

# State of the County 2015



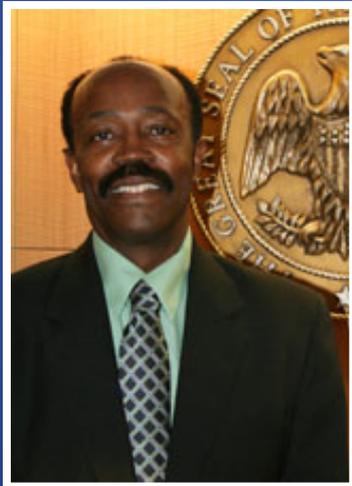
*Presented by Board President Barry Cumbest*

# JC Board of Supervisors

2012 - 2015



**Barry Cumbest**  
District 1



**Melton Harris, Jr.**  
District 2



**Mike Mangum**  
District 3



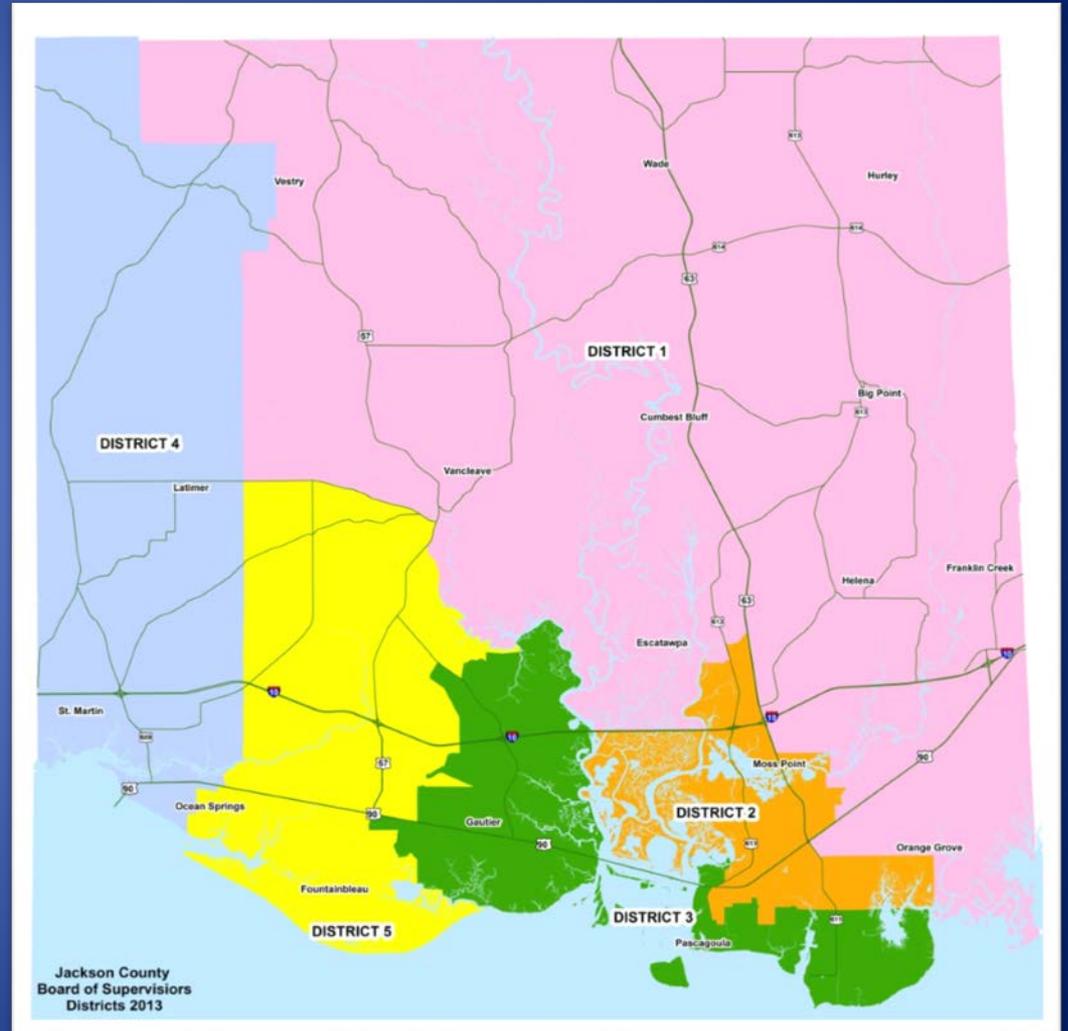
**Troy Ross**  
District 4



**John McKay**  
District 5

# Supervisor District Lines

New Supervisor  
District Lines  
took effect  
January 1, 2014



New District Lines

# About Jackson County

- One of 82 counties in Mississippi
- Population: 139,668 (according to 2010 census)
- Almost half of the County's population lives in the unincorporated area.
- 735 Square Miles
  - 722 land
  - 13 inland water
  - + Gulf Water 3 miles past Horn Island



