

# Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

*City Sketches*

Summer 2016



Parking  
Improvements  
Mayor Wins  
Horticulture Award  
Art on a Limb  
Alabama Coastal  
Birdfest  
Alabama Coastal  
Clean-up  
Phantasy of the Arts

# Park and Walk

## Plans are Underway to Improve Parking and Encourage Alternative Transportation in Fairhope's Bustling Downtown District

Take a drive down Fairhope Avenue during any weekday lunch rush and it's likely you'll need to circle the block once or twice to find a parking spot close to your favorite shop or eatery. Indeed, parking (or the perceived lack of it) is the number one complaint voiced to City Hall. And yet, this challenge is also an undeniable sign of a vibrant downtown district.

"So many communities are spending millions of dollars to revitalize their downtowns, but we're already there," Mayor Tim Kant said. "We have a unique, beautiful and inviting destination attracting both residents and visitors to this area year-round. The key is to find ways to make parking more accessible while maintaining the charm and green spaces that draw everyone here in the first place."

In an effort to effectively strike this balance, the City of Fairhope, along with the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (ESMPO), called on the expertise of consultant Dan Burden to turn this challenge into a workable – and walkable – plan of action.

### It Takes a Village

Burden is the Director of Innovation and Inspiration at Blue Zones, as well as cofounder and former Executive Director of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, and has worked with Fairhope city leaders in the past to address and implement improvements downtown. He visited Fairhope in April to develop a proposal titled, "Creating a Vision and Plan for Improved Parking and Active Transportation."

"We wanted to bring in a consultant to be able to make objective observations and to help us put things in perspective and see things from a different angle," Kant said. "While we won't be able to tackle everything at once, he put forth some excellent suggestions to consider."

Burden spent several days in Fairhope meeting with city officials, as well as a focus group of residents and merchants. "We had approximately 100 stakeholders involved in the process and the eagerness from our community representatives was great," said Fairhope Planning and Zoning Director Jonathan Smith. "While we relied on the expertise of the professionals we brought in, the participation of the public in determining what Fairhope really needs was hugely impactful."

### Fresh Ideas

One of Burden's initial observations was the fact that a lot of existing parking is being underutilized.

"A prime example is the parking deck off Church Street," Smith said. "Currently, the deck is vacant for 60-70 percent of the day. Of 180 spaces, 100 of those are available pretty much all day long." Suggestions were made, however, to bring vitality and interest to the parking deck, as well as improving signage to encourage use.

Additionally, "A lot of the recommendations involve restriping, and installing 90 degree parking where parallel parking is currently being used," Smith said. "It's amazing that we can actually increase our parking spaces by 20-30 percent just by restriping."

"It's always an exciting time to listen to new ideas and

gain a fresh perspective," said Mike Lyons, who serves on the City's Parking Authority. "Dan presented quite a few ideas to alleviate our challenges. Restriping alone will create quite a few more spaces, and his more creative ideas (which include using potted trees that could be moved for parades and events, and turning the area around the parking deck into more of a courtyard), could have a positive effect as well. It's fantastic and encouraging, what we have going for us."

"There's this perception that we have a parking problem, but in reality, we just need to get more out of the space we already have that's not being completely utilized," Smith said. "Having traffic downtown is a good thing."

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## Art on a Limb

Something really different is coming to Fairhope's art scene this September. Art on a Limb, planned for **September 10–30**, is a community celebration of our trees with teams from various organizations, schools, churches, and other groups, each decorating a tree in colorful yarn or fabric.

A form of street art known as “yarn bombing,” the practice is believed to have started with knitters in Houston in 2005, and has since spread worldwide, ranging from crocheted boots on historic statues in Austria, knit sweaters on bridges and balconies in Italy, and fabric covered bicycles in Amsterdam, to decorated trees in cities around the world.

Art on a Limb, a fundraising project for the Eastern Shore Art Center, is perfect for Fairhope, said Gaye Lindsey, project coordinator. “ESAC has done other public art projects through COPA, the committee on public art, but this is a project that many people can be involved in. Fairhope has public art around town and in the flowers and galleries, and this project will focus on the wonderful trees that make our downtown such a neat place.”

Cash awards will be given for “Best in Show” for adult and junior categories and for a “People’s Choice,” voted on by viewers.



A merchant, business, individual or organization can sponsor a public-owned tree for \$200, with proceeds going toward the ESAC for its community outreach efforts. Teams have been forming since spring, and Friends of the Fairhope Library got on board early said Randal Wright, president. “We love this chance to support a community art project and to also strengthen awareness of the Friends of the Library. I’m sworn to secrecy about our design, but we’re very excited about decorating two trees on the library property.”

Increasing awareness of the ESAC plays a big part in this project, Lindsey said. “We hope that people will better recognize the role that ESAC plays in making Fairhope a

special place, and will support the art center. Also we hope to see a large number of people visit downtown, bringing in business for the merchants.”

*Teams and sponsors have until August 1 to submit an application. Details and guidelines are available at the Art Center, or online at [www.esartcenter.com](http://www.esartcenter.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/artonalimbfairhope](http://www.facebook.com/artonalimbfairhope).*

## City of Fairhope Summer Flower Program

### Borders

Zinnia, Crystal White

### Fillers

Pentas, Graffiti Red Velvet  
Zinnia, Short Stuffed Red, Orange and Yellow

### Middle

Gomphrena, Las Vegas White  
Angelonia, Serena White  
Zinnia, Zahara Bonfire Mix

### Green Boxes

Pentas, Graffiti White  
Bandana Lantana Landscape Gold  
Bandana Lantana Landscape Yellow

### White boxes

Petchnoa, Light Yellow Petunia  
Zinnia, Short Stuff Yellow

### Hanging Baskets

Dragon Wing Begonia, Red  
Supertunia, White

### South Mobile Flower Bed

Red Hot Salvia  
Bounce White Impatiens

### Around Trees

Coleus Wizzard, Scarlet

### Flower Clock

Zinnia, Profusion Yellow  
Taishan Yellow, Marigold

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

# RECREATION



The Fairhope Soccer Club this summer launches its next chapter with “Score” – the campaign for the new Fairhope Soccer Complex. “The City has committed to an incredible complex on Manley Road,” said FSC Board Chair Dirk Flad. “These 9 fields are on par with anything in the area. To create a truly championship facility, we’re now raising funds to finish the complex for the kind of place our kids deserve.” More than 1000 players and at least 200 coaches and volunteers are part of Fairhope Soccer each year. Tournaments bring four times that number. “The economic and quality-of- life impact of our soccer program is tremendous,” offers Flad. To find out more about the plans – see [www.scorefairhope.com](http://www.scorefairhope.com).



