

THE ORIGINAL

Alabaster

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II // NUMBER 8 // AUGUST 2014

OMG! SCHOOL SHOPPING
IS SO MUCH FUN! :)

CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE EVERYONE!

HOW 'BOUT THAT
SUMMER VACAY!

BACK TO SCHOOL

#schoolspirit

Alabaster

A Word from the
Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



Pretty soon it will be back to school for our one year old school system. Funny how in your life the autumn, which has been a

time of ending and harvest, has actually become a season of new beginnings. All your life through the grades up through college, Fall means the beginning of a new year.

During those academic years, you meet a lot of folks both good and bad - growing up means you begin to sense the difference and move in a positive direction.

To guide you in that direction are your teachers. If you're lucky, you'll meet some great teachers whom

you'll remember all your life.

In high school, Mr. Aurelio Mora taught me English with the humanities mixed in. We studied literature mixed with poetry and opera. Mr. Mora spoke several languages and had a box at the Metropolitan Opera in New York where he attended opera. He would explain the operas and translate what the arias meant.

On another day he would have me read aloud "The Miller's Tale" which is the bawdiest of the Canterbury Tales.

The important thing was that Mr. Mora helped us to understand the role that art plays in our lives. We are surrounded by it, and the internet has made

more great works of art, literature and music more accessible to all of us at little cost.

One of the ways Mr. Mora did this was the way he taught - with true enthusiasm. Enthusiasm means literally to be "filled with the spirit" and that's a good way to look at it.

Whether it's art or any aspect of life, success depends on enthusiasm. I once heard a salesman say, "When you're on fire about a project, people will come from miles around just to see the glow."

As you begin this year - in school or not - find something to be enthusiastic about - to glow about. Who knows? The right people may come around just to see the glow.

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Left to Right - Joni Kiger, Cris Nelson, E.A. Kenyatta Ector, E.A., Charlie Poole, E.A.

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"BACK TO SCHOOL" SALES TAX HOLIDAY AUG.1-3

The state's annual back-to-school sales tax holiday will be held the first weekend in August, starting Friday, Aug. 1, at 12:01 a.m. and ending on Sunday, Aug. 3, at 12 midnight.

This will be the state's ninth annual back-to-school sales tax holiday. The three-day shopping holiday was created in 2006 to give parents and other shoppers an opportunity to buy certain school-related items without the burden of state sales or use tax.

According to the original act (Sales Tax Holiday Act No. 2006-574), the state waives state sales or use tax on certain school-related items annually 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.

Items covered by the act 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).

Municipal sales tax will also be waived for those same items, based on an ordinance passed by the Alabaster City Council two years ago. The ordinance (Ordinance No. 12-005) exempted the covered items "during the first full weekend of August 2012 and each consecutive year thereafter."

Clothing items not covered include things that are sold separately, like belt buckles, costume masks or patches and emblems. It also doesn't include sports

or recreational equipment, like baseball gloves or shin guards.

In 2012, the State of Alabama created a second sales tax holiday, to assist shoppers with severe weather preparedness. That holiday takes place the last full weekend in February each year and exempts items related to emergency preparedness.

For more information, visit the Alabama Department of Revenue website at revenue.alabama.gov. Click on the "Divisions" tab, followed by the link for "Sales & Use Tax." On that page, there are links to pages about both the back-to-school holiday and the severe weather preparedness holiday.

Shoppers can also learn more by visiting the Alabama Retail Association at Alabamaretail.org. Simply search for "Sales Tax Holiday" to find an extensive presentation about the

back-to-school holiday, including examples of exempted items.



For more information, go to the Department of Revenue website 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.

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BACK TO SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The dog days of summer are here, which means it's time for school kids to start thinking about heading back to class. This year, Alabaster City Schools will begin the fall semester on Thursday, Aug. 7, so parents should make sure their kids are properly registered and ready to start the new year.

This year, registration has been slightly different than in the past, as parents have been using an online registration system to register their children via the Internet. After completing online registration, however, parents are still required to go by the appropriate school and present two proofs of residence.

Primary proofs can include utility bills or deposit receipts (electric bill, water bill, etc.) or an apartment or home lease/mortgage (lease agreement or monthly mortgage statement).

Secondary proofs may include a variety of other documents like property tax records, income tax records, Social Security checks, employment records, bank statements

and other bills.

Students that are new to the system are also required to present a certified birth certificate and an up-to-date immunization certificate. For questions, contact Central Office at 663-8400.

Creek View Elementary

Creek View will hold Warrior Day on Wednesday, July 30. Parents will need to bring a driver's license, along with two proofs of residence. Also, if they have a verification sheet, after completing the online registration, they should bring that as well. "Meet the Teacher" is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 6, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Meadow View Elementary

Meadow View is accepting proofs of residence, from 8 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, until Wednesday, Aug. 6. There will also be two evening periods, from 3 to 7 p.m., on Tuesday, July 22 and Thursday, July 24. "Parent Night" sessions

are scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 5 (kindergarten), Thursday, Aug. 14 (second grade), Tuesday, Aug. 19 (third grade) and Thursday, Aug. 21 (first grade).

Thompson Intermediate School

For those without a computer, TIS will have an area in the office to complete the online registration. Office hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 to 11 a.m. on Friday. Parents can also provide their proofs of residence at those times. TIS will also be open till 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29. Orientation will be Monday, Aug. 4, from 8 to 9 a.m. (fourth grade) and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (fifth grade).