# New County Logo

**Bridges ~ Waterways ~ Compass**

Strong Industrial Foundation  
Diverse Ecosystem  
Natural Resources  
Rich History

*It is a reflection on  
our present directional path  
in relation to past events  
and future goals.*



***Gateway to the Mississippi Gulf Coast***

**[Click Here to Learn More About  
What the Logo Features Represent](#)**

# Areas of Focus

*State of the County*

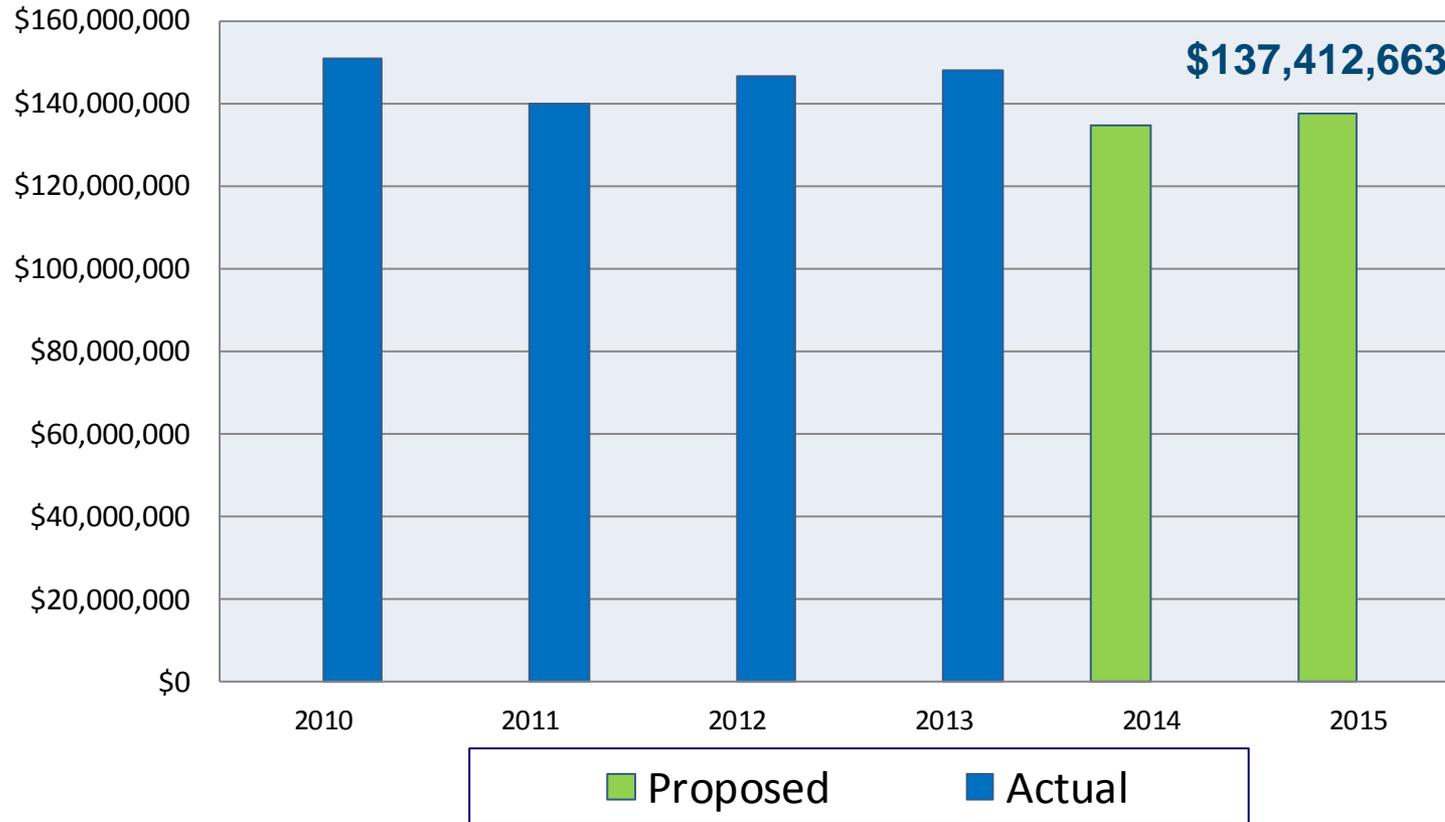
## 2015 Financials

County Improvement Projects

Industry/Economic Development

# County Finances

## County's Operating Budget



County will maintain an estimated \$18 million fund balance in FY'15

