

Developments

The Newsletter of The Simpson County Development Foundation

176 West Court Street
P. O. Box 127
Mendenhall, MS 39114
601.847.2375
Office

scdf@bellsouth.net
Email

www.simpsoncounty.biz
Website

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President

Josh Pierce
President-Elect

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Happy Presidents Day—Monday, February 21st!

In 1971, Richard M. Nixon made the executive order to pass the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which shifted Washington's Birthday, Columbus Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day to Monday. With the date landing in the middle of Lincoln's and Washington's birthday, it became known as Presidents' Day, while having a simultaneous benefit for retail stores as they advertised their special sales events during this time. By the mid-1980s, Presidents' Day became the common term and continues to be called as such to this day. [Source: <https://nationaltoday.com/presidents-day/>]



Committee in place to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding land use in the county. Initiated by SCDF, a committee is now in place and at work to advise the Board of Supervisors regarding land use in the county. The committee, chaired by SCDF Vice-President for Community Development Pat Brown, has been well received by the Board of Supervisors, and the committee is coordinating with Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) staff members for their expertise as the long-term project develops. In 2010, a land use plan was a part of a CMPDD-prepared comprehensive plan for the county; however, the plan was never officially adopted.

"People and businesses are attracted to higher quality developments. . . . All development should be examined as to its effect on the county's image, because it is the county's image that is at stake. It is a well-known fact that one of the factors a business/industry considers in determining a location is the quality of life in a community. . . . A community desperate for development without regard to the quality of that development will not be able to successfully compete with communities that are more concerned with the quality of development and other quality of life issues." Comprehensive Plan—Simpson County, Mississippi; CMPDD, October 2010.

SCDF presents resolution of support to Simpson County School Board. At a recent meeting of the Simpson County School Board, SCDF President Christian Coward presented to School Board Chairman Danny Cowart a resolution in support of the School Board in their decision to establish a consolidated high school and their request for a bond election in support thereof. In approving the resolution, the officers and directors of SCDF noted that an effective and efficient public school system is an essential component in accomplishing their mission to stimulate economic growth leading to improved economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of Simpson County.



SCDF sets date for Annual Membership Meeting. Thursday, April 28, 2022, is the date set for our Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting will include a lunch catered by Chris Williams at the Simpson County Country Club. Once the agenda is set, details of the meeting will be communicated to all members.

See "Calendar" on page 2 for additional events.

CALENDAR



The quarterly Council of Governments meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7:30 a.m., in the Mendenhall Civic Center. All elected officials are invited and encouraged to attend.

Dr. Toriano Holloway, Superintendent of the Simpson County Schools, will present a video presentation regarding the new consolidated high school, and speak on the plans related to the proposed bond issue.

Breakfast will be provided by the Foundation and catered by Café 320.

Thursday, March 10, 2022; 7:00 a.m. – Magee Chamber of Commerce Members Breakfast will be held at the Magee First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gibson is the guest speaker.

There is no fee, but seating is limited and available on a first-come-first-served basis. Tickets should be picked up at the Magee Chamber of Commerce by Monday, February 28.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022; 10:00 a.m. – Next regularly scheduled meeting of the *Officers and Directors of the Simpson County Development Foundation.*

Thursday, March 24, 2022 – Magee Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. Please contact chamber for details.

Thursday, March 31, 2022 – Mendenhall Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Please contact chamber for details.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022; 10:00 a.m. – Next regularly scheduled meeting of the *Trustees of the Simpson County Economic Development District.*

Thursday, April 28 – SCDF Annual Meeting. See article on page 1.



Simpson County Economic Development District concludes sale of Simpson County Commerce Park. As reported previously, the Simpson County Economic Development District (SCEDD) accepted Mr. Jeff Jennings's bid of \$202,070.00 for the Simpson County Commerce Park. The closing for the sale was held on January 28, 2022. The 110-acre property is located at Bowen Road and State Highway 43.



Simpson Leaders cancelled for calendar year 2022. In up-date and change of information published in our previous newsletter, *SCDF will NOT be holding a Simpson Leaders class for this calendar year 2022.* Most likely due to the continuing COVID pandemic, we have not received sufficient applications to form a class for this year.



First certified in February 2019, we in Simpson County are maintaining our status a Certified Work Ready Community. Through December 2021, we had met 80% of our goals, with 8 months remaining to attain 100%.

Details of our status and progress may be found online at <https://www.workreadycommunities.org/MS/127>.

By participating in ACT's® Work Ready Communities initiative, counties, regions and states are helping:

- Business and industry know exactly what foundational skills they need for a productive workforce - and to easily communicate their needs
- Individuals understand what skills are required by employers - and how to prepare themselves for success
- Policy makers consistently measure the skills gap in a timely manner at the national, state and local levels
- Educators close the skills gap, via tools integrated into career pathways with stackable industry-recognized credentials
- Economic developers use an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of their workforce

*Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't;
you're absolutely right."
-Henry Ford*