## FAIRHOPE YOUTH FOOTBALL

Fairhope Youth Football Camp will be held **July 18 – 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** The clinic is hosted by coaches from Fairhope High School.

*For additional questions, visit [www.fairhopeyouthfootball.com](http://www.fairhopeyouthfootball.com).*



**F.A.S.T.  
FAIRHOPE AREA SWIM TEAM**  
Swim Meet  
July 14  
4 p.m., Fairhope Municipal Pool

## GetFitFairhope

This summer bring your family and friends and join a representative from the Fairhope Recreation Center on the following dates at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. for a walk to the bay. The walks begin at the Fairhope Welcome Center in downtown. Proper shoes and attire are recommended.

**July 13, July 21 & July 28  
August 3, August 10, August 18 and August 25**

*For questions about Get Fit Fairhope, call 251-928-7270 or visit [www.getfitfairhope.com](http://www.getfitfairhope.com) or like Get Fit Fairhope on Facebook.*



## REESE'S SENIOR BOWL FOOTBALL CAMP

Reese's Senior Bowl will host a free mini football camp for boys and girls ages 6-12. The camp will be held on **Saturday, July 23** at W.C. Majors Field at the Fairhope Municipal Stadium. The camp will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the clinic will begin at 9 a.m. The camp will include exercises and drills on rushing, receiving, agility, passing and blitzing.



## GLO IN THE PARK SUMMER MOVIE SERIES MOVIE: INSIDE OUT

August 4, 8 p.m.  
Fairhoper's Community Park

# Park and Walk

*Continued  
from page 2*

## A Little Perspective

Many suggestions in the plan revolve around walkability and having a pedestrian-scaled downtown and cyclist movement, Smith added. “The City is encouraging the ‘park once’ mentality, and we want members of the community to embrace that. A lot of it has to do with perspective. You can park at Walmart, go to the back of the store for a carton of milk, and by the time you come back to the register you’ve walked a half-mile. If you park downtown, you could cover a few blocks walking that same distance. We also want to encourage cycling by providing more options for safe and secure bike parking.”

“You’d be surprised by how many [downtown merchant] staff we spoke with said they would be happy using a bicycle to get to and from work if only they had a place to safely secure it,” Kant said. “We want to encourage cycling as a viable means of transportation, so we’re going to look at areas where installing racks would make sense – in front of an ice cream shop, for instance, as opposed to an antique store. We’re also going to take a look at having a fenced, secured area for bikes within the parking deck.”



## New Spaces

In conjunction with the city’s study, the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation (FSTC) has proposed plans for a new parking lot behind Fairhope Public Library to help with the parking needs there.

“About two years ago, we drafted a long-range plan with lessees to discuss what they felt were important issues for the city of Fairhope,” said FSTC President Lee Turner. “Two things came up above all the rest: parking and sidewalks. We’ve already been addressing the sidewalks, and this proposed lot behind the library fits within our long-range plan.”

Once approved by City Council, the lot will add 52 permeable parking spaces, and will be heavily landscaped with gazebos and a central green space of 4,000-5,000 square feet, Turner said. “We will keep as many of the existing trees as possible and events, like the Farmers Market, will have the green space to continue just as they always have.”

## Plan of Action

So what’s the next step? “A few of the suggestions that came out of this study are already in the works, and a few we hope to focus on in the next fiscal year,” Kant said. “We want to make sure our citizens know we are addressing these issues and moving forward to make Fairhope an even nicer place to come to.”

1. A recommendation has been made for the city to work with Faulkner State Community College to optimize parking around the campus by shifting the sidewalk and moving some parking into the Faulkner property without compromising too much green space.
2. De la Mare will be restriped to include a center loading zone and increase parking by 20 percent.
3. The City Council has approved a site plan revision to allow the parking lot adjacent to the Community Park to be resurfaced and restriped to add 20 spaces.
4. School Street will be restriped to increase parking.
5. Once approved by City Council, a new lot of permeable parking spaces will add approximately 52 spaces to the lot behind Fairhope Public Library, funded by the Single Tax Corporation.





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.

### 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

### TOURNAMENTS & COURSE INFORMATION

July 21	Dixie Section PGA Junior Golf Tour, 8 a.m. Course will open at 10:30 a.m.
July 22	Kiwanis Club of Fairhope and the Eastern Shore Golf Outing, 1 p.m. shotgun start Course is open in the morning for morning tee times and will then close at 10 a.m.
July 25-26	Core aerification of greens Course will be closed until 1 p.m. on both days
September 15	Southern Seniors, 8:30 a.m. Course will open at 1 p.m.
September 16	Dade Paper Company Outing, 1 p.m. Course is open in the morning for morning tee times and will then close at 10 a.m.

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



### JAMES P. NIX CENTER

Mark your calendars! The 11th Annual James P. Nix Center Health & Wealth Fair will be held on **Thursday,**

**September 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Attendance is free and open to the public. Participants will enjoy informational booths, Bingo with prizes, FREE lunch, door prizes and a chance to win an Apple iPad!

Skip Smith, Ballroom Dance Instructor, will start a new series of basic ballroom dance lessons on **Thursday, September 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** The six-session, one-hour classes are \$35 for Nix Center members and \$40 for non-members. Singles are welcome and no partner required. Please sign up at the Nix Center front desk to participate.

The Nix Center will host a Fall Fashion Show on **Wednesday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m.** Boutiques from Downtown Fairhope will present looks from their Fall clothing and accessory lines. The show will be centered on Fall styles tailored to the fashionable senior lady. Refreshments will be served immediately following the runway show. *To sign up to attend or for more information, please see the Nix Center front desk, or call 251-928-2835.*

# Pause for Reflection

## A Look at the City's Accomplishments at the Year's Half-Way Mark

As the city of Fairhope moves toward the year's third quarter, City Council members weighed in on the highlights of the first half of 2016.

