



# NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2023-24



John Geary,  
Chair

What a great time to live and work in Madison County! Thanks to the leadership and hard work of many dedicated people, exciting things are happening.

For years, the Madison County Business League and Foundation has advocated for infrastructure development, particularly focusing on transportation. As a result of the united work of our members, and the county's Mayors, Supervisors, and legislators, construction on the Reunion Crossing east-west corridor is under way, and construction to widen Bozeman Road will begin soon. We will continue working together as we look forward to other transportation projects in Ridgeland and Gluckstadt and the widening of Interstate 55 in the near future.

The MCBLF continues to work with the Madison County Economic Development Authority to bring new businesses to our county. We applaud MCEDA for what has already happened at our Megasite. Because of MCEDA's vision and enthusiasm, we anticipate more good news to come. They are helping the world see what we already know – that Madison County is a great place to do business.

The strength of Madison County is people. The MCBLF is dedicated to bringing people together for the growth of our county. The leadership of the MCBLF comes from a wide variety of industries and businesses. We sponsor events that provide our members with information and offer opportunities to develop relationships. We meet with elected officials to discuss matters of concern to the County. We provide ways for business leaders to share their experience with high school leaders. Our Madison County Executive Leadership program brings leaders together for a year to get to know one another and get to know the county.

I am thankful for the people I get to work with. We build on the wonderful leadership of our past chair, Charlotte Seals, and the faithful leadership of our committee chairs. We are very fortunate to have Jan Collins and Ellis Wise, the best staff an organization could ever have.

2024 will be a great year for Madison County and the MCBLF.

John Geary  
2023-24 Chair

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### Partners



### Pillar Level Investors



# BOARD BUSINESS



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Seated (l-r): Secretary Treasurer Sam Kelly, Brunini; Immediate Past Chairman Supt. Charlotte Seals, Madison County Schools; Chairman John Geary, Tellus Operating Group; Vice Chairman Katie Bryant Snell, BSS Global; Matt Davidson, Atmos Energy.  
 Middle row (l-r): Jan Collins, MCBL&F; Stan Wright, Neel Shaffer; Alveno Castilla, Butler Snow; Deborah Martin, Service Specialists; Gerard Gibert, MCEDA Appointee; Doug Jones, MCEDA Appointee; Gabe Godbold, Renasant Bank; Ellis Wise, MCBL&F.  
 Top row (l-r): Chris Roberts, BankPlus; Dr. Ronnie McGehee, McGehee, LLC; Brian Johnson, FBB Insurance; Wint McGee, MCEDA Appointee; Dr. Phyllis Johnson, MS Board of Nursing; Carl Watts, Olde Towne Cleaners. (Not Pictured: Dwight Lockett, MCEDA Appointee)



### CHAIR PASSES GAVEL & RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

The 2022- 2023 Madison County Business League & Foundation Chair Charlotte Seals passed the gavel to 2023-24 Chair John Geary and was recognized with a plaque for her service as Chair of MCBLF at the recent Vision Celebration luncheon.



### OUTGOING BOARD DIRECTOR

Madison County Business League & Foundation Chair, Charlotte Seals, presented Ray Balentine with Michael Baker International a plaque during the 2023 Vision Celebration in appreciation for his service on the Board of Directors from 2019-2023.



## THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION

THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE 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. AND, TO SERVE AS PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. SIMPLY PUT. ONE VISION, ONE VOICE.



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



*Front: Rep. Elect Clay Mansell; Sam Kelly, MCBL&F Officer; Senator Elect Bradford Blackmon; Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director. Back: Rep. Elect Justis Gibbs; Senator Briggs Hopson; Rep. Jill Ford; John Geary, MCBL&F Chair; Speaker Philip Gunn; Phil Buffington, MCBL&F Govt. Affairs Chair; Rep. Elect Jonathan McMillan; Senator Walter Michel; Rep. Elect Kenji Holloway. Attended but not pictured: Senator John Horhn. Not Pictured: Representative Celeste Hurst; Representative Lawrence Blackmon; Representative Shanda Yates; Senator Joseph Thomas.*



## THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HOSTED THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST HONORING THE MADISON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AT EMBASSY SUITES ON DECEMBER 15TH, 2023.

