

Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

City Sketches

Winter 2016



Looking
Ahead to 2016

Mayor Tim Kant
Fairhope City Council

Get Fit Fairhope

Arbor Day

Arts & Crafts

Mardi Gras

As Fairhope Rings in 2016, Mayor Kant Reflects on Where We've Been, and Where We're Headed

Celebrating the New Year and his 16th year leading the City of Fairhope, Mayor Kant said he is proud of what the city has accomplished in recent history, and is looking forward to a bright future ahead.

“As a community, we’ve made a lot of positive progress over the past few years and are laying the foundation for the next chapter. We’re working hard to address growth-related issues, including downtown parking and merchant concerns, but this is all part of success. It takes time and energy to move forward in a positive direction, and we are positioned to do just that.”

Specifically, much attention has been paid to road and traffic improvements, including the installation of green medians along Fairhope Avenue. As Kant explained, “This has not only made our streets more beautiful, but the resurfacing has addressed runoff issues, and the crosswalks now allow for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the street in a safe manner.”

Additionally, the city has added 100 acres of land to the parks system, made upgrades to the wastewater treatment plants, implemented low-impact development regulations for storm water management, and Quail Creek, Fairhope’s municipal golf course, has received a major capital upgrade with the installation of a new irrigation system – the largest upgrade since the facility first opened.

“We have so many talented people working for the city, and we’ve been intentional about utilizing that talent internally,” Kant said. “For instance, in Human Resources, the Personnel Board and the City Council looked at compensation studies and upgraded those without having to hire a consultant, and the IT Department even built and installed its own phone system for city buildings, so we didn’t have to outsource that work.”

In fact, all of the city departments have set a precedent of going above and beyond their “standard” day-to-day duties to maintain and improve the quality of life we all appreciate in Fairhope, Kant said. “The Electric Department is helping install the lighting at the new soccer complex, the Gas Department built the beautiful lanterns we use during the holidays, and the Water Department went to great lengths to make sure the new splash pad was up and running at the end of the summer. These folks are doing far more than just working on city utilities.”

From a community standpoint, he said the Police Department has been working with residents on a series of different events, learning about the stresses of society and focusing on educational initiatives including suicide prevention. “I think it’s great that our Police Department is taking the time to get out there in the community and get involved, and to really get to know our citizens.”

Great strides are being made in the Recreation Department, including the opening of the soccer complex next spring, and the reopening of the splash pad and community park have been a huge attraction for both residents and visitors. “While they are beautiful, inviting facilities,” Kant pointed out, “the most wonderful aspect is that they are now accessible to every child.”

The Building Department has been diligent enforcing current building codes, and he stressed the long-term benefits of adhering to the strict parameters. “I know a lot of people don’t like the codes, but in the long run, we’re trying to reduce insurance rates, which will be a huge cost savings for everyone.”

Moving forward, “Growth is a major issue Fairhope is facing right now, and we want to handle that growth strategically and proactively, so as not to lose the charm of the city that we all love. The members of the Planning Department have dedicated their time and energy looking at the Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, we’re going to focus on improving our recycling program to make it more efficient, which will encourage more of our residents to participate and take advantage of it.”

As for recent honors, Fairhope’s City Clerk was selected as Clerk of the Year and appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley to the Local Government Records Commission. And a highlight this fall, Fairhope was recognized nationally at the America in Bloom Awards program, due in no small part to the efforts of Public Works as environmentally conscious stewards of the community. “Anytime we receive recognition on a national level, that’s really something to be proud of,” Kant said. “It’s validation that we’re headed in the right direction, which is also why we’re experiencing so much growth. People love Fairhope, and they want to come here to stay.”

Much to Celebrate in 2016:

Fairhope City Council Members Discuss Successes thus Far, and the Future Ahead...

Much to Celebrate in 2016: Fairhope City Council Members Discuss Successes thus Far, and the Future Ahead.

It's been three years since Fairhope's current council members were elected, and while they may not agree on every issue the city faces, the vote was unanimous that Fairhope is making great strides in a positive direction.

Diana Brewer said the council has a long list of accomplishments to recognize, specifically noting the support the city has made to Fairhope public schools (including a \$350,000 annual contribution for the past three years), as well as growth within the recreation program and improvements to Knoll Park.

"The council's work with the Education Advisory Committee, along with significant community support, has given us a better understanding of where Fairhope schools stand, and a better understanding of the issues facing the Baldwin County school system. This work in the area of our public schools will help us move forward as a community," she said. "We are happy that the soccer complex will open next spring, which is just one example of how the recreation program has truly grown in leaps and bounds to accommodate our recreational sports. As for the improvements to Knoll Park, I'm pleased with the way we compromised to keep the longleaf pine natural habitat and landscape the perimeter. The fact that we kept it intact helped us earn recognition at the America in Bloom Awards."

Brewer also cited the purchase of what was previously known as the "triangle property" as being among the greatest accomplishments of the city.

"Generations long after us will enjoy this park land," Brewer said. "Not many cities get that kind of opportunity today."

Rich Mueller said above all, he is proud of the civility and respect among the council members over the past three years.

Additionally, "We have paid down nearly \$10 million in debt, which is huge in any government, and we are saving the city so much in interest. I think we have made positive strides in our council meetings by inviting the public to stand up and speak at the end of each meeting, as well as recording each meeting to give our citizens the opportunity to watch the sessions live."

Mueller also cited the recently awarded ACE (Alabama Cities of Excellence) honor to Fairhope as a result of planning initiatives. "We are focused on making decisions based on what we think the citizens, the voters, want us to do. We're willing to set aside our own personal beliefs to make decisions based on what the citizens would like."

Kevin Boone echoed Mueller's statement, saying one of the greatest accomplishments of the council has been to maintain stability, honor and pride. "We all have the same ideas about getting along, and we have the ship blowing in the right direction to do better for the city."

Boone cited the debt reduction, as well as having a plan to be debt-free by 2017. He also highlighted the renovation of the waste water plant without going into debt, helping to keep our bay as clean as possible.

Additionally, the city's credit rating has greatly improved.

"I also have to say that I love that clock!" he said of the floral clock on Hwy. 104 and North Section Street. "It took very little funding to produce, and it adds so much beauty to the entrance of our city."

Jack Burrell also noted the city's debt reduction, specifically saying the council has eliminated 25% of the city's total debt. "We've also made improvements to our waterfront facilities: the marina at Fly Creek, the Magnolia Beach area, and we're in the process of updating North Beach Park."

Burrell said that when he ran for council, one thing he was striving for was to maintain the quality of life in Fairhope, which he believes has been achieved in four specific ways: "The Knoll Park underfoot a restoration and beautification project that earned recognition on a national level at the America in Bloom competition, which is something the whole city can be proud of. Additionally, the installation of the Fairhope Floral Clock is a beautiful addition that both our residents and visitors appreciate and enjoy, our acquisition of 108 acres of park land is incredibly significant, and the renewed focus on our bayfront resources is something I'm very proud of. These are all examples that speak to what is truly Fairhope." Burrell also noted the fact that the members of the council seem to work well together and debate issues respectfully which has helped them accomplish so much.