Diana Brewer said one of the most inspiring and enjoyable aspects of serving on the City Council is working alongside fellow citizens on the many city committees. "Committee volunteers put in countless hours to sustain and improve our city for the benefit of all," said Brewer, who serves as the council liaison for the Library Board, Recreation Board, Education Advisory Committee and Pedestrian Bicycle Committee.

"The Library Board is in the process of developing a three-five year strategic plan to help guide the phenomenal growth of our library, and the Recreation Board recently presented its updated five-year plan to the City Council," she said, adding that the Fairhope Soccer Complex is near completion. "This state-of-the-art facility will be another crown jewel in our city, ready to serve thousands of our young citizens who participate in soccer."

Brewer said an engineering study is also planned to determine a better layout and design for Volanta Park to accommodate youth baseball leagues, parking for the stadium and practice fields for youth football. "We also went through a lengthy process to determine the best course of action for the tennis facility, and construction will begin this year on six new hydro-courts (clay courts) at Stimpson Field."

The Education Advisory Committee has been working hard to determine how our city can best help our five Fairhope schools achieve greatness, Brewer said. "With the completion of a comprehensive academic audit, the EAC recently made specific recommendations to the City Council and mayor with the goal of getting the Fairhope schools listed among the top 10 school systems in Alabama."



Brewer added that the Pedestrian Bicycle Committee is in the process of a downtown walkability audit. "These dedicated volunteers are looking at public facilities and ADA access/barriers as they relate to pedestrian traffic in our downtown. The audit includes sidewalks, crosswalks, parks, streets, etc., all with the goal of ensuring that Fairhope is pedestrian friendly."

Mike Ford said the Recycling Committee has been working hard in an effort to increase recycling within the community. Specifically, the committee has been focused on finding recycling containers for Fairhope citizens to use at home to make the recycling process easier and more efficient, and therefore encouraging the movement.

"I am particularly proud of everything going on in recreation, especially the new hydro-courts for tennis," said Ford, adding that he is also proud that the city has hired Tomas Catar as the new tennis professional. "There are lots of tennis folks who know Tomas and know that he going to take tennis in Fairhope to the next level."

Ford predicts an interest in recreation and improvement to facilities will continue to grow, especially as new families continue to move to the area. "I am looking forward to the opening of the new soccer complex and to see what plans develop for the triangle property and the Colony Nature Park."

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### ON THE COVER

#### *Fairhope Single Tax Association Board Members*

**Back row (l-r)** Lee Turner, President; Michael Upchurch, Treasurer; Mac McCawley, Director; Pat King, Trustee; Cliff Pitman, Director; Michael Arnold, Secretary

**Front row (l-r)** Fred Watkins, Director; Teresa Watkins, Trustee; Carol Saltz, Director and Geoff Kennedy, Director

# ARTS AROUND TOWN



## EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER FIRST FRIDAY ART WALKS

August 5, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

August Exhibits: Michael Sims

September 2, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

September Exhibits: Gulf ArtSpace, Eastern Shore Camera Club, Michael Sims

## ADULT WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

**August 24-26** Oil Painting Workshop with Ron Thomson

**September 10-11** The Brush and the Wheel Pottery Workshop with Michael Kline

**September 24-25, 27** Wood Firing Workshop with Maria Spies

## CHILDREN'S ARTBASH

**Workshop July 11**

Mommy & Me: Fairy Flower Pot for ages 4-5

**Classes Week of July 11**

Create Your Own Fairy Land for ages 5-8

Creative Water Media for ages 6 – 9

Recycled, Upcycled, Reimagined for ages 8-11

Teens at the Wheel for ages 10-13

**Classes Week of July 18**

Feelin' Buggy for ages 4-5

Pottery, Let's Paint! Under the Sea Mural for ages 6 – 9

Recycled, Upcycled, Reimagined for ages 10-13

**Classes Week of July 25**

Take Me to the Beach for ages 4-5

Underwater Adventures for ages 6 – 9

Wonders of Watercolor for ages 8-11

Pottery for ages 10-13

*Beth Claunch as Clara and Ellis Ollinger as Uncle Drosselmeyer in "The Nutcracker".*



*Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students. For more information visit [www.theatre98.org](http://www.theatre98.org) or call 251-928-436. Theatre 98 is located on the corner of Morphy and Church Street, Fairhope.*

Theatre 98 will present Absurd Person Singular

by Alan Ayckbourn and directed by Marcus Wills.

Performances will be held

**on July 15-17, 22-24, 29-31.**

Night performances are held at 8 p.m. and on Sunday performances at 2:30 p.m.

The **Eastern Shore Choral Society**, under the direction of Mary Katherine Kilgore, will begin rehearsals for its 25th season on **August 15 at 7 p.m.** at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 545 S. Mobile Street, Fairhope, Alabama.

Registration and distribution of music will begin at 6:15 p.m. that same evening. Singers need only to be able to match pitch to join the group. Christmas Concerts are scheduled for **Thursday, December 1 and Sunday, December 4** at Fairhope United Methodist Church.

ESCS will host a 25th Anniversary Fundraiser Dinner on **Sunday, August 21 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Fairhope Yacht Club. It will be a wonderful evening of food, music and fellowship for a great cause. We will have professional singers at the event to sing songs that we will auction off. Ticket information will be available on our website in July.

A new addition to ESCS this season will be the Eastern Shore Chamber Chorale. This will be an auditioned group of 16-24 voices. Initially members will be required to sing in the main group and the Chorale. *Auditions will be this summer with the dates to be announced on our website, [www.easternshorechoralsociety.com](http://www.easternshorechoralsociety.com). For more information, email us at [info@escs.org](mailto:info@escs.org) and like us on Facebook!*

## THE BAY SHORE BALLET THEATRE

"The Nutcracker" returns to the stage on Saturday, **December 10 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m.** at the Fairhope Civic Center showcasing the dancers of The Bay Shore Ballet Theatre and students of the Bay Shore Ballet Academy.

Cameo performances also will be presented on **Friday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.** for Baldwin county school groups and other interested small groups at a reduced ticket price. Director Janet Carole restages this beloved holiday classic to the exuberant score of Tchaikovsky and the beautiful backdrops of the late professional scenic artist, Bill Loyed. The Academy opens a new season of classes on **August 17** for dancers of at all ages and levels, and production rehearsals will begin for the Nutcracker in September.