Committee Chair Phil Buffington announced the Madison County Legislative priorities for 2024 that were adopted through a resolution by the Madison County Board of Supervisors. This agenda is supported through partnership of the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F), Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA), and the Madison County Board of Supervisors.

## EVENTS



## REUNION PARKWAY GROUNDBREAKING

The Madison County Board of Supervisors held the Reunion Parkway Groundbreaking on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. This major infrastructure project in Madison County will provide another safe and efficient east/west transportation corridor, and economic development opportunities for our fast-growing community.

In attendance of this event was Governor Reeves, Senator Wicker, Senator Hyde-Smith, Congressman Guest, Lt. Governor Hosemann, Commissioner Wille Simmons, and members of the Madison County Legislative Delegation. We are thankful for the assistance of our State leaders and our Congressional delegation for their efforts in making this possible.

Q3 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WITH  
HALEY FISACKERLY

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority hosted the Third Quarter Economic Development Outlook Luncheon on August 29th. Haley Fisackerly, President & CEO of Entergy MS, and Joey Deason, Executive Director of MCEDA, both gave presentations on how they are working to benefit economic development in Madison County and our state.



# 2023 VISION CELEBRATION



## 2023 VISION CELEBRATION

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority proudly hosted their annual Vision Luncheon, celebrating the business league's 15th anniversary, on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the Country Club of Jackson. We had an outstanding turnout with over 450 members, elected and appointed officials in attendance. Keynote speaker was Jessica Breau with Amazon.



## VISION AWARD

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) created the VISION award in 2010 as a means of recognizing and thanking certain stand out Madison County businesses for their contributions to the community. By contributions we mean their unique or remarkable accomplishments, their investments in people and the resulting impact that their operations have on the local area economy. The prestigious 2023 VISION Award was presented to Amazon and accepted by site leader Sameer Khosla.

*Pictured l to r: Joey Deason, Executive Director, MCEDA; Sameer Khosla, Site Leader, Amazon; Supt. Charlotte Seals, Madison County Schools.*

## VISIONARY AWARD

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) created the VISIONARY Leadership Award in 2011 to recognize and thank certain individuals or communities for their visionary leadership contributions to the community, their investments in people, and community service, resulting in an overall higher quality of life for Madison County. This year's recipient of the Visionary Leadership Award was the City of Gluckstadt. On behalf of the city, Mayor Walter Morrison accepted this award.



*Pictured l to r: Joey Deason, Executive Director, MCEDA; Mayor Walter Morrison, City of Gluckstadt; Supt. Charlotte Seals, Madison County Schools*



# MADISON COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



## HEALTH & WELLBEING DAY

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA hosted the Health & Well-Being program day on August 23, 2023. The class visited with healthcare leaders and toured numerous health related facilities in the County. This day was dedicated to learning about what it means to promote well-being in the workplace & community.



## QUALITY OF LIFE DAY

The Madison County Executive Leadership Class participated in Quality-of-Life Day on September 13, 2023. The class started the day with a breakfast with the Madison County Mayors who discussed quality of life within their respective communities. Throughout the day, the class toured various local businesses and organizations that help to contribute to the quality of life here in Madison County.



## EDUCATION DAY

The Madison County Executive Leadership Class participated in Education Day on October 25, 2023! Throughout the day, the class heard from various business leaders and educators who work every day to contribute to the quality of education and workforce development we have here in Madison County.



## GRADUATION

The 2023 Madison County Executive Leadership Class Celebrates their Graduation on November 8, 2023.

The mission of the Madison County Executive Leadership program is to provide MCBL&F members with a deeper understanding of the opportunities in Madison County in an environment that enhances their leadership skills and prepares graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole.

These class members traveled around Madison County learning about the impact of infrastructure, education, healthcare, public policy, and quality of life on our economy. They met with influential business leaders and elected officials enabling them to develop a strong network of contacts.





