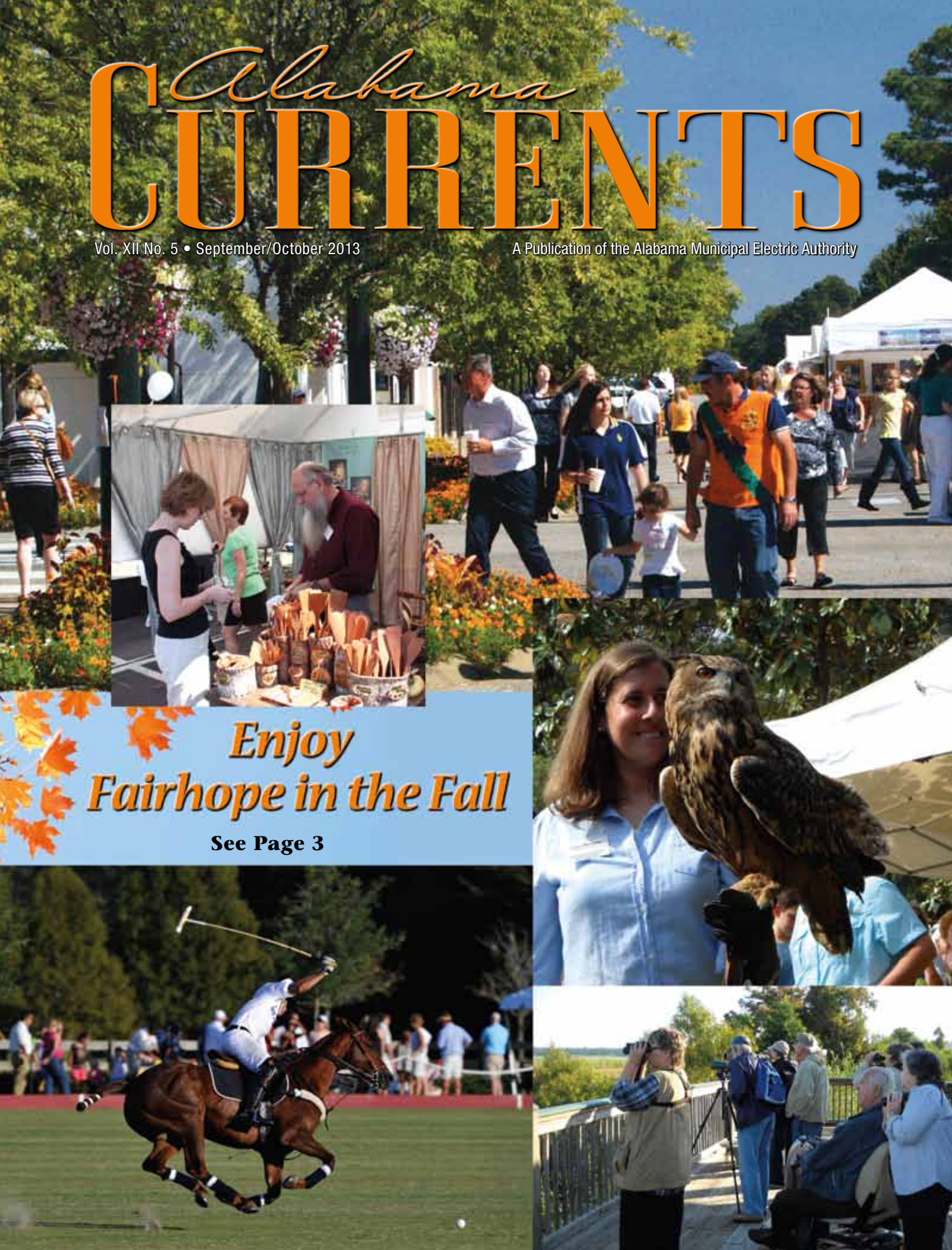
Alabama CURRENTS

Vol. XII No. 5 • September/October 2013

A Publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority



Enjoy Fairhope in the Fall

See Page 3

AMEA Member cities selected to participate in ACE program

The Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) Class of 2013 was recently announced and we are proud to say two cities in the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) network have been selected to participate…Alexander City and Fairhope. Other cities selected to participate in the ACE program include Elba, Helena, Rainsville and Saraland.

ACE provides communities that have a concerted, long-term commitment to making their towns better places with the tools to do just that: becoming real Alabama Communities of Excellence. The ACE three-phase process provides the backbone of a systematic method for growth and improvement in Alabama's towns and cities.

The six join 26 other Alabama towns in a program that provides a comprehensive three-phase approach to economic and community development for cities with populations between 2,000 and 18,000.

ACE helps communities with the following:

- Leadership Development
- Strategic Planning
- Comprehensive Planning
- Commercial Business Development
- Education Enhancement
- Infrastructure Requirements
- Health and Human Services
- Tourism
- Economic Development
- Recreation Opportunities
- Quality of Life

During Phase I, the assessment phase, a comprehensive report card detailing community assets and weaknesses is prepared and presented to the community along with recommended strategies and actions.

Phase II, the Leadership Development and Strategic Planning component, requires each community to establish a leadership development program, prepare an up-to-date strategic plan, and identify a local ACE coordinator.

Phase III, the Implementation and Comprehensive Planning segment, addresses comprehensive planning, commercial business development, education enhancement, infrastructure, health and human services, retiree attraction, tourism, economic development, and quality of life.

The 2013 class of municipalities have already begun the process of becoming ACE communities.

To maintain the ACE designation, a community must be recertified every three years.

Throughout each of the three phases, ACE partners from the private sector, government agencies and universities work with each community to successfully achieve its goals. ACE partners include: Alabama Association of Regional Councils, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Alabama Department of Commerce (ADC), Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama League of Municipalities, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, Alabama Power Company, Alabama Department of Public Health, Auburn University Economic & Community Development Institute, Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA), Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Regions Financial Corporation, the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development and the University of West Alabama.

Twenty-six communities have previously been certified as Alabama Communities of Excellence. They are Arab, Atmore, Brewton, Childersburg, Demopolis, Eufaula, Evergreen, Fayette, Foley, Graysville, Guin, Gulf Shores, Guntersville,

Haleyville, Hartselle, Headland, Heflin, Jackson, Jacksonville, Leeds, Livingston, Millbrook, Monroeville, Montevallo, Thomasville and Valley.

ACE was created in 2002 as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of utilizing the collective expertise of its partner organizations. ACE provides participants with a "one stop shopping" type of experience — community development programs and tools needed to insure long-term success found through one organization.

We congratulate the City of Alexander City and the City of Fairhope on their selection as 2013 ACE participants. We are delighted to be a part of the ACE program and to work with our Members as they strive for excellence in their communities.

Lisa Miller

AMEA Manager of Communications and Marketi

Alabama Currents
is a Publication of the
Alabama Municipal Electric Authority

P.O. Box 5220
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5220

804 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

www.amea.com

Fred D. Clark, Jr.
President & Chief Executive Officer

Board of Directors

Chairman — Don McClellan
Vice Chairman — Gary Fuller
Secretary/Treasurer — Tim Kant
Dale Baker — Taylor Barbaree
Mike Dugger — Kyle McCoy
Morris Tate — Lee Young

Alabama Currents
Volume XII, No. 5
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

Editor
Lisa Miller

Designed by
Walker 360

Printed by
Walker 360
www.walker360.com

Customers: Address changes should be handled through your local utility office.