Mike Ford, who has served on the council since 1982, said that overall, the city government has been running smoothly and efficiently since his fellow council members took office.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Mayor Kant and all of the current council members," he said. "While we all have our differences of opinion, we get along and discuss things in a civil manner. There's a respect there, and I think it has had a positive effect on the initiatives we've pursued like expanding the recycling program and improving our recreational facilities."

While Ford also noted the debt reduction and the anticipation of the soccer field completion next spring, he said he thinks the greatest accomplishment of this council has been the overall positive atmosphere.

"I feel like the entire city government just has a very high level of pride right now. There's a desire to improve upon what's been done before, while at the same time maintain the integrity of what's historically Fairhope."

GetFitFairhope

City Launches Get Fit Fairhope to Encourage Residents to Get Up, and Get Active

It's inevitable that with every New Year celebrated, exercise, eating healthy and getting into shape are consistently at the top of one's proverbial list of resolutions. It's also inevitable that as time goes by, even the most well-intentioned resolutions never seem to stick. This year, the City of Fairhope is hoping to help residents stay focused, and stay active, by implementing a community initiative: Get Fit Fairhope.

"It's been a vision of Mayor Kant's to have a program that could involve the whole community," said Director of Community Affairs and Recreation Sherry Sullivan. "This idea has been in the works for a few years, but there are so many avenues to consider, and we really wanted to design something tailor-made for Fairhope. We're excited that we've found a way to package it to attract everyone, no matter your current activity level or fitness goals."

So just how will Get Fit Fairhope work? With no age or skill parameters, progress will be tracked in terms of pounds and miles. Participants will hold themselves accountable by logging weight lost and activity performed on the city's website.

"There is no pressure," Sullivan stressed. "You don't have to put in your starting weight or record your weight at all. The whole mission is to get our community moving, and we think it will be fun to track the collective data of everyone participating; to be able to say 'Fairhope walked 3,000 miles this month,' or 'Fairhope has lost a total of 200 pounds this week.' We want it to be motivating, we want it to be fun, and we want participants to really be making long-term lifestyle changes."

In addition to providing a tracking system, the program is intended to serve as a central resource for information on opportunities for activity around town. "Our community has so many offerings for residents to get out and exercise, but currently there is not one comprehensive place to find it all," Sullivan said. "We'll post information for things like charity

runs and workshops for fitness education on our website and through social media platforms, and the recreation center will really serve as the physical hub for it all."

"We have so many resources that I think many residents aren't even aware of," said Recreation Center Coordinator Nate Lami. "There's the indoor track that is free and open to the public, there's the walking track with fitness stations at Stimpson Field; to have a program that helps get that information out to the community, I think, will be very helpful in encouraging people to take advantage of these opportunities for getting in shape."

"The mental benefits of families and neighbors getting out together and exercising are huge," said Katie Bolton, who owns Fairhope's Pro Cycle and Tri with her husband, Joseph. "In our experience, we've found that educating people and giving them a goal are two keys to developing long-standing habits. When people are happy and motivated, whether they're cycling or doing any other type of physical activity, they're going to keep doing it. I think the Get Fit Fairhope initiative is designed to really support that."

"This is not a contest, we're not trying to offer incentives, it's not about doing something for a month and then returning to an inactive lifestyle," Sullivan said. "The longevity of Get Fit Fairhope will depend on the success of the program in 2016, and with community partners and the city helping us collect and post information, we really think this will help bring the community together in a positive and healthy way."

The Get Fit Fairhope website will go live on January 11. Look for the link on the homepage of the City's website at www.cofairhope.com





20TH ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE

Children of the World will host its 20th Annual Chinese New Year Parade in Fairhope on **Saturday, February 6**. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the Fairhope United Methodist Church and parade through downtown Fairhope. Join us as we celebrate this occasion with our children from around the world. *For questions, call 251-990-3550.*

FAIRHOPE TO HOST SOUTH SQUAD



The City of Fairhope will host Senior Bowl Practice for the South Squad at W.C. Majors Stadium. The South Squad will practice on **Tuesday, January 26** at 2:30 p.m. An autograph tent will be available after practice.

For more information call 251-929-1466.

2016 LECTURE SERIES ON FAIRHOPE HISTORY

January 5

Stewart the Picture Man:
Fairhope's History Preserved in Photographs
Speaker: Donnie Barrett, Fairhope Museum of History

February 2

Fairhope: A Hundred Years Ago
Speaker: Mary Lois Timbes Adshead, Author

March 1

Early Fairhope Family: Stories & Photographs
Speaker: Pinky Bass

April 5

The History of Georgist
Economic Systems Around the World
Speaker: Dean Mosher, Artist, Historian, Author

Lectures are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Giddens Auditorium at the Fairhope Public Library. *For questions, call 251-928-8162.*



City of Fairhope Winter Flower Program

Beds

Poppies Champagne
Bubbles Pink and White
Stock Hot Cakes White

Fillers

Pansy Matrix Mix Red
Dianthus Telstar Crimson Splash
Dianthus Telstar White Splash

Borders

Pansy, Matrix Pure White
Dusty Miller Cirrus

Green Boxes

Pansy Matrix Mix Red
Pansy Matrix Pure White
Dianthus Telstar Crimson Splash
Dianthus Telstar White Splash

White Boxes

Geranium Cascade Red

Hanging Baskets

Coolwave Pansy Lemon Surprise

Clock

Pansy Matrix Pure Yellow

Outlying Beds

Pansy Delta Wine and Cheese

Around Trees Downtown

Pansy, Matrix Pure White
Dianthus Telstar Crimson Splash

RECREATION



JAMES P. NIX CENTER

Nix Center Famous Cabaret Dances

Dances are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. They begin at 7 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for Nix Center members and \$9 for all others. Dances are open to anyone over the age of 21. For additional questions or information, call 251-928-2835 or stop by the Nix Center at 1 Bayou Drive in Fairhope.

January 14	JR. Owen
January 28	Sonny Tanner
February 1	Exit 105
February 25	Charlie Freeman
March 10	JR Owen
March 24	Sonny Tanner

Volunteer Fair: Monday, February 15, 1 to 3 p.m.

The Nix Center will host a Volunteer Fair on **Monday, February 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.** With the New Year upon us, now is the perfect time to get involved and give back to your community. Local groups are looking for all types of volunteers with many different talents to offer. Local organizations who are in need of volunteers will have booths setup with information about their group and what kind of volunteer they are looking for. You can sign up to volunteer at the fair or take home information to make sure you find the right fit. The Volunteer Fair is open to the public and admission is free of charge.



Spring Fashion Show

Usher in the Spring Season with the Nix Center's Annual Spring Fashion Show on **Wednesday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m.** Discover this season's latest fashions and trends as local clothing boutiques showcase a sampling of their Spring lines. Door prizes from the participating stores will be awarded with a small reception immediately following the show.

