

A close-up photograph of a bouquet of zinnias in various shades of pink, magenta, and orange. The flowers are in full bloom, with bright yellow centers. They are arranged in a white ceramic vase. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a wooden chair and a framed picture.

# INSIGHT

A GUIDE TO THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

**A RESOURCE FOR NEWCOMERS AND RESIDENTS  
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OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI**

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH | 2025



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# INSIGHT

A GUIDE TO THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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**On the cover** — A vase of Zinnias sits on the table of a southside Columbus home. These annuals are native to Mexico and the southwestern United States but are popular throughout the South. Photo by Beth Proffitt/Dispatch Staff



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# Area Restaurant Guide



Cheese streams down from a croque monsieur sandwich at Starkville's The Older Brother restaurant.

Below is a list of the best dining options as voted on by readers of The Dispatch newspaper in 2025. Businesses selected as the “Best” in a category are marked with an ■. Businesses selected as “Among the Best” are marked with a ◆.

## Atmosphere

- Zachary's
- ◆ Munson and Brothers Trading Post
- ◆ Huck's Place

## BBQ

- Hank's #1 BBQ
- ◆ The Little Dooley of Starkville
- ◆ Little Dooley

## Beer Selection

- Munson and Brothers Trading Post
- ◆ Zachary's
- ◆ The Smokestack

## First Date Restaurant

- Harveys
- ◆ Huck's Place
- ◆ Zachary's

## Breakfast

- Up Down Eatery and Coffeehouse
- ◆ Hardee's
- ◆ Cracker Barrel

## Brisket

- Hank's #1 BBQ
- ◆ Davey Jay's BBQ
- ◆ BabyDuck's Fish Camp at The Starkville Cafe

## Catfish

- The Fish Shack
- ◆ Ruben's Fish and Steak House
- ◆ Little Dooley

## Chicken

- Chick-fil-A
- ◆ Zaxby's
- ◆ Food Giant

## Chicken Tenders

- Zaxby's
- ◆ Harveys
- ◆ Zachary's

## Chicken Wings

- Buffalo Wild Wings
- ◆ Huck's Place
- ◆ American Deli

## Chinese

- Peking Chinese Restaurant
- ◆ China House
- ◆ China Royal

## Coffee

- 1514 Caffeine
- ◆ Southbound Coffee Co | Cafe & Roastery
- ◆ Up Down Eatery and Coffeehouse

## Crawfish

- Huck's Place
- ◆ Brewski's
- ◆ Jack's Crawfish

## Dessert

- Cafe on Main & Sweet Shop
- ◆ Harveys
- ◆ J. Broussard's

## Family Restaurant

- Zachary's
- ◆ Doug & Hazel's Drive In
- ◆ Munson and Brothers Trading Post

## Hamburger

- Doug & Hazel's Drive In
- ◆ Mugshots Grill and Bar, Columbus
- ◆ Zachary's

## Happy Hour

- Harveys
- ◆ Munson and Brothers Trading Post
- ◆ Zachary's

## Ice Cream

- Southern Sweets Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlor
- ◆ Baskin-Robbins
- ◆ Dairy Queen Grill & Chill

## Japanese

- Umi Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar

## Liquor Store

- Mike's Fine Wine & Liquor
- Towne Liquor
- ◆ Wines Etc.
- ◆ Military Liquor

## Locally Owned Restaurant

- Zachary's
- ◆ Proffitt's Porch
- ◆ Huck's Place

## Lunch in 30 Minutes

- Cafe on Main & Sweet Shop
- ◆ Zachary's
- ◆ United Deli & Grocery

## Margarita

- Sol y Luna Mexican Grill
- ◆ Mi Hacienda Mexican Restaurant
- ◆ Guadalajara Cantina and Grill

## Mexican

- El Patron
- Mi Toro of Caledonia
- ◆ Mi Hacienda Mexican Restaurant
- ◆ Mi Toro Mexican Restaurant

## New Restaurant

- Mita's Himalayan Kitchen
- ◆ El Tepeyac, Columbus
- ◆ Kay's Leftovers

## Outdoor Dining

- Proffitt's Porch
- ◆ Munson and Brothers Trading Post
- ◆ Bluto's Greek Tavern

## Pizza

- Munson and Brothers Trading Post
- ◆ CJ's Pizza of Columbus
- ◆ Lost Pizza Co., Columbus

## Plate Lunch

- Cafe on Main & Sweet Shop
- ◆ Kountry Kitchen
- ◆ Kay's Leftovers

## Po Boy

- Oby's of Starkville
- Proffitt's Porch
- ◆ Zachary's
- ◆ Huck's Place

## Restaurant Wait Staff

- Zachary's
- ◆ Jackson Square Grill
- ◆ Harveys
- ◆ Huck's Place

## Ribs

- Hank's #1 BBQ
- ◆ Brothers Keepers Bar- B- Que
- ◆ Little Dooley

## Salad

- Zachary's
- ◆ Harveys
- ◆ Little Dooley

## Sandwich

- United Deli & Grocery
- ◆ Proffitt's Porch
- ◆ Sweet Pepper's Deli

## Seafood

- Huck's Place
- ◆ Breaux Bridge, Columbus
- ◆ Anthony's Market, West Point

## Sports Bar/Night Club

- Muddy Waters
- ◆ The New Princess Theater
- ◆ Walk-Ons Sports Bistreaux, Starkville

## Steak

- Old Hickory Steak House
- ◆ Huck's Place
- ◆ Anthony's Market, West Point

## Sushi

- Umi Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar
- ◆ Hibachi Buffet
- ◆ Yamato Japanese Steak House

## Sweet Tea

- Sweet Pepper's Deli
- ◆ McAllister's
- ◆ Zachary's

## Thai

- Golden Thai
- ◆ Thai Siam
- ◆ Andaman Thai

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# Welcome to MISSISSIPPI

**THE MAGNOLIA STATE** celebrated its bicentennial eight years ago after it became the 20th state to join the union in 1817.

Mississippi, originally a territory occupied by the Chickasaw, Choctaw and Natchez Native American tribes, has since served as a stage for Civil War battles and civil rights conflicts. The state claims a rich artistic history as the birthplace of the Delta Blues and award-winning actors, writers, and musicians.

Explore the Mississippi Blues Trail, stretching from the northeast Mississippi Delta to the Gulf Coast, which celebrates Mississippi natives such as B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Elvis Presley. Visit the birthplace of playwright Tennessee Williams in Columbus, the Oxford home of author William Faulkner or the colorfully decorated workshop of painter Walter Anderson in Ocean Springs.

While Mississippi celebrates its history, it also looks toward the future. Legislation in 2020 paved the way for a new flag design to replace the old state flag, which contained the Confederate battle emblem. Voters overwhelmingly approved the new design – which contains a Magnolia and the words “In God We Trust” – in a statewide election.

Legislators in 2021 legalized cannabis use for medical reasons. The state allows residents to use medical cannabis to help combat the symptoms of certain disorders like cancer, Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, muscular dystrophy, glaucoma and other diseases or conditions with a doctor-issued prescription.

A court case that originated in Mississippi served as the premise for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June 2022 that turned abortion laws back to individual states, essentially overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that had granted women the federal right to have an abortion. After the Gestational Age Act passed the state legislature in 2018 and outlawed abortion after 15 weeks, except in the case of a medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality, the Jackson Women’s Health Organization sued Dr. Thomas Dobbs, then the state health officer, and the case (Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization) went before the U.S. Supreme Court in December 2021. The June decision triggered a 2007 state law that banned abortion except in cases of rape or to save the life of the mother.



## THE FACTS

---

**Nickname:** The Magnolia State

**Motto:** Virtute et Armis (“By Valor and Arms”)

**Flower:** Magnolia

**Bird:** Northern Mockingbird

**Stone:** Petrified wood

**Beverage:** Milk

**Fossil:** Eocene whale

**Land mammal:** White-tailed deer

**Waterfowl:** Wood duck

**Fish:** Largemouth bass

**Insect:** Honeybee

**Shell:** Oyster

**Fruit:** Blueberry

**Gemstone:** Opal

**Water mammal:** Bottlenose dolphin

**Song:** “One Mississippi”

**Entered the Union:** Dec. 10, 1817

**Capital:** Jackson

**Area:** 48,430 square miles

**Number of counties:** 82

**Rank in nation:** 35th in population (U.S. Census 2020 estimate 2,961,279)



Tate Reeves  
Governor



Delbert Hosemann  
Lieutenant Governor



Michael Watson  
Secretary of State



Lynn Fitch  
Attorney General



David McRae  
Treasurer

## STATE OFFICIALS

Current state officials were elected in November 2023 and took office in January 2024. The general election for state offices will be held November 2027. Physical and mailing addresses below may differ; call for more information.

### Governor

**Tate Reeves**  
Office of Governor  
P.O. Box 139  
Jackson, MS 39205  
(601) 359-3150  
governor@govreeves.ms.gov

### Lieutenant Governor

**Delbert Hosemann**  
Office of the Lt. Governor  
P.O. Box 1018  
Jackson, MS 39215  
(601) 359-3200  
ltgov@senate.ms.gov

### Secretary of State

**Michael Watson**  
Office of Sec. of State  
401 Mississippi St.  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-1350

### Attorney General

**Lynn Fitch**  
MS Attorney General's Office  
550 High St. Suite 1200  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-3680

### Treasurer

**David McRae**  
P.O. Box 138  
Jackson, MS 39205  
(601) 359-3600  
ms.treasurydept@  
treasury.ms.gov

### State Auditor

**Shad White**  
501 N. West St. Suite 801  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 576-2800  
auditor@osa.ms.gov

### Commissioner of Agriculture

**Andy Gipson**  
121 N. Jefferson St.  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-1100

### Commissioner of Insurance

**Mike Chaney**  
501 N. West St.  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 359-3569  
commissioner@mid.state.ms.us

### Northern District Transportation Commissioner

**John Caldwell**  
Mississippi Transportation  
Commission  
401 N. West St.  
Jackson, MS 39216  
(601) 359-7000  
(662) 680-3323 (Tupelo  
office)

### Northern District Public Service Commissioner

**Chris Brown**  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 1174  
Jackson, MS 39215  
(601) 961-5450  
northern.district@  
psc.state.ms.us



Shad White  
State Auditor



Andy Gipson  
Commissioner of Agriculture



Mike Chaney  
Commissioner of Insurance



John Caldwell  
Commissioner of Transportation  
Northern District



Chris Brown  
Commissioner of Public Service  
Northern District



Roger Wicker  
U.S. Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith  
U.S. Senator



Trent Kelly  
U.S. Representative-District 1



Bennie Thompson  
U.S. Representative-District 2



Michael Guest  
U.S. Representative-District 3

**U.S. Senators**

**Roger Wicker**  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-6253  
Wicker also has offices in Tupelo, Jackson, Hernando and Gulfport.  
Visit [www.wicker.senate.gov](http://www.wicker.senate.gov) for more information.

**Cindy Hyde-Smith**  
United States Senate  
702 Hart  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5054  
Hyde-Smith also has offices in Jackson, Oxford and Gulfport.  
Visit [www.hydesmith.senate.gov](http://www.hydesmith.senate.gov) for more information.  
Mississippi will vote to fill both U.S. senate seats in the state's Nov. 5, 2024 election.

**U.S. Representatives**

**District 1**  
**Trent Kelly**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2243 Rayburn  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4306  
Lowndes County office:  
318 N. Seventh St. Suite D  
Columbus, MS 39701  
(662) 327-0748  
Visit [www.trentkelly.house.gov](http://www.trentkelly.house.gov) for more information.

**District 2**  
**Bennie Thompson**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2466 Rayburn  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5876  
Visit [www.benniethompson.house.gov](http://www.benniethompson.house.gov) for more information.

**District 3**  
**Michael Guest**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
418 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5031  
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**District 4**  
**Mike Ezell**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
443 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5772  
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**State Representatives**  
Current members of Mississippi's House of Representatives were elected in 2023 and will serve through 2027. Elections will be held November 2027. The following are those members representing Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee and/or Oktibbeha counties. To contact a representative during a session, telephone the Capitol switchboard at (601) 359-3770.

**District 35**  
*(Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster, Winston)*  
**Joey Hood**  
P.O. Box 1018  
Jackson, MS 39215  
(662) 547-9818 *(home)*  
(601) 359-2428 *(work)*  
[jhood@house.ms.gov](mailto:jhood@house.ms.gov)

**District 36**  
*(Clay, Monroe)*  
**Karl Gibbs**  
543 George Walker Road  
West Point, MS 39773  
(662) 494-3669 *(home)*  
[kgibbs@house.ms.gov](mailto:kgibbs@house.ms.gov)



Mike Ezell  
U.S. Representative-District 4



Joey Hood  
State Representative-District 35



Karl Gibbs  
State Representative-District 36



Andy Boyd  
State Representative-District 37



Cheikh A. Taylor  
State Representative-District 38



Dana McLean  
State Representative-District 39



Kabir Karriem  
State Representative-District 41



Carl Mickens  
State Representative-District 42

**District 37**

(Clay, Lowndes, Oktibbeha)

**Andy Boyd**

129 Whispering Trees  
Columbus, MS 39702  
(601) 327-5709 (home)  
Aboyd@house.ms.gov

**District 38**

(Clay, Lowndes, Oktibbeha)

**Cheikh A. Taylor**

383 Steele Road  
Starkville, MS 39759  
(662) 617-8125 (work)  
ctaylor@house.ms.gov

**District 39**

(Lowndes, Monroe)

**Dana McLean**

332 Williamsburg Road  
Columbus, MS 39705  
(662) 242-7505 (cell)  
dmclean@house.ms.gov

**District 41**

(Lowndes)

**Kabir Karriem**

P.O. Box 255  
Columbus, MS 39703  
(662) 328-3063 (work)  
kkarriem@house.ms.gov

**District 42**

(Lowndes, Noxubee, Winston)

**Carl Mickens**

P.O. Box 427  
Brooksville, MS 39739  
(662) 425-1804 (cell)  
cmickens@house.ms.gov

**District 43**

(Oktibbeha, Winston)

**Rob Roberson**

212 E. Main St.  
Starkville, MS 39759  
(662) 324-3810 (work)  
(662) 418-2914 (cell)  
rroberson@house.ms.gov

**State Senators**

Current Mississippi state senators were elected in 2023 and will serve through 2027. Elections will be held November 2027. The following are those senators representing Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, and/or Oktibbeha counties. To contact a senator during a session, call the Capitol switchboard at (601) 359-3770

**District 15**

(Choctaw, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Webster)

**Bart Williams**

901 Lynn Lane  
Starkville, MS 39759  
(601) 359-2220 (office)  
bwilliams@senate.ms.gov

**District 16**

(Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha)

**Angela Turner-Ford**

P.O. Drawer 1500  
West Point, MS 39773  
(662) 494-6611 (work)  
aturner@senate.ms.gov

**District 17**

(Lowndes, Monroe)

**Charles “Chuck” Younger**

1213 Younger Road  
Columbus, MS 39701  
(662) 329-3430 (home)  
cyounger@senate.ms.gov

**District 32**

(Kemper, Lauderdale, Noxubee, Winston)

**Rod Hickman**

2829 Jefferson St.  
Macon, MS 39341  
(601) 359-3237 (office)  
rhickman@senate.ms.gov



Rob Roberson  
State Representative-District 43



Bart Williams  
State Senator-District 15



Angela Turner-Ford  
State Senator-District 16



Charles “Chuck” Younger  
State Senator-District 17



Rod Hickman  
State Senator-District 32

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Anti-litter laws

Dumping trash or litter on the highways or right-of-ways is a misdemeanor offense subject to a fine.

### Mississippi seat belt law

As of July 1, 2017, all car front and rear-seat passengers will be required to wear a seat belt. Violation of the safety law is a misdemeanor offense punishable by a \$25 fine.

### Boat registration

Boats must be registered with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks office in Jackson. Forms may be obtained at any county tax collector's office, at most sporting goods stores, from MDWFP's Jackson office or from the department's website at [www.mdwfp.com/license/boating](http://www.mdwfp.com/license/boating). Trailer tags can be purchased at the county tax collector's office at the courthouse.

### Car tags

Automobile license plates must be purchased at the county tax collector's office within seven days of vehicle purchase and must be renewed annually. At the time the license plate is purchased at the courthouse, a registration fee and state, county and city taxes for the automobile must be paid to the county tax collector.

A person moving to Mississippi from another state must register his or her vehicle in Mississippi within 30 days of declaring residency. If a vehicle owner fails to register within 30 days, he or she will be charged a standard late fee and may be subject to fines if found in violation of the law. For information, contact your county courthouse.

### Driver's licenses

Qualified drivers may obtain a Mississippi driver's license for a four-year or eight-year period by visiting their local DMV, presenting at least two forms of identification, paying the appropriate fee and passing the written and driving skills tests, if applicable. New Mississippi residents who present valid out-of-state licenses may have the



Lynyrd Skynyrd monument near the 1977 crash site of the band located in Magnolia, Mississippi.

written or driving skills tests waived.

Applicants for a driver's license must be at least 16 years of age. 16-year-old applicants must have six months' experience under an intermediate license; this requirement does not apply to new residents who have held driver's licenses in another state for at least six months.

Mississippi residents of at least 15 years of age may apply for a temporary learner's permit. A learner's permit allows the driver to operate a vehicle with the supervision of a licensed driver 21 years or older. An intermediate license may be issued to those who have held a learner's permit for at least 12 months without any traffic violations. If an intermediate license is granted, the driver is only allowed to operate a vehicle unsupervised between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 6 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Applicants less than 18 years of age must show proof of enrollment in school.

Mississippi DMV is no longer administering road tests due to CDC guidelines.

For more information about driving laws, license fees and DMV locations visit [www.dps.state.ms.us/driver-services/](http://www.dps.state.ms.us/driver-services/).

### Hunting and fishing licenses

Resident hunting and fishing licenses may be purchased from most local sporting goods dealers and bait shops, as well as online at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com). Standard licenses are valid for one year. Persons exempt from purchasing licenses are residents under age 16 or older than age 65. All others, including military personnel, must purchase a license before hunting or fishing. All license types and prices may be found on the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks website under the "purchase license and permits" tab. License fees are in addition to agent and processing fees.

### Marriage licenses

Marriage licenses are issued by a county's circuit clerk, and both parties must appear before the circuit clerk to finalize the marriage application. Mississippi welcomes same-sex marriages. Males at least 17 years old and females at least 15 years old are capable of applying for marriage, but applicants under 21 must provide proof of consent from a parent or legal guardian. Marriage applications must include the names, ages and addresses of both parties. The cost of a marriage license and necessary certificates is \$37. For more information, including whether your

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county accepts card payments, call your local circuit clerk's office.

### **Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law**

Mississippi law requires all drivers to have proof of insurance inside their vehicles at all times. Anyone operating a vehicle without proof of insurance will be subject to an initial penalty of a \$1,000 fine and temporary suspension of his or her license. (<https://www.valuepenguin.com/auto-insurance/mississippi/penalties-driving-without-insurance>)

Every vehicle accident in which a person is killed or injured or in which property damage is in excess of \$250 must be reported to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety within 10 days. Failure to file a report is a misdemeanor offense subject to suspension of a driver's license.

### **Better Business Bureau**

The Better Business Bureau is in place to protect against irresponsible business and scams of all types. It also lends a helping hand to those reputable businesses in need.

