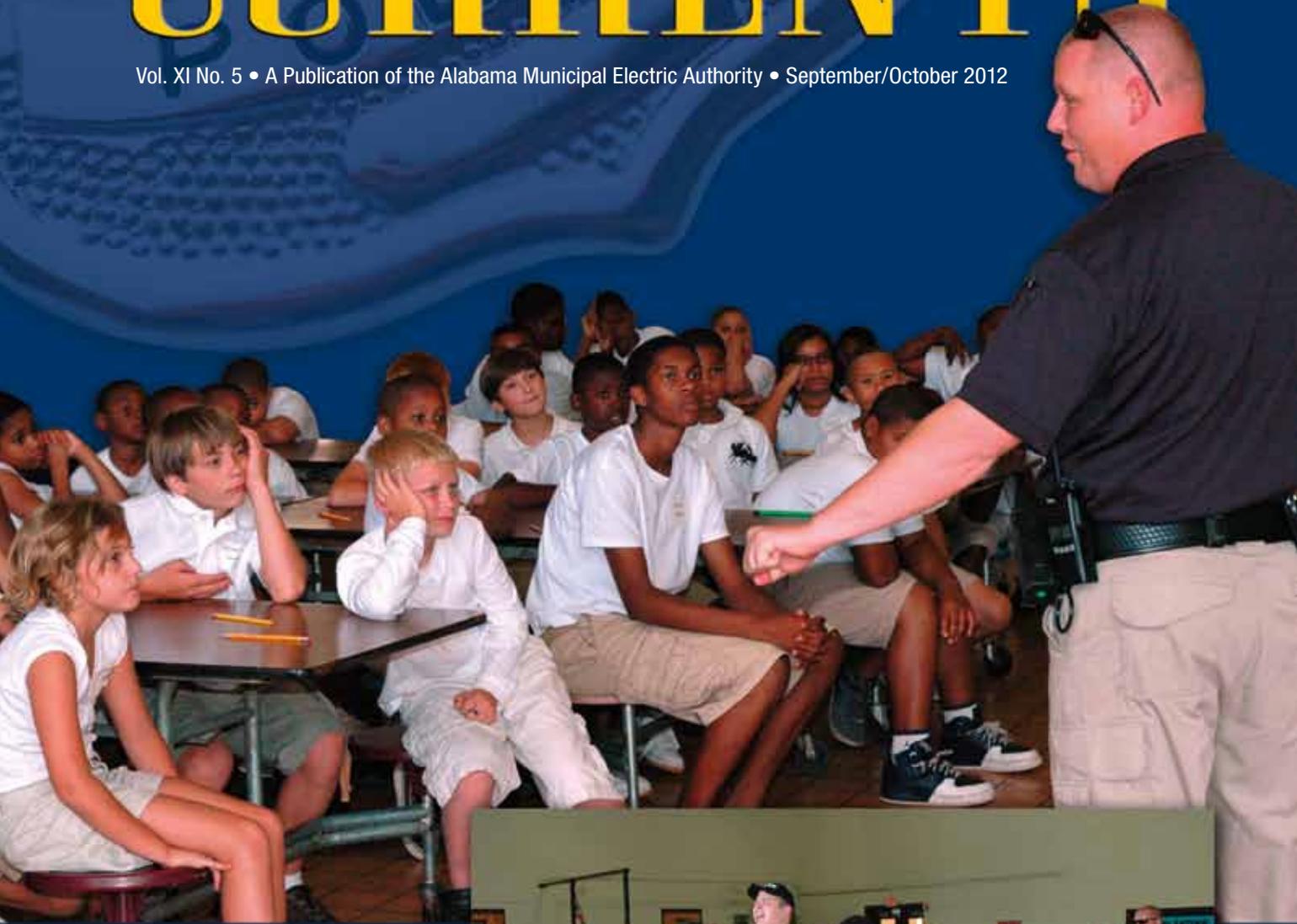


# Alabama CURRENTS

Vol. XI No. 5 • A Publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority • September/October 2012



LaFayette youth  
learn about  
duties of law  
enforcement



### Amended Move Over Act will keep Alabama's utility workers safe

It seems like a common sense thing to do; move over when you see flashing lights on the side of the road.

During this past Alabama Legislative session, lawmakers approved an amendment to the Alabama Move Over Act, Act No. 2012-409, Amended Section 32-5A-58.2(b), which now includes utility service vehicles. This legislation, introduced during the 2012 Regular Session by Senator Dick Brewbaker (R-Pike Road), expands the state's original Move Over Act to require motorists to move over or slow down for roadside utility vehicles with emergency lights activated. The original law was created in an effort to keep emergency vehicles safe when stopped roadside for official business. Act No. 2012-409 became effective Aug. 1, 2012.

The amended law "provides that when a utility service vehicle operated by or on behalf of an entity providing utility services displaying rotating lights, flashing lights, or other visual signals is parked on the roadside while performing tasks associated with the provision of utility services, the drivers of other vehicles must, on a multi-lane road traveling in the same direction as the utility service vehicle, vacate the lane closest to the utility service vehicle; but, if not safe to move over, slow to at least 15 m.p.h. less than the posted speed limit. On a two-lane road, move over as far as possible and slow to 15 m.p.h. slower than the posted speed limit if 25 m.p.h. or greater, or 10 m.p.h. less than the posted speed limit if it is 20 m.p.h. or less."

This summer, Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA), a coalition of the state's 36 municipally-owned electric utilities, and the City of Fairhope Public Utilities, an AMEA Member utility, joined Alabama Governor Robert Bentley in the Old House Chamber of the Alabama State Capitol building for a ceremony to sign the Move Over Act into law. Also present were representatives from Alabama Power Company and the Alabama Rural Electric Association.

During the ceremony, Governor Bentley expressed his desire to keep Alabama's linemen safe. The amended legislation will place safeguards on Alabama's utility workers while they are working on roadways across the state.

Utility workers perform dangerous jobs every day. They take all of the precautions they can. We want the general public to look out for our employees as well.

The law should be taken very seriously because it can save the lives of those who are trying to protect and/or help us. You can help us keep our utility workers safe. We want our linemen to return home safely to their families. So, if you see flashing lights on the side of the road, move over!

*Lisa Miller*

AMEA Manager of Communications and Marketing



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

College scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors graduating this spring.

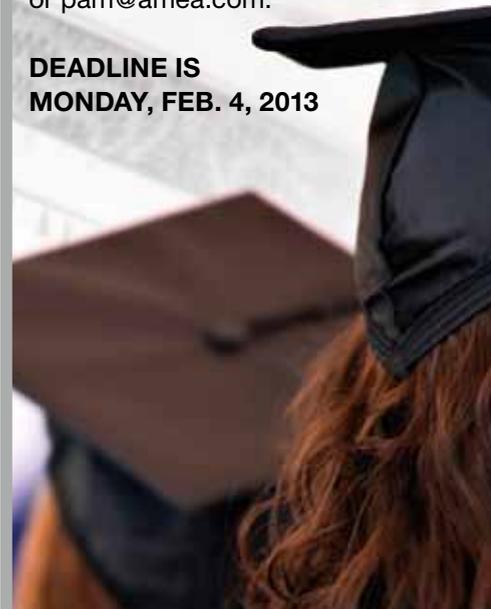
Each year, AMEA and its Members make available 33, \$2,500 scholarships, which include regular and technical school scholarships.

