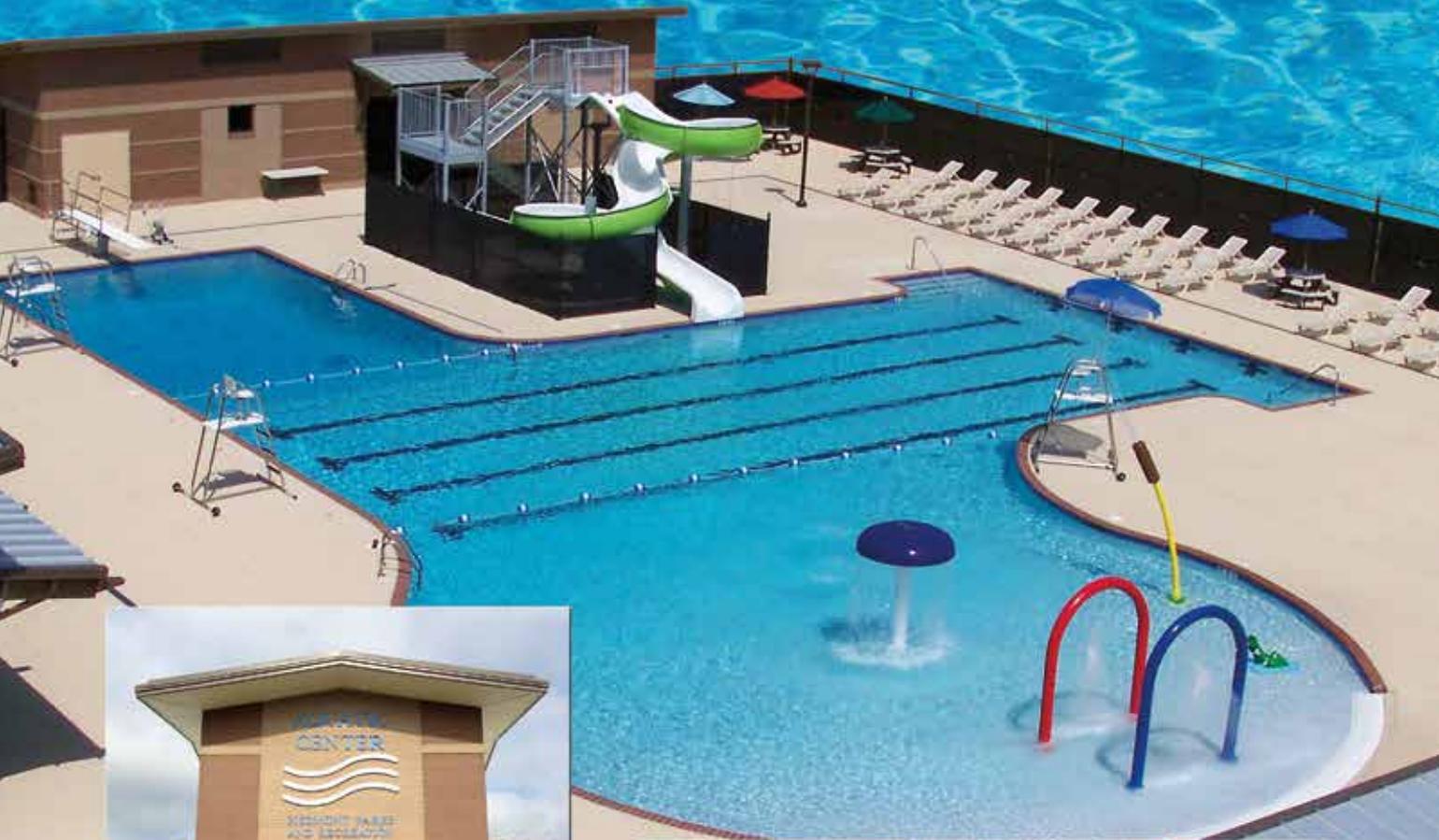


# Alabama CURRENTS

Vol. XIII No. 4 • July/August 2014

A Publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority



**Enjoy the summer at the  
new City of Piedmont  
Aquatic Center  
*See Page 3***



## IN MY OPINION



# EPA rules will increase power costs

In June, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its climate rule for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing fossil fuel-based units, as part of the Administration's Climate Action Plan. The rule mandates a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions by the year 2030, based on 2005 levels.

Rather than directly regulate individual plants, EPA proposed state-specific rate-based goals for carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector, as well as guidelines for states to follow in developing plans to achieve the state-specific goals. EPA guidelines are expected to rely on the states to develop rules intended to shift generation away from high-emitting sources and reduce consumption. A system of such state-by-state rules will inevitably be less efficient than a unified approach. The proposed rules also include a cap and trade element for carbon dioxide.

The implications for consumers could be significant. The rule will significantly impact our nation's electricity providers and consumers, jobs in communities that have existing coal-based power plants, and on the economy as a whole, pushing costs in the wrong direction.

Affordable, reliable, and redundant sources of electricity are essential to our economic well-being and quality of life. While we all agree that clean air is vitally important, EPA has an obligation to understand the impacts that regulations have on all segments of society.



Common sense tells us that when new regulations force major changes in power generation, the price of electricity will rise. This is especially true when carbon reductions dictate the use of more expensive forms of power like renewables.

The only question is how much? Most studies estimate that this regulation will cost the U.S. economy more than \$50 billion per year and will take away more than 200,000 jobs per year. Added costs to consumers per year are estimated at \$13 to \$17 billion. EPA argues that the rule comes with health benefits, but concedes that any health benefits gained won't come from reducing carbon.

Since 2010, more than 100 coal-fired power plants have shut down or announced plans to close. Many of these closures were due to the high costs of complying with recent EPA regulations.

By 2020, 60 gigawatts of U.S. coal-fired capacity are expected to be retired, mainly in the Eastern part of the country, according to the Energy Information Administration. Coal accounted for roughly 48 percent of electricity generation in the United States in 2008, but fell to roughly 37 percent in 2012.

Public power utilities using coal-fired generation — especially units that are now being upgraded and retrofitted to deal with current EPA regulations — need to be able to continue to use those facilities for their remaining useful life.

As the nation moves closer to regulating greenhouse gas emissions, primarily carbon dioxide emissions, U.S. utilities have done much to reduce those emissions over the past decade. In 2012, the electric utility industry's carbon dioxide emissions were at their lowest level since 1994. And since 2007, those emissions have fallen by more than 12 percent. What's more, the decline has occurred in the absence of federal rules or regulations.

Public power believes climate change should be addressed, however Congress, not EPA, should determine the best framework outside of the Clean Air Act to do so while ensuring affordable, reliable electricity from all fuel sources, including coal and natural gas. The Clean Air Act is ill-suited to regulate carbon emissions. If the EPA moves forward with regulations that call for too much change too fast, we will likely see unnecessary coal-plant retirements without long-term plans for viable, cost-effective alternatives; higher electricity prices; and potential shortage of electricity supply.