BBB implemented a program in January 1987 called "Customer Care," which allows businesses to advertise they are members of the bureau. Under the program, members are allowed to use an arbitration logo in newspapers, periodicals, direct mail, flyers, handouts, billboards, posters, radio/TV, letterheads, business cards and invoices. The logo cannot be used in yellow page ads in telephone books, annual directories and handbooks/manuals.

For more information about the Better Business Bureau in Mississippi and its services, call (601) 398-1700.

### **Mississippi Voter ID law**

All Mississippians voting in person at the polls or by absentee ballot in the circuit clerk's office are required to present a photo ID before casting a ballot. Acceptable photo IDs include a driver's license, state issued photo ID card, U.S. passport, any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any State government, firearms license, student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college or community/junior college, U.S. military ID or a Mississippi voter identification card. For more information about voter IDs or how to register to vote visit [msvoterid.ms.gov](http://msvoterid.ms.gov). Eligible voters casting an absentee ballot by mail do not have to show a photo ID.



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# Welcome to COLUMBUS

The area known as **LOWNDES COUNTY**, named after U.S. congressman William Jones Lowndes, began developing well before Columbus was chartered in 1821.

Lowndes County is home to the former railroad towns of Artesia, Mayhew and Crawford and towns on the east side of the county, including Caledonia and Steens.

In recent years, Lowndes County has seen major industrial development under the Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce and the Golden Triangle Development LINK, both headquartered in Columbus. The Chamber has worked to bring businesses to highways 45 and 182, while the LINK has developed industrial sites near the Golden Triangle Regional Airport. The LINK, which has brought major plants such as PACCAR, Airbus and Steel Dynamics to the region, has seen national media attention and was featured in 2016 on CBS' "60 Minutes" in an episode exploring the manufacturing successes of the area.

In 2022, the LINK landed a \$2.5 billion project that would add a low-carbon flat-rolled aluminum mill near the Steel Dynamics site and a biocarbon facility on Artesia Road near the International Paper pulp mill. Expected to create over 700 jobs, it is the largest economic development project in the state's history.

Writers from The Atlantic, James and Deb Fallows, wrote about the optimism local officials and industry leaders maintain in their 2018 book "Our Towns," which explores small-town cultural scenes across the United States. HBO featured the area in a film documentary in 2021 based on the Fallows' book.

**COLUMBUS** serves as the seat of Lowndes County. Despite changes over nearly two centuries, residents of the "Friendly City" retain the hospitality for which they are justly known, welcoming the new, while preserving and paying homage to a storied past.

European explorer Hernando de Soto first entered Mississippi when he crossed the Tombigbee River near Lowndes County in 1540. The first actual trading post along this area of the Tombigbee was es-

tablished not far from Columbus in 1790. Columbus thusly earned the moniker, "Possum Town" — not due to an abundance of possums, but because to the area's Native Americans, the proprietor of the trading post resembled a possum.

In 1820, Gen. Andrew Jackson brought his Military Road through the area on the way to New Orleans. The first steamboat to navigate the river docked here in 1821, the same year that Columbus was incorporated.

Mississippi's first public school, Franklin Academy, was founded in 1821 in Columbus. The elementary school closed in May after 204 years of educating students. The closure is part of the Columbus Municipal School District's plan to consolidate its five elementary schools and shift from the current magnet school model to grade span learning. Fairview Elementary is set to close by 2026.

The nation's first "Decoration Day," or Memorial Day, was observed in 1866 when a group of Columbus women decorated the graves of both the Confederate and Union soldiers at Friendship Cemetery. The women's actions inspired national news recognition and the poem, "The Blue and the Gray."

America's first state-supported college for women was founded in Columbus in 1884. Mississippi University for Women today continues its tradition of quality education for men and women. Many Columbus residents take pride in MUW as well as the Columbus Air Force Base, an Air Force pilot training facility in operation since World War II. The influx of military personnel has brought innovative ideas to the community and many military retirees have chosen this area as their permanent home.

Columbus is also proud of its historic Main Street district. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Main Street Columbus a winner of the 2010 Great American Main Street Awards, one of four winners nationally. Mississippi Main Street Association honored Executive Director Barbara Bigelow with the Charles Beasley Outstanding Main Street Director of the Year award in 2025.



## THE FACTS

**County:** Lowndes

**County seat:** Columbus

**Population:** The U.S. Census of 2020 estimated a county population of 58,879 and a city population of 24,084. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 census, the population was 23,640 in the city and 59,779 in the county. The U.S. census is conducted every 10 years. In 2023, the U.S. Census estimated a city population of 23,035 and a county population of 57,283.

**Government:** City – mayor and six-member city council; County – five-member board of supervisors.

**Altitude:** 217 feet above sea level

**Area:** 25.85 square miles (city); 516 square miles (county)

**Assessed valuation:** City – \$225 million; County – \$1.24 billion.

**Public safety:** Firefighters – 61 Columbus firefighters; 145 volunteer firefighters serve the county; Police officers – 50 in Columbus; One interim chief marshal, five part-time deputy marshals and two reserve marshals in Caledonia Marshal's Office, Sheriff's Deputies – 74 full-time.

**Climate:** On average, January is the coolest month and July is the warmest. January daily average temperatures: high of 54 degrees, low of 36 degrees; July daily average temperatures: high of 91 degrees, low of 72 degrees.

**Major highways:** U.S. 45 and 82; state highways 12, 50, 69, 182 and 373.



Stephen Jones  
Mayor



Ethel Taylor Stewart  
Councilman, Ward 1



Roderick Smith  
Councilman, Ward 2



Rusty Greene  
Councilman, Ward 3



Lavonne Harris  
Councilman, Ward 4



Gregory Jefferson  
Councilman, Ward 5

## CITY OFFICIALS

A mayor and city council govern Columbus. The mayor is elected every four years by a majority vote, based on the votes cast by city residents in the primary and general elections. The six councilmen are also elected every four years based on votes in predetermined sections, or wards, of the city. The current mayor and council were elected in June 2025. Their terms will expire in 2029. City council meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 5 p.m. in the City Municipal Complex at 1501 Main St. and are open to the public.

### Mayor

**Stephen Jones**  
(662) 328-7021 (office)  
(662) 386-5022 (cell)  
sjones@columbusms.org

### City Council

*Ward 1*  
**Ethel Taylor Stewart**  
(662) 251-3841 (office)  
(662) 329-1227 (home)  
(662) 425-1833 (cell)  
ward1@columbusms.org

*Ward 2*  
**Roderick Smith**  
(601) 604-7700 (cell)  
(662) 359-7676 (office)  
ward2@columbusms.org

*Ward 3*  
**Rusty Greene**  
(662) 889-1912 (office)  
(662) 242-7799 (cell)  
ward3@columbusms.org

*Ward 4*  
**Lavonne Harris**  
(662) 549-2390 (cell)  
(662) 889-7225 (office)  
ward4@columbusms.org

*Ward 5*  
**Gregory Jefferson**  
(662) 386-3738 (cell)  
(662) 359-7678 (office)  
ward5@columbusms.org

*Ward 6*  
**Jason Spears**  
(662) 861-0967 (cell)  
(662) 359-7679 (office)  
ward6@columbusms.org

**Chief Operations Officer**  
**Jammie Garrett**  
(662) 329-5119 (office)  
(662) 769-8268 (cell)  
jammie.garrett@columbusms.org

**Chief Financial Officer**  
**James Brigham**  
(662) 329-5120 (office)  
(662)-889-9636 (cell)  
james.brigham@columbusms.org

**Chief of Police**  
**Joseph Daughtry**  
(662) 848-3002 (office)  
jdaughtry@columbusms.org

**Fire Chief**  
**Duane Hughes**  
(662) 329-5121  
ext. 4100 (office)  
(662) 570-8814 (cell)  
dhughes@columbusms.org

**Columbus Municipal School District Superintendent**  
CMSD is in the process of hiring a new superintendent as of press time  
(662) 241-7400 (office of the superintendent)

**City Attorney**  
**Jeff Turnage**  
(662) 328-2316 (office)  
(662) 364-0846 (cell)  
jturnage@mitchellmncutt.com

**City Judges**  
Gary S. Goodwin  
Rhonda Hayes-Ellis

**City Prosecutor**  
Nicole Clinkscales

**Public Defender**  
Amanda Meadows

**City/County Tax Assessor**  
Greg Andrews  
(662) 329-5700

**City/County Tax Collector**  
Kalee Talley  
(662) 329-5700



Jason Spears  
Councilman, Ward 6



Joseph Daughtry  
Chief of Police



Duane Hughes  
Fire Chief

### Columbus Action Center

CAC offers an outlet for people to notify city officials about any municipal issues that need attention. The office is located on the first floor of City Hall and can be reached at (662) 329-5147. To file a report or submit a request, visit their online portal at: [seeclckfix.com/columbus\\_5](http://seeclckfix.com/columbus_5)

City Hall and the Columbus Municipal Complex are open 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.



Matt Furnari  
Supervisor, District 1



Trip Hairston  
Supervisor, District 2



Andy Williamson  
Supervisor, District 3



Jeff Smith  
Supervisor, District 4



Leroy Brooks  
Supervisor, District 5



Eddie Hawkins  
Sheriff

## COUNTY OFFICIALS

The responsibility for administering the duties of county government falls to the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors. The county is divided into five districts and has operated under the unit system since January 1989. The officials are elected to a four-year term of office. The last election was held in 2023; the current board will serve through December 2027. The Board of Supervisors meets regularly every first Monday of the month at 9 a.m. and occasionally on the 15th and last day of the month. Meetings are held in the supervisors' boardroom in the Lowndes County Courthouse and are open to the public.

### Board of Supervisors

#### District 1

**Matt Furnari**  
(662) 574-2591  
mfurnari@lowndescountymys.com

#### District 2

**Trip Hairston**, (board president)  
(662) 251-5006  
thairston@lowndescountymys.com

#### District 3

**Andy Williamson**  
awilliamson@lowndescountymys.com  
(662) 242-2102

#### District 4

**Jeff Smith**, (board vice-president)  
(662) 386-6923  
lcsmith@bellsouth.net

#### District 5

**Leroy Brooks**  
(662) 251-8125  
lclbrooks@bellsouth.net

### Sheriff

**Eddie Hawkins**  
Lowndes County Sheriff's Dept.  
(662) 328-6788

### Superintendent of Education

**Sam Allison**  
(662) 244-5005  
Sam.Allison@lowndes.k12.ms.us

### Constables

#### District 1

**Chris Griffin**  
(662) 386-4160

#### District 2

**Joe Ables, Jr.**  
(662) 328-4373

#### District 3

**Willie "Sonny" Sanders**  
(662) 251-4545

### County Prosecutor

**Will Cooper**  
(662) 243-7443

### Justice Court Judges

The justice court office is located at 309 South MLK Jr. Drive.  
**Ron Cooke, Christopher D. Hemphill and Peggy G. Phillips**

### Justice Court Clerk

**Carley Estes**  
(662) 329-5718

### Chancery Court Clerk

**Cindy Goode**  
(662) 329-5800

### Circuit Court Judges

The circuit court office is located at 505 Second Ave. N. in downtown Columbus.  
**Lee "Jay" Howard, James T. Kitchens, Jr. and Michelle Easterling**

### Circuit Court Clerk

**Teresa Barksdale**  
(662) 329-5900

### County Road Manager

**Mike Aldridge**  
(662) 251-8105

### County Administrator

**Jay Fisher**  
(662) 329-5870  
jfisher@lowndescountymys.com

### Coroner

**Greg Merchant**  
(662) 386-0704  
gregmerchant@bellsouth.net

### Fire Services Coordinator

County is in the process of hiring this position  
(662) 329-5152 (office)



Sam Allison  
Superintendent of Education

Maps of the city and county are available to newcomers at the Golden Triangle Development LINK located at 1102 Main St. Call (662) 328-8369 for details.

All emergency services in the county may be reached by dialing 911.

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## ABOUT CALEDONIA

The town of Caledonia was officially chartered in December of 1904 under Governor James Vardaman. Just northeast of Columbus, Caledonia has seen three expansions under county judges in 1971, 1973 and in the 1980s. The community now has a population of 1,107 people.

Caledonia is home to Caledonia Elementary School and Caledonia High School. Located down the street from the high school is Ola J. Pickett Park, where Caledonia's youth sports leagues play and where the two-day festival "Caledonia Days" is held each October.

## TOWN GOVERNMENT

*A mayor and five-member board of aldermen govern Caledonia. Aldermen represent all of Caledonia and are not elected to represent specific districts. Current town officials were elected in June 2025.*

### Mayor

**Betty Darnell**

(662) 402-7901

badarnellmayor@gmail.com

### Board of Aldermen/women

**Matt Chisolm**

(662) 386-0882

bulldog0186@gmail.com

**Jason Daniel Chrest**

(662) 251-9312

jasondchrest@gmail.com

**Jacqueline Furnari**

(662) 574-1423

jacqueline.furnari24@gmail.com

**Robert Linn Jacobs**

(662) 574-2704

robertjacobs15@hotmail.com

**Tammy McCool**

(662) 574-3744

mtb\_mccool@bellsouth.net

**Interim Town Marshal**

**John Pevey**

662-356-4117

**Board Attorney**

**Chris Hemphill**

662-356-4417



Betty Darnell  
Mayor



Matt Chisolm  
Board of Aldermen



Jason Chrest  
Board of Aldermen



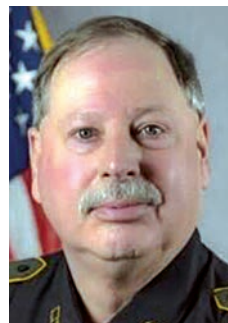
Jacqueline Furnari  
Board of Aldermen



Robert Linn Jacobs  
Board of Aldermen



Tammy McCool  
Board of Aldermen



John Pevey  
Interim Town Marshal



Chris Hemphill  
Board Attorney

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Permits, licenses

Building and business permits – City building and business permits may be obtained at the Building Inspection Department located at 1621 Main St. Call (662) 245-5055 for more information.

For county permits, visit the County Administrative Building at 1121 Main St. in Columbus. Call the office at (662) 329-5700 for more information, or contact Larry Collums with the county Building Inspection Department at (662) 329-5860.

### Postal service

Residents can deposit their mail at a number of locations throughout the city and county.

Columbus has three post office locations. The downtown location at 524 Main St. is a full-service post office open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. This post office has several window-service collection boxes on Sixth Street South. The final collection time is 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday. To contact the branch, call (662) 329-1091.

The second location at 235 Alabama St. in Columbus offers general delivery, money order, and P.O. Box services. Retail hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The final collection time is 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To contact the branch, call (662) 245-0247.

The third Columbus location is a full-service post office at 3202 Bluecutt Road. Retail hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday. The final collection time is 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. This location also offers passport services Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon and 2-4 p.m. To contact the branch, call (662) 245-0247.

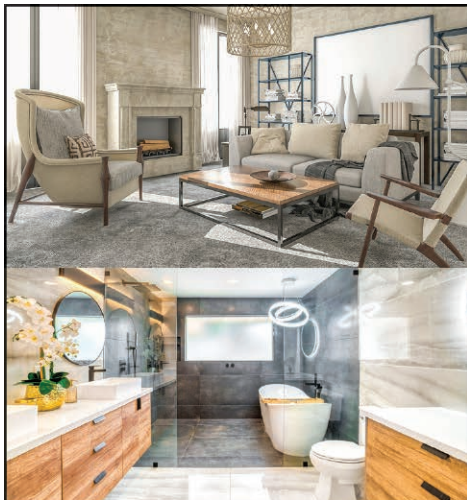
County post offices are located in Steens, Artesia and Caledonia. The Steens branch is located at 346 Steens Vernon Road and may be contacted by calling (662) 328-0909. The Artesia branch is located at 11 S. Front St. and may be contacted at (662) 272-5211. The Caledonia branch is located at 650 Main St. and may be contacted at (662) 356-6497.

### Taxes

**Personal taxes** – State, county and municipal ad valorem taxes, except on motor vehicles, must be paid by Feb. 1 of each year. County and city tax millage rates are set prior to Sept. 15 of each year.

**Where to pay taxes** – Municipal and county taxes are to be paid at the Lowndes County tax assessor's office at 1121 Main St. Call (662) 329-5700 for information.

State income tax is payable to the Mississippi Department of Revenue in early April. Visit [www.dor.ms.gov](http://www.dor.ms.gov) for more information on state tax information. Some payments may be made online.



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@uncommonlivingms  
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**Homestead exemption** – Persons moving into Lowndes County must have their house purchased by Dec. 31 and deed recorded with the chancery clerk by Jan. 7 to file for homestead exemption that same year. The applicant must have been living in the home on Jan. 1 of the year for which he or she is filing. Homestead exemptions may be filed at the tax collector's office on the first floor of the Lowndes County Tax Office, 1121 Main St. in Columbus. Exemptions must be filed before April 1.

A person filing for homestead exemption for the first time should present the warranty deed for the property, their Lowndes County automobile tag number(s), at least one form of identification, social security number(s), the purchase price and down payment amount of the home, as well as the house deed. For anyone filing because of a disability, they must present the original award letter stating they are 100% disabled and the date he/she became disabled.

For more information, contact the Lowndes County Tax Assessor at 1121 Main St. Call (662) 329-5700. Office hours

are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Voter registration

In order to vote in Mississippi a person must reside in the state and be 18 years old on or before Election Day. A person must be registered with the county or city clerk at least 30 days prior in order to vote in local, state and national elections.

For more information, contact Lowndes County Circuit Clerk Teresa Barksdale at (662) 329-5900. The circuit clerk's office is located in the Lowndes County Courthouse at 505 Second Ave. N. in downtown Columbus. City residents may register at City Hall, 523 Main St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register by mail, residents may pick up a voter registration form at City Hall, the public library or download a form from the Secretary of State's website. Forms can be mailed to the Office of Registrar, P.O. Box 31, Columbus, MS 39703.

## UTILITIES

### Refuse collection

**City** – A monthly charge of \$20.95 is charged to each household for city residents. The cost covers one pick-up per week and a city-provided bin. Golden Triangle Waste Services will collect trash south of Fifth Avenue North on Mondays, and residents north of Fifth Avenue North will have their trash collected Tuesdays. Call Golden Triangle Waste Services at (662) 327-6600.

**County** – Those residents living in the county have their garbage picked up once a week on a pre scheduled basis for each area. The charge is \$15 per month.

For information on the schedule for your area, contact Golden Triangle Waste Services, 1311 Industrial Park Road in Columbus. Call (662) 327-6660. Hours are 7 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.

### Electricity

**City** – To establish service within the city, newcomers, whether renting or owning, need to bring two forms of identification, including one with a recent photo, to the Columbus Light and Water Department, 420 Fourth Ave. S. Those renting an apartment or house will need to present a lease agreement. Homeowners must present their house deed.

A deposit is required to set up any service with CL&W. For renters, a \$300 deposit is required for combined electric and water services. For homeowners, a \$200 deposit is required for combined electric and water service. Whether renting or owning, a \$200 deposit is required to establish electricity service only.

For more information, contact Columbus Light and Water at (662) 328-7192. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**County** – Those moving to Lowndes County will have to apply for membership with 4-County Electric Power Association. Applications may be retrieved from [www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/](http://www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/). The application for service

may be completed online; downloaded and mailed to P.O. Box 351, Columbus, MS 39703; or downloaded, scanned, and emailed to [support@4county.org](mailto:support@4county.org). Before sending your completed application, contact 4-County at (800) 431-1544 for important information needed to complete the application.