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](http://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](mailto:pam@amea.com).

**DEADLINE IS  
MONDAY, FEB. 4, 2013**



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

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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

## News From AMEA Members

- |   |                       |    |  |
|---|-----------------------|----|--|
| 6 | <b>Alexander City</b> | 10 | <b>Riviera Utilities</b>               |
| 6 | <b>LaFayette</b>      | 11 | <b>Utilities Board<br/>of Tuskegee</b> |
| 7 | <b>Fairhope</b>       | 12 | <b>Sylacauga</b>                       |
| 8 | <b>Lanett</b>         |    |  |
| 9 | <b>Opelika</b>        |    |  |

## Features

- |   |                        |    |  |
|---|------------------------|----|--|
| 2 | <b>From The Editor</b> | 14 | <b>Places To Go &amp; Things To Do</b> |
| 4 | <b>In My Opinion</b>   | 16 | <b>Be a Wise-Energy User</b>           |
| 5 | <b>Doug Rye</b>        | 16 | <b>Safety News You Can Use</b>         |

## On the Cover

The City of LaFayette recently hosted the Third Annual LaFayette Youth Police Academy with more than 40 area youth participating in the event. The event is designed to teach youth about the duties of law enforcement and other local public safety personnel while helping to explore career and leadership opportunities, life skills and character education. "None of this could have been possible without the participation of the community and the donations from businesses," said Chief Kenny Vines, City of LaFayette Police Department. "We appreciate all the support for our local youth and public safety workers. The support and response from the community has shown that the Youth Police Academy is just another positive step for the City of LaFayette."

Shown on the cover is Camp Hill Police Officer Nathan White talking to cadets about law enforcement's use of tasers and firearms as part of a demonstration during the Youth Police Academy. Officer White (R) tases LaFayette Reserve Police Officer Travis Allred, while LaFayette Police Chief Kenny Vines and LaFayette Police Sgt. Christopher Trice assist.

For more information about the LaFayette Youth Police Academy, see Page 6.

*Photos courtesy of Chris Busby, The LaFayette Sun.*

## Public Power: An American Tradition

**F**or more than 130 years, public power has been a tradition that works across the nation on behalf of its communities and customers. More than 2,000 cities and towns in the United States light up their homes, businesses and streets with public power – electricity that comes from a community-owned and -operated utility. Each public power utility is different, reflecting its hometown characteristics and values, but all have a common purpose: providing reliable and safe, not-for-profit electricity at a reasonable price while protecting the environment.



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. And many of the public power systems in Alabama have been providing electricity long before the investor-owned utilities and the rural electric cooperatives.

A public power utility has many distinct characteristics that benefit the consumers of the individual community it serves. These benefits include:

- Efficient service – lowest cost consistent with reliability, community goals and sound business practices
- Quick response from crews located in the community
- Responsiveness to customer concerns
- Emphasis on long-term community goals
- Greater portion of revenues stay in community
- Local employment
- Promotes local economic development
- Tax payments, payments-in-lieu-of-taxes, and / or transfers to the community's general fund
- Opportunity for efficiency through integrated utility operations (e.g., operation with electric, water, sewer, garbage, gas, cable, telecommunications)
- Local management and operations bring added community leadership for innovation and development
- Recognized commitment to conservation, safety and the environment
- Local control over the electric distribution system aesthetics and design
- Local control that allows matching local resources to local needs
- Innovative techniques and technology to meet energy needs

While the vast majority of public power systems are owned by cities and towns, a number of counties, public utility districts, and even a handful of states have public power utilities. Most — especially the smaller ones — are governed by a city council, while others are overseen by an independently elected or appointed board. Public power utilities are directly accountable to the people they serve through local elected or appointed officials.

Some of the nation's largest cities – Los Angeles, San Antonio, Seattle, Austin, Memphis, Nashville, Huntsville and Orlando – operate publicly-owned electric utilities, but many public power communities are small with their utilities serving 3,000 or fewer customers.

The 11 Members of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) are hometown public power electric utilities – not-for-profit, community enterprises. From that morning cup of hot coffee to the late-night television news — and all the hours in-between — they keep the power flowing.

To celebrate and honor this American tradition, public power systems across the country that collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 45 million Americans will recognize Public Power Week, Oct. 7-13, which is 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 is an American tradition which has helped build this great nation. You can take for granted that AMEA and its 11 Members will continue to provide low-cost, reliable electricity — and deliver it to you instantaneously, day or night.

*Fred D. Clark, Jr.*  
AMEA President & CEO

# You can do it, too

Well, another summer is almost over. But the summer of 2012 will not likely be forgotten. Several of the southern states have experienced the hottest and driest summer ever recorded. New electrical usage peaks were recorded by many utility companies. But I am not aware of any utility blackouts as a result of insufficient electrical generation. Thankfully, we did not have to rely on solar or wind generation to get through the summer of 2012. I think that the utility companies handled our summer electrical needs very well and I hope that more government regulations do not prevent them from being able to handle our needs in the future.



Last month, I introduced you to three simple laws of science relating to energy. I gave an example as to the enormous amount of energy that was generated when law two and law three came together and produced a tornado.

On May 4, 2007, an EF5 tornado hit Greensburg, Kansas. Just imagine for a moment that the dimensions of your town are 1.5 miles by 1.5 miles with Main Street right down the middle. Then one night, an EF5 tornado that is 1.8 miles wide goes right down Main Street. What a terrible night that would be. That is exactly what happened at Greensburg. In a time span of about 15 minutes, 95 percent of all the buildings in Greensburg were totally destroyed and the other 5 percent were heavily damaged. Not a tree remained. Many of you remember this event from radio, television, and other media. I went to Greensburg personally to witness the damage. What I saw is still clearly recorded in my mind.



Greensburg, Kansas after the tornado

So what does this have to do with energy efficiency? Well my radio program is broadcast weekly in Hutchinson, Kansas, so I mentioned that I would love to help the folks in Greensburg. All they had to do was call and ask me to help them. About three months later, I received a call from one of our listeners saying that someone had heard about my offer and wanted to know if I would go to Greensburg and meet with some that were planning to build back and with others who were not sure what they were going to do. I told them that I could, and I looked forward to doing so. We learned

that the previous Mayor was going to rebuild in another town near Greensburg since there was no infrastructure left in Greensburg. I called him and talked to him about making his new house super energy efficient which could be a great example for others. As I prepared to go to Greensburg, I felt very strongly that this destroyed town had an opportunity to do something that few others would ever have. So I helped the Mayor obtain cellulose insulation, radiant barrier roof decking, and other energy-efficient products. I even helped deliver a geothermal heat pump to the house. Then we met with a small group of citizens in Greensburg in a make-shift meeting room. I challenged this group of marvelous rural American folks to build a town that would be the “greenest and most energy efficient town in America.”

It has now been five years since that meeting, and I have just returned from Greensburg. I was asked to go there and conduct a couple of seminars about energy efficiency. What I learned was that they wanted to show me what they had done in the last five years. I found a town where every single building was new. There were about 450 new houses and apartments of which all would score high on the energy and green scale. The public buildings were constructed to the absolutely highest energy and green standards. In fact, all of them have received Platinum, Gold, or Silver LEED certifications. Those are the highest energy and green standards possible. Those buildings contain the same energy-saving products that I write about in this magazine.



