

Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

City Sketches

Spring 2016



Volunteer of the Year

Financial Recap

Standout Students

Earth Day

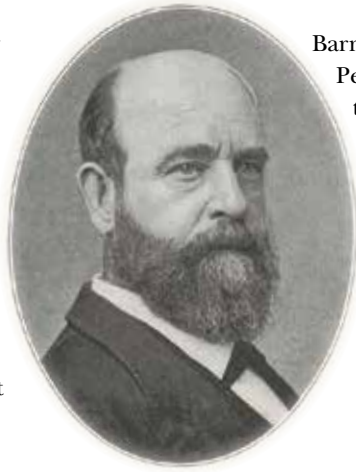
Girls Night Out

July 4th Celebration

New Exhibit on Founders at Fairhope Museum of History

This spring the Fairhope Museum of History invites you to explore our city's history and walk among the founders. Donnie Barrett, museum director, explains that quotes and information about the fascinating men and women who helped establish Fairhope will be displayed alongside their life-size images arranged on vertical panels.

"You'll be able to walk around them while you read their stories. We'll also have items owned by the individuals as part of the display. I'm glad that we have the space and opportunity to change out exhibits like we do. The museum owns many really unique items, and it's nice to show them off in different ways. People would be amazed if they knew all the material and historical artifacts the museum owns—from items of clothing, books, or jewelry, to pieces of art and furniture. And every piece has a story to tell."



HENRY GEORGE

WRITER ON SOCIOLOGICAL TOPICS. NOM. MAYOR N. Y. (1897)
JOURNALISTS. FATHER OF SINGLE TAX THEORY. *1897

Barrett also invites people to check out the new People's Railroad train car next to the fountain on the Bancroft Street side of the museum. Funded by the Friends of the Fairhope Museum of History and with construction help from the City of Fairhope to build the 24 feet of railroad line it sits on, the train car is a life-size replica of the engine box and car that ran along the Wharf and up the hill into town in the early 1900s. Today the car serves as an exhibit and a gazebo and stage for the museum.

The new Fairhope Founders exhibit is set to open June 1. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more, stop by the museum at 24 North Section Street or call 251-929-1471.

Satsuma Blossom Festival

It's that time of year again!

The Fairhope Museum of History will host the 3rd Annual **Satsuma Blossom Festival** on **Saturday, April 16** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and relive the festivals of a bygone era with live music, dancing demonstrations, Satsuma flavored ice cream, the Magic Mike magic show and many other fun games and activities for the whole family. Decorate your bicycle and join in on our first ever bicycle parade! Admission is free. The museum is located at 24 N. Section Street in downtown Fairhope. *For questions or information, call 251-929-1471.*



2016 Volunteer of the Year Jo Ann Broadus

A retired nurse practitioner and educator, Jo Ann Broadus has directed the Dogwood Trail Court program on the Eastern Shore for 22 years, touching the lives of 100s of young women and sustaining a legacy of what she refers to as “the fabric of our neighborhood.”

Sponsored by the Eastern Shore Optimist Club and now in its 56th year, the program consists of an annual pageant held for the selection of a six-member court of Eastern Shore high school females, who serve a one-year term as leaders and ambassadors of the community.

“It is a true pleasure to see Jo Ann in action,” said Mayor Tim Kant. “The sheer energy she has for the program and the dedication she puts into the lives of these young women is nothing short of amazing. It is such a positive experience for them, one they will remember for the rest of their lives. We are very appreciative that Jo Ann has put so much passion into the program to serve her community in this way. She is an example to follow.”

A native of Grand Bay, Broadus graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in nursing before returning to Mobile to raise her young and growing family. She also pursued a career in teaching maternal child health, chairing the department at the University of South Alabama for 10 years, and developing, creating and implementing the women’s health nurse practitioner program at USA.

“In nursing, we have a philosophy of caring, and we talk a lot about the behaviors you exhibit that really define you as a caring person,” Broadus said. “The bottom line is, it’s about the other person, not you; and that’s what I have tried to put into the Dogwood Trail program. We talk about their plans and their futures and what they want to accomplish. I encourage them to go out there and find their dreams.”

Broadus’s own daughters, Cheryl, Natalie and Angela, each served as court members and in 1993, Broadus received an unexpected phone call from the Director of the Fairhope campus of Faulkner State Community College, Dr. John Borom, asking her to consider directing the program.

“I was working full-time and Angela was still in high school, I didn’t think I had the time to do it,” Broadus said. “But he told me the program was about to go belly-up and wouldn’t I please take charge of it. I will tell you; the only motivation I had at the time for agreeing to take it on was that I needed a community service project for my faculty evaluation.”

Broadus directed her first program in 1994. Over the course of more than two decades, she has expanded the scope entirely, bringing her entire family on board in the process. “No man is an island and you cannot accomplish anything without a support system,” she said. Angela now serves as assistant director and handles all of the communications and marketing. Natalie has served as pageant director for the past 18 years, and Cheryl does intake and oversees the judging process. Broadus’s husband Gene serves as President of the Eastern Shore Optimist Club and Financial Director of the program, and her son Barron and his wife Lori oversee the lighting and sound booth for the pageant. “The committee of the ESOC Dogwood



Trail Program is 12 members strong with countless numbers of other volunteers that make the Dogwood Trail Program happen year in year out.”

“Jo Ann and Gene and their family have done a tremendous job making this program strong, establishing great scholarships and travel opportunities for the young women, and just building the program up,” said Optimist Club Past President John Brandon. “Jo Ann has worked tirelessly and is a true asset to the City of Fairhope. I think a lot of her and her entire family.”

Broadus has traveled with the Courts all over the country, making appearances in Washington, Pasadena, Calif., and of course, many at home. In fact, one of the highlights of her tenure was meeting Prince Albert of Monaco during his visit to Mobile.

“At the heart of the program is the simple mission of the Optimist Club, which is, ‘by providing hope and positive vision, you will bring out the best in kids.’ Myself and all of the volunteers of the Dogwood Trail Program are community servants. Our goal is to actively seek to inspire and empower these young women and to help their dreams come to life.”

2015 Financial Recap

It has been another great year for the City of Fairhope, said Mayor Kant of the overall financial report.

“We are still retiring debt, including a \$2 million debt reduction in utilities, we accomplished the end of the sewer plant upgrades using \$4 million of our own money that we didn’t have to borrow, and we made irrigation improvements and sidewalk additions at Quail Creek,” he said. “Additionally, we’ve been awarded a BP settlement for the City Council to determine how to earmark for special capital projects this year.”

“In just over three years we’ve eliminated approximately 25 percent of the City’s total debt, and we’ve continued

to drive it down,” said Council Member and Finance Committee Chair Jack Burrell. “We’re glad to have the sewer plant online and are looking forward to the opening of the soccer complex, now under construction. Also, an additional \$2.7 million worth of improvements are scheduled this year for the Fairhope Airport, none of which comes from city funds. These improvements are being funded by the FAA, the State of Alabama, and the Fairhope Airport Authority. The Airport is becoming less reliant on city funds each year, which allows funds previously designated for airport use to be used on other city needs.”

Fairhope History Walking Tours



Throughout April, thirty-three cities in Alabama present Saturday walking tours highlighting each city’s unique history, and Fairhope has a fascinating history to explore, with tours planned for downtown (focusing on the history of the buildings and businesses), the beach parks (covering the Casino, the piers, the gullies and more), places significant to the Single-Tax history, and Colony Cemetery.

Fairhope History Museum Director Donnie Barrett will lead the entertaining and informative walks that will combine community history with some tidbits from his own experiences as a child in Fairhope. “For example, when we talk about the various businesses and buildings downtown, I can remember what most of them were when I was a child. I recall buying my very first 45rpm record—Chubby Checker’s The Twist—at Hunter’s Newstand. Personal recollections like that really help

bring history alive and get people thinking and talking about their own recollections.”

This year’s tours include:

- Fairhope Avenue - April 2 (meet at the Welcome Center)*
- Fairhope Beach Parks - April 9 (meet at the pier)*
- Section Street - April 16 (meet at Welcome Center)*
- Single-Tax Tour - April 23 (meet at Welcome Center)*
- Colony Cemetery - April 30 (meet at the Oak Street gate)*

All tours begin at 10:30 a.m. and are free and open to the public. The April 16 tour coincides with the Satsuma Festival at the museum, and participants will be invited to stay and enjoy that free event after the tour.