# MADISON COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Pictured (l to r) seated: Anthony Webb, Southern Bancorp; Kelsey Tartt, Service Specialists; Betsy Nicholson, American Red Cross; Wesley Quick, Madison County Schools. Standing (l to r): Johnny Davidson, PriorityOne Bank; Dylan Kennedy, Paramount Construction; Tondra Hall, Nissan North America; Joey Fletcher, Harper Rains Knight & Company; Alex Reeves, Peoples Construction. Not Pictured: Roy Moss, Atmos Energy.

## 2024 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CLASS

### JOHNNY DAVIDSON

*Business Dev. Mgr./Commercial Lender*  
PriorityOne Bank

### JOEY FLETCHER

*Vice President*  
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company

### TONDRA HALL

*Senior Manager of HR*  
Nissan North America

### DYLAN KENNEDY

*Chief Financial Officer*  
Paramount Construction Group

### ROY MOSS

*Vice President of Operations*  
Atmos Energy Corporation

### BETSY NICHOLSON

*Regional Philanthropy Officer*  
American Red Cross

### WESLEY QUICK

*Director of Student Affairs*  
Madison County School District

### ALEX REEVES

*Director of Design-Build*  
Peoples Construction Corporation

### KELSEY TARTT

*Executive Recruiter*  
Service Specialists LTD

### ANTHONY WEBB

*President of Jackson Metro*  
Southern Bancorp



# MADISON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



**THE 2023 MADISON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD, ACCEPTED BY MELODY ROSENBAUM.**

The 2022-23 Madison County Business League & Foundation Chair, Supt. Charlotte Seals, presented the 2023 Young Professional of the Year award to Melody Rosenbaum, Relationship Banker at Citizens National Bank, at the recent Vision Celebration Luncheon.



**MCYP'S AND VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED IN THE VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY**

The Madison County Business League & Foundation's young professionals and volunteers participated in a career day at Velma Jackson High School. Career day gives these students an up-close look at different career paths and allows them the opportunity to listen to presenters, ask questions, and consider what careers pique their interest.



## FALL CONNECTIONS

Madison County Business League & Foundation Young Professionals hosted their Fall Connections event on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Georgia Blue in Madison. This was a professional development networking event with an informative presentation from Rebecca Turner on "Healthy Habits, Healthy Career", along with a team building activity coached by Rochelle Thompson with the American Lung Association. There was live entertainment from Scott Stricklin and a cocktail/hors d'oeuvres reception that was intended for building relationships and making connections.



### THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IS TO PROVIDE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGE WITH BUSINESS, POLITICAL AND CIVIL LEADERS; THUS, INVESTING IN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MADISON COUNTY'S FUTURE LEADERS.





# MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP



**Shown (l-r):** Front row: Georgia Love Greenlee Doty, Jackson Prep; Connor Young, St. Andrews; Thomas Blanks, Jackson Academy; Julia Lever, Germantown High School. **Middle row:** Amelia Rose Cook, Canton Academy; Bryce Perry, Tri County Academy; Warren Hutchinson, Madison Central High School; Destinee Stewart, Ridgeland High School. **Top row:** Connor Odom, St. Joseph; Serenity Chesser, Velma Jackson High School; Jamarion Fleming, Canton High School; Blayne Williams, Madison Ridgeland Academy.

## 2023-2024 MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CLASS

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA Announce the 2023-2024 Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) Class. All public, private, and parochial schools in Madison County, plus Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep, select one junior to represent their respective school in the program. All students are Madison County residents.



## MCYL STEERING COMMITTEE

**Front l to r:** Jan Collins, Executive Director, MCBL&F; Rochelle Thompson, American Lung Association; Ellis Wise, Executive Assistant, MCBL&F; Dr. Don Burnham, Holmes Community College. **Top l to r:** Dr. Mary Sims Johnson, MCCA; Melanie Greer, EXIT Realty; Pat McNulty, Ballew Wealth Management  
Not Pictured: Chamar McDonald, Neel-Schaffer



## MCYL ORIENTATION

The Madison County Business League & Foundation hosted their annual orientation for the 2023-24 Madison County Youth Leadership class! The mission of the Madison County Youth Leadership program is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole.



## MCYL CAREER DAY

Our MCYL class kicked off the program with an exciting day touring various businesses and learning more about the fantastic career choices offered in Madison County!