AARP Tax Assistance

Mark your calendar! Free tax assistance with AARP will start **Monday, February 1** and run through **Friday, April 15, 2016**. Tax assistance will be held at the Nix Center on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from **8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Assistance is available on a first come, first served basis and open to the public, with no age requirement. Please bring all important documents.

Fairhope

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City Sketches

Winter 2016

City Sketches is a quarterly community publication of the City of Fairhope

Timothy M. Kant, Mayor

Sherry Sullivan, Editor

D. Fran Morley & Taylor P. Strunk, Contributing writers

J Thomas Advertising Design, Design & Production

To submit information for City Sketches, please email sherry.sullivan@cofairhope.com or call 251-990-0218. Deadline for next issue will be February 12 for the April, May, June edition.

For general questions about the City, please call 251-929-1466 or email info@cofairhope.com. To reach the Mayor or a city council member, you may email ourvoice@cofairhope.com or call 251-990-0100.

SCALEBACK ALABAMA

Scale Back Alabama is a statewide weight-loss contest designed to encourage Alabamians to get healthy and to have fun while doing it. Scale Back Alabama is free, lasts 10 weeks and is open to teams of four from families, municipalities, businesses, clubs, or neighborhood groups.

Participants must weigh in between January 25 and January 31 to be eligible. The competition ends the week of April 11th with final weigh-ins. Winning teams are eligible to win cash prizes.

“Scale Back Alabama is a great way to kick-start your weight loss,” said Nate Lami, City of Fairhope Recreation Center Coordinator. We hope by the City’s Recreation Center participating in this program it will encourage residents to participate and do what they can to improve their health by losing weight and exercising.” “said Lami.

“We already have some good programs and facilities in place in Fairhope to make this easy for folks: the city Rec Center, many privately owned gyms and wellness centers and good walking and biking tracks and trails,” said Mayor Tim Kant. “I have encouraged our employees to participate in Scaleback Alabama and hope our community will too.”

The contest, sponsored by the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health, has helped Alabamians lose more than 900,000 pounds.

The Recreation Center is located on Greeno Road and open Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. To register or learn more, visit www.scalebackalabama.com or call Nate Lami at the Fairhope Recreation Center at 251-928-7270 or stop by.

FAIRHOPE SOCCER LEAGUE

FSL online registration open **January 3** and closes on **February 13**. Opening Day will be held on **March 5**.

All information related to Fairhope Soccer League or Fairhope Academy can be found at www.fairhopesoccerclub.com



FAIRHOPE YOUTH BASEBALL

Fairhope Youth Baseball will hold registration on Sundays, **January 10 and 17**. Evaluations will be held on **January 24** and 31. Registration and evaluations will be held from 1 pm. to 4 p.m. at Volanta Park. Opening Day will be held **Saturday, March 12**. For more information, visit www.fairhopeyouthbaseball.com.



FAIRHOPE GIRLS SOFTBALL

Fairhope Girls Softball will hold registration on **Saturdays, January 19** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and **January 23** from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration will be held at Founder’s Park. Evaluations will be held on **January 26** and **January 27** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Players will need to attend at least one evaluation. A clean-up day and cookout will be held on **February 27** from 8 a.m. to noon. Opening Day will be held on **Saturday, March 12**. For more information on **Fairhope Girls Softball**, email fairhopegirlssoftball@yahoo.com.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Since 1968, Special Olympics has been spreading the message: people with intellectual disabilities can – and will – succeed when given the opportunity. And it all happens through the simple power of sport.

Special Olympics is scheduled in Fairhope on **April 22nd** with a rain date of **April 29th**. The event is held at the WC Majors Field at Volanta Park and is open to the public. It begins that morning with a torch run from Fairhope High School.



Quail Creek Golf Course is a 18-Hole Championship golf course, open to the public seven days each week. Quail Creek is located on Highway 181 in Fairhope. The course offers a full service golf shop; full service snack bar/grill and a large practice area, with practice greens. For tee time, call 251-990-0240.



New Indoor Scoreboard at Quail Creek

The new indoor scoreboard at the Quail Creek Clubhouse was a donated by Mr. Rusty Powell, President and CEO of Table Topics in Elberta. The unique cover picture and art design were provided by Mr. Tom Stults also with Table Topics. The Quail Creek Men's Golf Association contributed by purchasing the magnetic/dry erase board which is used for all tournament scoring.

Developed by Table Topics, the cover picture is imprinted on real wood veneer and the technique allows for a translucent image of the Quail Creek Clubhouse to be cast on the cover of the board. The effect is a serene setting of the course. Designed with a unique folding door system, the board has become the center of attention at the clubhouse and is a wonderful piece of artwork receiving many compliments!

Weekly Schedule of Activities

Monday	Open Play
Tuesday	James P. Nix Center Golfers & Ladies Golf Association, 8 a.m. Open Play after 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	Senior Men's League, 8 a.m. Open Play 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Bull Pen, 3 p.m., call by 2 p.m. to reserve your spot
Thursday	Open Play
Friday	Open Play
Saturday	Men's Golf Association Saturday morning "Bull Pen", 8 a.m. Open Play at Noon
Sunday	Open Play

Quail Creek Civic Association

On Tuesday, January 12, the Quail Creek Civic Association will hold their annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Quail Creek Clubhouse.

Scheduled Tournaments and Outings

January

14 Mobile Seniors, 8:30 a.m.

February

9 Mardi Gras Day,
Course is open, call for tee times.

20 MGA 2-man Shamble, 8 a.m.

21 LGA Couples event, Noon shotgun

March

17 Mayor's Golf Tournament,
8 a.m. & 1 p.m., Double Shotgun

19 MGA 4-man 2-Best Ball event, 8 a.m.

Golf lessons & club fittings by appointment. Contact PGA Golf Professional and Director of Golf Bobby Hall or Scott Spielmann at 251-990-0240.

ARTS

EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

First Friday Art Walks

Refreshments served. Live Entertainment. Free admission.

Donations welcomed.

January 8, 6-8 p.m. (2nd Friday, due to the New Year's holiday)

January Exhibits: "Looking Ahead to 2016", G.S. Khalsa, Iveta Simacek

February 5, 6-8 p.m.

February Exhibits: Judi Betts, Susan Alsup, Melissa Sellers, Kay Vinson and G.S. Khalsa

March 4, 6-8 p.m.

March Exhibits: Jean Lawrence, Marjorie Puryear, and a Gulf Art Space preview

Classes

Winter Classes for both Adults and Children begin the week of **January 11th** and include everything from pottery to painting! Classes are 8 weeks, unless otherwise noted online. Registration ends January 8th.

Workshops

February 16-18 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bigger, Faster, Fresher, Looser! Abstract painting with David Kessler

February 22-26 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Creative Design & Innovative Color Patterns! Watercolor painting with Judi Betts

Register online at www.esartcenter.com, call 251-928-2228, ext. 107 or enroll in person; Tuesday - Friday 8:30 - 12:30 p.m. in the Registrar's office. ESAC Family Members and above receive class discounts.



