

CMPDD Receives Three National Innovation Awards from NADO

CMPDD has received three 2013 Innovation Awards from the National Assn. of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for: 1) Madison County's GIS Program, 2) City of Ridgeland's Universal Playground, and 3) University of Mississippi Medical Center's University Drive project. NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of the nation's regions and local communities. Award winners were showcased during NADO's 2013 Annual Training Conference, held August 24 - 27 in San Francisco, CA.

The first award was for assisting Madison County with GIS and the creation of a data management system. The District made a significant investment

in upgrading required hardware and software. These investments, coupled with the expansion of GIS staff, resulted in CMPDD developing and launching customized web based applications using virtual servers and ArcGIS Server technology. These applications, accessible through the CMPDD website, use state-of-the-art HTML and JavaScript to serve up 15 different interactive mapping applications containing a host of information for public viewing. These applications allow accessibility to state and local data layers, including political boundaries, demographics, flood zones, physical geography, transportation, public facilities, subdivisions, zoning, parcels, deeds, and plats. These services also have search and identify functionality allowing users to query datasets.

With these internet-based, tablet-compatible viewing tools, users are able to pick and choose base map and data layer(s) from a menu of available information. It is anticipated that additional layers and functionality will be added to each viewer as needed.



Mitzi Stubbs, CMPDD, accepted the awards from NADO President John Leonard at the NADO 2013 Annual Training Conference in San Francisco, California.

Second, CMPDD and the City of Ridgeland's Adam's Project Universal Design Playground received a NADO Innovations award for using recreation as an economic development tool. CMPDD assisted Ridgeland in obtaining CDBG Public Facilities funds to partially fund an innovative, unique project, a Universal Design Playground at Freedom Ridge Park. Adam's Project was also made (continued on page 3)

Jackson MPO Announces Funding for 26 Metro Transportation Projects

In November, the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved \$22.3 million in funding for metro-area transportation projects aimed at reducing congestion and improving the safety and efficiency of the regional multi-modal transportation system.

"Transportation is about providing options to keep everyone moving. Funding approved today will support community-based projects that integrate transportation enhancements and provides for new economic development opportunities in the metro-area," said Pelahatchie Mayor Knox Ross, Chairman of the MPO Planning Policy Committee.

Funding for these projects is available through the MPO as part of the 2012 Federal transportation bill, *Moving Ahead* for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

This year, the MPO focused on providing funding to projects that can be completed in a relatively short timeframe, and that address safety and congestion concerns. Twenty-five (25) of the twenty-six (26) projects selected for funding had their requests fully funded by the MPO.

"One important thing to note is (continued on page 2)

Jackson MPO Announces Projects Funding (continued from front page) -

this process is one step further toward implementation of a federally required Transportation Plan. Each project selected represents only a small piece of a much larger transportation scheme," according to F. Clarke Holmes, CEO of CMPDD.

CMPDD received 53 applications requesting more than \$54 million in funding. However, the MPO only has funds available for the top 26 rated projects. Local entities receiving the \$22.3 million in transportation funding have committed to providing over \$26 million in local matching funds.

Projects selected for funding such as resurfacing Robinson Road and installing a traffic signal in Canton at Commerce Drive should be completed in a relatively short timeframe (1 to 2 years) while other projects such as the construction of West Rankin Parkway and Lake Harbour Drive Extension will take a much lengthier timeframe to complete.