These students learned about the importance of having communication skills and implementing those skills into how you interact with people daily. Thank you to all sponsors, speakers, businesses and the MCYL Committee for making it an awesome day.

# MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST



*Bottom (l to r): Raymond VanNorman, Renasant Bank; MCCT Chair Barney Daly, Community Bank of MS; MCCT Treasurer Cecil Harper, Harper Rains Knight & Company. Top (l to r): Brian Johnson, FBBI/Trustmark; MCBL&F Chair John Geary, Tellus Operating Group; Brad Gatlin, BankPlus; MCCT Vice Chair/Secretary Wesley Goings, C Spire; Phil Buffington, Adams & Reese.*

## MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST (MCCT) BOARD

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) announces the 2024 Madison County Community Trust (MCCT) Officers & Board of Directors. The Madison County Community Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the educational health, economic and social status, and wellbeing of the citizens of Madison County, Mississippi. The Madison County Business League & Foundation is proud to continuously support the efforts of MCCT.



## MCCT GRANT PRESENTATION TO MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Madison County Community Trust, philanthropic arm of the Madison County Business League & Foundation, proudly presented Madison County Schools with a check for Virtual Reality headsets provided by MCBL&F member Lobaki. These headsets allow students the ability to experience career exploration virtually and are equipped with training simulations for certain career choices. This grant continues the commitment to training the future workforce of Madison County.

*Pictured l to r: Nason Lollar, MCCT; Blaise King, MCS; Kevin Loud, Lobaki; Sanford Moore, Lobaki; Supt. Charlotte Seals, MCS; Barney Daly, Community Bank of MS; Jan Collins, MCBLF*



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## Website

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@Madison County Youth Leadership

@Madison County Young Professionals



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## Instagram

@madisoncountybusinessleague



## "X" (Formerly Twitter)

@mcbf

MORE EVENT PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN AT  
[WWW.MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM](http://WWW.MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB. 14, 2024	<b>Annual 2024 Transportation Breakfast (ALL MEMBERS)</b> 7:30 – 9:00 AM Georgia Blue~Madison Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons MDOT Executive Director Brad White
FEB. 21, 2024	<b>MCYL Government Day (MCYL Class)</b> 7:45 – 3:00 Location TBA
FEB. 22, 2024	<b>Canton High School Reality Fair (MCYP)</b> 8:00 – Noon Canton High School
FEB. 28, 2024	<b>Madison County Executive Leadership Government Day 2024 Class</b> 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Location TBA
MAR. 5, 2024	<b>Health &amp; WellBeing Breakfast (ALL MEMBERS)</b> Holmes Community College – Mc Gowan WFD Center Speaker – Gerard Gibert
MAR. 7, 2024	<b>Workforce Development Workshop</b> MCEDA Office 8:00 – Noon
MAR. 20, 2024	<b>League &amp; Legislature Luncheon (ALL MEMBERS)</b> 11:30 – 1:00 PM Old Capitol Inn Speaker of the House Jason White
APR. 17, 2024	<b>MC Executive Leadership Economic Development Day</b> 7:45 – 4:30 PM MCEDA Office
APR. 22, 2024	<b>Coffee With the Congressmen Lunch (ALL MEMBERS)</b> 11:30 – 1:00 PM Embassy Suites Congressman Michael Guest Congressman Bennie Thompson
MAY 2024	<b>MC Young Professionals Connections Luncheon (ALL MCYPs)</b> <i>Details to be announced</i>
MAY. 14, 2024	<b>Retirement Reception for Supt. Charlotte Seals (ALL MEMBERS)</b> 5:00 – 6:30 PM Adams and Reese Law Firm
MAY 17, 2024	<b>League &amp; Law Enforcement Breakfast (ALL MEMBERS)</b> 7:45-9:00 Embassy Suites Hotel – Ridgeland with Attorney General Lynn Fitch
TBA	<b>End of Legislative Session Recap (ALL MEMBERS)</b> 7:45 – 9:00 Date and Location to be announced

\*\*\* MCBL&F Reserves the right to change dates, times, and locations. Notifications will be sent via email.  
INVITATIONS TO EVENTS WHICH INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.



# THANK YOU TO OUR INVESTORS

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