

THE ORIGINAL

# Alabaster

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II // NUMBER 5 // MAY 2014

# Rodney Atkins



MUSIC · ARTS · FUN  
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KIDS FEST · CRUISE-IN  
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# Alabaster

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



Coach Bear Bryant was famous for telling players on their first day to go call their parents because they

didn't get to make the team alone. He realized it was the hard work and support of loving parents that made the difference so these players could succeed to get to the level of playing at Alabama.

Famous for this, it seemed a natural for South Central Bell to feature Bryant in a pair of commercials about calling home.

On the day of filming, it had been a tough day with a lot of takes and Bryant

was tired. The advertising copy in the script called for Bryant to look sternly into the camera and say, "Have you called your mother today?" Instead Bear Bryant looked into the camera and said calmly, "Have you called your mother today? I wish I could call mine." He had adlibbed the last part completely and fortunately the producer was sharp enough to realize they had struck gold.

The commercial played quite a bit and was hailed as a success. I'm sure you can find it on YouTube if you've never seen it.

Mothers, and Fathers for that matter, want to know that they've made a positive impact on the lives

of their children. Even though the kids may grow up to be successful members of society, it's nice to hear a word of appreciation that you did make a difference. It's also a fun time to share some pivotal moments in your life. It might be when you got a great grade or made the team or, perhaps more importantly, when something didn't work out as you hoped and Mom was there to comfort you and support you as you pick yourself up and try again.

So take Mom out to dinner and take her somewhere that she would enjoy and spend some time with her. Call her if she's out of town. I wish I could call mine.

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# LOCAL RADIO STATION LAUNCHING SOON

A new FM radio station will soon be hitting the airwaves, and it promises to have a very local flavor.

Starting this summer, APH Radio, or Alabaster-Pelham-Helena Radio, will broadcast from Alabaster and serve residents of the surrounding communities, including Montevallo, Calera and Columbiana.

"It's just a local hometown feel," said Gene Rowley, who is starting the station with fellow Alabaster resident Phillip Pritchard.

The two have been working on the project for years and just recently received their FCC license.

"It was a very long process to get an FCC license. The FCC is very specific on what they require," said Rowley. "We didn't tell anybody until we were granted our FCC license in February."

The new station, which is scheduled to go live no later than July 1, will be found at 99.9 on the FM dial. During the week, the station will feature a morning talk show (featuring Rowley), followed by a great mix of popular music. On weekends, it will offer up a smorgasbord of live local

sports, Sunday-morning church services and even a dance mix on Saturday night.

"On my show I'm going to interview local politicians, local civic leaders. We're going to be involved in all the civic events, parades, barbecues, chili cook-offs," said Rowley. "The weekends are going to be full of local events and local music and local talent. It's going to be great."

In addition to maintaining a very local audience, APH Radio will be unique in another way as well. Unlike most radio stations, APH Radio will actually be nonprofit, which means it will be commercial free.

"The radio station will be 100 percent commercial free," said Rowley. "You will never hear a commercial on APH Radio. However, you will hear underwriting announcements."

According to Rowley, the vast majority of radio stations are commercial enterprises, with the remaining few being those that rely on public funding. APH Radio will be a station that captures the best of both worlds.

"One of our mantra lines is we want to sound big and be little. We want to sound like a big, powerful, major-market

commercial station but use the donations from our local community as our funding stream," said Rowley. "Because we're nonprofit, we then take our net profits and we donate them back to the communities we serve."

The concept will allow local dollars to be reinvested into local charities and other organizations, while giving businesses exposure through the station's underwriting announcements.

According to Pritchard, the donations will be handled separately by a local, five-person committee.

"Our intention is to create a giving committee," said Pritchard. "It will be comprised of five local people within the Shelby county area."

As for the station's music, the format will be unique to the market as well. APH Radio promises to play nothing but the hits.

"We've created a format of all hits. Our goal is to always play a song you know. It might not be your genre, but you will know the song," said Rowley. "We're going to play a mix of country, contemporary Christian, family-friendly rock, rock and roll,



APH Radio creators Phillip Pritchard (left) and Gene Rowley

oldies."

To give folks a taste of what to expect, they've posted a sample mix on the station website ([www.aphradio.org](http://www.aphradio.org)).

"I don't know of any other radio station that may play a country song, backed up to contemporary Christian, backed up to a rock. That's the difference," said Pritchard.

The website also includes information about sponsorship opportunities and underwriting details. For more information, go to [www.aphradio.org](http://www.aphradio.org).

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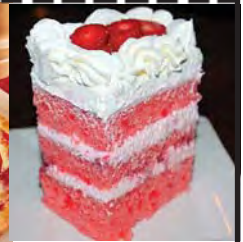
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June 7, 2014



# Rodney Atkins

The Alabaster Arts Council has announced that Country Star Rodney Atkins will be the headliner at this year's CityFest to be held Saturday June 7th at Municipal Park in Alabaster.

Rodney Atkins is as authentic as they come. Whether he's taking in a baseball game with son Elijah or entertaining thousands of fans with one of his many mega-hits, Atkins expresses a refreshing simplicity and sincerity that reflects the values he holds so dear: Putting family first, making the most of what you have, and staying true to yourself in a rapidly-changing world.

With his new single "Doin' It Right," which

impacted radio stations nationwide in October, Rodney Atkins celebrates life's unexpected turns and uncertainties as the true stepping stones of success. The song is the first release from Atkins' fifth studio album on Curb Records, due in stores early next year. His most recent album, *Take A Back Road* (produced by Ted Hewitt), yielded Atkins' sixth career No. 1 hit and fastest-rising single to date with the title track. "Take A Back Road," written by Luke Laird and Rhett Akins, was also named Song of the Year at the 2012 BMI Awards and marked Rodney's third Song of the Year win -- "Watching You" (2007 / Brian White) and "If

You're Going Through Hell" (2006 / Sam and Annie Tate) also earned the title.