To build anything new today as you retire already paid-for plants seems unreasonable when China and the rest of the developing world build and open new coal plants on a weekly basis. While U.S. emissions have basically remained the same over the past decade, China's emissions have increased more than 170 percent and emissions in India more than 90 percent. Carbon production in China and India, as well as in other countries, continues to increase and is not going to slow down any time soon. That means that if we completely

*Continued on Page 4*

**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](http://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
Louis Davidson*	Tom DeBell
Johnny Ford*	Kyle McCoy
Morris Tate	Lee Young

\*Ex Officio

**Alabama Currents**  
Volume XIII, No. 4  
July/August 2014

Editor  
Lisa Miller

Designed by  
Walker 360

Printed by  
Walker 360

[www.walker360.com](http://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

- 7 **Are You Safety Savvy?**
- 16 **AMEA and its Members kick off 2015 Scholarship Program**

## News From AMEA Members

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 8 <b>Luverne</b>           | 12 <b>Lanett</b>    |
| 9 <b>Fairhope</b>          | 13 <b>Opelika</b>   |
| 9 <b>Riviera Utilities</b> | 14 <b>Dothan</b>    |
| 10 <b>LaFayette</b>        | 14 <b>Sylacauga</b> |
| 11 <b>Alexander City</b>   |                     |

## Features

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2 <b>In My Opinion</b>   | 6 <b>Kyle' D. McKinney</b>                |
| 4 <b>From The Editor</b> | 6 <b>Be a Wise-Energy User</b>            |
| 5 <b>Doug Rye</b>        | 15 <b>Places To Go &amp; Things To Do</b> |

## On the Cover

The City of Piedmont held the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Piedmont Aquatic Center in May. The swimming pool includes a mushroom, carwash, gator, cattail, slide, diving board, and swimming lanes for everyone to enjoy. The Aquatic Center also includes a concession stand, men and women's changing rooms, pavilions, picnic tables with umbrellas, and lounge chairs. The Aquatic Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Anyone can purchase a day pass or a season pass. It can also be booked for private parties.



### Scholarships provide pathway for students to become prepared in the workforce

Scholarships are a critical tool in helping students obtain the training and preparation needed for the jobs of tomorrow. Alabama's economic competitiveness is dependent upon the availability and quality of a skilled workforce across a variety of fields and industries. Providing pathways for students to prepare themselves for careers is a critically important step in ensuring a healthy economy for our state.



Alabama has always ranked high in economic competitiveness. That kind of news is important to those of us calling Alabama our home, and it brings a certain responsibility to you and me personally, as well as the business community.

When industries look for a site to locate their businesses, a checklist typically includes items such as workforce availability, housing, utilities and transportation. High on the list is an educated, well-prepared workforce.

The business community has a vested interest in lending support to the education of its community, and the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) and its 11 Members are committed as well.

We have found a little help can have a big impact over time. Through such initiatives as the AMEA Scholarship Program, AMEA and its Members are helping enrich the lives of students throughout the state, and the benefits of this program will have a long, lasting effect.

Since 1992, AMEA and its Members have demonstrated our commitment to education by providing scholarships to the graduating high school seniors who receive their electric service from AMEA Members, including Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Riviera Utilities (Foley), Sylacauga and Tuskegee. Granted only to graduating high school seniors, the student must attend a four-year college or community college within the state of Alabama.

Each year, AMEA and its 11 Member cities make available 33, \$2,500 scholarships, which include regular and technical school scholarships.

Starting in August, we encourage students who qualify, to visit the AMEA web site, [www.amea.com](http://www.amea.com), Scholarship Program, and download one of the scholarship applications. Applications will also be sent to all schools in AMEA Member cities in August. Application deadline for the 2015 program is Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. *To learn more about the program, read the article on Page 16.*

We take our role as a good corporate citizen seriously. That's why we, along with our Members, support education initiatives that contribute to making our state economically competitive. Together, we can all help the next generation of leaders by giving them the support and experiences they need today to make sound decisions in the future.

*Lisa Miller*

AMEA Manager of Communications and Marketing

*Continued from Page 2*

shut down the U.S. coal fleet tomorrow, the impact on global carbon emissions would be less than one percent. Neither the EPA nor the Administration has offered any figures for exactly how this new burden on consumers will affect global temperatures.

The proposed standards will face myriad challenges in the courts and in Congress, where conservative lawmakers are likely to object, but should they survive intact, they could result in the closing of hundreds of coal-fired plants nationwide, according to New York Times reports.

The only way out of this regulation is through legislation or the courts. More votes will be needed in the Senate to pass legislation forbidding the rule. There are also significant legal questions. Although EPA has fared well in the courts recently, it is unclear whether the Clean Air Act allows EPA to make such a sweeping change. It will certainly be challenged by the states and others.

We, along with the American Public Power Association and other electric utilities across the nation, will continue to study the more than 600-page plan and participate in the comment period that is open for the next couple of months. The final rules are scheduled to be put into place a year from now. However, the legal challenges over this new EPA rule could last for 10 or more years.

Please know that the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) will continue to be an advocate for our poor and fixed-income seniors. As an energy provider to 11 Member cities in Alabama, AMEA has a responsibility to continue to deliver reliable, economical energy in a fiscally-responsible and environmentally-friendly manner. We are committed to a balanced power supply program that promotes harmony with our environment, at the lowest cost to our Member cities and the citizens they serve.

*Fred D. Clark, Jr.*

AMEA President & CEO

## You can help your AC unit

The response from the May/June column has been just great. Many of you learned from that column about a very efficient electric water heater that could save you money every month and has a limited lifetime warranty against leakage and rust. And you probably were surprised to learn that it was manufactured in your own state of Alabama. We love it when we know that we are helping you save energy dollars.

Well it is my opinion that the new rules that have just been proposed in Washington, as relating to generating electricity with coal, will likely result in utility rate increases in the near future. Therefore, the energy efficiency of our homes will become even more important than ever before. So let's look at our next energy saving tip.

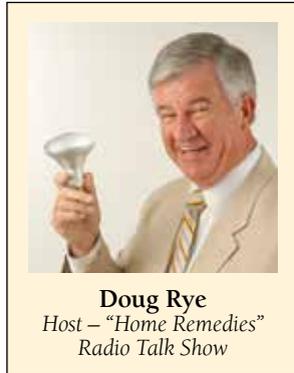
I am writing this column on June 2. We are looking for our first 90-degree day of the year tomorrow. It is called summer and it is time to turn on the AC unit.

