

# Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

*City Sketches*

Fall 2016



## Looking Ahead

Mayor-Elect Karin Wilson

Mayor Tim Kant

Councilman Mike Ford

## Holiday Events

America Recycles Day

Library News

Fairhope Film Festival

On Behalf of a Grateful Nation



## Mayor-Elect Karin Wilson Casting a Wide Net

When they were growing up in Fairhope, Mayor-elect Karin Wilson and her identical twin sister, Kelley Lyons, learned how to throw a cast net at the pier from their dad, Robbie Wolff. Wilson learned the advantages of throwing a wide net, and it's a lesson she thinks applies today to her new job governing Fairhope.

"So much of our planning area includes the community outside of our city limits. There are more than 32,000 people in the 36532 zip code; only around 18,000 live within the city limits but all 32,000-plus people are affected by what happens in Fairhope. That's why, when we talk about our city's comprehensive plan, we have to make sure it involves the entire community, not just the residents within the city limits.

"We all have different ideas for how we envision our beautiful bayside town to develop, but I think we can all agree that we want to protect our unique quality of life. Our future, the future of this town we love so dearly, will be brighter and stronger if we stand together as we move forward. That's why community involvement will be one of the cornerstones of my administration."

Wilson began working on the idea before taking office, meeting with the city planning department for help creating community districts within the entire planning jurisdiction where citizens can voice their ideas and suggestions. "I want to get as many people involved from all neighborhoods of Fairhope, whether in the city limits or outside, from Montrose to Twin Beech Road, from the Bluff District to the airport. If you're in the Planning Jurisdiction area for Fairhope, then how all of Fairhope develops should be important to you. That's why I want to 'cast a wide net' to include everyone in the conversation."

Creating a community-engaged comprehensive plan about how Fairhope will develop will be Wilson's top priority as Mayor, and one she believes will directly affect other issues of concern. "Most of our growth now is outside the city limits, so having a comprehensive plan that is only enforced within the city limits doesn't make sense, unless we work equally hard to expand our city limits. I believe that once people recognize how Fairhope's growth has an impact on them—no matter where they live—they will see the benefits of coming into the city, of coming together as one area. We can't have a plan that just works in the city limits. We need to expand that to accomplish anything."

Wilson believes that a "wide net" comprehensive plan will help with other issues such as traffic, storm run-off and other environmental issues, and overcrowding in our schools. "There are many problems that I think we've been kicking down the road for years. We need to address them, and until we have responsible growth for the whole area, until we fix it all together, we can't really fix any of it."

As Mayor Wilson's plans develop, you will be able to learn more about your community district and meetings to voice your opinions. Look for more information on the city's website at [www.cofairhope.com](http://www.cofairhope.com) in the coming months.



# Celebrate Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday by Shopping Locally

This year Fairhope merchants encourage you to pass on the hectic madness of Black Friday and instead enjoy a weekend of shopping local with two special days: Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday, November 25 and 26.

Both nationally recognized events, the days promote the idea that shopping locally owned businesses can create a pleasurable, enjoyable shopping weekend experience.

The idea for Plaid Friday began in Oakland, California, and celebrates the notion of weaving together the individual threads of small businesses to create a strong fabric that celebrates the diversity and creativity of independent businesses, said Karin Wilson, Fairhope's Mayor-elect and small business owner.

"To me, this 'weaving together' perfectly describes not only our independent businesses (indies) in Fairhope, but our unique community as a whole. Indies are one of Fairhope's most valuable assets. These entrepreneurs fuel our economy and circulate up to four times more revenue back into the city. Every dollar spent locally will enrich our community far more than spending the same dollar with a chain, franchise, online, or any out-of-town business. In our ever more homogenized world, we must support the one-of-a-kind businesses that give Fairhope its distinct character."



## DOWNTOWN FAIRHOPE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Alex Robinson, with the Downtown Fairhope Business Association, says that over the weekend, shoppers can pick up a "stamp card" at participating merchants, and when their card is full, turn the card in at the Welcome Center to register for a drawing of several gift certificates, including a "grand prize" award.

"It will be a fun weekend of shopping throughout

Fairhope," she said. "We encourage shoppers to wear plaid, the merchants will each be doing their own spins on it, and it will be a nice, family friendly way to shop for the holidays. We hope to see shopping locally, during normal business hours on Plaid Friday, become a tradition on the weekend after Thanksgiving. Along with Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday, many of Fairhope's merchants will also be open on Sundays through Christmas."

Wilson notes that the weekend fits in with the Thanksgiving spirit. "This is a time to demonstrate our thankfulness by spending time with those who matter most: our families, our communities, and our neighborhood independent shops and restaurants, downtown and throughout Fairhope."

## City of Fairhope Fall Flower Program

### Borders

Marigold Hot Pack Yellow

### Fillers

Zinnia Crystal White  
Zinnia Crystal Yellow  
Zinnia Crystal Orange  
Superbells Lemon Slice  
Superbells Apricot Punch

### Middle

Zinnia Profusion Yellow  
Marigold Zenith Red

### Green Boxes

Superbells Lemon Slice  
Superbells Apricot Punch  
Zinnia Star Gold  
Zinnia Star Orange  
Marigold Hot Pack Orange  
Marigold Hot Pack Yellow

### White Boxes

Bidens Campfire Burst

### Hanging Baskets

Superbells Dreamsicle  
Superbells Apricot Punch  
Superbells Spicy  
Superbells Lemon Slice





## If You Build It, They Will Come

As his tenure as a public servant draws to a close, Mayor Tim Kant reflects on the vision that gave the city by the bay another chance at a fair hope of success.

It's been more than 30 years since Mayor Tim Kant first came on board to serve the City of Fairhope. Initially hired as the city's first horticulturist in 1983, he later absorbed the role of superintendent of public works and, since 2000, has served as mayor of what is now one of the fastest growing municipalities in the state of Alabama.

The unprecedented boom is no wonder, as both residents and visitors can attest, we can't help but be naturally drawn to the splendor of the pink sunsets reflecting off the bay; the charming, eclectic downtown district; the palpable city spirit felt at community events like the annual Lighting of the Trees ceremony; and, of course, the bountiful, beautiful flowers.

"You know, people will say it's got to be about more than just the flowers, and of course it is," Kant says as we sit down to visit at his kitchen table. "They're beautiful and they've helped to define Fairhope, but they're also representative of something much deeper – of civic pride. The flowers are a sign that other things are working – the schools, the businesses, the government – they're a symbol that we're doing something right."