*For information about classes, auditions or performances, please contact The Bay Shore Ballet at 251-990-9744 or visit [www.bayshoreballet.com](http://www.bayshoreballet.com) for ticketing information.*



## Pause for Reflection

*Continued from page 7*

Kevin Boone serves on the Harbor Board and wants to continue working to make upgrades at the marina and beach-front park, as well as the restroom facilities at the bay.

“I am also very proud of the work done by the Personnel Board,” Boone said. “When the board first started on the City Council we passed a compensation study and are now planning to update the study, which provides a pay grade and range for each position with the city and establishes minimum and maximum pay scales for each position. I feel this is a good tool for employees and managers.”

Now that the waste water treatment plant upgrades are complete, Boone wants to develop a plan to upgrade the city’s lift stations throughout town. He said he was also happy to have consultant Dan Burden visit Fairhope and is excited to see his recommendations implemented.

Jack Burrell said he is proud of the city’s debt reduction, not simply because the reduction itself is a good thing, but for what it means the city can now afford.

“Debt reduction is a wonderful thing because that money is freed up to spend on something tangible,” he said. “We’ve reduced the total debt more than 30 percent in less than four years. I want to use those savings to be able to afford all the amenities the citizens want and need – to upgrade the infrastructure, to improve our parks and recreation – without having to borrow money.”

Burrell added that the council just voted to refinance a bond issue to pay off in three years, which translates into \$2.4 million in savings. “The opportunities for the city to use those monies are now wide open. This is a prime example of reducing debt and turning that money saved into something the entire community can enjoy – whether that’s resurfacing the roads, or upgrading our parks and trails – whatever our needs are, we should be able to meet those needs without having to borrow additional money.”

Rich Mueller said he is most proud to be a member of a council that, under the leadership of President Burrell, deals with small and large issues with cooperation, common sense and civility.

“Personally, I have been working on the city’s first Historic Preservation Ordinance and, on the environmental front, trying to find the real source of our beach bacteria problems, Mueller said, adding that he’s also proud of the recent improvements to the Quail Creek golf course. “Both the new sprinkler system and new golf carts will save us money in the long run. As a councilman, I am only one member of five decision-makers, so I’m proud of all that has been accomplished and look forward to new challenges.”



### 2016 ELDERBERRY FESTIVAL

The eighth annual Elderberry Festival is **Saturday, August 13**, at the Fairhope Museum of History.

Festivities begin at 10:00am with demonstrations, tastings, a pie-eating contest, and more throughout the day. From 11a.m. to 2 p.m., you’re invited to come enjoy period music from the band Kracker Dan, always a crowd pleaser at museum events.

The public is invited to submit their favorite elderberry pies, cakes, breads, jams, jellies, juice, and other elder-flower creations for the Elderberry Cook-off Contest. Items to be judged must be submitted to the museum by 5 p.m. on Friday, August 12.

“The elderberry is essentially a weed, but it has been used for generations in Baldwin County to create folk remedies, jams, jellies, baked goods and more,” Museum Director Donnie Barrett said. “It’s only fitting that we honor this lowly berry, which is actually quite tasty.”

*For further information on the museum or museum events, contact the museum at (251) 929-1471.*

# Alabama Coastal Cleanup

**The 29th Alabama Coastal Cleanup is Saturday, September 17, from 8 a.m. until noon.**

Over nearly three decades of work to "get the trash out of the splash," more than 83,000 volunteers have removed more than 1.5 million pounds of trash from Alabama's coastline and waterways.

The City of Fairhope has participated in the Alabama Coastal Cleanup for the past 12 years said Paige Crawford, events coordinator for the City. "On the day of the cleanup, the Fairhope Public Utilities Electric Department provides a public power display and the City Gas Department cooks hotdogs for all volunteers. Also, the Public Works Department provides an on-site dumpster for debris collected during the cleanup, and the City's Recycle Committee uses the cleanup as a platform for offering education about recycling programs. We always get a great turnout. Last year, we had 694 volunteers in Fairhope."

Fairhope is one of almost 20 cleanup zones in Baldwin County alone, according to [www.AlabamaCoastalCleanup.com](http://www.AlabamaCoastalCleanup.com). Cleanup supplies are provided, and volunteers who come out early will receive a free T-shirt. Participants are reminded to drink plenty of fluids, wear sunscreen, a hat, and comfortable shoes, supervise children, and be aware of not damaging fragile ecosystems. They are advised to not attempt to remove dangerous or heavy items but to report the location to the zone captain for proper disposal. The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is part of an international effort led by the Ocean Conservancy to remove debris from coastal waters.

*To register your group or organization to take part in this year's Fairhope Coastal Cleanup event, call 251-929-1466.*



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## JULY

- 15 Pet Fire Safety Day
- 16 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 31 National Mutt Day

## AUGUST

### National Immunization Awareness Month

- 2-12 Haven Resale Shop Promotion- 50% OFF Entire Purchase
- 6 Petco Adoption, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 13 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 15 National Check the Chip Day (microchips)
- 20 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 26 National Dog Day

## SEPTEMBER National Disaster Preparedness Month

- Responsible Dog Ownership Month
- 1-30 Adoption Promo- “Adopt Your New MVP”
- 3 Petco Adoption, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 9-11 Petsmart National Adoption Event, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 11 National Pet Memorial Day –Tax deductible donations in memory of a beloved companion animal can be made at [www.havenforanimals.org](http://www.havenforanimals.org)
- 17 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 28 World Rabies Day – Be sure your pet is up to date!

## WEEK’S BAY FOUNDATION



**Pelican Paddle Canoe and Kayak Race**  
**When: Saturday, July 23, 7:30 a.m. – noon**  
**Where: Fish River Bridge boat launch, US Highway 98, Fairhope**

The Weeks Bay Foundation’s fourth annual Pelican

Paddle Canoe and Kayak Race will be held on July 23 at 9:00 a.m. at the Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center. It is sure to be a great day on the water. There are several competitive categories, including a Stand Up Paddleboard Division and a Junior Division. If you are not interested in competing, there will also be a relaxing Eco-Tour around the marsh edge of Weeks Bay.

