

THE ORIGINAL

# Alabaster

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME I // NUMBER 8 // AUGUST 2013



INTRODUCING

*the*

**ALABASTER  
SCHOOL SYSTEM**

2013 - 2014

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# Alabaster

## A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



Summertime and the livin' is ...hot. But then this is Alabama. August is the debut of the Alabaster School System. A lot of hard work has been done, and more will be done. Like a new ship, the first year will be a shake down cruise where you test everything to make sure

it's ship shape. After that it's smooth cruising. I wish faculty, administration, and most importantly, the students smooth sailing as the new school system goes forward. You'll find the school registration information in this issue as well as info on the Tax Free Weekend of August 2-4. This will give you an opportunity to stock up on school supplies tax free. There's an article in this issue that details it and a web site where you can go to get the details on what purchases are involved.

Some congratulations are in order. First to Kingwood Church and the

successful Celebrate America held at Vets Park on June 29th. It was a great show and your only chance in the local area to see fireworks as the American Village show on the 4th was canceled due to the threat of storms. Make plans now to attend next year's event as it's a great time for family and friends to gather under the stars and celebrate the founding of our great nation.

Congratulations also to the Long Family of Alabaster, who after much work have made the case to take their invention Caroline's Cart to a national level. Shoppers all over America with special needs children will find a great help with the use of this cart. It's a real tribute to hard work and innovation.

The new City Hall should be ready in

August if the schedule works out. It's right next to the Senior Center. The two of them together with the park in the background make a natural setting and is a good choice for City Hall. It's logical and cost effective.

Don't forget to patronize our fine advertisers and tell them I SAW IT IN THE ALABASTER NEWSLETTER!

I also want to thank our crew at the newsletter for their hard work. We are an Alabaster-based company with Alabaster citizens working to bring you the news of the city.

As a reminder,

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The Alabaster Newsletter Published Monthly Editor & Publisher: Ted Vodde

Contributors: John Brackin, Eric Starling, Danny Doyle, Dawn South, David Frings

We welcome your comments, suggestions & story ideas. Call 620-5505 and e-mail [tedvodde@gmail.com](mailto:tedvodde@gmail.com) or [tedvodde@alabasternewsletter.com](mailto:tedvodde@alabasternewsletter.com)

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The Alabaster City Council voted to pass a new sidewalk ordinance at its regularly-scheduled meeting on Monday, July 1. The new ordinance establishes a process to address sidewalk repair and maintenance within the city.

The intent of the ordinance, as presented in the meeting, is to ensure the safe passage of Alabaster citizens upon Alabaster sidewalks.

Under the ordinance, damaged sidewalks will be noted, and the Public Works department will issue a notice to repair to the appropriate homeowner. Unless an emergency situation indicates otherwise, the notice will direct the owner to repair the damage within 30 days of

the mailing.

If the owner fails to make the appropriate repairs within the indicated period of time, the Public Works department will be authorized to make those repairs. Following the department's repair work, the City Council will hold a public hearing on the matter, after which it may assess the cost of the repairs against the property.

Prior to approving the ordinance, the Council held a public hearing in which a number of local residents voiced concerns over the issue. One resident raised the question of longstanding, or preexisting, sidewalk damage. Another voiced concern over dam-

age caused by neighbors.

In response to those concerns, Councilman Russell Bedsole said homeowners would be able to present specific issues during the public hearing part of the process.

"The design of that public hearing is so that if you as a homeowner have any reason you believe that you shouldn't be held accountable, if you had somebody parking on your sidewalk, if there was a tree that was planted too close to your sidewalk prior to you owning the property, things of that nature, this would be the chance for you to come to the Council and petition us and say that that should not be your responsibility to pay for," said Bedsole.

According to Bedsole, state law has always held that the homeowner is responsible for sidewalk repair. The new ordinance simply provides a mechanism for the City of Alabaster to initiate those

repairs.

"Now we have the ability to get involved and have a process in which these repairs will begin to happen," Bedsole said.

Councilwoman Sophie Martin pointed out that the ordinance protects taxpayers from paying for sidewalks that might be damaged due to ongoing mistreatment by the homeowner.

"There are places in the city where the problem is continuous and taxpayer money is being spent to repair the same repair over and over again, where the homeowner knows what is causing the damage," Martin said.

To view the new sidewalk ordinance (No. 13-007), go to the City of Alabaster website ([www.cityofalabaster.com](http://www.cityofalabaster.com)) and click on the Document Center link under the Online Services tab.

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# the ALABASTER SCHOOL SYSTEM

Monday, July 1 marked an historic occasion for Alabaster school children, as the Alabaster City School District officially separated from the Shelby County School System. The new city school district has already begun a number of renovations to school facilities, including landscaping and plumbing projects.

One thing that will stay the same, however, is that parents will want to make sure their children are properly registered for the appropriate Alabaster school. This year, the school year is scheduled to begin on Monday, Aug. 19, so the first day is just around the corner.

Parents with questions can contact the specific school directly or visit the Alabaster City Schools website ([Alabasterschools.org](http://Alabasterschools.org)), where the new school sites are linked. They can also call the school system at 624-3105. For up-to-the-minute updates, the school system is also on Facebook and Twitter (@alabasterk12).

## **Creek View Elementary**

Summer registration for new students is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8 to 11 a.m. Registration for students that have pre-registered is July 31, from 7 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.

Parent Night for kindergarten parents will be Thursday, Aug. 15; first grade parents on Monday, Aug. 26; second grade

parents on Tuesday, Aug. 27; and third grade parents on Thursday, Aug. 29.