Projects selected for funding were based on four (4) project types which are shown in the chart below:

ENTITY	PROJECT	MPO FUNDS		
<u>Traffic Operational Improvements</u>				
Flowood	Wirtz Road & Hwy 25 Signal & Intersection Improvements	\$ 202,050		
Canton	Hwy 22 at Commerce Drive Signal Installation	318,378		
Brandon	Hwy 80 Signal Installation at Trickham Bridge Road & Louis Wilson	300,000		
Pearl	Hwy 80 Signal Upgrades at Flowood Dr/Old Brandon Rd & Pearson Rd	380,000		
Capacity Deficie	ncy Projects			
Madison County	New Construction Reunion Parkway Phase 3	\$4,400,000		
Pearl	New Construction West Rankin Parkway Phase 1	2,000,000		
Madison County	Bozeman Road Widening from 2lanes to 5lanes	4,400,000		
Ridgeland	New Construction Lake Harbour Drive Extension	3,300,000		
East Metro Corridor	New construction East Metro Corridor Phase 2	2,767,064*		
Pavement Mana	gement Projects			
Jackson	Terry Road Resurfacing Cooper Road to Stokes Robertson Road	\$ 650,000		
Hinds County	Watkins Drive Resurfacing Forest Avenue to Northside Drive	258,915		
Hinds County	Robinson Road Resurfacing Ellis Avenue to Hwy 80	437,935		
Hinds County	Robinson Road Resurfacing Hwy 80 to Interstate 20	215,854		
Hinds County	Owens Road Resurfacing Springridge Road to Midway Road	197,823		
Hinds County	McCluer Road Resurfacing Henderson Road to Siwell Road	105,675		
Hinds County	Lynch Street Resurfacing Robinson Road to Wiggins Road	103,139		
Hinds County	Mill Street Resurfacing Fortification Street to Woodrow Wilson Drive	191,028		
Ridgeland	Highland Colony Pkwy. Resurfacing County Line Road to Business Park Dr			
Hinds County	Woodrow Wilson Dr. Resurfacing Fortification St. to Martin Luther King Dr			
Byram	Siwell Road Resurfacing north of new construction to City Limits	296,779		
Hinds County	Robinson Road Resurfacing Capital Street to Ellis Avenue	336,934		
BrandonSunset	Drive & Overby Street Resurfacing	140,000		
Hinds County	Forest Hill Road Resurfacing Raymond Road to Cooper Road	109,902		
Hinds County	Big Creek Road Resurfacing Siwell Road to Springridge Road	253,619		
Hinds County	Mill Street Resurfacing Capital Street to Fortification Street	171,472		

^{*}The East Metro Corridor Project, a joint project between Brandon, Flowood, Pearl, and the Jackson Airport Authority, did not receive 100% of funds requested from the MPO.



Mitzi Stubbs, CMPDD, presented the NADO Award for Ridgeland to Mayor Gene Magee (right) and Steve Tillman, Recreation and Parks Superintendent.



Chuck Carr, CMPDD, presented NADO Award to Madison County officials (l-r): Supervisors Karl Banks, Ronnie Lott, Paul Griffin, Gerald Steen; GIS Administrator Kay Little; Emergency Management Director Butch Hammack; Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston; Supervisor John Bell Crosby, Chuck Carr.

NADO Innovation Awards (continued from front page)

possible through awareness-building, fundraising, and the motivation to provide a playground for those with special needs. Various organizations, businesses, and individuals have contributed to the project, which was inspired by Ridgeland resident Adam Malone, who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

The universal design goes beyond the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Play Area. It provides an area of play which allows accessibility and full participation for the physicallychallenged and disabled, no matter what age or ability level. This playground is the second and also the largest of its kind in Mississippi, with visitors not only from all over the state, but the southeast region of the country as well. Many events such as Special Olympics Events are held at this site, drawing people from all over the country to Ridgeland, which promotes economic development through money spent at local hotels, gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, and other local businesses.

The third Innovation Award recognized CMPDD for its assistance to the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) through project development and implementation. Initial assistance was focused on preparing an application for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Assistance Grant, which resulted in a \$1,500,000 grant award in May 2012. Following the grant award,



Gray Ouzts, CMPDD, presented the NADO Award to Ron Horne, UMMC Director of Construction.

CMPDD has served as UMMC's liaison to EDA and project administrator. The partnership has continued to grow as CMPDD is currently working with UMMC on other infrastructure projects.