**Left to right:**

*Chairman of the Grand Summer Ball, Amy Snedeker, with Elizabeth Collins and Kitty Wilson*



## KIDS FISHING DAY

**When: Saturday, September 24, 8 a.m. – noon**

**Where: Safe Harbor Pond, 11401 US Highway 98, Fairhope**

The Weeks Bay Foundation’s annual Kids Fishing Day is a great FREE opportunity for children 15 and younger to cast a line in a safe and fun environment. We stock the Safe Harbor Pond with locally raised catfish and each child can take home up to three fish. Fishing gear and bait will be provided for those children who do not have their own.



*For more information, contact the Weeks Bay Foundation at (251) 990-5004, Like us on Facebook, or visit [www.weeksbay.org](http://www.weeksbay.org).*

## GRAND SUMMER BALL



Make plans for the is the 30th Annual Grand Summer Ball at Marriott’s Grand Hotel ballroom in Point Clear on **August 27**. Proceeds from the event will go toward Thomas Hospital’s new birth center, a much needed unit to accommodate the growth of Baldwin County. Quest Diagnostics is stepping up as Presenting Sponsor of the Ball.” “We are extremely grateful for the support Quest Diagnostics has given us,” says Kathy Baugh, Vice President of the Thomas Hospital Foundation. Quest Diagnostics is the world’s leading provider of diagnostic information services needed to make better healthcare decisions. Chairman of the Grand Summer Ball, Amy Snedeker, and co-chair, Elizabeth Collins, and Kittie Wilson are thrilled to have the opportunity to plan the evening.



Since its inception, the Grand Summer Ball has raised more than \$4.0 million to provide much needed medical equipment and life-saving technology for Thomas Hospital.

*For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Kathy Baugh at [kathy.baugh@infirmaryhealth.org](mailto:kathy.baugh@infirmaryhealth.org) or call 251-279-1512.*

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall classes begin- August 16

Late Registration and Drop/Add – August 16-19

## USA BALDWIN COUNTY DEGREE PROGRAMS

At USA Baldwin County students can complete a degree in several disciplines. Two programs that continue to be popular are the **criminal justice** and **communication** degree programs. Strategic communication focuses on the promotion of services and products to build relationships with consumers. Nonprofit and government professionals use this form of communication to move audiences and to influence public policy. The criminal justice program provides instruction geared to prepare students for careers with local and federal law enforcement, homeland security, and also graduate study.

## LEADERSHIP BALDWIN COUNTY



Leadership Baldwin County was established in 1989 by the University of South Alabama Baldwin County and Baldwin County United. Both the University of South Alabama Baldwin County and Baldwin County United continue to sponsor the program and members from both organizations

are represented on an administrative steering committee. The joint committee guides the Leadership Baldwin County program structure, budget, fees and candidate selection. *Apply today for 2016-2017 class at <http://www.leadershipbaldwincounty.com/>*

## GEOCACHE CHALLENGE

We are having a great response to our “Geocache Challenge.” Use the clues about our beautiful campus to play for a prize!

*For information, call (251) 928-8133 or visit us online at [www.southalabama.edu](http://www.southalabama.edu)*

## KIWANIS CLUB OF FAIRHOPE AND THE EASTERN SHORE



The Kiwanis Club of Fairhope and the Eastern Shore will hold its annual golf tournament at Quail Creek Golf Course on Thursday, July 14. The 4 man scramble begins with a shotgun start at 8.30 am. *To participate, call Randy Fidler at 251-990-2936.*

## ROTARY YOUTH CLUB



*At the May 25th ribbon cutting, club members presented major donors with artwork from a recent project with Nancy Raia of the Eastern Shore Art Center. Representing the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation – Lee Turner; Impact 100 – Miranda Schrubbe; and representing the City of Fairhope – Council President Jack Burrell.*

The Rotary Youth Club’s next chapter officially began with the opening of our Education Wing and five shiny new classrooms this spring.

A record 156 club members moved into classrooms now defined by grade level for the first time, with teachers and tutors able to focus on the homework help that continues to move more and more children to the A/B Honor Roll.

The new wing – underwritten primarily by

Impact 100, the City of Fairhope and Fairhope Single Tax Corporation – also means the Summer Enrichment Academy can remain on the Young Street campus for June/July.

The Fairhope High School IB student tutoring partnership continues, with juniors and seniors receiving assistance with their IB fees from the Tonsmeire Foundation in return for homework tutoring throughout the week. Volunteer tutors are always needed for the “Power Hour” from 4-5pm. Interested? *Contact Education Coordinator Frances Campbell: [fcampbell@rotaryyouthclub.org](mailto:fcampbell@rotaryyouthclub.org).*

Sponsors and teams are filling up the 3rd Annual Rotary Youth Club Golf Tournament scheduled **August 26** at Rock Creek Golf Club. *Like to sign up? Join us! Email [info@rotaryyouthclub.org](mailto:info@rotaryyouthclub.org).*

## MAYOR KANT HONORED WITH NATIONAL URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Mayor Tim Kant was honored in June with the coveted Urban Beautification award from the American Horticultural Society (AHS), one of the oldest national gardening organizations in the United States with a mission of promoting excellence in American horticulture.

Awarded to “an individual, institution, or company for significant contributions to urban horticulture and the beautification of American cities,” the honor was presented as part of the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet, held at the AHS headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Va.

“When you’re recognized by your peers for what you’ve accomplished in your career, it’s a breathtaking experience,” Kant said. “To be invited to sit in a room next to people who have written great books, who breed plants, and who have designed amazing landscapes, is an experience that’s truly surreal.”

Mayor Kant was nominated by AHS President Emeritus Katy Moss Warner, who also serves as President and Judge of America in Bloom, for which Fairhope was awarded the 2015 championship title, among other honors.

“The importance of the natural environment in urban settings cannot be overstated,” Warner said. “Colorful flowers, street trees, beautiful parks, well-planted highway medians and preserved native habitats all enrich the quality of life in communities and lend economic vitality as well. Mayor Kant fully understands this critical relationship between plants, people and prosperity. For over 30 years, he has provided knowledgeable creative leadership that lets Fairhope stand proud as a model that showcases the value of urban beautification. He is so deserving of this national recognition.”

Mayor Kant has served the City of Fairhope for more than 30 years, the first 18 of which he worked as the city’s horticulturist, the first municipal horticulturist employed in the State of Alabama. Kant was given the charter to start the Fairhope Beautification Program, the effects of which both residents and visitors continue to enjoy today. While his title has changed during his tenure, his interest in plants continues from a passion that took root in his childhood.