Meet the Teacher day, in which the kids will have the opportunity to meet their teachers, will be Friday, Aug. 16, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

## **Meadow View Elementary**

Summer registration at Meadow View is Monday through Friday, 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. It runs until Friday, August 16. Two proofs of residence are required.

Parent Night for kindergarten parents is on Tuesday, Aug. 13; first grade parents on Thursday, Aug. 29; second grade parents on Thursday, Aug. 22; and third grade on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Homerooms will be posted on Friday, Aug. 9. Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 15, starting with first grade at 8 a.m., kindergarten at 9 a.m., third grade at 10 a.m. and second grade at 11 a.m.

## **Thompson Intermediate**

New student registration is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Thompson Intermediate School, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The date for Meet the Teacher is Aug. 15, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (fourth grade) and 2 to 3 p.m. (fifth grade). Students can bring their school supplies on that day. Registration for students that are pre-registered is July 25.

## **Thompson Sixth-Grade Center**

Summer registration is available at the Sixth Grade Center on Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will run from July 2 to July 30. Schedule pickup day is Thursday, Aug. 1, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

## **Thompson Middle School**

Final registration and schedule pickup is Monday, Aug. 5 for seventh graders (3 to 7 p.m.) and Tuesday, Aug. 6 for eighth graders (3 to 7 p.m.) in the Thompson Middle School gym. Parents should bring a photo ID and two proofs of residence. For a list of school supplies, visit the school website.

## **Thompson High School**

Summer schedule pickup is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 5, from 8 to 11 a.m. for seniors and 1 to 4 p.m. for juniors; and Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 8 to 11 a.m. for sophomores and 1 to 4 p.m. for freshmen. Students unable to attend schedule pickup will be able to do it on the first day of school. Registration materials are available online via the school website. They can be filled out and printed to save time.

# CITY HONORS FIRST RESPONDERS

At the July 1 City Council meeting, Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon issued a proclamation honoring the professional response of the City's emergency responders to a recent home invasion.

On May 6, Alabaster resident Joy Sullivan was the victim of a home invasion and assault, and she wanted to show her gratitude to those who helped her survive the attack and its aftermath. Handlon assisted Sullivan with the public thank-you by reading a proclamation before the City Council.

"Courage, compassion, selfless concern for others and the duty to protect and serve are commonly-held values among these first responders. They provide a vital public service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 52 weeks a

year," read Handlon. "These professionals undergo significant education, training and personal sacrifice in order to achieve the expertise required to respond to any type of emergency situation."

Before reading the proclamation, Handlon said it was Sullivan's way of thanking Alabaster's police officers and firefighters, along with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office and Regional Paramedical Services. The various first-responders in attendance that assisted Sullivan were also asked to stand at the front as Handlon called their names.

"The help has been outstanding, and I appreciate that," said Sullivan. "I couldn't have survived it without these guys right here. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my

heart."

In other news, the City Council approved a resolution extending the deadline to close the development deal to bring a Dick's Sporting Goods store to Alabaster.

According to Councilman Rick Walters, the developer (Highway 11/31 LLC) requested extra time to close the deal, which had originally run through July 1.

"Resolution 070113 extends the economic incentive grant agreement until Sept 1, 2013," said Walters. "The remainder of the economic development grant shall remain unchanged."

In the public comment portion of the meeting, residents from Alabaster's Ironwood subdivision complained about a rash of petty thefts that have taken place recently in the neighborhood.



Police Chief Curtis Rigney, who was in attendance at the meeting, said the department was familiar with the situation. He suggested a number of simple things that residents themselves can do to protect their property, such as securing their belongings, locking vehicles and not leaving things of value inside their vehicles. He also encouraged residents to contact the department directly if they witness anything suspicious.

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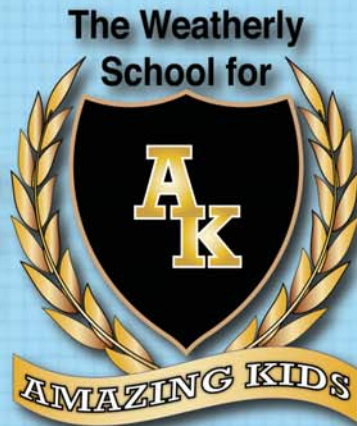
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"Thank you for the incredible job that you and the entire team at Noah's Park have done helping to raise [our daughter] over the past three years."

"Between all the 'extras' provided like Parent's Night Out (boy will we miss that!!!), the annual fall festival and Santa visit, and the other fun learning events... we will truly miss what you've given our little girl."

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# SCHOOL BOARD HOLDS 1ST MEETING AS NEW DISTRICT

On Monday, July 8, the Alabaster Board of Education held its first meeting since separating from the Shelby County School System. The regularly-scheduled monthly meeting was also the first with Dr. Wayne Vickers as the new superintendent.

"We're very glad to have you on board," School Board President Adam Moseley told Vickers during the meeting.

The new city school district has been years in the making. A study was commissioned by the Alabaster City Council in 2011 to gauge the financial feasibility of a city school district.

Vickers, who was hired from the Saraland City School System, officially started the job on July 1. He said he was excited to be joining the community.

"I'm a proud resident of

the City of Alabaster. My son went to his first football practice today," said Vickers. "This is an exciting time for Alabaster."

During the meeting, the board addressed a number of new business items, including the approval of some facility-improvement projects recommended by Volkert, Inc. Vickers said the projects fell into two categories, with one being paint and construction and the other being HVAC.

"The HVAC is something I feel like we need to get ahead of in July so we're not faced with ordering those parts in August," Vickers told the board.