Thompson Sixth Grade Center

Warrior Day for the Sixth Grade Center will be Thursday, July 31. That will include schedule pickup and a tour of the building. Hours for the day will be based on the student's team: Braves, 8 to 9 a.m.,

Dreamcatchers, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Wigwams, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Days for parents to provide residence documents are July 15, 17, 22 and 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

Thompson Middle School

Thompson Middle School will hold Tribe Day on Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the TMS gymnasium. That's the orientation event for seventh graders and new students. It will also feature a tour of the school. Parents can bring their proofs of residence on Monday, July 28, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 to 6 p.m.

Thompson High School

Summer schedule pickup for Thompson High School will be on the following dates: Monday, July 28, 8 to 11 a.m. (seniors) and 1 to 4 p.m. (juniors); Tuesday, July 29, 8 to 11 a.m. (sophomores) and 1 to 4 p.m. (freshmen). Prior to schedule pickup, parents should complete the online registration and provide two proofs of residence.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL ON THE HORIZON

Alabaster City Schools recently celebrated its one-year anniversary as a new school system, and though it's already accomplished quite a lot, its biggest achievement may still be on the horizon.

At a specially-called meeting on May 19, the Alabaster City Board of Education unanimously voted to authorize Superintendent Dr. Wayne Vickers to enter into an agreement to purchase real estate in Alabaster that would serve as the location for a new high school.

The undeveloped prop-

erty consists of approximately 300 acres and is located to the west of the current Thompson High School location. It sits roughly between the Sterling Gate subdivision off Thompson Road and the Lake Forest subdivision off Kent Dairy Road.

The size of the land is large enough to accommodate both a new high school as well as new athletic facilities, which the School Board intends to fund using a planned \$120 million bond. The new facilities are part of the Board's five-year

capital plan, which it approved in September of last year.

At a June 23 meeting, the Alabaster City Council lent a supportive hand to the effort when it voted to extend its 1-percent, school-related sales tax for the next 30 years, the expected duration of the school board's bond. The sales tax was origi-



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(CONT ON PAGE 14)

ANSWERING MEDICARE QUESTIONS BY REP. APRIL WEAVER



Representative April Weaver

In my role as a legislator, I often encounter senior citizens who have questions about Medicare. I am in no way an expert in this area, but I have found a resource that can help you find the answers. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a free counseling service provided by the Middle

Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A). They can help you educate yourself to navigate the challenges of Medicare. SHIP helps answer questions about Medicare, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage), long-term care insurance, and programs to assist with Part B and Part D premiums (the Medicare Savings Program and the Limited-Income Subsidy). SHIP provides free, impartial information to help consumers make decisions regarding their health care choices. When a Medicare beneficiary has a question about Medicare benefits, the beneficiary may contact the local SHIP

at 205-670-5770 or 1-866-570-2998. During Open Enrollment (which starts October 15), SHIP has about two dozen community events in which SHIP counselors meet face-to-face with beneficiaries to provide help with plan enrollment and changes. Usually, the SenioRx program (a program funded by the Alabama State Legislature) partners with SHIP for these events since many seniors, people with disabilities and Medicaid beneficiaries need medication assistance.

M4A is particularly interested in outreach and education to seniors on the preventive services offered by Medicare because these services complement their

wellness program. M4A currently administers four different evidence-based wellness programs which are preventive and educational, such as the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, the Arthritis Foundation Walk with Ease Program, and Tai Chi designed to prevent falls.

If you are a senior citizen and you have questions about Medicare, I encourage you to call the SHIP program at M4A. A SHIP counselor will help you be a wise consumer so that you get the most out of your healthcare dollars.

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LOCAL GIRL WINS STATE PAGEANT

Alabaster resident Savannah Buttram, 17, was recently crowned Miss Alabama Teen at the state's National American Miss pageant in Montgomery.

As winner of the state title, Buttram will get to compete in the national NAM pageant, which will be held Nov. 25-30 in Anaheim, Calif.

"They have all the state pageants throughout the year and then you compete in November for the national title," said Joy Letson, Buttram's mother. "They go to Hollywood, Calif., the week of Thanksgiving."

The Alabama pageant was divided into five different age groups, with titles being awarded for Miss Alabama Princess (ages 4-6), Miss Alabama Junior Pre-Teen (ages 7-9), Miss Alabama Pre-Teen (ages 10-12), Miss Alabama Junior Teen (ages 13-15) and Miss Alabama Teen (ages 16-18).

Buttram, who graduated this year from Thompson High School, has participated in the annual pageant for ten years. She previously won state titles as a Junior Pre-Teen and Pre-Teen.

"She's done it for ten years, so it's been a great thing to grow into," said Letson. "This will be her

third trip to California."

Buttram said she was excited by the win and the opportunity to return to California.

"It was amazing, because I've been in the pageant for so long. So it's cool to have this experience to be able to go to nationals again," said Buttram.

National American Miss is a nationwide pageant program that promotes self-confidence among its participants. In addition to the various awards that participants can receive, they also gain valuable speaking experience in front of an audience.

"It is a really good organization," said Letson. "They base everything on your interview skills, speaking, formal wear and community service. They strive to build personal skills up."

According to Letson, the pageant will pay for Buttram's airfare to California and the pageant fees to compete at the national competition. She'll still need to raise money for the event, which she plans to do by selling chances to win a pair of original drawings she'll be doing this summer.

Buttram said if she

were to win nationals, she would be the first girl from Alabama to win. Either way, she is looking forward to the chance to participate and enjoy the event.

"It's the coolest national pageant. We get to go to Disneyland for a day and we get to tour Hollywood," said Buttram. "It's a whole week, so we have time to really see the city."

To learn more about the National American Miss



Savannah Buttram, Miss Alabama Teen 2014.

pageant, visit the organization online at www.namiss.com.

