



Rotary

Club of Jackson,
Mississippi



Rotagram

May 19, 2025

The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomed **Liz Brister, President, Jackson Downtown Partners.**

Her presentation will be **“The Heart of Mississippi: Unlocking Downtown Jackson’s Potential.”**



L to R: Rotary Past President LeAnne Brewer – Manager of Learning & Development at Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company; Liz Brister, President, Jackson Downtown Partners; Rotary President-Elect Richard Wilbourn – Attorney, Richard Wilbourn and Associates, PLLC; and Michael Booker, President of Hinds County Cadence Bank.

Rotary President-Elect Richard Wilbourn welcomed Rotarians and guests.

He also led the Club in the Four Way Test.

Michael Van Velkinburgh delivered the Invocation.

Ted Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark Saxon introduced our visitors:

Visiting Guests:

- Mark Field's guest – Nick Miller, CEO of SDG Properties, and N. Jackson Rotarian
- Tom Johnson's guest – Kane Ditto, CEO of State Street Properties and Former Mayor of Jackson
- Danny Williams' guest – Angela Herzog, CPA with Crantham Poole and Hattiesburg Rotarian
- Danny Williams' guest – Jimmy Herzog, LT Colonel, MS Bureau of Investigation
- Sharon Moman's guest – Trent Walker, Attorney, Trent Walker, Counselor at Law

BIRTHDAYS:

Seth Dickinson	May 15
Tommy Shepherd	May 21
John Wise	May 24
Kenny Windham	May 29

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

James Carter	05/13/2024	1 year
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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Sandra and Jim Shelson	May 23,	33 years
John and Tish Hughes	May 31,	50 years

LeAnne Brewer introduced Liz Brister, President, Jackson Downtown Partners.

Liz Brister was appointed president of Downtown Jackson Partners on February 1, 2025. She brings fresh leadership and energy to the state's largest commercial district and will focus on attracting more residential development, an approach that has fueled urban growth across the country.

"Nationally, there is a shift to live, work, and play in the city center. This can drive our state's growth as we reimagine a downtown that provides more residential dwellings and the amenities that naturally follow, such as restaurants, bodegas, and other retail," said Liz. "Blending a traditional business district with residential helps create a more vibrant downtown for everyone."

With investments through the Capitol Complex Improvement District, including the Capitol Police force, state-owned buildings, and attractions like the Two Mississippi Museums, the state has significantly contributed to downtown Jackson's development.

"All Mississippians have invested their tax dollars in our downtown. We want to make it a place where everyone feels ownership and is proud of what the Capital City represents to the state and the country," said Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, chair of Downtown Jackson Partners. "We believe Liz has the right leadership experience to help us elevate downtown Jackson, Mississippi's downtown, even higher."

Liz joined Downtown Jackson Partners following a 16-year career at Entergy, where she most recently served as director of corporate social responsibility for the company's four-state service area. In this role, she oversaw low-income customer initiatives, securing millions in bill payment assistance and providing grants designed to empower customers for economic success. She previously served as external affairs manager for Entergy Mississippi, guiding corporate contributions, volunteerism, and low-income initiatives for the utility.

She has held leadership roles on numerous local boards, including the Fondren Renaissance Foundation, where she served as president during the development of the Capri Theatre and Highball Lanes. Additionally, she has served multiple terms on the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition board.

Liz holds a master's degree in business administration from Millsaps College and a bachelor's degree in business management from Tulane University. The Public Affairs Council in Washington, D.C., certified her in public affairs management, and she is an alumna of the Mississippi Economic Council's Leadership Mississippi program.

ABOUT DOWNTOWN JACKSON PARTNERS

Promoting. Revitalizing. Empowering.

In the early 1990s, a group of community leaders and elected officials shared a vision of a vibrant downtown community. Ultimately, the property owners of downtown Jackson, Mississippi, formed a business improvement district (BID), funded by an assessment on the commercial property in the district, and designated Downtown Jackson Partners, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, as manager to take the necessary steps to accomplish that vision.