For those of us who are transplants to Fairhope, it's hard to imagine the town without the parks, the beach, the library, the fountain; to picture Hwy. 98 as a two-lane road, or downtown shops with boarded-up windows. But the truth is, the Fairhope of 30 years ago is a far cry from the idyllic destination we know today. The

once thriving artists' colony had fallen into a dilapidated state of disrepair and was in need of a major overhaul to have any chance of survival.

"When I came on board in 1983, there really wasn't a whole lot to the city, except for the people," Kant recalls. "When you drove down Fairhope Avenue, you saw a stretch of decaying buildings with broken windows. In fact, De la Mare was an alley where everyone dumped their trash. There were no attractions, there was no active community, we didn't even have many sidewalks, and we certainly didn't see an influx of people wanting to move here. We knew we had to do something fast because the town was dying."

While the picture he paints may have seemed daunting to some, Kant saw the scene as an opportunity.

"I was given one charge: to turn Fairhope into a city we could all be proud of. I looked around, and all I saw was possibility. But I knew if you were going to change the entire direction of a city, you had to do something big. If all you strive for is mediocre, all you'll ever have is mediocre. I knew we had to lead by example and I wanted Fairhope to be different, I wanted us to set the standard."

Equipped with his marching orders and a plan, Kant struck out intent on cleaning up the city and launched an anti-litter campaign. For two solid years, he also met with every civic group he could find to try to raise funds, and awareness, for the cause.

"That first year I raised \$15,000 and the Rotary Club donated 25 trees," Kant remembers. "We initially planted those trees to try to

cover up all the ugliness. We had to do a lot of clean up before we could build up. But, the strength of the City Council and Mayor back then kept us moving forward and they were working so hard to bring people to this community. They were determined not to see Fairhope disappear off the map.”

It was around this time that it was determined that the municipal buildings should be built downtown to create, as Kant describes it, the “heart” of the city. The view from the bluff, naturally, would become the soul.

“I can remember when you came up on the hill overlooking the bay, all you saw was a flag pole and a red clay trail that led you to a concrete picnic table. But I knew we could turn it into something spectacular, to create a climax as the road ends at Mobile Bay.”

And, in true form, Kant dug in and got his hands dirty.

“In 1984, I got a backhoe and spent a winter digging out the duck pond. And then I found a great book on footbridges and started working on some sketches to take to a carpenter. I had fun with that project, designing the stars and designs in the plywood.”

A year later, Kant decided to pursue the fountain that has since become the backdrop of many a photograph for residents and visitors alike.

“I sketched out a design and presented it to City Council,” Kant says, adding that he was given \$15,000 to complete the project. “You’d better believe, we used every penny.”

In fact, unused swim pumps were borrowed from the city pool and burnt motor oil was applied as a cost-effective way to seal the bottom. “We had lights put in and a local architect designed the brickwork. Within a year, the roses bloomed.”

Kant explains that once more and more projects started rolling, the community started to open their eyes, and buy in.

“All they needed was to see things start happening, and then they started believing.”

With the Beautification Project well underway, Kant says the city expanded its focus to absorb the more basic needs of city cleanup, which was taken care of by a private company until 1989. “We launched our own city sanitation, trash and garbage pickup at that time and, a year later, added recycling. That was the advent of Fairhope Public Works.”

Fed with new ideas, great care and encouragement, strategic creativity, and countless hours of time and labor, over time Fairhope began to grow...and thrive.

“We built the police station, the Haven, the Rotary Youth Club, the clock, the library. Highway 98 expanded and we secured a grant to light the roads. We built sidewalks. We built parks. The hospital expanded, and then expanded again. We built the boat

ramp at the end of Pier Street, then the Recreation Board was given \$1 million by Mayor Nix to split between the Rec Center and the soccer and softball fields. Those fields were built by Public Works and volunteers. We had our first Mardi Gras parade, we had our first Lighting of the Trees ceremony when the Downtown Merchants raised the money to buy those very first lights, public art was established, shops opened, restaurants opened, our tourism skyrocketed, our housing prices rose, everything just took off.”

And the phone calls started...and haven’t stopped.

“In those early years, we would get calls all the time, at least once a week, from cities all over the country asking us to come and advise them on their Main Street projects. They wanted to recreate what was working for us here, and I started traveling all over. At a certain point, I found myself spending more time advising other communities than I was spending time here. I think the next call we got was from Lexington, Ky., and at that point I told Mayor Nix they were going to have to start coming to us!”

Over three decades, Fairhope has received recognition for its initiatives, programs and community efforts from all over, and continues to make countless media “best of” lists all the time.

As Kant explains, “We attract people, a quality of people who care about the city, who want to help it continue to flourish. When people move here, they move here to stay.”

Yet, when all is said and done, “Citizens have to understand the past for a city to successfully move into the future. In 1983, I never could have imagined Fairhope would have become what it is now, and while the city has so much to be proud of, it also brings on a whole new set of challenges. We have to grow in quality and we have to grow smart.”

As for the past 16 years, “I truly have been blessed to serve Fairhope as mayor,” Kant says. “I’ve lived here, I’ve worked here, I’ll retire here. I have a lot of friends, and I’ve gotten to meet people from all over the world, from all walks of life. I’ve seen the goodness of people and I’ve also seen how hateful people can be, but that’s part of it. The way I see it, struggling makes you a better person.”

On what he’s accomplished, “I dreamed about what I wanted to do, and it took some time to get here. I’m proud of a lot of things – that we were able to buy acres of parkland just north of town that will never be developed, that I created a group of managers so dedicated to making this city the best it can be, and knowing that I had a little something to do with making Fairhope a better place to live. Of all the things I’ve done in life, what I have enjoyed the most is giving back and helping people in public service. And if I ever have the chance to help make another community as successful as ours, that’s what I want to do.”

Thank you, Mayor Kant. You’ve done our community a great service indeed.

# RECREATION

## MIKE FORD TENNIS CENTER AT FAIRHOPE STIMPSON PARK



### FALL JUNIOR TENNIS PROGRAMS

- **Future Stars** (Ages 6-9), Mondays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- **Level 1** (Ages 10-16) Beginner/Intermediate Level, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- **Level 2** (18U) Intermediate & Advanced 12U players, Mondays & Thursdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- **Level 3** (Tournament & HS Players), Mondays & Thursdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

### FALL ADULT TENNIS PROGRAMS

- **Intermediate/Advanced Level**, Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **BEGINNER ADULT TENNIS CLINIC**, Thursday, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SEPTEMBER 1st-October 7th ONLY
- **Cardio Tennis Class**, Fridays, 8 to 9 a.m.