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ALDI FOOD MARKET CHOOSES ALABASTER LOCATION

Construction crews have begun site work for a new Aldi at the intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and County Road 11. This store will be the second store for the chain in Shelby County and make a total of eight in the Birmingham metropolitan area. Construction of the Alabaster Aldi should be completed in the latter portion of 2014, just in time for that holiday shopping. Access to the retailer will be allowed from U. S. Highway 31 and County Road 11. Cam Ward, Executive Director of the Alabaster Industrial Development Board, says that the Alabaster store should be around 24,000 square feet. Representatives from Aldi are working with the

Shelby County Commission to improve the intersection of the county road with Highway 31 during the construction project.

Aldi Food Markets are an international corporation with stores in seventeen countries. Their mission is "simply smarter shopping" which gives them a different look from more traditional U. S. grocery retailers. Aldi only carries a limited number of name brand products that may be recognizable to Alabaster shoppers. Instead, they rely heavily on their own store brands in order to pass significant savings to the customer. Other cost saving measures used by Aldi include renting shopping carts for a

quarter and requiring shopper to bring their own shopping bags.

Customers bringing their own bags not only saves cost but also helps the environment which is one of the goals promoted by Aldi. The 25 cent rental fee for shopping carts is refunded when the customer returns the cart to the cart corral.

Aldi is a full service grocer with dry goods, produce, and fresh meats. In May of 2014, they launched a new gluten-free line of products called LiveGfree. The LiveGfree line was tested in select stores and will have a companywide roll out later this year. In 2013, Aldi launched SimplyNature which features foods made



with all-natural or organic ingredients. This was followed by another line in 2013 of Specially Selected brand which includes products such as German coffees and gourmet pastas and cheeses. The new concepts in business practices which results in cost savings to the consumer will be a welcome addition to our Alabaster retail family. For more information on Aldi and to view their weekly specials, visit www.aldi.us.

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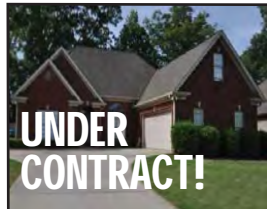


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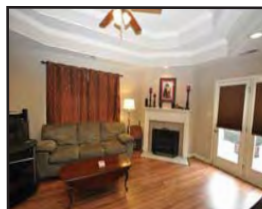


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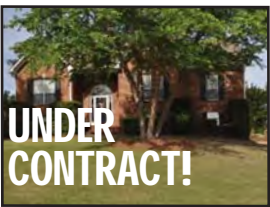
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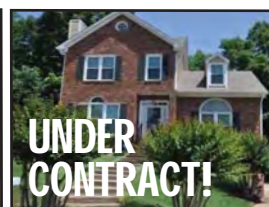


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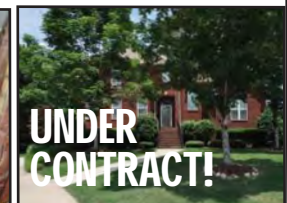
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BUSINESS PROFILE

3D AIR SERVICES

For residents and businesses in need of air conditioning solutions, 3D Air Services in Pelham may have just the thing. 3D Air Services, which is located conveniently off Yeager Parkway, combines an experienced staff with top-name brands to help keep folks cool during summer's hottest months.

"We do residential work around the Birmingham metro area," said Chris Gilham, who does sales and marketing with 3D Air Services. "We also do out of town work, big, commercial apartment complexes. We have a job going in North Carolina right now. We have a big apartment complex we're doing downtown in Birmingham."

According to Gilham, the owner and management at 3D Air Services have over 90 years of combined experience. The company is also qualified as a Trane Comfort Specialist, which means they're committed to customer satisfaction.

In terms of services, 3D Air Services provides a



The 3D Air Services team is ready to help with your air conditioning needs. Pictured (L to R) are Erica Fox, Shane Smith, John Bates, Tyler Cork, Louis Ammons, Larry Burr, John Winton, Chris Gilham and Rodger Gilham.

wide range of heating and air conditioning services.

"For a home owner, we can take care of anything from their gas furnaces to their air conditioners to their heat pumps. We replace water heaters," said Gilham. "As far as commercial, we work on restaurants. We service all the Ruby Tuesdays around the area. We do a lot of commercial work with Taco Bell."

Gilham said they can do repairs on existing systems as well as provide replacement units.

"We do repairs," said Gilham. "We do offer main-

tenance plans, where we'll come out and service the system twice a year."

For those who might be concerned about allergies, 3D Air Services also has things they can do to improve the air quality in the home.

"We offer whole-house air cleaners that go in your ductwork that can stop 99.9 percent of dust," said Gilham.

Another great feature about 3D Air Services is their commitment to personal customer service. According to Gilham, the company maintains 24/7 phone service.



3D Air Services has won several awards for quality service.

"We have technicians on call 24/7," said Gilham. "If you call our company, you're not going to get an answering service or recording. You're going to get a live person that works for our company."

Because of their success, and great word of mouth, the business has recently experienced what Gilham called "extreme growth."

"We've been so busy this year that we're constantly hiring," he said.

According to Gilham, the business currently has 22 employees and is looking to add more. It recently posted a notice on its Facebook page with several current openings. For details, search "3D Air Services" on Facebook.com or call 664-3501.



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NEW FARMER'S MARKET OPEN SATURDAY MORNINGS

Alabaster residents can now look forward to a variety of fresh products produced right here in Alabama at the new Alabaster Farmer's Market.

The market, which is a joint collaboration between the City of Alabaster and local nonprofit organization Sowers of Seed, will be held once a week each Saturday through August 16.

