

Developments:

*The Newsletter of
The Simpson County
Development Foundation*

176 West Court Street
P. O. Box 127
Mendenhall, MS 39114

601.847.2375

Office

601.847.2380

Facsimile

scdf@bellsouth.net

Email

www.simpsoncounty.biz

Website

John Rankin

President

Brian Barnard

President-Elect

Skip Russell

Secretary-Treasurer

Jimmy Clyde

Greg Paes

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Government Relations

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Community Development

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From the Executive Director

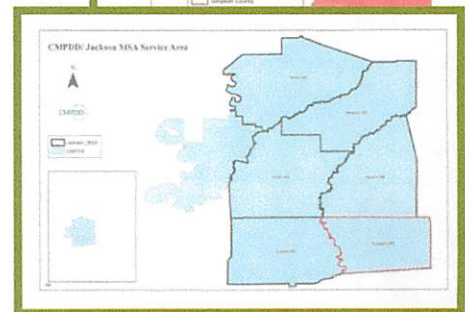
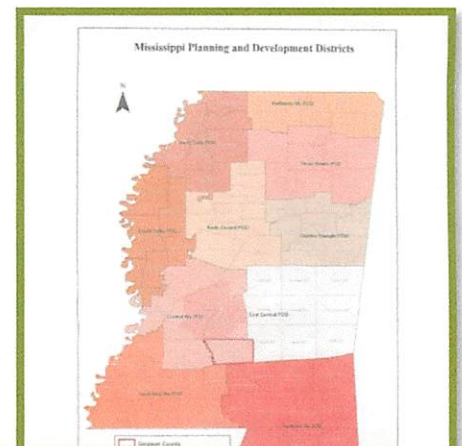
As announced in last month's issue of *Developments*, our 37th Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., on the campus of Boswell Regional Center, and I look forward to seeing you there.

It's a pleasure to announce that our Annual Membership Meeting keynote speaker is native Simpson Countian **Mike Monk**, who was

appointed as the new Chief Operating Officer of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District effective August 1, 2015, succeeding Clarke Holmes upon his retirement. Mike has service in various capacities at CMPDD for nearly 25 years, and he was serving as Director of Community and Economic Development at the time of his appointment as CEO.

Mike has stated his intention to "promote the region and help make it the best place to live, work, and raise a family by working collectively to support community and economic development efforts, workforce development, services to the elderly, and planning for transportation and infrastructure needs." [*Central Update* (CMPDD, October 2015)]

CMPDD is an indispensable partner with SCDF in both our community and economic development activities. CMPDD, through agreements with SCDF and SCEDD, provides us with a wealth of data and expertise.



Polk's Meat Products, Inc., announces \$3.4 million upgrade. SCDF is proud to have Polk's Meat Products, Inc., as a President's Circle Member and to share this recent announcement from Julie Polk Breazeale, CEO, Polk's Meats Products, Inc.:

"Polk's Meats Products, Inc., has been a part of Magee and Simpson County for over fifteen years now. We knew, not long after opening our facility, the day would come when a new refrigeration system would be need to be installed. It became evident a few years ago the time was near. This is the lifeblood of our business and without it we couldn't continue. We began working towards how we would do this in our current facility in order to keep the approximate 100 positions viable. Thanks to the City of Magee, Simpson County, Southern Pine and the USDA the \$3.4 million project will be complete in the next few months. We have engineered the new system in order to accommodate for future growth of our facility. We are looking forward to what the next 15 years will bring us."



For more information on this major company that calls Simpson County home, please visit their website at www.polksmeat.com.

Keep Simpson County Beautiful participating in Wildflower Trails of Mississippi. Keep Simpson County Beautiful (KSCB) is the local affiliate of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, and KSCB is a partnership program of SCDF.

President Evelyn Copeland has announced that Keep Simpson County Beautiful is participating in Wildflower Trails of Mississippi. Wildflower Trails of Mississippi is a project of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, the state's nonprofit leader for litter cleanup, recycling and beautification. Donations are tax deductible. Mississippi is home to many beautiful native wildflowers, but these days, they can be tough to find. KMB's Wildflower Trails of Mississippi project is working to bring them back.