A \$25 membership fee and a \$25 connection fee are required for residential connection. An additional deposit, based on a credit check, may be required. Same day service may be available if all applicable fees and documentation are received by 4-County by 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact 4-County Electric Power Association's customer call center at (800) 431-1544 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 4-County's Columbus office is located at 5265 S. Frontage Road.

**Monroe County Power** – To establish service, two forms of identification are required: social security number and a valid driver's license or state issued picture ID. Memberships are \$50 per meter. Those renting an apartment or house will need a signed lease agreement. A minimum deposit of \$100 is required to establish service but the deposit can be higher based on credit rating. For more information on new service requirements call (662) 356-4100 or visit <https://www.monroecountyelectric.com/>. The branch is located at 746 Main Street Caledonia, MS, 39740.

### Gas

Atmos Energy is the primary gas service provider in the Golden Triangle.

For more information, contact Atmos Energy at (888) 286-6700, or visit the company's website: [www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com).

Caledonia Natural Gas serves the entire northeastern quadrant of Lowndes County, including the town of Caledonia. For more information, contact Caledonia Natural Gas at (662) 356-4250 or visit 639 Main St. in Caledonia.

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## Water

**City** – To establish service within the city, newcomers, whether renting or owning, need to bring two forms of identification, including one with a recent photo, to the Columbus Light and Water Department, 420 Fourth Ave. S. Those renting an apartment or house will need to present a lease agreement. Homeowners must present their house deed.

A deposit is required to set up any service with CL&W. For renters, a \$300 deposit is required for combined electric and water services. For homeowners, a \$200 deposit is required for combined electric and water service. Whether renting or owning, a \$100 deposit is required to establish water service only.

**East Lowndes** – Rural water users who are hooked up to the East Lowndes Water Association will pay a \$75 deposit and a \$25 connection fee to establish service.

An \$800 deposit is required to establish service if a new water meter must be installed.

For more information contact East Lowndes Water Association at (662) 327-1651 or visit 1325 Ridge Road in Columbus. The association's normal hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**West Lowndes** – County residents hooked up to the

Prairie Land Water Association will pay a \$50 deposit if they own the home and a \$100 deposit if they are renting. All residents must pay a \$25 membership fee to establish service.

The cost of a new meter starts at \$800.

The Prairie Land Water Association is located at 150 Artesia Road. For more information call (662) 245-1150. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**South Lowndes** – County residents using South Lowndes Water Association will pay a \$35 deposit to establish service if they own the home and \$100 if they are renting.

A \$400 deposit is required to establish service if a new water meter must be installed.

For more information call (662) 272-5750. The South Lowndes Water Association is located at 2109 O'Leary Lane. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Caledonia Water and Sewage** – Caledonia residents hooked up to Caledonia Water and Sewage will pay a \$40 deposit to establish service if they own the home and a \$100 deposit to establish service on a rental property.

Caledonia Water and Sewage is located at 202 South St. in Caledonia. For more information, call (662) 356-6993. Hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### Churches

There are more than 210 churches of all faiths in Columbus and Lowndes County. A church directory is available online at [cdispatch.com/religion](http://cdispatch.com/religion).

### Education

**General information** – Registration for the fall school term is held in the summer. Notice of the registration is published prior to the registration period. Kindergarten in Columbus is available to all students in both public and private schools.

Students entering kindergarten must be five years of age on or before Sept. 1. A birth certificate and a record of immunization (Form 121) are required for registration.

**City schools** – In the Columbus Municipal School District, there are five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, one vocational school and one alternative school.

More information about the city school system can be obtained by contacting the Columbus Municipal School District at (662) 241-7453 or by visiting [www.columbuscityschools.org](http://www.columbuscityschools.org). The address for central office and the office of the superintendent is 2630 McArthur Dr.

**County schools** – The Lowndes County School District has three elementary schools, two middle schools and three high schools.

For more information about the county school district contact Lowndes County Superintendent of Education Sam Allison at (662) 244-5005. The superintendent's office is located at 1053 Highway 45 S. in Columbus. Visit [www.lowndes.k12.ms.us](http://www.lowndes.k12.ms.us) for more information.

**Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science** –

Located on the campus of Mississippi University for Women, MSMS is a residential, public high school for juniors and seniors. The public magnet school has a selective admission process, and potential students apply during their sophomore years of high school. Call (800) 400-4656 or visit [www.themsms.org](http://www.themsms.org) for more information.

**Parochial schools** – There are three parochial schools in the county. Those are:

- Annunciation Catholic School, 223 N. Browder St., (662) 328-4479. (The school serves preschool through eighth grade).

- Columbus Christian Academy, 6405 Military Road, Steens (662) 328-7888

- Victory Christian Academy, 100 Victory Loop, (662) 327-7744

**Private schools** – There are two private schools, one elementary and one high school, in the county. These are:

- Heritage Academy Elementary, 623 Willowbrook Road

- Heritage Academy High School, 625 Magnolia Lane  
To reach Heritage Academy call (662) 327-5272. For director of admissions, call (662) 327-1556.

**Colleges** – Three higher education facilities are located in Lowndes County. They are:

- Mississippi University for Women, 1100 College St.  
For more information, call (662) 329-4750 or see [www.muw.edu](http://www.muw.edu).

- East Mississippi Community College, Golden Triangle Campus. For more information, call (662) 243-1900 or see [www.eastms.edu](http://www.eastms.edu). EMCC also offers some classes at the Columbus Air Force Base.

- Saint Leo University, Columbus Air Force Base Education Center, 81 Fifth St., Suite 11, Columbus AFB; (662) 729-8319

Other colleges and universities in the area include:

- Mississippi State University in Starkville, which is 23 miles west of Columbus.
- University of Mississippi in Oxford, 105 miles north of Columbus.
- East Mississippi Community College, Scooba Campus, 52 miles south of Columbus.
- Northeast Mississippi Community College at Boonville, 100 miles north of Columbus.
- University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, 60 miles east of Columbus.

**Libraries**

The main branch of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library system, containing more than 100,000 volumes, is located at 314 Seventh St. N. in Columbus. It is the main office for the county’s library system and is housed in a 28,000-square-foot building. There are branch libraries in Artesia, Caledonia and Crawford.

Some of the library’s services include a meeting room for the public that seats 75, a modern reference department, a genealogy and local history department, a story hour for preschoolers, and exhibits and art displays.

**Columbus Lowndes Public Library** – Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and

Saturday. Call (662) 329-5300 or visit [www.lowndeslibrary.com](http://www.lowndeslibrary.com) for more information. The branch clerk is Wil’lani Turner, [wturner@lowndes.lib.ms.us](mailto:wturner@lowndes.lib.ms.us).

**Artesia Public Library** – Located at 18 S. Front St., Artesia, MS 39736. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact branch clerk Bernice Wilson at (662) 272-5255 or via email at [bwilson@lowndes.lib.ms.us](mailto:bwilson@lowndes.lib.ms.us) for more information.

**Caledonia Public Library** – Located at 754 Main St., Caledonia, MS 39740. Hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Contact branch clerk Tori Hawkins at (662) 356-6384 for more information.

**Crawford Public Library** – Located at 320 Main St., Crawford, MS 39743. Hours are 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. Contact branch clerk Bernice Wilson at (662) 272-5144 or via email at [bwilson@lowndes.lib.ms.us](mailto:bwilson@lowndes.lib.ms.us) for more information.

**Media**

**The Commercial Dispatch:** 516 Main St., Columbus; Business hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (662) 328-2424 for subscription information. Printed Tuesday through Saturday. Visit [www.cdismatch.com](http://www.cdismatch.com) for more information.

**The Columbus Packet:** 425 College St., Columbus; Printed weekly on Thursday. Call (662) 329-1741 or visit [columbuspacket.com](http://columbuspacket.com) for more information.

# Lowndes County Circuit Clerk’s Office

Teresa Barksdale, Circuit Clerk




Front row, from left, are Jennifer Williams, Missy Holliday, Teresa Barksdale and Kendall Klostermann; back row, from left, are Ann Marie Higgins, Abbie Brownlee, Taneisha Malone, Christy Jackson and Rita Gregory

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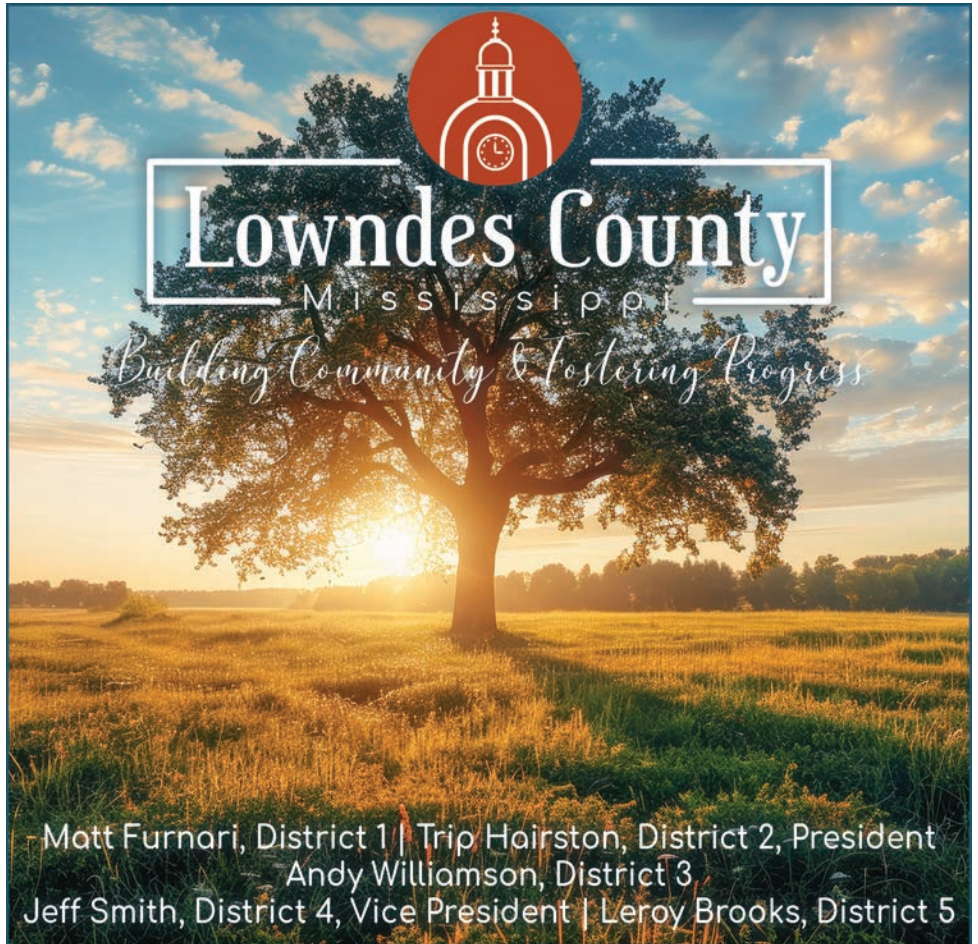


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Television stations serving the area include WCBI of Columbus, Channel 4 (CBS, Fox and MyNetworkTV affiliate); WTVA of Tupelo, Channel 9 (NBC and ABC affiliate); WLOV of Tupelo, Channel 27 (CW+ affiliate) and WKDH of Tupelo, Channel 45 (ABC affiliate).

**Hospital**

Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle is located at 2520 Fifth Street N., (662) 244-1000.

**Airports**

- Golden Triangle Regional Airport, 2080 Airport Road, Columbus; (662) 327-4422
- Columbus-Lowndes County Airport, 368 Fabritek Drive, Columbus; (662) 570-1559

**Accommodations**

**Bed and breakfasts**

- **Burnt Oak Lodge** – 1563 Penn Station Road, Crawford; (662) 272-9550
- **Puckett House** – 1100 College St., Columbus; (662) 329-7126
- **Shadowlawn Bed & Breakfast** – 1024 College St., Columbus; (662) 327-3600

**The Jackie O’ House Bed and Breakfast** – 1700 9th St. S., Columbus; (662) 327-5100

**Cabins, camping**

- **Columbus East Bank Recreation** – 3257 Wilkins-Wise Road, Columbus; (662) 245-0461
- **Tombigbee RV Park** – 25 Nash Road, Columbus; (662) 574-7879
- **Hidden Cove RV Park** – 315 Sand Road, Columbus; (662) 242-0786
- **Brown’s RV Park** – 2002 Bluecutt Road, Columbus; (662) 328-1976
- **Parkwood RV Park** – 319 E. Plymouth Road, Columbus; (662) 386-3047
- **Island Road RV Park** – 533 Island Road, Columbus; (662) 549-2304
- **Country Living RV Park** – 447 Robinson Road, Columbus; (662) 242-0786
- **Lake Lowndes State Park** – 3319 Lake Lowndes Road, Columbus; (662) 328-2110
- **Dewayne Hayes Campground and Recreation Area** – 7934 Barton Ferry Road, Columbus; (662) 434-6939

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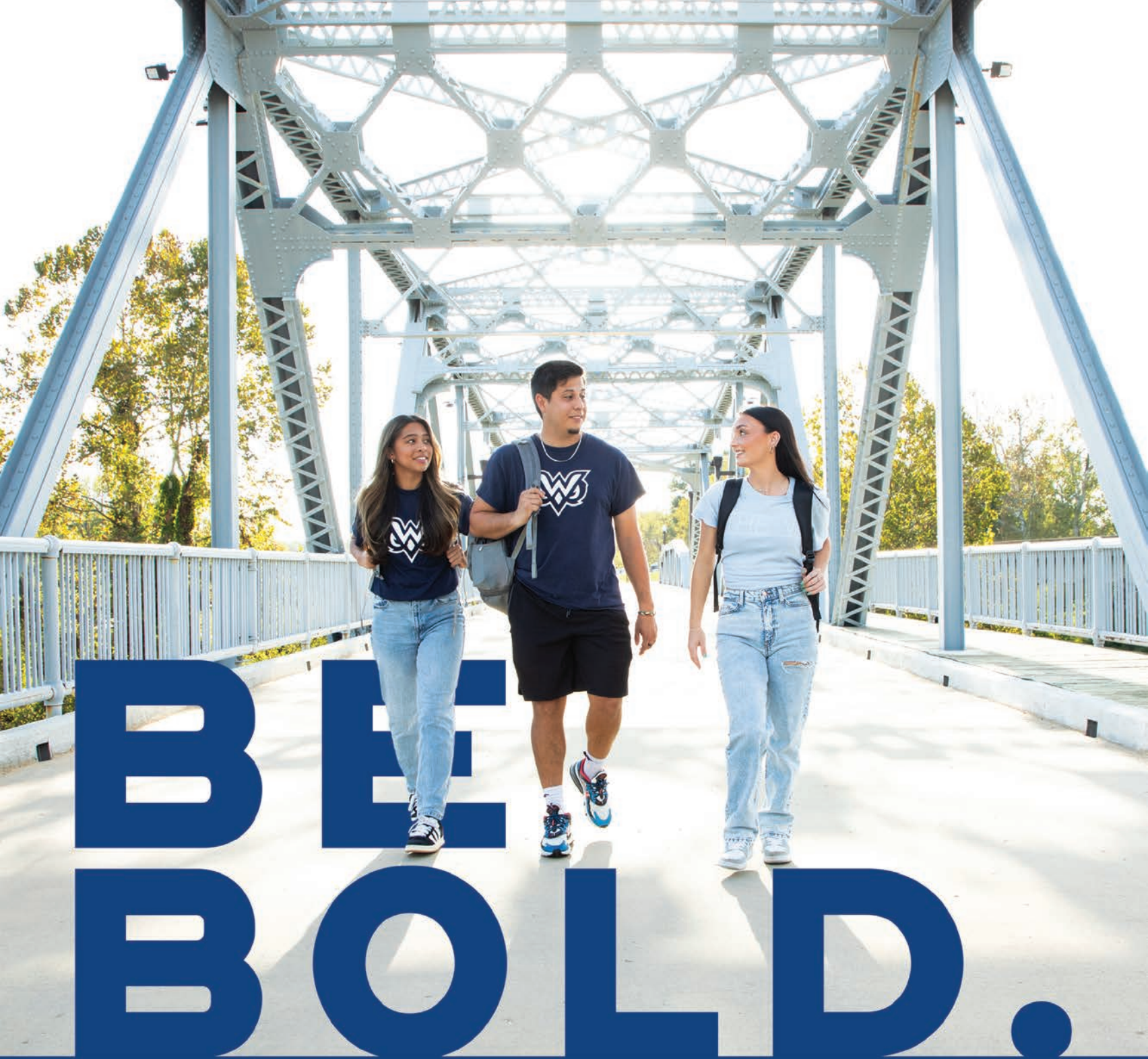
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## ANNUAL EVENTS

**Catfish in the Alley:** This festival, held in early spring each year, celebrates a historically significant African-American business district in downtown Columbus. The event includes live music and good food, including Mississippi farm-raised catfish. Catfish Alley is located at Fourth Street South, between College and Main streets. Contact the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau (662) 329-1191 for more information.

**Annual Spring Pilgrimage Historic and Heritage Tours:** This award-winning annual celebration of history, culture, architectural and culinary events includes exclusive access to culturally diverse 19th Century private homes and sights, historic interactive events and more. Visit the Preservation Society of Columbus at [www.preserve-columbus.com](http://www.preserve-columbus.com) or call (662) 889-1145 for more information.

**Half-marathon and 5K run:** During Pilgrimage season, participate



Hadley Read and Lexi Read run a lemonade stand during Lemonade Day, an annual summer event held throughout the Golden Triangle.

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Hayley Gilmer helps Rick Seichrist pick out two watermelons at the Cherokee Melons stand in Caledonia.

in or cheer on runners in a race through the downtown and south-side areas of Columbus. The half-marathon run takes participants past antebellum homes and historic Friendship Cemetery and along the Tombigbee River. Call the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, (662) 329-1191, for registration info.

**Juneteenth Freedom Day:** On the weekend of June 19th, Columbus celebrates freedom and emancipation with live music, food, vendors and family activities at Sim Scott Park. Call Leroy Brooks for more information (662) 251-8125.

**Tales From the Crypt:** Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students combine history and drama in this nationally recognized research project, as they portray local personalities near their gravesites in Friendship Cemetery. Tales From the Crypt runs on select nights during spring Pilgrimage at the site of the first Decoration Day in 1866. Call Chuck Yarborough at (662) 251-5177 for more information.

**Hitching Post Farmers Market:** The Columbus farmers market is open

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May through October. Hours are Tuesdays 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. In October, the market only takes place on Saturdays. The Hitching Lot will host the annual Holiday Market from 9 a.m to 1 p.m. on November 22. The market offers locally grown produce, artisanal goods, children's activities and more. The Hitching Lot market is located near the intersection of Second Avenue and Second Street North. Contact Main Street Columbus at (662) 328-6305 or email Chelsea Best at columbusmainstreet@gmail.com for more information.

**Market Street Festival:** Thousands of visitors flock to this award-winning festival held each May in downtown Columbus. Market Street features live music on multiple stages and more than 200 vendors of fine arts, crafts, food and more. Contact Main Street Columbus at (662) 328-6305 for more information.

**Eighth of May Celebration:** This annual presentation by Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students commemorates the day – May 8, 1865 – federal troops arrived in Columbus to free black slaves remaining in bondage. The event takes place in Sandfield Cemetery just off Main Street on 25th Street South. Contact MSMS at (800) 400-4656 or email Chuck Yarborough at cyarborough@themsms.org for more information.