44th Annual Outdoor Art Show

March 18-19, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., March 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The OUTDOOR ART SHOW is located on the grounds of the Eastern Shore Art Center and the surrounding downtown area of Fairhope, Alabama. It is within walking distance of Mobile Bay and many specialty shops and restaurants. Now in its 44th year, the Outdoor Art Show features international and regional fine artists and craftspeople, attracting more than 300,000 visitors each spring.

UPCOMING

Puttin' On The Gritz!
Celebrating All Things Southern!

April 2, 7 - 10 p.m.,
Fairhope Civic Center

The 2nd Annual

Fundraiser to benefit

the Eastern Shore Art Center. Southern style cuisine, live music, Auction with items valued at over \$20,000 and much, much more!!

Tickets: \$75. Purchase online at www.esartcenter.com or pick up at the Eastern Shore Art Center. Come in your favorite Southern attire-whether it's blue jeans to seersucker! Like us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/PuttinOnTheGritz>

For information on ESAC programs, call 251-928-2888.



CENTER STAGE SHOW CHOIR

Leapin' Lizards! Center Stage Performance had AMAZING shows last season! Our students brought iconic characters to the stage in *Annie*, *Kids* and *Seussical, Jr.* We entertained sell out audiences for our schools shows and added an additional performance due to overwhelming requests!

Don't miss out on being a part of our fabulous productions this semester! Auditions for our spring shows of *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Kids* (grades k4-3rd) and *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* (grades 4th-12th), and our Show Choirs (grades 3rd-12th) will be held on **January 12th and 14th** at the FUMC Life Center in Fairhope.



Center Stage Performance is a music education organization that provides students of all ages with skilled instruction in performance education and the opportunity to participate in professional scale productions. Our students are from campuses spanning the entire Eastern Shore. We have a passion for performance!

Registration for spring classes will open in December. For more information on our auditions and program, please visit www.CenterStagePerformance.com or contact Jill Stanley at jill@centerstageperformance.com.

THEATRE 98

Theatre 98 will present "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon and directed by Brenda Hedstrom, Heather Delker, and Robin Ann Page. Each of the three self-contained acts is set in the same suite of the Plaza Hotel in New York, but on different days with different guests-who have very different dilemmas. There will be three directors, one for each act making their Theatre 98 directorial debuts.

Performances are **February 19-21, 26-28**, and **March 4-6**. All evening show times are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 dollars for students. Adult season tickets are \$60. For more information visit www.theatre98.org or call the box office at 251-928-4366. Theatre 98 is located on the corner of Morphy Avenue and Church Street in Fairhope.

CITY NEWS

Fairhope Arbor Day

Want to plant a *Pinus palustris* in your yard? At Fairhope's Arbor Day celebration, **Saturday, February 27**, there will be plenty of those trees (otherwise known as longleaf pine) and others in the annual tree seedling giveaway. The day's activities start at 10:00am and take place outdoors on the Faulkner Campus in downtown, weather permitting. City representatives will recognize the winners of the fifth grade Arbor Day Poster Contest and those individuals and local businesses being honored for their environmental stewardship and landscape beautification efforts. New additions to Fairhope's Treasured Trees program will also be honored.

More than 1,000 trees seedlings will be given away beginning at approximately 10:30 and continuing until supplies run out. "We hope to have the Wisteria Garden Club, Boy Scout Troop #47, and local master gardeners on hand to help with the tree seedling giveaway," said Jennifer Fidler, Public Works Director for the City of Fairhope.

Trees that are part of the giveaway this year include longleaf pine, shumard oak, bald cypress, Western mayhaw, blackgum, sassafras, Southern magnolia, and fringetree.

For more information on the Arbor Day festivities or to participate as a vendor, call 251-929-1466.



STATE OF THE CITY

Fairhope Mayor Tim Kant will give his annual State of the City address on **Sunday, February 28 at 2 p.m.** at the Fairhope Civic Center. The program will include an update on the City, what is planned in the upcoming year and recognition of the Volunteer of the Year. The event is sponsored by Fairhope First who also names Fairhope's Quality of Life recipient at the event.

EASTER BUNNY WILL VISIT FAIRHOPE

The Easter bunny will be visiting Fairhope on **Saturday, March 26**. The bunny will be in front of the Fairhope Welcome Center in downtown Fairhope from 10 a.m. until noon for children to visit. Parents may bring their cameras to take pictures. *For additional information call 251-929-1466.*

COMMUNITY NEWS



ROTARY YOUTH CLUB

The Rotary Youth Club's Summer Enrichment Academy continues to prove its year-long impact in sending students back to school prepped for success. More than 1/3 of the club's current 125 enrolled members were awarded A/B Honor Roll status this fall. Many of those took part in the Academy, where once again students met the goal of 15% improvement across all grade levels in math, reading and science. "Studies tell us nine out of ten teachers are re-teaching lessons the first three weeks of the school year," said Education Director Frances Campbell. "And children are losing two months of math and reading proficiency if they're not plugged in. Test scores nationally show that decline. It's great to know here at the club we're doing something about it."

After school programs and the Summer Enrichment Academy will soon move to the new Education Wing set to open early this year.

Meanwhile the club is for the first time inviting community partners to help create even more success stories. Several partnership levels from a \$30 "Friend of RYC" to \$1,500 "Life Changer" allow donors to underwrite a club member for a month or a year. For more information on becoming a Friend, Mentor, Leader, Benefactor or Life Changer club partner, visit our website at www.rotaryyouthclub.org.



SPRING TERM 2016

January 8-10 - Open Registration for Spring 2016

January 11 - Classes begin

January 11-13 - Late registration and drop/add

SUMMER AND FALL TERMS 2016:

April 4 - May 17 - Registration Summer (Continuing & Readmitted students)

April 4 - June 1 - Registration Fall (Continuing & Readmitted students)

May 27-30 - Open Registration for Summer 2016

See more at: <http://www.southalabama.edu/academiccalendar/index.html#Spring>

GEOCACHE CHALLENGE

USABC has a geocache challenge! Come to our beautiful campus and use the clues to play our geocache challenge. Play today!

Ever thought about a career in Emergency Medical Services?

The University of South Alabama Baldwin County will be offering more emergency medical courses in the spring 2016 semester. The Department of EMS Education offers the Bachelor's of Science degree in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for students interested in a career in pre-hospital medicine and EMS management.

To obtain more information about the Bachelor of EMS program or other degree programs at USA Baldwin County, visit our website at www.myusabc.com or contact the campus at 251-928-8133.

USA BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS:

USA Baldwin County scholarships are available! Visit www.southalabama.edu/departments/usabc under the Academics tab for information on the scholarship application and additional information.

SPRING INTO SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST:

The Spring into Summer Photo Contest will begin **May 1, 2016**.

Information on this contest will be available soon at www.southalabama.edu/departments/usabc under the Events tab.