Greensburg today

Greensburg has become the “greenest” town in America. I am so very proud of those folks who are just like the folks in your town. They were determined to have feasible comfort and affordable utility bills. You can do it, too. I will continue to help you in every issue of *Alabama Currents*.

Next month, we will start at the roof peak and work our way to the ground showing the ways to be comfortable and have lower utility bills.

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.dougyrie.com](http://www.dougyrie.com).

## WATTS NEW IN Alexander City

### Alexander City welcomes fall

By Tracy Kendrick

The signs of fall are in the air. The sight of leaves falling and the heat of August are slowly passing. School children and school buses are adjusting to their new routines. The football stadium is filling up with fans. Fall has finally arrived in Alexander City.

Many activities can be found in Alexander City any time and fall is no different. Friday nights can be spent cheering on the Benjamin Russell High School Wildcats. The stadium at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex is filled with maroon and gray on Friday night home games. As the young men step out on the gridiron, the stadium is electrified with excitement. Fall and football are the perfect combination for a great time with family.

On any given weekend you can find activities for anyone. Whether your interests are farming or fishing, there's something for everyone. The local MainStreet Farmers' Market opens at 7 a.m. on Saturdays on Broad Street in downtown. The market is open through the month of October. The fall also brings several fishing tournaments to Wind Creek State Park. Even if you do not fish, it's always fun to watch the weigh-in for the biggest catch.

The Antique Car Cruise In at Arby's on U.S. Highway 280 is another great outing for your family. You can take a stroll around the parking lot and view a variety of classic cars. With the classic cars comes classic music that can transform you to the years of the past. The Cruise In is the first Saturday of each month, April through October.

Fall also brings several fall festivals to Alexander City. The annual Oktoberfest, located at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex, is fun for the whole family. A Halloween Carnival is held yearly at Wind Creek State Park. For the third year, Russell Crossroads will also hold a Fall Family Festival at the end of the October.

From football, fishing and farming to Cruise Ins and festivals, Alexander City has it all. This fall, take the time to enjoy the sights and sounds of Alexander City. Take the time to enjoy your family and create a memory that will last a lifetime. Enjoy the changing of seasons as Alexander City welcomes fall.

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 LaFayette

### City of LaFayette hosts Third Annual LaFayette Youth Police Academy

By Chris Busby  
*The LaFayette Sun*

The City of LaFayette's Third Annual Youth Police Academy took place in July, and local officials deemed the week-long event a huge success. More than 40 area youth participated in the Academy, which was created with the intentions of helping youth explore career and leadership opportunities, life skills and character education while exposing them to the duties of law enforcement and other local public safety personnel.

The Youth Police Academy gives local youth the chance to do something active and educational at the end of their summer break. It is also a chance to give an inside look at what police officers and public safety officials really do.

Throughout the week, cadets participated in daily workout routines and took field trips to the Chambers County Detention Center, Chambers County District Court and the Lee County Youth Detention Center. They were taught firearm safety, drug awareness, first aid, how to process a crime scene and about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol. They also participated in activities with the LaFayette Fire Department and the Chambers County Sheriff's Department's new drug dog.

The cadet's week concluded with a graduation ceremony at the Eastside Elementary School in LaFayette. At graduation, LaFayette Police Chief Kenny Vines called this year's group of cadets, "the best I've had."

At the graduation, Chief Vines, along with other law enforcement and city-elected officials, commended the cadets for their hard work and discipline throughout the week. As part of the ceremony, Tylianna Smith was named the Female Cadet of the Week and Seth South was the Male Cadet of the Week.

"I think this week cleared up a lot of misconceptions young people may have about police work," said Chief Vines. "A lot of kids just think we go out and arrest people, and the police academy was a chance to show these kids that it is a much more involved process."



Cadet graduation ceremony at Eastside Elementary School

# WATTS NEW IN Fairhope

## Fairhope Electric linemen work toward certification

By D. Fran Morley

### Fairhope Public Utilities



There aren't many jobs where employers have to think a decade in advance about who is going to do the work. But that's the case in the world of electric linemen, according to Scott Sligh, Fairhope Electric Superintendent.

"One of the challenges many utilities and industries are facing right now is an aging work force. Nationwide, experienced employees are nearing or reaching retirement ages. Many of us have brought in less-experienced people that we hope we can retain and that will soon fill the shoes of those retiring, but for line work, that process takes several years." Sligh said many experts suggest that from day one, it takes 8 to 10 years for an employee to reach the full potential for performing line work.

Larger utility providers might have in-house training and a "bullpen" of candidates at various levels who could advance to fill vacant slots, but that's not the case with smaller utilities.

"Here in Fairhope, we have individuals who have the desire and capability, but the issue is training."

About 10 years ago, some of the City's current linemen attended training in Dothan that took about four years to complete; more recently, a couple of employees attend an intensive four-month training at the Southeastern Lineman Training Center in northwest Georgia.

Now, Fairhope Electric is sending two employees, Ben Patterson and Murray Cameron, to a course in Montgomery offered by the Alabama Rural Electric Association (AREA) and Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA). Patterson and Cameron began this course this past March, progressing through the pre-apprentice assessment, a session of classroom work in June, and hands-on work in July. The final session of the year, including more classroom work, takes place this December.

"Ben and Murray will gain certificates through TVPPA as they complete the various modules and be certified as linemen in 2016 when they complete all the modules of the course," Sligh said.



AREA and TVPPA will offer a new session for new recruits next spring, and Sligh said the City hopes to send two more employees to begin the process in March 2013.



Fairhope's AAA All Star team represented the State of Alabama in the Dixie Youth World Series in Bartow, FL, in August. The team is managed by City of Fairhope Electric Department employee Jeremy Morgan (top, middle). Players are Jon Barnard, Jared Champion, Will Edmiston, Greyson Hooks, Seth Kruse, Sam Malone, Ethan McLaughlin, Micah Morgan, Grant Murray, Parker Owens, Bronson Sloan and Will Stephens. Coaches are Jeremy Morgan, Andy Malone and Kelly Champion.

## Mayor Crawley to serve another four-year term

By Jennie Gunnells

Oscar Crawley will serve another four years as Mayor of Lanett. Mayor Crawley had no opposition in the 2012 municipal elections.

He was first elected to the post in 2004. Mayor Crawley will be the first mayor since 1964 to serve three consecutive terms in the long history of the City of Lanett.

There are only two other individuals who have served three consecutive terms as Mayor of the City of Lanett. They are C. E. Deloach, 1940-1952, and Reid Kent, 1952-1964. It is indeed a big accomplishment to serve not only two consecutive terms but to serve three consecutive terms is quite an accomplishment.

The first mayor of the city was G. M. Croft who served from 1893 to 1897.

Lanett was originally the Town of Bluffton, incorporated on Dec. 7, 1865, when it received its charter from the Alabama Legislature. A new charter was sought from the state 28 years later. Bluffton had grown and the citizens of the town decided to change the name. The City of Lanett was founded on Feb. 1, 1895 when the charter for the newly-named City of Lanett was approved. Lanett was named after two local textile mill developers, LaFayette Lanier and Theodore Bennett, by taking the "Lan" from Lanier and the "nett" from Bennett.

