



Catherine Ragsdale/SDN

Downtown Business Association member Lee Beck helps guide crews in erecting the Community Christmas Tree into place at the Cadence Bank Plaza Monday afternoon. The tree will be decorated between 2 and 5 p.m. today with handmade ornaments from local citizens and will be lit during a public ceremony at 7 p.m. that will include an old-fashioned Christmas carol sing-a-long. Various performing groups will also be in the downtown area beginning at 5 p.m., and downtown merchants are staying open until 8 p.m. and will be serving refreshments to patrons during the evening. Downtown merchants plan to remain open until 8 p.m. each Tuesday until Christmas.

board from moving forward with other major road and infrastructure projects in the county.

"If we don't do something soon, it will probably never happen," said District 5 Supervisor George Curry, in whose district Poorhouse Road is located. "One family can't hold up a project in this way."

The sooner the right of way issue is finalized, the better, said District 2 Supervisor Orlando Trainer.

"We're holding up projects in the entire county because we vowed not to take on any more until this one was complete," Trainer said.

Ed Springer, the engineer for the county's State Aid road proj-

length of the closure.

- Formally acknowledged receipt of two changes in the Sheriff's Department's personnel policy regarding vacation time.

- Approved an after-the-fact order allowing the purchase of two new patrol cruisers for the Sheriff's Department.

- Authorized Posey to contract with Hester Fence Co. at a cost of \$13,800 to complete fencing work around the Oktibbeha County Jail that ties into the soon-to-open Courthouse Annex.

Posey told the supervisors that some moving into the

See 'County' page 12

Principal: Efforts by alumni, MSU helping improve school

By BECKY WILKES
Starkville Daily News

Clifford Reynolds is a man with a mission. That mission, he says, is to provide the best opportunities possible to the students at East Oktibbeha County High School where he is principal.

And thanks to a dedicated group of alumni, Reynolds is seeing results.

"They have done a great deal to assist us in helping build the culture of the school. They are former Moor High students and they wanted to reach back and do something for their alma mater," Reynolds explained.

Seated in his office in the renovated building that once housed Moor High School, he was monitoring a practice run

for state testing while juggling the other responsibilities that fall to a building principal.

"The desire of those alumni gave birth to the East Oktibbeha County High School Alumni Association. They constantly work to raise funds for projects," Reynolds said.

A staunch leader of the alumni group is Jackie Ellis. Any time there is a project under way, Ellis can be found with her sleeves rolled up and hard at work.

Ellis, Reynolds says, doesn't mind seeking help for her alma mater; that's how she got Mississippi State University landscape architecture assistant professor Robert Brzuszek involved.

See 'EOCHS' page 12



Becky Wilkes/SDN

East Oktibbeha County High School Principal Clifford Reynolds examines plans for a student courtyard developed by Dr. Robert Brzuszek's Landscape Architecture Design I class.

AROUND TOWN...

Santa to visit OCH Tuesday evening

Join Santa in Oktibbeha County Hospital's Educational Facility Tuesday from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. Santa's Sweet Shoppe will offer holiday festivities.

For more information, call the OCH Marketing and Public Relations Office at 615-3065.

Holiday Depression Workshop scheduled

Dr. Beatrice Tatem, director

Project Armstrong seeking donations

Project Armstrong requests donations for children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis who are staying at the Ronald McDonald

Game Cub and Nintendo 64, and homemade cards for the children's mail boxes.

Items can be left at Armstrong Middle School's Office through Dec. 16. For more information, contact Cooper Kennard at 323-5894 or call the school office at 324-4070.

Christmas Bazaar on Thursday from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school. Candy, cookies, cakes, spiced tea and many other holiday treats will be on sale at that time.

Toastmasters Club
to meet on Thursday

Plan

from page 1

for the city's future. The plan, drafted after a series of public hearings with citizens in each of the city's seven voting wards, is designed to cover the other ordinances to come later such as historic preservation legislation and design ordinance regulations.

"Starkville is a community in transition," said Johnstone, who played a key part in the process of drafting the comprehensive plan for the city. "It is time for the community to decide how it wants to develop from here on."

Johnstone's process for developing the plan has included spending four months of surveying existing conditions in the city and developing a base map with fire stations, water lines, flood lines, economic base, major industries and current population, Johnstone said. She then analyzed the information compiled and use it in helping city officials and residents develop recommendations for the plan's four components.

The next step was developing goals and objectives, which began by meeting with the Board of Aldermen and Planning and Zoning Commission either as a group or individually. Interviews with significant stake holders in the community, followed by focus group meetings in each of the city's voting wards.

At these meetings, citizens of

Starkville were able to express their concerns regarding the development planning and zoning policies. The issues of greatest concern were regulation of new development, weak enforcement of existing ordinances, community appearance, transportation issues and relations with Mississippi State University.

"Most problems are process, not content," said Johnstone. "Starkville knows what it wants to do, you just need to find the best way to do it. Culture becomes action. Mind set is the most important thing in improving communities."

Johnstone added that a community must know the rules that it has in place before they can be enforced, and that everyone knowing the rules and proper enforcement can keep problems from arising.

"We can't undo what has already been done in Starkville," said Johnstone, "But we can improve what we have, and we can better plan for the future to ensure that mistakes are not repeated. That will take education of the public, city employees, and local contractors."

Since Mayor Dan Camp took office in July, City Planner George Rummel has taken the reigns in implementing the plan. It has continued to be fine tuned by Rummel, the Board of Aldermen, and the Starkville Planning and Zoning Commission. The final draft has been available on the Starkville website at www.cityofstarkville.org, as well as in paper form at City Hall for several weeks.

The Board of Aldermen will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall courtroom.