The board also approved a new phone system for the schools, a contract for occupational therapy services and an agreement with the DAY Program. It also approved the hiring of

onsite technical support.

"This is an agreement for temporary network services support. It will be billed to us on an hourly basis," said Vickers. "We have to make sure that when our teachers come in to do lesson plans and work this summer that they are prepared, that they have everything in place."

During the discussion part of the meeting, Vickers introduced the school system's new coordinator of technology, Keith Price. Price has an impressive resume, including five years as the chief technology officer for the Hoover City Schools and eight years with the Alabama School of Fine Arts. He also previously worked for Dell.

"Everyone on my staff I feel is a superstar, and with Mr. Price agreeing to come and be our coordinator of technology, I think we defi-

nately have another superstar to add to that list," said Vickers. "He comes to us highly recommended, and he has already hit the ground running."

Student Services Coordinator Dorann Tanner also discussed the development of the school system's code of conduct before the board.

For future meeting dates, visit the Alabaster City Schools online at [Alabasterschools.org](http://Alabasterschools.org).

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## "BACK TO SCHOOL" SALES TAX HOLIDAY AUG. 2-4

The State of Alabama's "Back to School" sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 4. The annual, three-day sales tax holiday is set to begin at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and end at 12 midnight on Sunday.

The State of Alabama's sales tax holiday was first created in 2006 to give back-to-school shoppers a break on necessary school supplies. It's become a popular shopping weekend in the state as savvy shoppers use the holiday to purchase a variety of covered items.

According to the original act (Sales Tax Holiday Act No. 2006-574), the State of Alabama waives state sales or use tax on certain

school-related items during the first full weekend of August. It also gives counties and municipalities an opportunity to participate in the holiday by waiving local sales or use tax as well.

Last year, the Alabaster City Council passed an ordinance (Ordinance No. 12-005) exempting the covered items from municipal sales and use tax "during the first full weekend of August 2012 and each consecutive year thereafter." The City of Alabaster's participation in the annual holiday means local shoppers can reap the greatest possible savings when purchasing covered items.

According to the Department of Revenue, covered items include clothing (\$100 or less, per article

of clothing); computers, software and school computer supplies (a single purchase with a sales price of \$750 or less); school supplies, school art supplies and school instructional materials (sales price of \$50 or less, per item); and books (with a sales price of \$30 or less, per book).

Some examples of exempted clothing items include belts, boots, caps, coats, jackets, jeans, raincoats, school uniforms and sneakers. Taxable items would include accessories like briefcases, handbags, jewelry, umbrellas and watches.

This is the eighth year for Alabama to hold a sales tax holiday for back-to-school shoppers.



For more information, go to the Department of Revenue website [revenue.alabama.gov](http://revenue.alabama.gov) and click on the "Sales & Use Tax" link under the Divisions tab. Shoppers can also learn more by visiting the Alabama Retail Association at [Alabamaretail.org](http://Alabamaretail.org).

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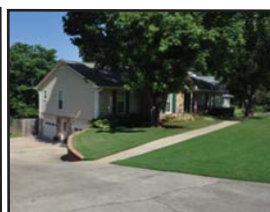
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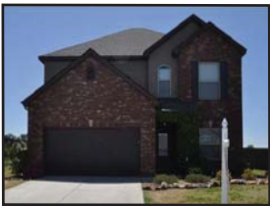
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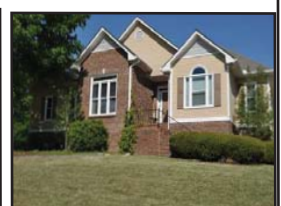
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# Alabaster BUSINESS PROFILE

## K & J'S ELEGANT PASTRIES

For customized cakes and great-tasting cupcakes, K & J's Elegant Pastries is a great new option for Alabaster. Located conveniently on Kent Dairy Road at the end of Warrior Drive, K & J's offers a wide range of sweets, whether they're for an afternoon snack or an upcoming event.

"Custom cakes are our main thing. We do all events, weddings, birthdays, any celebration," said owner Kristal Bryant. "Then every day we offer different cupcakes, cookies, cinnamon rolls and other sweets."

K & J's opened on June 1, which was the same day as Alabaster CityFest. As it turned out, it was a great day to open, with so many people visiting the area.

"CityFest was our first day open," said Bryant. "We had a lot of people that parked here and then when the rain came, we were packed. It was more than what we expected, being the first day."

A number of local cus-



From L: Owner Kristal Bryant & Stacey Burt offer a wide range of baked goods, especially custom cakes for events.

tomers already knew about K & J's since they'd been baking and selling cakes from home for several years prior to opening the store.

"We already had a lot of people around here that were looking forward to us



being open," said Bryant. "We already had a clientele because I had been doing cakes from home for four years."

Bryant, who attended Culinard in Birmingham, also worked for several years for the Cheesecake Factory before she started selling cakes fulltime. Now that she's opened her new store, she's got plenty of room to keep growing.

"It's been a great transition," said Bryant. "We are excited to be in Alabaster. It's a great location with the schools being close by. It's so much better because at home I didn't have any space."

K & J's specializes in customizing cakes, and they can do any theme, from baseball and babies to trucks and travel. For Bryant, she said it's a chance to indulge her creative side.

"I like the art part of culinary arts," said Bryant. "We don't use any stencils. We don't use cake pans that are shapes. We freehand cut everything."

K & J's also features a wide variety of cupcakes, including strawberry cheese-

cake, red velvet, cookies and cream, sweet potato, chocolate fudge and many more. And to keep things interesting, they change the flavors from day to day.