I have had three calls today from folks who told me that their AC units did not work when they turned them on. By the time you read this column in July or August, we will all have experienced summer temperatures higher than 90 degrees and possibly even over 100 degrees, and many more cooling systems will have failed. None of us enjoy having to call a company to check our AC unit to see why it is not working. We see dollar signs and can only hope that it is a minor problem. So let's look at how we might save money by helping our AC unit perform more efficiently and last longer.

We understand that our central heating and cooling system will not last forever. But why do some systems perform for many years without any major problems and other similar systems may have problems after only a few years? It is my opinion that there are three things that affect the performance and longevity of a central heating and cooling system. Let's look at each of them.

**1. The quality of the systems' components from the manufacturer.** Regardless of the manufacturer, probably all new units will provide cooling for your house. However, not all systems have equal quality components. That is one reason why one company may have a five-year warranty but another company may give a 10-year warranty on a similar unit. This can get real complicated, but basically you get what you are willing to pay for. Simply stated, cheaper may not be the best buy.

**2. The quality of the installation of the entire system including ductwork.** You may purchase the very best qual-



ity heating and cooling unit available in the country, but if the unit and duct system is not designed and installed correctly it will not perform to its maximum capacity. That means that it will cost more to operate and will probably fail sooner. In my opinion, restricted air flow is the biggest problem with central cooling systems. This can be caused by undersized return air filter grilles, dirty filters, dirty AC coils or even fan speed. Most central systems have return air duct work connected to the HVAC unit and return air filter grilles in the ceiling, floor or walls. This is where most of the air filters are located. With this type installation, the central cooling system needs approximately two square feet of filter grille per ton of cooling in order to perform to maximum capacity. For example, a 3-ton cooling unit needs about six square feet of return air filter grille. It has been my experience that about 80 percent of the systems in the southern states have about half as much return air as needed. That means that the blower motor and compressor have to work harder, which increases electrical usage, which produces more heat and may lead to early failure. It's somewhat like an automobile radiator that can't get enough air. The radiator gets hot and then it quits working. Please remember this. An air conditioner can't blow more air out than it can suck in. And it is impossible to oversize the return air.

**3. The maintenance of the system by the owner.** Now that you know about the importance of the proper air flow through your cooling system, I suggest that you change the return air filters on a regular schedule. You often read or hear that you should change the filters every month. Well in my opinion, you should change the filters when they get dirty enough to restrict air flow. That may be every month or it may be every six months. I suggest that you check the filters every month for a while and you will soon know how often you need to change the filters in your particular cooling system. If you keep the filters and AC coils clean, your system will perform better and should last longer.

Space does not allow us to talk about increasing the size of the return air filter grilles which is a bit more complicated. But if you find that your return air filter grilles are undersized, you might want to call me to discuss a solution. See you when the 2014 football season starts.

*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 power bills. He hosts the popular "Home Remedies" radio talk program, which has been on the air for 15 years in 14 states. Doug speaks annually at American Institute of Architects meetings to hundreds of other architects on energy efficiency. He conducts over 150 energy-saving seminars per year all across the U.S. Have a question for Doug? Contact him at (501) 653-7931, or [www.dougrye.com](http://www.dougrye.com).*

## Your number IS your card

Often times, people decide they need to apply for a new Social Security card because they can't find their old one. As long as you have all of the required information and documentation, it's not difficult to obtain a replacement Social Security card. But here's even better news: you probably don't need the card.

When you think about it, your Social Security number is your Social Security card. That is, knowing your number is usually all you'll ever need. Know your number by heart, and you'll never leave home without it.

In the event that you really do want or need to get a replacement card, either for yourself or for a child, you can find all the details at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

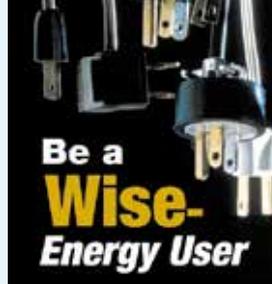
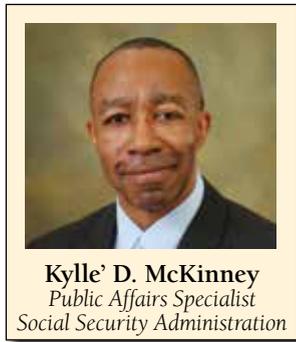
The "Get Or Replace a Social Security Card" page provides information on how to obtain a replacement card and what specific documents you need to provide. Each situation is unique, but in most cases you simply need to print, complete, and either mail or bring the application to Social Security with the appropriate documentation (originals or certified copies only).

In almost all cases, though, an application for your newborn's Social Security card and number is taken in the hospital at the same time that you apply for your baby's birth certificate.

There are a number of reasons a baby or child may need a Social Security number, but the main one is so that you can claim your child as a dependent on your tax return. Your child also will need a Social Security number to apply for certain government and social service benefits.

Whether you need a Social Security card for yourself or your child, it's easy to apply for one. But remember: if you already have one and just can't find it, in most cases all you really need is to know your number. Memorize your Social Security number, and you'll never leave home without it.

Learn more about your Social Security card and number at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).



Get personalized answers to your energy questions with interactive web-based resources from Energy Depot®

A generation ago, most energy utility customers would have told you that their preferred method for finding answers to their energy questions was to walk into their utility's bill payment office and have a face-to-face conversation with the agent behind the desk.

But that was then, and this is now...

In today's always-connected, WiFi-enabled, 24/7 global mobile information world, customers can grab their smart phone, tablet, or laptop – any time of the day or night – and begin finding answers faster than they used to be able to gather up their keys and get the car out of the driveway.

It may be a different world, but your local public power system is still your 'go-to' energy expert. On our web site, we provide customers with free access to one the industry's most accurate, engaging, self-guided energy assessment resources, Energy Depot® for Homes.

Energy Depot is a one-stop shop of online tools and calculators designed to help you better understand and manage your home's energy usage and control your energy bills. It allows you to analyze your energy bills to learn how energy is used throughout your home.

Unlike most other energy analysis tools, Energy Depot uses your actual bill and actual weather data for your home's location to break down how energy is used within your home. The new Energy Snapshot® home energy audit tool gives you specific, actionable recommendations that you can follow to improve your home's energy efficiency.

You can use Energy Depot to:

- Complete a do-it-yourself home assessment and receive a report online;
- Quickly estimate the annual energy use and cost of home energy systems and appliances;
- Receive a personalized Energy Snapshot report with an estimate of your energy costs for each home energy system/appliance;
- Learn specific things you can do in your home to reduce energy consumption and how much you can potentially save;
- Compare your existing heating and cooling system and/or water heating system to a range of new options;
- Discover how quickly a new, more efficient heating or cooling system or water heater can pay for itself through lower energy bills;
- Visit the Energy Library to gain a better understanding of the appliances, equipment and construction techniques used within your home;
- Receive expert answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding home energy use;
- And much more.