Alabama Currents is published six times per year by the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA), and is mailed to the retail electric customers of AMEA Member cities.

MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

Alabama CURRENTS

Inside This Issue

6 **Gov. Bentley awards grants to help low-income residents cut energy costs**

7 **High School Seniors: Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) Scholarship Program Applications Available!**

News From AMEA Members

8 **Fairhope**
9 **Luverne**
10 **Lanett**
11 **Opelika**
12 **Piedmont**
12 **Riviera Utilities**
13 **Sylacauga**
14 **Alexander City**
14 **Dothan**

Features

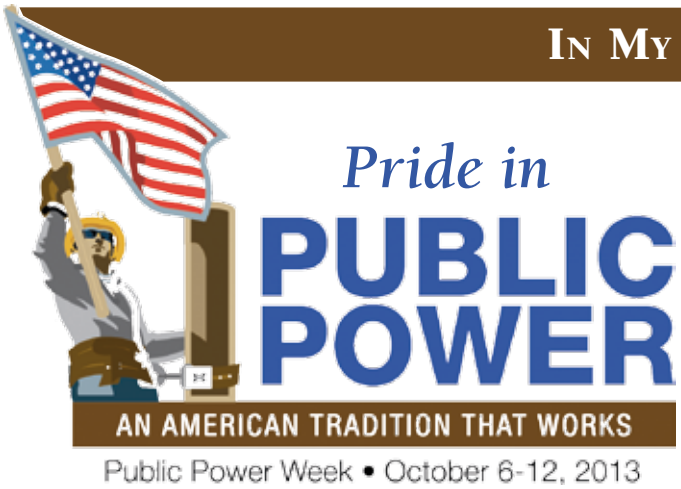
2 **From The Editor**
4 **In My Opinion**
5 **Doug Rye**
7 **Safety News You Can Use**
15 **Places To Go & Things To Do**

On the Cover

Enjoy a season filled with events in Fairhope, including the 25th Annual Polo at the Point, Alabama Coastal Birdfest, Grand Festival of Art, the Book Festival, the Mullet Run, and much more! October will be a fun-filled month in Fairhope for residents and visitors.

The fountain in front of the Fairhope Museum of History, where the 6th Annual Mullet Run starts, is called the Mullet Run Fountain. The Mullet Run will include a 5K and a One-Mile Fun Run. For information, visit www.fairhopemulletrun.com

For more information on all of these events, see Places to Go and Things to Do on Pages 15 and 16.



For more than 130 years, public power has been a tradition that works across the nation on behalf of its communities and customers. Today, it is a thriving segment of the electric utility industry. Public power has a strong environmental-protection track record, solid credentials with bond rating agencies, and a reputation for reliable, customer-focused service.

Low-cost, reliable, and community-owned. These are all key components of your utility's public power formula. We're proud to be a hometown "public power" electric utility — a not-for-profit, community enterprise. Every day, every week, every year since it was founded, your public power utility has powered your days and nights.

Your public power utility is one of about 2,000 utilities across the country that has been created as community-owned, hometown enterprises. They are operated by local governments as a public service, with the mission of providing electricity in a reliable manner, at a reasonable cost, and with proper protection of the environment.

The advantages of home power, like reliability, service, local investment and accountability, remain as valuable today as the day your public power utility was founded.

For example, electric customers expect reliability. Reliable service comes naturally to locally-owned electric utilities because our crews live and work every day in the community.

Home power utilities also offer great service because our customers are our neighbors. That commitment to service is a fundamental value for our employees whether they're on the job or out in the community.

When it comes to investments, locally-owned utilities give back to Main Street, not Wall Street. Our customers' money stays in the community. Those dollars support essential city services and make your city a better place to live, work and play.

Home power utilities believe that everything works better when decisions are made locally and in public meetings. Listening to their customers allows public power utilities the opportunity to create unique solutions that meet the local community's needs.

Locally-owned utilities have some powerful advantages, but customers sometimes ask whether a local utility has the resources and efficiency of a larger organization. That's why home power utilities like the Member cities of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) work together with other local utilities through our statewide organization, Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA). ECA is a coalition of the state's municipally-owned electric utilities. Alabama's electric cities span the state from the Tennessee Valley region in the north to the Gulf and Wiregrass regions of the south. Together, ECA members serve approximately one million customers in 36 cities.

Working together, utilities around the state support reliability through an agreement to help each other when a major storm, like a tornado or hurricane, hits. A good example of this is in the aftermath of the April 27, 2011 storms in Alabama. Public power once again responded to the call for help from storm-ravaged cities in north Alabama and joined the community in assisting with relief efforts. Electric cities throughout Alabama have a long tradition of working with member and neighboring utilities to help restore electricity in a timely and safe manner. In times of disaster, your public power employees stand ready to assist whether it's through power restoration efforts, collecting non-perishable food items, clothing, water and money, donating blood, or volunteering their time. This is public power at its best – brother helping brother.

To celebrate and honor this American tradition, public power systems across the nation that collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 45 million Americans will recognize the 27th anniversary of Public Power Week, Oct. 6-12, a national, annual event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington, D.C. APPA is the service organization for community- and state-owned electric utilities.

Public power today is an important, contemporary American institution. From small towns to big cities, wherever public power exists, it is an expression of the American ideal of local people working together to meet local needs.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to shine the light in your community.

Fred D. Clark, Jr.
AMEA President & CEO

To $pend or not to $pend

By now, you are probably aware that energy efficiency is not only my profession, but is also my passion. For years now, folks have trusted my advice. That is mostly because I do not sell energy-saving products and my advice is free to you, the consumer. Or as some would say, I don't have a dog in the race. You see, all I have are credentials and years of experience. And both must be earned; they cannot be bought.

Since most folks are at least somewhat concerned about their comfort and utility bills, there are many who are willing to give advice on the topic of energy efficiency. When the weather is really hot or really cold, you can get advice from your favorite TV news personality, a newspaper, a magazine, or another person. Through the years, I have been amazed at much of that advice. In my opinion, much of that advice has just been taken from some source which was copied from some other source, etc. and was not based on much factual information. It is not my intention to be critical, but to encourage you to analyze that information to see if it really applies to your particular situation.

Do not believe everything that you read or hear about energy efficiency. Many times, advertisers have said that you might save 40 to 50 percent on your utility bills if you will just purchase or install their product. I remember telling a fellow one time that if that was true, I would buy two of them and then I wouldn't have any utility bills at all. I also asked him if he had installed this miracle product in his house. Of course he had not and the conversation ended pretty soon after that.

I am writing this column on the first week of August 2013. I want to give you examples of what I am trying to teach you from questions that I have answered and things that I have read these past few days.

We would all agree that attic insulation is important, right? Well, a lady attending one of my seminars said that she wanted to add cellulose insulation over the existing insulation in her attic just like I had recommended in an earlier column. She said that she had called an insulation company and they had scheduled an appointment to add the insulation. I asked about the size of her house and she said that it was about 1,500 sq. ft. I asked her how much insulation was in her attic now and she said about 13". I asked her to tell me the amount of her last electric bill and she said about $100. I asked her if her house was comfortable and she said yes. Based on her answers, I told her that she did not need additional attic insulation and suggested that she cancel the appointment.