Today, downtown Jackson has evolved from an 8-to-5 office park to a 24-hour neighborhood, with nearly \$1 billion in economic development since the BID's inception. Residential development has been a highlight within the BID, with more than 500 apartments brought online since 2005. Festival and event organizers continue to value and schedule downtown venues, and the Jackson Convention Complex regularly draws local, regional, and national events.

With downtown's evolution, Downtown Jackson Partners has adapted operations to fulfill the district's current and anticipated future needs. DJP has strengthened the clean and safe program and continues to research and install new programs to improve downtown as the city continues to grow. DJP has positioned itself as a significant resource for developers in an advisory role and to take the lead on public improvement projects.

Downtown Jackson Partners consistently enhances the quality of life for those who live, work, and play downtown. We help promote new and established businesses, organizations, and events within the downtown district. We offer several visitor, resident, and parking guides and a development toolkit to improve the developer, resident, and visitor experience within the downtown Jackson business improvement district.

Business Improvement District Map

The downtown Jackson business improvement district (BID or "Downtown District") hosts a third of the Jackson metro area's office market, most of the area's government facilities, and a wealth of cultural amenities. This 65-block area is the heart of downtown Jackson.



Fulfilling The Vision of a Thriving, Vibrant Community.

Downtown Jackson Partners (DJP) is the designated management and economic development agency for the downtown Jackson Business Improvement District (BID or “downtown district”). As a nonprofit organization, DJP is funded through self-assessment by the property owners of the downtown Jackson BID to provide economic development, marketing, and clean and safe services beyond those offered by the city of Jackson. DJP staff and implemented contractual services make downtown a better place daily, fulfilling the vision of a thriving, vibrant community. Check out our core services below.

Advocacy

Often behind the scenes, DJP constantly works for property owners and businesses (and potential new ones) to create a favorable environment regarding cleanliness, planning issues, police safety, etc. We hold relationships with the city, county, and state departments, advocating through red tape to ensure the progress of a holistic downtown.

Beautification

From sidewalks to earth planters and tree wells, DJP focuses on public spaces to ensure a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. Each season, a fresh crop of new plantings is identified, purchased, planted, and maintained in the over 50 earth planter containers scattered across the downtown district.

Safety

In addition to the collaborative partnership involving the Jackson police department, Hinds County Sheriff's Department, and state Capitol police, our downtown ambassadors are hard at work Monday through Sunday, ensuring the downtown BID is covered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Downtown Clean Team

Working Monday through Friday, the downtown cleaning ambassadors address clean and safe issues throughout the district. Their daily tasks include keeping sidewalks clean and free from litter, removing weeds from building lines and sidewalk cracks, graffiti, power washing, spot cleaning of unsightly spills and stains, and more as needed.

Downtown Place-making

Formerly titled public art, the DJP downtown placemaking program is designed to focus on improving underutilized, unappealing areas of the BID by including some combination of public art, natural greenery, lighting, and/or interactive components to enhance the space of overall community health, happiness, and well-being.

Real Estate Development

The downtown Jackson BID lives up to its name in real estate development. It facilitates partnerships with local economic development agencies, area property owners, and outside interests, generating opportunity within the BID. With nearly \$1

billion invested since 2005, we confidently identify sites for new businesses and foster every aspect of the development and investment process.

Business Attraction

DJP provides comprehensive information for those looking to invest in the downtown district. Through partnerships with local economic development agencies, area property owners, and existing building management companies, we work to expand both employment opportunities and the tax base throughout the BID.

