

**Calendar
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Developments:

*The Newsletter of
The Simpson County
Development Foundation*

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Vice-President

Community Development

Stan Bulger

Vice-President

Economic Development

Jacob Blakeney

Vice-President

Stakeholder Development

Donnie Caughman

Executive Director

From the Executive Director

The 38th Annual Membership Meeting of the Simpson County Development Foundation will be held Thursday, April 20, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the historic Dining Hall on the exceptionally beautiful campus of the Simpson County Boswell Regional Center.

This is a great time for all stakeholders to gather, socialize, and receive valuable information regarding economic and community development in the county.

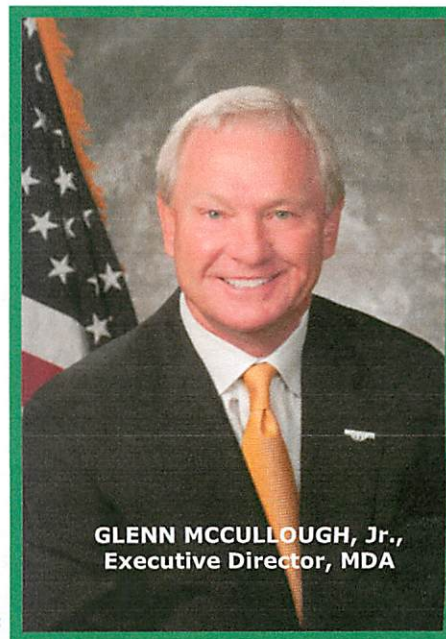
We are honored to have as our guest speaker Mr. Glenn McCullough, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority. Mr. McCullough was appointed to lead the MDA by Governor Phil Bryant in 2015. The Mississippi Development Authority is the lead state agency for recruiting business and industry into the state, and business retention, incentives, grants, job training, tourism, and community development.

Mr. McCullough was elected mayor of Tupelo in 1997 and served until he was appointed as chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority when the utility earned national recognition for its economic development efforts, and eventually landed Toyota Motor Manufacturing into the TVA industrial park mega-site.

McCullough also served as Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission from 1993 to 1997. The ARC is a federal-state partnership that focuses on economic development in 13 states.

In his position with MDA, Mr. McCullough oversees approximately 300 employees who provide support for communities, businesses, industries and leaders to help them reach their goals in Mississippi.

McCullough holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University. He and his wife Laura have two sons and three grandchildren.



**GLENN MCCULLOUGH, Jr.,
Executive Director, MDA**



New Businesses and Construction



Family Owned Bottling Company Purchases Real Pure Bottling, Inc. We welcome to Simpson County the Richmond Family and RealPure Bottling.

RealPure Bottling has purchased the bottling facility at McNair Springs and will

produce bottled water under the RealPure brand. RealPure is a significant addition to the Simpson County business community. Mr. Kane Richmond, CEO, projects a total investment of over \$19 million and the ultimate creation of over 35 new jobs. RealPure Bottling, Inc. joins one of the largest family owned private label bottled water groups on the East Coast. They provide high quality bottled water products with innovative label designs to corporations and non-profits from New York to Texas. In addition to bottle manufacturing, they produce a variety of water products: steam distilled, purified, drinking, and spring.



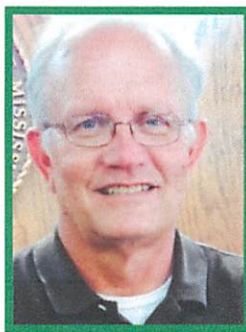
Negotiations near completion for location of manufacturer at Simpson County Commerce Park.

StarTec Builders [ST Builders Alabama LLC] and the Foundation/Economic Development District are in the final stages of negotiations leading to StarTec's location of a manufacturing facility at the Simpson County Commerce Park at Highway 43 and Bowen Road. With the successful completion of the contract, in addition to purchasing the property, StarTec will make an initial investment of approximately \$775,000 in physical plant, equipment, and materials, not including the purchase of the property. Initial employment will number 12, and with growth expectations, will rise to some 25 employees.

StarTec Builders is an innovative leader in the portable building industry with more than 18 years of manufacturing experience. StarTec Builders' portable buildings are sold through some 30 dealers in Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi. They have

manufacturing sites in Texas and Alabama, and Simpson County will be their third and newest shop.

Community Developments



Mayor Jimmy Clyde retires.

All of us extend our sincere best wishes to Mayor Jimmy Clyde, who has announced his retirement after serving Magee for 22 years as city clerk and an additional 20 years as mayor.

Mayor Clyde is also completing his term in June as president of the Mississippi Municipal League. We at the Foundation also thank Mayor Clyde for his consistent support of and participation in the Foundation.

Evelyn Copeland receives prestigious Keep America Beautiful Leadership Award.

Congratulations to SCDF member Evelyn Copeland, leader of Keep Simpson County Beautiful, who is the recipient of the Sue Smith Professional Leadership Award for 2016.

The award is presented annually by Keep America Beautiful as one of its National Awards. The recipients of these awards exemplify the spirit and passion of KAB's affiliates, partner organizations and individuals who help to keep their respective communities clean, green, and beautiful places to live. The awards were presented at the Keep America Beautiful National Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., during Keep America Beautiful's National Conference.



Community Developments

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Magee Chamber of Commerce elects new president and honors local citizens. On Tuesday night, March 7, the Magee Chamber of Commerce held their annual Chamber Banquet, and Ian Cowart assumed the presidency for the coming year. Suzy Thames was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Shirley Maddox received the Spirit of Magee Award. Congratulations to Ian, Suzy, and Shirley, and thanks to the Magee Chamber of Commerce for their membership in the Foundation.

CALENDAR

Annual Mendenhall Area

Chamber of Commerce Banquet

Date: Thursday, March 23

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: National Guard Armory, Mendenhall, MS

For details contact Marsha Bratcher, Chamber Secretary, at 601.847.1725.

Co-Lin Pathways Job Fair

Date: Tuesday, March 28

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Thames Conference Center, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson Campus

Note: The Pathways format will provide two (2) separate sessions with each targeting specific areas of employment.

For more information or to register for the March 28, 2017 event please call 601.643.8707 or email your contact information to careertraining@colin.edu.

Simpson County Development Foundation

Regular Meeting of Officers and Directors

Date: Tuesday, March 28

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Magee Civic Center

Simpson Co. Economic Development District Trustees Quarterly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 11

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Where: Barry's Restaurant, Magee, MS

Simpson County Development Foundation 2017 Annual Members Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 20

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Boswell Regional Center Historic Sanatorium Dining Hall Building 7

Mendenhall in May 2017

Date: Saturday, May 20

Where: Mendenhall Main Street

Events include a free concert with Hometown Local Fordie Hays, Arts & Crafts, Car Show, 5K Run/Walk, BBQ Cook Off, Kid Zone, and Food. For details and event/vendor applications contact Mendenhall Area Chamber of Commerce at 601.847.1725.



The annual Members Meeting and Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017, and will held again this year in the beautiful and historic Food Services Building on the campus of Boswell Regional Center. The meeting will include the annual report, presentation of Business of the Year and presentation of Ally of the Year. Glenn McCullough, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority, is the scheduled guest speaker. The officers and directors for the coming year will be elected.

At the beginning of April, SCDF members will receive individual mailings with details and ticket information.



**EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 16, 2017**