# County Finances

## Millage Breakdown

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Pat Harrison	0.200	0.200
Airport	0.860	0.860
Capital Improvements	1.000	1.000
Port Authority	1.000	1.000
Reappraisal Maint.	1.000	1.000
Library	1.667	1.636
Debt Service	2.748	1.342
Comm. College	4.345	4.270
Road/Bridge	9.664	9.664
General	<u>28.885</u>	<u>30.397</u>
Total	51.369	51.369

## Assessed Value of County

\$1.97 billion  
(before exemptions)

### Value of a mill

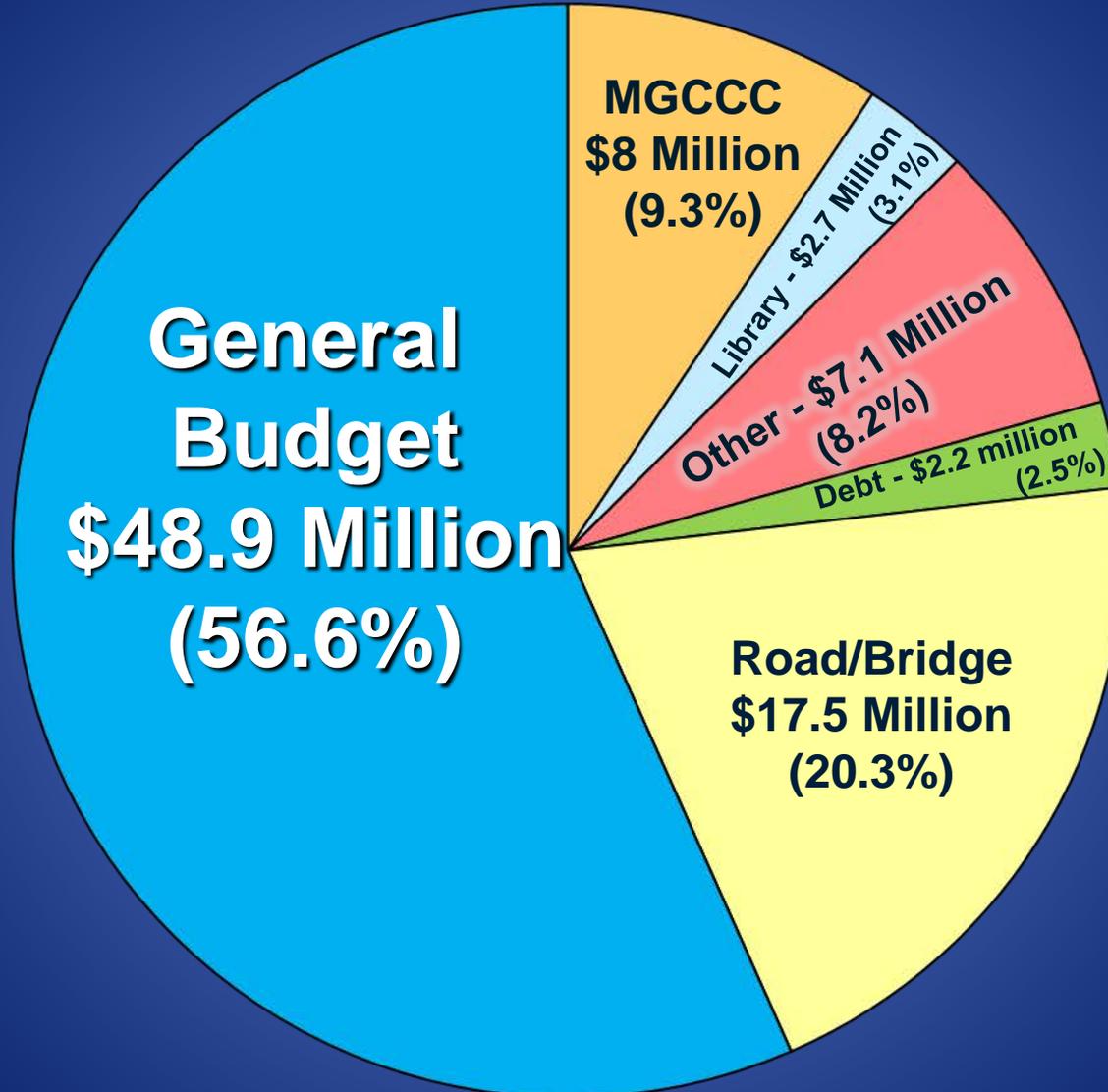
**Exempt : \$1.88M**  
(18 mills – All property)