Kant was 14 years old when he said he was bit by the gardening bug after working at a nursery growing chrysanthemums for the Chicago market. “Although my mother would say it actually started long before that,” Kant said. “I was nine years old, growing up in New Jersey, and there was a lady down the street who grew flowers in a hothouse. She would share some seeds with me and I would return to plant them in my own yard. Pretty soon I had a whole garden growing around my house. I was fascinated by the whole process – by watching something grow from start to finish.”

Kant earned his degree in horticulture from Auburn University, where he was recognized by The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., his freshman year and was awarded a scholarship, nominated by the Spanish Fort Garden Club. While he’s served Fairhope as mayor since he was elected in 2000, “Even today I love picking the flower varieties,” he said. “I have so much fun with it and I have just always loved growing plants. My biggest challenge when I ran in 2000 was the community’s concern for who was going to carry on the tradition of flowers in Fairhope, but I knew Jennifer [Fidler] would have them taken care of.”



“Being there at the awards banquet and seeing Mayor Kant receive this honor was truly a career high for me,” said Director of Public Works Jennifer Fidler, who superseded Kant as City Horticulturist in 2000. “When you do what I do, visiting the AHS headquarters is like Mecca. It’s where the genuine horticulturists are. We were sitting in this older home overlooking the Potomac River and this wildflower meadow, and the moment was just surreal.”

Fidler compared the ceremony to being at the Oscars for the horticulture world. “When you’ve been building your career for 22 years like I have and you find yourself at this event you’ve always heard about – to be there for the Mayor, and to see him recognized for all his attention to beautifying our city was truly an awesome experience. I was so excited to be there among this who’s who of plants and gardens. It was incredible.”

The AHS honor wasn’t the first time Mayor Kant and the City of Fairhope have been recognized for civic pride and beautification efforts. Fairhope has placed first in its population category in the America in Bloom urban beautification award program, and third in the world in Nations in Bloom, an award that recognizes cities for environmental stewardship and innovative practices. Additionally, Kant has received the Norman J. Walton, Sr. Regional Award—Outstanding Member Government, the highest award given by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission.

“The plants, the flowers, the landscapes – they’re what I know, they’re what I love,” Kant said. “To be honored at this level for something that’s been a lifelong passion of mine – well, it really doesn’t get much better than that.”



## Fairhope Public Library Programs and Classes

### THE WRITTEN WORD

This monthly book review and discussion on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m..

Sponsored by the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library.

- July 31** Brenda Huchingson discusses *“The Short Stories of Saki (H. H. Munro)”*
- August 28** Mary Murchison reviews *The Signature of All Things*, by Elizabeth Gilbert
- September 25** Phyllis Fritchen reviews *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

### LAUREL AND HARDY MOVIE FETE

The comedy of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy is timeless. Come enjoy two short comic classics on the **2nd Saturday of each month**. Parents and grandparents are welcome to bring children to introduce them to these masters of slapstick comedy. Carole Schneider, member of the Sons of the Desert International Laurel and Hardy Society, will present an introduction to each film.

**Held on July 9, August 13 and September 10 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

### NONFICTION BOOK CLUB

Join Pam and Alan in a group discussion on a nonfiction book selection.

- July 14** *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
- August 25** *Billion Dollar Spy* by David E. Hoffman, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

### 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.

**July 11 & 12, 2 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**August 8 & 9, 2 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**September 12 & 13, 2 – 3:30 p.m.**

### 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.

**July 28, 10:30 a.m. - Noon**  
**August 4 and 25, 10:30 a.m. - Noon**  
**September 1 and 22, 10:30 a.m. - Noon**

# Friends of the Fairhope Public Library

Friends of the Fairhope Public Library invite you visit their gently used bookstore just inside the main library entrance. You will find wonderful books from all genres of literature and interest. They are excited to share with the Fairhope community beautiful works of art on display in the bookstore. All of the artwork is created by members of the Friends group and can be purchased directly from the artist. Ask the volunteer cashiers who operated the store and they will provide information on how to contact the different artists.

Lobby book sale will be held on **July 21!** Great deals on books can be found at both events. Come, browse and purchase some wonderful summer reading and learn more about the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library.

*A reminder to all Friends that we have a team participating the community art project, Art on a Limb, and welcome members to join us to help yarn bomb some trees in the front of the library. Contact us at [fairhopelibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:fairhopelibraryfriends@gmail.com) if you want more information.*

## CONSANGUINITY

Join us on Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m. in July and August for a movie that was based on a book. Before each movie is a brief introduction by a local star.

<b>July 12</b>	<i>Death on the Nile</i> , Pam McRae
<b>July 19</b>	<i>In the Heart of the Sea</i> Tamara Dean
<b>July 26</b>	<i>A Room with a View</i> , Betty Suddeth
<b>August 2</b>	<i>The Martian</i> , Suzanne Barnhill
<b>August 9</b>	<i>The Princess Bride</i> , Trista Lackey
<b>August 16</b>	<i>Brooklyn</i> , Janice Charles
<b>August 23</b>	<i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i> , Rob Gourlay
<b>August 30</b>	<i>Ordinary People</i> , Peggy Reagan

## CLOSE KNIT CIRCLE

Every Friday from Noon to 2 p.m.

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

## SEED SAVING GARDENING PROGRAM

Mike McQueen, Regional Extension Agent Specialist in Home Gardens, will present this program.

**September 15, 10 - 11:30 a.m.**

## 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. Stop by the library, call the reference desk at 929-1464, or check the event calendar at [www.fairhopelibrary.org](http://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. 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](http://www.fairhopelibrary.org) for Help Desk dates and times.

*For more information on library programs, call 251-928-7483 or visit [www.fairhopelibrary.org](http://www.fairhopelibrary.org).*



## Fairhope Public Library Youth Services Department

The **Youth Services Department** at the Fairhope Library has been BUSY, BUSY, BUSY! We will continue with our **Summer Reading program until July 20**. Our summer program will conclude with a closing ceremony and presentation on **Wednesday, July 20**.

We will be helping students finish their summer reading assignments, and gearing up for a full slate of Fall activities with regular programming beginning on **Monday, September 12**.