City of Fairhope 2015 Annual Report

All financial figures for Fiscal Year 2015 audited by Hartmann, Blackmon & Kilgore, PC

	Fiscal Year End 2015	Fiscal Year End 2014	Increase (Decrease)
CASH			
Gas Fund	\$3,916,143	\$3,498,671	\$417,472
Electric Fund	\$4,199,654	\$4,670,546	\$(470,892)
Water/Wastewater Fund*	\$4,032,403	\$8,033,184	\$(4,000,781)
General Fund	\$10,486,895	\$10,526,463	\$(39,568)
Gas Tax Fund	\$106,848	\$49,411	\$57,437
Capital Projects Fund	\$5,860,608	\$3,141,252	\$2,719,356
Impact Fees Fund	\$826,435	\$851,448	\$(25,013)
TOTAL CASH	\$29,428,986	\$30,770,975	\$(1,341,989)

FAIRHOPE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Revenue

Gas	\$7,363,804	\$8,030,733	\$(666,929)
Electric	\$20,532,701	\$21,057,073	\$(524,372)
Water/Wastewater	\$10,863,181	\$10,033,990	\$829,191
TOTAL REVENUE	\$38,759,686	\$39,121,796	\$(362,110)

Expenses

Gas	\$6,383,193	\$6,908,442	\$(525,249)
Electric	\$18,727,563	\$19,246,679	\$(519,116)
Water/Wastewater	\$7,085,714	\$8,531,315	\$(1,445,601)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,196,470	\$34,686,436	\$(2,489,966)

UTILITIES NET INCOME \$6,563,216 \$4,435,360 \$2,127,856

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

INCOME

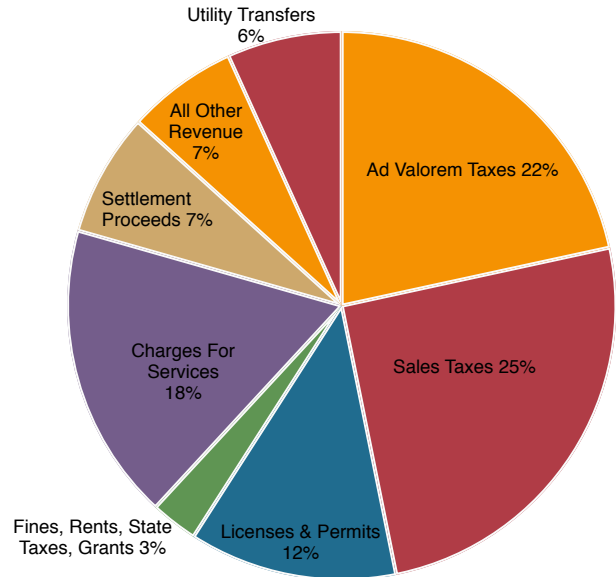
Income From Utilities	\$1,826,575	\$3,612,482	\$(1,785,907)
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$5,822,286	\$5,528,151	\$294,135
Sales Tax	\$6,797,757	\$6,518,249	\$279,508
Licenses & Permits	\$3,306,620	\$3,000,673	\$305,947
Fines & Forfeitures	\$278,837	\$285,573	\$(6,736)
State/Federal Gov't	\$244,166	\$310,956	\$(66,790)
Rents & Interest	\$228,317	\$236,225	\$(7,908)
Charges For Service	\$4,730,645	\$4,687,041	\$43,604
BP Settlement Proceeds	\$1,361,255	-0-	\$1,361,255
Legal Settlement	\$598,640	-0-	\$598,640
All Other Revenues	\$1,762,168	\$1,700,959	\$61,209
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,957,266	\$25,880,309	\$1,076,957

Expenses

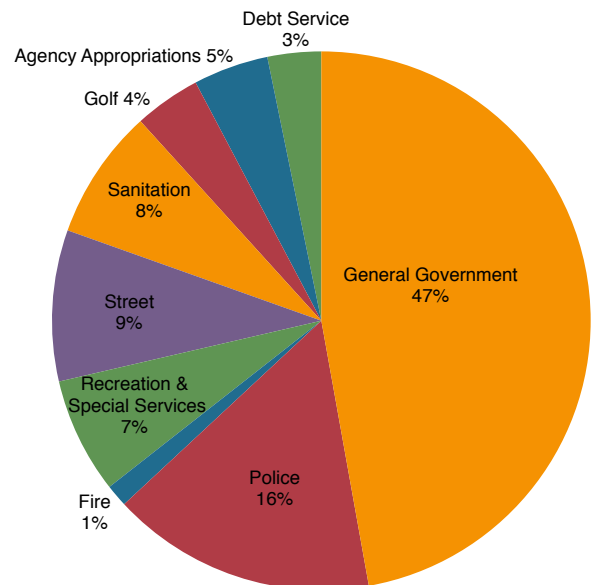
General Administration	\$8,464,905	\$8,343,471	\$121,434
Police	\$4,199,234	\$4,043,240	\$155,994
Fire	\$354,578	\$339,623	\$14,955
Special Services (Nix, Welcome Center, Museum)	\$633,248	\$573,708	\$59,540
Recreation	\$1,204,798	\$1,096,233	\$108,565
Public Works	\$4,465,410	\$4,442,958	\$22,452
Golf	1,053,921	\$929,185	\$124,736
Library Appropriation	\$714,100	\$674,100	\$40,000
Airport Appropriation	\$412,632	\$443,000	\$(30,368)
The Haven	\$65,000	\$65,000	-0-
Debt Service	\$850,252	\$3,378,329	\$(2,528,077)
Transfer to Capital Projects*	\$3,995,908	\$1,549,389	\$2,446,519

TOTAL EXPENSES \$26,413,986 \$25,878,236 \$535,750
\$543,280 \$2,073 \$541,207
\$7,106,496 \$4,437,433 \$2,669,063

City of Fairhope General Fund Revenue - FY 2015



City of Fairhope General Fund Expenses - FY 2015



* Transfer of \$1,994,481 to Capital Projects in anticipation of early 2016 projects

ARTS

Farmers Market

The City of Fairhope will again host a Summer Outdoor Farmer's Market from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday evenings starting **April 28** and ending **July 7**. The market will be set up behind the Fairhope Public Library in downtown Fairhope on Bancroft Street.



The market will feature local farmers, bakers, fresh Baldwin County produce, fresh cut flowers, local honey, plants, baked goods and more. The Fairhope Public Library will hold story times and children's activities at 4 p.m. each Thursday at the market. The Haven will also be onsite each day for pet adoptions.

For general information or to participate in the market, call 251-929-1466.

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALKS

April 1 April Exhibits by Elizabeth Bass, Claire Robitaille

May 6 May Exhibits continued from April and including American Watercolor Society, Jan Jones

June 3 Exhibits TBA

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. , Refreshments served. Live Entertainment. Free admission. Donations welcomed.

CLASSES

ArtBash for both Adults and Children (Ages 6-16) begin in June and include everything from pottery to painting! Classes are 1 week each, unless otherwise noted online.

ArtBash for children: All classes \$85/week or \$75 for MEMBERS! Adult classes vary in price.

Week of June 13: Kids' Pottery only

Week of June 20: Kids' Pottery only

Week of June 27: various courses, kids 9:30 a.m.- Noon & Adults 1 - 4 p.m.

Week of July 11: various courses, kids 9:30 a.m.- Noon & Adults 1 - 4 p.m.

Week of July 18: various courses, kids 9:30 a.m.- Noon & Adults 1 - 4 p.m.

Week of July 25: Final Week! various courses, kids 9:30 a.m.- Noon & Adults 1 - 4 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

June 3-4, & 7

Pottery Wood Firing with Maria Spies

Register online at www.esartcenter.org, call Hannah at 251-928-2228, ext. 107 or enroll in person;

Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Registrar's office. ESAC Family Members and above receive class discounts.



City of Fairhope Summer Flower Program

Beds

White, Red, Orange, & Yellow Zinnias, Pentas, Gomphrenas, and Angelonias.

Boxes

Pentas, Gold & Yellow Bandana Lantanas, Zinnias, and Petunias

Hanging Baskets

Begonias and White Supertunias

Floral Clock

Yellow Zinnias & Yellow Marigolds

For questions on the City landscape program, please call Landscape Supervisor Paul Merchant at 251-928-8003.