## FAIRHOPE YOUTH SOCCER

The Fairhope Soccer Complex picked up a major “assist” from the City of Fairhope and Fairhope Single Tax Corporation – with a combined commitment of \$600,000 toward a concessions/restroom building to anchor the facility on Manley Road when it officially opens next spring.

“The vision for the new soccer complex has always been something on par with the great soccer programs you find in Decatur, Montgomery and other cities that make recreation a priority,” said FSC Board Chair Dirk Flad. “These fields mean the ability to host the kind of tournaments that bring tremendous economic impact. Even more importantly – we’re offering top notch facilities to the more than 1000 players that enjoy soccer in Fairhope every year.”

SCORE! The Campaign for the Fairhope Soccer Complex – will continue to raise funds to complete the complex with essentials like benches, shade, storage and more. FSC has already committed more than \$80,000 toward goals.

*To play a part and learn more about the plans – visit [www.fairhopescores.com](http://www.fairhopescores.com).*



## JAMES P. NIX CENTER

The Nix Center holds dances twice each month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. The dances are open to anyone over the age of 21. Cost is \$5 for Nix Center members and \$9 for non-members.

October 13	Charlie Freeman
October 27	Sonny Tanner (Halloween)
November 10	J.R. Owen
December 8	Exit 105 (Christmas)
December 29	Two of Hearts (New Year Party)

## JAM’N FOLKS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Annual Christmas Concert by the Jam’n Folks will be on **Thursday, December 1 at 2 p.m.**

The Jam’n Folks, a folk instrument group, will perform Christmas music on instruments such as Dulcimers and Whistles. Song selections include Jingle Bells, Joy To The World and many more! You will not want to miss this festive holiday celebration! Light refreshments will be served following the concert. The Jam’n Folks play at the Nix Center every Tuesday from 9 a.m. until noon and always welcome an audience.







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

### SCHEDULED TOURNAMENTS AND OUTINGS

#### OCTOBER

October 16	Quail Creek Civic Association Golf Outing, 1 p.m., shotgun start
October 22	Quail Creek Men's Golf Association Four (4) Man Team event, Format 3-Best Balls of the 4. 8 a.m., shotgun start

#### NOVEMBER

November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 19	Quail Creek Men's Golf Association Tournament - AL vs. AU Classic Shamble (MGA Iron Bowl Event), 8 a.m., shotgun start
November 24	Thanksgiving, 9 a.m., shotgun start Course and Clubhouse will close at 2 p.m.

*Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your favorite golfer? Visit the Quail Creek Pro Shop for merchandise or a gift certificate.*



#### DECEMBER

December 10	Men's Golf Association Tournament – Format: Play with your Own Foursome – Teams determined by Blind Draw. Fun Day Event!
December 24	Christmas Eve – Course closes at 2 p.m.
December 25	Course closed, Merry Christmas!
December 31	Course Open all day, call for tee times!

*To book a tee time, please call 251-990-0240.*



# FALL & HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

## Downtown Trick or Treat

This year the event, sponsored by the Downtown Fairhope Business Association, is **Saturday, October 29** from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., rain or shine. Check in at the Fairhope Welcome Center for pictures and don't forget your camera!

Enjoy trick-or-treating with your children while walking around historic downtown Fairhope. Just look for the orange pumpkin in the window to see who is participating. This event is a hit with the children, as they love to walk from store to store receiving candies and creative gifts from our downtown merchants. The first 500 kids to check in will receive a free trick-or-treat bag!



## Veteran's Day Parade & Sunset Prayer Service

The City of Fairhope will honor its military veterans with a Veterans Day Parade on **Saturday, November 5**. The parade will start at 10 a.m. and will begin and end at the Fairhope Civic Center. Leading the parade will be Fairhope's 2016 Veteran of the Year. The celebration will continue, on **Friday, November 11** at 4:45 p.m. in Henry George Park. A sunset prayer service will be held at the Veteran's Memorial, Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy.

## Fairhope's Lighting of the Trees

The City of Fairhope will kick off the holiday season with their annual Fairhope Tree Lighting Ceremony on **Thursday, November 17**. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.

and the lights come on at 6 p.m. sharp! The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be emceed by the voice of WABF, Lori Dubose. Entertainment includes the Fairhope High School Band and Eastern Shore Choral Society on the main stage at the intersection of Fairhope Avenue and Section Street and the Fairhope Middle School band on De La Mare Avenue. Center Stage Choir will perform in front of Adrenaline alongside Mrs. Claus who will be passing out candy canes and letting children write a wish list to Santa for her to take back to the North Pole.



## Downtown Fairhope Holiday Stroll

This year's Holiday Stroll festivities kick off on **Friday, November 18**. Downtown businesses will keep their doors open late for some shopping and sipping on hot chocolate from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The first 500 to check in at the Fairhope Welcome Center will receive a free re-useable shopping tote courtesy of the Downtown Fairhope Business Association.

## Downtown Fairhope Business Association 8th Annual Holiday Movie in the Streets

Come and enjoy a movie under the stars as the Downtown Fairhope Business Association celebrates the upcoming holiday season with the 8th Annual "Movie in the Street: On Fairhope Avenue" near the intersection of Section Street and Fairhope Avenue. The popular holiday movie "POLAR EXPRESS" will begin at 6:30 p.m. on **Saturday, November 19**.

Those who plan to attend can bring lawn chairs and blankets from home. Children are invited to wear their holiday pajamas. "Movie in the Street: On Fairhope Avenue" is a family friendly event, no alcoholic beverages will be allowed. Refreshments will be available and admission is free.

## Fairhope's 57th Annual Christmas Open House

Downtown Fairhope will celebrate Christmas Open House on **Sunday, November 20** from 1 to 5 p.m. Live entertainment, hot chocolate and shopping opportunities for every member of the family make this annual event special every year. For additional information, call Paige Crawford at 251- 929-1466.

## Fairhope's Magical Christmas Parade

The Annual Fairhope Magical Christmas Parade takes to the streets of Fairhope on **Friday, December 2**. Fairhope's Magical Christmas Parade begins at 7 p.m. at the intersection of Morphy and Section Street, and continues down Section to Oak Street. The excitement will build as more than 60 parade units dazzle the crowd in anticipation of Santa Claus' arrival to Fairhope for the holiday season. WABF 1220 will be broadcasting the parade live.