**Non-Exempt: \$1.65M**  
(33.369 mills – All property less  
exemptions)

### Ad Valorem Budget

**\$86.6 million**  
(after exemptions)

# County Ad Valorem Budget



Breakdown of \$86.6 Million by dollars (%)

# Funding Sources

## Property Tax Payments

- \$208 million in tax revenue collected FY 2014  
Includes County, School and City taxes (exception of MP property tax)

## Grants (New and On-Going)

- JC Spends \$25 Million in Grant Projects Per Year Average
- Transportation, Recreation, Emergency Management, Preservation, Economic Development, etc.

## Recycling Programs

- \$42K in Revenue in 2014
- Annual Grants

## Construction Permits

Total Revenue: \$467K

New Construction Permits issued:

- 228 Residential
- 21 Commercial
- Total Valuation of \$73.4 million

## Top Tax Payers for 2014

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<i>Chevron</i>	<i>\$46.35M</i>
<i>MS Power Co.</i>	<i>\$19.48M</i>
<i>Ingalls</i>	<i>\$10.03M</i>
<i>Gulf LNG</i>	<i>\$7.27M</i>
<i>Gulf Power Co.</i>	<i>\$6.18M</i>
<i>Gulfstream Nat'l Gas System</i>	<i>\$1.23M</i>
<i>Signal Int'l</i>	<i>\$800K</i>
<i>Destin Pipeline Co.</i>	<i>\$732K</i>
<i>Bellsouth Telecom.</i>	<i>\$723K</i>
<i>VT Halter Marine</i>	<i>\$702K</i>

# Areas of Focus

*State of the County*

## 2015 Financials

**County Improvement Projects**

**Industry/Economic Development**

# Roads & Bridges

## Road Department Annual Budget - \$22 Million

- \$4.9M in Paving (Cities & County)
- Day-to-Day Operations
- Capital Projects

### 2014 Capital Projects

- 4 Bridges/Box Culverts
- 11 Major Road Improvements



*Highway 57 South: Turn Lanes and Widened*

### 2014 Grant and State Aid Projects

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • <i>Highway 57 (Federally Funded)</i>        | <i>\$1.3M</i> |
| • <i>Jim Ramsay Road (State Aid)</i>          | <i>\$515K</i> |
| • <i>Tanner Chapel Road (State Aid)</i>       | <i>\$107K</i> |
| • <i>Gautier – Vancleave Road (State Aid)</i> | <i>\$1.2M</i> |

# Roads & Bridges

## 2015 Capital Projects

10 Bridge Replacements

6 Major Road Improvements



### Federal & Grant Funded Projects

- *Yellow Jacket/Old Ft. Bayou Intersection* \$2.2M (\$450K\*)
- *Forts Lake Road* \$1.4M (\$250K\*)
- *I-10 Connector ROW* \$3+M (\$529K\*)
- *Joe Batt Road (State Aid Project)* \$556K (no JC\$)

\* County's Matching Funds for Project in addition to preliminary work.