**Sounds of Summer:** This free concert series is held on summer evenings in June and July at the Columbus Soccer Complex. Contact Main Street Columbus at (662) 328-6305 for more information and this year's concert schedule.

**Crawford Days:** This festival, held in July each year, features live entertainment, including music, speakers, a step show and more. Contact (662) 272-5164 for more information.

**Artesia Days:** Typically held the first weekend in August, the Artesia Days festival features live music, craft and food vendors, and a school supply giveaway in downtown Artesia. For information, call (662) 272-5104.

**Roast-n-Boast:** Mississippi's barbecue cooking competition, held at the Columbus Fairgrounds, draws teams from around the country. Roast-n-Boast

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offers music, food vendors and children’s activities and is located just off Highway 69 South. The event takes place each year near the beginning of October. Visit [www.roastnboast.com](http://www.roastnboast.com) or contact the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau at (662) 329-1191 for more information.

**Tennessee Williams Tribute:** The tribute and tour of Victorian homes, held in early September, honors one of America’s most prolific playwrights, born in Columbus March 26, 1911. Contact the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau at (662) 329-1191 for more information.

**Eudora Welty Writers’ Symposium:** The Welty symposium, sponsored by Mississippi University for Women, honors Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and one of MUW’s most distinguished scholars, Eudora Welty. The symposium is typically held in late October. For information, visit [muw.edu/welty](http://muw.edu/welty) or contact the university’s director of communications, Anika Perkins, at (662) 329-7124.

**7th Avenue Heritage Festival:** African American artists and the rich music history of this part of Columbus is being celebrated with local artists as well as Grammy-Award-winning musicians in October of every year. Call Kabir Karriem for more information (662) 400-0873.

**Caledonia Days Celebration:** This two-day event held in October at Ola J. Pickett park in Caledonia features music, vendors, games and more. Contact Amanda Boltwood at (662) 251-2875 for more information.

**Art ‘n Antiques Show and Sale:** This popular antique show features pieces from dealers across the South. Last year’s show was held the first weekend of November. Call the Columbus Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at (662) 329-1191 for more information.

**Christmas Open House:** Historic downtown Columbus dresses up for Christmas as downtown shops and businesses present open house celebrations and refreshments. Contact Columbus Main Street at (662) 328-6305 for more information.

**Veteran’s Day Parade:** Honor area veterans and servicemen and women during the annual parade. Contact the Columbus Air Force Base at (662) 434-7069 or the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau at (662) 329-1191 for more information.

**City Christmas Tree Lighting:** Join friends and neighbors for this community event, held each year on the last Monday of November in downtown Columbus. Contact Columbus Main Street at (662) 328-6305 for more information.

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Cooper Pearson holds the arena gate open for cowboys riding in at the Lowndes County Benefit Rodeo.

## ATTRACTIONS

### Racing

With three different race tracks, Columbus offers a variety of dirt-track motor races year-round. For a complete list of this year's races and to view race results visit each strip's website.

#### Magnolia Motor Speedway:

495 US-45, Columbus; [www.magnoliadirt.com](http://www.magnoliadirt.com); (662) 240-3478

#### Columbus Speedway:

574 Lacy Road, Columbus; [www.facebook.com/columbusbullring](http://www.facebook.com/columbusbullring); (662) 241-6262

#### Columbus Dragstrip Inc.:

1085 Hairston Bend Road, Columbus; (662) 327-3637

### Leisure activities

**Antebellum homes:** The Columbus Historic Foundation sponsors tours of some of the South's finest antebel-

lum homes. For maps and schedules, call Visit Columbus at (800) 327-2682 or visit [www.visitcolumbusms.org](http://www.visitcolumbusms.org).

**Blues Markers:** Lowndes County is home to several Mississippi Blues Trail markers, identifying influential area musicians and historic sites that have contributed to the blues culture of the Magnolia State. Go to [www.visitcolumbusms.org/things-to-do-and-see/attractions](http://www.visitcolumbusms.org/things-to-do-and-see/attractions) for information about local stops on this statewide tour.

**Friendship Cemetery:** Located at the corner of Fourth Street South and 15th Avenue South, this historic cemetery was the site of the first Memorial Day observance in 1866. Call (662) 328-4164 for more information.

**Mississippi University for Women:** "The W," as the school is affectionately known, was the first public

college for women in the United States. Stroll through the campus to see more than 20 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**African-American Heritage Tour:** Columbus boasts many African-American historical sites, including the famous Catfish Alley, a central meeting and business district for the African-American community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Go to [www.visitcolumbusms.org/things-to-do-and-see/history-and-heritage](http://www.visitcolumbusms.org/things-to-do-and-see/history-and-heritage) to explore other stops on the tour.

**Stephen D. Lee Home and Museum:** Built c. 1847, the building was home to one of the earliest citizens of Columbus. It was restored in 1960 and now houses an exhibit containing Civil War memorabilia and artifacts from the area. The museum, located at

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316 Seventh St. N. in Columbus, is open Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Call (662) 327-8888 for information and tours.

**Rosenzweig Arts Center:** The arts center is home to the Columbus Arts Council, which coordinates and assists in promoting fine and performing arts locally. The CAC also grants funding assistance for various civic and community projects and offers classes and camps for all ages. Visit [www.columbus-arts.org](http://www.columbus-arts.org) for more information, or call (662) 328-2787. The arts center is located at 501 Main St. in Columbus' historic downtown.

**Tennessee Williams Home and Welcome Center:** Birthplace of the late playwright Tennessee Williams, located at 300 Main St. Tours are offered Monday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The home also features a gift shop with locally-made goods. Call (662) 328-0222 for more information.

**Agnes Zaiantz Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Museum:** The Tenn-Tom Waterway Transportation Museum and Intermodal Learning Center, located at 318 Seventh St. N., highlights the uniqueness of the Waterway with its extensive lock and dam system and incorporates artifacts and information from rail and highway transportation as well. For more information call (662) 328-3286.

## Recreation

Those who enjoy recreational sports will have little trouble finding something to do in the Golden Triangle area. From fishing to summer baseball, the Golden Triangle offers a wide range of options to its residents.

While the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway was built for barge traffic, it also offers ample opportunities for fishing and water sports.

Several golf courses in the Golden Triangle area offer challenges to both the occasional hacker and the scratch player.

If tennis is your racket, then both public and private courts are available. A variety of habitats make the Golden Triangle a hunter's paradise.

## Fishing

Fishing in and around Columbus can be done at any of the following locations:

**Columbus Lake on Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway:** Offers 9,000 acres of fresh water for fishing and water sports, located on West Plymouth Road, call (662) 327-2142 for more information.

**Columbus Lock and Dam East Bank:** Located on Wilkins Wise Road. The park opens at 6 a.m. and closes at nightfall. Call (662) 245-0461 for more information.

**Dewayne Hayes Recreation Area and Campground:** Located at 7934 Barton Ferry Road in Columbus. Call (662) 434-6939 for more information.

**Lake Lowndes State Park:** 150-acre lake located at 3319 Lake Lowndes Road in Columbus. Call (662) 328-2110 for more information.

**Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway:** 3606 West Plymouth Road in Columbus. Call (662) 328-3286.

Several local organizations hold tournaments throughout the year to give anglers a chance to profit from their favor-

ite pastime. For information on local tournaments contact the Columbus Convention and Visitor's Bureau, (662) 329-1191.

### Boating, water sports

Both skiing and recreational boating have become popular activities on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

The waterway offers numerous places to launch boats, including the Stennis Lock and Dam and Waverly Landing.

The Columbus Marina offers a spot for boaters to come ashore during their travels along the Tenn-Tom Waterway. The Marina is located at the 335-mile marker on the waterway or at 295 Marina Drive, Wilkins Wise Road in Columbus. For marina information, call (662) 327-8450.

### Golf

There are several courses in the area, which can be found at the following locations:

#### Green Oaks Golf Club:

326 Green Oaks Drive in Columbus, call (662) 328-3879 for more information

#### Lion Hills Golf Club:

2331 Military Road in Columbus, call (662) 328-4837 for more information

#### Elm Lake Golf Club:

1609 Taylor Thurston Road in Columbus, call (662) 329-8964 for more information

### Tennis

Public tennis courts are available throughout the Golden Triangle area.

In Columbus, tennis courts are located at Propst Park and Lake Lowndes State Park. The Magnolia Tennis Club, a private club located at 626 Magnolia Lane, has eight rubico courts and four hard courts.

### Hunting

No matter what your favorite game, the abundance of wildlife in the area offers hunters a variety of challenges.

Deer season in Mississippi gives hunters a chance to test their skill as a still hunter or with dogs. There is also a bow season and a muzzle-loader season.

There are doe days during the season.

Waterfowl, wild turkey and small game can also be found throughout the region.

For information on hunting seasons and licenses, visit the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks website, [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com).

### Other recreation

Other recreation activities available in the Golden Triangle area include baseball and softball, bowling, horseback riding, volleyball, soccer, disc golf and cycling. For more information about youth organized sports contact Greg Lewis with the Columbus Recreation at (662) 251-4016 or visit the recreation office located next to Propst Park Department, 2535 Main St.

### Local parks

**Propst Park:** Columbus' largest park is Propst Park, located at 2535 Main St. The park has a spray pad, skate ramps, softball and baseball fields, batting cages, pickleball courts, disc golf, community huts and pavilions, a

playground and picnic tables.

**Columbus Riverwalk:** The Riverwalk is a popular attraction for both local residents and visitors to the area. The Riverwalk features a 4.4-mile walking path that winds from downtown Columbus through trees along the banks of the Tennessee-Tombigbee River. The path begins near the intersection of College Street and First Street South and has new additions connecting the Riverwalk to the soccer complex.

#### Roger Short Soccer Complex:

The downtown soccer complex features 10 soccer fields, football fields, a playground and a bark park for small and large dogs. The soccer complex is located downtown, near the intersection of Third Street and Seventh Avenue.

#### Dewayne Hayes Recreation

**Area:** Located north of Columbus on Columbus Lake, Dewayne Hayes offers camping facilities, hiking trails and more.

**14th Avenue Minipark:** Located on 14th Avenue and 19th Street North, it has an outdoor basketball court and



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Paula R. Atkins, FNP-BC; Celia L. Kidder, FNP-C

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playground.

**Lake Lowndes State Park and Opossum Trail:** This park, located at 3319 Lake Lowndes Road in Columbus, has a 150-acre lake, a campground area with cabins and a 5.6-mile trail. The park also features a gymnasium, meeting rooms, tennis courts, softball fields, disc golf, picnic areas, playground and a covered picnic pavilion. Call (662) 328-2110 for more information.

**Lee Park:** Located just off of Seventh Street North, the park features a playground, picnic tables, a pavilion with a BBQ grill and restrooms. Call (662) 327-4935 for more information.

**Ola J. Pickett Park:** Located at 9500 Wolfe Road in Caledonia, the park features baseball, softball and soccer fields, skate park, walking track, disc golf, a playground, a pavilion, splash pad and restrooms.

**Sandfield Community Center:** Located at 617 Oak St., the area features a community center, a pavilion with picnic tables and a walking track.

**Sim Scott Park:** Located near the intersection of 20th Street North and Eighth Avenue, Sim Scott Park features a splash pad, baseball and softball fields, a picnic area, community hut, playground, walking track and basketball courts.

**Southside Park:** Located near the intersection of Seventh Street and 11th Avenue South, the park features a baseball field, outdoor basketball courts, a playground and a pavilion.

**Townsend Park:** Located near the intersection of Seventh Avenue South and 11th Street, the park features a baseball field, community center, basketball court and playground.

**Lowndes County Sportsplex:** Located on North Frontage Road, the sportsplex features 8 baseball fields, concessions, and a playground.



**OCH Radiology**

Left to right: Ashley Zurweller RT (R)(CT), Mamie Sullivan RT (R), RDMS (AB), Matt Heblon RT (R)(CT), Katie Grace Nanney RT (R), RDMS (AB, OB/GYN)

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# Welcome to STARKVILLE

The area of Mississippi, now known as **OKTIBBEHA COUNTY**, was originally part of land belonging to the Choctaw Indians. It takes its name from a creek in the northern part of the county, which formed a portion of the boundary between the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

Oktibbeha, in the Choctaw language, means “icy water.” It is estimated that in the early 1800s, there were between 1,000 and 1,500 Choctaws living within the county’s present-day boundaries. In 1830, after local Native Americans surrendered their land to white settlers through the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the area’s population grew. Newcomers were attracted to what is now Starkville by two large springs and the favorable lay of the land. Oktibbeha County was formally organized Dec. 23, 1833.

The seat of Oktibbeha County is **STARKVILLE**, the Golden Triangle’s college town. Starkville was originally named Boardtown for the city’s sawmill operations. Officially incorporated in 1837, the town was renamed to honor American Revolution general John Stark. Starkville is home to Mississippi State University, founded in 1878 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State of Mississippi. Mississippi State now boasts an undergraduate enrollment of more than 20,000 students — who, from August through May, nearly double the town population of just 25,000.

In 1875, a fire swept through downtown Starkville and destroyed 52 buildings. However, determined people in the community rebuilt the area, placing the stores further apart than before and widening Main Street by 20 feet, resulting in the present width.

One of the area’s strongest promoters was Col. W.B. Montgomery. Not only did he revolutionize the agricultural base of the area from cotton to dairy farming, he was also instrumental in securing Starkville as the location for what is now Mississippi State in 1878. While MSU developed into a backbone of the local economy, businesses in the area are also suppliers of wood products, clothing, electronics

and industrial cable. The city’s identity is now linked to the university, as many popular local businesses and events take their names from the university’s mascot, the bulldog.

Part of the rapidly growing Golden Triangle area, Starkville and Oktibbeha County have enjoyed impressive growth in the past two decades. Much of that growth has been rooted in technology thanks to an increased research emphasis at MSU. Industry has continued to blossom in the Golden Triangle under the Golden Triangle Development LINK, a main promoter of regional industry. In April 2022, the City of Starkville annexed a portion of Oktibbeha County, growing by 2.3 square miles and approximately 1,600 residents.

Starkville’s Main Street is one of the most recognizable areas in town. In 2023, the Starkville Main Street Association won the Main Street Circle of Excellence award from the Mississippi Main Street Association. Also in 2023, the city started a downtown water and sewer system upgrade project on Main Street, which is intended to lay the groundwork for a complete Main Street redesign project in the future.

Since August of 2020, construction has been ongoing for Cornerstone Park, a \$20-million-plus baseball complex containing three “quads” of 12 baseball fields. The Starkville Parks and Recreation Department hosted a soft-opening for the complex in May of 2023.

In fall 2024, an expected two-year project to revitalize a mile stretch of Highway 182 – between Long Street and Old West Point Road – to make it more pedestrian friendly and spur more business development. A Main Street redesign, between City Hall and Jackson Street, is slated to begin in late summer 2025.

OCH Regional Medical Center, which opened in the 1970s as a county-owned hospital, is in negotiations to be sold to Baptist Memorial Healthcare. The deal is expected to be finalized by the end of 2025.



## THE FACTS

**County:** Oktibbeha

**County seat:** Starkville

**Population:** The U.S. Census of 2020 estimated a county population of 51,788 and a city population of 24,360. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 census, the population was 23,888 in the city and 47,671 in the county. The U.S. census is conducted every 10 years. In 2023, the U.S. Census estimated a city population of 25,444 and a county population of 51,203.

**Government:** City – mayor and seven-member board of aldermen; County – five-member board of supervisors

**Altitude:** 335 feet above sea level

**Area:** 27.92 square miles (city); 459.6 square

miles (county)

**Assessed valuation:** City – \$349 million; County – \$546 million

**Public Safety:** Firefighters – 51 in Starkville, 150 volunteer firefighters in the county; Police officers – 72 in Starkville; Sheriff's deputies – 35 deputies

**Climate:** On average, January is the coolest month and July is the warmest. January daily average temperatures: high of 54 degrees, low of 36 degrees; July daily average temperatures: high of 91 degrees, low of 72 degrees.

**Major highways:** U.S. Highway 82; state highways 12, 25, 182 and 383



Lynn Spruill  
Mayor



Kim Moreland  
Alderswoman, Ward 1



Sandra Sistrunk  
Alderswoman, Ward 2



James Kyle Skinner  
Alderman, Ward 3



Mike Brooks  
Alderman, Ward 4



William Pochop  
Alderman, Ward 5

## CITY OFFICIALS

A mayor and seven-member board of aldermen govern Starkville. The mayor is elected every four years by a majority vote from city residents. The seven aldermen, who also serve four-year terms, are elected based on votes in predetermined wards of the city. The present mayor and aldermen were elected in 2025. Their terms will expire in 2029. The board meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall boardroom and are open to the public.

### Mayor

**Lynn Spruill**  
(662) 323-2525 ext. 3100  
l.spruill@cityofstarkville.org

### Board of aldermen/women

*Ward 1*  
**Kim Moreland**  
(662) 769-7017  
k.moreland@cityofstarkville.org

*Ward 2*  
**Sandra C. Sistrunk**  
(662) 418-4574  
s.sistrunk@cityofstarkville.org

*Ward 3*  
**James Kyle Skinner**  
(662) 418-7162  
j.skinner@cityofstarkville.org

*Ward 4*  
**Mike Brooks**  
(662) 341-2300  
m.brooks@cityofstarkville.org

*Ward 5*  
**William Pochop**  
(662) 617-7662  
w.pochop@cityofstarkville.org

*Ward 6*  
**Roy A. Perkins**  
(662) 324-7300  
royaperkins@hotmail.com

*Ward 7*  
**Henry N. Vaughn, Sr.**  
(662) 769-5049  
(662) 323-2400  
h.vaughn@cityofstarkville.org

**Chief of Police**  
**Mark Ballard**  
(662) 323-4131  
mballard@cityofstarkville.org

**Fire Chief**  
**Dewayne Davis**  
(662) 323-1845  
d.davis@cityofstarkville.org

**City Clerk**  
**Lesa Hardin**  
(662) 323-2525 ext. 3117  
l.hardin@cityofstarkville.org

**City Attorney**  
**Berk Huskison**  
(662) 328-2317

**City Prosecuting Attorney**  
**Caroline Moore**  
(325) 396-3670

**City Judge**  
**J. Brian Kelley**  
(662) 324-3476

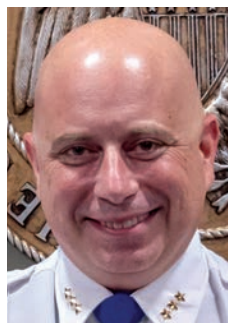
**Court Clerk**  
**Monica Lairy**  
(662) 323-2525 ext. 3115



Roy A. Perkins  
Alderman, Ward 6



Henry Vaughn, Sr.  
Alderman, Ward 7



Mark Ballard  
Chief of Police



Dewayne Davis  
Fire Chief

City Hall is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday and is located at  
110 West Main St.



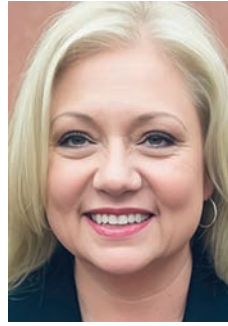
Ben Carver  
Supervisor, District 1



Orlando Trainer  
Supervisor, District 2



Marvell Howard  
Supervisor, District 3



Pattie Little  
Supervisor, District 4



Joe Williams  
Supervisor, District 5



Shank Phelps  
Sheriff

## COUNTY OFFICIALS

A five-member Board of Supervisors governs the five districts of Oktibbeha County. Supervisors hold office for four-year terms. The last election was held in 2023. The current board will serve through December 2027.

