

Page 2A THE NORTHSIDE SUN, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI Thursday, January 25, 2001

Volunteers help present exhibit

By KIMBLER BRYANT
Sun Staff Writer

MORE THAN 1,400 volunteers will work together this spring to show visitors the splendor of Spain.

The Majesty of Spain Exhibition, the largest of its kind to be presented in the United States from Spain, is staffed by a majority of volunteers. Ellen Gully, director of volunteers for the Mississippi Arts Pavilion, works continuously at recruiting them for the exhibit. She contacts volunteers from previous events through mail, out, telephone calls, and letters.

"Since the Versailles exhibit in 1998, I have kept in touch with the volunteers that are in our database," Gully said. "We arrange different outings for them and all sorts of events. We really want our volunteers to feel like they are part of the exhibit."

Because of economical reasons, the exhibit uses volunteers instead of hiring staff for the six month event.

"There is no way we could ever pay for the services that the volunteers provide," she said. "They give so much time and energy."

Volunteers are given a general overview of the exhibit during orientation. They are broken into smaller groups, where all the positions that the volunteers will fill are covered. They then attend an information session for the position they chose.

"There is also an on-site session to give volunteers an opportunity to walk through the exhibit before it opens," Gully said. "So they have a better understanding of the event."

All volunteers are asked to at least participate for three months of the six month show. They are required to

work three and a half hours per week with four shifts to choose from.

"A minimum of 210 volunteers are needed per day, seven days a week for six months," she said.

Because the summer takes some volunteers away, extras are always needed.

"When school lets out in May, volunteers that are parents will need to be at home with their children," she said. "A lot of people go on vacation in the summer."

VOLUNTEERS WILL perform a variety of duties that includes ticket taking, audio visuals, the gift shop, and information. Some volunteers will also host in the galleries.

"They are there in case someone needs any assistance," Gully said. "They even answer some general questions."

A majority of the volunteers are from the tri-county area. Others come from as far away as Alabama and Louisiana.

Volunteering for the Majesty of Spain has its advantages according to Gully. Volunteers are awarded medallions for 56 hours of service. They receive 10 percent off purchases from the Desoto cafe and the gift shop.

Free parking is available on site, and gift certificates are given for merchandise and dinners. Snacks are provided in the volunteers office by Jackson area merchants.

"We hope the volunteers get something from this," Gully said. "We feel like it is a worthy while experience. Not only because of the service that it gives to the community, but because it is a reward for them as well."

THE MAJESTY OF SPAIN Exhibition showcases more than 600 items as well as five room recreations from Spanish Palaces. The reigns of four kings are included in the exhibit.

The largest objects on display are a 55 foot royal gondola, a long narrow canal boat, and the royal carriage of Fernando VII. The extravagantly decorated royal carriage is accompanied by eight life-like horses and footmen.

The exhibition is primarily fine and decorative arts, instead of simply historical. It is designed to allow visitors the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of some of the most important palaces during our nation's birth, while learning about their history and how it relates to ours.

Alderman wants trees covered by ordinance

By JENNY BOURN
Sun Staff Writer

STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN to protect the trees in the city of Ridgeland.

A tree ordinance is being developed by which the city will be able to protect and preserve urban forestry.

"With the ordinance in place, we will be able to regulate our developers a little more as far as coming in and cutting down all the trees," Ward One Alderman Ann Brumme Hard said. "I want it in place soon so we can go ahead and try to enforce it before we lose any more trees."

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Director Chris Chance has spent the past few months researching information on a tree ordinance.

Many cities both in and out of state, already have tree ordinances in place including Olive Branch, Biloxi, Gulfport and Tupelo.

Chance plans to continue research and pass the information along to the beautification committee. They will in turn draft an ordinance and bring it before the board for recommendations and final approval.

"We will try to make it fit with what the city of Ridgeland is trying to do in protection and preservation of urban forestry and of the trees we have in place and also replacement," Chance said. "When a situation arises where trees have to come down, we try to replace them with more trees."

THE REMOVAL OF THE trees on the Eckert's development on the corner of Post Orchard and County Line Road concerned Hard. This prompted her to want something in place to protect the trees.

Eckert's Developer Bert Green had planned to plant more trees and believes the tree ordinance is a good idea.

"We certainly think the trees are very important not only to our project and being good corporate members of the community, but also for Ridgeland the community as well," Green said. "We want to do everything we can to do our part to make Ridgeland a beautiful community as it already is."

"The landscaping we've got far exceeds what the city requires anyway. We try to exceed so they will be proud of what they see."

Brumme said Green has been excellent in working with them, but is afraid other developers will not be as cooperative.

"We have to do something, now especially before those beautiful trees on the Highland Colony Parkway are gone," he said.

For now, Chance is trying to find the happy medium where it allows people to do what they want to do with their own property while also providing for the greater common good of the community.

Business Notes

Mississippi Associated Builders and Contractors (MABC) honored a number of its member contractors and suppliers at the association's annual awards banquet for outstanding quality, innovation and safety in construction projects completed this year. MABC awarded the Excellence in Construction Award to Greg Sahler Construction Company.

Inc., Harrell Construction Group, LLC, Independent Roofing Systems, Inc., Laws Construction, McKay Ivey Mechanical Company, Roy Anderson Corporation and White Construction Company.

Amanda Marks has been named area sales manager for the Cabot Lodges of Mississippi. Marks, a native of Madison, earned a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from the University of Southern Mississippi.

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