"We are a state-certified market, and we're partnering with the City to provide this for our residents," said Sowers of Seed founder Lynn Coleman.

The market is held each Saturday behind the new City administrative building at 1953 Municipal Way. The market runs from 8 a.m. till 12 noon.

According to Coleman, all of the farmers will be

local, which means shoppers will be able to find the freshest products.

"We have growers from around the area," said Coleman, who will be managing the market. "I think our furthest farm producer is out of Eclectic, and that is pork. He raises his own pigs and then has those processed."

Shoppers will also be able to get fresh peaches from Clanton, as well as locally-farmed zucchini and squash. There will also be locally-produced honey.

"We'll have someone that produces honey," said Coleman. "That's the best kind of honey for allergy purposes."

Coleman said she recently visited with a local goat farmer who produces goat-milk soaps and lotions.

"It was great," said Coleman. "It's a little four-acre farm on the back side of Ballantrae called Dolce Latte Farm. They'll be coming to our market every other Saturday."

Creating a farmer's market in Alabaster is something Coleman said she'd been hoping to do for awhile.

"It's been a goal of ours since our conception. That was part of the dream of Sowers of Seed to meet a nutritional need in our community by providing the best of the best in produce to our residents," she said.

Coleman credited City Manager George Henry and Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon for lending their support to the project. She also said the market may grow in the future,



depending on how it goes this year.

"This year, we're only filling ten tents, but we're going to look to expand," said Coleman. "Maybe next year we'll add more. We're just going to see the response of the community and get ideas from the farmers."

The official dates for the Alabaster Farmer's Market are every Saturday through August 16. For more information, visit the City of Alabaster online at www.cityofalabaster.com.

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CHUBBS GRUB STATION WINS AWARD

Chubb's Grub Station in Alabaster was recently honored with a Small Business of the Year award by the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber presented the award at a June 25 awards luncheon held at the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena in Pelham.

"This was our second small business awards program," said GSCCC President Kirk Mancer in a July 9 interview. "We started it last year. The purpose of it relates back to the business development and support aspect of our Shelby One five-year strategic plan."

At the June 25 luncheon, the Chamber recognized four small businesses in categories based on

the size of their businesses.

"We had a total of 35 nominees in the various categories," said Mancer. "There were four recipients, one in each category. Those were based upon the number of employees that a company has."

According to Mancer, the winners were selected by a panel of judges, which included a banker, an attorney and an accountant.

"Once they were nominated, they were then asked to provide some information," said Mancer. "(The judges) reviewed the information that the nominees submitted, and based upon that information, they then made a determination as to who the recipient was in each category."

The awards luncheon, which was sponsored by

Regions Bank, was hosted by the Chamber's Small Business Work Group. The other three Business of the Year honorees included Trash Taxi, Calera Dental Center and Event Operations Group.

"These were businesses that were nominated from all over the county. You did not have to be a current Chamber member to be nominated, so it truly was an open opportunity," said Mancer.

Chubb's Grub Station is located in Alabaster, next to the Hallmark store in the Southbrook Village shopping center. It was opened in October of 2013 by owner Will Cholewinski and has already made a strong impression on local diners. The restaurant offers hearty portions of



good, fresh, American "grub," like hamburgers and French fries.

"I won't serve you something frozen," Cholewinski said in a March interview. "I won't serve you something out of a can."

For more information about Chubb's Grub Station, visit them online at www.chubbsgrub.com. Or better yet, stop by the restaurant one day for a meal and find out what makes them one of this year's small businesses of the year!



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NEW HIGH SCHOOL

(CONT' FROM PAGE 5)

nally added in 2011 as a way to help fund the newly formed school district. Now it will be used to repay the bond issue, as well as "other public school purposes."

Ordinance No. 14-006, which can be found online at the City of Alabaster website (Cityofalabaster.com), specifically pledges 1 percent of the municipal general sales and use tax to the School Board "through the last maturity date of the Series 2014 Warrants."

The Council vote was not unanimous, however, and some elected officials expressed concerns about the length of the commitment. Councilman Russell Bedsole voted against the pledge, while Councilwoman Stacy

Rakestraw chose to abstain.

Mayor Marty Handlon issued her own statement, voicing financial concerns with the pledge.

"Research reveals that the school systems in which we might aspire to be compared to receive funding by the sure and steady stream of ad valorem taxes, not the ever fluctuating and volatile sales tax," Handlon wrote.

Despite those concerns, however, the funding pledge passed, giving the School Board's plan for a new high school the backing it needed to move forward. For Alabaster students, that means a new high school should be somewhere not too far off in the future. And as usual, it's a great day to be a Warrior!

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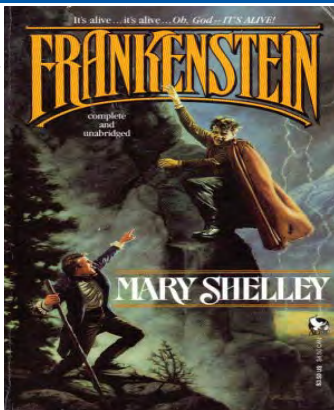
LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

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 ADULT ACTIVITIES

Masterpiece Book Club - Friday, August 1, 2014. 2 pm. Join this new daytime book club as we discuss Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Few creatures of horror have seized readers' imaginations and held them for so long as the anguished monster of Shelley's Frankenstein. The story of Victor Frankenstein's monstrous creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense. For more information about this new book club, call 205-664-6822.