For more information, visit your electric utility's web site, or go to <http://www.amea.com/hometown-connections/energy-depot/>. Use the drop-down menu to select your utility and access your Energy Depot tools.





# ARE YOU SAFETY SAVVY?

- 1 True or False. Using a corded telephone during a lightning storm is safe.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 2 Why do some outlets have three holes?
  - a. Provides more voltage
  - b. The third prong is the "ground"
  - c. To accommodate foreign appliances
  - d. It keeps the plug from falling out
- 3 When using a portable generator in a power outage, you should:
  - a. connect generators directly to the household wiring *only when* an appropriate transfer switch is installed to prevent backfeed along power lines that poses a risk to utility lineworkers making repairs
  - b. position the generator outside the home and away from doors, windows and vents that can allow carbon monoxide to enter the home
  - c. make sure your generator is properly grounded
  - d. plug it into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)
  - e. All of the above
- 4 The \_\_\_\_\_ industry alone sustained 52% of all workplace electrical fatalities.
  - a. natural resources and mining
  - b. manufacturing
  - c. trade, transportation and utilities
  - d. construction
- 5 The most common scenario for electrocutions while using power tools is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the equipment coming into contact with water
  - b. the equipment coming into contact with electrical wires
  - c. the equipment malfunctioned
  - d. exposure to bare wires by grabbing a cord with cracked or broken insulation
- 6 Smoke alarm batteries should be changed every:
  - a. month
  - b. 6 months
  - c. year
  - d. 2 years
- 7 You shouldn't swim near docks or marinas because:
  - a. Boats may not see you and run you over
  - b. There could be residual fishing equipment like hooks
  - c. The water may be electrified by docks or boats that leak electricity into the water
  - d. All of the above
- 8 In a study conducted by Temple University's Biokinetics Laboratory, what percent of children ages 2 to 4 years old were able to remove plastic outlet covers from the sockets in less than ten seconds?
  - a. 25%
  - b. 50%
  - c. 75%
  - d. 100%
- 9 **Across the U.S., a fire department responds to a fire once every:**
  - a. 23 seconds
  - b. 7 minutes
  - c. 28 minutes
  - d. 52 minutes
- 10 The proper way to safely move away from a downed power line is to \_\_\_\_\_ until you are 35 feet away.
  - a. take small hops with your feet together
  - b. shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times
  - c. skip so that only one foot is on the ground at a time
  - d. crawl on all fours
- 11 True or False. You can be electrocuted using a tree trimmer near a power line even if you don't touch the wires.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 12 True or False. Swallowing a button-cell battery can be fatal.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 13 What age group has the highest risk of death from fire?
  - a. 15 years and under
  - b. 21-35 years
  - c. 50-64 years
  - d. Adults over 65
- 14 Birds are able to perch on power lines without risk of injury because:
  - a. Those power lines do not have power running through them at that time
  - b. The unique skin on the feet of birds protects them
  - c. Sitting on one wire does not provide a ground or connect a circuit, so the current doesn't leave the wire and continues on its path
  - d. Their bones are hollow allowing the current to pass through them without harm
- 15 When a new version of the National Electrical Code® is adopted by a jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_ must follow it.
  - a. all buildings currently being utilized
  - b. new buildings
  - c. renovations
  - d. b and c

Answers: (1) b, (2) b, (3) e, (4) d, (5) b, (6) c, (7) d, (8) d, (9) a, (10) b, (11) a, (12) a, (13) d, (14) c, (15) d

WATTS NEW IN  
**Luverne**

**Fifth  
Annual Peanut Boil  
Festival  
and Shriners'  
'World's Largest Peanut Boil'  
planned for  
Labor Day weekend  
in Luverne**

By Regina Grayson and  
Carol Staller

**L**uverne, Alabama, “The Friendliest City in the South”, comes alive during Labor Day weekend as the bumper-to-bumper beach traffic includes tags from almost every state across the nation. The hustle and bustle at this time of the year is all thanks to two huge events, the Fifth Annual Peanut Boil Festival, sponsored by the Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce, and the Crenshaw County Shrine Club’s Annual “World’s Largest Peanut Boil.”

Numerous travelers plan their vacation routes at the intersection of U.S. Highway 331 and Highway 10 so they can stock up on several bags of the steaming, salted goobers beginning on Wednesday before Labor Day weekend. And now travelers can visit the Peanut Boil Festival on Saturday on adjacent grounds.

Saturday, Aug. 30, is the day for the Peanut Boil Festival, and visitors will find arts and craft vendors selling furniture, porch swings, clothing, lotions and candles, pictures and plaques, leather goods, quilts, baskets, bird houses, and jewelry, just to name a few. For the kids, there will be sand art, face painting, a slide, and a moonwalk, plus much more. In addition to the numerous arts and crafts, there are a number of other activities planned for that day, including a 5k Fun Run/Walk, a beauty pageant featuring categories from birth to 15 years, a Peanut King category for boys up to 24 months, and a car and motorcycle show. The festival will also be filled with plenty of good food, sweet treats, and lots of great music and entertainment all day long. And, of course, don’t forget to fill up with several bags of those hot and famous boiled and parched peanuts from the Crenshaw County Shriners!

For more information about the Peanut Boil Festival, please visit [www.crenshawcochamber.com/peanutboil](http://www.crenshawcochamber.com/peanutboil) and the Chamber’s Facebook page at “Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce,” or call the Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce office at (334) 335-4468.

*Regina Grayson is assistant director of the Luverne Public Library and former managing editor of The Luverne Journal. Carol Staller is a board member of the Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce.*

# ★ WATTS NEW AT Riviera Utilities

## Tom DeBell named Riviera Utilities' General Manager and CEO

By Miles McDaniel

The Riviera Utilities Board of Directors has appointed Tom DeBell as the fourth General Manager and CEO of the utility, effective July 1.



DeBell has been employed with Riviera Utilities for 25 years.

DeBell, who has been serving as incoming General Manager and CEO since March, previously served as Riviera Utilities Manager of the Electric Department.

"Today's action is a reflection of DeBell's strong record as Electric Department manager and as a long-term employee of Riviera Utilities," said Riviera Utilities board chairman John Koniar. "The board is pleased that Tom has proven his management capabilities through effective leadership and communication and we look forward to a strong working relationship."

"I am humbled by this opportunity and honored to accept this position," DeBell said. "I've been with the company for 25 years. Riviera Utilities is my second family. We have a great story to tell, and I look forward to working with our customers and employees to help write Riviera Utilities' next chapter."

DeBell, who has a degree in Electrical Engineering, replaces Mike Dugger, who earlier announced his retirement effective July 1 after 33 years with the company. Dugger has held the position of General Manager and CEO for Riviera Utilities since July 2002. Dugger joined the company in 1981.