COMMUNITY NEWS

VFW POST 5660

The Gaston-Lee Post 5660 VFW has been in Fairhope since 1946 and is located at 950 Nichols Avenue. It is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Food service by Vet's BBQ is daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a steak night is held every Friday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Regular post meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday each month at 6 p.m.** Additional meetings will be held on **January 21 at 5:30 p.m., February 28 at 5:30 p.m. and March 17 at 11:30 a.m.**

The VFW also has an honor guard available for military funerals and special celebrations and a large party room available for rent. For information, call 251-928-8259.

Come join us - VETERANS HELPING VETERANS!



JANUARY

- 2 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 9 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 30 Mystic Mutts of Revelry Parade, Fairhope

FEBRUARY **Spay/Neuter Awareness Month & Responsible Pet Owner Month**

- 6 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 13 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

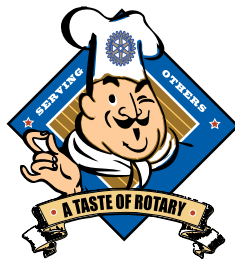
MARCH **Poison Prevention Week**

- 5 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 12 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

18-20 Fairhope Arts & Crafts Pet Adoption, Greer's Market, Downtown Fairhope

TASTE OF ROTARY

The Point Clear Rotary Club will host its Taste Of Rotary evening on **Tuesday, April 19**, at the Fairhope Civic Center. The annual event raises funds for the Fairhope-Point Clear Rotary Youth Club and other area charitable organizations. Twenty area restaurants offer their specialties and a silent and live auction and music complete the evening. Go to www.pointclearrotary.org.



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES CHILI FOR CHARITY 2016

It is time again to mark your calendars for the 16th annual Chili for Charity event sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. This year's cook-off will again be held at Oak Hollow Farm in Fairhope on **Saturday, February 27**. The fabulous, fun-filled festival has something for everyone. Besides being able to sample some of the best chili that Baldwin County has to offer, music lovers can dance to crowd-pleasing tunes by local favorite, Blind Dog Mike and the Howlers. Also, performing on the stage in the barn will be the Encore group from Fairhope High School. Outside Dr. Gee will be building amazing balloon creations for the kids—And when you add a bake sale, with out of this world homemade baked goods, a hay ride, inflatables, antique tractors on display courtesy of the South Alabama Antique Tractor and Engine Club, and a mechanical bull ride for all ages—It's the perfect recipe for a great afternoon of family fun.

This cook-off is still one of the best bargains around. Admission is \$30 for an adult admission with a handmade chili bowl created especially for the event by a local Baldwin County potter, \$10 for adults and children 12+, and \$5. for children 3+. All the fun begins at 11:30 a.m. and runs to 2 p.m. or until the chili is gone. So, come early and bring your appetite.

Sponsorships and teams are always needed. For more information call 251-928-3430. You can also find the registration forms on our website, www.baldwinemi.org. Come for the fun and help support your neighbors in need through the many social service programs of Ecumenical Ministries, serving the community for more than 46 years.

DOGWOOD TRAIL PAGEANT

The 56th Annual Dogwood Trail Pageant and Scholarship program will be held on **Saturday, January 16** at the Fairhope Civic Center. The program begins at 7 p.m. and will include more than 50 girls from Fairhope and the surrounding communities. This years pageant theme is American Made.



For more information or for tickets, call 251-990-8899.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Every year, Arts & Crafts weekend ushers in spring in Fairhope. This year, the 63rd annual Arts & Crafts Festival, hosted by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, and the concurrent 44th annual Outdoor Art Show, held by the Eastern Shore Art Association, will bring hundreds of fine artists and crafters to the streets of downtown Fairhope from **March 18-20**.

Jurors for this year's Arts & Crafts Festival had an abundance of great art to choose from, said Laura English, festival chair. "We easily had a 25 percent increase in applications, well over 400 from artists and crafters from all over the country and from many of our local artists, which we love to see. There will favorite artists returning and a good number who have never taken part in our show before."

The annual Outdoor Art Show focuses on fine art and always includes a wide variety of works. "We are very pleased with the artists we have accepted this year," said Malia Mullican, event chair. "Those attending the festival will recognize works from artists who have been part of the show in the past as well as some new to our event. It's always exciting to introduce a new artist to Fairhope—and to introduce Fairhope to a new artist."

Arts & Crafts features approximately 210 exhibitors while the Outdoor Art Show adds another 140 or so. The booths line the streets throughout downtown with the addition of a food court, entertainment stage, children's areas, and more. Hours for both events are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission.

BRATS (Baldwin County Area Transportation System) provides shuttle service from shopping center parking lots at the corner of Greeno and Fairhope Avenue and from Volanta Park on north Greeno Road. Parking is free and the shuttle ride costs \$2 each way. Free handicapped parking is in the municipal lot on Bancroft, and there will be free valet parking for bicycles behind the Fairhope Museum of History.

The combined events regularly attract close to 300,000 weekend visitors to Fairhope. Arts & Crafts has been recognized as a "Top Twenty" event by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and the Southeast Tourism Society as well as a "Best of Bama" from Alabama magazine. For more information, visit annualartsandcraftsfestivalfairhope.com or esartcenter.com/events-festivals.php.

For additional information or questions, call 251-928-6387.



SPRING FEVER CHASE

Another Arts & Crafts weekend tradition, the 38th annual **Spring Fever Chase** takes place on Saturday morning, **March 19**. The 10K run and two-mile Fun Run/Walk start on north Bayview at Fairhope Avenue and wind through downtown and along Mobile Bay. The 10K race course is certified with USA Track and Field, the national governing body for the sport.

"Last year, we had more than 2,400 participants, and we hope for another big year," said Jill Everson, Manager of Fitness and Cardiac Rehab at Fairhope's Thomas Hospital, which has hosted the race since 1979 in support of Baldwin County schools.

"All the proceeds go back to the schools as donations and grants," Everson said. "Every school with at least 25 students registered gets \$2 back for each student who participates. Last year we also gave out more than \$5,000 in grants to schools for particular projects. We love our schools and we get great participation from every school in the area."

For the 10k race, participants receive a race T-shirt featuring original artwork by a local artist and the first place winner in each category receives a signed print by the artist, with top finishers receiving a signed print and other awards.

Race applications for the 10k race will be available in January at Wells Fargo and at the Thomas Hospital Fitness Center. Participants may pre-register online or download and print applications at <https://springfeverchase.racesonline.com/home>. Day-of-race registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. at registration tables located at the intersection of Bayview Street and Fairhope Avenue, near the starting line. For more information, call 251-279-1684.





Fairhope Public Library Programs and Classes

Fairhope Public Library Adult Programs and Classes

World Affairs Roundtable

Thoughtful, open, and facilitated discussions on contemporary topics.

Human Trafficking:

Its Impact Globally, Nationally, and Locally

February 17 & 24, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Facilitator: Donna Armstrong

The Power of International Education

March 16 & 23, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Facilitator: Greg Jones

The 2008 Global Financial Crisis: Must We Repeat It?

April 13 & 20, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Facilitator: Walter Kirkland

The Written Word

This monthly book review and discussion on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. is sponsored by the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library.