Located in Jackson, UMMC is the state's only academic medical center, Level 1 trauma center, and children's hospital. Opportunities to create jobs exist in all areas, but targeted capital investments are necessary to accommodate growth on campus; therefore, a Master Plan was developed. Plan implementation spurs job creation and assists the state in affecting improvements in both access to healthcare and healthcare outcomes for its citizens. Future growth contemplated by the Master Plan required the East University Drive Roadway Project, funded in part by EDA. The Roadway Project provided a properly planned and designed access to the campus and relocated utilities to along the new roadway. The 4-lane road connects to a new signalized intersection on Lakeland Drive and also connects to the existing 2-lane road that extends south to Woodrow Wilson Ave. This road will undergo the addition of a third lane, along with other enhancements, to provide capacity for added traffic. The Roadway Project and related projects will result in 225 new jobs with an estimated direct payroll of \$11,414,250. These positions include clinicians, researchers, support staff, and newly trained health care practitioners. A recently completed economic impact study concludes that for every 100 direct jobs on the UMMC campus, approximately 93 additional jobs are created in the State economy. Finally, UMMC will invest \$21,900,000 in capital on campus over the next 9 years. These capital improvements are feasible as a result of the roadway project, as it provides the traffic access and capacity to support the capital improvements, including, but not limited to, a gamma knife, a new pediatric emergency room, and renovations to the elevators in the Children's Hospital. The roadway opened in Summer 2013. As a result, UMMC has opened its new pediatric emergency room and School of Pharmacy, and awarded contracts for construction of its new School of Medicine in Fall 2013. Job creation is on track to reach 225 new employees within 3 years.

"For nearly 30 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work and dedication to promoting economic development in rural and small metropolitan communities across the country," said NADO President John Leonard.

For more information, contact CMPDD at 601-981-1511.

PRVWSD Board of Directors Adopts Master Plan

On December 19, the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) Board of Directors adopted the PRVWSD Master Plan developed by CMPDD. The purpose of the Master Plan is to serve as a policy guide for the physical and economic development of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. Elements included in this plan are Land Use, Transportation, and Public Facilities, along with a Capital Improvements Program, an Analysis of the Regional Economic Impact of PRVWSD, and the development of a Web-Based GIS Mapping Viewer.

Throughout the process of preparing the Master Plan, the input and feedback of residents, business owners, and other interested parties was sought. CMPDD conducted an online survey as well as a live survey of PRVWSD recreational facility users, and also hosted two public meetings. The intention of these meetings was to understand the needs, desires, and vision of the residential and business community within and near the PRVWSD and users of the PRVWSD facilities. The surveys were used to assist in calculating of the PRVWSD's economic impact on the region and the state.

The Land Use Plan element will be used primarily as a general and long-range policy guide to decisions concerning future land development. The PRVWSD area is located in five counties; Hinds, Leake, Madison, Rankin, and Scott, and three municipalities;



Jackson, Madison, and Ridgeland. Each jurisdiction addresses land use planning and zoning of PRVWSD property differently. The purpose of the PRVWSD Land Use Plan is to better coordinate these planning efforts in order to ensure harmony in land use plans and associated zoning of PRVWSD properties.

As part of the development of the Plan, CMPDD created an interactive web-based GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping application and viewer. With this internet-based GIS viewing tool, users are able to choose which background map and data layer(s) they wish to view from a menu of available information. This new service will allow accessibility to numerous informational data layers including: aerial imagery, topography, existing land use, the land use plan, the transportation plan, recreational features/facilities, demographic data, land ownership, building footprints, flood zones, and zoning. A link to the viewer can be found on the Reservoir website at: http://therez.ms/index.html.V

Does Your Zoning Ordinance Need Revision? -

Is your city or town's zoning ordinance functioning the way you think it should? Many communities have zoning ordinances that no longer adequately address many of today's development issues. Others lack the necessary flexibility that developers and property owners need to negotiate acceptable projects. Still others need to be brought up-to-date to reflect recent court decisions.

