vehicle without the use of a key, gate code or any other device.

Representative Mark Baker and Senator Kenny Wayne Jones worked hard on this legislation to ensure its passage.

## MCBL 2011-12 Board of Directors Election Results Announced

Congratulations to Paul Arrington of St. Dominic Health Services, and James (Jim) Pettis of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLC upon their election to the Madison County Board of Directors! They were elected by league membership to serve four (4) year terms beginning in June 2011 and ending in May 2015. We look forward to their participation.

We appreciate outgoing board of directors Davis Richards, III of Health Management Associates and Bobby McMurtry of BarksFek Development. Thank you for your willingness to serve and a job well done!

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## CMPDD Requests Public Input

The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) has requested public input concerning the Goals, Objectives, and Policies element for the updated Comprehensive Plan for Madison County. Please let your voice be heard by visiting the following link to complete a questionnaire: [www.cmpdd.org](http://www.cmpdd.org), click on "planning and management" under departments.

**For a copy of the Mississippi Economic Review and Outlook 2011, please contact the Business League office.**

## MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE - ONE VISION, ONE VOICE. THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

It is with great excitement that we look back to the last year and the program of work presented by the Madison County Business League. As our membership grows, we continue to see our mission of bringing the voice of numerous entities together to establish a clear and concise message for the future. Through the events we've hosted, leading business people have been united with elected officials from both the local and state level to participate collectively in bringing together the overall vision of Madison County.

Through economic, educational and now health symposiums, the present and future needs of Madison County are being addressed. Our coffees with Congressmen Gregg Harper, Bennie Thompson and Senator Roger Wicker as well as the luncheon at the State Capitol with Lt. Gov-

ernor Phil Bryant have given our members the opportunity to get up close and personal with our elected officials.

We have included our youth—the future of our county—by holding a Youth Leadership Economic Development day-long event.

Thank you for your continued participation. We look forward to exciting things to come!

Jan Collins,  
Executive Director  
Madison County Business League



JAN COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BILL GUION, BANKPLUS, CHAIRMAN

Serving as Chairman of the Madison County Business League this past year has been rewarding for me. I've been fortunate to be part of a great group of people who support this organization. From the staff at MCBL and

MCEDA, our Board of Directors and the membership that makes it all possible, I am proud of the progress we've made in just a few short months.

This year has been especially exciting with the caliber of programs we've presented and the quality of the speakers we've been able to host. In

2010, we were able to conduct two League & Legislature events. These events are regular events planned to link our membership with our elected state and local officials in a reception/luncheon panel discussion forum to cover current legislation and events that affect the economic health and well being of Madison.

With the help of our membership, we look forward to expanding the quality of the programs we offer in 2011. Madison County Business League (MCBL) is now almost 100 members strong and growing! We want to continue to grow and support membership and the county we serve. We hope you'll join us in the coming year.

Bill Guion  
Chairman, Madison County Business League

## MCBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Leslie Childress  
Mayor, Town of Flora

William Truly  
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**Executive Director**  
Jan Collins

# MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE - ONE VISION, ONE VOICE. THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

It's been an exciting and productive first year for the Madison County Business League! The economic, educational, and now, the healthcare needs of the County have been addressed. Business leaders have been connected with elected officials, setting into motion our true goal of having one voice, one vision for a stronger Madison County.

**May 4, 2010**

## Economic Symposium

The Madison County Economic Development Authority and the Madison County Business League presented The Economic Symposium 2010: Economic Perspectives for Madison County during a breakfast earlier this month hosted by Nissan North America at their Training Center in Canton.



DR. MARY CURRIER

Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, who had toured the state in response to the recent tornado and oil spill crisis, gave the crowd an update prior to a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Phil Pepper, Mississippi state economist. Dr. Marty Wiseman, director of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, spoke on the global economy's impact on Madison County. He reinforced the importance of education in the county. Wiseman predicted that the



DR. DAVE ALTIG

population of Madison County would increase by 35,330 people from 2009 to 2025.

Keynote speaker Dr. Dave Altig, senior vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, presented a national economic forecast for 2010.



CONGRESSMAN GREGG HARPER

**August 26, 2010**

## Coffee with Congressman Gregg Harper

Congressman Gregg Harper joined the Madison County Business League members, elected officials and guests at the law offices of Butler Snow, 1020 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland. Congressman Harper presented his views on current legislation in Washington, D.C.