When he's not in the studio working on new music, Rodney is working hard out on the road, connecting with loyal fans in cities across the country. He joined multi-platinum artist Darius Rucker for the True Believers Tour this past summer and hosted the Third Annual "Music City Gives Back" concert in downtown Nashville on June 4, 2013, raising funds for Oklahoma tornado relief following the devastating storms that affected Moore, Shawnee and other Oklahoma communities. Atkins was joined by friends and fellow performers Jana Kramer,

Justin Moore and Josh Thompson for the event. In addition to the benefit concert, Rodney also hosted the inaugural "Rodney Atkins' America's Heroes Celebration" on Jekyll Island, GA the weekend of August 16 - 18. The military appreciation weekend included a beach party, festival games, family activities and live music capped off with Rodney's show on Sunday night, dedicated to active duty and veterans of all military branches. Atkins is an avid supporter of America's troops, having also completed his first-ever USO Tour through some of the most remote bases in Kuwait and Afghanistan in early 2012.

# LEGISLATIVE LINES CHANGE



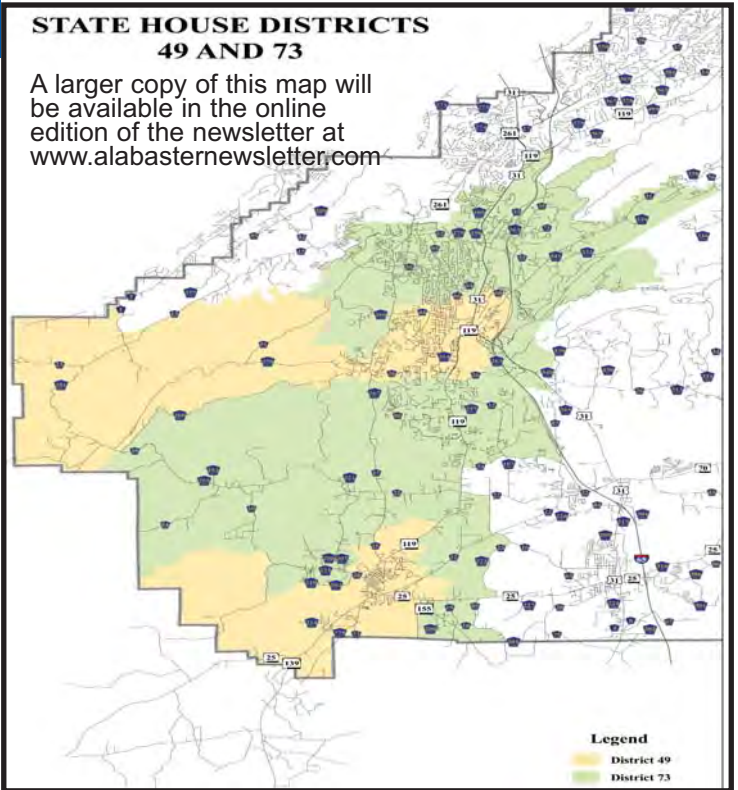
Representative April Weaver

Every ten years, the legislative district lines are redrawn to address population changes. This year, new district lines will be implemented to address the population growth that has occurred in Shelby County. Due to population growth, House Districts 49 (Weaver), 41 (Hill) and 43 (McClurkin) had growth that exceeded the population for House districts. As a result, House District 73, which formerly represented Montgomery County, has been moved to Shelby

County and will represent parts of Alabaster, Maylene, Montevallo, Pelham and Helena. The district was created from overages in the previously named districts. Many people have seen campaign signs throughout the City of Alabaster and have called me to inquire. Previously, the City of Alabaster has been represented by House District 49 (Weaver) and House District 41 (Hill). With the addition of the new House District 73, all Shelby County House District lines have changed and Alabaster will be represented by House Districts 49 and 73 after the 2014 election. The signs you see throughout the city are for candidates running for the new House District 73 seat. The primary will be held on Tuesday, June 3. Both candidates are running as Republicans so the new representative will be chosen on that day. I encourage you to cast your

## STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS 49 AND 73

A larger copy of this map will be available in the online edition of the newsletter at [www.alabasternewsletter.com](http://www.alabasternewsletter.com)



ballot on June 3 to help choose the new representative that will join the Shelby County Delegation. To view

the new district lines, please visit [legislature.state.al.us](http://legislature.state.al.us) and view the House Redistricting Plan.