Mayor Crawley was born in LaFayette, and moved to West Point, GA, as a very young child. He graduated from Harrison High School in West Point. He received his B.S. degree in Political Science from Alabama State University (ASU). He minored in Science at ASU. He is married to Juliette, a former junior high school English teacher. They have a son, a daughter, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Mayor Crawley was head varsity basketball coach at Marengo High School in Dixon Mills for nine and a half years. He also taught seventh, eighth and ninth grade General Science. Mayor Crawley is a big sports fan and attends many Lanett City School sporting events.

After Mayor Crawley left his coaching job, he accepted a job with West Point Pepperell as a personnel trainee. He was promoted to the rank of Personnel Director, Industrial Manager of Towel Operations and moved to the corporate office as Director of Human Resources and Security, the job he held at his retirement. He retired after 34 years with the company.

Mayor Crawley has represented the City of Lanett employees and citizens well. Some of his accomplishments are: Re-opened the local airport and got it operating again (the



Mayor Oscar Crawley

airport project was a \$7.5 million project and the runway was extended by 4,400 feet); built a Veterans Park, with many additions to the park; major sewer and water projects were completed in the needed sections of the city; built a building for the Utilities Department (electricity and gas) and Streets and Water Departments (these departments were able to get their equipment in out of the weather as well as give their employees a nice work area to report); accepted Lanett Junior High School Building from the Lanett City School System when it no longer needed the building and turned it into an updated Recreation Department, as well as converted some Police Department offices (Detective Division) in part of the Junior High Building.

Mayor Oscar Crawley serves on the Board of Trustees for Lanier Hospital and as a board member/officer at Chattahoochee Federal Credit Union.

The employees and citizens of the City of Lanett are looking forward to another four years of progress. If you have not met our very progressive Mayor, please come by and do so.

If you are interested in learning more about the City of Lanett, please check out our website at [www.cityoflanett.com](http://www.cityoflanett.com) or our City of Lanett Facebook page. Please like us on Facebook.

## New Director named for Opelika Power Services; OPS breaks ground on new facilities

By Jan Gunter

With the Opelika City Council giving their unanimous approval at the July 17 City Council meeting, Mayor Gary Fuller was authorized to execute a contract between the City of Opelika and Steven A. Harmon to become the new Director of Opelika Power Services (OPS).

Of the decision by the Council, President Eddie Smith stated, "It was not a hard decision by the City Council. Mr. Harmon's resumé shows years of professional utility service experience. I know I speak for all of the council members when I say we're glad to have him on board with the city."

Mayor Fuller added his own thoughts. "We are very pleased with the council's decision. Steve will be a great asset to Opelika Power Services as we expand our ability to serve the Opelika community. I look forward to watching him apply his years of knowledge and expertise and taking the City forward as the first community in Alabama to offer fiber to the premise and all of the benefits that will bring."

Harmon comes to the City of Opelika from Greenville, where he has served as the CEO of H2 Business Solutions, LLC for the past two years. Prior to that, he served as the Execu-



Steve A. Harmon

tive VP and General Manager of Pioneer Electric Cooperative in Greenville.

One of the things about Harmon's resumé which particularly grabbed the attention of the City's administration is that he completely understands the complexities of power service delivery. Harmon started his career in 1981 as a ground worker before becoming a tree trimmer, then apprentice lineman, and finally a journeyman lineman. He later became Area Manager for the Volunteer Energy Cooperative in Decatur, TN, in 1998.

Harmon received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administra-

tion from Bryan College in Dayton, TN, where he graduated magna cum laude. He then earned his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Auburn University at Montgomery. He has served as an Executive Board member of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, is a member of Rotary International, and is a member at the First Baptist Church in Greenville.

Harmon began his career with the City of Opelika on Aug. 1.

### City holds groundbreaking ceremony for new OPS facilities

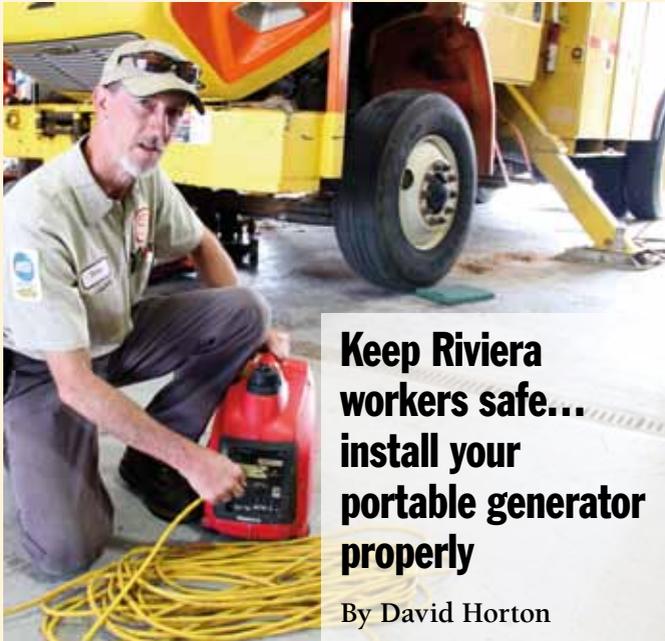
Opelika Power Services (OPS) celebrated its official groundbreaking for the new OPS facilities in Opelika on June 26.

The OPS facilities are expected to be completed sometime in the spring of 2013. The new facility will provide something new for the employees and public – all of the OPS services will be located at one facility. Everyone, from the linemen to the engineers to the Customer Service Representatives, will be housed in the new facility.



Shown at the groundbreaking are (L to R): City Council members David Canon, Ward 5; Joey Motley, Ward 3; Larry Gray, Ward 2; President Pro-Tem Patricia Jones, Ward 1; Council President Eddie Smith, Ward 4; Mayor Gary Fuller; Beth Ringley; Bob Williams, Assistant Director, OPS; Craig Uptagrafft, Manager of Fiber Services, OPS; and Kenton Lee, Line Supervisor, OPS.

# WATTS NEW AT Riviera Utilities



## Keep Riviera workers safe... install your portable generator properly

By David Horton

*Rickey Counselman, a Riviera Utilities Transportation Department Technician, demonstrates the proper way to plug in a household item, such as a refrigerator, to a portable generator.*

Recently, our area has experienced numerous lightning storms with dangerous lightning strikes and we are also in the midst of the “H” season. This makes the time right for customers to consider installing a generator at their home or connecting to a portable one. Whichever choice you make, do it the right way for safety’s sake.

At Riviera Utilities, we uphold our employees’ safety and the safety of our customers as a top priority. When these storms hit and power is lost, we come to your aid as soon as weather conditions permit our linemen to travel and make repairs safely.

“When our crews go out on the job, necessary precautions are taken before we ever begin to work on a downed power line or major problem caused by lightning or fallen trees,” said Mike Dugger, General Manager. “The first thing a crew will do is verify that the circuit has been de-energized, and that the proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We then place ground lines on the circuit – on both sides of our workmen – to assure the line cannot be energized. We are proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter the precautions we take to keep our customers and workers safe, the very people we are there to help can unknowingly put our lives, and their own, in danger.”

A portable generator or a home installed unit is widely used to sustain consumers when power lines are down or damaged and can prove fatal to workers and consumers

when used improperly. Injuries and death have occurred when a power line was energized by an improperly installed generator. Of course, customers would never purposely cause the death of a lineman or injure anyone. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home’s wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause back-feeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them, even if the line seems dead.