I read in the newspaper yesterday a list of suggested things that one can do to lower the electric bill. One suggestion said that you could save about 2 percent for every degree that you changed the thermostat setting. Well that sounds good and about right, but is that a big savings?

Let's take the $100 electric bill. About 30 percent of the bill may be for some type of tax, so the electric usage is really about $70 which means that you might save about $1.40 for the whole month by changing the thermostat setting one degree. I am very much aware that in some households, every dollar is important and we do what we have to do. I am also aware that many families could and would gladly continue to pay $5 more per month to keep their house comfortable.

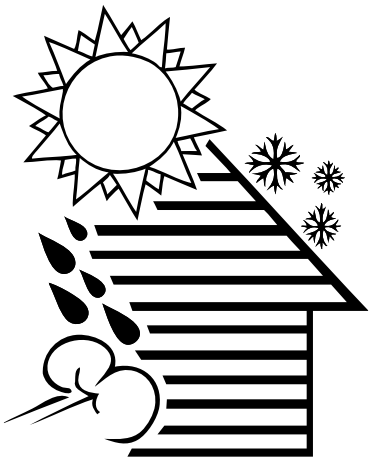
Several have called to tell me that they have received an invitation in the mail to attend a free dinner and learn how to save up to 50 percent on their utility bills. I tell them that that sounds just great, but notice that it does not say that you will save 50 percent, but up to 50 percent. So if you spend a lot of money and save 10 percent, then that is up to 50 percent. Folks, I have been aware of these free dinner programs for years, and I believe that the programs reward the sponsor of the program much more than they benefit the attendees.

I could go on and on with example after example about whether or not someone should spend their money to make their home more energy efficient. The key is to know what, if any, feasible energy improvements your particular house needs. This may surprise you, but I talk about half of those that call my office out of spending their money for the energy-efficiency item in question.

There may be those who will take your money for energy-efficiency items that you don't need, but there are also those who will help you with the things that you do need. If you wish, I will help you decide whether to spend or not to spend. You may call me at (501) 653-7931. See you in November.

Doug Rye, an Arkansas architect, is known as the 'King of Caulk and Talk' and 'America's Energy Expert'. Doug has helped thousands of homeowners save money on their utility bills. He hosts the popular "Home Remedies" radio talk program, which has been on the air for over 20 years and has aired in 19 states. He has conducted energy-saving seminars in almost every state, and averages over 100 per year. Have a question for Doug? Contact him at (501) 653-7931, or www.dougrye.com.

Gov. Bentley awards grants to help low-income residents cut energy costs



Weatherization Works

Some low-income and elderly Alabama residents who need assistance reducing their utility bills will get help from grants totaling $950,000 recently awarded by Gov. Robert Bentley.

The grants will support Alabama's Weatherization Assistance Program, which pays contractors to improve the energy efficiency and safety of homes that qualify. The program gives priority to those with disabilities, the elderly and low-income households with children.

"High energy bills can be difficult for Alabamians with limited resources," Bentley said. "The weatherization program saves energy and lowers utility bills for our most vulnerable residents."

An energy audit is conducted of each home that qualifies for weatherization assistance to determine the most cost-efficient measures. Common improvements include installing extra insulation in the attic, walls and floor; sealing air leaks around doors and windows; repairs or tune-ups for air conditioning and heating units; and replacing incandescent light bulbs with high-efficiency compact fluorescents. In addition to lowering energy bills, the improvements can reduce the risk of fire and other hazards.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) administers the program from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bentley awarded the grants to 16 community agencies across the state that manage the program at the local level and receive applications from individuals who wish to be considered for assistance.

Below is a list of each grant, the recipient agency, counties served and the agency telephone number:

- $33,409 to Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (Lee, Macon and Russell) (334) 262-4300
- $24,697 to Community Action Committee Inc. of Chambers-Tallapoosa-Coosa (Chambers, Coosa and Tallapoosa) (256) 825-4287
- $66,878 to Elmore-Autauga Community Action Committee (Autauga, Chilton, Dallas, Elmore, Perry and Shelby) (334) 567-4361
- $20,083 to Alabama Council on Human Relations Inc. (Lee) (334) 821-8336
- $24,868 to Community Action of Etowah County (Etowah) (256) 546-9271
- $50,757 to Community Action Partnership of Huntsville-Madison and Limestone Counties (Madison and Limestone) (256) 851-9800
- $110,053 to Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (Jefferson) (205) 327-7500
- $84,278 to Mobile Community Action Inc. (Choctaw, Mobile and Washington) (251)457-5700
- $50,455 to Montgomery County Commission (Montgomery) (334) 262-4300
- $67,245 to Community Action Partnership of North Alabama Inc. (Cullman, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan, Walker and Winston) (256) 355-7843
- $67,421 to Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama Inc. (Blount, Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall and St. Clair) (256) 638-4430
- $33,382 to Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama Inc. (Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale) (256) 766-4330
- $107,916 to Organized Community Action Program Inc. (Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lowndes and Pike) (334) 566-1712
- $74,805 to Community Action Agency of South Alabama (Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe and Wilcox) (251) 626-2649
- $58,574 to Community Action Agency of Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Calhoun and Cleburne (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph and Talladega) (256) 362-6611
- $75,179 to Community Service Programs of West Alabama Inc. (Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter and Tuscaloosa) (205) 752-5429

Safety NEWS You CAN USE

Think safety when operating a generator

You can use a portable generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But if used improperly, they can kill you and the people, such as linemen, who are trying to restore power to your home.

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply of your house requires the services of a qualified and certified electrician. And before installing the generator to your household, notify your public power system.

Seven-step plan to prevent generator accidents

1. A qualified, licensed electrician must install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch to connect the generator to a building's electrical system. This is required by the National Electrical Code. The connection must meet local ordinances. A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.
2. Make sure that the unit is connected to an appropriate electrical ground, in accordance with the National Electric Code. Follow instructions supplied with the generator.
3. Operate the generator in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Make sure your hands are dry when operating.
4. Inspect extension cords before use and replace with new if required. Use proper size (wire gauge) cord set for the application. Follow instructions supplied with your unit. Always use electrically grounded cord sets.
5. Turn the engine off and allow it to cool before adding fuel. Make sure there's a fire extinguisher in the immediate area that is certified to handle gasoline or fuel fires.
6. Keep objects away from the unit during operation. Do not operate the unit in a confined area such as a garage, basement, storage shed, etc., which lack a steady exchange of air. Never operate a unit in a location occupied by humans or animals. Keep children, pets and others away from where it's operating.
7. Never attempt to "speed up" the engine to obtain more performance. Both the output voltage and frequency will be thrown out of standard by this practice, endangering you and the attachments.

Determining wattage requirements

Never exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Overloading can cause serious damage to the generator or appliances. Before operating a generator, list all of the appliances that are going to operate at the same time. Then determine the starting wattage requirements and the running wattage requirements. The starting load lasts only for a few seconds, but is very important when figuring your total wattage to be used. Your generator must be rated to handle the total wattage.

Wattage requirements vary with different brands of appliances. Be sure to check the name plate on the appliances you plan to use. Always start your largest electric motor first, and then plug in other items one at a time.

High School Seniors: Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) Scholarship Program Applications Available!

College scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors graduating in the spring of 2014.

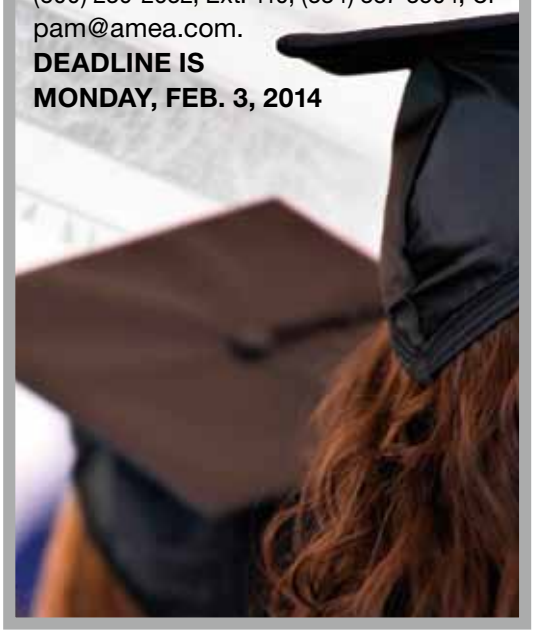
Each year, AMEA and its Members make available 33, $2,500 scholarships, which include regular and technical school scholarships.

To be eligible for either of AMEA's scholarships, a student's family must receive **electric** service from an AMEA Member city/utility and the student must attend an Alabama college or university.

Applications are currently available from school counselors in the AMEA Member cities of Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley (Riviera Utilities), LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Sylacauga and Tuskegee, or you can go line to the AMEA web site, www.amea.com, Scholarship Program

For more information on the program, contact your school counselor or Pamela Poole, AMEA's Scholarship Program Coordinator, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 110, (334) 387-3504, or pam@amea.com.

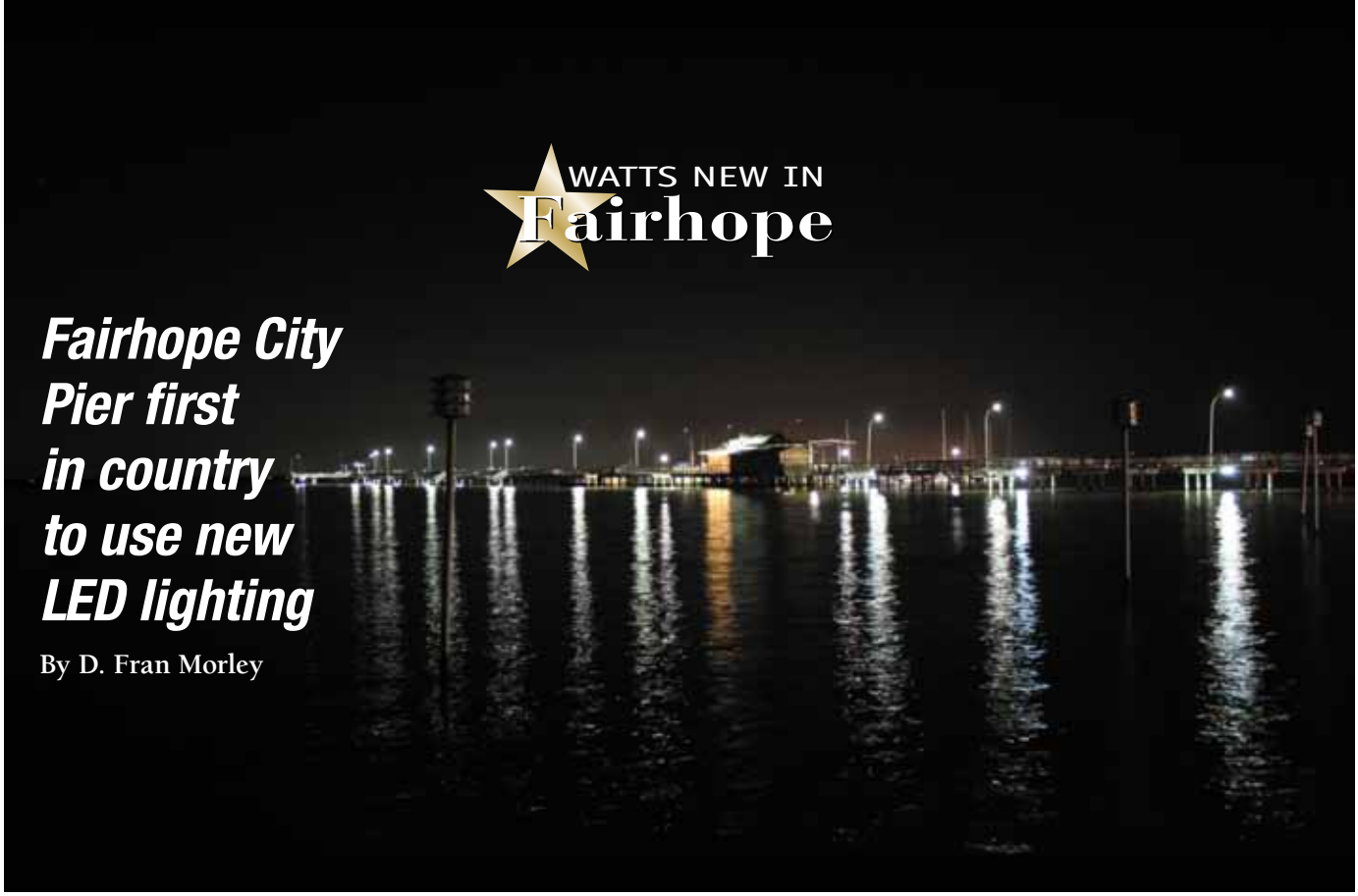
DEADLINE IS MONDAY, FEB. 3, 2014



WATTS NEW IN Fairhope

Fairhope City Pier first in country to use new LED lighting

By D. Fran Morley



Pier photo by Scott Sligh, Electric Superintendent

With recent improvements to the overhead lights on the Fairhope City Pier, the Fairhope Electric Department is nearing completion of multiple pier electric upgrades that began almost two years ago.

"We started by replacing the fishing lights under the pier, improving the bathroom lighting, and then completing a major overhaul of the electric system in the city marina that included adding new navigation lights and new outlets for boat owners to plug in to," said Scott Sligh, Electric Superintendent. "In essence, the whole pier is getting an electric facelift and the overhead lighting on top rounds it out."

Fairhope Electric Department employee Kevin Wadsworth poses high above the Fairhope City Pier, where he rewired and replaced all the old overhead light fixtures with the new LED lights. (Photo by D. Fran Morley).

The latest project will be the most noticeable, Sligh said. "We partnered with Howard Lighting to get their newest LED (light-emitting diode) lights; we're the first company in the country to receive and install them."

The new lights are dark-sky friendly, meaning the light doesn't spread out beyond where it is directed. That improvement is especially noticeable from the bluff or while walking on the pier, Sligh said.

"One aspect of an LED light is that they also come on instantly, without the warm-up period the old lights had. Next year, for the Fourth of July when the lights are turned back on after the fireworks, you will really see this."