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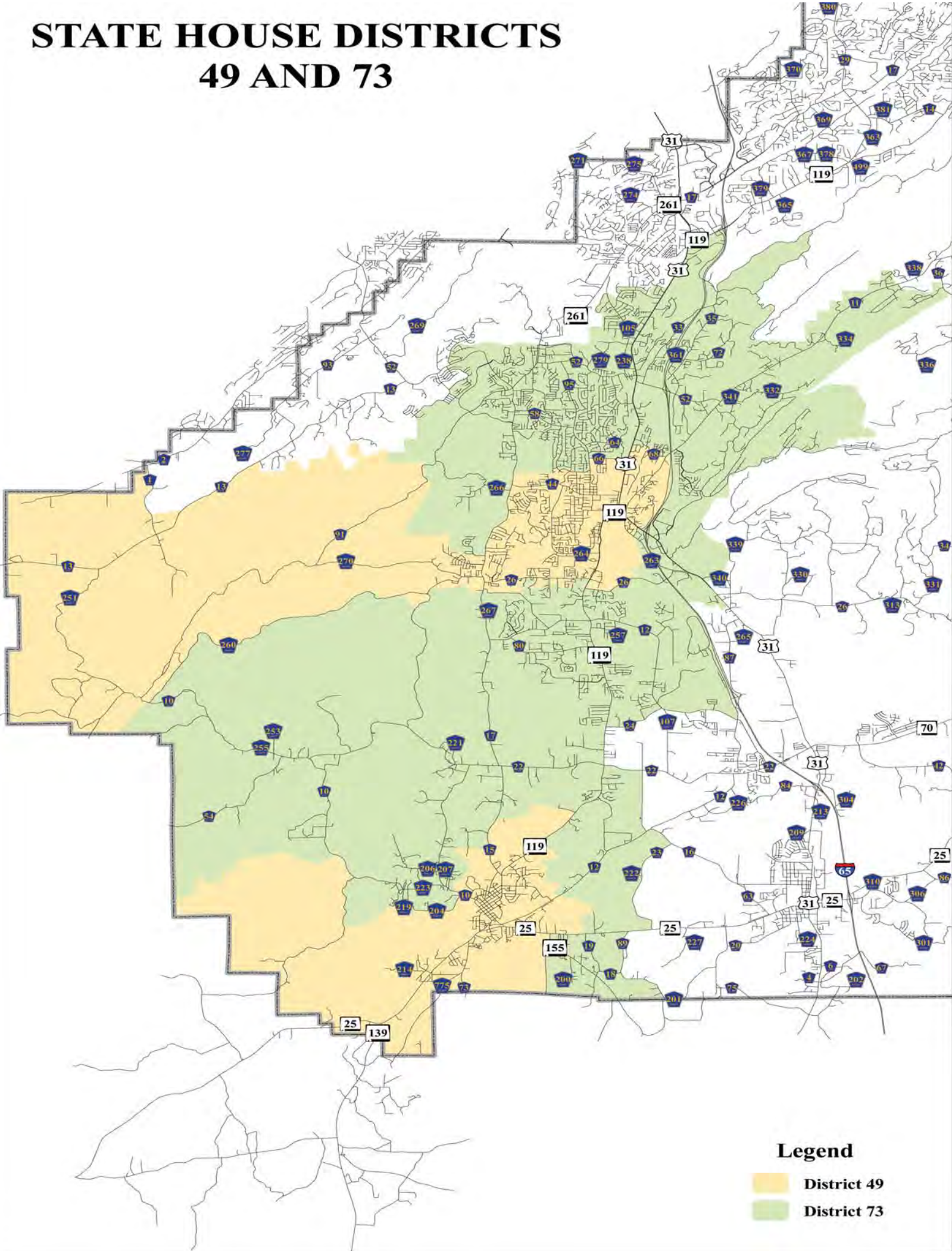
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# STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS 49 AND 73



## Legend

- District 49
- District 73

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Adele Nelson, Secretary of the Alabaster Arts Council, receives a sponsor check from longtime CityFest Gold Sponsor Ernest McCarty, owner of Ernest McCarty Ford on Highway 31 in Alabaster. Ernest McCarty Ford is also sponsoring the Classic Car Cruise-In at CityFest. If you are interested in finding out more about all the benefits associated

with becoming a CityFest sponsor visit [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com) and click Sponsors.

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# LOCAL CHURCH FINDS A NEW HOME

Cultivate Church of Alabaster has found a new home. The new church, which opened in January 2012, met for the first two years of its existence at Thompson High School. Since January 2014, it's been meeting in a new location behind CVS Pharmacy.

"We actually celebrated our two-year anniversary this January," said Brandon Doss, who started the church with fellow Lead Team Pastor Brandon Matthews.

Doss said they found the facility in October and then immediately set out turning it into an appropriate meeting space.

"We started working on it in November," said Doss. "We completely gutted the thing and renovated it. We moved in the

first Sunday of January, so it was a quick process."

Doss credits the church's members for pitching in and helping.

"Our church, they all just charged in and made it happen," he said.

The new facility has an auditorium, children's facilities and a conference room. According to Doss, it was previously a doctor's office, though it had been empty for awhile when they found it.

"It's a good facility," he said. "As a matter of fact, we're going to two experiences on Easter Sunday, so we gained a good bit of momentum moving into it."

Cultivate Church is a nondenominational church that's a member of the Association of Related Churches.

"We launched through



them," said Doss.

"Basically what they do is plant churches all across the nation. We're part of that organization. Other than that, we're an independent church."

Doss said he and Matthews first met when they were high school students in Morris, Ala. After that they worked together at a church in Pinson.

"Really it was there that God put on our hearts to plan a church together and work in ministry together. In 2010, we decided if we're going to do this

thing, we need to do it," Doss said.

In 2010, they met with pastors all across the country, trying to learn as much as they could about launching a church, and then in 2011, they moved to Alabaster and started building their team.

Cultivate Church is now located at 395 First St. S.W. The building is located at the back of the Alabaster Plaza shopping center. For more information, go to [www.cultivatechurch.tv](http://www.cultivatechurch.tv).

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# JUDICIAL RECUSAL BILL GOOD FOR COURTS



Senator Cam Ward

Judges should be held to a standard that does not allow for undue influence on their decisions. Alabama passed a law in the mid-1990s that created a standard for judges to recuse themselves from cases where there was undue financial influence. This recusal statute, though enacted in 1995, was never pre-cleared with the U.S. Department of Justice and was therefore never implemented.

The inherent adminis-

trative problems associated with implementing the previous statute, would be enormous and costly both to the judiciary and litigants since in every case, the parties and their lawyers would be required to file certificates of campaign contribution disclosure.