“Workers on the lines are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly,” said Tom DeBell, Engineering Manager. “If a customer decides to purchase a generator for their home, they need to have it installed by a professional who is trained to properly install the unit. If not, the customer can be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.”

Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages. We urge our customers to follow these safety guidelines when using portable generators:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home’s wiring. This can also cause back-feeding and pose an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home’s circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent back-feeding.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary and only to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never fuel a generator while it is operating.
- Read and adhere to the manufacturer’s instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

You can help us, your loved ones and your neighbors stay safe during adverse conditions. Riviera Utilities encourages you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages. We also urge you to safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations and serve you day after day. When we work together for the safety and good of our communities, we all benefit.

Riviera strives to continuously provide high quality, reliable service and value, while constantly striving to improve ourselves and the communities we serve.

# ★ WATTS NEW AT Utilities Board of Tuskegee

## *Celebrations of aviation inspirations*

By Karin Hopkins

The slow drop of a high-flying parachutist, whose giant American flag waves gently against the sky, always mesmerizes spectators. The crowd knows there is much more in store after the skydiver lands, officially kicking off the annual Black Pilots of America (BPA) Kid Adventure Labor Day Fly-in held at Moton Field in Tuskegee.

Held on Labor Day weekend, this event combines airplanes, history, fun, food and transformative progress.

Planes and pilots welcome anyone who stops by to marvel at the various specimens of aviation that are parked on the tarmac. Children can create great memories by just sitting in the cockpit and they can even go for a plane ride. The schedule for the BPA Kid Adventure Labor Day Fly-in also includes an FAA safety briefing, a model aircraft-building workshop for children and tours of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

This fly-in, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Golden Hawks of Tuskegee, a chapter

of the BPA, which is comprised of pilots or airplane owners who know firsthand the joys of flying. BPA members also feel an obligation to the pioneers who made their passion possible — the Tuskegee Airmen.

And this is where the transforma-

tive progress is on full display. In recent years, major changes have occurred at Moton Field, where the Tuskegee Airmen trained for military service during World War II. Operations now include a modern airport with capacity for refueling and airplane detailing along with a pilot's lounge, Internet access, conference rooms, 5,000-foot runway and concierge services.

The ever-present spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen blazed even brighter recently during two ceremonies of historic significance. This past July, a groundbreaking was held to showcase the next chapter of growth and progress. Also, the Legacy Flight Academy graduated its first class of students, who underwent aviation training at Moton Field. This program equips participating youngsters with the skills, ethics and attitude to further the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

It all adds up to an even more exciting Kid Adventure Labor Day Fly-in this year, a time for attendees to celebrate Moton Field's deeply profound past and also relish the airport's top-flight services and amenities.

For more information call (334) 727-6485 or e-mail [dhawkjwh@aol.com](mailto:dhawkjwh@aol.com).



A groundbreaking was held on July 21 for the 11,000-square-foot "T" hangar that will tremendously expand capacity at the airport located at Moton Field in Tuskegee.



## **“Sylacauga Emerging” sculpture graces the grounds of Sylacauga’s Municipal Complex**

By Dr. Shirley Spears

*Resident sculptor Craigger Browne with his work*

**H**e’s 7’ and 6” tall and wields a hammer and chisel with a mighty thrust as he chips himself out of a block of the pure white Sylacauga marble.

He’s handsome and muscular and his hair falls forward as he looks down and concentrates on the task at hand.

‘He’ is “Sylacauga Emerging,” the new guy on the grounds at the City’s municipal complex.

Standing just a few feet from Alabama State Highway 21, he grabs the attention of motorists from far and near. They admire his physique and feel the spirit of his determined effort to work hard and move forward with his ambitious task.

Craigger Browne, resident sculptor, who has worked on “Sylacauga Emerging” for the last 12 months, proposes that “the stone carver – a working man chipping himself out of marble — is symbolic for a town working to bring its pure

white marble back to prominence in the artistic world.”

Browne said, “I hope to have embodied the history and spirit of Sylacauga with this piece. The city has had a rich past with its marble which is world renowned for its pure whiteness and fine crystal structure.”

Sylacauga marble was used in construction of the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. Ayn Rand even referred to it as “the finest marble in the world” in her novel, *The Fountainhead*.

During the last 40 years, the local marble industry moved away from cutting the stone out in block form, choosing to mine the stone for industrial purposes. The calcium carbonate product, with its healthy ‘green’ properties, is much sought after for use in thousands of domestic and industrial products.

Sylacauga is home to two large producers of calcium carbonate, Imerys and Omya, and both are world leaders in mineral specialties for industry producing products and offering expertise in product development. Both are good corporate citizens with a large economic and quality of life impact on the community.

But the cessation of the sculpting of Sylacauga's marble removed it from the world view as an artistic medium, and the city seemed to lose its identity as "The Marble City" as the blocks turned to slurry, a ground up form of marble.

Thanks to the recent return to quarrying, the marble in block form by the Mussolino family and the Alabama Marble Company, the artistic world is turning its eyes again toward what the famous sculptor and marble quarry owner, Giuseppe Moretti, called "the finest white marble in the world."

The efforts of the Sylacauga Arts Council, Mayor Sam Wright and the City of Sylacauga have been instrumental in helping the town re-emerge as the place for sculptors to find pure white marble for sculpting purposes.

"I have chosen the image of a stone carver freeing himself from a raw stone block to symbolize Sylacauga again emerging as the 'The Marble City,'" said Browne.

The carver's tools, the hammer and chisel, have been used in local quarries for centuries. The carver — himself being marble — represents the generations of families in this area for whom marble has been their lifeblood.

"I chose to leave half the block raw stone showing there is both room for growth and the potential for balance between the industrial and block industries."

Browne, a Birmingham native, graduated from Vestavia Hills High School and attended the University of Montevallo on a baseball scholarship while majoring in fine arts. He was accepted to the Cleveland Institute of Art for the summer

term in Lacoste, France and received a scholarship for the fall term.

Browne received his BFA from Montevallo in 1991 and returned to Lacoste to work as an assistant professor of sculpture for the summer and fall terms. In 1992, he received a Guggenheim Scholarship to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. During his stay there, he assisted with restoration and conservation work on a collection that includes such sculptors as Arp, Brancusi, Calder, Moore, Giacornetti and more.

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***Chairperson of the Sylacauga Marble Festival, Dr. Ted Spears, commented on Browne's statue saying, "Craigger Browne's magnificent man is a shining example of the beauty of Sylacauga's pure white marble and of the amazing expertise and patience of a sculptor who is one of our own, a talented young man who came through Alabama's educational institutions."***

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In 1992, Browne began working with Studio Nicoli in Carrara, Italy where he concentrated on mastering the sculpting trade. He worked and sold out of the Studio Nicoli until 1994 when he returned to Birmingham to work and sell out of his studio there with continued trips to Italy to study and to purchase marble.

"I have exhibited in France, Italy and throughout the United States," he said. "My work is in private and corporate collections on five of the seven continents. It can be found on display in Little House Gallery in Homewood and with Lahaina Galleries in Maui,

Los Angeles, San Francisco and Bend, Oregon."