### Board of Supervisors

#### District 1

**Ben Carver**  
(662) 418-1614  
bcarver@gtpdd.com

#### District 2

**Orlando Trainer**  
(662) 769-0071  
otrainer@gtpdd.com

#### District 3

**Marvell Howard, (board president)**  
(662) 769-0072  
mhoward@gtpdd.com

#### District 4

**Pattie Little**  
(662) 295-2009

#### District 5

**Joe Williams, (board vice-president)**  
(662) 418-2386  
jwilliams@gtpdd.com

### Sheriff

**Shank Phelps**  
(662) 323-2421  
sphelps@sheriff.oktibbeha.ms.us

### Fire Services Coordinator

**Patrick Warner**  
Oktibbeha County Courthouse Annex  
(662) 323-1356

### Superintendent of Education

**Dr. Tony McGee**  
(662) 324-4050  
tmcgee@starkvillesd.com

### County Board Attorney

**Loyd "Rob" Roberson**  
(662) 324-3810

### Justice Court Judges

*District 1*  
**William "Tony" Boykin, Jr.**  
(662) 338-1061

#### District 2

**Larnzy Carpenter, Jr.**  
(662) 338-1062

#### District 3

**Charles "Marty" Haug**  
(662) 338-1063

### Constables

*District 1*  
**Kenny Watkins**  
(662) 323-4134

#### District 2

**Curtis D. Randle**  
(662) 418-2877

#### District 3

**James Lindsey**  
(662) 465-7507

### Justice Court Clerk

**Sholanda Sykes**  
(662) 338-1060

### County Prosecutor

**Haley M. Brown**  
(662) 546-0861  
brownhm@gmail.com

### Chancery Clerk

**Sharon Livingston**  
(662) 323-5834  
slivingston@gtpdd.com

### County Administrator

**Delois Farmer**  
(662) 323-1520  
dfarmer@gtpdd.com

### Circuit Clerk

**Tony M. Rook**  
(662) 323-1356  
trook@oktcircuitcourt.org

### Tax Assessor/Collector

**JoHelen Walker**  
(662) 323-1273

### Coroner

**Michael Hunt**  
(662) 323-4320

### Oktibbeha County Extension Office

**Mississippi State University**  
(662) 323-5916  
48 Lynn Lane, Suite D  
Starkville, MS 39759



Patrick Warner  
Fire Services Coordinator



Tony McGee  
Superintendent of Education

The Board of Supervisors meets the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m., unless the first Monday falls on a holiday. In that case the supervisors meet the following Tuesday. Meetings are held in the boardroom on the second floor of the Oktibbeha County Courthouse and are open to the public. Maps of the city and county are available at the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, 200 E. Main St. Call (662) 323-3322.

All emergency services in the county can be reached by dialing 911.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Permits, licenses

Building permits, business permits and privilege licenses may be obtained through the building department or city clerk's office at city hall, depending on the license requested. Visit city hall at 110 W. Main St. or call (662) 323-2525 for more information.

### Postal service

There are a number of post office locations in Starkville and Oktibbeha County:

The Starkville post office at 822 Taylor St. is a full-service facility open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Final collection time Monday through Friday is 5:30 p.m., and final collection time on Saturday is 3 p.m. To contact the branch, call (662) 323-4752.

There is another full-service post office located on the Mississippi State University campus at 414 Lee Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Final collection time on weekdays is 4 p.m., and final collection time on Saturday is 10 a.m. To contact the branch, call (662) 323-5772.

In Oktibbeha County, full-service post offices exist in Maben and Sturgis. The Maben post office, located at 157 Water St., is open 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday. Final collection times are 2:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9:45 a.m. on Saturdays. To contact the branch, call (662) 263-8239. The Sturgis post office, located at 2738 Hwy. 12 W., is open 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Final collection times are 4 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. on Saturdays. To contact the branch, call (662) 465-7506.

### Taxes

**Personal taxes** – State, county and municipal ad valorem taxes, except on motor vehicles, must be paid by Feb. 1 each year. County and city tax millage rates are set prior to Sept. 15 each year and go into effect Oct. 1.

For car tags, tax millage goes into effect Oct. 1.

**Where to pay taxes** – Taxes should be paid at the tax collector's office in the Oktibbeha County Courthouse. For more information, contact the county tax collector at (662) 323-1273.

State income tax is payable to the Mississippi Department of Revenue in early April. Visit [www.dor.ms.gov](http://www.dor.ms.gov) for more information on state tax information. Some payments may be made online.

**Homestead exemption** – Persons moving into Oktibbeha County must have their house purchased by Dec. 31 and deed recorded with the chancery clerk by Jan. 7 to file for homestead exemption that same year. The applicant must have been living in the home on Jan. 1 of the year for which he or she is filing. Homestead exemptions may be filed at the Oktibbeha County Courthouse, 101 E. Main St.

A person filing for homestead exemption for the first time should present the warranty deed for the property, their Oktibbeha County automobile tag number(s), at least one form of identification, social security number(s), the purchase price and down payment amount of the home, and the house deed. For anyone filing because of a disability, they must present the original award letter stating they are 100% disabled and the date he/she became disabled.

For more information, contact the Oktibbeha County tax assessor at (662) 323-1273 or the homestead exemption office at (662) 323-8131 for more information.

### Voter registration

In order to vote in Mississippi a person must reside in the state and be 18 years old on or before Election Day. A person must be registered with the circuit clerk's office at least 30 days prior in order to vote in local, state and national elections.

For more information, contact Oktibbeha County Circuit Clerk Tony Rook at (662) 323-1356. The circuit clerk's office is located in the Oktibbeha County Courthouse Annex, 108 W. Main St., in downtown Starkville.

## UTILITIES

### Refuse collection

**City** – A monthly fee of \$21 is added to residents' utility bills for the regular service. Trash is collected twice a week, on either Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday, depending on a resident's location within the city limits. For more information, call the Sanitation and Environmental Services Department at (662) 323-2652.

**County** – Golden Triangle Solid Waste Services collects garbage for residents of Oktibbeha County. Residents are billed \$13 a month for service through the Golden Triangle Planning and Development Unit. For information about pick-up days for your area, call (662) 327-6660. To establish service contact the Golden Triangle Planning and Development Office at (662) 324-7860.

### Electricity

**City** – To establish service within the city limits, residents should bring a form of identification and a copy of their lease agreement or house deed to the Starkville Utilities Department at 200 N. Lafayette St. The deposit to establish electricity is \$150. Visit [www.starkvilleutilities.com](http://www.starkvilleutilities.com) or call (662) 323-3133 for more information.

**County** – Newcomers who live outside the city limits must apply for membership with 4-County Electric Power Association. Applications may be retrieved from [www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/](http://www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/). The application for service may be completed online; downloaded and mailed to P.O. Box 351, Columbus, MS 39703; or downloaded, scanned, and emailed to [support@4county.org](mailto:support@4county.org). Before sending your completed application, contact 4-County at (800) 431-1544

for important information needed to complete the application.

A \$25 membership fee and a \$25 connection fee are required for residential connection. An additional deposit, based on a credit check, may be required. Same day service may be available if all applicable fees and documentation are received by 4-County by 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact 4-County Electric Power Association's customer call center at (800) 431-1544 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 4-County's Columbus office is located at 5265 S. Frontage Road.

**Gas**

Atmos Energy is the primary gas service provider in the Golden Triangle.

For more information, contact Atmos Energy at (888) 286-6700, or visit the company's website: [www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com).

**Water**

**City** – Residents may set up both electric and water services at the Starkville Utilities Department, 200 N. Lafayette St. The deposit to establish electric and water is \$185, plus a \$25 connection fee. Visit [www.starkvilleutilities.com](http://www.starkvilleutilities.com) or call (662) 323-3133 for more information.

**County** – Rural water users will need to establish service with one of the county's water associations. Deposit amounts may vary based on an association's rates. Hooking up a new meter will cost more than simply connecting service.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**Churches**

More than 150 churches exist in Starkville and Oktibbeha County, representing numerous Protestant denominations, at least one Catholic church and one Mosque.

**Education**

**General information** – Notice of registration dates and times for the upcoming school year are published during the summer by area schools. Kindergarten is available to all students in the city and county at both public and private

institutions. Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to enroll. A birth certificate and record of immunization are required for registration. Contact the school district or school for more information.

The Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District (SOCSD) serves the entire Oktibbeha County area with four elementary schools, one middle school, one junior high school, one high school, and a career and technology center. The Learning Center, also part of SOCSD, provides an alternative school for grades 5-12, an acceleration program and



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a GED program. Emerson Preschool, a fee-based childcare/pre-school program is also part of the district. To contact the district, visit 401 Greensboro St. or call (662) 324-4050.

**Homeschools** – There are three active homeschool groups in the area.

- Starkville Christian Home Educators. For more information visit [www.homeschool-life.com](http://www.homeschool-life.com).

- Starkville Open Homeschool. For more information visit the Starkville Open Homeschool Facebook group.

- Wild and Free, Starkville, MS. For more information visit [www.bewildandfree.org](http://www.bewildandfree.org).

**Private schools** – There are two private schools in the county serving grades K-12:

- Starkville Academy, 505 Academy Road. For more information call (662) 323-7814.

- Starkville Christian School, 303 Lynn Lane. For more information call (662) 323-7453.

**Colleges** – Mississippi State University, located in Starkville, has more than 20,000 undergraduate students. It

is one of the state’s largest universities. The campus has its own post office and ZIP code and provides many opportunities for cultural, intellectual and recreational activities. Call MSU’s Office of University Relations at (662) 325-3442 for more information.

Other colleges in the area include:

- East Mississippi Community College, Golden Triangle Campus, located just 10 miles from Starkville in Mayhew. To reach the school, call (662) 243-1900.

- Mississippi University for Women is located 23 miles east of Starkville in Columbus. To reach the school, call (662) 329-4750.

### Libraries

**The Starkville Public Library** serves as the main branch of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System. The library, located at 326 University Drive, is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To contact the Starkville Public Library, call (662) 323-2766 or email

[starkvillelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:starkvillelibrary@gmail.com).

**The Maben Public Library** is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 4:30 p.m. To contact the branch, call (662) 263-5619.

**The Sturgis Public Library** is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To contact the branch, call (662) 465-7493.

All branch libraries offer a children’s story time. To receive a library card from your local branch, patrons must present proof of their local address. A parent or guardian must accompany patrons 5-17 years old. Library cards are free for county residents. If you live outside Oktibbeha County, the fee is \$10.

### Media

**The Starkville Dispatch:** Call (662) 328-2424 for subscription information. Printed five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit [www.cdispatch.com](http://www.cdispatch.com) for news and more information.



Daniel Hall holds Nox the spectacled owl at the Starkville Public Library.

**Starkville Daily News:** Call (662) 323-1642 for subscription information. Printed six days a week. The news office is located at 304 E. Lampkin St. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [www.starkvilledailynews.com](http://www.starkvilledailynews.com) for news and more information.

Television stations serving the area are WOBV, Channel 5, an independent station licensed to Starkville; WCBI of Columbus, Channel 4 (CBS, FOX and MyNetworkTV affiliate); WTVA of Tupelo, Channel 9 (NBC and ABC affiliate); and WLOV of Tupelo, Channel 27 (CW+ affiliate).

### Hospital

Oktober County Hospital Regional Medical Center, 400 Hospital Road, Starkville; (662) 323-4320

### Airports

• Golden Triangle Regional Airport – 2080 Airport Road, Columbus; (662) 327-4422

• George M. Bryan Airport – 120 Airport Road, Starkville; (662) 615-1848

### Accommodations Bed & breakfasts

**Montgomery B & B** – 607 Old West Point Road, Starkville; (662) 617-8068

### Cabins, camping

**Indian Mound Campground Resort** – 833 Frye Road, Starkville; (662) 312-0387

**Starkville KOA Holiday** – 2661 County Lake Road, Starkville; (662) 324-0607

**No Curfew Campground** – Maben Road, Sturgis; (662) 418-6118

**Starkville Cabin Rentals** – 1407 Frye Road, Starkville; (662) 312-0387

## ANNUAL EVENTS

**International Fiesta:** This festival, held the first Saturday of April each year, celebrates the diverse mix of cultures represented in the community. The festival features food, music and dancing. The event is sponsored by the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center at Mississippi State and is open to the public. Call (662) 325-2033 for more information.

**Cotton District Arts Festival:** This free festival is always held the same weekend in April as MSU's Super Bulldog Weekend. The Cotton District Arts Festival, put on by the Starkville Area Arts Council, features live music and arts and craft vendors. Contact the arts council at (662) 324-3080 for more information.

# Make your giving go farther for MSU.

There is no better time to consider Mississippi State University in your yearly charitable giving plans. Annual gifts benefit MSU immediately; however, by adding a planned gift, such as including us in your will, you can:

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- *Receive greater tax savings.*
- *Preserve wealth for you and your family.*
- *Leave your legacy for Mississippi State's future.*

For more information on creating a planned gift, contact the MSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning.

**Wes Gordon, Director of Gift Planning**  
(662) 325-3707 | [wgordon@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:wgordon@foundation.msstate.edu)

**Kevin Randall, Assistant Director of Gift Planning**  
(662) 325-2466 | [krandall@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:krandall@foundation.msstate.edu)



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**Super Bulldog Weekend:** Mississippi State University hosts this annual spring homecoming. The weekend features a lineup of sporting events, including MSU's spring football scrimmage, an SEC baseball game and more. The scrimmage game is free, but other events may require a ticket. Contact the MSU ticket office at (662) 325-2600 for information.

**Souperbowl:** This event is a soup tasting contest put on by the Greater Starkville Development Partnership. Chefs from local restaurants prepare the soup for a chance to win a "Best Soup" award. The event takes place in January each year in downtown Starkville. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

**JAZZ in the PARK:** In June, Starkville celebrates Juneteenth with Jazz music, spoken word and food. For more information contact Nichols Consulting at (662) 418-9259.

**Unwine:** This event, which happens in spring, summer, and fall, allows locals to shop in downtown Starkville with discounts and wine tasting while they browse. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

**Starkville Derby:** World's largest charity wiener dog race benefits Oktibbeha County Humane Society each May.

**King Cotton Crawfish Boil:** Locals compete in this crawfish-cooking contest to be the best area crawfish boiler. The event is held in May each year in Starkville's Cotton District. For more information, or to sign up, contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322.

**Downtown at Sundown:** This is a free summer concert series held at Fire Station Park and sponsored by the Greater Starkville Development Partnership. Concerts take place May through August on the third Thursday of each month. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

**Independence Day Celebration:** This annual celebration takes place on July 4 each year at Cornerstone Park. Festivities include music, food vendors and a fireworks show. Contact the Starkville Parks and Recreation Department at (662) 323-2294 for more information.

**Get Swept Up:** This is an annual citywide service day, during which residents spend time cleaning up the city. It is held each year on the Wednesday before Mississippi State's

first home football game in August.

**"Little Sturgis" Motorcycle Rally:** This family-friendly event, held the third weekend in August each year, draws motorcyclists from across the country for a bike show. The event features games for children and contests. For more information, contact Donnie Hanson at (662) 341-0115.

**New South Weekends:** August through November, the Greater Starkville Development Partnership puts on New South Weekends, featuring a variety of events during those four months. Events include Starkville's Night Market, Unwine, Pumpkinpalooza, a citywide tailgate and Starkville's Christmas open house. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

**Bulldog Bash:** This free event, held each fall, features a free outdoor concert at Mississippi State. Bulldog Bash is typically held the Friday before an SEC home football game. MSU's Student Association organizes the event.

**Pumpkinpalooza:** Held at the end of October, this weekend-long festival includes trick-or-treating down Main Street, a pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting and more. Pumpkinpalooza is part of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership's New South Weekends. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

**Policeman's Charity Ball:** Each fall the Starkville Police Department hosts this semi-formal event, from which proceeds are donated to a local organization. Past organizations have included the Mississippi Special Olympics and the T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disabilities. Contact SPD at (662) 323-4134 for more information.

**Starkville Christmas Parade:** Kick off your holiday festivities by joining the Starkville community on Main Street for the city's annual Christmas Parade. The parade is held the Monday after Thanksgiving and features floats, music and walking groups. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

**Holiday Bazaar:** This is an event held at The Mill in Starkville on the Wednesday and Thursday following Thanksgiving. It includes shopping promotions and arts and craft vendors. Contact the Greater Starkville Development Partnership at (662) 323-3322 for more information.

## ATTRACTIONS

### Around town

**Greensboro Historic District:** Starkville's Greensboro Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Anyone is welcome to drive through the district to view some of the 30 Victorian homes on display.

**Mississippi Horse Park:** This 100-acre facility, at 869 E. Poorhouse Road in Oktibbeha County, hosts regular events, including rodeos, motocross, barrel racing and livestock shows. Call the park at (662) 325-9350 for more information or to inquire about upcoming events.

**Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum:** The museum highlights local artifacts and people that find their stories intertwined with that of Oktibbeha County's. It has both permanent and rotating exhibits. Hours are Tuesdays, Wednes-

days and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Call (662) 323-0211 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

**Starkville Community Theater:** The community theater hosts productions year-round. Call (662) 323-6855 or visit [www.sct-online.org](http://www.sct-online.org) for more information.

### At Mississippi State

**Chapel of Memories:** Built in the early 1960s from the brick of Old Main Dormitory – the first building on Mississippi State's campus – the chapel was dedicated in 1965. It is often the site of weddings and other student gatherings. The chapel's tower features 183 bells, which can be heard across campus.

**Lee Hall:** Named for Stephen D. Lee, the first president of MSU, Lee Hall was built in 1909 as an academic and administration building and chapel. It has been designated as a Mississippi Landmark.

**Mitchell Memorial Library:** The library underwent a multi-million dollar renovation, which established a Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library Gallery and a Frank and Virginia Williams civil war collection. The library houses volumes, including manuscripts, maps and four special collections.

**Templeton Music Museum:** The museum, located on the fourth floor of the Mitchell Memorial Library, tells a story about the business of music. Starkville businessman Charles H. Templeton Sr. donated the collection to MSU in 1987. Museum hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule a tour call (662) 325-6634.

**MAFES Sales Store:** The store sells many products, including cheese, ice cream, jams/jellies and meat that are produced on the MSU campus by



Isaiah McBride, 11, winds up to throw a water balloon during a water fight at J.L. King Park in Starkville.

students, faculty and staff. Visit [msucheseese.com](http://msucheseese.com) for more information.

**MSU Art Gallery:** The MSU

Art Gallery, located in McComas Hall, features monthly exhibits by students, faculty and guest artists. Call (662)



## INVESTING IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

The Steel Dynamics family of companies has invested almost \$3 billion into developing plants in the Golden Triangle. By 2026, Steel Dynamics, Inc., Aluminum Dynamics and SDI Biocarbon Solutions will be providing 1,700 individuals with high paying jobs. In addition, our company supports what's important to our employees - local schools and charities. Last year, we were able to contribute to over 30 various schools, universities and charitable organizations. As we grow in the future, we will continue to place the utmost value on safety, sustainability and service to our community.

325-2970 for more information.

### In the area

**Pearl River Resort:** This resort features nightly live entertainment, fine restaurants, more than 500 hotel rooms and more at two casinos: The Silver Star Hotel and Casino and The Golden Moon Hotel and Casino. Located on Highway 16 West near Philadelphia. Call (866) 447-3275 for more information.