Dugger, who has a degree in Engineering from Auburn University, is now looking forward to spending more time with his family and traveling around the country with his wife, Karon.

Miles McDaniel is Public Affairs Manager for Riviera Utilities.

# ★ WATTS NEW IN Fairhope

## Fairhope Museum of History hosting Sixth Annual Elderberry Festival

The Fairhope Museum of History will celebrate the Sixth Annual Elderberry Festival on Saturday, Aug. 9. The festival will begin at 10 a.m. at the Fairhope Museum of History in downtown Fairhope.

The Elderberry Festival will present a wealth of information about the berry, a lowland weed prevalent in Baldwin County, which has been used for generations to create folk remedies, jams, jellies, baked goods and more. The festival will include an elderberry cooking contest, lectures and demonstrations, a tractor display, music and dancing.

Judging for the Elderberry Cook-off will be held Saturday morning and anyone interested in participating should bring entries to the Museum by 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8. Contest categories include pie, cake, bread, jam, jelly, juice, Jell-O, butter and elder-flower creations. Blue and red ribbons will be awarded on Saturday morning to winning entries. Informational and educational demonstrations on how to use the elderberry will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



The Baldwin County Antique Engine and Tractor Club will also be on hand with a display of rebuilt tractors and farm equipment, as well as the Old Fashion Ice Cream Maker serving Elderberry ice cream.

The Elderberry Festival will wrap up with the Elderberry Ball from 6 to 9 p.m. with the crowning of the Elderberry Queen, Queen Eli III. Musical entertainment will be provided by *Kracker Dan Minstrels*.

For more information on the Elderberry Festival and Ball, contact the Museum at (251) 929-1471.



## Storefront Group helps improve the look of downtown LaFayette

By Chris Busby

**I**t was while commuting back and forth to work each day and passing through downtown LaFayette that Carolyn Wheeler first became inspired. Wheeler saw how many of the stores around the courthouse square were falling into disrepair, and she made a promise to herself that once retirement came, she would do something about it.

When she retired, Wheeler got the ball rolling, and along with a few other volunteers, the Storefront Group was born in 2009.

Their overall goal was to improve the look of the downtown square, and in the process draw someone new into the city. There are several businesses on the square, but there are several vacant offices that hadn't been kept up. That's where the Storefront Group started.

They began by raising money and accepting donations. Business and property owners on the square were quick to pitch in, donating funds, paint and supplies, food and even storage space and a meeting area.

Over the next few years, the group cleaned 28 storefronts on the square. They did minor repairs, painted and created window displays highlighting the city's past. There's a display that highlights the old Gresham Shoe Shop and one that displays the memories of an old trading company.

"We wanted to make the square look like it did in the 50s, because that's when most of us were growing up," Wheeler said. "We wanted to put a window display in as many stores as we



Carolyn Wheeler shows off one of the displays in LaFayette's downtown square that the Storefront Group created. Inset: The sign the Storefront Group places in window displays.

could show what the town did look like back then and we did that by using antiques. Some of the store owners had those antiques lying around, and some we found by taking shopping trips."

Wheeler and the group's actions have not only improved the look of the downtown, they've saved part of the city's history.

"During that time, over a four year period, I believe eight buildings were sold," she said. "The major problem with the buildings downtown was the roofs, just about every one of them. And if something had not been done, we would have lost the buildings. When those eight buildings were purchased, new roofs were immediately put on, so that saved the buildings. That was a big thing. And some of those that did sell ended up turning into a business"

Wheeler said that in addition to bringing businesses back to the square, the project has been about promoting restoration. That's why she has such a special place in her heart for what Fayetteville, GA's J. Sam Burch has done. Burch purchased the Hightower Building on the square right before the

Storefront Group began their work. He has since bought two other stores and has restored them, making one into a vintage barbershop that he operates every Saturday.

"I would like to see another Sam Burch come into LaFayette and I am trying very hard to make that happen," she added.

After completing work on the square, the Storefront Group moved on to a new project.

"We started working on the cemetery, and now that the cemetery is in good order, we are maintaining it, but we've started coming back to town."

Burch has played a big role in the group's efforts to begin more work on the square, but this time the City of LaFayette might be bringing something to the table that has Wheeler excited. The city is seeking a grant to begin a downtown rehabilitation project that will include sidewalk and landscaping restoration.

"I think now that the city is making a move, things will be better," Wheeler said.

Chris Busby is a staff writer for *The LaFayette Sun*.

# WATTS NEW IN Alexander City

## Alexander City's Second Annual SunFest set for July

By Tracy Kendrick

The Alexander City Chamber of Commerce kicks off SunFest 2014 on July 19. The event will conclude on July 26. This year's SunFest will feature many of your favorites from last year. They are also adding a few things to include more fun. SunFest offers something for everyone. From music to movies, swimming to antique vehicles, SunFest 2014 has it all.

Some of the new events include Band Battle which will take place on Friday, July 25. The winner will have the opportunity to open for the award-winning group, Diamond Rio. The other contestants will have the opportunity to perform at the new Tailgate and BBQ Cook-off on Saturday, July 26. Also new this year is the SunFest Car Show at Winn Dixie parking lot and a motorcycle ride. A free entrance to Wind Creek is also planned on Wednesday, July 23 with

several activities planned throughout the afternoon beginning at 1 p.m. Antique Road Show will also be held at City Hall this year, so get your treasures ready for appraisals.

Each night in Strand Park a different theme and entertainment will fill the air. Pie in the Sky Treasure Hunt and



Friends sweat it out at SunFest Glow Run. Happy to have finished the 5K are Deidra Baird and Elizabeth Roberts

KidsFest are also lined up for this year's festival. Get up, Get Moving, Dawg-Gawn Good Parade, Movie in the Park and so much more will be available. SunFest is also bringing the Glow Run and the Miss/Ms. SunFest back this year.

The festival will come to an end with a concert featuring Diamond Rio. The Winn Dixie fireworks show will follow the concert. Tickets are \$15 and are available at [www.alexandercitychamber.com](http://www.alexandercitychamber.com).



Get Up Get Going offers a full Saturday morning of fun doing various exercise programs in Strand Park.

[alexandercitychamber.com](http://alexandercitychamber.com). Come with a \$5 coupon from Winn Dixie.

The Second Annual SunFest will have events for all ages. Go ahead and mark your calendar for this week-long festival, July 19-26.

Please contact the Alexander City Chamber of Commerce at [www.alexandercitychamber.com](http://www.alexandercitychamber.com), or call (256) 234-3461 for more information.

Tracy Kendrick is Administrative Assistant for the City of Alexander City Light and Power.