January 31 Suzanne Barnhill review *A Wilder Rose*, by Susan Wittig Albert

February 28 Art White reviews *Mothers Tell Your Daughters*, by Bonnie Jo Campbell

March 27 No Program

Nonfiction Book Club

Join Pam and Alan in a group discussion on a nonfiction book selection from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

January 28 *The Girls of Atomic City*, by Denise Kiernan

March 10 *In Harm's Way*, by Doug Stanton

Genealogy Class and Genealogy Club

In the Monday class you are introduced to Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest.com, to which the library has subscriptions, by Fairhope Library Staff Member Pam McRae. On the following Tuesday, genealogy researchers and enthusiasts are invited to join staff in the

computer lab for an informal gathering to discuss research methods, share ideas, and browse ancestry-related websites. Program is held from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

January 11 & 12

February 8 (Class Only in February)

March 7 & 8

Who's your Daddy's Daddy?

Are you interested in exploring your family history or finding long lost ancestors? FamilySearch.org offers access to the largest genealogical library in the world, containing over 3.5 billion records. Volunteers will offer guidance to using this resource whether you are a beginner or expert. Instructors will be available for individual assistance. Our computers will be available or you may bring your own laptop.

January 7, 10:30 a.m. to noon

January 28, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Computer Classes

Take a Class on our Apple iMacs or our All-in-One Windows 10 Touch Screen computers.

Stop by the library, call the reference desk at 251-929-1464, or check the event calendar at www.fairhopelibrary.org for date and time information. Learn the basics of using a computer and browsing the internet. Get an introduction to Microsoft Office programs: Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, and Excel.

Computer Tutor

Sign up for an individual one hour time slot to meet with our volunteer instructor Anne. The one-on-one sessions work best when you have questions or want a tutorial about a particular program or subject. She will answer your computer, internet, and email questions.

Help Desk: One-on-One Assistance with the Reference Staff

Library staff members will help set up an email, format a document, assist with online applications, and using your ereader/tablet or phone. Learn how to download e-books, e-audio and e-magazines to computers, tablets, and mobile devices. Get an introduction to Microsoft Office programs: Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, and Excel. We are willing to help troubleshoot and solve computer or tablet problems. Please note: we cannot diagnose or repair computer hardware problems. Sign up for some technical help with members of the reference staff on the first and last Monday of the month.

Hollywood and LA

Alan will talk about movies shot in and around Lower Alabama and his movie extra experience.

February 1, 2 to 3 p.m.

Stunning South Africa

Join Kris as she takes you on tour of South African gold mines, safari camp, and wineries.

February 29, 2 to 3 p.m.

Picturesque Panama

Kris will be sharing her trip to Panama City, the indigenous Embera Tribe, and the canal.

February 22, 2 to 3 p.m.

Close Knit Circle

Every Friday from Noon to 2 p.m.

A meeting of beginner and advanced knitters. Everyone is welcome.

A Crash Course in Creative Writing

Alan Samry is leading a creative writing workshop. During the three sessions, students will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with different genres. The reading assignments given for each class meeting will be used as inspiration for fun and functional student writing exercises. Class size is limited to ten students. A \$20 refundable deposit is required to ensure a commitment and will be returned upon completion of the course. Alan holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Spalding University.

February 11, 18, & 25, 2 to 4 p.m.

FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOOK REVIEW / LECTURE SERIES

Held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

- January 26** Robert Buckley – Talking about his book *Two Miles an Hour*
- February 2** Thelma Topper – “Unique Ethiopia”
- February 9** mardi gras – no book review
- February 16** Janice Charles – Review of *Red Heat: Conspiracy, Murder, and the Cold War in the Caribbean*, by Alex von Tunzelmann
- February 23** Dean Mosher – “The Rediscovery of the University of Alabama’s First Campus (1831)”
- March 1** Tom Young – Review of *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*, by Jon Meacham
- March 8** Rob Gourlay – Review of *Thirteen Ways of Looking*, by Colum McCann
- March 15** Peggy Reagan – Review of *Deep South: Four Seasons on Back Roads*, by Paul Theroux
- March 22** Megrez Rudolf – Review of *Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II*, by Vicki Constantine Croke
- March 29** Gene Sellier – Review of *So Anyway...*, by John Cleese

Annual Chocolate and Champagne Fantasy

The Annual Chocolate and Champagne Fantasy sponsored by the Friends of the Fairhope Library will be held on **February 13** at the Fairhope Public Library at 7 p.m. This year’s theme is “Who Kidnapped Cupid? A Valentine Mystery”. Featured will be chocolate and sweets galore along with savory treats, champagne and wine plus a live and silent auction. Clues to the Mystery will be given by Suspicious characters portrayed by Theatre 98 members. Tickets are \$30. and will be available at the Library and from Friends Board Members. Fun for all with the Proceeds from the event supporting programs benefiting the Library and the Committee. For information or tickets, call the Library at 251-928-7483.



NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends need more Friends to help support the many, many Library programs that benefit adults and youths of the community. Friends memberships range from \$15. for single membership, \$25. for family membership, supporting membership for \$50. and sustaining membership for \$100. and more. Send checks to FFPL, P.O. Box 633, Fairhope 36533. Please be sure to include your name and contact information.

FRIENDS OF THE FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

Friends of the Fairhope Library sponsored Book Store is located just inside the library entrance to the right. Inside are books of every genre, best sellers, cook books, children’s books; etc. all books are for sale at surprising low prices. With the Holidays coming up you can purchase a Gift Certificate and Book Bag for someone on your gift list.

Book Store Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., new extended hours and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and closed Wednesday and Sunday.

School News

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- January 18, Martin Luther King Day
- February 8-9, Mardi Gras Holiday
- March 14, Teacher Work Day
- March 25, Good Friday Holiday
- March 28- April 1, Spring Break

FAIRHOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

January

- 5 Students Return from Christmas Break
- 29 Mardi Gras Dance

February

- 12 Bowling/Skating Field Trip
- 15-19 Choose Kindness Week

March

- 4 NJHS Induction
- 10 Bowling/Skating Field Trip
- 24 th Grade New Orleans Field Trip

FAIRHOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January

- 5 Students return from holiday
- 6 2nd grade AR Assembly, 8 a.m.
- 7 3rd grade AR Assembly, 8 a.m.
- 8 "Whistle While You Walk" to school with the FES Walking School Bus at 7:15 a.m.
Report cards go home
- 26 Pensacola Opera for 2nd/3rd grades

February

- 1 "Jump Rope for Heart" Pep Rally
- 5 Mardi Gras FES Walking School Bus walk at 7:15 a.m.
"Jump Rope for Heart"
Mid-quarter reports go home
8-9 – Holidays
- 10 2nd grade AR Assembly,
8:00 a.m.
- 11 3rd grade AR Assembly,
8:00 a.m.
- 12 AR Field Trips
Class parties at 1:30 p.m.
- 15-19 FES Teacher
Appreciation Week
- 23 Spring Individual and
Group Pictures – Out-of-Uniform-Day
- 25 Skate Day
- 26 Wax Museum



March

- 9 Upcoming Kindergarten Parent Tour 9 a.m.
- 10 AR cut-off for 1st/2nd/3rd grades at 11 a.m.
- 11 St. Patrick's Day FES Walking School Bus walk at 7:15 a.m.
End of 3rd quarter – Early Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.
- 15 FES Silent Auction
- 16 Life South Blood Drive, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2nd grade AR Assembly, 8 a.m.
- 17 Life South Blood Drive, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
3rd grade AR Assembly, 8 a.m.
- 18 Report cards go home
- 23 Skate Day
- 24 Talent Show Try-Outs 2nd and 3rd graders only



28th Annual Mayor's Tourney to Bring Hole- Lot-O'Luck to Schools

A whole lot of skill and a little bit of luck might be all it takes for the winning team to finish on top in the 28th Annual Mayor's Tourney scheduled for St. Patrick's Day 2016. The tournament, scheduled for **March 17, 2016** at Quail Creek Golf Course, benefits public education in Fairhope.