PUTTIN' ON THE GRITZ! CELEBRATING ALL GOOD SOUTHERN THINGS! Bacon, Bourbon and Boots!!

April 2 from 7 to 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.org 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: www.facebook.com/PuttinOnTheGritz or follow us on instagram: www.instagram.com/puttinonthegritz



Center Stage Performance invites you to **Be Our Guest** this performance season as our 4th-12th grade cast presents **Beauty and the Beast, Jr.** Our troupe will bring to life Disney favorites Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts and those scoundrels Gaston and Lefou! Prepare to be enchanted with our version of this fantastical and magical

'Tale as Old as Time' as our characters discover that true beauty comes from within! Shows will be at 6:30 p.m. on **May 20** and 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on **May 21** at the Fairhope Civic Center.

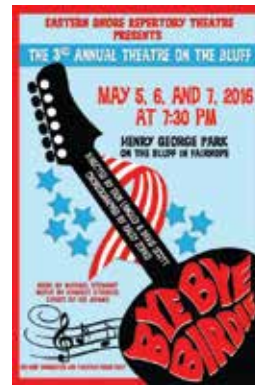
Our K4-3rd grade cast will encounter many adventures in **A Year with Frog and Toad, Kids!** Join along with this dynamic duo and their woodland friends in their wacky escapades throughout the different seasons. Performances will be held at 6:30 p.m. on **May 13 and 14** at the FUMC Life Center.

Center Stage is a performance education program that provides students with specialized fine arts instruction and the opportunity to participate in professional scale musical theatre productions. We offer classes in musical theatre, show choir, piano, voice, guitar, acting and more! Our mission is to equip our students for a lifelong involvement in fine arts. Performance is our passion!

Stay tuned for our exciting Summer Camp and Class announcements! *Details will be available soon online at www.CenterStagePerformance.com.*

For further information on show tickets or our program, please contact Jill Stanley at jill@centerstageperformance.com.

Theatre 98 will present "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams and directed by Timothy Guy. Performances will be held **May 6-8, 13-15, 20-22**. Times nightly are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are 2:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$18 adults and \$12 for students. *For more information visit www.theatre98.org or call 251-928-4366.*



Eastern Shore Repertory Theatre presents **Bye Bye Birdie** for the 3rd annual Theatre on the Bluff production at Henry George Park in Fairhope **May 5-7**.

Directed by Erin Langley and David Redman Scott and choreographed by Raley Zofko. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m., and gates to the bluff will open at 6:30 each evening.

Patrons should bring their own blanket or lawn chair, and picnics are encouraged. Concessions will also be available for sale.

Tickets are on sale now at www.easternshorerep.org and can also be purchased at the gate the night of the show. All tickets are non-refundable. Rain date is May 8, at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.easternshorerep.org for more information.

BALDWIN POPS SUNSET CONCERT SERIES ON THE BLUFF



Sunday, April 24
Fairhope Scholarship Concert
6 p.m., Henry George Park

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day Concert
6:30 p.m., Henry George Park

Monday, July 4
4th of July Concert
7 p.m., Henry George Park



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.

Tournaments and Outings

Spring is great time for tournaments and fund raising activities. Quail Creek will once again is proud to be the site for the Annual Baldwin County Girls Golf Championship on **Thursday, April 21st** and for the first time will host the University of Southern Mississippi Mobile Bay Classic on **Thursday, April 28th**.

APRIL

- 16 MGA, two man best ball, 8 a.m.
- 17 Jill & Skin Hall Memorial, 1 p.m.
- April 18-19 Women's Club Championship
- 21 Baldwin county Girls High School Championship
- 24 Quail Creek Civic Association Outing, 1 p.m.
- 28 Univ. of Southern Mississippi Alumni Mobile Bay Classic

MAY

- 6 Baldwin County Home Builders Association Outing, 1 p.m.
- 12 Ladies Inter Club Tournament, 9 a.m.
- 21 MGA Round Robin Match Play Tournament, 8 a.m.
- 22 MGA Round Robin Match Play Tournament, 8 a.m.
- 23-24 Core Aerification – Course Closed until 2 p.m.
- 26 Southern Seniors, 8:30 a.m.

JUNE

- 2 Dixie PGA Junior Tour, 8 a.m.
- 3 Couples Wine & Nine, 4 p.m.
- 16 Mobile Seniors, 8:30 a.m.
- 18 MGA, Six Scramble, Six Alt. Shot, Six Best Ball

To schedule a tournament, for information on summer clinics or to schedule a tee time, call 251-990-0240.

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



RECREATION

CITY OF FAIRHOPE TO OFFER SUMMER DAY CAMP

The City of Fairhope will once again be partnering with coaches from Fairhope High School to offer summer activities for children in Fairhope. Camp will be held at Volanta Park and Municipal Pool from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day beginning the week of **May 30**. Camp will run through the week of **July 25**, ending on **July 29**. There will be no camp the week of July 4th. The cost is \$15.00 per day or \$60.00 per week. Activities for children will include ball games, swimming, soccer, tennis, ping-pong and arts & crafts. Activities will be supervised by several local coaches.

The camp is open to children in grades 1-8. No advance registration is necessary, registration will take place the first day of camp. No half days, full days only and no extended day will be offered. Tuition will be due at the beginning of each week and a \$5 late charge will be charged for each day payment is late.

For additional information call 251-990-0174 or pick-up a registration form at the Fairhope Recreation Center or the Fairhope Municipal Pool on Greeno Road.



FAST SUMMER SWIM TEAM

Calling all Fairhope children between the ages of 5-18 to come join the FAST Sharks Swim Team!
The reigning GCAAL Division 1 Champs!
We are going to have 1 Saturday sign up, April 23rd from 9-noon, at the Fairhope pool.
Try on the new team suit and get ready for a fun summer swimming with your friends!!

Afterschool Swim Practice will Begin the Week of May 9th

Practice will be from 4-5 p.m. Mon and Wed for 11 and older, and Tues and Thurs for 7-10 year olds.

All 5-6 year olds will begin practice the first week of morning practice.

All new 5-6 year old swimmers must pass a swim test—swim 1 length of the pool.

Morning practices will begin Tuesday, May 31st

8:00-9:15 a.m.	11 and older
9:15-10:15 a.m.	7-10 year olds
10:15-11 a.m.	5-6 year olds

Any questions, please contact Coach Cathy Hudson at 251-422-9013.



FAIRHOPE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

2016 Fairhope Tennis Open Tournament

Friday, April 15 & Saturday, April 16

Sunday, April 17 will be reserved as a rain date

Round Robin Format

Open, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles & Mixed Doubles
Cost is \$30 person and includes Friday night buffet, tennis balls and tournament hat or towel.

\$50 Prize for first place winners

Portion of the proceeds to benefit the Fairhope High School Tennis Team

To register, call Collin Rust at 251-929-4566 or email him at collincartrust@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 22** with a rain date of **April 29**. 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.

RECREATION



JAMES P. NIX CENTER

USO Dance

The Nix Center will host their Annual USO Dance on Thursday, **May 26** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. featuring local favorite, Exit 105 Band. Take a look through history with displays including uniforms and memorabilia from World War II, The Korean War, Vietnam and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. A special presentation honoring all service divisions and prisoners of war with be held at 8:30 p.m. during the dance break. Everyone is encouraged to wear their best patriotic attire and dance the night away as they celebrate America. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admittance is \$5 for Nix Center members and \$9 for guests. The Nix Center is a smoke-free facility and serves light refreshments. *For more information on the USO Dance or any other Nix Center activity, call 251-928-2835.*

Other dances held in April, May & June are listed below.

4/14	Exit 105	Black & White Ball
4/28	Charlie Freeman	
5/12	JR Owen	
6/9	Sonny Tanner	
6/23	Charlie Freeman	

Older Americans Breakfast

In honor of Older Americans Month, the Nix Center will host a breakfast celebrating Older Americans in our area. The breakfast will be held at the Nix Center on Tuesday, **May 24** at 10:30 a.m. While area seniors enjoy breakfast provided by Southern Care Hospice a guest speaker will tell give tips on how to age well and stay feeling younger, longer! *Pre-registration is requested.*

GetFitFairhope

Get Fit Fairhope is a city-wide program to help residents stay focused, and stay active. Each month participants are provided a list of FREE activities happening for the month that will help them get active or stay active.