# Road Department Projects

## Recently Approved Grant Projects

### Gulf Regional Planning Dept. Grants

- *Old Ft. Bayou/Hwy. 609 Intersection Improvements (\$2.1M)*
- *LeMoyne Boulevard/Brittany Avenue Signal (\$400K)*
- *Old Spanish Trail Overlay & Bike Lanes (\$500K)*

*Estimated Costs. Projects included in Four Year Road Plan for FY 2016. Some preliminary work has begun.*

### *LaMotte Bayou Bridge Replacement*

- *On Graveline Road in Gautier*
- *Accepted to Federally funded Bridge Replacement Program*
- *Estimated cost: \$1.9M*

### *Pascagoula River Audubon Bridge*

- *\$1 million project*
- *Multiple funding sources*



The County's [Four Year Road Plan](#) is available on the County's Website

# Park Improvements

## *The JC Recreation Department Manages*

*24 Public Boat Ramps, 3 Public Beaches, 12 Community Parks,  
Vancleave Horse Arena and Whispering Pines Golf Course*

### **Vancleave**

2014: Walking Track Overlay

2015: Splash pad for summer 2015

### **Lum Cumbest Park**

2014: New Bleachers, 2 Backstops

2015: Parking Lot Improved (\$42.5K)

### **Khayat Park**

2015: Improvements/Expansions (\$42.5K)

### **Backstops – In Progress**

Lum Cumbest, Vancleave,  
St. Martin, Helena (2)



# Boat Launches

## 2014 Tidelands & US Department of Interior Projects

- Ft. Bayou Boat Ramp/Parking – parking lot paved Spring 2015
- Bayou Casotte Boat Ramp/Parking
- McInnis Boat Launch
- Old Spanish Fort Boat Ramp/Pier – parking lot paved Spring 2015
- Lake Mars Boat Launch - jetties raised/extended, launch area dredged

## 2015 Project

- Bellview Bayou Boat Launch Improvements – approx. \$80K



*Refurbished McInnis Boat Launch*

***Requested Tidelands Funds: \$1.23M***

*Bayou Cumbest Boat Launch  
LeMoyne Blvd Kayak Boat Launch  
Pascagoula Bulkhead Improvements*

# Special On-Going Projects

## **Vancleave Horse Arena RV Complex (EDI Grant)**

- Current Stage: Arena/RV Site Water & Sewer

## **LeMoyne Soccer (\$450K to date)**

- Sodding in Spring, future plans include concessions & bleachers

## **Golf Course Clubhouse**

- Architectural Design



*Whispering Pines Golf Course*

# Small Craft Harbor

## 2015 Inner Harbor Park Bulkhead Stabilization

### - Permitting

- \$72K – Budgeted

## Roadway Improvements

- Working with City of OS

## Boat Slip/Debris Removal

### - Completed in 2014

- Hurricane Recovery Funds



*Small Craft Harbor in Ocean Springs*

# Hurricane Recovery Projects

## Completed in 2014

Harbor Debris Removal from Boat Slips  
Pascagoula Beach Replenishment  
Belle Fontaine Bulkhead & Jetty Repairs

## *Dredging in 2014*

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*Bayou Porteaux  
Bayou Porteaux East*



*Pascagoula Beach – Replenishment Project*

# 2015 Dredging Projects

## County Dredging Projects

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**Total of 15 Hurricane Recovery**  
*\$14 Million in 2014-2015*  
*(County \$3M – FEMA/State \$11M)*



### Permitting

- Fort Bayou
- Graveline Bayou
- Keiffer Bayou
- Moreton Bayou
- St. Martin Bayou

### Ready to Bid

- Bayou Chicot
- Vaughndale Bayou
- Cedar Point Bayou
- Sandalwood Bayou
- Lake Yazoo\* (w/ Pasc.)
- Bellview Bayou\*

### Awarded

- Simmons Bayou\*\*
- Upper Davis Bayou
- Starks Bayou/Lake Mars\*\*
- Ocean Springs Harbor

\* Not Hurricane Recovery Funded

\*\* Dredging Now

# Recycling



## Recycling Program

- Larger Rolling Carts
- 2-in-1 Containers
- Recycling at JC Fair



## Jackson County Landfill

- Free to JC Residents
- Recycles: Metal, Tires, White Goods, Cardboard, Electronics, White Goods



*HHW Collection Day  
April 18, 2015 tentative*

## Community Events

- Clean-ups
- Educational Events
- HHW Collection Day
- Business E-Waste Day

## Recycling Highlights & Numbers

- **6.8%** Curbside Recycling Rates
- **\$42,155** Generated via Landfill Recycling Program
- **1,200** cars served at Household Hazardous Waste Day
- **HHW Collection Day – 4/18/15 (tentative, location TBA)**

# Sheriff's Department/ADC



## ***Adult Detention Center***

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*Bid Awarded: December 16, 2013*  
*Bid Amount: \$27,608,000*  
***Within Budget***  
***Est. Completion: Summer 2015***

*Adult Detention Center in January 2015*

## **FY 2015 Budget**

- Sheriff's Office \$10.5 million
- ADC \$6.6 million

MOU with City of Pascagoula for \$175K – Upgraded Sewer System

# Construction Projects

## Big Hill Acres Water & Sewer Project

- \$20.6 Million
- Jackson County Utility Authority (\$3.9M)
- US Army Corp of Engineers
- USDA Rural Development
- Big Hill Acres, Inc.