Sligh says he hopes to complete all the pier electric upgrades over the next several months, changing the pier circle parking lot lights to LED, moving the underground electric feeds for the pier to make them more reliable and weather resistant, and moving the box that houses the electric components for the fountain pump and lights closer to the bluff to get it out of view and also place it where it's less likely to suffer damage from high water.

WATTS NEW IN
Luverne

A helping hand

By Regina Grayson

Mrs. Lee Haugh

Hers are not the hands of the idle, nor are they the hands of the weak. And, at the vibrant age of 91, Mrs. Lee Haugh of Luverne is living proof of this.

Haugh and her husband, F.R., moved to the seat of Crenshaw County in 1973, and she wasted no time when it came to getting involved with community services of one kind or another. This included becoming a member of the Susannah Wesley Fellowship Ministry at Luverne United Methodist Church. One of the group's important projects is the neck-roll pillows for patients taking chemotherapy at the Montgomery Cancer Center.

"I've been sewing all my life," she said, "and I've been told the chemo is cold, so these pillows are warm, and they add comfort."

Haugh has sewn well over 200 of the pillows since 2009.

"That first year, I did 17 pillows," she said. "This year so far, I have finished 72."

But trying to bring some comfort and relief to cancer patients is not the only thing she's done. Mrs. Hilda Maddox, a huge supporter of the American troops, asked Haugh if she would create the pattern of a pillow that our servicemen and women could slide into the side pockets of their combat fatigues. Haugh explained that she did just that and included a slipcover that could be taken off and laundered. Ten of these pillows have been sent overseas to Crenshaw County military personnel.

And those projects are done in Haugh's spare time. Otherwise, she can be found volunteering at the Luverne Public Library, her "home away from home."

"The library has been my love my whole life," she explained, smiling. "My mother would take me to the library as a child, and I'd stay for hours."

The new building for the Luverne Public Library was completed at its present location in 1997. At that time, Rene Lester was the director. However, by that time, Haugh had already been volunteering at the old library location since 1994.

"When Rene put an ad in the paper for volunteers, I was just tickled," Haugh said, laughing. "I couldn't wait to get started."

Actually, Haugh has been a library volunteer for the last 20 years, with Wednesdays being her main workday.

"I came in every day during 2002 when the card catalog system became computerized. It took about three months to make that transition."

As of Aug. 1, Haugh has logged 4,322 volunteer hours at the library.

"Mrs. Lee is remarkable, not only for her age, but for any age," Library Director Kathryn Tomlin said. "The days she volunteers, she doesn't just come in and sit – she works from the time she walks in until it's time for her to leave. She loves to have a special project waiting on her when she comes in. All I have to do is mention something that needs doing, and she gets it done."

"One time, she repaired a desk drawer that had been torn up for at least 10 years," Tomlin said. "There she was, 90 years old, crawling around underneath that desk until she got the job done."

"We've been blessed by her generosity – not just of her time, but of her money, too," Tomlin explained. "Every year, she picks up pecans in her yard, sells them, and then donates the money to the library — every year."

The library itself always stays extra busy with special craft days and programs for children; week after week, Haugh would see the staff cutting out craft materials by hand.

"One day, I just mentioned that I could really use a die-cut machine to help us cut out our craft projects, and the next thing I knew, she was handing me a check to pay for one," Tomlin said.

As for Haugh, she just brushes off any accolades or special recognitions.

"I cut my own grass up until I was around 75," she said, laughing.

And this 91-year-old shows no signs of slowing down.

"Mrs. Lee is the perfect example of hard work, dependability, and dedication to anything she puts her mind to," Tomlin said. "I hope she continues to volunteer for many years to come — I don't think she realizes what a great asset she is to the library and to so many others around her."

"You won't find any weak or idle hands from her — only gifted ones."

WATTS NEW IN Lanett

City of Lanett Fall Festival planned for October

By Jennie Gunnells

The City of Lanett Recreation Department offers many different events throughout the year. One of the favorite events is the Fall Festival. Lanett citizens, especially the children, look forward to this all year long.

This year's festival is planned for Saturday, Oct. 26 from 4 until 6 p.m. (EST) in downtown Lanett on the square. There is no admission and many activities are free.

The weather is usually very pleasant. The leaves have turned their gorgeous fall colors and it is usually cool, but not cold. This is a very safe outing for children and all ages to attend. There is something for everyone to enjoy. The City of Lanett Police Department will be monitoring the event as well.

Free candy is given out to children under 12 from each vendor booth. There are usually three or four vendors selling hot dogs, hamburgers and funnel cakes. There are approximately 13 Lanett churches that have tables/booths setup and they give out free candy. Popcorn is also available from one of these tables.

Several free activities will be offered during the City of Lanett Fall Festival, including train rides.

Several other free activities are offered, such as face painting, train rides, bounce activities, a giant slide, the cake walk, and many other games and activities. Many homemade scratch cakes are donated for the cake walk and there are usually 25 to 30 cakes available. The City of Lanett has many good cooks and these cakes are delicious.

Since the Fall Festival is close to Halloween, there are costume contests for several different age groups. Age groups are 5 and under, ages 6 through 9, ages 10 through 13 and ages 14 and over. Many adults dress up in costumes for the Fall Festival.

Ronnie Tucker, Recreation Director, always offers a drawing for 10 to 15 prizes. Each person is given a ticket for the drawing as they enter the downtown area. Past prizes have included $25 gift cards from some local stores, a free local restaurant meal and some City of Lanett logo prizes.

Again, all of us at the City of Lanett encourage you to come out for this festive and fun event. We hope to see you there!

WATTS NEW IN
Opelika

Opelika Power Services "powers up" for expanded services this fall

By Jan Gunter

Excitement is growing at Opelika Power Services (OPS) and in the City of Opelika as the highly anticipated fiber optic services become reality. OPS has built a fiber network around the city to improve electric reliability and quality and to offer triple play service to Opelika citizens.

When the dream about fiber began, the ultimate goal was to equip the entire city with fiber optics infrastructure. By doing that, OPS would have the ability to analyze and restore power outages faster so that outage times for our customers could be drastically reduced in most cases. That's because most problems in the grid can be identified without having to send personnel out (sometimes in bad weather) to patrol lines in search of the outage location. And, in some cases, the system will also be able to automatically re-route power distribution in the grid, so that power to the residence isn't interrupted at all or at the very least is nothing more than a blink of the lights.

Opelika Power Services crew members, Mikey Hallman and Michael Bass, installing the new system.

OPS had the opportunity to put the first component of this system, the Milsoft Outage Management System, to the test in late June during a typical summer thunderstorm. The Milsoft system allowed crews to identify the location of the outages without having to patrol lines. Not only did the system work properly, it let crews know when all systems were back on after restoration of the circuits.

Of course, the added value to this new fiber optic system is the capability of offering video (cable), data (high speed internet) and voice (telephone) services to the City of Opelika residents and business locations. This technology will enhance the quality of life for Opelika citizens and in addition will provide the ability to attract new "high tech" industries. OPS is now testing to insure the integrity and quality of the product network. The City of Opelika will announce when the service will be available to the public.

Information desk at the new Opelika Power Services facilities. The new slogan at the top of the desk is Proven Past, Future Focused.

View of the Opelika Power Services office as you drive into the parking lot at 600 Fox Run Parkway.

Recently, the OPS Customer Service Department has moved from City Hall to its new location at 600 Fox Run Parkway. OPS customers can still pay their bill in person or at the drive-thru window.