Special Events & Event Assistance

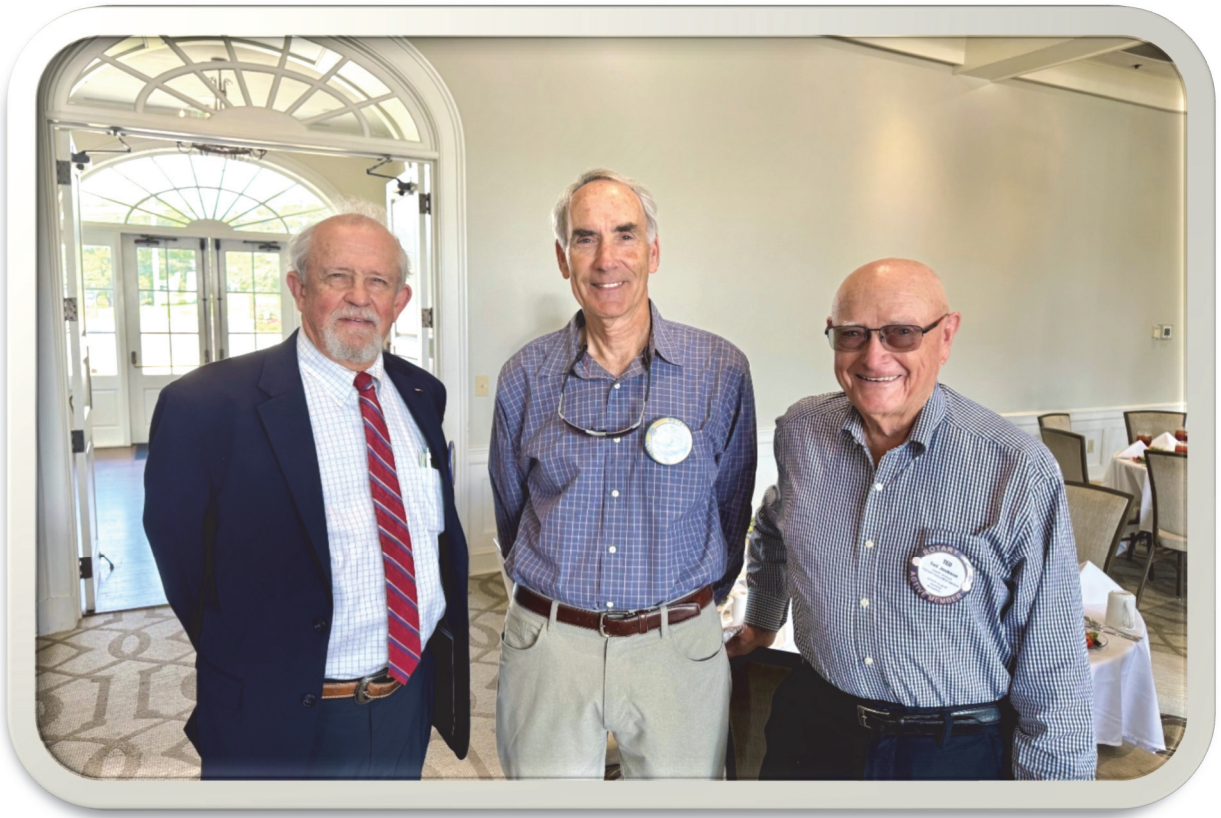
DJP partners with various downtown event organizers to guide them through the special events process with the city of Jackson and to promote and support their festival or event through sponsorships. DJP works as needed to coordinate press events to promote business relocations, expansions, and new arrivals.

Marketing & Communication

With the vision of a thriving, vibrant community in mind, DJP works hard to promote and market all the good things happening in the downtown BID through digital, social, and email marketing and advertising, partnerships, and word-of-mouth. DJP also works to support the efforts of downtown Jackson organizations striving to generate excitement and enhance the overall well-being of our downtown community.



Angela & Jimmy Herzog and Danny Williams



Ashby Foote, Past President, Mark Fields, and Ted Jackson



Nick Miller and Past President Mark Fields



Keith Ferguson and Howard Catchings



Kane Ditto and Past President Tom Johnson