Browne re-discovered Sylacauga Marble two years ago after a friend told him about Sylacauga's 'Magic of Marble' Festival.

"After having a piece in the local museum for 18 years and longing to see a revival of the marble block quarries, it brings me great joy to see Sylacauga once again emerging as 'The Marble City'. I am humbled and honored to have been asked to be a part of this resurrection," he added.

Chairperson of the Sylacauga Marble Festival, Dr. Ted Spears, commented on Browne's statue saying, "Craigger Browne's magnificent man is a shining example of the beauty of Sylacauga's pure white marble and of the amazing expertise and patience of a sculptor who is one of our own, a talented young man who came through Alabama's educational institutions."

During the last four years, the visiting Italian master sculptors have carved and left at least six beautiful pieces which can be seen in the Comer Library. But now we have "Sylacauga Emerging," a piece from our own marble done by our own talented American sculptor — a piece right out in the open for everyone to see and enjoy.

'Sylacauga Emerging' is even more meaningful since it was made possible by a partnership between the Sylacauga Arts Council and Omya Inc.

We are all in awe of this big handsome guy who took over a year to birth. And we are grateful to the Alabama State Council on the Arts and former Governor Bob Riley for putting us on the path that brought us this far with the re-birth of our marble as an important stone for the architectural and artistic world.

We invite everyone to come out to try their hand at sculpting or just to watch the sculpting at next year's 'Magic of Marble' Festival which will be held from April 9-20, 2013.

Inquiries can be made via the website at [www.bbcomerlibrary.net/marble-festival](http://www.bbcomerlibrary.net/marble-festival) or by calling (256) 267-6655.

# Places to Go & Things to Do

## Alexander City

**MainStreet Farmers' Market.** Every Saturday from 7 until 11 a.m. Market located downtown on Broad Street.

**Square Dance Program for beginners and advanced.** Fourth Sundays at the Senior Activity Center at 1:45 p.m.

**Sept. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Antique Car Cruise In.** Car enthusiasts cruise into Arby's parking lot on U.S. Highway 280 the first Saturday of the month, April through October. Enjoy the era of classic cars and classic music.

**Sept. 2, 6-10 p.m., Labor Day Concert.** Summer Concert Series comes to close at The Amp located on Highway 63. Follow us on Facebook or [www.lmat.org](http://www.lmat.org) or call (256) 397-1019.

**Sept. 8, 6 a.m., WATT Fishing Tournament.** Located at Wind Creek State Park.

**Sept. 11, 6 p.m., Social Dance, Senior Activity Center.**

**Sept. 14, 21 and 28, 50+Bicycle Riders Program.** Park vehicles at Strand Park. Bring a helmet and water bottle. Easy to moderate 90-minute ride.

**Sept. 17, 1:30-3 p.m., HORIZONS Lecture Series.** Arthur Dolores Hydock: "Putting Down Roots...Family's Journey Through Ellis Island" located at the Board of Education at 375 Lee St.

**Sept. 27, 6 p.m., Covey Rise Chapter of Quail Forever Fifth Annual Banquet.** Wellborn Muscle Car Museum, Alexander City. For tickets or sponsorship information, call (256) 749-115 or contact [qfcoveyrise@gmail.com](mailto:qfcoveyrise@gmail.com).

**Sept. 29, Cruzin for Kidz Motorcycle Ride.** 150 mile ride to begin and end in Chapel parking lot at Children's Harbor. Registration begins between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. \$50 per bike and ride begins at 10 a.m.

**Oct. 4 and 5, Ethridge, TN Trip.** Deadline Sept. 14. Experience a guided buggy tour of the Amish community. Room for 40. Call (256) 329-2910 for more information.

**Oct. 6, 4-5 p.m., Allen Ingle Walking Horse Show.** Located at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex. For more information, call (256) 329-9712 or visit [www.achrc.com](http://www.achrc.com).

**Oct. 6, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Antique Car Cruise In.** Car enthusiasts cruise into Arby's parking lot on Highway 280 the first Saturday of the month, April through October. Enjoy the era of classic cars and classic music.

**Oct. 13, 6 a.m.-3 p.m., Smith Station Ruritan Tournament.** Located at Wind Creek State Park.

**Oct. 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Indian Artifacts Show.** Native American artifacts from the Southeastern United States, hosted by the Hillabee Archaeological Society. Arrowheads, pottery, stone pipes and more on display at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex. Call (256) 329-6736 for additional information.

**Oct. 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Oktoberfest.** Day-long annual city celebration with food vendors, crafts, music, children's activities and more at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex. Call (256) 329-6736 for more information.

**Oct. 18, 6 a.m.-3 p.m., Smith Station Ruritan Tournament.** Located at Wind Creek State Park.

**Oct. 18, 7:30-9 p.m., Alexander City Arts "War Bonds."** Program oriented around WWII letters and stories at Benjamin Russell High School auditorium.

**Oct. 19 and 20, Wind Creek State Park Halloween Carnival.** For more information, call (256) 329-0845.

**Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Third Annual Fall Family Festival.** Face painting, pumpkin decorating, wagon rides and more at Russell Crossroads on Highway 63. For more information, visit [www.russelllandsonlakemartin.com](http://www.russelllandsonlakemartin.com) or call (256) 212-1479.

**Oct. 27, MainStreet's Great Pumpkin Roll.** Strand Park. Bring your own pumpkin or buy one at the park. Spectacular fun for the whole family. For information, call (256) 329-9227 or visit [www.mainstreetac.org](http://www.mainstreetac.org).

## Dothan

**Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, Weekend "Kidtoon."** Carmike Cinemas will play a special "Kidtoon" every weekend for only \$5. Show times vary. For more information, contact (334) 671-2862 or visit [www.carmike.com](http://www.carmike.com).

**Sept. 1, First Saturday Family Day.** Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center. The first Saturday of every month for a free art lesson and project for kids and their families. For more information, call (334) 794-3871 or visit [www.wiregrassmuseum.org](http://www.wiregrassmuseum.org).

**Sept. 9, Landmark Park's Reptile Feeding.** Join Landmark Park and watch the park staff feed the snakes and learn why these animals are important to the environment. Reptile Feeding is held the second Sunday of each month. The program is free with paid gate admission. For more information, call (334) 794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com).

**Sept. 13, The Cultural Arts Center will present Wiregrass Talent Quest.** Dothan Civic Center. For more information, contact the event coordinator Angelia Turner at (334) 596-2352, e-mail [arwturner@aolo.com](mailto:arwturner@aolo.com) or visit [www.theculturalartscenter.org](http://www.theculturalartscenter.org).

**Sept. 20, Low Country Boil.** Landmark Park, Stokes Activity Barn. Dress is casual and children are welcome. Activities include food and music, plus children's activities. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at the park. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the park at (334) 794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com).

**Sept. 22 and 23, Gun Show.** National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call (334) 793-4323.

**Sept. 22, Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) Judges Training/Certification Class.** Ever wanted to be a certified, trained barbecue judge? Here's your chance. Learn how to judge barbecue at the KCBS judges school from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at The Main Event, 257 S. St. Andrews St., Dothan. Cost is \$50 for current KCBS members or \$85 for non-members (but you get a one-year membership in the KCBS upon class completion). As a bonus, attendees to the class may sign-up to judge a real KCBS BBQ contest which will take place in Dothan, Oct. 5 and 6. For more information, visit [www.porktoberque.com](http://www.porktoberque.com), or call (334) 699-1475.