Zoning is not meant to be for just cities and towns. There may be unincorporated areas of some counties that are experiencing development problems that could benefit from zoning and other development regulations.

Signs That Your Zoning Ordinance May Need to be Revised

Age: If your zoning ordinance is at least ten to fifteen years old, it should be reviewed and evaluated. Changes in zoning techniques, approaches, and definitions may not be reflected in your current ordinance. Examples include changes in automobile sizes affecting parking space regulations and changes in appearance regulations have occurred that may not be taken into account.

<u>Increased Applications for Variances:</u> If your town or city is experiencing an increase in the number of requests for variances, that is an indication that certain aspects of your ordinance do not reflect current development trends or your community may have a substantial number of nonconforming

uses, lots, and structures. It certainly means that your zoning ordinance needs to be reviewed.

Occurrence of Undesirable Development: As time passes, a zoning ordinance land uses or patterns of development occur that were not anticipated and may be considered undesirable, especially if development is occurring at a fast pace.

Adoption of a New Comprehensive Plan or Other Development Controls: If your town or city has recently updated its comprehensive plan, it is also time to review your zoning ordinance and map. The zoning ordinance is the city's primary means of implementing its comprehensive plan. This means that the zoning ordinance should be revised to be in line with the policies and recommendations of the plan. Doing so will help correct problems identified in the plan.

Increase in Zoning-Related Lawsuits: An increase in zoning-related lawsuits is an indication that there is a difference between what the private sector believes it is entitled to and the controls or administrative structure of the present zoning ordinance. If your city is losing most of such lawsuits, then your ordinance should be reviewed.

What to do? CMPDD has professional planners on staff that can assist your city or town with its planning and zoning problems. If your zoning ordinance exhibits any of the above problems, please contact Mike Monk at 601-981-1511.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Guidelines Approved

Project submittal guidelines and an application process, developed by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Subcommittee of the Intermodal Technical Committee, for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds made available through the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)* transportation bill, were presented to and approved by the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee on November 13, 2013. The adopted project submittal guidelines and application include project evaluation criteria used to rank project applications, guidelines for eligibility, and general requirements for all proposed projects applying for TAP funds made available through the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Following adoption of the TAP project submittal guidelines and application process, a Call for Projects was announced. The Call for Projects details how to access the evaluation criteria and application for TAP funds, the project submission instructions, and the deadline of January 15, 2014 to submit project applications. The amount of TAP funds available through the MPO is \$949,000. Once all project applications have been received, MPO staff will rate each application, following the adopted evaluation criteria, and submit the scored projects to the Intermodal Technical and Metropolitan Planning Policy Committees at their scheduled meetings in February, 2014 for review and approval.



CMPDD Submits EDA Grant Application for Copiah Water Association

CMPDD assisted the Copiah Water Association in the preparation and submission of a Public Works-Economic Adjustment grant application in the amount of \$465,972 to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Grant funds will be used for the construction of new water lines to serve the Hardy Wilson Hospital. The water system improvements will consist of approximately 1.5 miles of new 6" water main to connect the proposed facility to existing water lines. Additionally, the improvements will include the installation of a steel collector tank hydro-tank, booster station, and a generator. Due to the condition of the existing hospital facility, the Hardy Wilson Hospital is relocating and expanding to ensure its ability to serve the Hazlehurst – Copiah County community into the future. Hardy Wilson Hospital is investing \$16 million to construct a hospital. The move will result in the creation of an additional 29 new jobs, while saving 153 jobs.

CDBG Projects Now Under Construction

The Town of Flora and the University of Mississippi Medical Center received funding through the CDBG program, and both are now under construction. The District assisted in the preparation and submission of the grant applications and now serves as the grant administration service for both projects. The Town of Flora received \$347,243 in CDBG Public Facility funds to install sewer lines to 18 homes that have not had municipal service. The construction on the lines began in October and is anticipated to be complete in January 2014.