K & J's is open five days a week, Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 pm, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to



4 p.m. For more information, visit them online at [www.kjselegantpastries.com](http://www.kjselegantpastries.com). Or check them out on Facebook ([Facebook.com/kjselegantpastries](https://www.facebook.com/kjselegantpastries)), where they post the cupcake offerings each day.



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# CAROLINE'S CART GOES NATIONAL

After years in development, Caroline's Cart is finally getting the national distribution its designer, Drew Ann Long of Alabaster, had hoped for.

"The world's largest shopping cart manufacturer picked up our product," said Long. "We are beside ourselves."

Long, whose daughter Caroline has Rett Syndrome, first started working on her design for a special-needs shopping cart in 2008. She was inspired to create the product when she realized that Caroline had outgrown the smaller seats of traditional shopping carts.

Caroline's Cart features a large, comfortable seat

and a platform underneath for the feet. It also includes two maneuverable handles that can be turned to provide convenient access to the seat.

On July 18, Technibilt, the company that will be manufacturing and selling the carts, marked the national launch of Caroline's Cart with an event at their headquarters in North Carolina.

Long had actually approached Technibilt several years earlier with her idea, but she was turned down due a lack of established demand. Following the meeting, however, she was inspired to go out and demonstrate the need for the product.

"They encouraged me,"



Ms. Drew Ann Long and her daughter Caroline, the inspiration for Caroline's Cart which is now available nationally.

said Long, "so I continued to build the demand, 100 percent grassroots. We got a small manufacturer to sell some carts, get us in 18 states, and all this time, they were following me via Facebook."

When Technibilt realized that the demand for the product was out there, they contacted Long to see if she was still interested in a partnership.

"I got a phone call from

(CON'T ON PAGE 20)

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## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUG. 6

The Alabaster Target will be hosting its annual "National Night Out" event this year on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will be held in the Target parking lot at the Colonial Promenade shopping center in Alabaster.

National Night Out is a nationwide event created in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch to help bring communities together in the fight against crime. The event brings law enforcement agencies, community support groups, and local residents together for a night of education and camaraderie.

"We're hosting this in conjunction with area law enforcement. We have several local agencies and some federal agencies that have committed to be here," said Kevin Peters, the asset protection lead with Alabaster Target. "The whole premise for National Night Out is

taking back the streets."

The event will also feature food and entertainment for the guests.

"Target plans on cooking hotdogs," said Peters. "The Pelham dance team, they've confirmed that they'll be providing entertainment. We're also working on getting some inflatables."

This year marks the 30th annual National Night Out celebration to be held nationwide. It's also the ninth year that Target has partnered with the National Association of Town Watch as a sponsor for the event. According to Target, it's an example of Target's commitment to the local communities in which it has stores.

For more information, visit [www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org).



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## KELLER WILLIAMS HOLDS REAL ESTATE SCHOOL

The local Keller Williams office, Keller Williams Realty Metro South, is holding a real estate school for local residents interested in getting into real estate. The classes are held two nights a week, on Monday and Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. They're held at the Keller Williams Colonial Promenade office.

"We've started a night-time real estate school that we do for hiring new agents," said Keller Williams agent Tim Mitchell. "It's tied in with our Birmingham offices. Avery Yarborough runs the school out of Hoover, but we tie in with them and we do a simulcast so we can cover the Shelby County area down here."

According to Mitchell, the class includes an onsite instructor, but it's also linked to Hoover so that students can interact with Yarborough via a video feed.

"It's interactive," said Mitchell. "It allows people in the area to not have to go to Hoover and have to fight the traffic."

The video feed is projected onto a large screen in the classroom, and a webcam captures the Alabaster students so they can ask questions at any time.

"If you want to be a licensed agent to sell real estate, then this is the first step working toward becoming a realtor," said Mitchell.

The length of the program is 8 to 12 weeks. It runs around \$324.

"That includes class and books and materials," said Mitchell.

Keller Williams Realty Metro South is located at 750 Colonial Promenade Parkway, beside Momma Goldberg's Deli. To find out more about the real estate classes, contact Keller Williams Realty at 605-1000.

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# Alabaster

ALBERT L. SCOTT LIBRARY

## LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

**Adult Computer Classes - Call or come by to sign up. 664-6822.**

Wednesday, August 7, 2013. 10 am - Microsoft Excel Pt. 1

Wednesday, August 21, 2013. 10 am - Microsoft Excel Pt. 2

**Couponing Class - Saturday, August 10, 2013. 10 am - 12 noon.** Join us as Staci Machado teaches the basics of couponing to maximize your savings and stretch your household budget. Call or come by to sign up. 664-6822.

**Library Book Group - Thursday, August 15, 2013. 7 pm** - Join us in our discussion of *Man in the Blue Moon* by Michael Morris. Single mother Ella Wallace fights to keep a banker from buying the Florida land that has been in her family for generations when a mysterious stranger shows up and convinces Ella he can help her, until his past comes to light. Program takes place in the meeting room.

### Positive Maturity Job Search Workshops

**Thursday, Aug. 1 10 am - Orientation Workshop** - The job seeker explores skills & values, gains understanding of what is needed to get back into the job market.

**Thursday, Aug. 8 10 am - Resume Workshop** - Walks the job seeker through each section of a resume to assure it represents them accurately.

**Thursday, Aug. 15 10 am - Interviewing Skills Workshop** - Provides instruction and interactive practice to help job seekers understand the interviewing process.

