

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE RETURNS MARCH 13 — PAGE 5**

PASS CHRISTIAN  
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A Weekly Newspaper for Residents and Friends of Pass Christian, Mississippi  
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**Library Readies For New Home**

*A sneak peek inside the new library, still under construction. Photo by Ron Daley.*

The Pass Christian Public Library has ordered more than 20,000 new books, audiobooks, movies and other items as it prepares to move into its new home later this spring.

The substantial completion date for the new, 12,000-square-foot library is March 19. Once the city, which owns the building, signs off on the construction, the library system — a branch of the Harrison County Library System — can begin moving in.

And they've got quite a job ahead of them: in addition to moving in new furniture, computers, technology equipment and other necessities, shelving will be installed and a circulation desk will be built on site.

Then the books and other items will start arriving by the thousands, starting in about mid-April, said library director Sally James.

"They'll be on 18-wheeler trucks, boxed alphabetically," she said. "We'll open them up and put them

**Police Chief Gives Crime Report****Offers Tips On Keeping Safe, Property Secure**

While Pass Christian still has one of the lowest crime rates of any city on the coast, crime does happen here and citizens need to protect themselves, said Police Chief John Dubuisson at a town hall meeting this week.

Chief Dubuisson said that in

2006, Pass Christian reported 166 major crimes. In 2007, that number spiked up to 331 (with 49 cases of petty larceny) and then went back down to 156 in 2008. During the year of 2009, the number of major crimes was 238.

"There's no doubt about it,

drugs are the main driving force these days," he said.

But he added that because the State of Mississippi has enacted a new law that will require written prescriptions for cold medications, he expects the situation will get better.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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## Library Prepares For Move (continued from page 1)

*(Continued from page 1)*  
on the shelves.” As you can imagine, the library could use some helping hands! The library is taking names of interested volunteers now (call 228-452-4596).

The library has ordered more than \$300,000-worth of new items. Ms. James said she is particularly excited about the new and very large collection of audiobooks on CD that the library will now be able to offer patrons: “We never had that before — we couldn’t afford it,” she said.

The library will also have 12 computers and 20 laptops for public use, a meeting room equipped for multimedia presentations and a young adult game room and two study rooms. Software on the computers will allow patrons to make and edit their own movies, create presentations and more.

The children’s wing will feature a 3/4-sized sailboat for kids to explore and use as a haven for reading or listening to stories. It will also have special Advanced Workstations in Education Early Literacy Stations computers, preloaded with software for kids.

“This is the new thing that everybody wants, and we’re fortunate enough to get it,” Ms. James said.

The library is also planning to build an outdoor playground with a small gazebo on the northeast corner of the property.

The library’s contents are being restored through FEMA funding, gifts and grants from many organizations, in particular the Rotary Club of Pass Christian, which has secured major grants that have especially helped with the children’s wing. And — almost five years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the old library — organizations around the country are continuing to support the Pass Library. Ms. James was in Jackson last week to accept a donation of \$10,000 from the Jack & Jill of America Foundation for additional books and the children’s playground. — GG



*Inside the new library (photos by Ron Daley)*



*Construction of City Hall is also progressing.*

## PASS CHRISTIAN NEWS BRIEFS

### Sales Tax Triples In December

Pass Christian sales tax diversions for January — a number that actually reflects sales in December — totaled \$93,957.39, the Mississippi States Sales Tax Commission reported this month. That's up from \$30,342.87 a year ago.

### Marsha Barbour Center Hosts Grand Opening Sun

The Marsha Barbour Community Center in DeLisle (6815 Kiln-Deslisle Rd.) will host a Grand Opening Celebration this Sunday, with live music, food, and games from 1 p.m. 'til dusk. There will also be a 5K Run (2 p.m.) and a 3x3 basketball tournament (1 p.m.). The pool will be open to the public as well.

### Drawdown Benefit For Police Officer Is Tomorrow

A \$5,000 Drawdown will be tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 27, benefiting Pass Christian Police Officer Clifton Bubba Malley, who lost his house due to a fire just before Christmas. The drawdown will be at 6 p.m. at the Pass Christian VFW. Tickets are \$50. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket can contact the police department at 452-3301.

## Journey Stories

*A traveling exhibit sponsored by The Smithsonian Institution and The Mississippi Humanities Council*

### Upcoming Programs

*All programs will be held at the Katrina Research Center, 3rd floor Gulf Coast Library on the Southern Miss Gulf Park Campus*

Tuesday, March 2nd, 6:30 p.m.:

#### **The History Of Long Beach**

Ashley Skellie will present a lecture on the history of Long Beach and the farm trucking that brought many families to the city. This event is also co-sponsored by Island View Casino. Light refreshments will be served.

Monday, March 8th, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Hurricane Katrina & Women In The Fine Arts**

Roundtable discussion led by Melody Golding with other Mississippi women artists and an exhibit with works. This event is co-sponsored by Beau Rivage Casino

Tuesday, March 9th, 6:00 p.m.

#### **The History of Hancock County by Historian Charles Gray of Pass Christian**

*The City of Pass Christian is a co-sponsor of this event.*



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## Board of Aldermen Approve Bid For City Hall Furnishings

The Pass Christian Board of Aldermen met on Wednesday of last week, due to Fat Tuesday, which is after our weekly deadline ... so here is a rundown on what they decided at that meeting:

The Board heard from a consultant about the furnishings for the City Hall and Municipal Court and agreed to accept a bid of \$226,238.80, most of which will be paid for out of grant money.

The Board agreed to declare the building material and other personal property situated south of Josephine Street and between Pine Avenue and Lac Bleu Avenue to be surplus and abandoned and authorized Public Works to dispose of it.