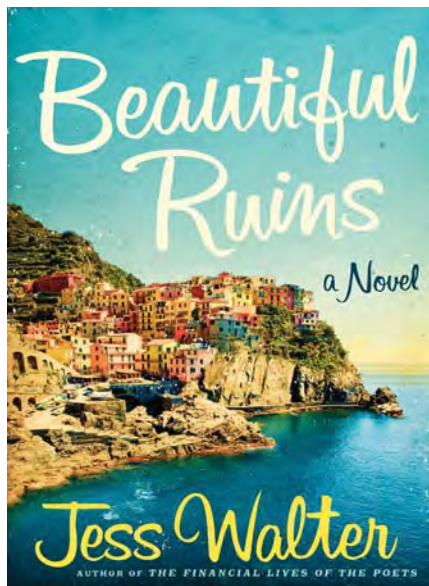


Adult Computer Classes - Call or come by to sign up. 664-6822.
Wednesday, August 6, 2014. 10 am - Microsoft Excel 2007 Part 1
Wednesday, August 13, 2014. 10 am - Microsoft Excel 2007 Part 2
Wednesday, August 20, 2014. 10 am - Computer Basics

Job Search Workshops - Join us as local expert Fabray Turner of Turner & Associates in Pelham leads the following workshops:
Wednesday, August 6, 2014. 11:30 am - Job Searching Today
Wednesday, August 13, 2014. 11:30 am - Resume Writing Today
Wednesday, August 20, 2014. 11:30 am - Interviewing Today
Wednesday, August 27, 2014. 11:30 am - Networking Today

Cake & Culture - Sunday, August 17, 2014. 2 pm. Join us as Jonica Anderton and Amy Reynolds discuss how essential oils can be used to enhance your life and transform your family's health.

Library Book Group - Thursday, August 21, 2014. 7 pm - Join us in our discussion of "Beautiful Ruins" by Jess Walter. This novel follows a young Italian innkeeper and his almost-love affair with a beautiful American starlet, which draws him into a glittering world filled with unforgettable characters. Program takes place in the meeting room.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Cool Story Times to Beat the August Heat
Story Times: •Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. Tunes & Tales for all ages in the meeting room •Fridays 10:30 a.m. Toddler Tales in the meeting room Miss Jennie's Weekly Story Time Themes:
August 5-8 School Days
August 12-15 Dream Big
August 19-22 Dinosaurs Oh My!
August 26-29 Let's Go to the Beach/Labor Day Fun

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Did you know that, in addition to the Friends Spring and Fall Book Sales, there are books available for purchase anytime the Library is open? In the Adult Fiction section are the Book Room and Book Nook. The Book Room is open Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. until closing. In the Book Nook are bookcases with an assortment of books for all ages and of various subjects. These can be shopped every day. Hardbacks are \$1.00 and Paperbacks and Children's (including books for all ages) are \$.50. Funds from sales benefit Special Programs for your Library such as Summer Reading. Be a Friend! Join us and watch your library grow. www.cityofalabaster.com or ask at the desk



ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

08/30/14	vs. West Virginia TV	Atlanta, Georgia
09/06/14	vs. Florida Atlantic TV	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
09/13/14	vs. Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa
09/20/14	vs. Florida	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
10/04/14	at Ole Miss *	Oxford, Mississippi
10/11/14	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Arkansas
10/18/14	vs. Texas A&M	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
10/25/14	at Tennessee *	Knoxville, Tenn.
11/08/14	at LSU	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
11/15/14	vs. Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11/22/14	vs. Western Carolina	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11/29/14	vs. Auburn *	Tuscaloosa, Ala. TBA

AUBURN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	ARKANSAS AUBURN
Sept. 6	SAN JOSE STATE AUBURN
Sept. 13	** Open Date **
Sept. 20	at Kansas State Manhattan, KS
Sept. 27	LOUISIANA TECH AUBURN
Oct. 4	LSU AUBURN
Oct. 11	at Mississippi State Starkville, MS
Oct. 18	** Open Date **
Oct. 25	SOUTH CAROLINA AUBURN
Nov. 1	at Ole Miss Oxford, MS
Nov. 8	TEXAS A&M AUBURN
Nov. 15	at Georgia Athens, GA
Nov. 22	SAMFORD AUBURN
Nov. 29	at Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 5

The Alabaster Target will once again be hosting "National Night Out" this year to promote community safety and interaction between residents and law enforcement agencies.

The family-friendly event will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 5, in the Target parking lot at the Colonial Promenade shopping center. Activities will run throughout the evening.

National Night Out is a nationwide event that's held annually on the first Tuesday in August. It was started in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch as a means of promoting local involvement in the fight against crime.

According to the National Association of Town Watch website

(www.natw.org), the first year of the event involved some 2.5 million people. In the thirty years since, it's grown to include over 37 million people annually, including participants in all 50 states and at military bases around the world.

Locally, the event features a variety of law enforcement organizations that set up tables to display various tools of the trade or pass out information about their activities. They usually also bring a number of emergency vehicles for people to inspect, from patrol cars and fire trucks to military vehicles and boats.

In the past, participating organizations have included the Alabaster Police Department, Alabaster Fire and Rescue Service, the Helena Police

Explorers, the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, the U.S. Marshals, SafeHouse and K9 Specialty Services of Alabama, among others.

This year's event will be slightly different than in the past, due to the recent addition of Dick's Sporting Goods to the shopping center. Dick's, which held its grand opening in April, was constructed beside Target in what was formerly a parking area.

According to Cory Thomas, one of Target's store managers, this year's event will be in the Target parking lot, to the left of the store's entrance.

"If you're looking at our building, it will be in the parking lot to the left," said Thomas.

The event also features food and drink, as well as

live entertainment. Last year featured inflatables for the kids and a live performance from the Pelham dance team. According to Thomas, the event will be staffed by volunteers from Target.