## City of Fairhope Santa Saturdays

Santa will be visiting Fairhope on **December 3 and 10** for "Fairhope's Santa Saturdays." Santa will be in front of the Fairhope Museum of History in downtown Fairhope from 10:00am until 12:00 p.m. for children to visit. Parents may bring their cameras to take pictures. Live entertainment will be provided by Center Stage Performance.



## Fairhope's New Year's Eve Family Celebration

The City of Fairhope will again be hosting their annual New Year's Eve Celebration in the streets of downtown Fairhope. Residents and visitors are invited to bring their families and ring in the New Year. The festivities will take place at the corner of Fairhope Avenue and Church Street featuring live entertainment, children's face painting, plus fireworks once the clock strikes twelve. Don't miss this exciting downtown celebration in Fairhope!

Many downtown restaurants will be open for those who wish to eat in downtown and then just hangout until midnight. Section Street will be left open to through traffic; handicap parking will be available on Section Street in designated handicap areas and in the parking lot behind Julwin's.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## IMPACT 100 BALDWIN COUNTY

Since our founding in 2008, the women of Impact 100 enthusiastically continue their quest to fund high impact grants to non-profits. By the end of this year, the group will have awarded \$2.1 million dollars to a wide variety of local agencies and organizations. Recipients this year include the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC), Daphne Search and Rescue, AUC Resource Center and the Baldwin County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. Impact is a completely volunteer 501(c)(3) group with 100 percent of each member's donation going to fund grants. The 2017 membership drive kickoff will be held at Chapel Farm on **November 15, 2016**. The drive runs through **March 31, 2017**. Women 18 and over are invited to join Impact, meet and enjoy other women in the area and make a difference in the lives of many in our community.

*For information, visit [Impact100baldwincounty.org](http://Impact100baldwincounty.org) or find us on Facebook.*

## THE 2016 WEEKS BAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



The Weeks Bay Photography Contest is open to photographers of all ages and skill levels. It is only \$5 per photo for adults to enter and it is free for photographers 16 and under. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded in both open and junior divisions. In addition, there will be a \$100 cash prize for the overall Best-In-Show.

Photographers can submit two photos in each of the following four categories: Flora, Fauna, Habitat, and People in Nature. Flora is any plant life, including close up shots of flowers. Fauna is for all animals, including insects, fish, birds, and mammals. Habitat is our landscape division for showcasing the beauty of the coastal scenery. Our People in Nature category allows photographers to focus on family and friends enjoying Alabama's wild lands.

Photos must have been taken in Alabama's Gulf Coast watershed or coastal waters after October 19, 2015. (This avoids repeat entries from past years.) The deadline for entering your photographs is October 24.

*To enter and view the complete contest rules visit the Weeks Bay Foundation web site at [weeksbay.org](http://weeksbay.org). For additional information, call the Foundation office at 251-990-5004.*

## MARIETTA JOHNSON PARTNERING TO CLEAN-UP OUR BEACHES

The Marietta Johnson Museum, The Organic School and the City of Fairhope are partnering with the national organization ALL ONE OCEAN in a project designed to encourage responsible stewardship of our waters.

The Museum will fund the initial phase of the project which will be implemented by the Organic School students who will construct, decorate and install 5 permanent Beach Clean Up Stations (BCUS) in the areas along the Bay.

The (BCUS) boxes will be supplied with bags providing a convenient way for beachgoers to help pick up trash while they are enjoying the beach.

Awareness of the impact of this waste on the health of our marine life and human population is crucial. Organizers encourage other institutions, organizations and communities to join in this effort, creating and installing more Beach Clean-Up Stations all along the Bay and Gulf Coast

*For more information on ALL ONE OCEAN see: [www.alloneocean.org](http://www.alloneocean.org)*

## 2016 POLO AT THE POINT

The 2016 Polo at the Point, hosted by Point Clear Charities, Inc. and presented by Mercedes Benz of Mobile and Grand Hotel Marriott, is scheduled for **Saturday, October 15** at Sonny Hill-Clearwater Polo Complex in Point Clear.



Polo at the Point has become one of Alabama's top one-day fundraiser events. Organized by all volunteers with proceeds going back to our community, the Gulf Coast's premier charity sporting event has designated Thomas Hospital and Mitchell Cancer Institute as its main beneficiaries. Event highlights include world-class polo, gourmet cuisine, champagne, divot stomping, tailgating fun, reserved seating, garden party attire in the luncheon tent, hat parade, Mercedes Drawn Down, Silent Auction, SEC sports center, evening Player's Party and much more.

Tickets range from \$10 (tailgate) to \$150 (luncheon). Sponsorship opportunities are still available. *For more information visit [www.poloatthepoint.com](http://www.poloatthepoint.com) or call 251 928-9704.*

# Eastern Shore Art Center



**First Friday Art Walks**  
Refreshments served.  
Live Entertainment. Free admission. Donations welcomed.

**November 4** from 6 to 8 p.m.  
November Exhibits: Members' Open Show, Art Bayer, Faces of Freedom: Veteran's Photography  
No December Art Walk due to Christmas Parade.  
November exhibits continued into December, excluding the Vets exhibit

We will be hosting a special **Holiday Art Mart** on **Thursday, December 1** instead! Join us for indoor art mart with over 20 vendors! Bring the family! Each one of our studios will contain a different Santa's Elves Workshop where kids can make their own ornaments and buy gifts for their family members! Activities will run 1 p.m. to 7p.m.

#### Adult Workshops/Classes:

- October 10-11:** Mixed Media Paper Mache Workshop with Jan Jones @ Jan's Studio!  
**October 17-18:** Take Two: Mixed Media Paper Mache Workshop with Jan Jones @ Jan's Studio!

*For questions, call 251-928-2228 or visit [www.esartcenter.com](http://www.esartcenter.com)  
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram!!*

## 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.

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



## Fairhope's Venerable Theatre 98

**Theatre 98** will present *Proof* by David Auburn and directed by Joe Fuselli. Shows will be held **October 14-16, 21-23**. Performances are 8 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students.  
*For more information visit [www.theatre98.org](http://www.theatre98.org) or call 251-928-4366.*



The Eastern Shore Choral Society is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year and it promises to be a very special season. So mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

On **Saturday, November 5th**, the chorus will present a Veteran's Day Concert, with orchestral accompaniment, at 1:00 p.m. at the Faulkner State Amphitheater in Fairhope. The concert is free.