If you have questions, please call OPS Customer Service at (334) 705-5170.

WATTS NEW IN
Piedmont

Piedmont downtown park gets makeover

By Ben Singleton

The Piedmont First United Methodist Church youth group helped Piedmont look a little better this summer. Around 30 members took on some community projects for their Mission Week. Youth and church members put mulch and flowers in the downtown park flower beds and also re-stained the gazebo downtown. The youth also cut grass, trimmed shrubbery and worked in flower beds in several other yards around town.

In addition, the group volunteered one day at the Piedmont Benevolence Center.

"This is just a small way for our youth to give back to the community," said Youth Minister Joey Spivey.

In the past, every summer the group would take mission trips out of town. However, since the spring tornado of 2011, the youth decided to work in their own community. They stay at the church all week and different groups provide food for them throughout the week. Each evening they have a worship service and a speaker.

"I appreciate the hard work that these young boys and girls did for our city," said Mayor Rick Freeman.

The Piedmont First United Methodist Church youth group re-stains the downtown gazebo.

WATTS NEW AT
Riviera Utilities

10th Annual Stan Mahoney Youth Fishing Rodeo planned for October

By Miles McDaniel

The 10th Annual Stan Mahoney Youth Fishing Rodeo has become one of Riviera Utilities' and Wolf Bay Watershed Watch's most anticipated events. Kids from all around come for one day of fun on the water and in the sun. The event exposes youngsters to the excitement of fishing in a fun and safe environment.

The 2013 tournament will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 from 6 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Barber Marina in Elberta. Proceeds from the event will benefit Wolf Bay Watershed Watch Youth Projects to promote conservation ethics in youth.

"It's our hope to instill in children a deep appreciation for the sport of fishing as well as awareness and respect for the conservation of the environment and its natural resources," said Miles McDaniel, Public Affairs Manager, Riviera Utilities. "These types of outreach programs give children and families the opportunity to experience a tradition. By introducing them to the balance of nature and the concept of stewardship, we ensure these precious resources are protected into and beyond the foreseeable future."

The event is open to children ages 3 through 16, with the registrants receiving a t-shirt and a medal. Children can win just by entering.

Anglers can pre-register by getting an application form from either Riviera Utilities' web site, www.rivierautilities.com, or the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch's web site, www.wolfbaywatch.org. Pre-registration guarantees a t-shirt and allows for early check-in on Oct. 18. There is a $10 entry fee for early registration on or before Oct. 18 and a $15 entry fee on the day of the tournament.

There will be first, second, and third place trophies awarded for eligible species in two age divisions. Participants can expect to catch speckled trout, catfish, redfish, flounder, bass, sheepshead, croaker or spot, bream, and pinfish with an open division.

If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering for the 2013 Stan Mahoney Youth Fishing Rodeo, please contact Riviera Utilities at (251) 943-5001, Ext. 2621.

WATTS NEW IN

Sylacauga

Not your average art The Arc hosting ArtPartners auction Sept. 19

By Emily Adams

Cheryl Eyster of The Arc guides 10-year-old Isaiah's hands as he paints.

Once a week, a group of emerging artists gather in Sylacauga to refine their artistic skills and learn from the best. And once a year, the public is privileged to purchase their resulting artwork at a special auction.

The Arc of South Talladega County, in partnership with VSA Arts and the Comer Arts Museum, is hosting its 8th Annual ArtPartners Auction and Showcase on Sept. 19. About 70 paintings, drawings and other art from members of The Arc, as well as the professional artists who mentor them, will be available during live and silent auctions. This year's event, set for 6-8 p.m. at Comer Arts Museum, has a Mardi Gras theme. Refreshments will be served.

The art that will be showcased is produced during weekly sessions in which local artists mentor intellectually or physically disabled individuals that The Arc supports. Artists from surrounding cities and from across central Alabama visit Sylacauga to help guide the budding artists to create uniquely beautiful pieces that are all their own. About 35 Arc members participate.

"Some artists talk to the guys and get a feel of what they like beforehand, and we also have some art notebooks they can choose pictures from," Arc Director Beverly White said. "It's good not to just sit down and be told what you're going to paint, because they're having their own ideas, and it's a really cool, fun process."

Lifelong portrait artist Jimmy Reynolds Jr. of Sylacauga has mentored with ArtPartners for about six years and said it is "very rewarding work." Since most artists do paintings, Reynolds typically focuses on developing drawing skills, giving his partners a template from which to base their work.

"I usually do a lead, and then they follow," he said. "I let the emerging artist do most of the work, and I really enjoy tapping into their personalities that way. I've done a high-speed train drawing, and I've done an oil painting of flowers. It's all about finding their personality and getting that to come out in their artwork."

Many of The Arc's artists progress from stick figures at their first session to "really being able to get a good visual and put it on paper or using their imagination and putting it on paper, and that's a big deal," White said.

The Arc of South Talladega County first heard of the ArtPartners program, VSA Alabama's signature mentoring program developed in 2002, at a workshop and saw it as a chance to round out the array of services it provides to disabled people in the area.

The Arc is heavily involved in the community, providing recreation and work opportunities for its constituents, as well as teaching independent living skills – but art adds something that cannot be gained through any other service.

"It's all about expression," Reynolds said. "Everybody's always keeping you inside the lines, and this is where you can be outside the lines. You come in, get exposed to something you maybe wouldn't be exposed to and express yourself in a different way."

White said the art classes are extremely therapeutic for their members, providing a calming outlet for some with behavioral issues and instilling in them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

"Like anyone else, we all have our hobbies we participate in and our activities outside the home, but most of our guys don't have that opportunity," White said. "I think it completes them. We have some who have even bought their own art supplies and work at home. It completes the person, and that's what we're working toward in everything that we do."

For information about the auction, contact The Arc at (256) 245-2323 or Comer Museum at (256) 245-4016.

Emily Adams is a staff writer for The Daily Home in Sylacauga.

Kimberly Dobson works on an oil painting of a wooded scene as Comer Museum Director Donna Rentfrow looks on.

WATTS NEW IN
Alexander City

Electronics recycling event set for September

By Tracy Kendrick

New electronics are always hitting the market. We can easily get a stockpile of old and outdated electronics. These products can take up a lot of room. The City of Alexander City and Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership have a solution for you.

Beginning Sept. 12, the City of Alexander City and the Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership will sponsor a way to recycle your old electronics. The event will be the held at the City of Alexander City Public Works Department on the second Thursday of every month. You can drop off items from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. CE & E Solutions will be on site to collect recyclable items.

There are various items that will be accepted including computers, cell phones and televisions to name a few. There will be a fee of $10 to recycle TVs. Old cable boxes, chargers and UPS batteries will also be accepted.

For more information, contact Sabrina Wood, (334) 429-8832, or Amanda Thomas, (256) 409-2020.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE IN ALEXANDER CITY:
Day Time (256) 409-2080,
After Hours/Holidays –
Call Police Dept. (256) 234-3421
Please do not call 911

WATTS NEW IN
Dothan

Dothan Utilities receives the Steel Water Pipe Century Club Award

By Corrie L. Collins

City of Dothan 'Dixie' Standpipe

Dothan Utilities has received the Steel Water Pipe Century Club Award from Steel Tank Institute/ Steel Plate Fabricators Association in recognition of the reliability of the City of Dothan 'Dixie' Standpipe, an 180,000-gallon riveted steel water tank which stands just over 100 feet tall. The tank has been in service since 1897.