Organized by Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation (FEEF) and The City of Fairhope, with title sponsor **Terry Thompson Chevrolet**, the tourney expands to a full day format this year, allowing space for both corporate teams and individual players. Tournament co-chairs Erik Nist and Carrie Mackey plan on plenty of shenanigans on the greens to raise funds for programs such as science labs, engineering, art, music, and theatre in the five Fairhope schools.

"Fairhope students would not have the opportunity to participate in these programs without community support," said Nist. "The Mayor's tourney plays a critical role in funding enrichment in your schools and we hope the expanded format gives everyone who wishes to play, an opportunity to participate and have fun."

Tee times for preferred time of play are available on a first-come, first serve basis. Sponsorship includes Wednesday's practice round (\$17 cart fee only), Thursday's round, breakfast catered by **Chick-Fil-A**, lunch courtesy of **Burris Farm Market**, beverages on the course, awards ceremony, dinner catered by **Wintzell's Oyster House**, and the chance to win door prizes generously donated by PGA golf legends and local businesses.

Non-golfers can participate by adopting a tee sign, honoring a teacher, coach or classroom, for \$150. Twenty-five dollars from each tee sign sold goes to the honoree for use in the classroom. FEEF will display the tee sign at one of 18 tee boxes during the tournament and again outside the schools during the week following the tournament. Year-round advertising on Quail Creek tee markers is also available.

The registration deadline is Monday, March 13, 2016. Visit www.feefonline.org to download a sponsorship form and reserve your sponsorship, team, tee sign, or tee marker today. For more information, call 251-990-FEEF or email info@feefonline.org.

AMEA AND ITS MEMBERS KICK OFF 2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Will you be graduating from high school in the spring of 2016? Do you receive your electricity from the City of Fairhope Electric Department?

Then if your answer to these questions is “yes,” you could be eligible to receive a scholarship from the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) and its 11 Member cities/utilities.



Since 1992, AMEA and its Members (Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley-Riviera Utilities, LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Sylacauga and Tuskegee) have provided scholarships to area high school seniors through the AMEA Scholarship Program. Scholarships, totaling approximately \$82,500, were awarded in the 2015 program.

Each year, AMEA and its Members make available 33, \$2,500 scholarships, which include regular and technical school scholarships. To be eligible for either of AMEA's scholarships, a student's family must receive electric service from a Member's electric utility and the student must attend an Alabama college or university.

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

Applications are reviewed and winners are selected by an independent panel of Montgomery area college guidance personnel. **Application deadline is Monday, February 1.**

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

FAIRHOPE PIRATES...YOUR LOCAL TEAM!

A great many of us display support for a favorite College or Professional sports team through a logo, sign, or flag on our car or at our home. In most all cases, being a fan of a college or professional team continues long past the time you may have lived in that team's home town. What about the beautiful home town where we all reside now?

Fairhope's very own sports franchise are the Pirates of Fairhope High School with over 11 varsity sports competing against the best in the State of Alabama every year. The Fairhope Pirates represent our community on the fields and courts of competition each month. State, District and County Championships accompany a storied athletic history at Fairhope High School. Today's student-athletes are tomorrow's City and business leaders. And, the Fairhope Pirate Booster Club is committed to supporting the Fairhope Pirate Sports Franchise, and we invite you to join the effort:

- **ORDER your FREE PIRATE AUTO DECAL [for Fairhope Residents]** email desmondjoiner@bellsouth.net
- **ATTEND ALL HOME GAMES Free** join Fairhope Pirate Booster Club.
- **ATTEND a MEMBERSHIP Meeting** – 1st Thursday of each Month. 6:30 p.m. at Fairhope High School
- **ATTEND our EVENTS** Pancake Breakfasts, Drawdown, and more!
- **ADVERTISE on our SPORTS STATION and Website** www.piratenationlive.com

Below are some of the activities and dates to remember:

JOIN – Membership Drive. Go to www.piratenationlive.com and purchase your BOOSTER CLUB ALL SPORTS Pass for only \$100. It provides free parking and admission to All Home Games for all sports. What a deal!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – **January (date to be determined)**, 8 a.m. at Fairhope Middle School. Enjoy Breakfast for the whole family as you are introduced to the PIRATE Winter and Spring Sports Teams and its players.

ARTS & CRAFTS Festival (March 18-20) – Visit our Booth at the BBVA/Compass Bank site on North Section St and meet all the Pirate Players, Cheerleaders and Coaches! Enjoy a meal including the always popular Sausage Dogs, Snow Cones, Cheese Fries and drinks, and take a moment to sit, relax and eat in our private seating area the Pirate Lounge!

DRAWDOWN/Dinner – **April 16**, 6 p.m. Fairhope Civic Center. Pirate Fans fill the Civic Center to enjoy Dinner, Entertainment, Silent Auction and a Drawdown with the winning ticketholder receiving the \$5,000 Grand Prize! Tickets cost only \$100 for a Couple. Visit www.piratenationlive.com to purchase your Ticket

2015/2016 WINTER/SPRING SEASON – visit www.piratenationlive.com for information and live broadcasts of upcoming Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Swimming, Cross County and Tennis seasons for all PIRATE Games/Matches.

You can keep updated of Fairhope Pirate Sports Action via the Booster Club's website, www.piratenationlive.com, including LIVE BROADCASTS.



Fairhope Dedicates New Fire Station

Fairhope's newest fire station, the Timothy M. Lennix Station No. 4, located on Parker Road behind Publix on U.S. 98 north of the city, officially opened in December.

Fire Chief Chris Ellis says this station has been a long time coming. "We started talking about this years ago; it had numerous delays getting off the ground and then a number of construction delays as it was being built, but it is finally finished and ready to open." The new station is named for Tim Lennix, a much admired Fairhope Police officer and longtime volunteer fire fighter who died from cancer in 2009 at the age of 40.

To build the new station, the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department received \$86,000 from the City of Fairhope and took out a \$600,000 construction loan for the two-bay building. Ellis said the loan would be repaid with funds the department receives from Baldwin County ad valorem tax proceeds that are earmarked for volunteer departments.