## Water Treatment Plant in NE JC

- \$9.2 Million for construction
- EPA funded with County match
- Treat 1 million gallons per day
- Groundbreaking – March 20, 2014
- Completion – Summer 2015



*LaPointe Krebs House from the fence*

## LaPointe Krebs House Rehabilitation

- Phase 1 & 2: \$566,140
- Additional Phases to come
- Funded through a MS Dept of Archives & History grant & LaPointe Krebs Foundation

# 2014 In-House Improvements

- Sheriff's Substation – WJC Addition
- Youth Court Renovations
- Security Cameras (JC Animal Shelter and Services Complex)
- East Central Community Center – water and sewer connections to JCUA



*Youth Court Renovation*

# 2015 Capital Projects



*Civic Center*

## Construction

- Jackson County Civic Center Improvements \$1.45M
- Amonett Street Parking Lot \$36K
- Youth Court Detention Center (overhaul plumbing) \$40K

## Information Systems

- Upgrade to data center \$500K

# Animal Shelter

## New Programs

- Foster Program
- Volunteer Program
- Adoption Coordinator Position and Adoption Events
- Micro-chipping Service
- Vaccinate and Worm animals on intake and throughout stay
- Improved database tracking
- Building relationship with rescues

*Feasibility Study  
Potential New Shelter*

We didn't want to end up at a shelter - Kasey

# MICROCHIP

your pets

for just **\$10** at the  
**Jackson County Animal Shelter**  
4400 Audubon Lane in Gautier  
Phone: 228-497-6350  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Your pet's BEST CHANCE for a happy home coming!

# Areas of Focus

*State of the County*

2015 Financials

County Improvement Projects

**Industry/Economic Development**

# Economic Development

## Chevron Pascagoula Refinery

Major Player in Energy

Major Expansion Projects

1500 employees + contractors

## Huntington Ingalls

Largest employer in JC

\$800 Million in new contracts in FY2014

\$8 Billion current backlog

## MGCCC

Engineering Classes in JC (Fall 2015)

Workforce Development

## Trent Lott International Airport

Runway Improvements (with FAA and State)

Enhancement of Economic Development Efforts

## *Industrial/Economic Corridors*

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### *I-10 Connector Road (Phase I)*

- \$13.7+ Million
- \$8.7 Million Secured
- ROW Services done by end 2015
- Will result in lots of development

### *Highway 611 Flyover*

- \$35 Million – CDBG Grant
- Expected Completion: Oct. 2015
- Widening Hwy 611 to 5 lanes
- Improvements to Railroad Crossings and several intersections

# Port of Pascagoula

## Basic Skills Training Annex

- \$1.3 Million – CDBG
- Maritime Training Academy Addition
- Bid Documents in Review

## VT Halter Marine ship repair/overhaul facility

- \$22 Million - CDBG
- Dredging Complete
- Landside Near Complete

## Signet Maritime

- \$3.6 million – CDBG
- Phase I – Complete (environmental slab)
- Phase II – February (fabrication hall)
- Phase III – Reviewing Bids (river bulkhead imp.)