The Dothan 'Dixie' Standpipe, which is located at the intersection of Saint Andrews Street and Powell Street near downtown, stands adjacent to the historical Dixie Depot. The Dothan Standpipe is a historical landmark to the citizens of Dothan as it has stood tall at its original location for over 100 years. The 'Dixie' Standpipe was the first storage tank to supply water to the townspeople of Dothan.

A recognition plaque was presented to the City of Dothan Commissioners at the Aug. 6 City Commission meeting.

"We are proud to receive this recognition for our 'Dixie' Standpipe and want to thank the Mayor, Commission and City Manager for providing the needed support to maintain the tank," said Billy Mayes, Director, Dothan Utilities. "In addition, I want to commend the Dothan Utilities' Water Production Supervisor, Chief Water Operator and their staff for properly operating and maintaining the 'Dixie' Standpipe."

Dothan Utilities accepts the Steel Water Pipe Century Club Award from the Steel Tank Institute/ Steel Plate Fabricators Association in recognition of the reliability of the Dothan 'Dixie' Standpipe. Shown are (L to R) Billy Mayes, Dothan Utilities Director, and Don Nason, CB&I Business Development Manager.

Places to Go & Things to Do

Alexander City

Wednesdays. Story Time from 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Mamie's Place Children's Library. Weekly story time begins at 10:30. All children welcome. For details, call (256) 234-4644.

Saturdays. Farmer's Market from 7 until 11:30 a.m. at Broad Street Plaza. Welcome back MainStreet Alexander City's Farmer's Market. Local growers, craftsmen/craftswomen present their goods. Call ahead for weather-related changes. 256-329-9227 or www.mainstreetac.org

Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Recycle Electronics. Public Works Department Electronics Recycling Event. Every second Thursday. CE&E Solutions will be accepting electronics for recycling and they are ADEM certified. Contact Sabrina Wood, (334) 429-8832, or Amanda Thomas, (256) 409-2020. Sponsored by the city of Alexander City and the Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership.

Sept. 29, 2-4 p.m., *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Benjamin Russell High School Auditorium. Presented by the Alexander City Arts, with support from the Alabama State Council of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Oct. 5, 4-10 p.m., Walking Horse Show. ACHRC Arena at the Sportplex. Allen Ingle Walking Horse Show. This is a sanctioned, statewide competition for walking horses. DQP on site per USDA requirements. For information, see www.achrc.com. Times approximate.

Oct. 12, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Annual Oktoberfest. Charles E. Bailey Sportplex, Music, food, crafts, antique auto show, dancing and more. Call (256) 329-6736 for details.

Oct. 15, 7-9 p.m., Doyle Larson and Quicksilver. Benjamin Russell High School Auditorium. Presented by the Alexander City Arts, with support from the Alabama State Council of the Arts and the National Endowment.

Daphne

Sept. 28 and 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 25th Annual Jubilee Festival. An Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce event. Offers fine art, crafts, great entertainment and great food in Olde Towne Daphne (Scenic 98). No admission. For more information, call the Chamber at (251) 621- 8222, or visit www.eschamber.com.

Oct. 26, 4th Annual Prodisee Pantry 4th Annual Turkey Trot. This event includes a 5K race and a 1-mile Fun Run as well as a family-friendly post-race party. Registration is available online at www.active.com (search Prodisee Pantry Turkey Trot) and at www.prodiseepantry.org. Forms are available by mail from Prodisee Pantry by calling (251) 626-1720 or stopping by the facility. Registration forms are also onsite at McCoy Outdoor in Mobile, Run-N-Tri in Mobile and Running Wild in Fairhope. Pre-registration entry fees are $18 for the 5K and $10 for the Fun Run by the deadlines of Oct. 13 for mail applications and Oct. 24 for in-person and online applications. Registration fees are $20 for the 5K and $10 for the Fun Run on race day. The 5K race starts at 8 a.m. in Lott Park on Main Street. The Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds from the event benefit Prodisee Pantry, Baldwin County's non-profit emergency food pantry. Participants are also encouraged to bring non-perishable canned food donations to the race. For more information, call (251) 626-1720, or email, info@prodiseepantry.org.

Dothan

Sept. 2, Labor Day. Grounds open. Office closed. Landmark Park.

Sept. 7, 9:30 a.m., Wiregrass Woodturners. Ag Museum, Landmark Park. Open to the public. Free with paid gate admission.

Sept. 7, 1 p.m., Landmark Dulcimer Club. Landmark Park. Must have a dulcimer. Classroom. Free with paid gate admission.

Sept. 8, 4 p.m., Reptile Feeding. Interpretive Center Classroom, Landmark Park. Watch park staff feed the snakes and learn why these animals are important to the environment. Free with paid gate admission.

Sept. 19, Low Country Boil. Stokes Activity Barn, Landmark Park. Annual fundraiser featuring food, music, a silent auction and wagon rides. Advance tickets required.

Sept. 25, Quilt Entry Form Deadline for Annual Quilt Show. Landmark Park. Visit www.landmarkpark.com for entry form and rules.

Calling all Photographers! Landmark Park will host a photo contest with the help of the Southeast Alabama Photography and Adventure Club. There will be several categories available for participants. Photos must have been taken in 2013 to be eligible for entry so make sure you pack your camera the next time you visit the park. More details coming soon.

Sept. 27 and 28, Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) will host Alabama State Championship. Houston County Farm Center. Teams will be competing for over $5,000 in prize money as well as a free entry into the American Royal Championship in Kansas City for the Grand Champion. While the teams are competing for the best Pitmaster award, spectators are invited to enjoy the BBQ samples, live music, shopping and other activities at the Houston County Farm Center. Admission to the event is $2 per person per day with proceeds to benefit the Regional Land & Water Rescue Squad. For more information on vendor spaces, team entries or sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.PorktoberQue.com, or call (334) 699-1475.

Oct. 25-27, Landmark Park Annual Quilt Show. Antique and contemporary quilts may be entered in the juried show and special exhibit. This year's theme is "Friendship Tea."

Oct. 26, 4th Annual Prodisee Pantry Turkey Trot 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run. 8 a.m., 5K; 9 a.m., Fun Run. The Fun Run and certified 5K courses wind through Old Towne Daphne, starting and finishing at Lott Park. Registration and post-race party at Lott Park on Main Street in Daphne. Proceeds will benefit Prodisee Pantry, Baldwin County's largest non-profit emergency food pantry. Pre-registration: by mail (entries should be postmarked by Oct. 13), in person at McCoy Outdoor, Run-N-Tri in Mobile, Running Wild in Fairhope, or online, www.active.com, (search Prodisee Pantry Turkey Trot, Daphne, AL). Early packet pickup and late registration is Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m. at Prodisee Pantry, 9315 Spanish Fort Blvd., Spanish Fort. Pre-registration entry fee for the 5K is $18, $10 for Fun Run. Late registration fee for the 5K is $20, $10 for Fun Run. Individual awards and team awards will be made. For more information, please call (251) 626-1720, or visit www.prodiseepantry.org.