*Our webpage has complete information on all programs. [fairhopelibrary.org/kids.htm](http://fairhopelibrary.org/kids.htm).*



## Fairhope High School Students win AMEA Scholarships

Three students from Fairhope High School have won scholarships through Fairhope Electric and AMEA, the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority. The year, through its 11 member-cities, AMEA awarded \$2,500 scholarships to 33 high school seniors. To be eligible, a student's family must receive electric service from a member-city's electric utility and the student must attend an Alabama college, university, or technical school.

**Arcole Brandon** will attend Auburn this fall with plans to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science and to go on to graduate school to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy. "I've always enjoyed physical activities and working with others, so this is a perfect blend of my passions," he said. Arcole is an award-winning track and field athlete (he holds the FHS record for longest discus throw) a sport he has participated in since ninth grade. He is a certified referee through the U.S. Soccer Association, an elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church, and was named "Most Likely to Succeed" by his senior class. He has also received scholarships through the Marian Gaynor Yanamura Educational Fund, Dixie Youth Baseball, Fairhope High School PTO, and the Jay Windham Memorial.

**Sarah Grace Bryant** will attend the University of Alabama to study Business Accounting. "I hope to pass my CPA exam and become a financial analyst or public account one day," she said. Sarah Grace has held a high GPA throughout high school and was a member of the National Honors Society. Starting with middle school participation as a cheer leader, she has been on the junior varsity and varsity cheer teams, including all-star cheerleading with Gem of Champions her senior year. Along with the AMEA scholarship, Sarah Grace was awarded the Hawkins Education Foundation Scholarship.

**Charity Hunt** plans to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham to major in biomedical sciences with plans to become a pediatrician. "I want to study in this field to challenge myself and enhance my knowledge so that one day I'll be able to help a child," she said. "My high school years have not always been the easiest, but through all the hard times I have learned that perseverance is the key to success." While in high school, Charity has been a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, and FHS Art Club. Charity is also a recipient of the UAB Academic Achievement Scholarship, the Zachary A. Moore Foundation Scholarship, and the Susan Gale Patrick Memorial Scholarship.

A fourth FHS student, Connor Raley, received a \$2,500 scholarship from AMEA through Riviera Utilities.

Since 1992, AMEA and its members have provided over \$2 million in scholarships to graduating high school seniors who receive their electric service from AMEA members, including Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Riviera Utilities (Foley), Sylacauga, and Tuskegee.

"We take our role as a good corporate citizen seriously," said Fred D. Clark, Jr., AMEA President and CEO. "That's why we, along with our members, support education initiatives, like the AMEA Scholarship Program, that contribute to making our state economically competitive. Together, we can all help the next generation of leaders by giving them the support and experiences they need today to make sound decisions in the future. We congratulate this year's winners."

*Information on the 2017 scholarship program will be available starting in August at [www.amea.com](http://www.amea.com).*



# School News

## FAIRHOPE HIGH SCHOOL

### Registration August 9

Seniors, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Juniors, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

### August 10

Sophomores, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Freshmen, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

### August 11

Freshman Orientation, FHS Gym, 6 p.m.

### August 16

Make-up registration,  
FHS Library, 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

## 2016 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 19	St. Paul
August 26	Foley
September 2	Mary Montgomery (Youth League Night) Home
September 9	Theodore (Homecoming) Home
September 16	Daphne Home
September 30	Baker (Spina Bifida Awareness/HOF Game) Home
October 6	Davidson Away
October 14	Murphy Senior Night) Home
October 21	Alma Bryant Away
October 28	McGill-Toolen Away



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.piratenationlive.com)

You probably did not have a child or relative playing for the College or Professional Sports Team you support. Just the same, you need not have a child or relative attending Fairhope High School or playing on one of the Sports teams to be a PIRATE!

You can keep updated of Fairhope Pirate Sports Action via the Booster Club's website, [www.piratenationlive.com](http://www.piratenationlive.com), including LIVE BROADCASTS. **GO PIRATES!**

## JUNIOR VARSITY SCHEDULE

August 29	Foley	Away
September 12	Robertsdale	Home
September 19	McGill	Home
September 26	BCHS	Away
October 3	Spanish Fort	Away
October 10	Daphne	Home
October 17	Gulf Shores	Away

## FVFD Explorer Wins State Award

Andon Kingry, a student at Fairhope High School and the South Baldwin Center for Technology Fire Science Program, recently finished first in the Alabama State Skills USA Competition in Birmingham. He advances to the national competition in Louisville, Kentucky, this summer.

“I am so excited to announce that Andon finished first in the state in the Fire Science division,” said Kendal Mowdy, SBCT principal. This was the school’s first time to participate in the competition that includes both written and physical skills tests.

“Not knowing what to expect, this is an amazing outcome. I’m so proud of the progress this program has made in such a short time. These young men and women do an awesome job learning firefighting and lifesaving skills.” Mowdy said.

Andon, who is completing his junior year at FHS and SBCT, says he’s looking forward to the national competition. “I’m going to work on increasing my endurance and study more, to make sure I’m prepared. I really look forward to meeting new people and learning new skills at the competition.”

Andon is a member of the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department’s Explorer Post, which currently has 15 members, said Explorer Coordinator Tommy Bozeman. “Andon’s been a member since he was 14 (the minimum age for joining), and he’s a great example of the success we’ve had with the program. We’re all very proud of him.”

Fairhope Fire Chief Chris Ellis, added his congratulations to Andon, and noted the program’s success over the past eight years. “At least 75 young men and women have gone through the program, and many have moved up to serve as a volunteer with FVFD. Currently three lieutenants in FVFD who started their experience with the Explorers. It’s a great program to teach young people discipline and responsibility and gives them direction.”

Tim Blakemore, regional coordinator for the Alabama Fire College, which works with SBCT on the Fire Science Program, complimented the Fairhope Explorer post for its success. “They have done a great job showing young people what firefighting is really about and leading the young people by example. Often, young people see fire fighters in movies and all they see is the ‘glory.’ They don’t see that it’s hard work: it’s hot and dangerous and you get



sweaty and dirty. Explorer programs let them see and safely learn about firefighting and how firefighters prepare for the job.”

Through the program at SBCT, students complete a 160-hour course and can be certified as a firefighter when they turn 18. They may also choose to continue with an additional 200-hour program to earn a Firefighter 1 certificate. “A student can complete that course within about six months after turning 18, and then be eligible to be hired as a professional firefighter by any full-time fire department,” Blakemore said. “We don’t discourage students from going to college, but firefighters work on a 24-hours on, 48-hours off shift, so we tell young people that they can easily continue their education while working full time as a professional fire fighter.”