**Oct 1 -31, Scarecrows in the Gardens.** Dothan Area Botanical Gardens (DABG). Take a stroll through the gardens to see all the different scarecrows creatively design and decorated by local schools, civic organizations and local artists. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the DABG at (334)793-3224 or visit [www.dabg.com](http://www.dabg.com).

**Oct. 5 and 6, PorktoberQue** (a combination of a KCBS sanctioned Bar-B-Que competition and Oktoberfest). Houston County Farm Center, Ross Clark Circle at Cottonwood Road (Hwy. 53). This is a free festival that spectators can come out and attend with no admission cost. There will be musical entertainment, as well as street performers and other entertainment, barbecue for sale, a sample tent, beer tents, arts and crafts vendors and a whole lot more. Competitors vie for \$5,000 in prize money, cooking BBQ under the KCBS rules in this sanctioned event. Visit [www.porktoberque.com](http://www.porktoberque.com). or call (334) 699-1475 for information.

**Oct. 6, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual A Walk To Remember 2012.** Westgate Park. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., team pictures will be at 8 a.m., opening ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. and the walk at 8:30 a.m. For more information about the walk, or for information about the Alzheimer's Resource Center and its educational and support services, please call Kay Jones at (334) 702-CARE (2273).

**Oct. 6, Wiregrass Antique & Collector Car Show.** Landmark Park. This is one of the largest car shows in the Wiregrass with approximately 2,000 cars on display ranging from Model Ts to custom classics. Tickets are adults \$5; children \$3; members free. For more information, call (334) 794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com).

**Oct. 6, First Saturday Family Day.** Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center. The first Saturday of every month for a free art lesson and project for kids and their families. For more information, call (334) 794-3871 or visit [www.wiregrassmuseum.org](http://www.wiregrassmuseum.org).

**Oct. 9, Community Job Fair.** Dothan Civic Center. Local businesses and industries will be accepting applications for employment and/or providing career information. Free admission. Call (334)836-0217, ext. 112 or ext. 114 for more information. Sponsored by Houston County JOBS Task Force, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Dothan, Houston County Commission and Alfred Saliba Family Services Center.

**Oct. 11-13, Annual Holiday of Hope Marketplace.** Dothan Civic Center. Covenant Hospice will host the event. All info TBA.

**Oct. 13, 41st Annual Harvest Day Festival.** Town Square in Headland. Featuring live entertainment, rides, games, arts and crafts, cakewalks, moonwalks, pony rides and train rides (for children). Now taking vendor applications. Call (334) 693-3303. Sponsored by the Headland Chamber of Commerce.

# Places to Go & Things to Do

**Oct. 14, Landmark Park's Reptile Feeding.** Join Landmark Park and watch the park staff feed the snakes and learn why these animals are important to the environment. Reptile Feeding is held the second Sunday of each month. The program is free with paid gate admission. For more information, call (334) 794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com).

**Oct. 20, The Sandi McCool Champions of Hope 2012.** Fifth annual event to be held on the Southeast Alabama Medical Center (SAMC) campus, 1922 Fairview Avenue, Dothan. Funds raised help enhance cancer services and programs offered by SAMC through The SAMC Foundation. There will be a 7 a.m., 25- and 45-mile cycling event; 8 a.m., 5K race and Kid Fit Challenge; 10:30 a.m., 2-Mile Spirit Walk, Kid Fit Challenge and a 25- and 45-mile cycling event. The early registration fee is \$25 for ages 11 & up, and \$10 for ages 10 & under. Day of event registration begins at 6 a.m. and is \$40 for ages 11 & up, and \$15 for ages 10 & under. For sponsorship, booth vendor and/or participant information, contact The SAMC Foundation office at (334) 673-4150, or visit [www.samcfoundation.org](http://www.samcfoundation.org) for online registration and donations.

**Oct. 25, Ralph Smith Memorial Golf Tournament.** Highland Oaks Golf Course. To benefit the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens. For more information, contact event coordinator Angelia Turner at (334) 596-2352 or e-mail [arwturner@aol.com](mailto:arwturner@aol.com).

**Oct. 26-28, Landmark Park's Annual Quilt Show.** Landmark Park, Stokes Activity Barn. Held in conjunction with the Wiregrass Heritage Festival. Featuring over 100 antique and contemporary quilts. Events include exhibits, juried show, guest speakers and more. The event is free with paid gate admission. For more information, call the park at (334) 794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com).

**Oct. 27, Wiregrass Heritage Festival.** Landmark Park. Learn how peanuts were harvested in the Wiregrass a half-century ago and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of cane grinding, syrup making, butter churning, basket weaving, soap making and other traditional farm activities. There will be food, music and antique tractors and farm equipment. Tickets are adults \$8; seniors \$6; children \$4; members free. For more information, call (334) 794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com)

## Fairhope

**Sept. 7 and 8, 4th Annual Elderberry Festival.** Fairhope Museum of History. To learn more about the Elderberry Festival, call (251) 929-1474.

**Sept. 15, 8 a.m., 25th Annual Alabama Coastal & Community Clean-Up.** Fairhope Municipal Pier. For information, call (251) 929-1466.

**Sept. 27-Nov. 1, Fall Farmer's Market.** Thursday afternoons. Open 3 p.m. until sundown. Behind the Public Library on Bancroft Street. For information, call (251) 929-1466.

**Oct. 5 and 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Annual Grand Festival of Art & Books.** Downtown Fairhope. For information, call (251) 928-2228.

**Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Alabama Coastal Birdfest Bird and Conservation Expo.** Faulkner State Community College Campus. For information, call (251) 625-0814 or visit [www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com).

**Oct. 6, 5th Annual 5K Mullet Run and One Mile Fun Run/Walk.** [www.fairhopemulletrun.com](http://www.fairhopemulletrun.com).

**Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m., Baldwin Pops Founder's Day Concert.** For information, call (251) 929-1466

## Foley

**Oct. 6, 8 a.m. Creek Crawl Adventure Challenge.** Graham Creek Nature Preserve and MOB event. Wolf Bay Drive, Stan Mahoney Lane, Foley. Registration deadline is October 4. Run, jump, and crawl your way through three miles of rugged terrain and obstacles. This unique race is set on the beautifully scenic off-road course at the Graham Creek Nature Preserve. Runners will not only challenge their fitness and agility, but encounter endangered species and carnivorous plants. For more information, call (251) 952-4011.

**Oct. 11-14, 41st Annual Shrimp Festival.** Gulf Shores Public Beach, Hwy. 59 and Hwy. 182 intersection. For more information, contact (251) 968-6904 or [info@alagulfcoastchamber.com](mailto:info@alagulfcoastchamber.com).

**Oct. 19 and 20, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., First Annual Alabama Festival of Flavor.** Foley Heritage Park. This new free event will feature one of Alabama's greatest treasures, our abundant fresh, local fare. Watch live cooking competitions by area restaurants, learn secrets from our great local chefs, attend a food and wine pairing or acquire tips on creating your own organic garden at home. Families can stroll through downtown Foley as street vendors and live performers provide hours of entertainment.

## Opelika

**Sept. 7, "1st Friday"** in downtown Opelika. The first Friday of every month downtown, stores stay open until 8 p.m. so you can shop while you dine. Live music also.