The new facility will greatly reduce the firefighters response time in the northern part of the city, Ellis said. "There is a fair amount of growth in that area so this service is needed. Also, the new station will help us keep the good ISO 4 rating for insurance rates that we have maintained for more than 30 years. There are a lot of different factors that go into that, including training and equipment, but the addition of the new station definitely helps us maintain the good rating we have."

Ellis said he expects that one fire engine and a brush-fire truck will be housed at the new station. None of the stations house full-time firefighter staff.

The new station is the city's fourth. Others are the Leo Keller Station No. 1, on Ingleside Drive behind Thomas Hospital; the Roy White Station No. 2 on Thompson Hall Road (also the site of the department's classroom and training facility); and the Les Bung Station No. 3 at the Fairhope airport on Highway 32.

The Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department currently has 55 members. "We are always looking for new volunteers, and men and women age 18 and over are welcomed," Ellis said. "No previous experience or training is necessary. All of our firefighters get a minimum of 72 hours of training every year and over three-quarters of our members are professionally certified at the Firefighter 1 or 2 levels and hold numerous other professional firefighter certifications." Anyone interested in becoming a member of the department can call Ellis at 251-233-5181 or can pick up an application at the fire station on Ingleside Drive.



Part of Fairhope History Can be Found in Downtown Store

To the casual customer at Riverbend, the display table with the orange-streaked marble top on a cabinet with beautifully turned legs might look like a classic piece of furniture—and it is. Warren Slay, owner of the store formerly known as East Bay Engraving, lovingly crafted the piece as a surprise for his son, Morgan, when the two reopened their shop on Section Street. Even though the piece is only a year old, the table and marble top represent a Fairhope retail history going back nearly 100 years.

In 1918, Dr. Godard opened a drug store on the southwest corner of Fairhope Avenue and Summit Street. He hired pharmacist Roy “Doc” Moyers in the mid-1920s, and the pharmacy became known as Moyers Drugs. Like most pharmacies of the day, it sold everything from shin plasters to ice cream sodas, and the soda fountain counter tops were beautiful snow-white marble, dug from quarries near Birmingham.

The store remained open through the early 1960s, and when it closed, the old counters and other furnishing were dispersed. Many of the pieces ended up on a farm in northern Baldwin County on property belonging to Warren Slay. “Doc Moyers was my son’s great grandfather,” he said. “Moyer’s only daughter, Anne, married Junior Berglin—the family that owned Fairhope’s original ice house and creamery.” The Berglin’s middle daughter was Martha, Morgan Slay’s mother.

All the old pieces from the store lay forgotten for more than 40 years, Morgan Slay said. “Then after the fire in the building on Fairhope Avenue where my old store was, and when we decided to reopen in a new location, I decided to see if there was anything there I could salvage. I wanted to make a counter as a surprise for my son, so I began working.”

The marble was in terrible shape. “It was filthy, black with dirt and mildew. I found a guy in Mississippi who could restore it. I remembered the marble being pure white, but when I picked it up, it had these dark orange streaks all through it. The fellow told me that the marble around Birmingham is full of iron, and that these are rust streaks. They go all the way through: there’s no way to polish them

out. At first, I was disappointed, but now I think I like it better. It has character.”

Morgan Slay enjoys building things and constructed most of the display cabinets and shelves in the store, using salvaged wood from old barns and other things. He says he put more than 200 hours into making the counter; the intricate spiral-turned legs took more than twelve hours each. But the counter and marble top are special for more than just the time he put in to making them: for Warren and Morgan Slay, they represent family history and Fairhope history, all in one.





Mayor Timothy M. Kant

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Kevin G. Boone
- Diana J. Brewer
- Jack Burrell
- Michael A. Ford
- Richard A. Mueller, Sr

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Celebrate Mardi Gras in Fairhope

For the past several years, Fairhope’s Mardi Gras season has kicked off by going to the dogs, or to the mutts, actually. The **Mystic Mutts of Revelry**, a fund raising activity for The Haven, Fairhope’s no-kill animal shelter, takes place this year on Saturday, January 30 at 1 p.m., with festivities starting at 10:30



a.m. at the parade’s staging point, Fairhoppers Community Park on Church Street. Walkers and their pets can pre-register online or at the hospitality tent in the park on parade day. For more information, visit www.havenforanimals.org/index.php/mmor/parade.

Also on Saturday, January 30, Mardi Gras kicks it up when the men of **KOER, Knights of the Ecor Rouge**, take to the streets with their 32nd annual parade, “A Jedi Knight—the Force Unleashed.” In addition to their emblem and theme floats and the always popular “Daphne the Gator” float, KOER’s floats will feature tributes to Chewbacca, Jar Jar Binks, Yoda, Jabba the Hutt, R2-D2 & 3CPO, the evil Darth Maul, and of course, Darth Vader. Music this year is expected to include marching bands from Fairhope, Spanish Fort, Baldwin County, Escambia County, and Robertsdale high schools, plus Olympia Brass Band, McGuire Pipe Band. Be sure to watch for the special guests this year, World War II Veterans.

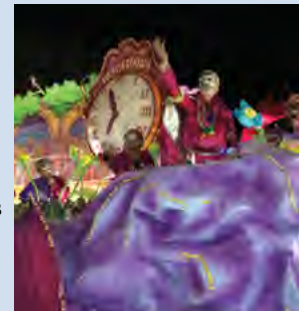
Next up on Friday, February 5, the **Maids of Jubilee** return with “Bring it On—Jubilee Games.” Special themed floats will bring back childhood memories of favorite games, including Monopoly, Operation, Mousetrap, Wheel of Fortune, CandyLand, Twister, and Hungry, Hungry Hippos. New this

year for MOJ, every float will feature its own music with surround sound music systems, and according to a masked spokeswoman, “lots of entertainment, with Budweiser Dune Buggies, Abba Shrine Clowns and Keystone Cops, Go Carts, and a special surprise that you just have to come see!” Additional music will be

provided by Bay City Brass Band, Excelsior Brass Band, and New Millennium Band.

Fairhope’s Mardi Gras season concludes on Monday, February 8, with “Welcome to the Jungle,” from the **Order of Mystic Magnolias**. The ladies of OOMM will have fun with Funky Monkeys, Come Fly with Me, Hot Tiki Nights, Take Me to the River, Bollywood Takes Fairhope, Something to Roar About, and Don’t Go Chasing Waterfalls. Marching bands from Daphne, Fairhope, and Spanish Fort high schools will set the beat along with some “trailer bands,” including the blues-rock music of Doc Rogers and the Roc Dodgers.

All the evening parades start at the Fairhope Civic Center at 6:45 p.m. and follow a loop through downtown, returning to the Civic Center. Here’s an insider’s tip: If you want to see the floats up close before things get crazy in the parade, come a little early and see the lineup along Church and Oak streets.



For additional questions about the parades or routes, please visit the City of Fairhope on Facebook or call 251-929-1466.

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