**Ole Country Bakery:** When you visit this traditional Mennonite bakery in Brooksville, you'll fall in love with a variety of special treats from pastries to Po'boy sandwiches. Hours are Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (662) 738-5795.

### Local parks

**Starkville Sportsplex:** A multi-purpose facility that includes four youth softball fields, four adult softball fields, seven soccer fields, and three concession stands. The sportsplex is located at 405 Lynn Lane.

**George Evans Park:** The park offers basketball courts and playground

equipment and is located at 610 E. Gillespie St.

**J. L. King Senior Memorial Park:** The park offers two multi-purpose fields, two basketball courts, two tennis courts and a splash pad. It is located at 400 N. Long St.

**Josey Park:** This community park, located on Josey Avenue, offers playground equipment, a concrete court and Starkville's Community Garden.

**McKee Park:** The park, located on Lynn Lane, has six youth baseball fields, four tennis courts, playground equipment, a musical trail and one basketball court.

**Moncrief Park:** This Starkville park, located on North Jackson Street, offers playground equipment, an inline hockey court, a pavilion, a public swimming pool and Starkville's Dog Park.

**Patriots Park:** The park has a pavilion and playground equipment and is located on Whitfield Street in Starkville.

**Cornerstone Park:** The park, located off Highway 25, has 12 tournament-caliber baseball/softball fields, a playground and a walking track.



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# Welcome to West Point

**CLAY COUNTY** was organized May 12, 1871. The county was created from parts of Chickasaw, Lowndes, Monroe as well as Oktibbeha counties and originally named Colfax County after Schuyler Colfax, vice-president under Ulysses S. Grant. In 1876, the Mississippi legislature changed the name to Clay County to honor American statesman Henry Clay, secretary of state under John Quincy Adams.

**WEST POINT** holds the Clay County seat, though several smaller communities are present — including Cedar Bluff, Pheba, Montpelier, Abbott, Griffith and Siloam. The Tombigbee River borders Clay County to the east and nearby railways and major highways offer extensive transportation for budding industry. As the northern-most of three towns constituting the Golden Triangle and just 50 miles south of Tupelo, Clay County residents enjoy easy access to nearby universities, airports, industries and leisure and recreational activities.

Located eight miles north of Highway 82 on Highway 45 Alternate, West Point is a small town with budding Southern charm.

As the birthplace of renowned Blues musician Howlin' Wolf — an inductee into both the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame — West Point holds a rich and lively cultural scene. Boasting murals throughout the town to its annual Prairie Arts Festival, it's a certified Main Street Community and was one of the first members of the Mississippi Main Street Association.

Like nearby Columbus, West Point lays claim

to having Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto come close to what is now the modern-day city during an expedition in 1541. De Soto brought new breeds of horses and hogs with him and in doing so helped establish what would become a major part of the local economy — swine farming.

Officially incorporated in 1858, West Point boasts a unique and elegant example of antebellum architecture — Waverly Mansion. The octagonal mansion, built by Col. George Hampton Young, is a registered historic landmark and was previously open for tours. It has been sold and is undergoing extensive renovations.

The city's defining moment came in 1909 when J.C. Bryan Sr. began selling pork products out of a West Point storefront. Although the Bryans sold the business to Sara Lee Food and Beverage Corp. in 1968, Bryan brand foods were produced in West Point until March 2007 when Sara Lee shut the plant down and laid off more than 1,200 employees.

Under the direction of the Golden Triangle Development LINK, West Point and Clay County have witnessed the expansion of a number of local manufacturing businesses, including Navistar, Plum Creek Environmental, Ellis Steel and Royal Trucking.

It is also home to Yokohama Tire and Peco Foods plants. It is also home to Mossy Oak, a camouflage and outdoor lifestyle company. Origis Energy has built one 200-megawatt solar farm in Clay County and is planning another that is under environmental review.



## THE FACTS

**County seat:** West Point

**Population:** The U.S. Census of 2020 estimated a county population of 18,636 and a city population of 10,105. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 census, the population was 11,307 in the city and 20,634 in the county. The U.S. census is conducted every 10 years. In 2023, the U.S. Census estimated a city population of 9,770 and a county population of 18,206.

**Government:** City – mayor and board of five selectmen; County — five-member board of supervisors

**Altitude:** 223 feet above sea level

**Area:** 21.13 square miles (city); 416 square miles (county)

**Assessed valuation:** Clay County total – \$256,968,204

**Public safety:** Firefighters – 21 firefighters in the city, 72 volunteer firefighters for the county; Police officers – 30; Sheriff's deputies – 23

**Climate:** On average, January is the coolest month and July is the warmest. January daily average temperatures: high of 54 degrees, low of 36 degrees; July daily average temperatures: high of 91 degrees, low of 72 degrees.

**Major highways running through the county:** U.S. 45 Alternate; Highway 50



Rod Bobo  
Mayor

## CITY OFFICIALS

A mayor and board of five selectmen govern West Point. The mayor is elected every four years by a majority vote from city citizens. The five selectmen are elected based on voters in predetermined wards of the city. The current mayor and selectmen were elected in 2025. Their terms will expire in 2029. The board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month and meetings are open to the public. City Hall is located at 580 Commerce St. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call (662) 494-2573.

Maps of the city and county are available at the chancery clerk's office.

### Mayor

**Rod Bobo**  
(662) 494-2973 (office)  
rbobo@wpnet.org

### Board of selectmen/ women

*Ward 1*  
**Terell Harris**  
(662) 275-3666  
terellharris@wpnet.org

*Ward 2*  
**William Binder**  
(662) 295-9103  
wbinder@wpnet.org

*Ward 3*  
**Ken Poole**  
(662) 295-9125  
kenpoole7@comcast.net

*Ward 4*  
**Keith McBrayer**  
(662) 295-0637  
mcbayer@wpms.net

*Ward 5*  
**Cole Bryan**  
(662) 701-9852  
cole@dreamcenterms.org

### Interim Chief of Police

**Michael Edwards**  
(662) 494-1244

### Fire Chief

**Ken Wilbourne**  
(662) 494-2105  
kwilbourne@wpnet.org

**City Attorney**  
**Orlando Richmond, Sr.**  
(601) 985-4543

### City Judges

**Bennie L. Jones, Jr.**  
(662) 494-1024

**Mark Cliett**  
(662) 494-4999

**City Prosecutor**  
**Robin Brown**  
662-854-1240 (work)

## COUNTY OFFICIALS

The responsibility for administering the duties of county government falls to the Clay County Board of Supervisors. The county is divided into five districts, each overseen by an elected county supervisor. Supervisors serve four-year terms. The current board of supervisors were elected in 2023 and their terms will expire in 2027. Board meetings are open to the public and held at the Clay County Courthouse, located at 365 Court St., the first Monday, first Thursday and the fourth Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. The board may choose to set additional nightly meetings. For more information call (662) 494-3124.

### Board of Supervisors

*District 1*  
**Lynn "Don" Horton**  
(662) 494-6851 (barn)  
(662) 494-3313 (office)  
(662) 494-0719 (home)  
(662) 295-2323 (cell)  
lhorton@claycounty.ms.gov

*District 2*  
**Daryl Thomas**  
(662) 494-5442 (barn)  
(662) 494-3313 (office)  
(662) 295-1298 (cell)  
dthomas@claycounty.ms.gov

*District 3*  
**R.B. Davis, (board president)**  
662) 494-3580 (barn)  
(662) 494-3313 (office)  
(662) 494-6084 (home)  
(662) 295-1874 (cell)  
rbdavis@claycounty.ms.gov

*District 4*  
**Melvin Raines**  
(662) 494-7884 (barn)  
(662) 494-3313 (office)  
(662) 295-3394 (cell)

*District 5*  
**Joe D. Chandler**  
(662) 494-4942 (barn)  
(662) 494-3313 (office)  
(662) 295-3240 (cell)  
jchandler@claycounty.ms.gov

**Board Secretary**  
**Ann Wilkerson**  
(662) 494-3313  
ncude@claycounty.ms.gov

**Sheriff**  
**Eddie Scott**  
Clay County Sheriff's  
Department  
(662) 494-2896

**Board Attorney**  
**Angela Turner-Ford**  
angela@bturnerlaw.com

**Justice Court Judges**  
**Thomas Hampton and**  
**Chris McBrayer**  
(662) 494-6140

**Constables**  
*District 1*  
**Sherman Ivy**

*District 2*  
**Albert Lee**

**Chancery Clerk**  
**LeFrance H. Boyd**  
(662) 494-3124  
lboyd@claycounty.ms.gov

**Circuit Clerk**  
**Kim Brown Hood**  
(662) 494-3384  
khood@claycounty.ms.gov

**Tax Assessor and**  
**Collector**  
**Porsha Lee**  
(662) 494-3432  
(662) 494-2724  
plee@claycounty.ms.gov

**Coroner**  
**Alvin Carter**  
(662) 492-4455

**County Prosecutor**  
**Robin Brown**  
(662) 494-3389

All emergency services in the county may be reached by dialing 911.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Permits, licenses

**Building permits** – Building permits may be obtained at the building inspector's office at 335 Washington St. Call (662) 494-6601.

**Privilege licenses** – Privilege licenses, or business permits, may be obtained at city hall: 580 Commerce St. Call (662) 494-2573.

### Postal service

West Point has a full service post office at 376 Commerce St. Retail hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The last pickup of the day is 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 3 p.m. on Saturday. Call (662) 494-3303.

Stamps may be purchased at Walmart located at 5509 Highway 45 Alt. S.

Cedar Bluff and Pheba each have a full service post office. Retail hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

15363 Highway 50, Cedar Bluff, (662) 494-2458  
101 N. Beasley Road, Pheba; (662) 494-6713

### Taxes

**Personal taxes** – State, county and municipal ad valorem taxes, except on motor vehicles, must be paid by Feb. 1 each year, as they become delinquent thereafter. According to statute, county and city tax millage rates are set by the board of supervisors and must be determined by Sept. 15 each year. For more information contact Delores Doss, West Point's city clerk, at city hall or via email at ddoss@wpnet.org.

**Where to pay taxes** – Municipal and city ad valorem taxes are to be paid at West Point City Hall: 580 Commerce St., (662) 494-2573. County taxes and state ad valorem taxes are payable at the Clay County Courthouse: 365 Court St.,

(662) 494-3124.

State income tax is payable to the Mississippi Department of Revenue in early April. Visit [www.dor.ms.gov](http://www.dor.ms.gov) for more information on state tax information. Some payments may be made online.

**Homestead exemption** – City and county applications for homestead exemption on property should be filed each year no later than April 1 at the county tax office, 365 Court St. in West Point. A person filing for homestead exemption for the first time should present the warranty deed for the property, their Clay County automobile tag number(s), at least one form of identification, social security number(s), the purchase price and down payment amount of the home, and the house deed. For anyone filing because of a disability, they must present the original award letter stating they are 100% disabled and the date he/she became disabled.

Any applicant must have been living in the home on Jan. 1 of the year for which he or she is filing. The home must have been purchased by Dec. 31 of the previous year and recorded no later than Jan. 7.

For more information, contact Clay County Tax Assessor Porsha Lee at (662) 494-3432.

### Voter registration

In order to vote in Mississippi, a person must be a citizen of the United States, reside in the state, and be 18 years of age on or before the election date. To register, visit the Circuit Clerk's office in the Clay County Courthouse, located at 365 Court St., West Point. A person must be registered at least 30 days prior to vote in municipal, county, state and national elections.

For more information, contact Clay County Circuit Clerk's office at (662) 494-3384.

## UTILITIES

### Refuse collection

**City** – Within the city limits, garbage is collected weekly. The monthly fee for residents is \$15.50. West Point also has a city recycling program. For more information on city refuse collection call Public Works Director Chris Cox at (662) 494-3513.

**County** – The Clay County Board of Supervisors is in charge of the county's garbage collection services. Trash is collected weekly by district. The monthly fee is \$13. For information on the schedule for your area, contact your county supervisor. Golden Triangle PDD for billing (800) 217-6909.

The White Goods Collection site may be used by Clay County residents to dispose of mattresses, appliances and other household items. However, no household garbage is allowed to be disposed of at the site. The site is located on Highway 47 near Lake Grove Road and is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Electricity

**City** – Within the city limits, newcomers, whether renting or owning, must present two forms of identification to the West Point Water and Light Department's administrative office at 644 Broad St. to establish services. One form of identification must include a recent photo. Acceptable second forms of identification include social security cards, passports, voter registration cards, and birth certificates.

Deposits will vary for renters and homeowners, according to usage. Renters must present a lease agreement. For further information on billing and services, contact the West Point Water and Light Department at (662) 494-1432.

**County** – Those moving to Clay County will have to apply for membership with 4-County Electric Power Association. Applications may be retrieved from [www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/](http://www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/). The application for service may be completed online; downloaded and mailed to P.O. Box 351, Columbus, MS 39703; or downloaded, scanned, and

emailed to support@4county.org. Before sending your completed application, contact 4-County at (800) 431-1544 for important information needed to complete the application.

A \$25 membership fee and a \$25 connection fee are required for residential connection. An additional deposit, based on a credit check, may be required. Same day service may be available if all applicable fees and documentation are received by 4-County by 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact 4-County Electric Power Association's customer call center at (800) 431-1544 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 4-County has two office locations: 5265 S. Frontage Road, Columbus, MS 39701 and 9776 Highway 25 S., Starkville, MS 39759.

## Gas

Atmos Energy is the primary gas service provider in the Golden Triangle.

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## Churches

West Point is home to more than 70 churches, ranging in denomination from Baptist to Catholic to Methodist as well as Presbyterian and many more.

## Education

**General information** – Registration is held each summer for the year's fall term. Notice of registration is published prior to that time. Contact schools directly for exact registration dates.

Kindergarten in West Point is available to all students in both public and private schools. Those entering kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1. A birth certificate, a Social Security card and a record of immunization are required for registration.

**Public schools** – The West Point Consolidated School District serves Clay County. There are four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school and a career and technology center. The West Point Learning Center (grades 5-12) provides alternative education. The district's superintendent is Mr. Jermaine Taylor. To contact the school district, call (662) 494-4242 or visit 359 Commerce St., West Point. Website: [www.westpoint.k12.ms.us](http://www.westpoint.k12.ms.us)

**Parochial schools** – Hebron Christian School (pre-K-12): 5100 Henryville Road, Pheba; (662) 494-7513; [www.hebronchristianschool.com](http://www.hebronchristianschool.com)

**Private schools** – Oak Hill Academy (pre-K-12): 1682 N. Eshman Ave., West Point; (662) 494-5043; [www.oakhillacademy.net](http://www.oakhillacademy.net)

## Colleges

- East Mississippi Community College, Golden Triangle Campus, is located 10 miles south of West Point.
- Mississippi University for Women is 21 miles east in Columbus.
- Mississippi State University is 18 miles southwest in Starkville.

For more information, contact Atmos Energy at (888) 286-6700, or visit the company's website: [www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com).

## Water

**County** – The West Point Water and Light Department handles water service to the majority of county residents. For a few hundred residents not under city authority, the Golden Triangle Water Association provides water services.

Rural residents setting up service with Golden Triangle Water Association must present their driver's license, proof of residency, and rent or lease agreement (if applicable) to the association's office at 438 Mayhew Road, Mayhew. The deposit for service is \$150 for homeowners and \$250 for renters. Although, the fees may change after the publication of this information. For more information contact the Golden Triangle Water Association at (662) 327-3008.

## Library

The Bryan Public Library is located at 436 Commerce St. The library serves as the headquarters for the Tombigbee Regional Library System, which encompasses three counties in Northeast Mississippi and includes eight branches.

Special services provided by Bryan Public Library include an adult literacy program, an inter-library loan service, summer reading programs for youth, and a children's story time year-round.

The library's hours are Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the library at (662) 494-4872 for more information.

## Media

**The Commercial Dispatch:** 516 Main St., Columbus; Business hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (662) 328-2424 for subscription information. Printed Tuesday through Saturday.

**The Daily Times Leader:** 304 East Lampkin St., Starkville; Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (662) 323-1642 for subscription information. Printed Wednesday and Saturday.

Television stations serving the area include WLOV (CW+ affiliate) of Tupelo; WCBI (CBS, Fox and MyNetworkTV affiliate) of Columbus; and WTVA (NBC and ABC affiliate) of Tupelo.

## Hospital

North Mississippi Medical Center–West Point is located at 835 Medical Center Drive. (662) 495-2300

## Airports

McCharen Field, local airport with the capabilities to support corporate jet aircrafts and small private and sport planes.

Golden Triangle Regional Airport, the third largest airport in the state, is just a 15-minute drive from West Point. This commercial airport offers eastbound Delta flights and

westbound American Airlines flights.

## Accommodations

### Camping, cabins

**Bryan Lodge** – 3990 Old Vinton Road, West Point; (662) 494-5858

**Town Creek Campground** – 10694 Witherspoon Road, West Point; (662) 494-4885

**The Oaks RV Park** – 580 Barton Ferry Road, West Point; (662) 275-0148

**Pine Acres RV Park** – 4877 Old Vinton Road, West Point; (662) 574-8836

**Sallee Manor** – 26917 E. Main St., West Point; (662) 275-0279

## ANNUAL EVENTS

**Prairie Arts Festival:** The Saturday before Labor Day each year, more than 300 area artists, craftsmen, and vendors participate in the Prairie Arts Festival, held in West Point's historic downtown. Admission is free. A 5K run is held in conjunction with the festival, and live music fills the streets for what has been called "one of the top 10 events in the South" by the Southeast Tourism Society. For more information on this year's event visit [prairieartsfestival.org](http://prairieartsfestival.org).

**Black Prairie Blues Festival:** Formerly the "Howlin' Wolf Blues Festival," the Black Prairie Blues Festival is held each year on the Friday before the Prairie Arts Festival. This event honors blues legend Howlin' Wolf, a West Point native, and other musicians who have contributed to the area's renowned music and cultural scenes.

**West Point Farmers Market:** Each year from June 2 through July 28 local farmers, craftsmen and bakers sell pro-

duce and other handmade goods at the Mossy Oak Pavilion in West Point. The farmers market is held on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Makin' Hay Day:** This traditional fall farmers market is held each year on the first or second Saturday of October and features live music, a hay ride, pumpkin vendors and fall activities for the whole family.

**Boo Parade:** Costumes and candy for kids and fun for the whole family. Always on Halloween.

**Christmas Parade:** Usually held in early December, the parade runs through historic downtown West Point. Participating floats have the opportunity to be judged for cash prizes.

For more information on events in the West Point area, contact the West Point Growth Alliance at (662) 494-5121 or email [info@westpointms.org](mailto:info@westpointms.org).



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## ATTRACTIONS

**Howlin' Wolf Blues Museum:** 57 E. Westbrook St., (662) 295-8361. The Howlin' Wolf Blues Museum features memorabilia and information honoring Howlin' Wolf and the many other musicians from the Black Prairie Region. Hours: By appointment only.

**Sam Wilhite Transportation Museum:** 5 Depot Drive (662) 494-8910. The Sam Wilhite Transportation Museum features exhibits about the important transportation system in the West Point area, offering an authentic look back in time tracing the vision and progress of forefathers over a 200 year period.

**Waverly Plantation Mansion:** 1852 Waverly Mansion Road, (662) 494-1399. Waverly Mansion is a renovated antebellum home with unique architecture, including an octagonal shaped cupola and self-supporting curved stairways, which has been renovated. It has been sold and is undergoing extensive renovations.