Below is a list of weekly Get Fit Fairhope events:

Every Tuesday Running Group at 6 p.m., leaves from Running Wild in Downtown Fairhope, typically 3 to 5 miles.

TeamWorks Community offers a free morning run at 5:30 a.m. at Stimpson Park. This events provides aerobic track interval exercises also and is led by USA Triathlon certified Michelle Smith. For questions, call 251-635-6250.

3rd Wednesday of every month

Get Fit Fairhope Bicycle Clinic & Ride sponsored by Pro Cycle and Tri in Fairhope. Begins at Stimpson Field at 5:30 p.m. Pro Cycle and Tri in Fairhope offers weekly group bike rides. The rides are open to the public and are free of charge. A waiver is required. Rides are available for all skill levels. For a complete listing of the rides visit them on facebook, at www.procycleandtri.com or call 251-929-7060 or just stop by on Fairhope Avenue.

Workplace Wednesday Walks at noon every Wednesday. Start your own walk or meet us at City Hall for a walk to the bay.

Every Friday Running/Walking group, just for the ladies, 9:15 a.m., leaves from Running Wild in downtown Fairhope. Typically 3 to 10 mile mapped course. Core exercises and stretching after walk/run.

Every Saturday Running Group at 6 a.m., leaves from Running Wild in Downtown Fairhope, typically 6+ miles.

TeamWorks Community offers a beginners to intermediate bike ride **every Saturday morning at 8 a.m.** leaving from Orange Street Pier. The class, lead by USA Triathlon certified Michelle Smith, also covers bike handling and rules of the road. For questions, call 251-635-6250.

Master Swim meets at the Fairhope Municipal Pool on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays each week at 5:30 a.m. To be eligible to participate in Master Swim you must be able to swim free style the length of the pool. Nominal fee. *For information, call 251-990-0175 or 251-635-6250.*

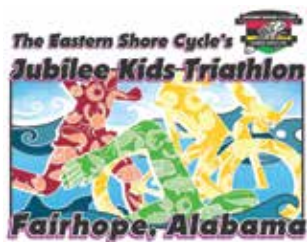
Monthly Walks To Bay

The Fairhope Recreation Center provides 3 walks monthly from the Welcome Center to the Bay. The walk is led by a member of the Rec Center team at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. *For a list of dates, visit www.getfitfairhope.com or call 251-928-7270.*

You can visit www.getfitfairhope.com to see a calendar of activities and register to track your participation. You can also like Get Fit Fairhope on Facebook to keep posted on the most up-to-date information.

May is National Bike Month

Celebrate with the Fairhope Bike & Pedestrian Committee and Bike to Work on May 20th!



Jubilee Kids Triathlon will be held on **Sunday, June 5** at the Fairhope Municipal Pier and Park. This race gives kids 7-15 a chance to swim, bike and run. *To sign up visit www.imathlete.com.*

All proceeds benefit local charities. You can also like JubileeKidsTri on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest information on the event.



12TH ANNUAL PUBLIX GRANDMAN TRIATHLON

Please join us on **June 4 at 7 a.m.** for the 12th Annual Publix Grandman Triathlon. The event will take place at the Fairhope Municipal Pier.

Racers begin the race by jumping from the end of Fairhope Pier into Mobile Bay and swimming 1/3-mile to the shore. Following the swim, racers bike 18 miles, beginning up a steep hill before riding through miles of rolling countryside and continuing through the quaint city of Fairhope. Racers conclude the triathlon with a 5K run alongside scenic Mobile Bay, crossing the finish line at Fairhope Park, where they are welcomed with medals and a variety of refreshments from cheering volunteers.

In its twelfth year, The Grandman has become one of Fairhope's premier annual events, attracting individual and team racers of all ages and skill levels from around the Southeast and beyond. Last year, more than 750 racers, 100 volunteers, and 50 sponsors participated in the event, and a bigger turnout is anticipated this year.

Proceeds from the race benefit three local non-profit organizations: Mobile Baykeeper, Gulf Coast Area Triathletes and myTeam Triumph: Southern Alabama.

For information regarding registration, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.thegrandman.com or contact grandman@mobilebaykeeper.org.

Mobile Baykeeper is a community organization that provides citizens a means to protect the beauty, health and heritage of the Mobile Bay Watershed, Alabama's waterways and coastal communities. For more information, please visit www.mobilebaykeeper.org.



SPRING MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

The 18th annual Baldwin County Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held **April 1-3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Weeks Bay Reserve on Hwy 98 just west of the Fish River Bridge.

Guest speakers will be Paulette Ogard and Sara Bright, authors of *Butterflies of Alabama*, a richly illustrated guide to the 84 known species of butterflies found within our state's borders. They will expound on these winged stars of the insect world and the plants that attract and sustain them. Their book and many of the plants they recommend will be available for sale.

This year's plant sale will include a wide selection of flowering perennials, camellias, native shrubs and trees, vines, ground covers and several varieties of herbs. For expert advice and plants well suited for southwest Alabama, this sale is the place to shop. Proceeds benefit the Master Gardener Scholarship Program as well as community outreach programs all year long. www.baldwincountymastergardeners.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

BASH BRINGS LOCAL SEAFOOD AND MUSIC TO WEEKS BAY

What is better than watching the sunset over Weeks Bay while enjoying fresh Gulf shrimp and listening to awesome music? Not much! That is why the Weeks Bay Foundation is excited to host the 7th annual **Bald Eagle Bash** on **April 23 from 4-7 p.m.** The **Party for Preservation** helps to raise money and awareness for the Foundation's mission of protecting coastal wetlands.



This "taste of Weeks Bay" event brings a dozen area restaurants together to create dishes based on delicious gulf shrimp. Each chef prepares a signature dish that is sure to delight all participants. Some of the dishes from past years include shrimp and grits, shrimp ceviche, and shrimp stuffed mashed potatoes. The Weeks Bay Foundation supplies soda, beer from Budweiser



and Fairhope Brewing Company, and board member Phil Norris's homemade sangria.

After a few moments to digest, the crowd gets the chance to cut a rug to the tunes of **The Mulligan Brothers**. This

group has recently been touring throughout Ireland and the Netherlands and has been featured on the *Al.com* list of "20 Alabama bands to watch (and listen to) in 2016." They recently released their second album, "Via Portland." The quartet is a mix of folk and bluegrass with plenty of good dancing songs.

Weeks Bay Foundation board member, Jim Gaines, says "The Bash is an amazing family friendly event that really showcases local seafood and local musical talent." Located right on Weeks Bay, many attendees come by boat and families fish off the pier while children run through the grass. If this sounds like fun, make sure to get your tickets for this year's Bald Eagle Bash.

Tickets for the event are available through www.baldeaglebash.com, at Page and Palette in Fairhope, the Weeks Bay Reserve, and the Weeks Bay Foundation office. They are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the gate. Children 10 and under are free. Free parking is available at the Weeks Bay Reserve Safe Harbor site, with BRATS shuttles providing transportation to the event. *For more information about the event or to be a sponsor, please call 251-990-5004 or visit our Facebook Page.*

Fairhope Garden Club is a hands-on club comprised of women and men gardeners, including some master gardeners. Federated since 1967, we meet the second Monday of each month from September through May at the James P. Nix Community Center, 1 Bayou Drive, Fairhope.

Earning money from various fundraising projects, we assist in supporting various Fairhope's garden and/or civic-related projects. In 2009, we were awarded a proclamation by the City of Fairhope for our continuous contributions.

April 11 Members Only Field Trip – Weeks Bay Boat Trip (Limited Attendance)

May 9 End of Year Luncheon – New Board Members will be introduced.

For meeting and membership information, please contact 251-285-0018 or 251-279-7738.

ROTARY YOUTH CLUB

Grades, golf, and giving volunteers take the spotlight this spring at the Rotary Youth Club of Fairhope/Point Clear.

Another record number of club members achieved A/B Honor Roll status for the first semester of the 2015-16 school year. Forty-nine of 100 were honored in a club celebration.