Evelyn states KSCB will be sowing wildflowers along U.S. Hwy 49, along other roads in the county, and at the Simpson County Business Park. Volunteers are welcome! For more information, call Evelyn at 601.918.1215.



The Council of Governments is now meeting regularly on a quarterly basis. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016, at 7:30 a.m., at the Braxton Community Center, Braxton.

New frontage road underway at Mendenhall. A joint project of the City of Mendenhall and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), a new frontage road is under construction at Mendenhall connecting Mississippi Highway 13 and East Street. The City of Mendenhall is responsible for the base construction, and MDOT will provide the paving. In commenting on the project, Mayor Todd Booth stated, "The City of Mendenhall is and has always been a passion of mine. I love the City and my vision is to see great things happen here. This is why I'm excited to announce that the City has begun the first stages of construction of the new frontage road. One of my top priorities when I took office was to get the ball rolling on this project. I believe with the completion of the frontage road, the City and the County both will see a difference in our economy—it will bring new businesses to Mendenhall."

Reminder

37th Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Historic Sanatorium Dining Hall
Boswell Regional Center

Organizational News



SCEDD approves Service Agreement with SCDF for 2016. Following the appointment of Trustees to fill terms expiring in 2016 (reported in last issue), the SCEDD met in a called meeting and approved the 2016 Service Agreement with SCDF in the amount of \$87,500. The service agreement fee makes up half of SCDF's operating budget.

Under the Service Agreement, the Foundation is responsible for providing the services necessary in order to market Simpson County to prospective industries, giving priority to the Simpson County Industrial Parks and other properties owned by the Economic Development District. The Foundation recruits such prospective industries to establish plants, offices and any other structures necessary for the operation of such new enterprises on property owned by the Economic Development District or at any other property in Simpson County more suitable to the prospect.

SCEDD BOARD MEMBERS: 2016 – 2020

Name	District	Term Expires
Fountain McNaire	1	02/12/2020
Billy Craft	1	02/06/2018
Chris Bowen	2	02/12/2020
Robert Maddox	2	02/06/2018
Brian Daniels	3	02/12/2020
Dennis Ammann	3	02/06/2018
Danny Moseley	4	02/12/2020
Gerald Brown	4	02/16/2018
David Massey	5	02/12/2020
Evelyn Copeland	5	02/06/2018
James Smith Chairman	At Large	02/06/2018

- Tuesday, March 22: Magee Chamber of Commerce Banquet. *More Information: 601.849.2517*
- Thursday, April 7: Mendenhall Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. *More Information: 601.847.1725*
- Tuesday, April 12: SCEDD Board of Trustees Meeting. *More Information: 601.847.2375*
- Thursday, April 21: SCDF Annual Membership Meeting. *More Information: 601.847.2375*

Have you ever wondered. . . .



1. **Are the SCDF and the SCEDD the same organization?** No. The SCDF is a private organization and the SCEDD is a quasi-governmental organization. The relationship between the two is governed by an annual Service Agreement.
2. **Does the SCDF own any property?** No. The publically owned properties marketed by the SCDF are owned by the SCEDD.
3. **Are SCDF Officers and Directors paid for their services?** No. They donate their time and talents to serving the well-being of our county. The Executive Director (full-time) and the Office Manager (part-time) are hired by the Directors and receive salaries as employees of SCDF.
4. **Are all of the Directors of SCDF elected by the members?** No. You the members elect the officers and twelve directors.

The Bylaws [Art. IV, § 4.1] provide for one Board Member each from the following groups to be appointed by their respective governing bodies or institutions: Each Benefactor Member; Each President's Circle Member; Simpson County Board of Supervisors; Each of the Municipalities of Braxton, D'Lo, Magee, and Mendenhall; The Chairman of the Simpson County Economic Development District Trustees; The University of Southern Mississippi; and Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

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Several meetings scheduled in March and April.

- Monday, March 14: Council of Governments Meeting in Braxton. *More Information: 601.847.2375*