Due to the popularity of the Christmas concerts, the Choral Society has added a third concert date. **There will be two evening Christmas concerts. The first will be on Tuesday, November 29th**, at the Spanish Fort United Methodist Church and the other on Thursday, December 1st, at Fairhope United Methodist Church. Both will begin at 7:30 p.m. A third concert will be presented at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th, at Fairhope United Methodist Church. Tickets for the concerts are \$15 and may be purchased online at [www.escs.org](http://www.escs.org) or from any ESCS member.

The ESCS annual Messiah Sing will be **December 13th**, at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. The community is invited to join us in singing the choruses from the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. Scores will be available for those who need them. There will be organ and violin accompaniment and professional soloists will perform select arias and recitatives. There will be a reception afterwards in Trinity Hall. This event is free but donations are welcomed.

*For more information about any of these events visit our web page at [www.escs.org](http://www.escs.org) or contact Mary Katherine Kilgore, the artist director, at [artisticdirector@escs.org](mailto:artisticdirector@escs.org).*



# MUSEUM NEWS

## FAIRHOPE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Do you know Fairhope's unique history? There is quite a story behind our city's founding in 1894, and the best place to learn more about it is at the Fairhope Museum of History where Museum Director Donnie Barrett and staff showcase exhibits that highlight interesting people and fascinating artifacts from the past 120 years and beyond.



This fall, a new exhibit will include larger-than-life-size images that will be mounted perpendicular to the wall with information and displays in between featuring about 16 of the individuals who were part of Fairhope's early days. "Some are founders who arrived with the first group of 'Single Tax' settlers in 1894, others are people who may not have been among the earliest residents but who contributed to Fairhope

in a significant and interesting way. It will be impressive, and I hope people come out to see it."

Speaking of the first arrival of Fairhope's founders, "Roundup Day" will be celebrated again this year, with activities planned for **Saturday, November 12**, Barrett said. "The past couple of years, we have staged a Founders Day Play at the Colony Cemetery, but we expect to have the movie of that ready for the public sometime this fall, so we are doing something different for Roundup Day. Tentative plans are for a picnic or cookout at the beach, which is something the founders and early residents often did."

The Fairhope Museum of History is at 24 N. Section Street in a historic circa 1928 Spanish mission-style building that once served as City Hall. Along with changing exhibits, the museum features many

permanent displays on the history and even prehistory of our area. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m., the museum hosts a program with a lecture on some aspect of Fairhope history, with Baldwin County tea and cookies. A \$2 donation is requested for these events. The museum is open daily (except Sunday and Monday) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Call 929-1471 for more information or "like" the Friends of the Fairhope Museum of History on Facebook for updates and information.*

## MARIETTA JOHNSON MUSEUM

For decades the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education has hosted a Fall Festival organized by our students, staff and families. Discover this piece of Fairhope history by joining us on **Thursday, October 20 from 6 to 9 p.m.** for this year's Fall Festival. Mawk Arnold, MJSOE Class of 1942, will officiate the Cake Walk. Donnie Barrett, Director of Fairhope History Museum and former faculty member, and his wife Lottie will look into their crystal ball to tell futures and maybe a story or two from the past. Local musicians will provide music on our new outdoor amphitheater built as an Eagle Scout project by Patrick Lindsay Garner. Local businesses have donated items for the Silent Auction. There are plenty of activities for the children: games with prizes, face painting, pony rides and a bouncy house.

*For more information, please call the school office at 251-928-9347, or email [marietta.school@mchsi.com](mailto:marietta.school@mchsi.com)*



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RILEIGH & RAYLEE ANGEL RIDE

The 15th Annual Raleigh & Raylee Angel Ride will be held on **Friday, October 28** and **Saturday, October 29**.

Camping and festivities will begin Friday morning in the campground with music, dinner and a drawdown on the grounds. Camping opens at 9 a.m., general admission gates at 4 p.m.

The roar of hundreds of motorcycles will be heard once again departing Oak Hollow Farm, Saturday morning at 11:30 for their 40 mile trek. The motorcycles will be traveling the beautiful scenic route along Mobile Bay, the streets of downtown Fairhope and the spacious countryside of Baldwin County.

The Ride will conclude at Oak Hollow Farm where everyone can enjoy music, food, a silent auction and raffles for the rest of the day.

General admission is free to the public. Angel Ride is sponsored by the Raleigh & Raylee Angel Ride Foundation. This local charity gives financial assistance to families of children with special needs. Over 900 families have received assistance since it began 15 years ago.

*For more details, a schedule of events, band lineup, camping & ride tickets please go on line to [www.angel-ride.org](http://www.angel-ride.org)*



## GASTON-LEE VFW POST 5660

The Gaston-Lee VFW Post 5660 invites all Fairhope area residents to a community celebration of Veterans Day beginning at 12:30 p.m. on **Saturday, November 5**.

The celebration is held following the annual Veterans day Parade in downtown Fairhope and will include a program honoring all veterans to include the following: Flag folding ceremony, rifle volley, Pledge of Allegiance and a guest speaker. This year John Henderson will be the guest speaker. Mr. Henderson is a past VFW National Commander in Chief and past Adjutant General of national VFW. Following the ceremony there will be entertainment for the kids, live music, hotdogs and soft drinks provided at no charge. Compliments of the VFW.

The post is located at 950 Nichols Avenue in Fairhope. *For more information please contact Frank Connell at 251-990-7367 or David Mastrone at 251-455-5751.*

## KNOLL PARK DAY

Celebrate Knoll Park and Fairhope's long leaf pine heritage at **Knoll Park Day** on **Saturday, November 5**. The day will include presentations by Fairhope Museum Director Donnie Barrett and local tree expert Fred Nation. Demonstrations by botanical illustrator Derek Norman and his class and pine needle basket demonstrations by Carol Lovell Saas. The event begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. and is free of charge. *For information, call 251-928-9792. The event is sponsored by Wetland Resources Environmental Consulting, Green Nurseries and Weeks Bay Reserve.*



## OCTOBER

- ASPCA's Adopt a Shelter Dog Month & National Animal Safety and Protection Month
- 1 Petco Adoption Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - 6, 13, 20, 27 Fairhope Fall Farmer's Market Adoption, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
  - 8 Petsmart Adoption Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - 15 Haven Resale Shop Fall Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - 15 Pet Supermarket Adoption Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - 22 Quest-Con: One Year and Counting Cosplay Event, Mobile
  - 29 National Cat Day

## NOVEMBER

- ASPCA's Adopt a Senior Pet Month & National Pet Cancer Awareness Month
- 3, 10 Fairhope Fall Farmer's Market Adoption, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
  - 4 Estate Planning Seminar, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., *Please RSVP by calling (251)929-2494*
  - 5 Petco Adoption Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - 6-12 National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week
  - 12 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - 19 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## DECEMBER

- 2 National Mutt Day
- 3 Petco Adoption Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 10 Petsmart Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 17 Pet Supermarket Adoption, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 15-23 Haven ReSale Shop-Holiday Sale-50% off all holiday themed items



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## KIWANIS CLUB OF FAIRHOPE

The **Kiwanis Club of Fairhope and the Eastern Shore** will host its 6th annual **Fairhope Kiwanis Best of the Bay Gumbo Championship** on **Saturday, October 22**. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fairhope's Faulkner State Community College Halstead Amphitheatre. Tickets are \$20 for adults and free for children under the age of 12. Prizes will be awarded for the best overall gumbo to a professional or restaurant team, best non-restaurant team and for the best decorated booth and a people's choice. *To participate or to sponsor, call 812-350-8808.*

## FAIRHOPE GARDEN CLUB

We are 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 Center. The public is welcome to attend meetings.