**Thursday, Aug. 22 10 am - Networking Workshop** - Expands the job seekers ideas of how people they know can help them connect with employers and hiring managers.

**Thursday, Aug. 29 10 am - Social Media Workshop** - Helps job seekers understand how to connect with people and companies to market themselves using Facebook, Linked in, and Twitter.

## STUDENT FREE HOMEWORK HELPER

Homework Alabama is a wonderful educational resource available for free to all Alabamians. From 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm Sunday through Thursday, students from K3 all the way to Adult Learners can receive help from subject specialists. Math, Science, English, and Social Studies are all covered by the specialists. Hosted through Tutor.com, Homework Alabama also has a Skills Center Resource Library that is available 24/7. The Skills Center has free practice tests for standardize tests, including the ACT, GED, and Civil Service Exams, electronic flash cards for hundreds of subjects at various grade levels, resume writing assistance, and many more exceptional resources that are available for free. **Website:** <http://homework.apls.state.al.us/>

**Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 3:00pm to 10:00pm**

From the Alabama Public Library Service Website:

HomeworkAlabama is a statewide effort made possible by the State Library of Alabama (APLS) through local public libraries, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through their Library Services and Technology Act grant program as well as state funds appropriated by the State Legislature specifically for this program.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Be a Friend! The Friends is a group of dedicated booklovers that wants everyone to know the benefits the library offers, and how members can increase its effectiveness. We have occasional fundraisers such as semi-annual book sales, and promotions in cooperation with local merchants to raise funds for special books and activities for all ages such as the Summer Reading Program and the Cake and Culture Program. We also maintain several areas at the library where books can be purchased at bargain prices. These are books that have been donated, so here's also an option for those books you no longer want in your private library. For as little as \$10 a year you can be a Friend and support the library. There are several levels of membership, and always opportunities for a few hours of volunteering. Be a Friend! Application forms are available at the Library or at <http://www.cityofalabaster.com>

## LIBRARY KIDS ACTIVITIES

**Lego League: Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the meeting room;** Program is for all ages but children six years old and younger must be with an adult

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

### Every Wednesday

10:15 am Outreach Stories at area daycares

3:30 pm Tunes & Tales for all ages in the meeting room

**1st Thursday 1:00 pm**

Friends of Library Bookmenders

### Every Friday 10:30 am

Toddler Tales (2s, 3s) 10:30 in the meeting room. Children must be with an adult.



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## REDUCING RED TAPE by Representative April Weaver

Over the past several years, I have worked with many local business owners who were concerned that satisfying bureaucratic red tape requirements eats up man hours, produces numerous compliance costs and takes their attention away from their main objective - keeping the doors open and providing jobs. During the 2013 legislative session, I sponsored the Red Tape Reduction Act for a second year and we continued the fight for Alabama businesses. On July 1, Alabama businesses scored big as the Red Tape Reduction Act officially became law. After many years of work from

Alabama business owners and pro business organizations, the vision finally became reality.

The Red Tape Reduction Act requires any state agency proposing a rule that might have an adverse effect on business to file an impact statement with the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Regulation prior to its adoption if the agency receives a complaint that the regulation might negatively impact a business. The committee can direct the agency to modify or drop the proposed rule.

The law also requires all existing regulations to

be reviewed every five years to determine whether they should be amended, rescinded or remain unchanged. Information related to proposed and existing regulation reviews will also be placed on agency websites to provide public access.

Alabaster's growth is at an all time high. Shelby County continues to lead the state with the lowest unemployment rate of 4.3%. Alabaster is one of the fastest growing cities in one of the fastest growing counties in the country. State government should concentrate on giving business owners the tools they need to remain successful instead of finding ways to suffocate them under the weight of needless government oversight and mounds of paperwork.

The Red Tape



Reduction Act is a major milestone in making it easier to do business in Alabama by relieving businesses from inefficient government regulations.

The bottom line is the new law protects businesses from having to spend time and money fighting state regulations that would reduce productivity.

After growing up in a household that was supported by a small business, I am happy to see this legislation become law. Businesses in Alabama should spend time growing their business, not dealing with bureaucratic red tape.



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## "CELEBRATE AMERICA" SUCCESS

Local residents came out in droves this year to Alabaster's "Celebrate America" at Veterans Park. Hosted by Kingwood Church and the City of Alabaster, the event was held on Saturday, June 29 to celebrate our nation's Independence Day.

According to Kingwood Education Pastor Benny Cunningham, the event was a huge success, drawing an estimated 10,000 people to the park to enjoy the fun and festivities.

"Alabaster Police estimated over 10,000 people in attendance," said Cunningham. "The weather was perfect for the afternoon and evening, probably in the mid 70s by 8 p.m."

As always, Celebrate America featured a host of family-friendly activities,

ranging from inflatables for the kids to laser tag for the youth.

"The KidZone was full throughout the event with the inflatables, video games and laser tag," said Cunningham.

This year's event also featured a live band, which played from about 7:15 to 8 p.m., and a movie on the big screen, which started at around 8 p.m. And as usual there were a variety of great food vendors as well, which were a big hit with the guests.

"The food vendor lines never stopped because the food was great," said Cunningham. "We had everything from barbecue to Mexican to pizza to three Kona Ice trucks and more."

The highlight of the event was the fireworks

show, which was produced by Pyro Productions.

According to Cunningham, that's the same company that does Thunder on the Mountain.

"At 9:45 there was a spectacular patriotic fireworks display," said Cunningham. "One thing that makes this so wonderful is the proximity of the spectators to the fireworks."

Following the event, Cunningham was eager to credit the various volunteers who make Celebrate America possible each year.