After-school tutor Mike White is our Volunteer of the Year – one of many that give of their time during our “Power Hour” of after school homework help for grades K-12. Mike reads with first graders Monday through Thursday, offering a constant sense of support and encouragement for our youngest club members. Fairhope High School IB students, Bayside Service Club members, retirees, and pairs of grandparents and their teenage grandchildren join us every day from 4-5pm in a tutoring program that’s key to the boost in confidence and grades we’re seeing in all our club members. Like to help? There’s space for you! *Contact Education Coordinator Frances Campbell: fcampbell@rotaryyouthclub.org.*

Plans for the **3rd Annual Rotary Youth Club Golf Tournament** are underway, with sponsors and teams signing up now. Mark your calendar for **August 26** at Rock Creek Golf Club. Want to sign up your team or company as a sponsor? *Contact Club Director Mark Stejskal: mark@rotaryyouthclub.org.*

Our new Education Wing is open at last thanks to major donors Impact 100, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, the Rotary Clubs of Point Clear and Fairhope as well as support from the City of Fairhope, The Tonsmeire Foundation and private donors. The new space –with computer lab, dedicated age-level classrooms and more – means we can grow our after school programs and keep the Summer Enrichment Academy on our own Young Street Campus. Come see our progress!

The **Point Clear Rotary Club** will host its **Taste Of Rotary, Tuesday, April 19, 6 p.m.**, Fairhope Civic Center, to benefit the Fairhope-Point Clear Rotary Youth Club and other charities. *Go to www.pointclearrotary.org.*



SPRING TERM 2016:

April 4-May 17 - Summer 2016 Registration for continuing and readmitted students

May 7 - Commencement/Official Graduation Date

May 27-30 - Open Registration for Summer 2016

May 31 - Classes for Full/First Summer Term begin

June 28 - Second Term classes begin

See more at:

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 Communication?

The University of South Alabama Baldwin County will be offering courses in Strategic Communication. Students majoring in communication at the University of South Alabama can now begin courses leading to a concentration in Strategic Communication. A degree in strategic communication can be advantageous for any career because it focuses on persuading people and spreading a message. The communication curriculum focuses on brand management and constructing new associations for a product or service.

Careers in Strategic Communication include media relations, advertising, and government lobbying. In addition, this degree can lead to careers with advertisers, full service agencies and creative boutiques.

To obtain more information about the Strategic Communication degree program or other degree programs at USA Baldwin County, visit our website at www.southalabama.edu/departments/usabc or contact the campus at 251-928-8133.

Expand your opportunities, Reach for Success at USA Baldwin County:

SPECIAL COURSES USA Baldwin County offers non-credit courses in foreign languages, personal enrichment, as well as Continuing Education and professional training opportunities. Please visit www.southalabama.edu/departments/usabc to get more information about classes or to register. Call (251) 928-8133 if you have further questions about our course offerings. Early registration is advised to secure your place. Additional classes may be added, so please check our website frequently.

USA BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS:

USA Baldwin County scholarships are available!

Visit www.southalabama.edu/departments/financialaffairs/scholarships/ for the scholarship application and additional information.

SPRING INTO SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST:

The “**Spring into Summer**” **Photo Contest** will begin **May 1**.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Considering travel this year? **Baldwin Senior Travelers** is a local group of seniors who love meeting new people and traveling to new places. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of each month in the Fairhope Council Chambers at the Civic Center at 9 am. *Check out a current list of trips at www.baldwinseniortravelers.blogspot.com.*

MANNERS COURSE TO BE OFFERED TO YOUNG CHILDREN

The National League of Junior Cotillions Eastern Shore chapter will offer a manners course for children entering 2nd – 4th grades in the Fall of 2016. The class will take place **June 20-23 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.** at The Venue on Section Street.

The curriculum will include proper introductions and first impressions, thank you notes, table manners, place settings and the proper use of utensils, party courtesies, school manners, sports etiquette, restaurant manners, polite conversation, telephone courtesy and much more. Through role-playing, along with hands-on experience in a peer group, young ladies and gentlemen leave the program with the beginnings of confidence and poise that stems from knowing the proper things to do in social situations.

The cost of the program is \$125 per student and tuition is due at time of registration. *For more information or to register for the program, please contact Kathy Sternenberg at kssternenberg@bellsouth.net or call 251-928-4962.*

Future Founders of the Thomas Hospital Foundation invite you to the 3rd Annual Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Old 27 Grill in Fairhope. We'll have music by Jeff Farrow, a corn hole tournament, and several cash bars. Tickets are \$50. That donation provides safety sleep sacks to 7 new mothers in the Thomas Hospital Birthing Center and all-you-can-eat crawfish and other food at the event. *Visit the Thomas Hospital Foundation Facebook page or call the office at 251-279-1512 for additional details! Don't miss this fun event!*



We invite you to the **5th Annual Shepherd's Place Foundation Golf Tournament at Lakewood Golf Club on Friday, April 15**. The shotgun tee times for our four-man scramble will begin at 8:30 a.m. There are several opportunities to get involved: Play in the scramble. We will place individuals on a team for \$150 or you can create your own team for \$600. We have Corporate Sponsorships ranging from \$500-5,000. You can purchase Tee Signs for \$125. We are excited to see some new faces and always grateful for continued support! Take this chance to play a fabulous course in Point Clear while simultaneously enhancing the Shepherd's Place mission and facility. *Email info@ShepherdsPlaceRespite.com for additional information.*

Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

City Sketches  Spring 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 May 13 for the July, August, September 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.

**FAIRHOPE FETE
FAIRHOPE'S FASHION WEEK**

We are excited to announce the dates have been set for 2016 Fairhope Fete! The 10 day celebration will run **Thursday, April 21 - Saturday, April 30**. Fairhope Fete fashion show will be Thursday, April 21st at Sonny Hill Farm on County Road 32. The door will open at 6:30 and the show will begin at 7:30. Tickets go on sale April 1 at www.poloatthepoint.com and will be sold in town at CK Collection, Sadie's and GiGi and Jay's. *Tickets start at \$50. All proceeds are donated to local charities.*

For information, call 251-928-9704.



FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION 2016 LECTURE SERIES

April 5

The History of Georgas Economic Systems Around the World
Presented by Dean Mosher, Artist, Historian, Author

May 3

Clay City Tile: An Architectural History of Fairhope
Presented by Alan Samry, Reference Librarian, Fairhope Public Library

Lectures begin at 6 p.m. at the Fairhope Public Library in the Gideon Auditorium

For information, call 251-928-8162



COMMUNITY NEWS



APRIL National Heartworm Awareness Month

- ASPCA's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month
- 2 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 9 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 11 National Pet Day
- 10-16 National Volunteer Week
- National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week
- 23 Haven ReSale Shop-Spring Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 30 National Adopt A Shelter Pet Day

MAY National Service Dog Eye Examination Month

- 1-7 National Pet Week
- 6 Estate Planning Seminar – "Providing for Your Pets After You Are Gone"
- 7 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 14 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day



JUNE ASPCA's Adopt A Shelter Cat Month

All Month Long

Summertime Special on Cats Adoption Promo

- 4 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 5-11 Pet Appreciation Week
- 11 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 24 Take Your Dog to Work Day

For more information on the Haven, please call 251-929-3980.

The VFW Post 5660 will have its **Buddy Poppy Days** on **May 27 & 28**. Members will be distributing Poppies at various stores in the community. Donation collected during Buddy Poppy Day will benefit the VFW Veteran's Relief Fund which is used to help needy veteran's (any veteran).

The VFW is beginning to organize an Auxiliary for Post 5660. The auxiliary will be for all persons that have (or had) a connection to a military member. Participants do not have to be a VFW Member. Steak night is being held on Friday evenings and there is free pool on Sundays. VFW Post 5660 is located on Nichols Avenue in Fairhope and is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. For questions, call 251-928-8532.

The **Raleigh & Raylee Angel Ride Foundation** will host the 3rd Annual "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament on **Friday, May 20**. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. at Rock Creek Golf Course in Fairhope. Cost is \$150 per player and includes lunch, dinner, prizes for winners, prizes hole-in-one and prizes longest drive. There will also be a putting contest and door prizes. Sponsorships are also available ranging in price from \$100 to \$3000. For information or to participate, call 251-423-2126 or visit www.angel-ride.org.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GOOD LIFE RIDE TO TACKY JACKS

The Alabama Coastal Foundation and the **Good Life Foundation** will host the 7th annual Good Life Ride on **Saturday, May 7**. The ride is actually four "rides" in one with a course suited for all skill levels. The most popular course is the 40 mile route from Page and Palette in downtown Fairhope to Tacky Jacks in Gulf Shores. The newest routes are a 10 mile ride over wthe Backcounty Trail in Orange Beach and a Metric Century (62 mile) ride. All of the rides end at Tacky Jacks with a party and activities, and for the second year we have a shuttle service to bring riders back to Fairhope. Proceeds from the ride will benefit a safety awareness campaign for cyclists and pedestrians in our coastal region. *Registration for the Good Life Ride is now available through imATHLETE.com and more information on the ride is available at our website www.goodliferide.org.*

EASTERN SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce will hold their Annual Golf Tournament on **Friday, May 20 at 11 a.m.** The tournament will be held at Lakewood Golf Course in Point Clear.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with registration and lunch prior to the tournament beginning. Cost is \$175 for individuals and \$700 for a 4 man team.