### November 14

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Social

1:30 p.m. Guest Speaker, Ann McLaurin

Program: Following birds, Ann has traveled across the US including Alaska, and beyond to Cuba and Panama

*For membership information please contact 251-285-0018.*



January 6-8 - Open Registration for Spring 2017

January 9 - Classes begin for Spring 2017

### 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. Early registration is advised to secure your place. Additional classes may be added, so please check our website frequently.

## GEOCACHE CHALLENGE

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

*Ever thought about a career in Emergency Medical Services?*

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

To obtain more information about degree programs at USA Baldwin County, visit our website at [www.myusabc.com](http://www.myusabc.com) or contact the campus at 251-928-8133.

## NEWCOMERS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

Newcomers of the Eastern Shore will hold their 9th Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon on Tuesday, October 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Fairhope Civic Center. Fashions from downtown Fairhope shops and the Eastern Shore Shopping Center will be featured.

Newcomers welcomes new residents and promotes the social and educational life of club members through luncheon programs, coffees and a variety of special interest activities and groups. Membership is open to residents of the five communities comprising the Eastern Shore: Spanish Fort, Daphne, Montrose, Fairhope and Point Clear. Luncheons are held on the third Tuesday of each month, September thru May. A monthly newsletter lets members know what's going on each month. Visit our website [www.newcomersofeasternshore.org](http://www.newcomersofeasternshore.org) for upcoming events. For membership information, please contact Sherry Taylor at 251-550-3333 or [slhtay@bellsouth.net](mailto:slhtay@bellsouth.net).



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## MASTER GARDENER FALL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Baldwin County Master Gardeners will present another of their popular fall public education seminars on **October 27** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fairhope Civic Center. The theme is “Go Wild, Go Native”, and speakers will be Mark Ballard and Ben Raines. Ballard is an entertaining TV personality, home and garden designer and cookbook author. In his presentation, “The Call of Fall”, he will show how to incorporate landscape materials into a seasonal wreath and will demonstrate a fall recipe from one of his cookbooks. Raines is an environmental reporter for AL.com and an award-winning documentary producer whose work has achieved national exposure and recognition. He will present “Alabama’s Unique Landscapes”, a look at the amazing, unusual and diverse elements right here in our home state. There will be a 90-minute break for lunch on your own at one of Fairhope’s many downtown eateries.

Tickets are \$15, advance purchase preferred, as there will be limited ticket availability at the door. For information and tickets, contact Paula Pritchett 251-752-0609 or [pdpritchett@gmail.com](mailto:pdpritchett@gmail.com). Watch a video on Facebook: Baldwin County Master Gardeners.



After 25 years mentoring children after school, the Rotary Youth Club expands to the community’s youngest learners - with development of a Pre-K program in the coming school year.

The club was awarded a prestigious JL Bedsole Foundation grant for \$35,000 in September to support the Pre-K initiative. Additional donor and in-kind support will complete the needs for classroom development, supplies and materials, staffing and a new playground designed to specific Pre-K standards. “Our goal for the first year is to model the state’s First Class Pre-K - with its curriculum, standards and expectation of measurable results that’s made it the best in the country,” said RYC Board Chair Ed Hammele. “Our club parents have been asking for years – and the research we’ve put together toward grant requests tells us just how few Pre-K opportunities we have in Fairhope whether private or public. We’re thrilled to finally become part of the solution.” Studies consistently show the life-long benefits of early childhood education in graduation rates, standardized test scores and more. Long-time Fairhope-area Kindergarten teacher Sarah Seitz is on board to lead the program development and will instruct the first classroom this fall.

The Summer Enrichment Academy hosted a record 160 students K- 12 this summer – entirely on the Young Street campus at last thanks to the new Education Classroom Wing just opened this May. Once again, the program met its goal of 15% improvement for proficiency in Math, Reading and Science according to Education Director Frances Campbell.

The Eastern Shore Chamber Young Professionals presented more than \$4000 raised from their inaugural Pencils and Glue for Bingo and Brew - funds for the club’s school supply program. Meanwhile, the 3rd Annual RYC Golf Tournament raised more than \$20,000 – with the winning team from Trustmark Bank taking home top honors.

## WIZARD OF OZ

**Children’s Dance Theatre** presents the Wizard of Oz on Friday, November 18. Performance for school children will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. with a public showing at 7 p.m. The performances will be held at the Fairhope Civic Center. *For information, call 251-928-9511.*



## Mike Ford: 34 Years of Service to Fairhope

Thirty-four years ago, when Mike Ford first took his seat on the Fairhope City Council, Fairhope was a very different city in many ways—and in other ways, it was much the same. “We have issues downtown today with parking; there are so many people there are no places to park. In 1982, we had the opposite problem. You could park anywhere because there were a lot of vacant stores. But visitors and new residents have always been coming to Fairhope; it’s always been a resort town, almost since it was founded. Back in 1945, my father built a little cottage—just a tar paper summer cottage—in Point Clear, and many of the visitors then were like my family: just people coming over for the summer.”

In 1960, when he was out of school and the military, Ford and his wife, Dorothy, moved here. “I knew people from spending summers here as a child, and I liked Fairhope and wanted to live here. It’s like what people say today. They just like it here and want to move here.”

When former Mayor Jim Nix asked him to fill an empty slot on the Fairhope City Council in 1982, Ford considered it an honor to serve the people of Fairhope. “That’s what I think of it as, public service. There’s always some politics involved because you have to negotiate and get along to make things happen, but the important thing to me was trying to work with everyone to make Fairhope a better city. I tried to do that, and I hope I left a good legacy. I’m happy that I was able to use the talents I received from God and the training I received from my parents, the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary’s, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart at McGill Institute, and the Jesuits at Spring Hill College.”