"An important aspect that makes this event a success is the dedicated efforts by the 200-plus Serve Team Volunteers from Kingwood Church. It takes many, many people to pull off this event, and they did it," said Cunningham. "Also a big



thanks goes to the Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the Alabaster Police Department and Alabaster Fire Department."

Since Celebrate America was first held at Veterans Park, it's grown into one of Alabaster's most well-attended events each year. The success of the event speaks to the great partnership and cooperation that's developed among all the parties involved.

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# Alabaster

Parks & Rec Dept., 100 Depot St. 664-6840 [www.alabasterparks.org](http://www.alabasterparks.org)

## PARKS & REC OFFICE

The Parks and Recreation Office is located inside the Depot at 100 Depot Street, Alabaster Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 8 am until 5 pm Phone: 205-664-6840 [www.alabasterparks.org](http://www.alabasterparks.org)

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

The movies are FREE so it makes for a fun, yet economical evening of entertainment for family and friends. All you'll need to bring is a blanket or chair to sit on, and some snacks and drinks. The movies will begin showing around dusk (usually 8:00).

July 26 - "Wreck-It Ralph" - PG (108 minutes)

August 9 - "Happy Feet Two" - PG (100 minutes)

## FALL BASEBALL

Registration should be available on-line beginning August 12 at 8:00 am and ending August 23 at 5:00 pm. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from August 12 thru August 23. Fall Baseball is available for boys ages 4 thru 12 (age as of April 30, 2014). Cost will be \$80 (plus \$10 for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks! The program will run for approximately six weeks beginning on Sept. 10.

## GIRL'S SOFTBALL

Fall registration, which began on July 29, should be available on-line thru August 9 at 5:00 pm. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only thru August 9. Girl's Softball is available for ages 5 thru 14. Cost will be \$80 (plus \$10 for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks! For more information, please contact Morgan Lawley at 664-6840 or [mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com).

## ADULT SOFTBALL

Fall registration, which began on July 22, should be available on-line thru August 9 at 5:00 pm. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only thru August 9. Adult Softball is available for teams only (not individuals).

## FALL SOCCER

Soccer Evaluations - All participants should show up for evaluations at Municipal Park on the 3 acre field.

U6 - Aug. 1 (Thurs.) at 7:00 pm.

U8 - Aug. 2 (Fri.) at 7:00 pm.

U9 Girls - Aug. 5 (Mon.) at 6:00 pm.

U10 Girls - Aug. 5 (Mon.) at 7:30 pm.

U9 Boys - Aug. 6 (Tues.) at 6:00 pm.

U10 Boys - Aug. 6 (Tues.) at 7:30 pm.

Soccer Practice begins on Thursday, August 15.

## START SMART SOCCER

Registration will begin at 8:00 am on Monday, August 5. It is limited to the first 20 children that register. Registration will conclude on August 16, OR once all 20 spots are filled - whichever occurs first. Start Smart Soccer is available for ages 3 and 4. Children have to be 3 before August 1, 2013. Children cannot turn 5 before August 1, 2013. This is a six week program with one hour sessions on Tuesday nights beginning Sept. 3. There will be a parent meeting on August 27 at 6 pm. Location TBA.

## FOOTBALL

Mandatory practice begins on Monday, August 5, in full pads at Buck Creek Park.

## CHEER CAMP

Cheer Camp, which is mandatory for all cheerleaders, will be located in the Thompson High School Gym. Cheer Camp will take place August 5 thru August 9 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Cheer Camp concludes with "Show Off Night" on August 9 where the girls will perform in front of their parents.

## PAVILIONS FOR RENT

Outdoor Rental Facilities: Several of our City Parks offer pavilions for rental use. With warm weather upon us, everyone is ready to visit the local parks for picnics, family reunions and Birthday parties. The best way to make sure your event happens at the location of your choice is to contact Parks & Recreation before our books are filled with reservations. Pavilions are available for use by permit only. There is a \$40 rental fee and an additional refundable \$40 deposit which must be paid before your reservation is complete.



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# Tim Mitchell Gives to Schools



Tim Mitchell at Keller Williams Realty recently awarded a grant to Meadow View Elementary School Principal Rachea Simms. Tim's exclusive School-Grant promotion is for any area school, public or private, in the Alabaster or Jefferson and Shelby County areas for the next 2013-2014 school year. His exclusive School-Grant promotion provides grants that go directly to our area teachers and their classrooms (or to a specific department) when any parent or staff member uses Tim Mitchell to help buy or sell a home. This promotion is a great way to help support our schools and is available to anyone in the community who has a local school connection or fundraiser they would like to support. Please contact Tim Mitchell directly at 305-8756, or via e-mail [timmitchell@kw.com](mailto:timmitchell@kw.com), for more special discounts & details to take advantage of his exclusive School-Grant program.



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# CAROLINE'S CART

(CON'T FROM PAGE 12)  
 them that said, we've now got our customers calling us wanting your cart," said Long. "We started talking, and the final contract was signed on Good Friday of this year."

Technibilt was purchased in 2012 by German manufacturer Wanzl, making it part of the largest shopping cart manufacturer in the world. With the company's global reach, the prospects for Caroline's Cart now appear limitless.

"They have the ability to take it worldwide," said Long.

Another unique aspect to Caroline's Cart is that it will feature the Easter Seals logo, making it the first product to ever feature the

Easter Seals lily.

In a press release for the launch event, David Orfinik, the vice president of sales and marketing for Technibilt, summed up the product well.

