

Mayor cites steady growth since Katrina

Harbor project about 45 days from completion, McDermott says



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

During his State of the City address, Pass Christian Mayor Chipper McDermott said work on the marina was 45 days from substantial completion. It will take another six to eight months to move everything to the location.

By JENNIFER LENAIN

Special to The Sun Herald

PASS CHRISTIAN — “For the last eight years we’ve been trying to paint a pretty picture,” said Mayor Chipper McDermott regarding the city’s steady progress since Hurricane Katrina. “Sometimes, we had to dig for some paint to make things pretty. I can tell you right now that we have plenty of paint in our bucket.”

There were at least 100 guests at the Pass Christian Isles Golf Club for the Chamber of Commerce’s Breakfast with the Mayor on Tuesday morning.

“Our mayor is very entertaining and everyone wants to hear what he has to say,” Chamber President Monica Whittman said.

McDermott hit on multiple topics, including new businesses to the area, progress of the harbor and upcoming events.

The Pass Harbor is “about 45 days from substantial completion and six months until full completion,” McDermott said.

“There is \$35 million in that harbor and there is not a penny of FEMA money in that harbor that wasn’t there before,” said McDermott.

Moving into the new harbor will be all seafood wholesalers and an ice facility, he said, while the structures in the Market Street harbor will be leveled and the area will be open space.

McDermott said he hopes to house commercial boats that have been displaced in the 102 commercial slots that will be in the new harbor.

“The oyster business is the biggest thing; the fish-



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

Pass Christian Mayor Chipper McDermott gives his State of the City address Tuesday morning.

Upcoming events

Pass Christian has an array of entertainment options to offer in April and May:

April 5: Art in the Pass
April 12-13: Po-boy Festival and Blessing of the Fleet

April 12: Italian Open at Pass Christian Golf Club
May 10: Pass Wine and Food Festival

ermen have to come to the Pass,” he said. “From the state line, here and Biloxi are the only places to get ice,” McDermott said in regard to meeting fishermen’s needs. “We’re trying to save the seafood industry.”

As for the harbor itself, “It’s astounding. You really can’t appreciate it until you get down there and look at it,” he said.

In the coming months, an American Cigar shop and a Chinese restaurant will open on Davis Street, Mc-

Dermott said.

McDermott said Pass Christian has more businesses than before Katrina. “The only thing better than having a lot of businesses is having businesses that can stay open,” he said.

The Cat Island Coffee Shop, Pass Christian Books and Bacchus on the Beach are doing great and always packed, said McDermott.

Starting in May, the new, multi-use pavilion at Davis Street and Second Street will host a farmers market on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

McDermott also mentioned having a Little Theatre operating soon in the Randolph Facility.

There is talk of a hotel coming to Market Street. Pleased with the location, McDermott said landowners and investors are looking at options to build an 89-room hotel.

“That’s the biggest wish-list item we have. It’ll help everything,” he said.