Recognizing the problems with the current law, the legislative Task Force on Campaign Finance recommended a bill which Rep. Mike Ball and I sponsored that repeals the current law including the massive amount of paperwork required but retains a means to recuse judges based in part on their receipt of large campaign contributions.

H.B. 543, which I sponsored in the Senate and Rep. Mike Ball sponsored in the House, was tailored after the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent ruling concerning the circumstances under which the size of a campaign contribution might trigger the

recusal of a judge. With our new on-line reporting of contributions to judges that is searchable by judge or justice and by donor and litigants we have much easier system of determining conflicts of interests. Attorneys have ready access to contributions that might cause them to seek a judge or justice to recuse.

Under the new law recusal of a judge would be handled as follows:

Rather than requiring a cumbersome process of filing certificates of disclosure in every single case regardless of its size, either party, or the judge on his own motion, must trigger the issue of recusal because of campaign contributions by filing a motion asking the judge to recuse. The motion can be filed if a reasonable person would perceive the contribution made by a party to the case, or his or her attorney, would impair the judge's impartiality or if

there is a serious question whether the judge can be objective;

If a party or its attorney has contributed more than certain percentage (10% appellate judges/15% circuit judges/25% district judges) of the total contributions raised when it was reasonably foreseeable the party or attorney knew a case would arise before that judge during the election cycle, then a rebuttable presumption arises that the judge should recuse. The judge can appeal their recusal if they feel circumstances allow for it.

I believe this common sense procedure for Judicial Recusal when a conflict of interest occurs will benefit our entire judicial system. I appreciate the bi-partisan support it received in the House and Senate and look forward to Governor Bentley signing this bill into law.



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# Alabaster

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### ROBERSON VINYL EXTERIORS

For local homeowners in need of new windows or siding, Roberson Vinyl Exteriors of Alabaster may have just the thing.

Roberson Vinyl Exteriors, which was started in 1994 by owner Paul Roberson, offers name-brand products with quality workmanship backed by a lifetime warranty.

"The main thing we believe in is just making the customer maintenance-free. We give them a lifetime warranty on materials and workmanship, which a lot of people don't do," said Roberson. "We give lifetime warranties on everything we do, just to give customers peace of mind."



Owner Paul Roberson has a winning philosophy: give customers a lifetime warranty on materials & workmanship. That's quality.

Roberson, who grew up in Alabaster and graduated from Thompson High School, worked for a couple of vinyl siding companies before deciding to start his own business.

"I went into business for myself in 1994," said Roberson. "I've been doing this type of work since 1992."

Since opening Roberson Vinyl Exteriors, Roberson said he's seen the business evolve as the homebuilding industry had ebbed and flowed. He initially started out subcontracting for other companies, before moving into new construction. Now he does mostly remodeling jobs.

"About five or six years ago, the homebuilding industry bottomed out. Now I'm about 95 percent remodeling," said Roberson, "windows, siding, doors, entry doors, hand rails, anything for the exterior. We do shutters, all kinds of vinyl products, not just your standard sidings."

Most of their business comes from throughout the Birmingham Metro, but Roberson said they can handle jobs anywhere.

"We go anywhere," Roberson said. "Since I've been advertising in the Newsletter we've gotten a lot more leads in Alabaster, which is great. Anywhere

in Alabama we'll go."

Some of the quality brands that Roberson uses are Wincore Windows & Doors, CraneBoard insulated siding and Napco siding.

"CraneBoard is probably our biggest siding seller. It's insulated back siding that gives you a real strong piece of siding," said Roberson.

Whatever the project is, however, Roberson said he likes to keep the customer at the heart of the business.

"Our motto is we're always there for you," Roberson said. "That's what we're there for. I try to do business like they used to do it, where the customer is first and you're there for the customer, not just to get a check and get out as quick as you can. We still believe in that."

For more information, visit them online at [Robersonvinylexteriors.com](http://Robersonvinylexteriors.com). The website has plenty of pictures, plus testimonials from a variety of satisfied customers.



**ROBERSON VINYL EXTERIORS**  
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# SHELBY COUNTY NAMED STATE'S HEALTHIEST

The latest edition of County Health Rankings, which is a county-by-county ranking of health performance for counties all across the country, ranked Shelby County as the healthiest county in the state of Alabama.

The rankings, which were released on March 26, gave Shelby County the top ranking for "overall health outcomes" as well as "overall health factors."

Within those two primary categories, the county also received the top ranking for several subcategories, including length of life, quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care and social and economic factors.

The only area in which it didn't land at the top of the Alabama rankings was physical environment. That honor went, instead, to Marion County. The physical environment

ranking is based on things like levels of air pollution, drinking water violations, severe housing problems and issues related to commuting. Shelby County ranked 22nd out of 67 for physical environment.

The rankings are produced each year by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. According to the rankings website (countyhealthrankings.org), the study is meant to raise awareness of the "many factors that influence health."

Some of those factors might not be readily apparent. For example, one of the measures for physical environment is "driving alone to work." According to the website, how people get to work can have a major impact on their health, as it affects

traffic, air pollution and even obesity. According to the study, 85 percent of Shelby County residents drive alone to work, compared to 71 percent for the top U.S. performers.

One of the areas in which Shelby County ranked particularly well was clinical care. The county's uninsured rate of 12 percent was competitive with the top counties across the country, which had 11 percent uninsured. It was also five points better than the Alabama average, which was 17 percent.

Shelby County residents also ranked highly for mammography screenings, with a 70-percent rate that compared favorably to the 71 percent of top U.S. counties. The Alabama average for mammography screenings was 63 percent.