"You do not realize the need for this product until you see special needs people in the store actually using this product," he said. "It is heartwarming to know that you're helping a part of the community that sometimes does not get attention of everyone."

For more information about Caroline's Cart, visit Technibilt.com.



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# AREA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED

Over the past few weeks, the Alabama Department of Transportation has been repaving portions of Alabama 119 from the U.S. 31 intersection in Alabaster to the city limits of Montevallo. The project is expected to be fully completed around the end of August.

"We're doing this all the way to Montevallo," said Gary Ray, a district engineer with the Alabama Department of Transportation. "We got the multilane in Alabaster in first because we wanted to fix those rail crossings out near 31."

The roadwork has been performed primarily at night to provide for the least possible impact on local traffic, with lane closures running from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"This is a nighttime job because of congestion," said Ray. "We're blocking the lanes at night instead of in the day."

Currently crews are working on the section of road heading south out of Alabaster. There remains some finishing work to be done on the northern section, including centerline and lane striping.

"The multilane of 119 in Alabaster is pretty well complete except for the final application of striping," said Ray.

According to Ray, the timely repaving of roads can prevent the need for major repair work later on. It also protects vehicles from possible hazards that might develop, like potholes.

"You don't want to wait until your road starts failing in underling layers before you do something," he said.

Another project that residents can be on the lookout for is a repaving project of U.S. 31, south of Interstate 65.

"That one will start about the first week in August. It is also a nighttime job," said Ray.

The project will be similar to the repaving project on 119, though it's a different contractor performing the work. The starting point will be the Interstate bridge in Alabaster, and the end point will be the Interstate bridge in Calera.

The project includes the multilane portion of the highway by the Colonial Promenade shopping center. Ray said some of the pavement there has started to show signs of stress and that the new surface will look much better.

Thompson Road should

be seeing some improvements in its future as well. Based on a February announcement by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, Thompson Road (County Road 264) will be receiving a new bridge, new turn lanes and resurfacing from 1,300 feet west of Warrior Drive to Alabama 119.

The project is part of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP), which the governor officially unveiled in March 2012. According to Alabaster officials, City contract engineers are currently working with Shelby County on the design for the project.

For the latest information on Alabama road projects, go to the Alabama Department of Transportation website ([www.dot.state.al.us](http://www.dot.state.al.us)).

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# SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Day Trip to IKEA in Atlanta Tuesday, September 17.** Join us as we travel to Atlanta, Georgia to visit the IKEA store. Two floors of furniture and accessories await you. This icon of Scandinavian décor features a full floor of decoration accessories such as mirrors, baskets, candles, kitchenware, toys and linens. Fully furnished vignettes offer ideas about how to organize and furnish any home and make it more livable. IKEA is an excursion you won't want to miss. Cost is \$35 for the first 30 Alabaster Senior residents, and \$45 for all other Shelby County Seniors. Sign up today!

**Day Trip to LaGrange, Georgia Thursday, October 10.** Bringing Ancient History to Life. The Explorations in Antiquity Center is a living museum of life in ancient Biblical times. Through archeological replicas, Biblical meal presentation lectures, and other personal experience, ancient Biblical life becomes real today. We will also visit the Hills and Dales Estates. The property has been lovingly preserved by two generations of the Callaway family. Cost is \$75 for the first 30 Alabaster Senior residents, and \$85 for all other Shelby County Seniors. Sign up today!

**AARP- Driver Safety Program Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.** At the Senior Center. This is a 6 hour classroom refresher that can help the effects of aging on your driving and how you can adjust your driving. Cost is \$12.00 for AARP members and \$14.00 for AARP nonmembers. Bring your own lunch. Make checks payable to AARP.

**NEW Book Club Join us on Friday, August 23 at 10:00 am.** We will be reading *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, a New York Times

top 10 best seller for the past couple of months. We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book.

**NEW Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program Every Monday at 12:15 pm, and every Wednesday at 10:00 am.** Space is limited. Encouraged donation of \$2 per class.

**Apple Picking and Lunch Thursday, August 15.** We will travel to Jemison to a u-pick apple orchard. (\$12 for an 8 quart basket.) We will eat lunch at Cracker Barrel. Bring \$10 - \$12 for lunch. Space is limited. \$1 reserves your spot.

**Lunch Cruise on the Harriott II in Montgomery Wednesday, October 2.**

Join us as we enjoy a relaxing cruise on Montgomery's greatest downtown attraction, the Harriott II riverboat. We will enjoy a light lunch and a one hour cruise down the Alabama River. Cost is \$20 to reserve your spot. This cost includes transportation to the boat, admission on the boat and your lunch. Early sign up needed in order to purchase tickets in advance. Space is limited. Sign up today.

**Gardening with Betty Every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am.** The August 20th class will focus on learning how to build an herb bed. \$5 per class, and includes all supplies. Must sign up ahead of time.

**Drumming Program Tuesday, August 6 at 10:00 am.** No experience necessary but the benefits are endless. The benefits of drumming: improve your mood, increase circulation, and improve focus; low impact exercise and creativity. No charge for this program. Space is limited. Sign ups are required.

**Zumba Gold Toning Every Friday from 1:00 pm**

**- 2:00 pm.** Join us for a dynamic class using light-weight resistance training. This class can help participants prevent age-related bone loss, increase muscle strength and definition, decrease body fat and improve mobility, posture, coordination and cognition. \$2 donation encouraged.