**West Point-Clay County Arts Council:** P.O. Box 105, (662) 494-5678

**Old Waverly:** Named "Mississippi's #1 Golf Course" and one of "America's Top 100 Courses," 1 Magnolia Drive, (662) 494-6463

**Mossy Oak Golf Course:** 1 Mossy Oak Drive, (662) 524-1000

**Prairie Wildlife Preserve:** Provides outdoor and wild-



Students visited the Black Prairie Blues Museum in West Point for art and music projects.

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Ja'Meisha Gibson and her dog Summer D'yor attend Prairie Arts Festival in West Point.

life experiences on a nearly 6,000-acre property in the heart of Mississippi's black belt region. Guests can enjoy quail hunting, white-tailed deer hunting, rabbit and dove hunting, bird watching and horseback riding. 4225-B. Bryan Drive, (662) 494-1235

**West Point Country Club:** 1145 Lakeshore Drive, West Point, (662) 494-3535

**West Point Hall of Fame Museum:** Located at 580 Commerce St. (upstairs in city hall)

### Local parks

**Town Creek Recreation Area:** Offers 100 campsites, is equipped for recreational vehicles, and has a wash-room facility. The campground area has a multi-use shelter, a bike trail, hiking trails, two children's play lots and two multi-use play courts.

**Sally Kate Winters Memorial Park:** Located at 731 E. Broad St., this park features fountains, an old-fashioned bandstand for special events, a playground for children, a gazebo, and an "Arbor of Memories," made with bricks purchased in memory of loved ones.

**Jesse Harmon Sports Complex:** Located at 307 Mac Cox Road, features a splash pad, and is home to baseball and soccer fields.

**Marshall Park:** Located at 120 Wood St., this park offers a disc golf course, a half-mile walking path, tennis courts, picnic areas, covered verandas, a skateboarding park and a playground.

**Zuber Park:** Located at 6470 Highway 45 Alt., this park offers tennis courts, basketball courts and walking paths.

**Kid Town:** Located at 283 East St., this park offers a playground in the center of historic downtown and is designed for young children. It offers ideal spaces to host birthday parties and picnics.

**Kitty Bryan Dill Memorial Parkway:** Located at 186 E. Westbrook St., features a 3.75-mile recreational walkway running through town. The pathway replaced railroad tracks that formerly ran through the city and is informally known as the "Rails to Trails Parkway."

#### Other area parks include:

- Sportsman Park, 120 Fifth St.
- Half Mile Park, 287 W. Half Mile St.
- Progress Street Park, 275 Progress St.
- West Point Recreation Center, 119 Wood St.
- Bryan Reading Park, 436 Commerce St.

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# Welcome to MACON

**NOXUBEE COUNTY** was one of 26 counties in Mississippi resulting from Indian cession east of the Mississippi River. On Sept. 27, 1830, the United States entered into a treaty, known as the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty, with the Choctaw Indians. The tribe signed the treaty on what is now Noxubee County land. The treaty, through which Choctaws surrendered land to white settlers, was the first removal treaty filed under the Indian Removal Act of 1830. In December 1833, the State Legislature authorized Noxubee as a county.

Today, Noxubee County's three largest communities – Macon, Brooksville and Shuqualak – sit along U.S. Highway 45, which runs north and south through the county.

In the largely rural area, **MACON** serves as the county seat and the center of community life. Macon was founded on Feb. 9, 1833, as “Taladega.” The town’s name was changed to Macon – for Nathaniel Macon, a North Carolina congressman and U.S. speaker of the house – on Aug. 10, 1835.

The Andrew Jackson Military Road crossed

the Noxubee River, which runs near the present town, just west of Macon.

Much of life in Macon revolves around the land, from cattle grazing to catfish farming.

The Mennonite congregations spread across Noxubee represent a substantial part of its population and economy. Though they interact freely with the community, Mennonites maintain a separate and distinct culture. Social life revolves around church; children attend church-run schools.

Mennonite farmers tend large tracts of cotton, corn and soybeans. Catfish farming is another agricultural mainstay.

A new lumber mill, owned by North Carolina-based Huber Engineered Woods, will be constructed on 551 acres north of Shuqualak. The \$418 million project will create 158 jobs and is expected to be up and running by early 2026.

Freddie Poindexter was elected as Macon’s first Black mayor in a June 2025 runoff.



## THE FACTS

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**County:** Noxubee

**County seat:** Macon

**Population:** The U.S. Census of 2020 estimated a county population of 10,285 and a city population of 2,582. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 census, the population was 2,768 in the city and 11,545 in the county. The U.S. census is conducted every 10 years. In 2023, the U.S. Census estimated a city population of 2,455 and a county population of 9,914.

**Government:** City – mayor and board of five aldermen; County – five-member board of supervisors

**Altitude:** 197 feet above sea level

**Area:** 3.85 square miles (city); 700 square miles (county)

**Assessed Valuation:** \$84,396,030

**Public safety:** Firefighters – 29; Police officers – 11; Sheriff deputies – 9

**Climate:** On average, January is the coolest month and July is the warmest. January daily average temperatures: high of 54 degrees, low of 37 degrees; July daily average temperatures: high of 91 degrees, low of 71 degrees.

**Major highways:** U.S. Highway 45



Freddie Poindexter  
Mayor

## CITY OFFICIALS

A mayor and board of aldermen govern Macon. The mayor and aldermen are elected every four years. Current city officials were elected in 2025. Their terms will expire in 2029. Four of the five aldermen are elected based on votes in predetermined wards of the city, while the alderman-at-large is elected based on votes from residents throughout the city. City Hall's hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and may be reached by calling (662) 726-5847. Aldermen meet the first and second Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. in city hall – 339 E. Pulaski St., Macon. Meetings are open to the public.

**Mayor**  
**Freddie Poindexter**  
(662) 726-5847  
mayorpoindexter@cityofmacon.org

**Board of Aldermen/  
Women**  
*Ward 1*  
**Earnest Harmon**

*Ward 2*  
**Patrick Hopkins**  
*Ward 3*  
**Thomas C. Campbell Jr.**

*Ward 4*  
**Dr. Travonder (Von)  
Dixon McCloud**

**Alderman-at-large**  
**Beverly (Tina) Jones  
Hunter**  
(662) 726-5847

**Interim Chief of Police**  
**Andreas Walker**  
Macon Police Dept.  
(662) 726-5838

**Fire Chief**  
**David Estes**  
(662) 726-5847

**City Attorney**  
**Roderick “Ricky” Walker**  
(662) 726-5977

**City Judge**  
**Taylor Tucker**  
(662) 773 9254

## COUNTY OFFICIALS

The responsibility for administering the duties of county government falls to the Noxubee County Board of Supervisors. The county is divided into five districts, each overseen by an elected county supervisor. County elections will be held in November 2027. These officials are elected to four-year terms. Meetings are held on the first floor of the Noxubee County Courthouse – 2832 Jefferson St., Macon, MS 39341 – on the first Monday and Friday of each month. At the Friday meeting, supervisors schedule an additional board meeting for the month. All meetings take place at 9 a.m. and are open to the public. For more information contact the Noxubee County Courthouse at (662) 726-6047.

**Board of Supervisors**  
*District 1*  
**Bryan F. Schimmel**  
(662) 361-8492

*District 2*  
**Landis Mickens, (board  
president)**  
(662) 361-0772

*District 3*  
**LaVelle Patterson Rice**  
(662) 361-0447

*District 4*  
**Christopher Mayberry**  
(662) 889-0535

*District 5*  
**Bruce Brooks**  
(662) 361-9070

**Sheriff**  
**Tommy Roby**  
(601) 749-1228

**Superintendent of  
Education**  
**Dr. Washington Cole**  
(662) 726-4527

**Board Attorney**  
**Christopher Hemphill**  
(662) 327-4211

**Justice Court Judges**  
**Dorothy Stewart and  
Shirley Moore-Blakley**

**County Prosecuting  
Attorney**  
**Tina Holcombe Ferrell**

**Constables**  
**Frank Draper and  
Derone Moseley**  
(662) 726-5834

**Chancery Clerk**  
**Gwendolyn Graham**  
(662) 726- 4243

**Circuit Clerk**  
**Freda Phillips**  
(662) 726-5737  
noxctycircuitcourtkfrefre-  
dap@gmail.com

**Tax Assessor and  
Collector**  
**Valerie Harris**  
(662) 726-4744

**Coroner**  
**R.L. Calhoun**  
(662) 361-0740

Maps of the city and county are available at the Noxubee County Economic and Community Development Alliance office, located at 198 Washington St., Macon. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Outside of office hours, maps are available on the front door.

All emergency services in the county may be reached by dialing 911.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Permits, licenses

**City** – Building permits and business licenses may be obtained at Macon City Hall. Call (662) 726-5847 for more information or visit city hall at 105 W. Pulaski St.

**County** – Business permits and licenses for county residents may be obtained at the county tax assessor's office, located in the Noxubee County Courthouse – 505 Jefferson St., Macon.

### Postal service

Noxubee County has three full-service post offices.

**Macon** – 3022 Jefferson St.; final collection is 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. on Saturday; Hours: Monday through Wednesday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; (662) 726-5420

**Brooksville** – 11 E. Depot St.; final collection is 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday; Hours: Monday through Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.; (662) 738-5890

**Shuqualak** – 135 Pine St.; final collection is 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday; Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.; (662) 793-4839

### Taxes

**Personal taxes** – State, county and municipal ad valorem taxes, except on motor vehicles, must be paid by Feb. 1 of each year. County and city tax millage rates are set prior to Oct. 1 of each year.

**Where to pay taxes** – Municipal, county and state ad valorem taxes are payable to the Noxubee County tax collector's office, located at 2832 Jefferson St. Suite 2, in

Macon.

State income tax is payable to the Mississippi Department of Revenue in early April. Visit [www.dor.ms.gov](http://www.dor.ms.gov) for more information on state tax information. Some payments may be made online.

**Homestead exemption** – Applications for homestead exemption on property should be filed each year by the last working day in March at the county tax office, located at 2832 Jefferson St. A person filing for homestead exemption for the first time should present the tax office with his/her property deeds, the Social Security numbers for him/herself and spouse, and vehicle tags for all vehicles registered in Noxubee County. For anyone filing because of a disability, they must present the original award letter stating they are 100% disabled and the date he/she became disabled.

Any applicant must have been living in the home on Jan. 1 of the year for which he or she is filing. The home must have been purchased by Dec. 31 of the previous year and recorded no later than Jan. 7.

For more information, contact the Noxubee County Tax Assessor/Collector's office at (662) 726-4744. Told to talk to the tax assessor when she was back in the office

### Voter registration

In order to vote in Mississippi, a person must be a citizen of the United States, reside in the state and be 18 years of age on or before the election date. To register, visit the Circuit Clerk's office in the Noxubee County Courthouse, located at 505 Jefferson St. in Macon. A person must be registered at least 30 days prior to vote in municipal, county, state and national elections.

For more information, contact the Noxubee County Circuit Clerk, Freda Phillips, at (662) 726-5737.

## UTILITIES

### Refuse collection

Waste Pro, which has an office in Columbus, collects garbage in Macon and areas of Noxubee County. In Macon, garbage is collected Monday and Thursday. In the county, garbage is collected Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday depending on location. The monthly fee for city and county residents is \$18, which is included on residents' utility bills.

### Electricity

**City** – Newcomers to Macon establish water, electric, and garbage collection services with the Macon Electric and Water Department. Whether renting or owning, residents must bring two forms of identification (one of which must include a photo ID) to the department's office, located at 2943 Jefferson St. in Macon, to secure service. Renters must present their lease agreement, and homeowners must present the deed to their property. Ser-

vice deposits are the same among renters and homeowners: \$200 for electricity connection, \$50 for water hook-up, and \$25 for garbage collection. There is also a \$20 connection fee. For more information contact the Macon Electric and Water Department at (662) 726-5251.

**County** – Those moving outside Macon's town limits into Noxubee County will have to apply for membership with 4-County Electric Power Association. Applications may be retrieved from [www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/](http://www.4county.org/residential-apply-for-service/). The application for service may be completed online; downloaded and mailed to P.O. Box 351, Columbus, MS 39703; or downloaded, scanned, and emailed to [support@4county.org](mailto:support@4county.org). Before sending your completed application, contact 4-County at (800) 431-1544 for important information needed to complete the application.

A \$25 membership fee and a \$25 connection fee are required for residential connection. An additional deposit,

based on a credit check, may be required.

Same day service may be available if all applicable fees and documentation are received by 4-County by 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact 4-County Electric Power Association’s customer call center at (800) 431-1544 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 4-County has two office locations: 5265 S. Frontage Road, Columbus and 9776 Highway 25 S., Starkville.

**Gas**

Atmos Energy is the primary gas service provider in

Noxubee County. For more information on service, contact Atmos Energy at (888) 286-6700, or visit the company’s website: [www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com).

**Water**

Rural water users will need to establish service with one of the area’s water associations. Usually associations charge a deposit and a connection fee. The cost of hookup will be more if a new water meter is required. For more information, contact the municipality closest to your residence.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**Churches**

Noxubee County has over 100 active churches. Many are concentrated in and around Macon, the county’s seat, but churches spread to all corners of Noxubee. The churches include primarily protestant denominations and several sites with rich histories.

**Education**

**General information** – Registration for students in the Noxubee County School District takes place each year near the end of July. Notice of registration is published prior to that time on the District’s website: [www.noxcnty.k12.ms.us](http://www.noxcnty.k12.ms.us).

Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1. To register for classes, parents must present the school at which they are registering with their child’s birth certificate, record of immunization, and two proofs of residency.

**Public schools** – Earl Nash Elementary School, Macon (grades K-4); Reed Elementary School, Shuqualak (grades K-6); Wilson Elementary School, Brooksville (grades K-6); B.F. Liddell Middle School, Macon (grades 5-8); Noxubee County High School, Macon (grades 9-12)

**Colleges**

- Mississippi University for Women, about 30 miles from Macon, in Columbus.
- Mississippi State University, about 35 miles from Macon, in Starkville.
- Meridian Community College, about 54 miles from Macon, in Meridian.
- University of Alabama, about 69 miles from Macon, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- Shelton State Community College, about 72 miles from Macon, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- Itawamba Community College, about 81 miles from Macon, in Fulton.
- Holmes Community College, about 94 miles from Macon, in Goodman.
- East Mississippi Community College, about 30 miles from Macon, in Scooba.
- University of West Alabama, about 50 miles from Macon, in Livingston, Ala.

**Library**

The Noxubee County Public Library is a three-branch system, operating in Macon, Brooksville, and Shuqualak.

**The Ada S. Fant Library** in Macon, located at 145 S. Dr. MLK Jr. Drive, is the main branch. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Macon library offers computer services, faxing, printing, genealogy services, children’s story time programs, computer classes, and free Wi-Fi. To contact the Macon branch, call (662) 726-5461.

**The Brooksville Public Library** is located at 13758 W. Main St. in Brooksville. Its hours are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday. For the Brooksville Public Library, call (662) 738-4559.

**The Vista J. Daniel Memorial Library** in Shuqualak is located at 4719 Residence St. Its hours are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday. For the Shuqualak library, call (662) 793-9576.

**Media**

**The Commercial Dispatch** – 516 Main St., Columbus; business hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (662) 328-2424 for subscription information. Printed Tuesday through Saturday.

**The Macon Beacon** – printed weekly; 403 Jefferson St., Macon; (662) 726-4747

Television stations serving the area include WLOV (CW+ affiliate) of Tupelo; WCBI (CBS, Fox and MyNetworkTV affiliate) of Columbus; WTOK (ABC, MyNetworkTV and CW+ affiliate) of Meridian; and WTVA (NBC and ABC affiliate) of Tupelo.

**Hospital**

Noxubee General Hospital – 78 Hospital Road, Macon; (662) 726-4231

**Airport**

Macon Municipal Airport, located at 105 W. Pulaski St., is operated by the City of Macon and open to the public for use. The airport features a 50-foot-wide, 3,000-foot-long runway.

**Accommodations**

**Bed & breakfast**

**Cedar Ridge Bed & Breakfast** – 42183 Old Highway

14, Macon; (662) 361-7727

**Circle M Plantation** – 4588 Paulette Road, Macon;  
(662) 726-5789

### Camping, cabins

**Lake Forest Ranch** – 5326 Lake Forest Road, Macon;  
(662) 726-5052

## ANNUAL EVENTS

**Dancing Rabbit Festival:** This festival, named for the 1830 treaty agreement between the Choctaw tribe and the U.S. Government, is held the fourth weekend in October each year. The Dancing Rabbit Festival celebrates Noxubee County's heritage. Festivities include arts and crafts vendors, a 5k run and walk, an open mic session, pony rides, inflatables, games, a train ride and more. The highlight of the festival is a concert on the courthouse lawn.

**Juneteenth Festival:** Held on the second Saturday of June each year, this festival commemorates the abolition of slavery in the United States. It features a variety of family-oriented entertainment, including sports activities, arts and crafts vendors and food offerings.

For more information contact the Noxubee County Economic and Community Development Alliance at (662) 726-4456 or visit the alliance's office at 198 Washington St. in Macon.

**Jeffrey Simmons Community Fun Day:** This event, hosted by NFL star Jeffrey Simmons, is held around the Fourth of July each year at the Noxubee Titans Field at 814 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Festivities typically include games for kids, live entertainment, fireworks and vendors.

**Noxubee Farmers Alliance Market:** Purchase fresh produce on the lawn of the courthouse the second and fourth Saturdays in June-August, 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## ATTRACTIONS

**Noxubee County Historical Trail:** This trail takes visitors on a self-guided tour through the county to see points of historical interest and learn more about the area's history. For a list of stops on the trail, contact the Noxubee County Economic and Community Development Alliance. (662) 726-4456

**Noxubee County Historical Society Museum:** The museum features a collection of artifacts detailing the history of Noxubee County. Some artifacts date back to the 1800s, when Choctaw Indians occupied the land. The Museum is located on the second floor of the War Memorial Building in Macon, across the street from the county courthouse. Tours are by appointment only. For more information about the museum or the Noxubee historical society, or to schedule a museum tour, call (662) 726-5218.

**Noxubee County Library:** The unique Noxubee County Library on East King Street in Macon is a Mississippi Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it is housed in an attractive Romanesque building constructed in 1907 to serve as a jail. Books are shelved inside the former jail cells, and the original gallows may still be seen. It was accorded the 1984 Award of Merit for Adaptive Restoration from the Mississippi Historical Society.

**Ole Country Bakery in Brooksville:** The Ole Country Bakery in Brooksville is operated by members of the Mennonite community and is widely popular for its tradition-

al Mennonite baked goods. It provides visible and edible evidence of the county's unique role as home to the largest Mennonite community outside the Midwest.

**The Black Prairie Blues Trail Marker:** The Black Prairie Blues Trail Marker at the Welcome Center on Jefferson Street in downtown Macon recognizes the contributions that Carey Bell, Willie King, and Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater made to the blues music genre born in the Mississippi Delta. All three went on to achieve worldwide fame with their Chicago-style blues performances.

### Local parks

**Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge:** This 48,000-acre wildlife refuge offers visitors opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing and bird-watching, among other outdoor activities. The refuge office and visitor center is open 7 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays. The refuge is accessible to the public from daylight until dark every day. For more information call (662) 323-5548 or visit <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sam-d-hamilton-noxubee>.

**Noxubee Sportsplex:** Located at 61 Sportsplex Dr., this park includes baseball and softball fields, concession areas, and an open-air covered arena.