Elberta

Oct. 26, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Original Elberta German Sausage Festival. Held at the Elberta Town Park (Hwy. 98 E). The best German sausage you have ever tasted! Made from a secret recipe developed by the founding fathers of Elberta. Arts and crafts, live music, carnival rides, baked goods and more. Don't forget to visit the Bier Garten for a large selection of imported beers. Contact Seth Fuller at (251) 986-5995, or email festival@elbertafire.com. You can also visit http://www.sausagefest.elbertafire.com for more information.

Fairhope

Sept. 6 and Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m., First Friday Art Walk. Begins at Fairhope Art Center. Stroll through downtown Fairhope visiting art galleries and listening to music. For information, call (251) 928-2228.

Sept. 21, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Alabama Coastal Cleanup. The day to "get the trash out of the splash" and to tidy up Fairhope neighborhoods**.** For more information, contact (251) 929-1466

Fall Farmers Market. Thursday afternoons**.** Sept. 26-Nov. 7. Open 3 p.m. until sundown**.** Behind Public Library**.** The market will provide a wide variety of local fall produce, fruits, local honey, fresh cut flowers, plants, baked goods and more. For information, contact (251) 929-1466

Oct. 3-5, 10th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal Birdfest. Guided birding trips to popular spots all along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. For information, visit www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com

Oct. 5, 6th Annual Mullet Run. 5K and One-Mile Fun Run. For information, visit www.fairhopemulletrun.com

Oct. 5 and 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 31st Annual Grand Festival of Art. Downtown Fairhope. The show features more than 70 local, regional, national and international artists with more than 20,000 visitors expected. Visitors will find woodworking, blown glass, painting, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, photography and much more fine art and fine craft. Admission is free. For information, visit www.esartcenter.com or call (251) 928-2228.

Continued on page 16

Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
804 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Presort Std
US Postage
PAID
Montgomery, AL
Permit No. 275

Places to Go & Things to Do *Continued from page 15*

Oct. 10-19, Fairhope FETE. A Fete is a celebration and that is what we will be doing…exposing to the world that Fairhope is a destination known for its FETE of life. The event will kick off Oct. 10 at the Venue in downtown Fairhope with a fashion show highlighting Fairhope and area fashion. The fashion show launches an eight-day span of merchants showcasing their business through trunk shoes, demonstrations, featured vendors etc. For more information, call contact (251) 928-9704.

Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Fairhope FEEF Phantasy of the Arts Fundraiser. Fairhope Civic Center. Dance, sing and shout as FEEF shakes things up with great music, food, libations and its own high-tech version of digital graffiti. This year, event proceeds will be used to provide programs such as choral electives for high school students and increased enrichment opportunities for fine arts, science, and technology in grades K-8.

For more information, visit www.feefonline.com, call (251) 990-FEEF, or e-mail info@feefonline.org.

Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Downtown Trick or Treat. Children are invited to wear their Halloween costume and trick or treat in downtown Fairhope. Just look for the pumpkin sign in the window to see who is participating. Parents drop by the Welcome Center for pictures and don't forget your camera. For more information, call (251) 929-1466

Oct. 26, Polo at the Point. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, Polo at the Point will be held at the Sonny Hill-Clearwater Polo Complex in Point Clear. Tickets range from $10 to $150. For more information, visit www.poloatthepoint.com, or call (251) 928-9704.

Foley

Oct. 5, 8 a.m. Creek Crawl Adventure Challenge. Graham Creek Nature Preserve and MOB event. 23460 Wolf Bay Drive. Registration deadline is Oct. 4. Can you run, climb, crawl & slide through 25 obstacles over a 5-mile rugged course in the woods? Join the fun and compete in the ultimate obstacle race. Open to teams of 3-6 members and individuals. 5K Fun Run also available with 15 obstacles. After party to all participants. Proceeds benefit the Nature Preserve. This unique race is set on the beautifully scenic off-road course at the Graham Creek Nature Preserve. For more information, call (251) 952-4011.

Oct. 18 and 19, 2nd Annual Alabama Festival of Flavor. Held in the streets of historic downtown Foley. Alabama Festival of Flavor features one of Alabama's greatest treasures, our abundant fresh, local fare. Guests can sample food prepared during cooking competitions, learn about traditional Southern recipe secrets from our locally famous chefs, attend a food and wine pairing or acquire tips on creating your own organic garden at home. Stroll through scenic Heritage Park exploring artisians and crafters or catch the relaxing sounds of regional jazz performers.

Oct. 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Uptown Foley Halloween Party. Held in the streets of downtown Foley. Features free games and treats from local businesses, costume contests, cake walk, on site concessions and much more. Admission is free. Contact the Foley Convention and Visitors Bureau, (251) 943-1300 or www.foleycvb.com.

Gulf Shores

Oct. 10-13, 42nd Annual Shrimp Festival. Held at the public beach access in Gulf Shores where Hwy. 59 ends and intersects with Hwy. 182. For more information, contact (251) 968-6904 or http://www.myshrimpfest.com. Thanks to our generous sponsors, the event is free to everyone. The festival attracts over 250,000 people. Featuring over 250 vendors that offer fine art, arts and crafts, a retail marketplace, outdoor world, and of course, shrimp. Two stages offer continuous musical entertainment while the little one's attention is captured in the Children's Activity Village.

Opelika

Sept. 2, Labor Day. City of Opelika offices closed.

Sept. 6, First Friday. Downtown Opelika. Shops open at 8 p.m. Live music and great dining.

Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., "Head to Toe." Women's Expo Event Center, downtown Opelika. All kinds of exhibits and booths with women in mind.

Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Electronics Recycling Day. Saugahatchee Square (Old Midway Plaza). Accepting computers, printers, TVs, DVD players, kitchen appliances, fax machines and more. Also accepting canned goods for East Alabama Food Bank.

Oct. 4, First Friday. Downtown Opelika. Shops open at 8 p.m. Live music and great dining.

Oct. 18, 6-11 p.m., "On the Tracks" Food and Wine event. Downtown Opelika.

Oct. 28, 5:30-7 p.m., Howl-O-Ween. Downtown Opelika.

Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m., Opelika Parks and Recreation Fall Festival/Children's Carnival. Opelika SportsPlex, W. James Samford Soccer Complex.

Oct. 31, Halloween in Opelika. Time to be announced.

Silverhill

Sept. 21, Town of Silverhill 30th Heritage Day Festival. Town Square Opening ceremony and festival begin at 9 a.m. Closes at 4 p.m. Parade moves through town at 10 a.m. Little Miss Heritage Day Pageant at begins 2 p.m. for girls in 5K and 1st grade. Pre-registration is required. Applications for vendors are available until Thursday, Sept. 19. For more information, please call Town Hall at (251) 945-5198.

Sylacauga

For the month of September, the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will feature the Annual Photography Competition and Show. A reception will be held on Sept. 12 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m., 8th Annual ArtPartners Auction. Isabel Anderson Comer Arts Museum. The theme this year is "Mardi Gras."

For the month of October, the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will feature their permanent art collection. There will be no reception.

Oct. 12, Chili Cook Off and Car Show. Fundraiser for the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum. Call (256) 245-4016 for more information,

Oct. 24, 6 p.m., Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet. J. Craig Smith Community Center. Featuring speaker Lee Perryman and entertainment. Dinner by Hickory Street Café.