



# the weekly northside **SUN**

For 45 Years, Covering Northeast Jackson, Madison and Ridgeland

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## Outspent

### Jackson outpaced by other cities on spending for roads

By **ANTHONY WARREN**  
Sun Staff Writer

THANKS TO Shreveport, Jackson isn't dead last.

Of the cities surveyed by the Sun, Jackson is second to the bottom when it comes to spending for road resurfacing, based on figures in the proposed 2012-13 fiscal year budget.

Next year, Jackson is allocating \$1.16 million for overlays, and is considering taking out \$10 million in bonds.

Bonds aside, the \$1.16 million makes up about .33 percent of the city's \$350 million budget.

That money comes from a dedicated

millage, which is set aside specifically for street resurfacing.

Compared to the cities of Little Rock, Mobile and Knoxville, Jackson is spending far less.

Little Rock is planning to spend \$2.6 million for resurfacing in the next fiscal year, about 1.2 percent of its \$219 million budget.

The city of around 195,000 spent much less in the 2011-12 fiscal year, setting aside only \$239,000 for pothole repairs.

(Last year, Jackson dedicated \$1.53 million to street and pothole repair, bumping Arkansas down the list.)

Mobile is expected to allocate \$1.29 mil-

lion for resurfacing in the upcoming fiscal year, about .63 percent of its \$206 million budget.

Knoxville will spend the most, with \$5.45 million of its \$357 million budget going to overlays, according to the city's Web site. That's about 1.5 percent of the Tennessee city's proposed expenditures for the year.

Shreveport has the largest budget of the cities listed, but is spending far less percentage wise to keep roads smoothed out. The Louisiana city set aside \$750,000 for asphalt overlays and \$500,000 for concrete overlays, said Director of Public Works

*See Road Work, Page 14A*

## Colony Park Boulevard work to start fall 2013

By **KATIE EUBANKS**  
Sun Staff Writer

THE CITY OF RIDGELAND has awarded a preliminary engineering bid for Colony Park Boulevard, a new east-west road to be built in the city starting in fall 2013.

"We've contracted [with Baker Engineering] to do our maps and deeds that MDOT (the Mississippi Department of Transportation) requires as part of the right of way acquisition process," said Ridgeland Public Works Director Mike McCollum.

"Baker will identify the properties that we need to acquire and provide legal descriptions. [Then] we'll hire somebody to acquire property."

Colony Park Boulevard will run east from Highland Colony Parkway, connect with the new split-diamond interchange being built at I-55, continue east to Highway 51, and connect with McClellan Drive. The new boulevard will have four travel lanes and a center turn lane.

As part of the overall interchange project, Colony Park is being funded partly by MDOT.

"We're responsible to pay 20 percent of construction costs on the road, from Sunnybrook Road back east to 51," McCollum said. "And MDOT's actually going to build the road."

"We also pay 100 percent of the right of way. So right of way acquisition will cost us about \$5.2 million, and our part of construction will cost about \$5.6 million. MDOT pays for the rest."

Ridgeland and Madison have jointly applied three times for a federal grant for roadwork in both cities that will connect with the new interchange, but have yet to be awarded any money.

"Maybe they'll have another round of funding later on," he said. "They tend to fund ports, roads that support river crossings, projects where they have a multi-state type of benefit of the money."

As of now, right of way for Colony Park should be purchased by September 2013, when the project is set to be bid.

"That doesn't mean construction is going to start that day, but that's kind of a start time for the construction contract. It might get pushed [back] as time goes on," he said.

*See Colony Park, Page 6A*

## GERMANFEST



Photo by Beth Buckley

### St. Joseph Church presents annual festival

The 26th annual Gluckstadt GermanFest will be September 30, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Admission and parking are free. Festival goers are invited to bring lawn chairs but no coolers. They are asked to refrain from bringing

pets. Meal tickets are \$5 in advance; \$6 day of the festival. Planning the tent placement are (from left) Ryan Pratt, Pam Minninger, Karen Worrell and Jeannie Barrier. For more information visit [www.stjosephgluckstadt.com](http://www.stjosephgluckstadt.com).

## COMING SOON

### THE DISTRICT DEVELOPERS SHOOT FOR A SPRING CONSTRUCTION START

CONSTRUCTION could begin in the spring on the District at Eastover, a new multimillion-dollar mixed-use development planned for Northeast Jackson.

The project will cost approximately \$150 million and be located at the corner of Eastover Drive and the I-55 North frontage road.

The site was previously home to the Mississippi School for the Blind, which now has a campus on the south side of the same intersection.

Although it will be months before the work gets under way, developers Breck Hines and Ted Duckworth have taken steps to ensure that the center is a good neighbor to residents living nearby.

"Things are moving along as scheduled," Hines said. "We have always said we wanted to do this right more than we wanted to do it fast."

Hines and Duckworth are building the center and leasing it out.

The project has come under fire from residents on nearby streets, in part, because of the



The District at Eastover

possibility of it increasing traffic and attracting crime.

Also, neighbors on Berkeley Drive were upset because the development would take in portions of their back yards.

Homeowners were notified in the spring that their fences and outbuildings were located on former state property, and would have to be moved at their own expense.

A survey of the area showed that fences were located anywhere from five to 15 feet over the state property line.

All but one property owner had relocated his or her outbuildings, with Duckworth and Hines agreeing to relocate the remaining one once construction began.