Target is located at 250 S. Colonial Drive. For more information, visit the National Association of Town Watch online at www.natw.org. Guests can also find information about National Night Out on Facebook by searching "National Night Out" at Facebook.com.




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ALABASTER CELEBRATES AMERICA

On Saturday, June 28, Alabaster residents flocked to Veterans Park in Alabaster for "Celebrate America," an evening of family-friendly fun in honor of Independence Day.

The event, which has become a popular way to celebrate the Fourth of July, is produced by Kingwood Church in partnership with the City of Alabaster.

This year's event featured lots of activities for the family, including a Kids Zone for the children, plenty of great food from a variety of local vendors and a massive fireworks show to top off the evening.

According to Kingwood Education Pastor Benny Cunningham, the fireworks show is produced each year by Pyro Productions, which is the same company that does Thunder on the

Mountain in Birmingham. The Celebrate America show is unique, however, in terms of how close the viewers are to the show.

"Because of the proximity of the launching of the fireworks, it an amazing experience," said Cunningham.

Celebrate America has grown considerably over the last few years, becoming one of the most popular Independence Day events in Shelby County. According to Cunningham, that success is due in large part to the close cooperation with the City of Alabaster.

"The event is made possible because of a partnership with the City of Alabaster and Kingwood Church. The church works closely with the City, especially Parks and Rec., Alabaster Fire Department and Alabaster Police Department to make the

event a success," said Cunningham.

Cunningham also credited the many volunteers who work to support the event each year. An estimated 250 volunteers from the church contribute to the event, helping with everything from parking to setting up and taking down the music stage.

"The church provides hundreds of volunteers to serve as manpower to make the big day possible," said Cunningham.

One of the big draws of the event is the variety of food vendors that participate, and this year was no different. A few of the vendors included Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, Kona Ice, Publix Deli, Mi Pueblo Supermarket, Little Italy's Pizza, Zou's Kitchen, Champy's, Steak 'n Shake and Chubb's Grub Station.

The event also featured



live music and a movie on the big screen.

In just its fourth year, the event has become one of the largest outdoor festivals in Shelby County. Last year, an estimated 10,000 people attended the event.

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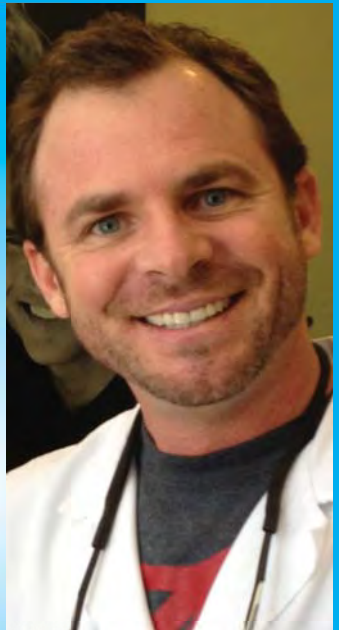
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GIRL'S SOFTBALL

Fall registration will be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 28 and ending at 12 am on August 9. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 28 thru August 8. Girl's Softball is available for ages 5 thru 12. Cost will be \$85 (plus 10% for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks! For more information, please contact Nik McCrimon at 664-6840 or nmccrimon@cityofalabaster.com.

YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL

Youth Flag Football Practices will begin July 28th at Buck Creek Park. Games will begin after Labor Day.



YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL

Youth Tackle Football (Full Contact) Practice will begin at Buck Creek Park July 28th. Games will begin September 2.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

FREE movies at Veterans Park located at 7305 Hwy. 119 in Alabaster. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends enjoying the outdoors while watching an entertaining movie. The movies will begin showing around dusk (usually 8:00 pm). Bring a blanket or some chairs, snacks and drinks (non-alcoholic), and some bug repellent. Movie schedule: • August 11: Disney's "Monsters University" (104 minutes) rated G
• August 8: "Despicable Me 2" (98 minutes) - rated PG
• August 15: "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2" (95 minutes) - rated PG

FALL SOCCER

We are looking forward to another great Fall of youth soccer! Teams will begin practicing on August 14th. Games will begin at Municipal Park September 13th. See you at the Fields!

ADULT SOFTBALL

Registration will be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 21 and ending at 12 am on August 9. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 21 thru August 8. Two leagues will be offered: Men's and Coed. Registration is for teams (not individuals). For more information, please contact Morgan Lawley at 664-6840 or mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com.

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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THE ARC OF SHELBY COUNTY WINS AWARDS

The Arc of Shelby County and several of its partners were recently honored at the 2014 Alabama APSE & ACDD Conference in Mobile. The annual conference, which is held by the Association for Persons Supporting Employment First, took place June 18-20 at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel.

The awards were presented at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, June 19, where The Arc of Shelby County was presented with the Jim Green Agency of the Year Award.

"We were thrilled," said Karen Stokes, the executive director of The Arc of Shelby County. "It was quite an honor. The award is named for an individual who was from The Arc of Tuscaloosa

County and actually began one of the early employment programs in the state of Alabama. So to know who Jim Green was and what he did for supported employment services in Alabama, it was incredible to us to win that award."

Several of the group's local partners were also honored for their contributions to supported employment, including the Candlewood Suites (Small Business of the Year Award), Thomas Findlay of Thomas Andrew Art (Best Practices Award) and Rosia Dowdell (Family/Support of the Year).

The Arc of Shelby County is a nonprofit organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The awards

they received at the APSE conference specifically relate to their involvement with helping adults with developmental disabilities find employment.