The other nine counties



to make the top ten for overall health outcomes included, starting at No. 2, Baldwin, Lee, Limestone, Madison, Coffee, Elmore, Houston, Morgan and Autauga. The lowest ranked county in the state was Lowndes.

For more information and to view the rest of the rankings, visit the rankings website at Countyhealthrankings.org.

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# ROTARY HELPS AUXILIARY



Three Thousand Dollars of the Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club's annual "A Southern Christmas Bazaar" proceeds were presented to the Shelby Baptist Medical Center's Auxiliary recently at the Rotary's weekly meeting. Pictured are April Weaver, Diane Ritz, Evelyn Douglas, Debbie Parrott, David Wilson, Elizabeth Roland.

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# NEW CITYFEST SPONSOR



Adele Nelson (center) receives a sponsor check from Tracy Daniel, owner of first time Bronze sponsor Salon 5 with her crew.

Salon 5 is a full service salon now offering Massage Therapy located at 217 1st. St. NE (Hwy 31) next to the old city hall.

They were voted "Best of the Best Salons" in Shelby Living Magazine.

You can phone them at 664-0053. If you are interested in finding out more about all the benefits associated with becoming a CityFest sponsor visit [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com) and click Sponsors.



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# Alabaster

ALBERT L. SCOTT LIBRARY

## 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.

Library Closed May 26 for

Memorial Day

Library Board Mtg. May 27 6pm

## LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

**Job Search Workshops** - Join us as local expert Fabray Turner of Turner & Associates in Pelham leads the following workshops:

Thursday, May 1, 2014. 10 am - Job Searching Today

Thursday, May 8, 2014. 10 am - Resume Writing Today

Thursday, May 22, 2014. 10 am - Interviewing Today

Thursday, May 29, 2014. 10 am - Networking Today

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

Wednesday, May 7, 2014. 10 am - Basic Internet & Email

Wednesday, May 14, 2014. 10 am - Microsoft Word 2007 Part 1

Wednesday, May 21, 2014. 10 am - Microsoft Word 2007 Part 2

**Yoga at the Library** - May 7, 2014. 11:30 am. Last class of a 6-week session. Join in for health & relaxation Wednesday morning in the meeting room. All levels of fitness welcome. For more information, call 205-664-6822.

**Masterpiece Book Club** - Friday, May 9, 2014. 2 pm. Join this new daytime book club as we explore the classics of literature.

**"Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.** Orphaned into the household of her Aunt Reed at Gateshead, subjected to the cruel regime at Lowood charity school, Jane Eyre nonetheless emerges unbroken in spirit and integrity. She takes up the post of governess at Thornfield, falls in love with Mr. Rochester, and discovers the impediment to their lawful marriage in a story that is a world beloved classic. For more information about this new book club, call 205-664-6822.

**Library Book Group** - Thursday, May 15, 2014. 7 pm - Join us in our discussion of **"The Heretic's Daughter" by Kathleen Kent.** Based on her own family's history, Kent tells the story of Martha Carrier, who was one of the first women to be hanged as a witch in Salem, Massachusetts. In this novel, Kent paints a haunting portrait of one family's deep and abiding love in the face of fear and persecution. Program takes place in the meeting room.

## LIBRARY KIDS ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, May 4 May the Fourth Be With You Day 2pm-4pm

This special **Star Wars** program is set to blast off for families with children 6 years old and older. All children must be with an adult. Activities will include:

•Star Wars Show & Tell Guests can show off their Star Wars items. If a table is needed to display items, please phone or come by the library to speak with the youth services librarian in advance.

•Star Wars Lego Station •Star Wars Creation Station

•Light refreshments in the Cantina and more!

Sign up is suggested and fans are encouraged to wear a costume if they like. Guests may receive a Star Wars mask while supplies last if they do not have a costume.

**Tuesday, May 13 Wizard of Oz Book Bash 6pm-7pm** Follow the Yellow Brick Road and come Over the Rainbow with us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the movie, The Wizard of Oz, and the anniversary of the birth of Oz author L. Frank Baum who was born on May 15, 1856. Stories and surprises! Wear a costume if you like! There's no place like the library meeting room. Please sign up. All children must be with an adult.

**Gear Up for the Summer Challenge:** This month as school ends, children of all ages can gear up for the Summer Challenge that kicks off at the library in early June. This is when kids read our library books to earn prizes! For kids from birth to 10 years old the kickoff will be on Monday, June 2. That day will feature two shows by comic magician Russell Davis, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at 3:30 p.m. Parents may sign up their children for The Challenge before or after either show and receive a large goody bag for each child. The Young Adults (YAs), tweens and teens 11 to 18 years old, will have a separate kickoff on Tuesday, June 3 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. that will include activities and snacks. The six week long Summer Challenge will include lots of entertaining and educational programs, prizes, and surprises. Look for more information on the library's website beginning in May. The 2014 Summer Reading Program is supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Alabama Public Library Service.



## Friends Spring Book Sale April 25-27

**Friends of the Library Meeting - Monday, April 14, 2014. 6 pm**

The Friends of the Albert L. Scott Library will hold its Spring Book Sale April 25-27 at the library.

**Friday night, April 25, is a members-only preview sale from 5-7 p.m.**

Memberships will be available for as little as \$10. Saturday's hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., while Sunday's hours are 1-3 p.m. Sunday will be "Fill-A-Bag Day," with customers able to fill a brown paper bag with books for only \$5. Patrons may donate books and DVDs directly to the library by bringing them to the front desk. These donations are tax-deductible.

"The Spring Book Sale is a major event in our fundraising efforts to support the library," said Stephanie Billings, president of the Friends of the Library. "We look forward to seeing all of our supporters there."