**Sept. 7, 7 p.m., Opelika High School Bulldogs** vs. Lee High School. At Opelika High School.

**Sept. 14, 7 p.m., Opelika High School Bulldogs** vs. Central of Phenix City. At Opelika High School.

**Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Opelika High School Bulldogs** vs. Valley. At Opelika High School.

**Oct. 5, Special Football Opelika Main Street First Fridays.** The first Friday of every month downtown, stores stay open until 8 p.m. Live music also. Visit [www.Facebook.com/OpelikaMainStreet](http://www.Facebook.com/OpelikaMainStreet).

**Oct. 19, 7 p.m., Opelika HS Bulldogs** vs. Jefferson Davis High School. At Opelika High School.

**Oct. 19, 6-11 p.m., "On the Tracks" Food and Wine Event.** Wine tastings, local restaurants, live music, late night shopping and more. Visit [www.onthetracks.org](http://www.onthetracks.org) for more information.

**Oct. 29, 6th Annual "Howl-O-Ween" Pet Parade and Pet Costume Contest.** Downtown Opelika. Canine trick or treating also. [www.opelikamainstreet.org](http://www.opelikamainstreet.org)

**Oct. 30, 6-8 p.m., Opelika's Annual Fall Festival.** W. James Samford Soccer Complex at the Opelika Sportsplex. This event is for children 12 and under.

## Sylacauga

**For the month of September,** the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will present a photography competition and exhibition. A reception will be held on Sept. 20 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

**For the month of October,** the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will present a "Artist Selects" exhibition. The selector, Shirley Pody, has chosen Dee Ivey of Sylacauga as the selected artist. A reception will be held on Oct. 11 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

**Oct. 13, 5K-10K Half Marathon Run.** Sylaward Trail at Lake Howard. Sponsored by Sylacauga Civitan Club. For more information contact [sylacaugacivitan@gmail.com](mailto:sylacaugacivitan@gmail.com)

**Oct. 18, 6 p.m., Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce Banquet.** J. Craig Smith Community Center. This is a ticketed event. Dinner and entertainment with awards recognizing local businesses and industries.

## Tuskegee

**Aug. 30, Open Arms.** The Utilities Board of Tuskegee is spearheading efforts to welcome Tuskegee University students with "Open Arms" at the start of the new school year. "Open Arms" event is intended to show the students, faculty and administration that the community respects and appreciates the university's presence in the community.

**Sept. 1 and 2, Golden Hawks of Tuskegee Annual Labor Day Fly-In.** Moton Field Memorial Airport (Home of the Tuskegee Airmen). Event incorporates good, wholesome family fun including flying competition, patriotic sky diving, airplane rides, tours of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, FAA Seminar/Safety Briefing, children's aircraft building workshop and food. For more information, contact John Hicks at (334) 724-7427 or (334) 727-5850.

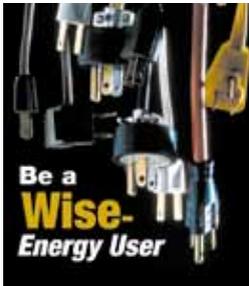
**Archaeology Site/Interpretive Center.** This is a project in Macon County that is dedicated to finding artifacts left behind by Indians and pioneers who settled in or passed through Creek Stand and neighboring communities more than 200 years ago. The Macon County Archaeology Project Interpretive Center is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2 until 5 p.m. Inquiries should be directed to Shari Williams at (770) 843-1913 or [wellberr@bellsouth.net](mailto:wellberr@bellsouth.net).

**Oct. 20, October 20, Tuskegee University Homecoming.** Tuskegee University Golden Tigers versus the Thoroughbreds of Kentucky State University on the campus of Tuskegee University. For more information, visit [www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu).

## Alabama Municipal Electric Authority

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### 5 simple energy-saving tips

Going green does not have to be tough or challenging. In fact, you can start today and make a difference to the planet by taking some simple energy saving steps right at home. According to the U.S Department of Energy, homes that are energy-efficient are inexpensive to own, operate, and maintain. So, go green with five of the easiest ways for saving energy in the home.

- 1. Save Energy in the Home by Air Drying Your Laundry:** Air drying your laundry is a cheap way to save energy and money by avoiding the dryer. According to Project Laundry List, a nonprofit organization for air drying and cold washing, use of the dryer accounts for more than six percent of most people's electric bills. You can also use the natural disinfecting and bleaching properties of the sunlight to kill germs and get out stains in an eco-friendly manner.
- 2. Work Smarter to Save Energy:** Using a laptop instead of a desktop is not only convenient but also a great way of saving energy in the home. A simple step like this will not only help you work easily, but also cuts down electrical use by almost three-quarters. Turn off and unplug the laptop at the end of the day. In fact, do this for all appliances in your house and home office.
- 3. Lights Off for Saving Energy in the House:** Turn off lights when you're not using them, and encourage children to do the same. Open up drapes during the day to let natural light in. Avoid using halogen lamps because, besides being energy consumers, they induce heat and can be a potential fire hazard. If you switch to compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), you will use 60 percent less energy per bulb.
- 4. Energy-Saving Tips for the Kitchen:** The kitchen can be a great place to start saving energy. Use the right-size pot on the stove burners. According to the ENERGYSTAR@Home website, "using a six-inch pot on an eight-inch burner wastes over 40 percent of the burner's heat." Cover pots while cooking to avoid escaping heat; this will cook food faster as well. Avoid using energy by preheating the oven for baking everything. Instead, preheat only when you bake breads.
- 5. Save Money and Energy for Staying Cool:** In the warm summer months, you may be tempted to keep the air-conditioning on at its chilliest best. While that may keep you cool, it heats up the planet. Instead, use a fan first, remove or reduce heat-inducing activities in the house, keep windows open for natural ventilation, and reduce harsh sunlight from warming up the house by using thicker drapes and cool down naturally.

Simple energy saving tips like these will not only help you contribute to the well-being of the planet, but also save you some money in the long run. So, go ahead - go green and save some green, too!

Source: [www.everydayfamily.com](http://www.everydayfamily.com)

## Safety You NEWS CAN USE

### Posting items to utility poles creates safety risks

Signs, balloons and other materials on utilities poles are more than just an unpleasant neighborhood eyesore, they can be dangerous - even life threatening - to the professionals who maintain our vital lines of electricity, communication and other services.

The Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) and its 11 Members urge everyone to help keep utility poles free of such materials.

Remember that anything left on a pole can cause power line workers, telecommunications utility personnel and other workers harm. The clamped safety boots used by line workers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in posts. Foreign objects can also tear utility workers' protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock. They can also injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces.

Such practices also present a public safety hazard as well. The materials posted on the poles not only distract people as they drive, but they also degrade the quality, effectiveness and stability of the wood. This poses a safety hazard for pedestrians as they walk by and increases the risk failure if the pole is struck by a vehicle. Posting items to utility poles is usually a violation of local ordinances as well.

It is also just as important to avoid tampering with or disrupting the guy wires that surround utility poles as well. Please inform children not to play or swing on them, and maintain your distance when performing yard work. If you see the poles or guy wires are disrupted in some way, please call your local utility company immediately.

For more safety tips, visit AMEA's web site, [www.amea.com](http://www.amea.com), Publications and News, Safety Resources.