Diamond Rio

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 Lanett

## Chattahoochee Fuller Center Project makes a difference in Lanett

By Wayne Clark

Since it built its first new home in the city in March 2007, the Chattahoochee Fuller Center Project (CFCP) has made a big difference in Lanett. A total of 20 new homes have been constructed since that time, and work will get underway in September on the 21st new home to be built by the CFCP in the city.

The CFCP is a covenant partner with the Fuller Center for Housing, a nonprofit organization based in Americus, GA. Both the Fuller Center and Habitat for Humanity International were founded by Lanett native Millard Fuller, who is widely regarded as the leader of the modern-day movement for affordable housing. Fuller, who died in 2009 at age 74, received many awards for his life's work including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Fuller took an active interest in helping organize the CFCP in 2006 and took part in a number of home-building and rehab projects in Lanett and in the surrounding communities of the Chattahoochee Valley. Following his death in February 2009, the inaugural Millard Fuller Legacy Build took place in Lanett the week of Labor Day. Volunteers from all across the U.S. came to Lanett that week and five new houses went up, turning what had been one of the most blighted places in town into a nice neighborhood.

Seven more new homes have been constructed in that same Jackson Heights part of town since then, and an eighth one is on the way. That will bring the Jackson Heights total of CFCP homes to 13. When five CFCP homes on North Sixth Avenue and three on North Eighth Avenue are added to that list, it brings the total of CFCP homes in Lanett to 20 and 21 by this fall.

The new house will be going up on Cherry Drive, on a corner lot across the street from Pilgrim Baptist Church. Don Prather will have a construction crew on site that week. Volunteers will also be there from the Atlanta area and from Spring Road Christian Church in Lanett. The schedule is to build the new house in one week.

In addition to building new homes, the CFCP is been very active in rehabbing existing houses that have gotten in bad shape. In July, the organization teamed up with Home Depot of LaGrange, GA., to rehabilitate an existing home in the Lanett mill village, converting it into a decent, affordable home for a veteran and his family.

In June, the CFCP played host to the city's first ever Block of Blessings. A total of 35 people, most of them middle school



*During the first week of June, the Chattahoochee Fuller Center Project (CFCP) hosted its first ever Block of Blessings in the Lanett mill village. A total of 35 volunteers from Alabama, Georgia and Florida were on South 2nd Avenue each day through Friday. The event was coordinated by Randy Parmer, youth pastor for the Lanett Church of the Nazarene, with most of the volunteers being in the 12- to 15-year-old age group. (Photo by Wayne Clark)*

aged youth from the states of Alabama, Georgia and Florida, spent a week in the mill village bringing some much needed home improvements for five elderly home owners.

The event was coordinated by Randy Parmer, youth minister for the Lanett Church of the Nazarene. Clad in bright orange t-shirts, the youth and their adult leaders were easily identifiable to anyone passing by on South 2nd Avenue. For five days, they busied themselves with such tasks as porch and door repair, putting new screening on screened-in porches and doing lots of painting and yard work.

"This was something new for us," said CFCP Executive Director Kim Roberts. "We'd never done anything like it before. We'd like to do something like that several times a year."

2014 has been a very busy year for the CFCP in Lanett. In March, the CFCP ReUse Store opened on Gilmer Avenue. This store serves a dual role of being both the local office for the CFCP and being a store offering both new and slightly used household items at bargain prices. The store's sales will help the CFCP continue to build new homes and to rehab existing ones.

Then came the Block of Blessings in June and the veteran's home project in July. The big event of the year will be the construction of the new house in September, and the year will conclude with a "Homeless for a Night" fundraiser at the West Point, GA. recreation complex. This will mark the third time the CFCP has hosted a Homeless for a Night fundraiser. It's a chilly night of socializing, live entertainment and huddling by fires from barrels. The purpose of the evening is to focus attention on the problem of homelessness and the fact some people spend every night that way.

Some of the volunteers spend the night sleeping in cardboard boxes, waking up the next morning to a coating of frost on the River Bowl football field.

*Wayne Clark is the News Editor of The Valley Times-News in Lanett.*

## Summertime activities planned in Opelika

By Jan Gunter

It's summertime in Opelika, which means let the good family fun times roll. And this year, we have some of your favorites returning, along with a new fun activity for families to enjoy.

### **Popular Favorite Events**

#### **Opelika Farmers Market**

Opelika Main Street is hosting its Ninth Annual Farmers Market every Tuesday this summer. The Farmers Market will take place at Courthouse Square in downtown Opelika from 3 until 6 p.m. The event will continue throughout the summer season until produce is depleted.

This event supports local farmers and is a great place to spend summer afternoons. An average of 14 vendors will participate in the market each week with a variety of items including fresh, local produce and baked goods. This year, Opelika Main Street is partnering with Opelika Lions Club to promote and execute the Farmers Market.

"It really feels like summertime with the opening of the Farmers Market at the square, and I hope everyone is excited for its return," said Pam Powers-Smith, director of Opelika Main Street. "We are excited to partner with the Lions Club to support our local farmers."

For updates and more information, shoppers can visit the Opelika Main Street Farmers Market page at [www.facebook.com/OpelikaMainStreetFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/OpelikaMainStreetFarmersMarket).

#### **Summer Swing in Municipal Park**

And after you've loaded up with fresh produce from the Farmer's Market, head on over to Municipal Park for the weekly Concerts in the Park series of music featuring a wide variety of musical entertainment. Summer Swing Concerts in the Park happen every Tuesday night in the summer, beginning at 7 p.m.

#### **Opelika's Annual Freedom Celebration**

With the completion of the major portions of the Ope-

lika High School (OHS) campus renovations, this year's Freedom Celebration is back in its old time-honored location, the OHS Track area. We hope you'll join us on Thursday, July 3 for Opelika Parks & Recreation's annual family night of fun and games and fireworks. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be inflatable games, hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn, and other activities for the whole family. Music that night will be brought to you by Route 66. And what would a Freedom Celebration be without Buddy Blue and the Opelika Skydivers bringing the Stars and Stripes out of the sky and onto the baseball field? And then, there will be fireworks beginning at dark (around 9 p.m. or so).

### **New Event**

#### **Opelika Film Night Series**

Drive-in movies may be a thing of the past, but this summer, Opelika won't have to choose between enjoying the weather or catching a film on the big screen.

Opelika Main Street and Cottonseed Studios have partnered to debut Opelika Film Night, including "Mary Poppins" on July 17, and "Fantastic Mr. Fox" on Aug. 14. The movies will be shown at the Depot Lawn, located in downtown Opelika at 1032 South Railroad Avenue.

The next film series, Music in Movies, begins on Aug. 1 with the documentary, "Muscle Shoals". Music in Movies events will be shown in The Station, across from the Depot lot. This is a chance to leave the kids at home, as these movies will be a perfect date night opportunity.

Admission to both Opelika Film Night and Music in Movies events is free, as attendees are asked to buy dinner from a local restaurant or food vendor.