EASTERN SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Youth Leadership Program is an intensive elite seven month program designed to provide Eastern Shore high school students with the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge about their community, develop strong leadership skills and gain more self and social awareness in order to make a positive difference in the quality of community life.

Applications are due **April 15**. Applications can be picked up at the chamber office or your school counselor's office.

The **Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce** will hold the 32nd Annual Mayors' Prayer Breakfast on **Thursday, May 5** at the Daphne Civic Center. The guest speaker will be Dr. Lightfoot with Victory Health Partners.

For more information on Eastern Shore Chamber events, call (251) 928-6387.

ROTARY CLUB OF FAIRHOPE 12TH ANNUAL FAIRHOPE ROTARY STEAK COOK-OFF

"The coolest Street Party in the Known Universe" will be held **Friday, May 13**, as Fairhope Rotary hosts the 12th Annual Steak Cook-Off. The charity street party has become one of Fairhope's premier events, thanks to the support of local merchants, sponsors and the City of Fairhope.

This year's Steak Cook-Off will have a local flavor as the talented members of Willie Sugarcaps will provide the musical entertainment. For one evening, South Bancroft Street becomes the center of the steak universe with over 25 teams of grill masters, both amateur and professional, grilling rib eye steaks to tempt the palates of discerning steak fanciers. The dinner event includes "all-you-can-eat" steak, baked potato, tossed salad, wine, beer and soft drinks. Gates open to ticketed attendees at 7 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. In case of rain, the Steak Cook-Off will be held at the Fairhope Civic Center.

Tickets for the evening are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the gate, if still available. Ticket, Cook Team and Sponsorship information can be found at www.fairhopesteak.org.



**FRIDAY
MAY 13
7:00 P.M.**

**DOWNTOWN
FAIRHOPE**

251.929.8400

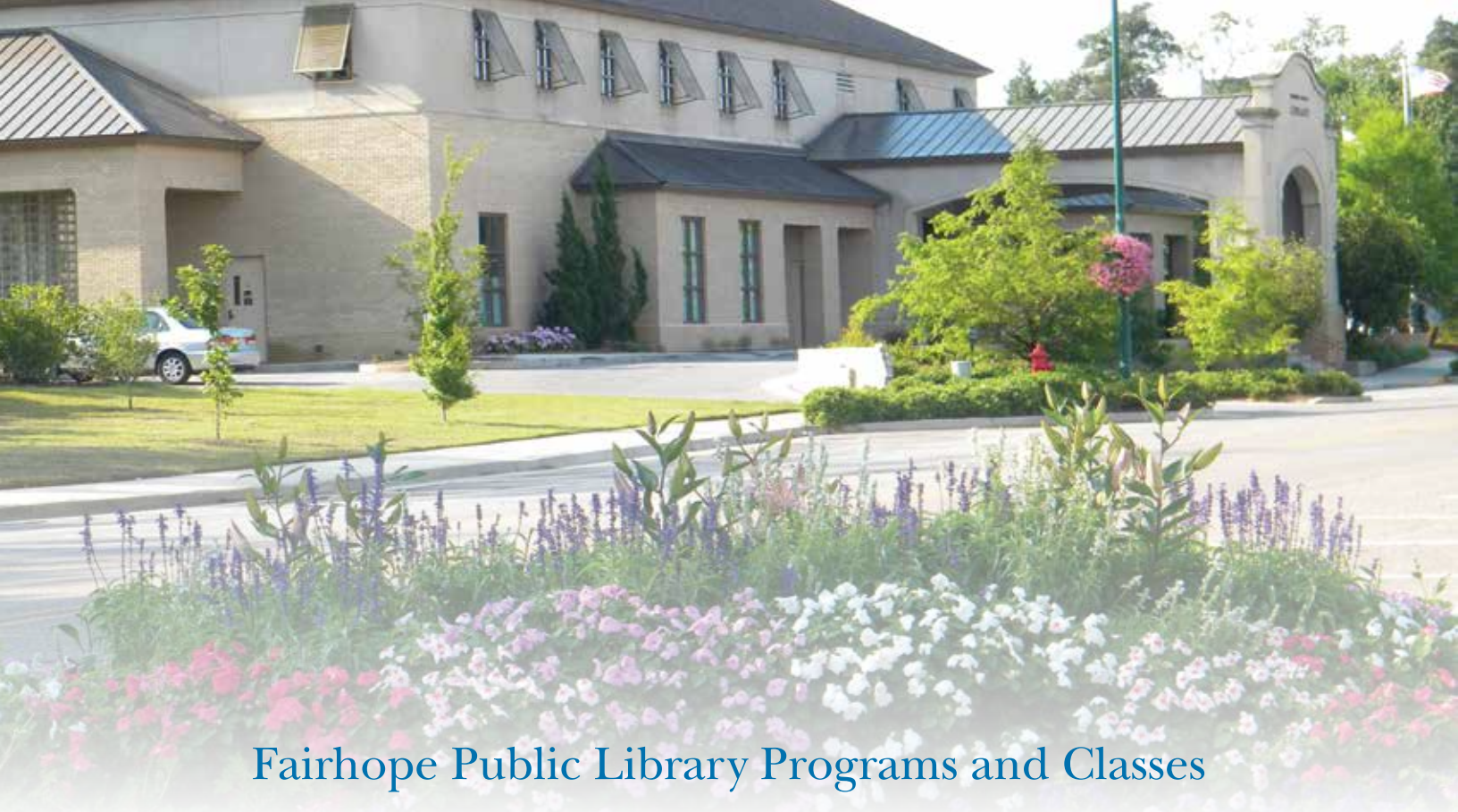
Glow in the Park Summer Movie Series



FAIRHOPE – The City of Fairhope returns with the 2nd annual "Glow in the Park Summer Movie Series," with three free family movies at Fairhoppers Community Park on the first Thursdays in June, July, and August.

Moviewgoers are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic (no alcohol or glass containers) and relax with the whole family. The movies will begin at 8 p.m. **Thursday, June 2:** Aladdin; **Thursday, July 7:** Minions; **Thursday, August 4:** Inside Out.

The Downtown Fairhope Business Association will be giving away glow-in-the-dark items. The movies will be shown at Fairhoppers Community Park on Church Street in downtown Fairhope and are sponsored by the City of Fairhope Public Utilities and the Downtown Fairhope Business Association. *For more information on the Glow in the Park Summer Movie Series, call 251-929-1466.*



Fairhope Public Library Programs and Classes

The Fairhope Public Library will celebrate National Library Week on Thursday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by and learn more about e-books, Mango, Camellia Net, Indieflix, digital magazines and much more!

World Affairs Roundtable is a thoughtful, open, and facilitated discussions on contemporary topics and held on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The 2008 Global Financial Crisis: Must We Repeat It?
April 13 & 20
Facilitated by Walter Kirkland

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

April 24 Arnie Hamilton reviews *Go Set a Watchman*, Harper Lee

June 26 Phillip Counselman reviews *Mobile: City by the Bay*, by Jay Higginbotham

Nonfiction Book Club

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

April 21 Just Mercy, by Denise Kiernan

June 2 Infidel, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

NEW Coloring Craze

Bring your friends and destress during our adult coloring program. We supply the materials or you may bring your own. Check the events calendar online at www.fairhopelibrary.org for weekly dates and time.

Computer Classes

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

Learn the basics of using a computer and browsing the internet. Get an introduction to Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, and Excel.

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.

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, tablet, iPad, 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 e-reader/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. Please note: we cannot diagnose or repair computer hardware problems. To sign up for some technical help with members of the reference staff check the events calendar at www.fairhopelibrary.org for Help Desk dates and times.