Additionally, the University of Mississippi Medical Center received \$10,000,000 in Katrina Supplemental CDBG Economic Development funds to complete site and utility work for the new School of Medicine building. The one-year contract was awarded in October and construction began in December 2013. Upon completion of the site and utilities work, UMMC will award a contract for the construction of the actual building. As a result of this new building and resulting expanded capacity, UMMC will hire an additional 200 employees and will be positioned to increase its class size. For additional information on either project, please contact Gray Ouzts at 601-981-1511.



2013 DRA Applications Approved for Funding

DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress, which serves a 240 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 45 counties (including all 7 CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region's economy.

Priority for funding is given to four types of projects: (1) Basic Public Infrastructure; (2) Transportation Infrastructure; (3) Business Development; and (4) Job Training and Employment-related Education. DRA funds may also be used to leverage other federal and state programs. Under federal law, 75 percent of funds are targeted to distressed counties and pockets of poverty, and 50 percent of dollars are earmarked for transportation and basic public infrastructure. For additional information, please contact **Mitzi Stubbs** at **601-981-1511**.

Listed below are the applications submitted by CMPDD that DRA approved for funding:

Community Name	Project Description	DRA Funds	Matching Funds
City of Hazlehurst	Water and Sewer Improvements	\$343,688	\$2,153,978
MS Blood Services	New Bloodmobile	281,750	15,000
Magee General Hospital	Pharmacy Improvements	76,856	10,000

Puckett Applies for CDBG Economic Development Funds

CMPDD assisted the Town of Puckett in the submission of an application to the Mississippi Development Authority for CDBG Economic Development funds. The Town has requested \$426,700 to widen an existing roadway to allow easier and safer access to R-Squared Puckett, Inc., as well as to relocate utilities as a result of the roadway. R-Squared Puckett, Inc., will invest approximately \$2 million in building improvements and it will create 50 new jobs.

The CDBG Economic Development program provides grants to local governments for construction of public improvements or loans necessary to secure the location or expansion of business or industry in Mississippi. The purpose of the program is to assist projects that create new job opportunities for citizens of Mississippi, especially persons who are from low to moderate income families.



CMDC BULLETIN

Wanda Cowart, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), has announced the approval of two new loans.

The first loan was for **Hilton Garden Inn** for \$4,170,000 of a \$13,900,000 project under the U.S. Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. Proceeds of this loan will partially finance the construction of a new 112-room full service hotel in Flowood, MS which will create approximately sixty-four (64) new jobs in the private sector.

The second loan was for **Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.** for \$250,000 of a \$950,000 project under the Mississippi Minority Business Loan Program. The borrower will use the loan proceeds to purchase and renovate a building in Magee, MS. Upon completion, it will provide funeral and related services for the community and surrounding area and will create approximately nine (9) new jobs in the private sector.

CMDC is a U.S. Small Business Administration approved Certified Development Company (CDC). It works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing business loans to small businesses. These loans allow a small business to finance land, building, and equipment with a low down payment and long term financing at competitive interest rates. Fixed rate, low interest financing for small businesses saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. Also, this type financing provides an alternative to variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not have a negative impact on the cash flow of those businesses that have fixed rate low interest loans through the U. S. Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The maximum loan amount is 40% of the total project cost up to a maximum loan amount of \$5,000,000 depending on the type of project. The maximum amount for eligible manufacturing projects is \$5,500,000.

Ms. Cowart also announced that current interest rates on business loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration's CMDC remain very low. The interest rates are as follow: <u>TERM (YEARS)</u> 10 December 2013) 20 (December 2013) <u>INTEREST RATE</u>

4.40% 5.46%

In addition, the District manages a Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program (MBELP) that is administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), who recognizes the District as a "Qualified Entity" to originate and service loans under the MBELP. The interest rate is currently 2.75% per annum for a maximum term of 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds. The District specializes in structuring loans for minority owned businesses (MBE/WBE) and businesses involved in exporting. Bankers, commercial loan officers, real estate developers, contractors, and others interested in locking up extremely low fixed interest rates on business loans are encouraged to call Larry Anderson or Dwayne Perkins at 601-981-1625.