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# PETSMART ADOPTION EVENT MAY 2-4

Stewardship takes many forms in our community and is very important in fulfilling various needs that may not otherwise be met. A huge issue in Alabama receives much needed support thanks to a charity that was developed and supported by PetSmart, Inc. PetSmart Charities, an independent organization, operates under the vision that "Every pet deserves a life-long, loving home". This nonprofit animal welfare organization saves the lives of homeless dogs and cats in communities across North America by funding adoption and spay/neuter programs. The charity has already found homes for more than 5 million homeless pets since its founding in 1994. Much of the funding for PetSmart Charities comes from the generous donations of the customers and employees of PetSmart

retail stores nationwide. Alabaster is blessed to have a PetSmart store located in the South Promenade that works hard each day to support matching people and pets in order to achieve that "Lifelong, Loving Home". In 2013, our PetSmart adopted 511 dogs and cats from the store! The store maintains a cat adoption area in the store which receives a steady supply of cats from Shelby Humane located in Columbiana. While dogs are not maintained in the store for adoption, several pet rescue and no-kill pet adoption agencies bring dogs to the store most weekends in hopes of finding that special loving home. In addition to in-store adoptions, PetSmart store manager Tommy Wallace has taken additional steps at the Alabaster location to give all of us the chance to

find that special dog or cat by hosting tent events. The first of four 2014 tent events was held on the weekend of February 14th. This three day event resulted in the adoption of 57 dogs and cats from the Alabaster store! A total of 228 adoptions occurred those three days for all of the PetSmart stores in the Alabama district. Wallace has set the date of the second tent event for the weekend of May 2 through 4. Additional events will be held on September 12 - 14 and November 14 - 16. Please mark your calendar for these events and tell all of your friends that may be looking for that special four-legged friend. New pet parents are given packets that contain valuable store coupons. Pet parents also have the opportunity to



PetSmart Associate Brooke Warren with a contented adopted dog.

meet and discuss the needs of their new pet with knowledgeable staff on issues such as feeding, playtime, and training. Proper training from accredited trainer such as Rebecca Mason, pictured here can turn that new dog into a loving member of the family. PetSmart supports Alabaster, so please come out and support this vital member of our business family.



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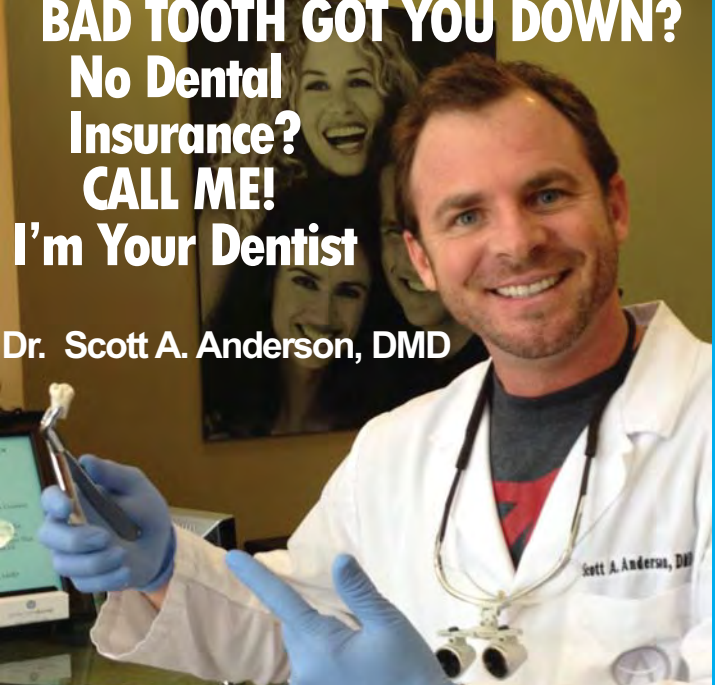
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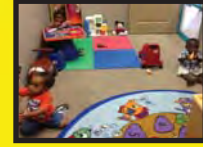
Adele Nelson with Mendy Bennet Director of Sales & Marketing & crew for Silver Sponsor Candlewood Suites Alabaster



Adele Nelson with Brent Fields, Manager of Platinum Sponsor Cool Box Private Storage. If you are interested in finding out more about all the benefits associated with becoming a CityFest sponsor visit [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com) and click Sponsors.



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**DEPOT CLOSED  
MAY 26 FOR  
MEMORIAL DAY**

## FOOTBALL SIGNUP

This is a full contact sport. On-line Registration should be available beginning at 8 am on May 19 and ending at 5 pm on June 6. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from May 19 thru June 6. There will be one Saturday registration on May 31 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Depot.

## CHEER SIGNUP

On-line Registration should be available beginning at 8 am on May 19 and ending at 5 pm on June 6. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from May 19 thru June 6. There will be one Saturday registration on May 31 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Depot.

## TRASH TO TREASURES MAY 17

The Extravaganza will be held at Buck Creek Park on Saturday, May 17 from 8 am until 12 pm. If you're looking for a bargain, please stop by. Someone else's trash may be the treasure you've been looking for. Registration ends on May 14 at 5 pm. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only. As soon as all 50 booths are reserved, registration will close out even if it's prior to May 14. The registration fee is \$10 which can be paid with cash, debit, Visa, or MasterCard. No checks accepted. The fee includes a 20x20 booth. You must provide your own table and chairs. Rain-out Date: May 24 (same time, same location).

## ACCC SOFTBALL MAY 2-4

The Alabama Community College Conference Fast Pitch Softball Tournament will be held at Veterans Park May 2 thru May 4. Alabaster will be hosting this event for the 9th year in a row. We are expecting large crowds so don't miss out on what's sure to be an exciting event. Games begin May 2 at 10 am. Tickets are \$10 per day or you may purchase a tournament pass for \$15. Children ages 6 and under will be admitted free as well as any youth Baseball or Softball player wearing their jersey.