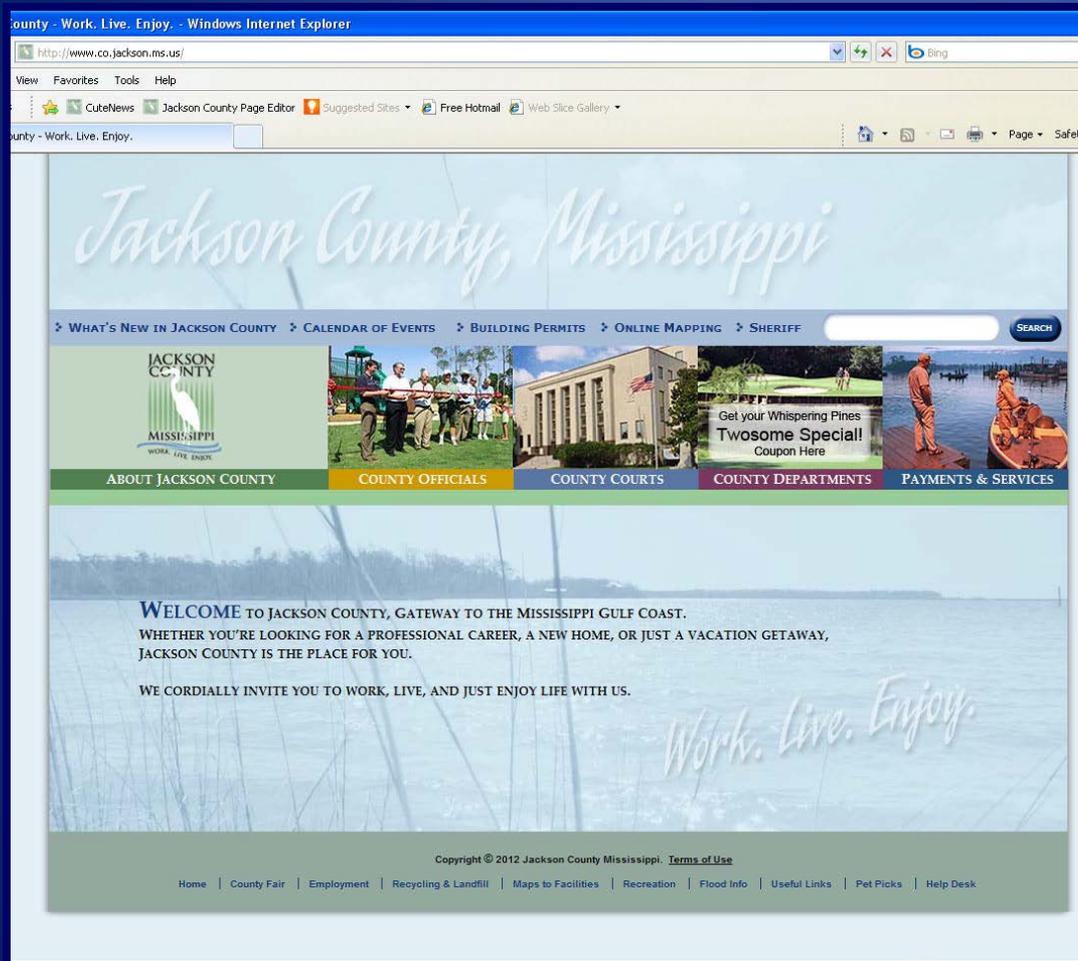
## Export Facility Expansion

- Wood Pellet Plant to Export 500K tons of pellets/yr
- \$30 Million

## Railroad Interchange Relocation/Shed Demo

- \$14 Million – USDOT TIGER Grant/\$4 Million Local
- Move from DT Pascagoula to east of MS Hwy 63
- Remove 16 Crossings in Moss Point & Pascagoula
- **Shed Demo Contract Awarded in Jan. 2015**

# www.co.jackson.ms.us



- Employment Opportunities
- Pay Property Tax
- Pay Car Tags
- Webmapping
- Apply for and check status of permits
- What's New
- Financial Info
- Four Year Road Plan

State of the County Presentation Available under Board of Supervisors Tab

## **Singing River Health System**

### **Barry Cumbest's Statement During State of the County**

As everyone is aware, Jackson County, and particularly this Board, is faced with a problem with Singing River Health System that impacts our County as a whole. The problem is complex and it impacts our county on multiple levels. It impacts the employees of the hospital and the retirees of the hospital in a very real way. It impacts our community because of the continued sustainability of our hospital and the provision of quality health care to our entire County. It impacts all of us and sits heavy on our hearts because we all know someone affected by this problem. It is a problem of large magnitude. There are many emotions and fears among the public as to their own fate as well as the fate of the hospital. Our County is truly facing one its greatest challenges.

There is a legend, called the Legend of the Gordian Knot. It states that an ancient country was without a king and was on the brink of falling apart. A prophet of that time stated that the next man who walked through the gate with an ox-cart would be the next king. A peasant farmer named Gordias, drove through the City with an ox-cart and on entering the City, Gordias was declared king. Out of gratitude, Gordias son tied the ox-cart with an intricate knot to a post and it remained there for centuries because no one could untie it. Although the knot was supposedly impossible to unravel, it was prophesied that whoever could untie the knot would become the King of Asia. The legend is that Alexander the Great took his sword, sliced the knot into and became King.