The Home 2 Suites by Hilton, financed in part with a CMDC Loan for \$1,971,000 in 2010, is now finished and open in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

EDA/RLF Board Approves Loan

James E. Stirgus, Jr., Chairman of the Economic Development Administration/Revolving Loan Fund (EDA/RLF) Board, announced the approval of a loan to **Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.** for \$250,000 of a \$950,000 project under the EDA's Revolving Loan Fund. This loan will finance the purchase and renovation a commercial building in Magee, MS, that will serve the community's need for funeral and related services. This business will create approximately nine (9) new jobs in the private sector.

The District's EDA/RLF can provide financial assistance to small businesses that foster economic development through the creation of new jobs. Loans are now available for terms up to fifteen (15) years at annual interest rates as low as 2.44%. Interested persons should contact **T. Larry Anderson** or **Dwayne Perkins** at **601-981-1511**.

New Online Tools Available for Employers and Job Seekers -

The new Mississippi Online Employment Services System (OESS) is a real-time, web based workforce and employment system that helps employers find qualified workers and job seekers find employment that matches their skills. Developed by nSPARC (National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center) at Mississippi State University, the OESS system is now in use throughout the state by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. Southcentral Mississippi Works, the workforce

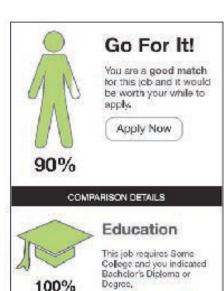


arm of CMPDD, helped support and participated in funding this system. the **Employers** can review

resumes of applicants that meet their specifications regarding education, experience, and skills. They can then issue an invitation to apply for open jobs to those that meet their criteria. Job seekers can review available jobs based on several criteria including location. They can also review labor market information for jobs including wages and occupational growth for various areas. The system will indicate whether they qualify and if not, what they lack as indicated in the chart below and the chart on the next page.

Additionally, the system now includes Mississippi Grad Jobs, which links students at major Mississippi Universities to employers. Students can sign up for weekly job matches (based on their majors) sent via email. This system also allows graduates looking to relocate back to Mississippi to explore available career opportunities.

Finally, another part of the system, LifeTracks, combines an expansive data warehouse of early childhood, K-12 education, post secondary education and workforce data with a flexible reporting platform that allows state agencies, legislators, and the general public to access information via a onestop web portal. LifeTracks empowers better decision making by delivering relevant and timely information that allows stakeholders to answer critical policy questions relevant to education, workforce and economic development.



Update Education Profile

This job requires a minimum

of 8 years of experience in

You have 17 of the 20 skills

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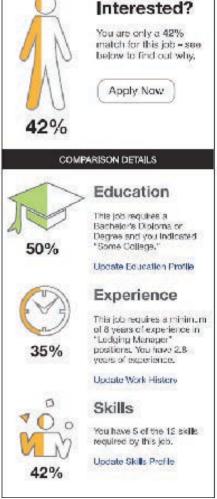
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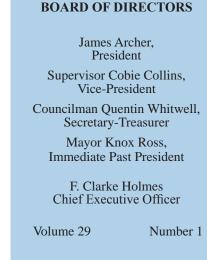
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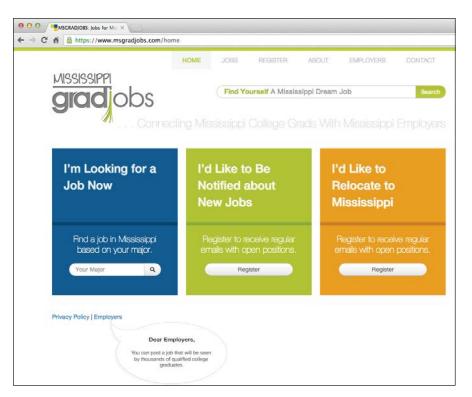
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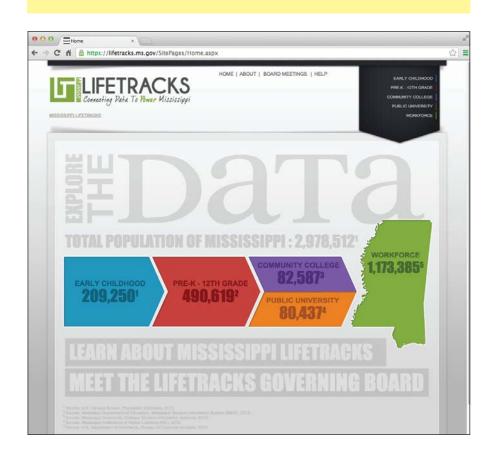
CMPDD