## Flag Football Signup/ Boys & Girls

On-line registration should be available beginning at 8 am on May 19 and ending at 5 pm on May 31. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from May 19 thru May 30. There will be one Saturday registration on May 31 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Depot. This will be the final day to register for this sport.

## PAVILIONS FOR RENT

Several of our City Parks offer outdoor covered pavilions for rental use. 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. Uncovered picnic tables are free to all on a first come, first served basis.

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# CLASSIC CAR CRUISE IN AT CITYFEST JUNE 7TH



Cruise-In Car Show at Alabaster CityFest The 12th annual Alabaster CityFest Cruise-In Car Show, sponsored by Earnest McCarty Ford in Alabaster Alabama, will be from 9 am until 2 pm on Saturday, June 7th at the Municipal Park on Warrior Drive. Within the Alabaster CityFest festival site, the Cruise-In Car Show is located directly behind Thompson Middle School.

“The Cruise-In adds an element to CityFest for all to enjoy, the participants and attendees alike. The participants enjoy hanging out with other automobile enthusiasts as well as interacting with inquisitive attendees. All can enjoy the Cruise-In stroll as the music fills the air.”

Alabaster Arts Council Cruise-In chairperson, Adele Nelson, stated.

“Also don't forget Terry Padgett as Elvis will be performing again this year on the Day Stage from 11AM to 12:45 PM What a great combination,” she added.

Back by popular demand, the People's Choice Awards are returning. On the day of the event, CityFest attendees

can visit the Cruise-In Car Show and vote on their favorite vehicle, with prizes being awarded.

All years, makes, and models of vehicles are encouraged to participate. Registration will be on-site the day of the event, but if you'd like to fill your entry form out beforehand and bring with you, or if you'd like to for-



Terry Padgett as Elvis will return!

ward a form to a friend, or if you just wish to find out more about the Cruise-In; visit

<http://www.alabastercityfest.com/cruise-in/> for all your Alabaster CityFest Cruise-In Car Show information.

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# NEW CITYFEST SPONSOR



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Pictured are left to right: Chuck Carr - Regional Vice President Enterprise Holdings, Calvin Rumph - Member Alabaster Arts Council Board of Directors, Adele Nelson - Secretary Alabaster Arts Council and Deborah 'Rosi' Black - Administrative Assistant to the Regional Vice President Enterprise Holdings

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# ACCC STATE SOFTBALL TOURNNEY MAY 2-4

The Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) state softball tournament is returning to Alabaster this year for its annual championship. The event will take place at Veterans Park, starting Friday, May 2 and running through Saturday, May 3. According to ACCC Commissioner Dean Myrick, Sunday May 4 will be used to complete the tournament should weather require it.

The annual event brings the conference's top 12 teams together to vie for the state title and a chance to advance to the national championship tournament, which will be May 14 in St. George, Utah.

Myrick, who replaced longtime ACCC commissioner Al Cox prior to last year's tournament, said he

was impressed with the event in his first time to attend.

"I'm relatively new, but my first time there was very nice," said Myrick. "Tim Hamm and his staff, they do a great job, from the banquet the night before to the way they set up the fields. They do a first-class job."

Myrick said the event will get kicked off on Thursday, May 1 with a banquet for the players.

"We're still working on a speaker. They had Dot Richardson last year, and she did a marvelous job. It was very nice to hear her talk and hear her story," he said of the two-time Olympic gold medalist.

In terms of the softball itself, the quality of play is very high. Last year's winner, Wallace State-

Hanceville, went on to win the national championship and entered this year as preseason No. 1. In the most recent rankings, Southern Union was sitting at No. 15 in the NJCAA poll.

"We have very good players and great coaching. I would put our softball up against anybody else in the country from a talent and coaching standpoint," said Myrick. "It's very good softball to watch."

According to Myrick, many of the student-athletes will ultimately go on to play at four-year colleges.

"We have some that go to the SEC. We have some that go to smaller Division I and some at Division II and NAIA," he said.

According to Myrick, the players often excel in



the classroom as well, as evidenced by a number of academic all-American honors.

"They do well across the board," he said.

For more information about the ACCC, visit them online at [www.acccathletics.com](http://www.acccathletics.com).

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# MAY SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Holiday Closing-** The Senior Center will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

**Introduction to Pastel Medium-** Monday, May 5 from 12-3 pm. The versatility of pastels allows the artist numerous choices to express their creativeness as a drawer or a painter. Explore a variety of pastel techniques while learning basic skills through simple step by step exercises and projects. The inventiveness of the artist can make pastel art a happy medium with endless possibilities. Instructor: Deanne Thorn. Space is limited and sign ups begin April 1. Cost is \$12/person. You must furnish your own supplies.

**Paper Craft Class** Join us for an ongoing class to learn the basics of paper crafting. Whether you want to make your own hand-made cards or create beautiful scrapbooks to preserve family memories, this class is for you. In each class you will make examples of 1-2 new techniques which can be used to make your own personalized creations during the class. Join us for fun and creativity as well as discovering your hidden talents. This class is usually taught the second Monday of the month from 12-3pm. Cost: \$5/class.

**Fishing Outing at Oak Mountain-** on Monday, May 5, 9am-1:15pm. We will spend the day fishing and eating a picnic lunch at Oak Mountain. If you are interested in joining us, please stop by the Senior Center and pay \$1.00 to reserve your spot. Limited

fishing poles available. **Montgomery Day Trip-** on Thursday, May 29, we will tour the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the White House of the Confederacy and enjoy lunch in Montgomery. Cost is \$1 to hold your spot. You will need to bring \$1 for the tour plus money for lunch. Space is limited.