"We're a nonprofit organization that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities. There are a whole range of disabilities that fall into that category. We have lifespan services. We provide early intervention for children, birth to age three, and employment services for adults," said Stokes.

According to the Alabama APSE website (www.al-apse.org), the Alabama Chapter of APSE is part of a national organization that has over 5,000 members in 31 states. Its mission is to promote employment opportunities

for individuals with disabilities through education and other forms of support.

In addition to the awards presentation, the 2014 conference featured a variety of continuing education opportunities for professionals in the disability arena, e.g., counselors, social workers, etc.

"It's an excellent conference," said Stokes. "We employ six employment specialists who work in that particular program, so it's a really good professional opportunity for them to be there for that conference."

For more information, visit The Arc of Shelby County online at www.thearcofshelby.org.



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COMEDY JULY 25 - AUG. 2

South City Theatre presents the World Premiere of ZAP PRONTO, an original sci-fi comedy by Daniel Strickland of Alabaster.

Can Zap Pronto and Gale save the Earth from the maniacal machinations of the evil Emperor from the planet Pergo? Will the Emperor avoid the family tradition of regicide? Can a recent graduate with a philosophy degree find a decent job? Tune in and find out. Zap Pronto is a comic take on retro science fiction classics like Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers, with bits from classic comedy, lots of sci fi pop culture references, and fantastic gizmos.

This is Daniel's first full-length play. An Alabaster resident, Dan has been involved with South City Theatre for almost 10 years, as an actor, set designer, director and props builder extraordinaire.

Performances will be July 25, 26, 31 and Aug 1-2 at 8 pm, with a 2 pm matinee on Sunday, July 27.

Tickets are \$15 General

ZAP PRONTO
 SOUTH CITY THEATRE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE!
 WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DANIEL M. STRICKLAND
 JULY 25, 26, 31 AND AUGUST 1, 2 AT 8:00PM
 MATINEE JUL 27 AT 2:00PM
 3612 HWY 26 COLUMBIANA, AL
 205-621-2128
 SOUTH CITY THEATRE.COM

Admission or \$12 for students and seniors. Reservations are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make reservations, go to www.southcitytheatre.com or call the box office at (205) 621-2128.

The new South City Theatre is located on County Road 26 approximately 3.5 miles past the Camp Branch Civic center. To get there, take Highway 31 south and simply turn left at County Road 26. The theatre will be on the right.

www.southcitytheatre.com
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BIRDWATCHERS FLOCK TO PARK

Recently the Birmingham Audubon Society hosted an introductory birding class at Alabaster's Limestone Park. The beginner bird walk, which drew approximately 60 people, gave novice birdwatchers a chance to see a variety of different birds in a wholly unique spot.

"It went real well," said Kenneth Wills, a member of the Birmingham Audubon's conservation committee. "We hold these periodically throughout the year at different places around Birmingham. I think the last three springs we've done one at Limestone Park during the late winter/early spring, which is a good time to catch migrant birds coming through."

According to Wills, the

group was able to see a variety of birds, including great egrets, great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, coots, Canadian geese, blue-winged teal, sandpipers and meadowlarks. He said the area is special because it offers a unique combination of different habitats in one location.

"It's one of the best birding spots around in Birmingham because you have grasslands and wetlands. That's something you don't have in most places," said Wills. "It's just a great place to take people, and there are easy birds to show people because they're bigger birds like the great egrets and the herons."

The crowd of new birders included adults and children alike.

"Anybody could show

up," said Wills. "If folks didn't have binoculars we had extra sets. We set up spotting scopes, so the kids could look through them."

According to Wills, the group visited several different spots at the park in order to take advantage of the diversity.

"We walked around different parts of the park. We flushed some snipe out of the wetland," he said. "We didn't just stay on the platform."

Limestone Park, which is located off Highway 31 just past Saginaw Pipe, features a birding platform that overlooks a large wetland. Members of the Audubon Society have also installed birdhouses at various points around the park to attract birds.

Those in attendance also got a special treat

when a rehabilitated bird was released back into the wild. The bird had been treated for an injury at the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park.

"One of our volunteers named Greg Harber, he brought a male bobwhite quail that had gotten injured," said Wills. "He released that on the site, and the kids all got to watch it."

Wills said the group will be holding a work day in the future for anyone that wants to pitch in. He said they will probably meet at the site at 8 a.m. and work from 9 to 11.

For more information, visit Birmingham Audubon online at Birminghamaudubon.org.



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AUGUST SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Imax Movie- Jerusalem- Thursday, August 14- join us for breakfast at Cracker Barrel and a viewing of the IMAX movie Jerusalem. JERUSALEM takes audiences on a visually stunning tour of one of the world's oldest and most beloved cities. Destroyed and rebuilt countless times over 5,000 years, Jerusalem's enduring appeal remains a mystery. What made it so important to so many different cultures? How did it become the center of the world for three major religions? Why does it still matter? Cost is \$8 for IMAX movie and to hold your spot. Bring \$10-\$12 for breakfast. Space is limited.

Grandparents Day "Birds, Butterflies and Bees"- Tuesday, August 5 from 10am-Noon. We are inviting our seniors and their grandchildren or great grandchildren (ages 3-12) to join us as we learn all about birds, butterflies and bees. We will make feeders, homes and lots more for our friends in nature. We will also enjoy pizza for lunch. Space is limited. Cost is \$8 for one senior and one child. Space is limited.

Refrigerator Beauty Class-Friday, August 29 from 9:30-11am. Join us to learn how to use the "stuff" you have in your refrigerator and pantry to make your own natural beauty products. You will go home with three products you made yourself and lots of recipes. Cost is \$5/person. All supplies included and space is limited.