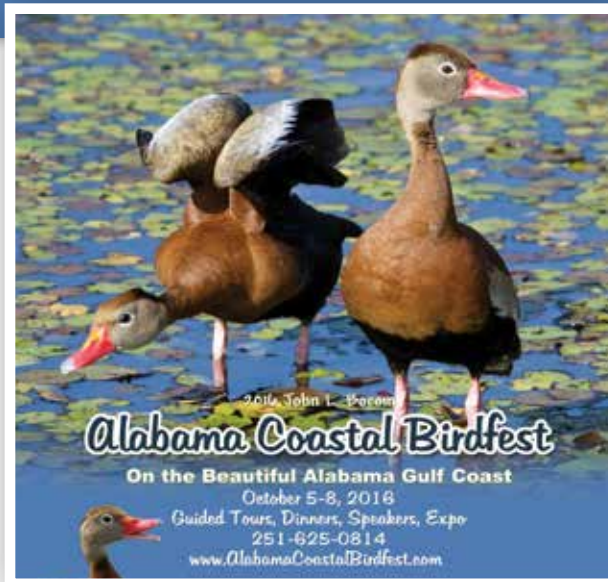
Andon is the first student from Baldwin County to advance to the national competition. He says that one day being a professional fire fighter would be “a dream come true.”

The Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department will be paying his way to the finals in Louisville. “Andon didn’t tell us he was taking part in this competition, so it was a huge surprise to us when he won, but we weren’t surprised that he won,” Chief Ellis said. “He’s a fine young man, and we’re all really excited for him and wish him the best in the national competition.”

*For information on the FVFD Explorer program, call 251-545-5946.*

# Alabama Coastal BirdFest

For the 13th year, Alabama Coastal BirdFest returns to welcome the fall migration of birds from all over North America. Since 2004, BirdFest has had participants from more than 25 states and Canada, who have come here for a chance to see local and migrating birds as they pass through our area on their way to winter homes in Central and South America. This year's BirdFest is **Wednesday–Saturday, October 5–8.**



birds as well as other creatures who share our world, especially dolphins and alligators. The festival includes walking tours, kayak and canoe paddles, boat rides, workshops, lectures, dinners, and more. Tours, workshops, and evening events require advance registration. The Bird & Conservation Expo, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 8, at the Halstead Amphitheater on the Faulkner Campus in downtown Fairhope, is a fun, free family day

“The Alabama Gulf Coast is right in the middle of a flyway. There are many species that spend the summer in North America, some as far north as the Arctic Circle and then winter in Central and South America,” said BirdFest Founder John Borom. Birds that are about to cross the Gulf of Mexico spend time here preparing for that long journey, and birders from all over know that if they hope to see a bird they’ve never seen before, this is a good place and BirdFest is a good time to do that.”

BirdFest, a birding and nature festival, features more than 30 expertly guided tours to spots all around Mobile Bay giving participants a chance to see local and migratory

with live raptor and snake shows, a birdhouse build, and many hands-on activities for all ages. *For more information on BirdFest or to register for a paid tour or event, visit [www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com](http://www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com). Registration is open from August 15 through September 23.*

## Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

City Sketches Summer 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](mailto:sherry.sullivan@cofairhope.com) or call 251-990-0218. The deadline for the next issue is August 7.

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



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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## Phantasy of the Arts 2016 Showcasing Vocal Talent of Street Corner Symphony

Using only the instrument of their voices, the Street Corner Symphony puts on a crowd-pleasing concert with songs from all genres and with the sound of a full band behind them. The group will headline Phantasy of the Arts 2016, the Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation's (FEEF) signature fundraiser, on **Saturday, October 8, at 7 p.m.** at the Fairhope Civic Center.



of entertainment for education. In addition to Street Corner Symphony, recently featured entertainment at Phantasy includes Chicago's legendary "The Second City" improv comedy troupe; the popular Alabama band, Saint Paul and the Broken Bones; and Lightwire Theatre, which gained national acclaim on America's Got Talent.

The Nashville-based Street Corner Symphony is a six-man a cappella group that gained international attention in 2010 as runner-ups on Season 2 of NBC's all vocal competition, The Sing-Off. These southern gents quickly won over Sing-Off judges and an NBC primetime audience after demonstrating their unique and dynamic style of a cappella. A perusal of their videos posted on You Tube shows the six-man group performing many well-known songs, such as "Uptown Funk" and "Hey, Soul Sister," with humor and rearranged with an a cappella twist.

The group consists of two brothers; Jeremy Lister and Jonathan Lister; along with Adam Chance, Kurt Zimmerman, Kaleb Jones and Mark McLemore. Since their success on The Sing-Off, Street Corner Symphony has been making records and performing for audiences across the country and around the world. Their music covers a wide range of style, appealing to young and old alike. Highlights for SCS so far include touring with Ben Folds and Jay Leno, performing at Tony Romo's wedding, and bringing their show overseas to Italy.

Phantasy of the Arts co-chairs Julie Brown and Jeni Whitehurst promise this celebration of FEEF's upcoming 21st anniversary will continue the tradition of being a great night

Since this is a party in the South during college football season, the audience can expect the evening to continue with great food from the area's finest chefs, more music, and football viewing for those who are so inclined. "This is an opportunity for people in our community to come together for good music, good food, and good company while also showing support for public education in Fairhope," says Julie Brown.

"This fundraiser directly supports enrichment programs in art, music, and science that would otherwise be unavailable to our public school students in Fairhope," says Jeni Whitehurst.

Since its inception, Phantasy of the Arts has raised more than \$700,000 for public education in Fairhope. Most recently, proceeds from the fundraiser have allowed Fairhope Elementary students access to expanded art and music lessons, provided hands-on science labs for Fairhope Intermediate and J. Larry Newton students, and supported piano lab, theatre, band, art, and guitar lab at Fairhope High and Fairhope Middle Schools.

*Advanced individual tickets are \$100. To purchase a sponsorship, tickets, or for more information visit [www.feefonline.org](http://www.feefonline.org), call 251-990-FEEF, or email [info@feefonline.org](mailto:info@feefonline.org).*

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