Ford decided not to seek reelection after suffering a minor stroke and other health issues this past spring. He said it was a privilege and honor to have served the citizens of Fairhope, “and I would not hesitate to do it again if I were healthy enough to do so.”

Ford hopes he is most remembered for the two things he first told Mayor Nix he wanted to work on as a council member—a recycling program and a city museum—but over the years he served on numerous committees and boards and was involved in many of the decisions that created the



*Photo by Sheri Swartz*

Fairhope we have today. “I enjoyed working under Jim Nix and Tim Kant as mayors. I think we generally had a good team and worked well together. We accomplished a lot, including many things that people enjoy and just take for granted today. Everything we did, as far as I was concerned, was to improve the quality of life for the citizens. People often ask me, ‘Why does the city do so much to attract new people?’ It wasn’t about that; it was to improve the quality of life for people who already live here. But when people visited, they liked what they saw and they wanted to live here too. So now we have problems dealing with that growth.”

Protecting downtown has always been important, Ford said. “At one time, I thought that subdivisions and a business like Walmart would detract from downtown, but it really hasn’t. We have some very resourceful people running businesses downtown. I think they said, ‘We’ve got something worth having here,’ and they worked to protect it. The City did too. It all works together. We’ve got a good town, good schools, great city employees. It’s all about people who really care about Fairhope.”

Along with his work starting the city recycling program and the history museum, both of which he’s very proud of, Ford also worked to help build the city’s recreation department. “I had one foot in recreation from the start. I enjoyed playing sports in high school, and my father was once sports editor for the Mobile Press, so I’ve always been interested, and I worked to build some of the facilities and programs we have here, but I don’t take credit for it. We have had some great people in recreation over the years, from the supervisors to the people who take care of the grounds, to the volunteers and the recreation board members. It’s thanks to the work they put in.”

Even though he says he enjoyed all of his 34 years on the City Council, there was one job he didn’t relish: serving on

*Continued on page 17*





## Fairhope Public Library Programs and Classes

### Tree Selection and Maintenance Seminar

**November 1, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Beau Brodbeck, Regional Extension Agent Specialist in Urban Forestry, will discuss tree and nursery selection for fall planting and pruning and landscape maintenance.

### The Written Word

**Sunday, October 30, 3 p.m.**

Tamara Dean will wrap up this year's season of monthly book reviews with a discussion of *A Man Called Ove: A Novel* by Fredrik Backman on.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library.

### Laurel and Hardy Movie Fete

**December 10, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

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.

### Nonfiction Book Club

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

**November 17 – *Blue Highways*** by William Least Heat Moon

### World Affairs Round Table

**Thursday, October 20, 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.**

Jena C. Melonçon, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council, discusses opportunities for citizens to engage in **Public Diplomacy**.

### FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book review and lecture series held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

**October 18** Joe Bullington – Review of *Dead Presidents: An American Adventure into the Strange Deaths and Surprising Afterlives of Our Nation's Leaders*, by Brady Carlson

**October 25** Jerry Blacklaw – Talking about his novel *Hot Coffee, Mississippi*

**November 1** Ann McLaurin – Review of *Tchaikovsky: The Man and His Music*, by David Brown.

**November 8** election day – no book review

**November 15** Thack Dyson – Review of *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman

**November 22** Thanksgiving week – no book review

**November 29** Thelma Topper – “Impressions of Armenia and (the Other) Georgia”

**December 6** Brenda Huchingson – Review of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, by Agatha Christie

**December 13** Tamara Dean – Review of *Everyone Brave is Forgiven*, by Chris Cleave





## YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Youth Services Department of the Fairhope Public Library has a busy fall planned, with many activities from October through December. We have twice weekly story times both for

Lap sit babies (ages 2 and under) and Preschool children (ages 3-5) on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. for Lap sit and 11 am for Preschool. We will continue with our Tween (ages 9-11) networked Minecraft class on Tuesday afternoons from 4:15-5:30 p.m. in the computer lab. Space is limited and signup for this activity is required and can be found on Eventbrite-FHPL Minecraft. We will hold a book and craft session at the Fairhope Farmer's Market each Thursday at 4 p.m. We will again have Teen study hall every Thursday after school. We have numerous homeschool groups scheduled to come in for field trips and study. We will have special events schedule every month. Most activities are seasonally centered and include Halloween, Elections, Thanksgiving and Christmas themes. Our entire schedule can be found on our website [fairhopelibrary.org/kids.htm](http://fairhopelibrary.org/kids.htm)

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



the planning and zoning board. "That must be what it's like to be a divorce lawyer," he said with a grin. "You always make one side happy and the other side unhappy!"

While he wasn't part of the election this year, Ford still was eager to express opinions on two of today's hot topics: term limits and growth.

"A lot of people are saying they want term limits, and I think that can be a two-edged sword. If you get someone in you don't like, just vote them out. If someone is doing a good job, and the voters keep electing them, I don't see any reason not to keep them. I don't think you can accomplish anything if you change just for the sake of change."

Growth, he noted, will always be a challenge. "You can't turn people away who want to live here. I hate to see farm land disappearing, changing from agricultural to residential and business, but you can't blame the farmers for wanting to sell or develop their land. Farming is a hard life. Some people are suggesting a moratorium on new developments, and that could work for the short term, but you have to be careful. You have to be fair. It's just going to take wise leadership to keep what we've got here, to keep it all going."

Even after a contentious election, Ford says it's important to remember that everyone who runs cares about the city. "I was fortunate to win election many times after first being appointed to the council. One time, I had four opponents. I beat them all, and one of the four later became a really good friend. The thing is, see, I knew they all cared about the city just as I cared about the city. That's something to remember. After an election was over, I always sought after any opponents and told them I represented everyone and if they had suggestions or ideas that I would be happy to listen."

In an election, there are always going to be doubts, and you never know what will happen, Ford concluded. "We have to give new people a chance. We have a new Mayor now, and we all have to get behind her and be gracious."

Mike and Dorothy Ford raised eight children in Fairhope: daughters Mara, Mena, Amy, and Megan, and sons Danny, Patrick, Mickey, and David. David died following an accident in 1974. The Fords have 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Their family attends St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

# School News

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

November 11, Veteran's Day  
November 21-25, Thanksgiving  
December 19- January 3, Christmas Holidays begin



### FEEF's Cookies with Santa Continues a Holiday Tradition

As a way of saying "Happy Holidays" to the community, Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation (FEEF) will host its annual Cookies with Santa on **Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Oak Hollow Farm in Fairhope.** Enjoy a variety of musical entertainment by Fairhope public school students and have your photo taken with Santa and his elves. Freshly baked cookies and hot cocoa round out this fun event.



