

SIM Minutes and Event Announcements

March 9, 2009

Upcoming Forums with Candidates for Aldermen and Mayor hosted by the Starkville Young Professionals

All are at the Hilton Garden in from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

- **TODAY MARCH 10th**-- Candidates for Wards 1, 3 and 4
- March 31st--Candidates for Wards 2, 5, 6 and 7
- April 14th--Candidates for Mayor
- Read candidate's responses to a questionnaire at <http://starkvilleyoungprofessionals.wordpress.com/2009/03/07/syp-candidate-forums-2/>

Cotton Mill Marketplace Public Forum

A public forum regarding design of the Cotton Mills development will be held on March 24th from 6-8 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn. See <http://www.cottonmillatmsu.com/pdf/030509.pdf>

Arts Walk Kick-Off Event

The Arts Walk Kick-Off will be April 25th from 10 am to 2 pm. Check out the Arts Walk website at <http://artswalk.starkvilleinmotion.org> . If you're willing to volunteer that day, contact Kathy Jacobs at kathy@kathyjacobs.com.

Walk-to-School Day

Walk to School day will be the morning of April 22nd. Email Lois Connington to volunteer-- lconnington@yahoo.com. We'll need lots of help.

Bike-to-Work Day

Devon would like to have Bike-to-Work Day sometime around Earth Day (April 22nd) or before students leave. However, we need someone to take lead on organizing, which is a relatively small job. Can you help? email Devon at devon@ra.msstate.edu.

Lynn Lane

The engineering for Lynn Lane will be presented to the Board of Aldermen soon.

We should all plan to attend. Watch for an announcement.

Sidewalk Committee

The Board of Aldermen appointed a Sidewalk Committee that will be responsible for proposing legislation and identifying priorities. The committee is made up of one representative from each ward and includes several SIM members who are also on the SIM sidewalk committee. It will meet soon and may need your support.

Boy Scout Rodeo

Several members and many elementary education students joined Bulldawg Cycling and the Boy Scouts at a Bike Rodeo last Saturday. Lots of kids turned out and learned much about bike safety. Fun was had by all, and Lois is convinced that activities like these promote both biking and walking and safety. We should do more of this!

First Impressions

Jeremy Murdock of the Mississippi State Community Action Team, (the MSU office that works to marshal university resources to support local communities around the state) gave a presentation. One project of the MSCATE office is to work with communities to document their "first impressions," that is, to communities recognize the strengths and weaknesses of their design, appearance, and infrastructure in terms of the way they are welcoming (or not) to first time visitors and to long-term residents. A First Impressions analysis of Starkville revealed that Main Street is a Starkville strength, with sidewalks, beautiful buildings, planters, a nice mix of shops, restaurants, and other businesses, a great welcome center, buried power lines, and other cool architectural features. However, the streets that cross and surround Main Street do not share these features, and all of the current entrances to the city have too many signs, networks of ugly power lines, few sidewalks, seas of parking lots, and few other welcoming features. Changes in city code and smart growth can help prevent these issues along our newest major roads, such as the bypass.

More meetings about the First Impressions of Starkville will be held in coming months, including, hopefully, forums with public officials.