Friends of the Fairhope Public Library

Raise-A-Reader

Every month the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library deliver over 100 very special cloth bags to the Thomas Hospital Birthing Center as part of their **Raise-A-Reader** program. These bags are given to the parents of every baby born at the hospital. Each bag contains a burp cloth embroidered with “Read To Me” made by Friends’ volunteers, a children’s picture book titled “My First 50 Words”, a library card application, information on the importance of reading aloud to young children, a placemat, and several items from SMARTstart, the Alabama Partnership for Children organization. This gift for the babies born in Fairhope is based on the knowledge that young children have a better chance of school success if they begin school with a love of books and reading. We want to encourage all parents to **raise a reader**. Our dedicated volunteers work hard to make

sure that enough bags are prepared every month. More volunteers are always needed! *Please contact Phyllis Fritchen at 251-423-3275 or fairhopelibraryfriends@gmail.com if you are interested in helping or would like more information.*

By-The-Inch Book Sale

Friends of the Fairhope Public Library will have their spring By-The-Inch book sale on **May 6-7** in the Giddens Conference Room of the library. Current members of the Friends will be able to shop exclusively from 10-12 on Friday the 6th. The doors will open to the general public from 12 to 4 on Friday and 10-2 on Saturday. Thousands of good condition, gently used books, both fiction and non-fiction, will be on sale for 50¢ an inch. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to purchase wonderful books at incredible prices.

A Crash Course in Creative Writing

June 2, 9, & 16

Alan Samry leads a creative writing workshop. During the three Thursday 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. Class time is 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

April 21

Learn about free vision services with representatives from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. Class meets from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Department of the Fairhope Public Library is gearing up for a fantastic Spring. We have some great programs planned for Teen Tech Week, National Library Week and Earth Day

Our regular programs and story times will run through April, and we will have plenty of fun events scheduled. Check our website or Facebook page for details.

We will again participate in the Fairhope Farmer’s Market during the spring—look for us under the umbrella!

June brings our renowned Summer Reading Program, which kicks off on Monday, June 8th. On your mark, get set, READ !! will be the children’s theme, and we are so excited to tie our program in with the Summer Olympics. We have some medal-worthy movies, story times, crafts, performers and programs lined up throughout the summer.

Our Teen program theme will be “Get your head in the game, READ ! The Teen Summer Reading program will feature some geeky and interesting things to help everyone get in the game !!

Please check our webpage youthservices@fairhopelibrary.org or our Facebook page at [Fairhope Public Library-Youth Services](https://www.facebook.com/FairhopePublicLibraryYouthServices) or [fhphys](https://www.instagram.com/fhphys) on Instagram. Our Teen information can be found on teens@fairhopelibrary.org, [fhplteens](https://www.instagram.com/fhplteens) on Instagram or [FHPL Teens Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/FHPLTeens).



School News

FAIRHOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April

- 8 "Hop To It" Walking School Bus Walk at 7:15 a.m.
- 11-18 ACT Aspire Tests for 3rd graders
- 12 Kindergarten Graduation Pictures
- 20-28 Scholastic Book Fair
- 26 Kindergarten Registration
- 29 Final A.R. Cut-off at 11:00 a.m.

May

- 6 "Dog Days of Summer"
Walking School Bus Walk at 7:15 a.m.
- 11 Final 2nd Grade A.R. Assembly at 7:45 a.m.
- 12 Final 3rd Grade A.R. Assembly at 7:45 a.m.
- 13 Field Day
- 18 Top 2nd/3rd Grade Readers' Field Trip
- 19 "BUGZ!" play performance for K-1 students
- 20 "BUGZ!" play performance
for 2-3 students and families of the cast
- 23 P.E./Attendance Awards 1st, 2nd, 3rd grades
- 25 Talent Show
End-of-Year class parties at 1:30 p.m.
- 26 Last Day for Students

June

Summer Registration: Mondays – Thursdays, 8-11 and 1-3
For question about registration, call the school at 251-928-8400.

FAIRHOPE HIGH SCHOOL

- April 29 Senior Awards Program, 9 a.m. in the gym
- May 9 Senior Exams
- May 10 Senior Exams
- May 10 Senior Picnic at the Fairhope Pier Beach
- May 13 Senior Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., cafeteria
- May 13 Cap & Gown
pick up 8 a.m., gym
- May 13 Graduation Rehearsal, 10
a.m., W.C. Majors Field,
Volanta Park
- May 15 Baccalaureate at 2 p.m.,
location TBA
- May 17 Graduation, 7 p.m., W.C.
Majors Field, Volanta Park



Fairhope High School Volleyball Clinic

Open to current 6th – 10th graders
April 4 – 6
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
\$50 fee.

For information, email lspowell@bcbe.org

Fairhope High School Baseball

- April 1 Saraland Home, 4:30
- April 4 BCHS Home, 5 p.m.
- April 7 Spanish Fort Home, 5 p.m.



FAIRHOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

April

- 12-14 Aspire Testing
- 15 Makeup Testing/Field Day
- 18-19 Aspire Testing
- 22 Mrs. Jordan's Math Scavenger Hunt
- 29 Girls' PE Beach Field Trip

May

- 5 Talent Show
- 6 End of the Year Dance
- 13 NJHS 8th Grade Banquet
- 19-24 Semester Exams
- 25 8th Grade Awards and Social
- 26 7th Grade Awards (Teachers/Students Only)
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – Early Dismissal – 11:45 a.m.



Mrs. McGough's special needs students have a new playground funded jointly by the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, and Fairhope Middle School.

J. LARRY NEWTON SCHOOL



Spring into Art will be held **May 5** at Oak Hollow Farm. Enjoy an evening of art, auction and activities. Food plates will be available. To donate or for more information, call 251-990-3858.

FAIRHOPE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Fairhope Intermediate School is thankful for the City of Fairhope's funding for part-time science lab instructors, Nancy Tuttle and Linda Waselkov! In partnership with FEEF, 850 intermediate students have the opportunity of learning through hands-on experiments based on the scientific method. Together, the City of Fairhope and FEEF provide science lab experiences from August until April. Thank you for valuing education!

In December 2015, Fairhope High School senior Helen Legg won her fourth first place for diving in the Alabama High School Athletic Association's one-meter Diving Championship in Auburn, putting a cap on a career as the state's best female high school diver.

Helen is the daughter of George and Francesca Legg of Fairhope and the sister of Hannah Legg, an FHS graduate and college swimmer, now attending Savannah College of Art and Design.

Helen swims under the direction of FHS Swim Coach Kathy Hudson and practices several times a week with Coach Barbara Parker of the Port City Dive Club in Mobile.



"Many kids struggle to find a sport they are good at," her mother said. "Helen got into diving about seven years ago after doing gymnastics, and I could tell she was going to succeed. While still in middle school, at her first state meet, she came in seventh for the state."

Despite her string of state championships, Helen does not plan to continue with competitive diving. However, she says the sport's physical and mental challenges will help her in her plans to study fashion design. "Fashion is very demanding, and it would be difficult to balance competitive diving with that career."

Photo credit to the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

MUSIC PROGRAM RETURNS TO GREAT APPLAUSE AT FAIRHOPE HIGH

Taylor Peyton Strunk

It's been a busy season at Fairhope High School for piano teacher and choir director Diane Ham. Not only has she been teaching piano lessons, directing over 50 choral students each day, and raising funds to pay for the Steinway Grand Piano (purchased in January), but she is also the Musical Director and Accompanist for the Broadway musical *Mary Poppins*.

Under the direction of the theatre teacher, Katie Denton, with choreography by Cody Schmidt, the musical took place March 15-21 in the Black Box Theater at Fairhope High School.

Ham's students also performed at the Easter Sunrise Service at the Fairhope Pier on March 27 and then travel to Gatlinburg, Tenn., for the Smokey Mountain Music Festival in May. Rehearsals for the annual spring concert and recital will soon begin, and just last week the choir received an invitation to perform at the Heritage Festival in Washington, D.C., the week of the presidential inauguration.

With 12 FHS students awarded music scholarships last spring, it's hard to believe that only two years ago, the high school's music room was virtually silent. However, in 2014, Ham, who was then teaching at Chickasaw High School, was contacted and asked about her interest in rebuilding a program at Fairhope. She recalls, "When I was interviewed by Jon Cardwell, he asked me what I would do with \$13,000 and I told him I would start a piano program."