Grocery Store Round Up on September 5 from 10-Noon -Herbalist Cameron Strouss will be teaching us her tips and tricks for eating healthy while cooking for 1-2, on a budget. We will have a lecture at the Senior Center and then we will take a trip to Publix for a hands on grocery shopping adventure, in which we will be buying Cameron's groceries for the week! Join us for a fun, healthy, and educa-

tional class. Following shopping we will eat lunch out in the community. Cost to reserve your spot is \$3/person and bring money for lunch out in the community. Space is limited and sign ups begin August 1st. **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program-Wednesday at 10am. Space is limited. \$2/class.**

Head to Toe Fitness Class-Mondays from 1-2pm. Build muscular strength, increase your cardiovascular endurance and improve your balance, flexibility and range of motion as you have fun and move to the music! Do all this seated or standing.....it's your choice! This class will incorporate the use of hand weights, resistance tubing, balls, etc. into an enjoyable exercise class that will help you manage your activities of everyday living with ease. So join us as we strengthen our body, mind and spirit and support each other in the pursuit to make everyday a healthier day! \$2/class.

NEW Strengthen, Stretch and Restore (30 min 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 2:15-2:45pm. Cost is \$1/class.

Zumba Gold I- Relatively high intensity, low-impact fitness class featuring Latin and World rhythms and the same party favor as regular Zumba. A great cardio workout that is fun! Wednesday 1-2pm. Cost is \$2/class.

NEW Zumba Gold II - 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. Wednesday 2:15pm-3pm. Cost is \$2/class.

Zumba Gold Toning- Join us for a dynamic class using lightweight 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. Fridays from 1-2pm. Cost \$2/class.

You won't want to miss all the activities at the senior center:

Head to Toe Fitness- Mondays 1-2pm

Wii Bowling -Tuesdays Noon

Arthritis Foundation Exercise - Weds 10am

Zumba Gold I- Wednesdays 1pm

Zumba Gold II (beginners) Wednesday 2:15-3pm

Beginner/Inter Line dancing - Thursdays 9:30am

Beginner Line Dancing - Thursday 10:30am

Tempo exercise - Fridays 10am

Zumba Gold Toning- Fridays 1-2pm


Bridge- Thursday 12-3pm

Book- Wednesdays 9:00am

Timeless Treasures

(singing) - Monday 10am


If you would like more information concerning senior programs, please contact Alabaster Senior Center at 663-1307 or awalters@city-ofalabaster.com



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A NATURE TREK AT THE BEACH BY DAVID FRINGS



If the Alabama beaches are on your vacation list this summer, you may want to include a nature trek on your itinerary. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach were not always covered with high-rise condos, restaurants, and souvenir shops. If you would like to experience the Alabama



Sea Oats

beaches of years past, then the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge should be number one on your list. The 7,000 acre refuge, named as one of the 10 natural wonders of Alabama, is located on the road to Fort Morgan. The refuge provides habitat that supports migrating birds, the endangered Alabama beach mouse, and nesting sea turtles. Habitats found on the refuge include beaches, sand dunes, scrub forest,

fresh and saltwater marshes, freshwater swamps, and upland forest. The name "Bon Secour" comes from the French and translates to "Safe Harbor." Bon Secour is certainly a safe harbor for wildlife habitats that are now missing in most areas of the Alabama Gulf coast. The protected habitat supports over 370 species of birds during the spring and fall migrations at the refuge.

I was impressed with the beach and dune habitats at the refuge. They remind me of the Gulf Shores that I visited as a young boy in the late 50's and early 60's. The snow-white beaches transform to the rolling dune habitat with wind-swept juniper, scrub oaks, and sea oats. Sea oats are an important plant for beach conservation since their deep roots hold the sand in place and reduce erosion by wind and water. This section of beach has very little development which makes for an enjoyable visit whether you want to soak up the rays or look for rays in the crystal clear surf. If you grow tired of the beach, there are shaded hiking trails that twist their way through the scrub forest and other habitats. If you head for the trails, don't forget to pack insect repellent for those biting mosquitoes and deer flies. For more information on Bon Secour, visit www.fws.gov/bonsecour/



Pitcher Plants at Weeks Bay Refuge on Mobile Bay

Other interesting nature opportunities include Weeks Bay Reserve which is located west of Foley on Mobile Bay. Weeks Bay has an interpretive center, walking trails, and a raised walkway overlooking a pitcher bog. The bog supports several species of carnivorous plants, including pitcher plants and sundews. They are also home to delicate species of native orchids. Need I say that wildlife and wildflower photo-ops

abound! The preserve is a hot spot for a high diversity of native wildlife, especially birding and butterfly watching. For more information on Week's Bay visit nerrs.noaa.gov/Reserve.aspx?ResID=WKB.

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, Water Board 7pm Chamber
Public Safety Committee 6pm Conference
- Aug. 6, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- Aug. 11, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Board of Education 5:30 pm Chamber
- Aug. 12, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00 pm Conference
- Aug. 13, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- Aug. 14, Finance Committee 5:30 pm Conference
- Aug. 19, Driving School, 7pm
- Aug. 21, Public Works Committee 5 pm Chamber
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm Conf.
- Aug. 25, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Conference
- Aug. 26, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Conference
- Aug. 27, 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.

AUGUST						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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handlon@cityofalabaster.com
664-6800

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

Bob Hicks, Ward 2
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663-1801

Stacy Rakestraw, Ward 3
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Russell Bedsole, Ward 5
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Scott Brakefield, Ward 6
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685-0302

Tommy Ryals, Ward 7
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George Henry,
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