For additional information, please visit and like the Opelika Is Film page on Facebook; or you can email Opelika Main Street at [info@opelikamainstreet.org](mailto:info@opelikamainstreet.org).

*Jan Gunter is Community Relations Specialist for the City of Opelika.*

## WATTS NEW IN **Dothan**

### Meet your new Electric Operations Superintendent, Chris Phillips

By Corrie L. Collins

**D**othan Utilities welcomes Chris L. Phillips, P.E., as the new Electric Operations Superintendent.



Phillips was born and raised in Dothan. He is married to Amanda and they have a daughter, Avery Leigh, who is a year old. Phillips graduated from Auburn University in 2004 with an Electrical Engineering degree and obtained his professional engineering certification in 2010.

His experience includes working for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Army Directorate of Public Works and Southern Company. He is no stranger to Dothan Utilities, having previously worked at the utility from 2007 until 2010 as a Transmission and Distribution Engineer. Phillips' familiarity with Dothan Utilities has made for an easy transition into the Electric Operations Superintendent position. His responsibility is principally targeted towards the planning, designing and day-to-day operations of the electric division of Dothan Utilities, which includes overseeing the engineers, distribution linemen, substation linemen, metering employees and dispatchers.

"I am pleased to welcome Chris back to Dothan Utilities and look forward to Chris using his experience and knowledge to continue to improve the reliability and efficiency of the electric system to better serve our customers," said Billy Mayes, P.E., Director, Dothan Utilities.

*Corrie L. Collins is Administrative Assistant for Dothan Utilities.*

## WATTS NEW IN **Sylacauga**

### Sylacauga Fire Department gets new engine and federal grant

By Emily McLain

**S**ylacauga Fire Department (SFD) is making strides in its service to the community thanks to a new truck and a federal grant.

In April, the city purchased a new fire engine to replace an older truck that had become unreliable. The new, custom engine is built to last for decades, according to Fire Chief Matt Missildine.

"This engine is going to give us much broadened capability well into the future," Missildine said. "With this, we will be at maximum capacity at both fire stations."

The new engine is similar to a 2007 model the department already had, with the exception of several improvements that make it more durable and user-friendly. Those improvements include an 8-foot extendable light tower, front-mounted rear-view mirrors, a foldout ladder on the rear, and reflective chevron striping on the stainless steel body.

The engine was made by Pennsylvania-based KME Fire Apparatus and took nine months to build. It has a 1,500-gallons-per-minute water pump, and it carries 1,000 gallons of water and 50 gallons of foam.

"Everything on this truck is proven," Missildine said. "There is nothing cutting edge on it, and that's for reliability reasons. We want proven, tried and true equipment."

The plan is for the new truck to be in frontline service for 20 years and reserve service for another decade.

SFD received more good news in May that will allow for a major upgrade for its new engine and other vehicles.

The department was awarded a \$70,000 grant from the 2013 Assistance to Firefighters program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The grant will enable the department to purchase new computers and software for SFD vehicles that will allow firefighters to see live dispatch information directly through their in-vehicle computer, cutting down on radio traffic and reducing the possibility for errors in communication.

"The bottom line is information is power, and this is putting everything that dispatch has in front of them in front of us," Missildine said.

The equipment will also allow firefighters to mark when they are enroute, on scene and in service, which Missildine said is a huge improvement.

While this software is just beginning to grow in popularity, Missildine said it is the future of how public agencies will communicate. As a bonus, the equipment SFD is getting will serve as a base for other agencies throughout Talladega County should they choose to add the software later.

Grants like this one go a long way toward keeping the department updated on necessities. In the past two years, SFD has purchased new turnout gear and airpicks with support from the same grant program.

"These are all things that are hard to do a massive upgrade," Missildine said. "It's easy to do them one at a time, but then you get into having different versions and you have a training issue. This grant has allowed us to address capital needs we wouldn't otherwise be able to address with the city, so that's why we try to take advantage of them."

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

# Places to Go & Things to Do

## Alexander City

**Wednesdays in July and August:** Story Time from 10:30am until 12:00pm at Mamie's Place Children's Library, Alexander City. Weekly story time begins at 10:30. All children welcome! For details, call 256-234-4644.

**Saturdays in July and August.** Farmers Market 7:00am – 11:00am at Broad St Park with local produce, fruits, relishes, jams, jellies, baked goods, USDA Heritage Pork and more. For more information, please call 256-329-9227.

**July 1, Senior Center Trips.** Deposits due for Dec 11-13, 2014, Pigeon Forge, TN, \$240 per person, and Jan. 16-24, 2015. Hawaii cruise on the Norwegian Pride of America Trip E-mail Corley Holt at corley.holt@alexandercityal.gov for trip participation questions and forms.

**July 8.** Last session of Red Cross swimming lessons at the City Pool. Call (256) 397-0853 for more info.

**July 10 and Aug. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., RECYCLE Electronics.** Public Works Department, behind Darwin Dobbs. CE&E Solutions will be accepting electronics for recycling and they are ADEM certified. Contact Sabrina Wood at (334) 429-8832 or Amanda Thomas at (256) 409-2020. Sponsored by the city of Alexander City and the Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership.

**July 19-26, SunFest 2014.** A week-long festival full events for everyone. Check local publications for event times or contact the Alexander City Chamber of Commerce at [www.alexandercitychamber.com](http://www.alexandercitychamber.com) or (256) 234-3461.

**Aug. 5, 31<sup>st</sup> National Night Out.** Sportplex. Join us and several law enforcement, Alexander City Fire Department, volunteer fire departments, EMA, area churches and businesses as we promote police-community partnerships; crime, drug and violence prevention; safety and neighborhood unity. Call (256) 329-6736 for more info.

## Dothan

**Landmark Park Summer Camps in July.** The camps offered are: Earth Art, Adventure Days, Earth Explorers, Pioneer Farm, Ecology Camp, Discovery Days, Farm and Forest Fun. Registration is required.

**July 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m., Animal Adventures.** Landmark Park. This is an opportunity to learn about our natural world. Kids ages five and older are invited to see the wonder of many native animals. Programs include: Amphibians 101, Slithering Snakes, and Fishes of Alabama. Registration is required.

**July 10, 7:30 p.m., Music By Moonlight.** Landmark Park. Enjoy some great music at the gazebo. Pack a picnic and bring the family and friends.

**July 13, 20 and 27, 3 p.m., Heritage Forums.** Landmark Park. This series features guest speakers presenting programs on local history. Join us in the Interpretive Center Auditorium to hear lectures, "The Civil War in South Central and Southeastern Alabama," "Please Pass the Folklore: Family and Community Traditions in the Kitchen and Around the Dinner Table," and "Emigration to Liberia From the Chattahoochee Valley." Refreshments following.