**Zach Brooks Golf Course:** This nine-hole golf course, located in Macon's Piney Woods community, can be used most days of the year. For more information, call (662) 726-5847.

# things 101 to do

We consulted our readers for insiders' info on good food, fun and field trips inside the Golden Triangle, and within driving distance. Here are 101 ways to enjoy north Mississippi and Alabama.

## FOOD

**1 Sit inside or on the porch:** Located on Officer's Lake in Columbus, Proffitt's Porch is a Columbus institution that serves up tasty sandwiches and red beans and rice. Keep an eye out for the bald eagles who nest nearby.

**2 Fresh bread:** Baked is in the front space of J. Broussard's restaurant in downtown Columbus. Grab some pastries. We guarantee you won't leave with just one. If you're in Starkville stop by Proof for a fresh loaf of bread.

**3 Secret sips:** Looking for a fantastic cocktail before dinner? Stop in The Guest Room, a speakeasy behind Restaurant Tyler.

**4 Burgers road trip?:** Cozy up to the ceramic tile bar at Bill's Hamburgers in Amory for their famous slugburgers, whose recipe has been passed down for nearly 100 years.

**5 Say cheese:** Some say Jubilations Cheesecake is the best. Stop by their coffeehouse in West Point, which has a large window allowing you to sip your coffee while you see cheesecakes being made.

*Good food, fun  
and field trips  
inside the  
Golden Triangle  
and within  
driving distance.*

**6 Dagwood's paradise:** Who knew gas station food could be this good? Tackle one of the outrageously huge sandwiches at United Deli on the corner of Tuscaloosa Road and Gardner Boulevard in Columbus. Say hi to Mr. John for us.

**7 Zorba the Greek's fave:** Enjoy a wide variety of gyros at Bluto's Tavern on University Drive in Starkville. They've also got great wings with white sauce.

**8 Hot fudge on Coontail Road:** Eat the hot fudge cake with secret sauce at the Friendship House off Coontail Road between Aberdeen and Amory.

**9 Curry delight!:** The Golden Triangle has several Thai food options including Golden Thai, Thai Siam and Andaman Thai.

**10 Smokin':** MoJam's in Columbus may be the only BBQ place where you can get pig snoots and pig tails as an entree. Don't panic if you're not into extremities: They have fantastic ribs and sides as well. There's no shortage of other great meat: Hank's #1 BBQ and Little Dooley are other favorites.

**11 Livers and burgers:** For years folks have been going to Doug and Hazel's, a diner in East Columbus. The burgers on a sourdough bun and the chicken liver plate are two of our favorites.

**12 Cup O' Joe:** Relax with your favorite espresso drink at any of a number of local coffee joints: Southbound Coffee, 1514 Caffiene, Coffee House on Fifth in Columbus and The Coffee Depot and Strange Brew and The Junction in Starkville and Jubilations Coffee Shop in West Point are a few.

**13 Classic diner experience:** Enjoy breakfast at Starkville Cafe. Ask for the "duck butter."

**14 Fine dining in West Point:** Anthony's, a West Point favorite, serves up excellent Cajun and creole food in a charming downtown building, against the backdrop of live music some nights. Bring your own bottle.

**15 Dueling rib tips:** The Memphis Town area of Columbus has two excellent places that specialize in rib tips. Brothers Keepers is on the corner of Seventh Avenue North and 20th Street; Memphis Town BBQ is right up the road at 14th Avenue North and 20th Street.

**16 Pick your own:** Visit Reese Orchard in Sessums where you can pick peaches, muscadines, apples, figs and pears to your heart's content. [facebook.com/ReeseOrchard](https://facebook.com/ReeseOrchard)

**17 Look out for gators:** Order an alligator po-boy and sit in one of Oby's dining rooms, all of which are filled — floor to ceiling — with Americana in Starkville.

**18 Beer, pizza and tunes:** Grab a craft beer, one of the best pizzas in the area and take in live music at Munson & Bros. Beer Garden at Second Avenue North and Third Street in Columbus.

**19 Coffee in Columbus and Caledonia:** Find tasty treats such as avocado toast and unique coffee drinks at Gratia Artisanal Eatery in downtown Columbus and 740 Coffee Company in Caledonia.

## FUN STUFF

**20 Take it to the streets:** Enjoy an array of festivals, including Starkville's Cotton District Arts Festival (April), Columbus' Market Street Festival (May) and West Point's Prairie Arts Festival (August).

**21 Tour of homes:** Each spring, step back in time as owners of historic Columbus homes open their doors to visitors and provide tours.

**22 House concerts:** The Barn Concert Series and Sunstroke House — both in Columbus — book bigger than expected musicians for their intimate venues. Find both on Facebook.

**23 Walking tour:** Stroll Columbus' historic streets with a self-guided walking tour from Main Street Columbus. The tour is available electronically or printed. [columbusmainstreet.com](http://columbusmainstreet.com)



#29: Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University.

**24 Window to the past:** Take in an example of Tiffany stained glass at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Columbus.

**25 West Point window shopping:** Beautifully maintained storefronts house a first-rate kitchenware shop, a gun shop and more in downtown West Point. Have lunch at The Ritz.

**26 High-end antiques:** Columbus hosts an annual Decorative Arts & Preservation Forum and Antiques Show & Sale each November.

**27 West Point walkabout:** Walk the beautiful Kitty Bryan Dill Memorial Parkway, a 3.75 mile "Rails to Trails" parkway through town that links five local parks in West Point.

**28 Gentlemen, start your engines:** Dirt track races at Magnolia Motor Speedway in Columbus are some of the most exciting sporting events in the area. Plus, they have excellent fireworks displays on the Fourth.

**29 Presidential Library:** Tour the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, housed at Mississippi State in Starkville. Housed in the library is also a collection of documents, books, artifacts, paintings related to the life of Abraham Lincoln.

**30 Theater for all:** Starkville Theater and Golden Triangle Theatre groups offer full slates of plays scheduled throughout the year as well as acting workshops.

**31 Author, author:** Attend the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium in Columbus, which is held every October during the third full week.

**32 Top notch:** Each year Mississippi State's Lyceum Series brings world-class speakers and performers to the university's campus. Find them online for upcoming events.

**33 Under the ginkgo tree:** Take a walking tour of The W campus. With 23 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, this historic university is an architectural treasure trove.

**34 Stella!** Attend multiple days of literary and theatrical fun at the Tennessee Williams Tribute every September in Columbus.

**35 Strollin' along the river:** Enjoy the natural beauty surrounding the Columbus Riverwalk, located off Main Street at the foot of River Hill. Stroll across the pedestrian bridge near Main Street and check out the unfinished city amphitheater, which city officials hope to finish soon.

**36 Old times not forgotten:** Commune with the spirits floating about the gravestones and historic monuments at Friendship and Sandfield cemeteries. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students host award-winning historical events at each in the spring.

**37 A swig of art:** Browse or take an art class at Columbus' Rosenzweig Arts Center, one of the best art centers in the state.

**38 Home grown:** Columbus (Hitching Lot Farmers Market), Starkville (Starkville Community Market) and West Point (West Point Farmers Market) all have markets that begin in April or May and last until September.

**39 Cool fun in the summertime:** Have wet fun at splash pads at J.L. King Senior Memorial Park in Starkville or over in Columbus at Dewayne Hayes Recreation Center, Ola J. Picket Park or Propst Park.

**40 Water music:** On Thursday evenings in the summer go to the Roger Short Soccer Complex in Columbus for Sounds of Summer, an outdoor showcase for local music talent.

**41 Remembering the Wolf:** Attend a festival celebrating Clay County's most famous bluesman, Howlin' Wolf, the first weekend in September. Not in West Point in September? Drop by the Howlin' Wolf Blues Museum daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**42 Cannonball!** Everyone is welcome to enjoy one of the last public pools in the area at Starkville's Moncrief Park.

**43 Tee up:** Golf at Old Waverly Golf Club or Mossy Oak Golf Club in West Point; Starkville Country Club or Mississippi State University in Starkville; Lion Hills, Green Oaks Golf Club or Elm Lake Golf Course in Columbus.

**44 Anglers' nirvana:** The Tennessee Tom Waterway offers a wide range of options for anglers in search of bass, crappie and catfish. The waterway – and specifically Columbus Lake – plays host to tournaments throughout the year.



#58: One of many murals in Columbus.

**45 Fun on the Waterway:** Rent a pontoon boat at Columbus Marina.

**46 Pick up pickleball:** Pickleball is a sport that people of all ages can enjoy. Starkville has a lot of courts at newly-renovated McKee Park and Columbus has newly-constructed courts at Propst Park.

**47 Hunters rejoice:** Peruse the bonanza of hunting and camping gear at the Mossy Oak Outdoor Outlet in West Point or Outlaw Sporting Goods in Columbus.

**48 Wind chimes to horse feed to cowboy boots:** Find expertise on gardening, farming and the outdoors at the Oktibbeha County Co-Op. In fact, Lowndes County and Clay County have co-ops too!

**49 Interesting entertainment:** Rick's Cafe in Starkville has a long history of bringing in interesting live performances on the weekends. Check out their lineup.

**50 Check it out at the library:** Columbus, West Point and Starkville all have excellent libraries. Have children? Be sure to catch Storytime with Mother Goose in Columbus.

**51 Watch the Dawgs bite:** Buy a season ticket to watch Mississippi State play baseball in the most dynamic college baseball stadium in the nation. It holds almost all college baseball attendance records.

**52 Relics from the past:** Take in Columbus history in the Stephen D. Lee Home and Museum in Columbus. Lee was a Civil War general and the first president of what is now Mississippi State University. The Agnes Zaiontz Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Museum.

**53 Southern dreams:** If touring Victorian and antebellum homes of Columbus isn't enough, spend the night in one of several that offer bed and breakfast. They make for a great "staycation."

**54 Tik tok:** The Cullis & Gladys Wade Clock Museum at Mississippi State's Welcome Center is a small but delightful museum for the horologists among us.

**55 Lake view:** Go to Lake Lowndes State Park and just watch the ducks in the water. There also are playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts and walking trails.

**56 Gators and more:** If you want something a little more exotic, make your way to the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, where there's a decent chance you'll see an alligator from the boardwalks that stretch into the lake.

**57 Back to nature:** Visit Plymouth Bluff Center for information on the earliest days of Columbus, hiking trails and displays highlighting area flora and fauna.

**58 Public art:** Wander the downtown streets throughout the Golden Triangle and check out the vibrant murals. Artist Deborah Mansfield is responsible for many of them, and they add a colorful flare to the streetscape.

**59 Let's dance:** Shake a leg at The Junction in Columbus, where \$5 will get you admission and a full Friday or Saturday night of dancing and music. It's clean fun with no smoking or drinking.

**60 Slides and swimmin':** The Slip-n-Dip – near New Hope outside of Columbus – is an institution. It has a great water slide and huge pool for (campy) summer fun.

**61 Karate chop:** From karate to MMA to Brazilian Ju-Jitsu to other martial arts, take a lesson at one of the areas many martial arts and fitness gyms.

**62 Tennessee Williams slept here:** The famous playwright was born in Columbus; his first home is a welcome center at 300 Main St. Stop by and take a selfie with his statue there.

**63 Dam good idea:** The John C. Stennis Lock and Dam's East Bank Recreation Area has fishing, basketball, playgrounds and one of the best sunsets in the area.

## DAY TRIPS

**64 Let's get lost:** Explore the small towns of the Prairie, Artesia, Crawford and Brooksville, where one should not miss the Ole Country Bakery.

**65 Explore west Alabama:** Cruise the small towns of this area, each with its own charm: Millport, Vernon, Sulligent and Hamilton. The Carrollton courthouse has a ghostly face in one of its upper windows.

**66 Beautiful balloons:** It's not in the immediate area, but at the Annual Natchez Balloon Festival in October you can witness dozens of balloons floating above the Mississippi River.

**67 A sip of water:** Beaverton, Ala. is home to one of the last artesian water wells in this area. You have to look for it on the north side of Hwy. 278, but once you find it, you'll be rewarded with crystal clear and delicious drinking water, which comes up naturally from an aquifer.

**68 A field trip to Yoknapatawpha:** Take in life on Oxford's Square. Attend Thacker Mountain Radio show, Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring. Enjoy fine dining at any number of restaurants on or just off the Square. Don't forget Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak, and the Ole Miss campus with its Grove, art museum and Center for Southern Studies exhibition space.

**69 Sunrise stroll:** Take a sunrise walk in downtown Aberdeen as the early morning light illuminates the old churches, Victorian homes and beautiful old trees.

**70 Are you afraid of heights?:** The tallest slide in Alabama is in Tuscaloosa at Snow Hinton Park.

**71 Explore The Dismals:** This pristine wilderness area offers romantic cabins, secluded campsites, hiking, waterfalls, a country store and rare glowing bugs called dismalites, 12 miles south of Russellville, Ala.

**72 Natural formations:** Near the Dismals is Natural Bridge, Ala., a 148 foot long sandstone rock bridge, which is the longest natural bridge east of the Rockies. Hike on trails under the bridge.

**73 Tracing history and nature:** Take a drive down (or up) the Natchez Trace, the national park that stretches from Natchez to Nashville.

**74 Hound dog homeplace:** Visit Elvis Presley's birthplace and first home in Tupelo. Go downtown to Tupelo Hardware to see where Miss Gladys bought her boy his first guitar.

**75 Unexpected riches:** In addition to its collection of European paintings, the Lauren Rogers Museum in Laurel boasts an impressive array of Japanese prints and Native American baskets.

**76 Hand-painted horses:** The city of Meridian has restored its 100-plus-year-old Dentzel Carousel to its original splendor. The operational merry-go-round has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit The MAX Museum while there.

**77 Botanical beauty:** Birmingham Botanical Gardens' 67.5 acres features more than 10,000 different plants. The garden contains more than 25 unique gardens, original outdoor sculpture and miles of serene paths.

**78 Kentuck Festival:** Attend what American Style magazine says is one of the top 10 art festivals in the country. In Northport, Ala., on the third weekend in October.

**79 Rural Art:** Visit the Greensboro (Hale County), Ala., home of Auburn's renowned Rural Studio Project — experimental architecture serving at-need populations — and lovely antebellum and turn-of-the-century homes.

**80 Lost realm of the Black Warrior:** Explore Moundville Archaeological Park, about 12 miles southeast of Tuscaloosa. After a \$5 million renovation, the Jones Museum showcases 200 stunning artifacts to describe one of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in the United States.

**81 Slip and slide:** The city of Fayette operates a water park with a splash pad, a lazy river and multiple slides. Want a larger water park? Choctaw, Miss., is home to Geyser Falls.

**82 German POWs:** Aliceville, Ala., doesn't seem like a likely place for a World War II POW camp for German prisoners, but it is. Learn more at the Aliceville POW Museum and Cultural Center.

**83 Stone-ground:** Four generations of Sciples have used water to grind corn and wheat. Call Sciple's Mill at 601-743-2295, or send orders to Sciple's Mill, Route 4, Box 119, DeKalb, MS 39328. 525 Sciples Mill Road.

**84 Fore!:** Play putt-putt while having a bite to eat at the Tiger Woods-owned PopStroke in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**85 Hollywood under the stars:** Turn back time and go to a drive-in movie at Blue Moon Drive In Theater in Gu-Win, Ala.

**86 A view of the city:** A statue of Vulcan overlooking Birmingham is the world's largest cast iron statue and considered one of the most memorable works of civic art in the United States.

**87 Funny folks:** Take in a show at the Comedy Club in Birmingham, Ala. Featured comedians have included Bruce Bruce, Margaret Cho, Bill Bellamy, Dave Chappelle, Craig Ferguson, Mike Epps, DL Hughley, Pauly Shore, Rickey Smiley and more.

**88 Blues tour:** Celebrate the rich history of Blues in the area with stops along the Mississippi Blues Trail, including the following markers: Aberdeen Mississippi Blues in Aberdeen, Big Joe Williams in Crawford, Black Prairie Blues in Macon, Columbus Mississippi Blues in Columbus, Elvis Presley in Tupelo, Howlin' Wolf in West Point and Shake Rag in Tupelo.

**89 An industrial past:** Bring your camera and tour the hulking remains of Sloss Furnaces, a former iron furnace in Birmingham, Ala.

**90 White-water thrills:** Go kayaking or canoeing on Bear Creek in Alabama. Bear Creek Canoe Run, on U.S. Highway 43, Hackleburg, Ala.

**91 Here lies Ole Red:** Visit the world's only coon dog cemetery seven miles west of Tusculumbia on U.S. Highway 72.

**92 A house party like no other:** Visit the Neshoba County Fair, a Mississippi tradition that includes political speech-making, front porch visiting and old-time fun. Held in late July, early August in Philadelphia. While in town visit Williams Brothers Store, a thriving old-time general store.

**93 Civil War History:** Learn about the Battle of Shiloh at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center.

**94 Sick beats:** Visit the Grammy Museum in Cleveland for interactive exhibits and memorabilia, telling the story of the Grammys and Mississippi music. Enjoy a slice of craft pizza downtown at Lena Pizza + Bagels.

**95 High cotton:** Spend the night in luxury at the Alluvian Hotel and Spa in Greenwood and take a class at the Viking Cooking School.

**96 Read up:** While in Greenwood, stop by one of Mississippi's finest independent bookstores, TurnRow Books.

**97 Southern lit:** Sip lemonade and read a William Faulkner novel on the balcony at Square Books, overlooking the Square in Oxford.

**98 Hold on:** While there aren't many places to mountain climb around here, Birmingham, Ala. features multiple climbing gyms.

**99 Small-town charm:** Visit the specialty shops and art galleries in downtown Northport, Ala.

**100 All aboard:** The city of Amory celebrates its history as an important railroad hub, complete with a rail car exhibit, at the Amory Regional Museum, 801 Third Street South, Amory. (Bill's Hamburgers is also an excellent place to grab a slugburger. Google it.)

**101 B'ham museums:** Make a day of it and head to the museums. You have three to choose from: The Civil Rights Institute, The McWane Science Institute (for children) and the Birmingham Museum of Art.



#90: Bear Creek Canoe Run in Hackleburg, Ala.



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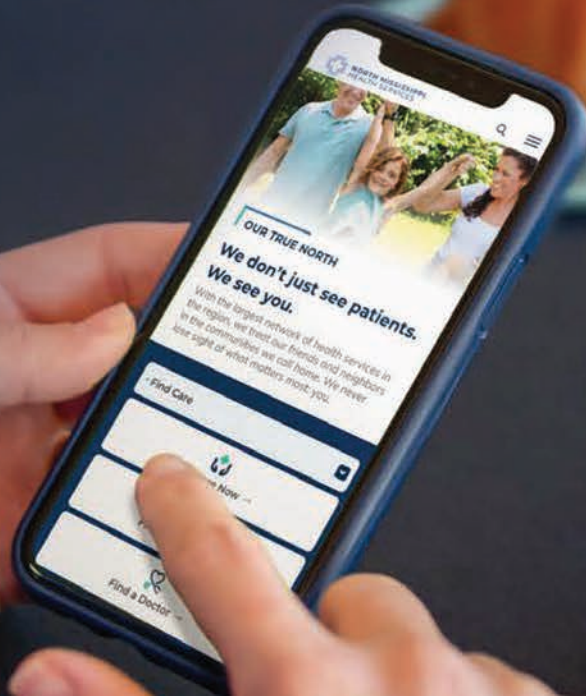
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