**Free Blood Pressure Checks Tuesday, August 13 at 9:30 am.** With Comfort Care Hospice.

**6 week Conversational Spanish Classes will begin Monday, September 9 - October 14 from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm.** The last class we will take an outing to a local Mexican restaurant and grocery store. The class will cover basic conversational Spanish and vocabulary. Space is limited and cost is \$15 for the 6 week class. Sign ups begin August 1.

You won't want to miss all

the activities at the Senior Center:

- Men's Social Group: 1st Monday of each mo. at 9 am
  - Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays at 10 am
  - Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm
  - Rook: Wednesdays at 9am
  - Rummikub: Wednesdays at 9:30 am
  - Zumba Gold (exercise): Wednesdays at 1 pm
  - Beginner/Inter Line dancing: Thursdays at 9:30 am
  - Beginner Line Dancing: Thursdays at 10:30 am
  - Bridge: Thursdays from 12 pm until 3 pm
  - Tempo exercise: Fridays at 10 am
  - Zumba Gold Toning: Fridays from 1 pm until 2 pm
- If you would like more information concerning Senior programs, please contact the Alabaster Senior Center at 205-663-1307 or awalters@cityofalabaster.com



"If the local bowling alley calls to complain about the volume of your TV set...

If you didn't realize your alarm clock has been set for 3 am every morning for the last two years...

If you think your dog has laryngitis...

If you love Yoko Ono's singing...

If you don't know the difference between a yodeler and a mime...

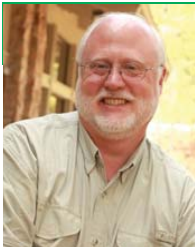
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# THE SUMMER TANAGER by David Frings

A flash of bright red at the backyard feeder immediately brings to mind the Eastern Cardinal, but a closer look may reveal another visitor. While the cardinal is the most common red-colored visitor to the backyards of Alabaster, the Summer Tanager is another that often goes unnoticed.

Males of both species differ by the Summer Tanager being the only solid red bird in Alabama and Eastern Cardinals having a prominent crest in both sexes. Both species are sexually dimorphic which means they show outward color differences between males and females. The female tanager is a yellowish-green which make her difficult

for predators to spot while she is tending the nest.

While the Summer Tanager is not the most common backyard bird, it will frequent backyards that supply a suitable habitat. Since it is known to breed in forest formed by pines and oaks with gaps and openings, a yard with natural landscaping is often called home for the summer. Offering peanut butter, suet, and some fruit at the feeders during spring arrival is one way to increase your chances of being the summer home for these beauties.

The Summer Tanager is considered somewhat of a bee and wasp specialist at the dinner table. These unwanted insects along with an array of others are eagerly taken during the breeding season to quench the appetites of the hungry family. If you want to attract insect eating birds to your

backyard garden, avoid using pesticides that may eliminate the food source and could even endanger growing chicks.

Summer Tanagers will construct an open-topped nest among clusters of leaves or in a fork of a tree adjacent to open areas. Typical clutches are comprised of two to five pale-blue to pale-green eggs. Pairs are monogamous and can produce up to two clutches annually. The eggs hatch in approximately 12 days and chicks mature quickly, leaving the nest about two weeks later.

While Alabama and other parts of the U. S. are home for the tanager family during the summer, Central and South America are called home during the winter. The birds eat large numbers of insects between the end of the summer nesting season and the migra-



SUMMER TANAGER

tion south in the fall in order to store enough fat to make the long journey. Coastal regions of Alabama such as Dauphin Island are favorite spots for birders for both the spring and fall migrations. Contact the Birmingham Audubon Society at [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org) for the best times to experience these events.

David Frings is an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Management and Director of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center Samford University located at Oak Mtn State Park

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# Calendar of Events

- Aug. 5, City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- Aug. 6, Public Safety Committee 6pm Annex  
Water Board 7 pm Annex
- Aug. 7, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex\*
- Aug. 8, Finance Committee 5:30 pm City Svcs. Bldg.
- Aug. 12, Board of Education 6:00 pm Senior Center
- Aug. 13 Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Annex
- Aug. 14, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex\*
- Aug. 15, Public Works Committee 5 pm Annex  
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm
- Aug. 19, City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- Aug. 20, Driving School 7 pm Annex
- Aug. 26, Board of Adjustments 6:30pm Senior Center
- Aug. 27, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Annex
- Aug. 28, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex  
Sewer Committee 6 pm City Hall

Municipal Annex located behind City Hall at 127 1st Street SW just across the RR track. The City Services Building is located in the Gardner House just down from the Depot.

## RECYCLING CALENDAR

### August 2013

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Marty Handlon, Mayor  
handlon@cityofalabaster.com  
664-6800

Sophie Martin, Ward 1  
martin@cityofalabaster.com  
358-8742

Bob Hicks, Ward 2  
hicks@cityofalabaster.com  
663-1801

Stacy Rakestraw, Ward 3  
rakestraw@cityofalabaster.com  
621-0168

Rick Walters, Ward 4  
walters@cityofalabaster.com  
281-7394

Russell Bedsole, Ward 5  
bedsole@cityofalabaster.com  
663-6212

Scott Brakefield, Ward 6  
brakefield@cityofalabaster.com  
685-0302

Tommy Ryals, Ward 7  
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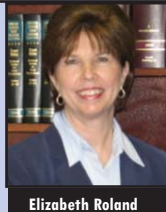
CITY DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS • Non-emergency Police matters 663-7401 • Animal Control 664-6761  
• Personnel Dept 664-6838 • Code Enforcement 664-5907 • Revenue/Business License Dept 664-6844  
• Alabaster Water Board 663-6155 • Garbage/recycling bins 664-6800 • Alabaster Parks & Recreation 664-6840

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