DR. HANK BOUNDS, MS COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**September 1, 2010**

## A Salute to Excellence in Education

Education = Economic Development Forum presented by the Madison County Economic Development Authority and the Madison County Business League with keynote speaker Dr. William (Bill) Daggett, Ed. D., CEO of the International Center for Leadership in Education

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and featuring Dr. Hank Bounds, Commissioner, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and Dr. Tom Burnham, State Superintendent of Education.



CONGRESSMAN BENNIE THOMPSON

**October 20, 2010**

### **Coffee with Congressman Bennie Thompson**

The Madison County Business League hosted "Coffee with Congressman Bennie Thompson" at the Mississippi State University Center for Advanced Vehicular Studies Extension Center in Canton.

Congressman Thompson, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, believes in federal earmarks to grow local projects. "Incentives, that's what is put on the table to convince businesses this county is better," the Democratic congressman told the Madison County Business League. "If your communities grow, I say to the Business League, it's the federal dollars that incentivize much of that growth."



CELLULAR SOUTH IS PRESENTED THE 2010 VISIONS AWARD

**November 10, 2010**

### **Fall Celebration**

The Madison County Business League celebrated its first anniversary at a Fall Celebration reception held at the Jackson Yacht Club. More

than 150 members, elected and appointed officials and guests attended the event.

Madison County Economic Development Authority Executive Director Tim Coursey announced the establishment of the VISION Award, which was created as a means of recognizing and thanking outstanding Business League members for their contributions to Madison County over the past year. The 2010 inaugural award was presented to Cellular South, Inc. for their accomplishments, investments in people and the impact their operations have on the local economy. Cellular South, a platinum charter member of the Business League, also plays a role in the volunteer arena through their education, civic and business leadership initiatives.



LT. GOV. PHIL BRYANT

**February 16, 2011**

### **League & Legislature Luncheon**

The Madison County Business League was invited to host its 2011 "League & Legislature" forum luncheon at the Mississippi State Capitol. The annual event was held in the Senate Judiciary Committee Room. Lt. Governor Phil Bryant addressed the standing room-only group of Business League members, local and county elected officials and other state officials. Students representing Business League member schools were also in attendance including St. Andrew's Episcopal School, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison Central High School, Ridgeland High School and Velma Jackson High School. (Canton Academy was unable to attend.)

In addition to meeting Lt. Governor Bryant, attendees met most all of the state senators and legislators who represent Madison County. A panel of Madison County representatives and

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senators addressed legislative questions posed by Madison County Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston. Among the county delegation participating were Senator Kenny Wayne Jones, Senators John Horhn, J. Walter Michel, and Lee Yancey as well as Representatives Rita Martinson, Mark Baker, Philip Gunn, Ferr Smith, and Bill Denny.



MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP 2011 CLASS

**March 30, 2011**

#### **Madison County Youth Leadership 2011: Economic Development Day**

Twenty-two of the best and brightest sophomore and junior students from both Madison County public and private schools (along with Business League member New Summit School in Jackson) were selected by their school administration to represent them for this one day program. The students visited several of our leading Madison County businesses and heard inspiring words of wisdom from successful business persons. The students were exposed to the many diverse career opportunities available to them in their own county.

**April 4, 2011**

#### **Coffee with Senator Roger Wicker**

The Madison County Business League sponsored Coffee with Senator Roger Wicker at the law offices of Butler Snow in Ridgeland, MS. A crowd of 120 Business League members, elected



SENATOR ROGER WICKER

officials and guests were in attendance as Senator Wicker provided a Washington update.

**May 4, 2011**

#### **The Pulse of Madison County: Healthcare Forum 2011**

A forum addressing the impact that quality healthcare has on the county's economy. The purpose of the summit is not just making business leaders and elected officials aware of the status of healthcare in Madison County, but to identify the challenges and opportunities for the future so they can be addressed as partners.

Speakers at the event include Dr. Mary Currier, Mississippi State Health Officer, Mike Chaney; Mississippi Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal; Sam Cameron, President & CEO Mississippi Hospital Association; Murray Harber, Wellness Coordinator for WebMD Health Services; and Dr. Marianne Hill, Senior Economist MS Institutions of Higher Learning.

**PHOTOS OF THESE EVENTS CAN ALSO BE VIEWED ONLINE AT [MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM](http://MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM)**

## **MCEDA/MCBL JOINT COMMITTEES**

There has been a lot going on behind the scenes, between events, as well! Especially with the newly formed MCEDA/MCBL joint committees. The response by the membership to volunteer for these committees has been overwhelming! These committees combine the expertise of our membership in making decisions in the areas of education, government relations, entrepreneurship, membership, film/tourism and Canton Community Development. It's been a great opportunity to partner public with private.

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