The Board took no action on two requests to purchase ads in support of a local student and a local organization, deciding instead that aldermen would buy ads in

the program individually or collectively out of their own personal funds, rather than tapping into the strapped city budget.

The Board re-appointed Bill Sullivan and Mary Gene Dick to the War Memorial Park Commission, terms ending March 2013.

The Board authorized a solicitation to hire a consultant to prepare an update to the comprehensive hazard mitigation flood plan.

The Board approved a resolution requesting the state legislature to enact local and private legislation relating to the regulation of motor vehicles for hire.

The Board approved Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance renewal rates, which have decreased slightly this year.

### Aldermen Keep Health Insurance

There was some discussion about an item that would have made aldermen ineligible for city health insurance. This costs the city \$4,750 per year per alderman, though only two of the five board members, Huey Bang and Anthony Hall, currently use the health insurance.

The motion initially stated that the Board of Aldermen is a part-time position and no longer an eligible class to be covered under the city's health insurance policy." Some aldermen took issue with the "part-time"

premise — noting that the mayor himself had recently said that being an alderman was becoming more and more a full-time job and that aldermen are approached by constituents at all hours, including at home and at church — and so that part of the motion was struck.

However, even with that contentious clause removed, the motion was denied, with Aldermen Renee Brooks and Huey Bang voting in favor of excluding aldermen from city health insurance, and Aldermen Joseph Piernas, Robin Rafferty and Anthony Hall voting against. Ald. Piernas noted that he thought it should be up to the individual aldermen to decide if they needed the insurance and that aldermen haven't had a pay raise in 15 years.

Ald. Hall said during the meeting that he planned to drop the health insurance at some point, and Ald. Bang said this week that he has notified the city to cancel his insurance.

### Other City Business

In other business, the Board approved a work order for project management services for FEMA HMGP 4040 Phase III generators, not to exceed \$10,138.20.

The Board also agreed to employ Eddie Favre as a consultant in connection with the city's application for forgiveness of \$3.3 million-worth of Community Disaster Loans. He will be

paid \$150 an hour for a maximum of 33 hours, or \$5,000 total. Mr. Favre, who was mayor of Bay St. Louis for 20 years, is a Certified Public Accountant and was City Clerk and Director of Administration for Bay St. Louis before being elected mayor in 1989.

The Board also adopted an Arbor Day proclamation, and approved an number of change orders and pay applications.

In police business, the Board approved a request to send Investigators James Stewart and Ricardo Dedeaux to a three-day workshop hosted by the North Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Center in Tupelo. The Board also approved a request to purchase three portable radios, batteries and earphones for \$15,167, which is payable by a grant, as well as two 2010 Ford Crown Victorias at \$27,094 each, which is part of a project worksheet for lost property due to Hurricane Katrina.

In fire department business, the Board approved sending Derek Palmer to a driver/operator (pumper) course in Jackson and sending James Ellington to a Firefighter Intervention Rescue Survival Techniques (FIRST) course, also in Jackson.

The Board also agreed to deny adjustment for water leaks caused by freezing at two properties, but OK'd refunding sewer charges since the water did not enter the sewer system. —GG

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## St. Patrick's Day Walking Parade Strolls Again On March 13

The Krewe of Blarney Half-Fast Walkin' Club will parade again in Pass Christian, for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, on Saturday, March 13, at 12 p.m.

The parade will kick off at noon with a toast in front of Lucio's Mexican Restaurant, 234 Davis Avenue, and Charbonnet Collection and Southern Printing, and then proceed south on Davis Avenue, with toasting at businesses along the street.

It will then turn west on Scenic Drive, for a toast at Compass Rose, and then proceed to City Hall for a toast by Mayor Chipper McDermott (who was the parade's Grand Marshall in 1999).

The parade will then proceed to French Charley's, which will be serving traditional Irish fare.

The Krewe of Blarney recently announced its Royalty and Captains for 2010.

This year's Grand Marshall is attorney Donald J. Rafferty. Mr. Rafferty is married to the former Susan Israel and they have three daughters and one granddaughter. They reside in Pass Christian.

This year's Colleen is Pass Christian High School senior Cory McGee. Miss McGee is the daughter of James and Shawna Campbell McGee. They reside in Pass Christian.

This year's captains are Huey Bang, Evelina Burnett, Malcolm Jones, Donald Moore, Chipper McDermott, Julie O'Briant, Richard O'Briant, Robin Rafferty and David Taylor.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the parade! Marchers and golf carts may start lining up on Davis Avenue, north of Lucio's, at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Robin Rafferty at 228-547-4873 or roraff@cablone.net.

The St. Patrick's Day Marching Parade was started in 1995 by Dan Ellis. He now resides in Eureka Springs, Ark., but has been providing spiritual guidance for this year's event and sends an enthusiastic "Erin Geaux Bragh!"

### St. Patrick's Day Parade Past Royalty

Year	Grand Marshall	Colleen
1995	David Larosa	Kelly Gallagher Ziegler
1996	Billy McDonald	India Byrd McDonald
1997	Jim Simpson, Jr.	Gail Inez Bourdin Chasteen
1998	Scottie Cuevas	Melissa Kaye Malley
1999	Chipper McDermott	Rachel McDonald
2000	Marlin Ladner	Corene Lewis
2001	Donald Moore	Cilver Armstrong
2002	Robert Bass	Melissa Russell
2003	Mike Reader	Camille Covington
2004	John McAdams	Jeanne L. Pitre
	Honorary Marshall: Gayle Parker	
2005	Howard McKissack	Ruth Tucker

2006-09 Hurricane Katrina aftermath  
2010 Donald Rafferty Cory Ann McGee



Parade founder Dan Ellis leads the 1997 parade. For a stroll down memory lane, visit Dan's website, <http://stpaddy.passchristian.net>.



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