Why did I tell you that story? Right now, the situation with the hospital appears as a Gordian knot, or a problem incapable of being solved. But, when confronted with a seemingly impossible problem what did Alexander the Great do? He confronted it and went through it, accomplishing the goal by thinking outside the box. That is the duty of a leader and that is what this Board is doing. We are confronting the problem and attempting to move through it and find a solution.

But the County does not want to cut through the knot. Rather we are trying to untie the knot without breaking the rope, without hurting the employees, without hurting the retirees, and without destroying our hospital system. That is the goal. Can we accomplish this? We don't know but we are going to do everything reasonably within our power to explore all options, think outside the box and fashion a solution to this problem.

I want to make clear that it is true the County is the owner of the hospital and is set up as a community hospital. But our authority over the System is very limited statutorily. That is how our legislature set it up - not just in the hospitals in Jackson County, but for all Mississippi community hospitals.

Once we appoint the trustees, the Board's authority over the operations of the hospital is statutorily limited. That is why the Agreement that we entered into with the Hospital on December 15 is so important, because they are an independent entity under the statutory scheme. The Agreement allows what the legislation does not – it provides the Board with an avenue to attempt to solve this problem and get information.

The hospital has agreed to work with us and give us the opportunity to attempt to come up with a solution. We realize that people's livelihoods depend on our trying to solve this. We realize that our friends and neighbors and citizens are impacted.

We realize that people are angry, scared and distrustful. I want to assure you, this Board cares about the retirees, we care about the employees and we care about the continued viability of our hospital. One of the hardest things to do in the face of an emotionally charged problem is to be patient and trust someone to find a solution. It is hard for me personally and it is hard for this Board to be patient, so I know it is hard for all of you.

Nonetheless, if everyone will be patient, and try not to jump to assumptions and let us move through this, I am confident that the people we have working on this will help us find a better solution to the problem.

We have hired LaPorte, a large CPA firm in New Orleans to evaluate the pension plan and determine what, if any, other options are available for the pension plan and those affected by it. Progress is being made on that, and we are hopeful that within the next 4-6 weeks we will have some options to consider. Hopefully at that time, this problem with the pension plan won't look as it has looked for the last few months.

We have hired another division of LaPorte to do a profitability study of the hospital and provide the Board suggestions as to how to improve the financial sustainability of the hospital for this community.

We want to look long term at how to make our hospital financially sustainable so that it can be financially viable and secure for years to come. Just as important as knowing where you are going and how to get there is knowing where you are starting from and how you got to that starting point. Our attorney, on our behalf, has retained Ms. Donna Ingram to evaluate how we got here.

I don't think it is any secret that this Board is not pleased that the information it was provided and relied on from 2008-2013 was done by KPMG, the auditing firm retained by the Hospital, that were provided to the County. Right now, we are in the process of our Attorney's experts evaluating documents and our attorneys are working on this matter to recommend to the County, what claims and against what entities it may have, if any.

We have not completed that investigation. Because this is a matter of potential litigation, I am instructed by the attorneys to be somewhat limited in what I can say. I think we can all agree that we do not want to harm a potentially good result for the County and its citizens. But, please be assured that we are taking steps to give us the information we need.

I want to close this topic by reaffirming to you this Board's commitment to move through this problem in a proper, legal and methodical manner. I want to reaffirm this Board's commitment to find a better solution for the retirees and those affected by the situation with the pension plan. I want to reiterate to you that this Board is committed to try to solve this problem. Rest assured, we are willing to work with everyone but will favor no one.

We ask you today for your patience as we move through this process with these goals in mind. We are confident that we are on the right track and have the right people working for us. The hospital has assured us that if we can fashion a solution to the problem they will reasonably consider it.

Overall, as you have seen in this State of the County presentation, that the state of the county and its government are strong and efficient. We will stay focused on what is good and positive throughout our county. At the same time, we will apply all our energies to fix anything that appears to be broken.

We are a resilient people. We have overcome hurricanes and dealt with those who have betrayed the public trust. We must not lose sight of all that is good and positive in our county and its government.

I am confident we will endure. Thank you for allowing me to share this report today.

Supervisor Barry Cumbest  
2015 Board President