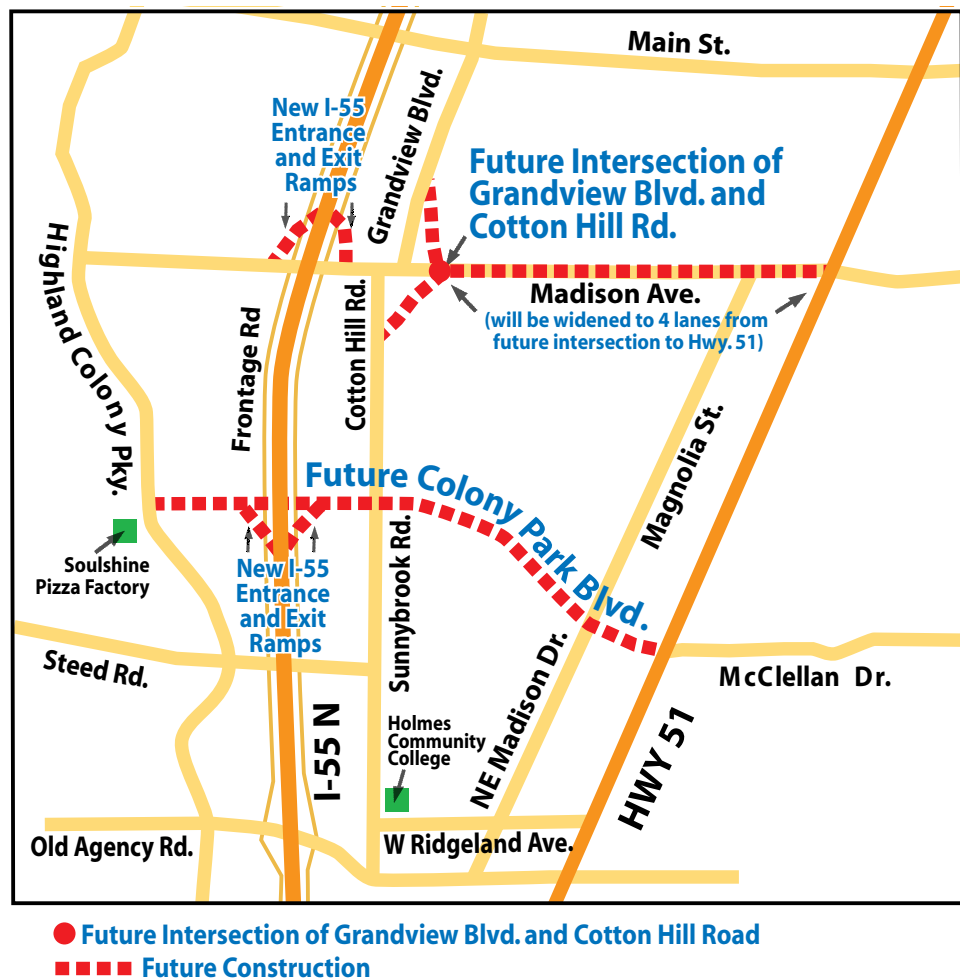
Hines said they are now working with one resident

regarding encroachment issues.

Leftover Homeowners Organization board member Charles Waterloo said those issues

*See The District, Page 10A*





● Future Intersection of Grandview Blvd. and Cotton Hill Road  
 ■■ Future Construction

# Colony Park

Continued from Page One

IN MADISON, the new I-55 interchange will connect with Madison Avenue, which will eventually be widened to accommodate the additional traffic.

Crews are currently realigning Grandview Boulevard and Cotton Hill Road so they connect at Madison Avenue. MDOT is funding this work as part of phase one of the overall interchange project.

Madison Avenue will be widened east-

ward from Grandview/Cotton Hill to 51. MDOT will prepare the drawings and engineering, and the widening itself will be bid out in 2014.

Officials did not have a breakdown of the cost to the city at press time.

Both Madison and Ridgeland have said they're exploring all funding options for their interchange connector roads, and the work will be done regardless of whether a grant is in place.

Each of the two road projects will take two to 2.5 years to complete.



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# RESIDENTS GIVEN REVIEW ON WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER NAMED A HISTORIC PLACE

By ANTHONY WARREN  
 Sun Staff Writer

BILL GATLIN wanted to get across a few messages recently at a public hearing in Belhaven.

A meeting was held last week to provide residents with more information on plans to put Belhaven on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gatlin, National Register coordinator with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), said being on the register is an honor and it will not affect what residents can do with their homes.

It could also mean tax breaks for homeowners who make improvements to their properties.

"It's an honorary designation. There's no requirement for people to open their homes for visitors and no requirements for renovations," Gatlin said.

Because Belhaven is still a local historic district, most home renovations must be approved by the Jackson Historic Preservation Commission.

Consultants have wrapped up their work on a historical survey of the Belhaven neighborhood and are now planning to sub-

mit that information to the state for review.

"There are 1,300 contributing resources, mostly residential," Gatlin said, referring to the number of historic homes and buildings in the neighborhood north of Fortification Street.

Gatlin said there are also a few commercial buildings, two public school facilities, a church – First Presbyterian Church – and a number of buildings located on the campus of Belhaven University.

The information was recorded in a survey conducted in recent months by the Mississippi Heritage Trust. The city brought on the agency to conduct a survey of all properties in the neighborhood bordered by Fortification Street, Woodrow Wilson Drive, I-55 North and North State Street.

The several-hundred page document will now be submitted to the Mississippi National Register Review Board for review. If the state signs off on it, it will be mailed to the keeper of the National Register for final approval, Gatlin said.

About 30 people attended the gathering, which was held at the auditorium at the Belhaven University Library.

For more information on plans, call Gatlin at (601) 576-6951.

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