**July 13, 4 p.m., Reptile Feeding.** Landmark Park. Visitors can meet our snakes face to face on the second Sunday of each month. Landmark Park's corn snake will be featured at the program. Also, meet Indy, our Eastern Indigo snake, and learn why these Alabama reptiles are so important to the environment.

**Landmark Park is now a Blue Star Museum.** Free admission is offered to our nation's active duty personnel including National Guard and Reserve and up to five family members through Labor Day.

## Fairhope

**June through July 10, 3-6 p.m., Fairhope Spring/Summer Outdoor Farmer's Market.** The market will be held on Thursday evenings through July 10 behind the Fairhope Public Library on Bancroft Street in downtown Fairhope. The market will offer fresh Baldwin County produce, fresh cut flowers, local honey, a large variety of plants, baked goods and more. For more information, please call (251) 929-1466.

**July 4, Fairhope Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks Display.** The City of Fairhope will host its annual Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks Display again this year at Henry George Park and the Fairhope Municipal Pier. The Baldwin Pops Band Independence Day Concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Henry George Park. A variety of patriotic music will be played before and during the fireworks display. The Fairhope fireworks display will begin at approximately 9 p.m. For more information on Fairhope's Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks display, call (251) 929-1466.

**Aug. 9, 10 a.m., Fairhope Museum of History Elderberry Festival.** The festival will begin at the Fairhope Museum of History and end with the "Elderberry Ball" from 6 until 9 p.m. The Elderberry Festival will present a wealth of information about the berry, a lowland weed prevalent in Baldwin County, that has been used for generations to create folk remedies, jams, jellies, baked goods and more. For additional information, call the Fairhope Museum of History at (251) 929-1471.

## Opelika

**July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 3-6 p.m., Downtown Opelika Farmer's Market.** Courthouse Square.

**July 1, 7 p.m., Summer Swing Concert,** featuring *Jazz Comes Home* 7 p.m. Opelika Municipal Park.

**July 3, 6:30 p.m., Freedom Celebration.** Opelika High School Track. Fireworks begin at dark

**July 8, 7 p.m., Summer Swing Concert,** featuring *Fedoras*. Opelika Municipal Park.

**July 11, 1:30 p.m., Friday Afternoon Movies.** Lewis Cooper Library, 200 South 6th Street, Opelika. Movie: "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2."

**July 15, 7 p.m., Summer Swing Concert,** featuring *Crossroads*. Opelika Municipal Park.

**July 17, Opelika Film Night at the Depot Lawn.** Railroad Avenue in downtown Opelika. Featured movie "Marry Poppins." Family fun activities begin at 6 p.m. Movie begins at dark.

**July 18, 1:30 p.m., Friday Afternoon Movies.** Lewis Cooper Library, 200 South 6th Street. Movie: "Walking with Dinosaurs."

**July 22, 7 p.m., Summer Swing Concert,** featuring *Muse*. Opelika Municipal Park

**July 25, 1:30 p.m., Friday Afternoon Movies.** Lewis Cooper Library, 200 South 6th Street, Opelika. Movie: "Nut Job."

**July 29, 7 p.m., Summer Swing Concert,** featuring Fred Jones. Opelika Municipal Park.

**Aug. 1, Opelika Main Street's "First Fridays" Event.** Downtown Opelika. Includes live street-corner entertainment, late night shopping and many delicious dining options!

**Aug. 2, Sportsplex Triathlon for Kids.** Ages 6 to 18. Times to be announced. For more information visit Parks & Rec's website at: <http://www.opelika.org/Default.asp?ID=455>, or call (334) 705-5560/ "Small Fry Tri" – ages 2-5 (not a competitive event – just a fun one!)

**Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 3-6 p.m., Downtown Opelika Farmer's Market.** Courthouse Square.

**Aug. 5, 7 p.m., Summer Swing Concert ,** featuring Back to School Bash. Opelika Municipal Park

**Aug. 14, Opelika Film Night at the Depot Lawn.** Railroad Avenue, downtown Opelika. Featured movie, "Fantastic Mr. Fox." Family fun activities begin at 6 p.m. Movie begins at dark.

## Statewide

**Alabama 2014 "Back-to-School" Sales Tax Holiday.** Beginning at 12:01 a.m. (CST) on Friday, Aug. 1, 2014, and ending at 12 midnight on Sunday, Aug. 3, 2014, Alabama will hold its ninth annual sales tax holiday for school-related items, giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers, books and clothing free of state's four percent sales or use tax. The deadline for cities and counties to notify the Alabama Department of Revenue if they will also exempt their taxes during the three-day tax holiday is Tuesday, July 1. For more information on participating cities and counties, visit the Alabama Department of Revenue web site, <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/SalesTaxHol.cfm>. For a Quick Reference Sheet of Exempt Items, go to <http://revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/STHolidayQuickRefSheet14.pdf>.

## Sylacauga

**Farmers' Market.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m., Fridays in July and August. Blue Bell Park. Fresh produce, local honey, baked goods and more.

**For the month of July,** the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will feature an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Ray Wetzel, artist from JSU. Reception will be held July 17 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

**In August,** the featured exhibits will be woodworkers' sculptures and watercolors by artist, Pete Hosey. A reception will be held on Aug. 14.

**Summer Reading Programs** at B.B. Comer Library will continue through mid-July. Monday programs, 10 until 11 a.m., for children of all ages includes Good Times Traveling Theater and Alice in Wonderland by Hampstead Stage Company. Tuesdays Bluebell Summertime Stories, 10-10:30 a.m. for ages 3-5 include Boom Thunder Boom and Fizz Boom Pop, Bubblegum and Bathtubs. On Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m., all ages will enjoy Lee Bryan, "That Puppet Guy," and comedy with sound effects from Prof. Zounds. For more info, visit [www.sylacauga.net/library](http://www.sylacauga.net/library).

## Alabama Municipal Electric Authority

804 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

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

### **AMEA and its Members kick off 2015 Scholarship Program**

Will you be graduating from high school in the spring of 2015? Do you receive your electricity from a public power utility in Alabama? Then if your answer to these questions is “yes,” you could be eligible to receive a scholarship from the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) and its 11 Member cities/utilities.

Since 1992, AMEA and its Members (Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley-Riviera Utilities, LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Sylacauga and Tuskegee) have provided scholarships to area high school seniors through the AMEA Scholarship Program. Scholarships, totaling approximately \$82,500, were awarded in the 2014 program.

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 a Member’s electric utility and the student must attend an Alabama college or university.

Applications are currently available from school counselors in these Member cities, or you can go online to the AMEA web site, [www.amea.com](http://www.amea.com), Scholarship Program.

Applications are reviewed and winners are selected by an independent panel of Montgomery area college guidance personnel. **Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.**

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

