



Sheriff Mason warns residents about phone scam

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Hinds County Sheriff Victor Mason held a press conference Tuesday afternoon to warn residents about a phone scam mainly targeting elderly citizens. At least five residents have received phone calls from a Georgia number. The caller claims to



Mason be a representative with the Hinds County Sheriff's Office and/or a deputy. The caller tells residents that due to a failure to appear in court or answer to jury duty, the resident owes money to the sheriff's

office and needs to wire money. "That is absolutely false. We are not asking for money," Mason said. "We are trying to track these guys down." The Circuit Clerk handles matters of jury duty. During the scam calls, residents have been instructed to load money onto a Greendot

debit card in order to expedite the transfer of funds. As of now, Mason is not aware that anyone has actually sent money, but he did say, based on the calls of concerns to his office, people are frightened because during these scam calls people are being told they will be arrested for not complying with the demands.

Subpoenaed records show some of the calls are coming from Georgia. The investigation so far indicates the calls may be coming from a detention facility – actually cell phones used in jails – in Georgia. The sheriff's office started receiving calls from concerned residents last Thursday. Several

calls of concerns were made to the office Tuesday, which prompted the press conference. The scammers could face charges of false pretense and impersonating an officer. If a resident receives a call, report it to the Hinds County Sheriff's Office.

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East Village Estates represents revitalization



Primus Wheeler, executive director of the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, cuts the ribbon for the grand opening of East Village Estates. Several city and state leaders, along with development partners, were present for the event. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Decent, affordable housing in the heart of Jackson is what East Village Estates is all about. The new subdivision, located near the Jackson Medical Mall, is the result of years of hard work by the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation along with partners – the state of Mississippi, Mississippi Home Corporation, The Richman Group Affordable Housing Corporation, Columbus Bank and Trust/Synovus Bank, city of Jackson and the subdivision development team, including Charter Consulting.

A grand opening held May 19 brought together local and state leaders and new residents. East Village Estates consists of 44 two-story, 1,520 square foot townhouses each with three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths. Amenities include 9-foot ceilings, two-car garages, energy efficient windows, full brick siding, architectural shingles, landscaping with 15 years of lawn service, a 2,500 square foot community center with a business center in it and a community playground. Plans for phase II of East Village Estates, which will include 50 townhouses and a soccer field, are under-

way. Clarence Chapman of Charter Consulting explained how the lease-purchase program works. East Village residents pay \$668 monthly to lease a unit. After 15 years, they will be able to purchase the townhouse for \$50,000, no money down at 8 percent interest with a guaranty that their mortgage payments will be less than the rent payments. All 44 units are occupied and there's a waiting list for those interested to become residents. Residents went through a thorough screening process including verification of income, credit and criminal

background check and counseling. To qualify, residents could earn no more than 60 percent of the area median income, which is \$36,330 annually, but residents can increase their income and remain tenants. "After they move in, they can make \$1 million a year, and still have the same rent and access and rights to all the benefits of the program," Chapman said. The program is designed to encourage residents to promote themselves and not penalize them if they do. "Our lease purchase benefits are

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Lumumba, Graham seek mayoral post

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

The city of Jackson's mayoral race has officially begun now that Attorney Chokwe Antar Lumumba and Hinds County Supervisor Robert Graham – District 1 have officially confirmed their candidacies. Along with about 100 supporters, Lumumba stood in front of city hall the afternoon of May 19 and announced he was running to become mayor of the capital city on a theme of "Restoring the Vision: One City, One Aim, One Destiny." Ebony Lumumba, wife of the mayoral candi-

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Attorney Chokwe Antar Lumumba speaks to supporters and the media while announcing his candidacy for mayor of Jackson. His wife, Ebony Lumumba is at left. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

D.A. disputes dropped charges in hot car death

Associated Press and staff reports

On Wednesday, Carlos Moore, the attorney for Joshua Blunt, who was charged with second-degree murder in the hot car death of his 8 month-old daughter, released a statement saying that the charges against his client had been dropped. However in an interview with WLBT-TV, Grenada County District Attorney Doug Evans said that the charges had not been dropped.

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Tougaloo's Two Rivers Gala honors Mississippi icons



Tougaloo Two Rivers Gala 2016 honorees and presenters were (from left) Leroy Walker, Tougaloo trustee; Benjamin E. Wright, James Barksdale, Reena Evers-Everette, who accepted the award on behalf of her mother Myrlie Evers Williams; Aunjanue Ellis, Rodrick "Rod" Paige, Clarence Weatherspoon and Tougaloo President Beverly W. Hogan. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Ayesha K. Mustafaa
Contributing Writer

Since 2010, Tougaloo College has hosted the Two Rivers Gala/Honors. The Native American word "Tougaloo" means "two rivers." The college description notes Tougaloo as the place where two streams run parallel – education and activism. The Two Rivers Gala is the college's premier annual event that affords the opportunity to "honor visionaries, progressives and courageous individuals

who have made significant, extraordinary contributions to society," according to the program announcement. This year's gala held May 21, at the Jackson Convention Complex also featured the college's historic role as a leader of change and reaffirmed its commitment to "educate for democracy." It also served as a precursor for the 2017 opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Honorees celebrated at the gala were chosen by Tougaloo because of their

contributions as Mississippi icons in the areas of education, social activism, entrepreneurship, creative genius, journalism and sports. Describing the 2016 honorees, the program noted: "... these individuals have shone a bright light on our state and generated national acclaim and positive press. In today's world of growing divisiveness along racial,

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