The charts and web pages shown here and on Page 8 are samples of what can be accessed through this direct link:

https://wings.mdes.ms.gov/wings/welcome.jsp

or you may go to: http://mdes.ms.gov/



CMPDD Board Appoints Aging Advisory Committee Members

At the September and December meetings of the CMPDD Board of Directors, 21 individuals were appointed to serve for two years on the CMPDD Aging Advisory Committee. They were nominated by city and county officials to represent their respective county or area. One of the main responsibilities of this committee will be to work with the District's Aging staff in developing ongoing and future plans for services to older adults in the central Mississippi area. Members of the committee by county or area are listed as follows:

Copiah County
Daphine Foster
Linda Phillips

<u>Hinds County</u> Geneva Johnson Beulah Jones

Madison County Percy Campbell John Pulley

Rankin County Bettye Massey Larry Randall

Simpson County James Davis Georgia Smith

Warren County Cindy McClung Pearline Williams

<u>Yazoo County</u> Aubrey Brent, Jr. Mary Ellen Harris

City of Jackson
Nancy Gaynor
Rudolph Jackson
Al Levy
Dr. Frank McCune
Charlotte Reeves
Pearl Stewart
Grace Sweet

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT P.O. Box 4935 • 1170 Lakeland Drive • Jackson, Mississippi 39296-4935 Phone: 601-981-1511 • Fax: 601-981-1515 • www.cmpdd.org

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If the name and address of the recipient needs to be updated, please contact our office at 601-981-1511.

Needy Seniors Benefit from 24th "Santa for Seniors" Project-

Three organizations assisted CMPDD with the twenty-fourth (24th) year of the "Santa for Seniors" Project. The Jackson Chapter of the National Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA); the Jackson Association of Health Underwriters (JAHU); and Home Instead Senior Care provided Christmas gifts to over 750 needy seniors in the District's seven county area. Fruit baskets, robes, blankets, gowns, jogging suits, and toiletries were just some of the items purchased for seniors who are homebound or residents of local nursing or personal care homes. Seniors were asked for their wish lists and the sponsors supplied the items. The seniors were very appreciative of the gifts and were encouraged and uplifted by the generosity extended to them.

Because of the continued participation of sponsors with this project, the District has been able to provide many needy seniors with Christmas cheer and joy during the holiday season for the past twenty-four years. CMPDD is grateful for the interest and generous support of its sponsors and looks forward to working with them in the future.



Home Instead staff and volunteers wrapping senior's presents



CMPDD Aging Director Chelsea Crittle joined members of Jackson's NAIFA chapter at their December meeting, where she received their gifts for CMPDD to distribute. (Pictured, l-r): Fonda Devrow, Chelsea Crittle, Taylor Webb, Camille Allen-Snyder, Kay Candelora, Tom Welch, and Lee Owens.



CMPDD Aging staff are shown with several JAHU members who brought gifts that they donated to Santa for Seniors.