"Cookies with Santa and is always a wonderful way to thank our supporters and bring Fairhope children, parents, and grandparents together for some old-fashioned holiday cheer," said FEEF executive director Cori Yonge. "We are grateful to Oak Hollow Farm for hosting what has become a Fairhope holiday tradition."

The event is free and open to the public but participants are encouraged to bring canned goods to fill up the Ecumenical Ministries' food pantry. Santa Claus will arrive shortly after 9 a.m. to begin taking pictures with children. *For more information visit [feefonline.org](http://feefonline.org) or call 251-990-FEEF.*

## FAIRHOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

October 14 End of First Quarter  
October 24-28 Red Ribbon Week  
December 12 Semester Exams -  
Social Studies/PE/Enrichment  
December 13 Semester Exams - Science/English  
December 14 Semester Exam - Math  
December 15 Makeup Exams

## J. LARRY NEWTON SCHOOL

J. Larry Newton School will host its annual Veterans Day Program on **Thursday, November 10.** The program presented by students will feature a keynote speaker, music and recognition of local veterans. *For questions, call the school at 251-990-3858.*



## FAIRHOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October 21 Report Cards  
November 2-3 Blood Drive  
November 7- November 18  
Canned Food Drive  
November 7 Santa Pictures (out of uniform)  
November 10 Veteran's Day Program -2nd Grade



### Parent Clean-up Day Huge Success

We had a recent parent volunteer clean-up of the Fairhope Elementary School campus. More parents showed up to participate than could have ever been imagined. Ideal Lawn Solutions donated their crew and a skid steer without whose commitment and expense the playground mulch would not have been finished! The success of the work day is another example of how fortunate we are to be a member of this beautiful community. Lots of work was accomplished because of the volunteer spirit of the parents. We spread pine straw, put down mulch in the playground, trimmed trees, cut grass, edged sidewalks and curbs, removed reserved parking spaces, and had a good time together. Thank you, Fairhope parents!

## FAIRHOPE HIGH SCHOOL

### Fairhope High School Varsity Football

October 14 Murphy (Home, Senior Night)  
October 21 Alma Bryant (Away)  
October 28 McGill-Toolen (Away)

### Fairhope High School Volleyball Schedule

October 13 Robertsdale/LeFlore, Away  
October 14-15 Shrimp Fest Tourney, Gulf Shores  
October 17 Area Tournament  
October 20 Super Regional Tournament  
October 26-27 State Tournament





# America Recycles Day



## ELECTRONIC AMNESTY, SHREDDING, AND MORE IN FAIRHOPE

Ever wonder where your recyclable materials go once the City of Fairhope truck picks them up at your house? Find out on **Tuesday, November 15**, America Recycles Day. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day, the City's Recycle Committee will staff a booth at the City Recycling Building on Pecan Drive to answer your questions about recycling: what can

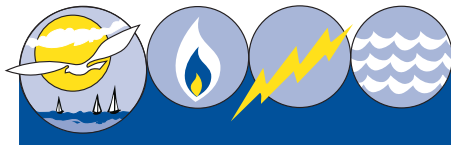
be recycled and what can't; where the various items go and what happens to them; how you can recycle more of what might now be going into your trash; and why recycling is important to everyone.

That day the City will also accept all electronics from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will have a commercial shredder for free use between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. "This is a great opportunity for you to safely get rid of old computers, TVs, and other electronics—and keep them out of our landfills—and to clean out old files and get rid of material that needs to be shredded but is too much for home shredders," said Nancy Anderson, Fairhope Recycling Committee chair.

Once again this year, 4th grade students at Fairhope Intermediate, J. Larry Newton, and the Organic School will participate in a contest using recycled materials to create a work of art. Winners will be chosen from each school, awarded prizes, and recognized at the Fairhope City Council meeting on **Monday, November 14**. "Children seem to really understand the value of recycling," Anderson said. "They will sign a pledge to recycle and to encourage others to recycle more."

*For more information about recycling in Fairhope, call 928-8003 or check the city website at [www.cofairhope.com](http://www.cofairhope.com)*

## Fairhope Public Utilities



### CITY TO FLUSH WATER SYSTEM OCTOBER - DECEMBER

In October, The City of Fairhope will begin routine flushing of its water distribution system. The Water Department will start flushing at 7:30 a.m. each morning and continue until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday through December. No flushing will be done the week of Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Flushing of areas in downtown Fairhope will not begin until after 6 p.m. in the evening. During this time, residents and business owners may experience temporary low water pressure and discoloration of water. Residents and business owners are encouraged to check your water prior to washing clothing as staining may occur.

*For questions, call 251-928-8003.*

## Fairhope

A City of Fairhope Publication

City Sketches

Fall 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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Now in its fourth year, the Fairhope Film Festival continues to attract film lovers to Fairhope: more than 8,000 have enjoyed the films since 2013, according to Mary Riser, festival director.

“The purpose of the film festival is to bring cultural enlightenment through world-class, award-winning films that examine a wide variety of themes and subjects,” Riser said. “Plus, it’s a lot of fun! Forty films have been selected for the festival program this year, including narrative, documentaries, and short films. All have been finalists at national and international film events in the previous 18 months, so it’s a Best of the Best in cinematic art.”

This year’s Film Festival is Thursday–Sunday, **November 10–13**. The full list of films is announced three weeks prior to the festival.

In addition to the screenings, which take place at venues throughout downtown Fairhope, the Film Festival includes filmmaker panel discussions and question and answer



sessions. “Two of the filmmakers will be here for discussions,” Riser said. “That’s really a cornerstone of the Fairhope Film Festival experience. It helps to advance the knowledge of films and filmmaking to transcend merely viewing a movie.”

This year, attendees will receive a complimentary merchant coupon book with each four-pack of tickets purchased. The coupons can be used at local boutiques, shops, and restaurants. And on the final day of the festival, Sunday, November 13, downtown businesses will host a “Wrap Party” for the attendees but open to all, Riser said. “It’s a perfect time for Film Festival attendees to enjoy refreshments while shopping with the special coupon books.”

*Fairhope Film Festival Tickets go on sale September 15. For more information, visit [www.FairhopeFilmFestival.org](http://www.FairhopeFilmFestival.org).*

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