**NEW Strengthen, Stretch and Restore (mat based exercise class)** All participants will begin class seated on a mat on the floor. A variety of exercises will be performed on the mat with no need to get up and down during class. We will remain on the mat until the end of class. This class is designed to strengthen the body by incorporating lengthening exercises that use body weight, as well as fitness tools. Focus will be on stabilizing the body's core which is where all movement and balance begins. We will also increase flexibility and range of motion while gently stretching all of the major muscle groups. We will also focus on correct breathing techniques, body awareness and relaxation feeling refreshed and restored by the end of class. Classes will be held Mondays from 10-11am through May 19. Cost is \$2/class.

**NEW Zumba Gold II (Beginners)** - New to Zumba Gold? This is the perfect place to get started. Low intensity, low-impact dance/fitness class with an opportunity to break-down and learn basic Latin and

World rhythms. Same party flavor and fun.

Wednesdays 2:15pm-3pm. \$2/class.

**Arthritis Foundation**

**Exercise Program-** Wednesdays at 10am.

Space is limited. \$2/class.

**Line dancing-** join us on Thursdays for the 9:30am intermediate class, or the 10:30am beginner class. No experience necessary. Cost \$2/class.

**Watercolor Class-** All painting levels are welcome. Come learn how to paint with watercolor. Wednesdays from 1-3pm. \$18.75/4 classes each month and includes your paper. Must sign up.

**Upcoming Book Club-** join us for our next class on Friday, May 23 at 10am. We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book. Sign up at the senior center. Special thank you to the Weatherly Garden Club for the donation to the Alabaster Senior Center. Your donation will help us to continue to plan new

and innovative gardening programs here at the center. You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:

- Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays at 10 am
- Head to Toe Fitness: Mondays 1pm - 2pm
- Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at Noon
- Rook: Wednesdays at 9am
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
- Zumba Gold I (exercise): Wednesdays at 1 pm
- Zumba Gold II (exercise for beginners): Wednesdays 2:15 pm until 3:00 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



Front Row (l-r): Aimee Maddox, Tracy Daniel, Lane Weathers, Back Row: Christine Bargman, Kathy Durrett, Debbie Lovelady, Mehgen Overton, Dawn Hill, Mandy Parker, Paula Smith, Annette Bullard  
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# CITY'S PREMIER BIRDING SITE by David Frings



Alabaster's Limestone Park is one of the premiere birding stops along the Appalachian Highland's Birding Trail which extends from the Little River Canyon area to Montevallo.

The diverse and pristine wetlands that are located in the back of the park allow resident birds to call the park home as well as a wide variety of migrating birds during the spring and fall. There is always an array of beautiful and sometimes unique wildlife to view in the park. This time of year, redwing black birds are staking out territory and calling their mates along the edge of the water. Wood ducks, mallards, Canada geese, coots and grebes are building nests and incubating their eggs. A visit to the park near sunset may allow the visitor to see whitetail deer easing down to the water's edge for a cool drink as the setting sun illuminates their fur in shades of glowing reddish-brown.

Viewing wildlife in the park is easy whether you choose to stroll through the different ecosystems or

setup camp on the raised viewing platform that was constructed as a joint effort of the Birmingham Audubon Society and the City of Alabaster. When spring nesting season draws to a close and summer approaches, Limestone Park is often the temporary home for rare birds that are not normally seen in this area such as the pink colored roseate spoonbill, ibis, and the endangered wood stork.

These birds breed in other areas of the southeast and gather in the park as a result of parent birds driving their maturing youngsters away which is called the dispersal of young. Sights of these large birds and wading deer can make the bird watcher think they are somewhere along the edge of a tropical wetland rather than in one of Alabama's largest cities.

Even though we have covered this beautiful asset of the citizens of Alabaster before, recent field trips hosted by the Birmingham Audubon Society have spurred new interest from our citizens that missed our coverage several years ago. Numerous inquiry posts have also shown up on the Alabaster Citizen's Community Board on Facebook wanting to know more about birding in the



Wild Swan photographed on the pond at Limestone Park

park. Limestone Park is located on Highway 31 south, next to Saginaw Pipe and across from the BellSouth building. Access is available from sunrise until sunset. The park is also host to the Alabaster Remote Control Airplane Club so there is always something buzzing overhead. The community

garden also calls the park home so there are many great reasons for a visit to Limestone Park.

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

- May 6, Water Board 7pm Chamber  
Public Safety Committee 6pm Conference
- May 8, Finance Committee 5:30 pm Conference
- May 9, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- May 12, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber  
Board of Education 5:30 pm Chamber
- May 13, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Conference
- May 15, Public Works Committee 5 pm Chamber  
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm Conf
- May 20, Driving School, 7pm
- May 26, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber  
Board of Adjustments 6:30pm Conference
- May 27, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Conference
- May 28, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber  
Sewer Committee 6 pm Chamber

Meetings are now held in the new City Hall next to the Senior Center. Chamber refers to the large meeting chamber and conference refers to the conference room in the new facility. Questions about a meeting? Call 664-6800.

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

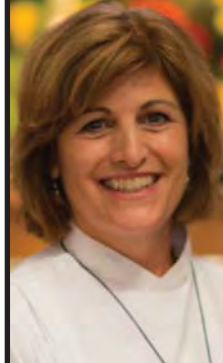
Tommy Ryals, Ward 7  
ryals@cityofalabaster.com  
664-1301

George Henry,  
City Manager and City Clerk  
ghenry@cityofalabaster.com  
664-6800

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