That's exactly what Ham did last school year, equipping a piano lab with eight full-sized keyboards through funding provided by FEEF (Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation), to teach three classes of Piano Lab I. Four additional pianos were added to the lab this year, as well as an additional class of Piano Lab II, to keep up with the demand for the program.

"We actually had 100 students sign up for the class this year, but we could only accept 48," she said. "I think initially there was this misconception that beginning lessons in high school was too

late, but it is never too late, and this is an accelerated program. These students practice for 50 minutes daily, learning three years' worth of lessons in one school year. When they complete Piano Lab II their second year, it is equivalent to six and a half years of traditional private instruction. There is no homework, and the lessons are free, so there is a huge economic benefit to these students as well."

Ham also reinstated the choral program, which was cut in 2008, and she will introduce Piano Lab III next fall for the students who have been with her since the program's inception.

"Kids need a place to belong," Ham said. "Whether it's the arts or sports or some other activity, they need a reason to come to school and feel like they can do well. I've been teaching for 18 years, and I've witnessed it change students' entire outlooks on school and on life. Programs like this can truly make a difference in their lives."

Get Ready for a Fun Girls Night Out

Fairhope's Girls Night Out is back, set for Thursday evening, **May 12**, and it promises to be even more fun than the previous events, said Alex Robinson, director of the Downtown Merchants' Association. "All for a \$20 registration fee, you'll receive a fun T-shirt and shopping tote 'swag bag,' food vouchers, and an exclusive Girls Night Out coupon booklet with special deals available that night and throughout the weekend, May 13-15. The night includes great specials and fun activities at participating shops, such as trunk shows, giveaways, and refreshments.

"This year's event is the weekend after Mother's Day so we think it's a great way to give mom or grandma a special treat," Robinson said. "We saw many people out shopping and having fun with two or three generations



of family last year. The Girls Night Out package is a fun way to spend time with your girlfriends, of course but it's also a great night out with the special women in your family. And since the coupon booklet is good through that Sunday, make it a Fairhope weekend!"

Tickets are \$20 each and participants can register at various locations throughout downtown or online at www.downtownfairhope.com. Participants can also register the day of the event, starting at 3 p.m. at the Fairhope Welcome Center at 20 North Section Street. "Also, be sure to 'like' us on Facebook and watch for news and specials on what stores will offer so you can plan your evening,"

Robinson said. *For more information, call 251-929-1466.*

Fairhope City Pool To Offer Life Guard Certification Classes In April



The City of Fairhope Municipal Pool will offer a lifeguard certification class beginning on Monday, **April 11** and ending on Friday, **April 15**. The class will be held nightly between 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Students aged 15 and older may take the class. The cost of lifeguard certification is \$225 and includes 2 years of certification, CPR/AED training and all materials. Payment is not due until the first day of class. Classes will be taught by Red Cross instructor and City contractor Michael Rogers.

On Monday, April 11, participants will be expected to pass a pre-course swimming test in order to continue with the rest of the course. This test requires you swim 300 continuous yards (100 yards of Freestyle (front crawl), 100 yards of Breaststroke, and 100 yards of any combination of those two strokes. You must also swim 20 yards (either Freestyle or Breaststroke), retrieve a 10-pound object from 7-10 feet of water, and return 20 yards while holding it above the water with both hands and keeping your head above the water within 1 minute 40 seconds. You must tread water for 2 minutes with hands out of the water. Participants must wear a swimsuit, and bring a towel, a change of clothes, pen and paper.

To register or for more information please call the Fairhope Pool at 251-990-0175 or Michael Rogers at 334-559-8364.

Celebrate Alabama's Largest Earth Day—in Fairhope!

Earth Day Mobile Bay returns for its twenty-seventh year with an all-day event at the Fairhope Pier Park on Saturday, **April 23**. Nearly six years after the BP Oil disaster, “Gulf restoration” is still the focus of Earth Day Mobile Bay, according to Gary Gover, Earth Day organizer. “There are many ways that we can protect the Gulf on a large scale, but also on much smaller scales. One simple thing that anyone can do is to help keep harmful chemicals from fertilizer or run-off from oil or gas in your driveway out of the storm drains. By doing that, you help improve the overall quality of our rivers, Mobile Bay, and ultimately the gulf.”

Gover, who has helped with Earth Day Mobile Bay for the past 15 years, says the organization is always looking for new participants. “Keeping the Bay clean and healthy is something we can all agree on, and Earth Day Mobile Bay draws attention to that. It’s a good event to be involved with—it’s Alabama’s largest Earth Day celebration. I urge anyone who is interested in helping to get in touch.”

The all-day event (10am to 7pm) features environmental exhibitors, hands-on activities for all ages, food vendors and entertainment. “You’ll find information on things such as hybrid cars and electric vehicles, solar panels, ground source heat pumps, wind turbines, eco-friendly home and lifestyle solutions, growing an organic garden or buying local, organic produce, plus many fun and educational activities for children,” Gover said. The event is expected to include an electronic recycling drop-off. “Bring your old electronics, TVs, computers, cell phones,

and printer cartridges for recycling. The City of Fairhope and area businesses will offer a variety of free disposal or reuse opportunities.”

Attendees are encouraged to “go green” to Earth Day Mobile Bay by walking, bicycling, ride-sharing, kayaking, or riding the free Baldwin County BRATS shuttle bus. The bus will run on a continuous schedule between parking lots on Greeno Road at Fairhope Avenue and the Fairhope Pier.



For more information on this year’s event or to find out how you can get involved, visit www.EarthDayMobileBay.org or “like” the event’s page on Facebook or call 251-929-1466.



Fairhoppers enjoy being outdoors. We spend many hours outside caring for our yards and gardens, and residents and visitors alike find our many parks and other open spaces inviting locations for recreation. But sometimes being outdoors introduces us to another local resident, the mosquito.

While we can’t totally avoid mosquitos, there are things we can do to reduce the chance of becoming a meal. The easiest thing to do is to keep your property free of standing water to eliminate places for mosquitoes to lay eggs. Be diligent about changing water in birdbaths and emptying water from any outside containers where water might collect—even the dog’s water bowl. If you collect rainwater for use around the garden, screen the opening or empty the container frequently. The City of Fairhope Public Works Department website has a link to a publication from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service to help you learn ways to reduce mosquitoes in our city: <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1116/ANR-1116-low.pdf>.



If you choose to use pesticide treatments, read the label and follow the manufacturer’s instructions for use and disposal. This will help you avoid exposing family members, pets, and useful insects to potentially harmful chemicals. If you choose one of the many commercial services in the city, ask about their products and application plans. Do your homework so that you get the service you want.

During peak mosquito season, the City of Fairhope uses trucks to disperse a cedar oil-based spray to control mosquitoes. If you have questions about the mosquito-control program or would like to be on the “No Spray” list (to keep the spray away from your property), please contact Dale Linder, City of Fairhope Environmental Officer, at 251-990-0192. Working together to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed and practicing safe and effective pesticide treatment will help reduce your chances of being bitten while you enjoy the outdoors in Fairhope.



Mayor Timothy M. Kant, ACOMO

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin G. Boone
Diana J. Brewer
Jack Burrell, CMO
Michael A. Ford, ACOMO
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City Celebrates Independence Day

The City of Fairhope and the Baldwin Pops Band invite one and all to the annual Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks display on Monday, July 4, at Henry George Park and the Fairhope Municipal Pier Park.



The Baldwin Pops Band Independence Day Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Henry George Park on top of the bluff. The band will perform a variety of patriotic tunes before and during the fireworks display. Fireworks begin at dusk, approximately 9 p.m. “This is a wonderfully festive evening,” said Mayor Tim Kant. “Everyone brings lawn chairs or blankets and picnic spreads to enjoy a delightful evening on Mobile Bay.”

Listen for WABF 1220 AM for a live broadcast of the day’s festivities.

The north end of Fairhope Pier Park, along the beach, will be open throughout the day and will remain open while parking is available. Limited handicap parking will be available near the fountain, but if you wish to park in the handicap area, plan to arrive early and stay until the fireworks are over. Fairhope’s 4th of July celebration is an alcohol-free event. Several food vendors will be located near the south beach area. For your safety, no personal fireworks are permitted at the event.



For more information on Fairhope’s Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks display, call 251-929-1466.

 **Become a fan of the
City of Fairhope on facebook.**