

## **Legislature session sends \$2 million to GC**

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As the session closed, the Mississippi State Legislature generously appropriated funds for two George County infrastructure projects.

“This is the third year in a row that George County has punched out of our weight class,” said Economic Development Director Ken Flanagan. “We had a tremendous legislative session with funding and now, following up with 2022, we have had three very successful legislative sessions back-to-back.

The two new projects, Flanagan explains, are \$1.6 million for a community center at Agricola and a new, larger \$400,000 wastewater lift station in the county industrial park. “That is \$2 million for the county,” he said. “We punched out of our weight class.”

Flanagan gave credit for this funding to all three of the county’s state legislators – Rep. Manly Barton, Rep. Doug McLeod and Sen. Dennis Debar. He said Barton in particular was instrumental in obtaining the funding for the Agricola project.

The community center will be built near Agricola Elementary School on school district property., The parking lot will provide additional parking for the school.

This project is especially important to Agricola, according to Dist. 2 supervisor Kelly Wright, because the community has not had any place to hold community and family gatherings such as wedding and anniversary receptions, birthday parties and similar events.

The community center will be one of the largest in the county with meeting rooms, a large lobby and kitchen facilities.

The new lift station will replace the undersized and outdated structure now serving the industrial park, according to Flanagan. The need to replace the 22-year-old two pump system is being driven by the anticipated addition of the new Love’s Travel Center. Construction of the Love’s facility is slated to begin by the end of the summer.