



Abbeville Matters

Abbeville, Alabama | City of Dogwoods | A Quarterly Newsletter | June 2011

Planning For Our Future

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Planning plays a vital role in all of our lives. Whether it is career planning, financial planning or facilities planning, everyone's future depends on how well they plan. A municipality is no different. In fact, because there are so many different variables and components to consider, it is even more imperative that the City of Abbeville plans for the future. However, when it comes to deciding the future of our town, planning is not enough. We also have to execute the plan, and the way that this is accomplished is through zoning. If planning sets our sights on our destination, such as where we want to be in 20 years, zoning would be the map that gives us direction along the way.

Zoning is essential for three primary reasons. First, it is an instrumental tool for accomplishing our overall planning goals. It would be pointless to develop a plan if we don't have the tools to put that plan into place. Second, zoning offers a set of expectations for anyone who desires to invest in our community. Purchasing property without knowing exactly what the expectations were from his neighboring property owners would be too high a risk for most investors or companies. This uncertainty could easily lead to conflict between property owners and even an undesired change in property value. Third, without current and enforced zoning regulations, the

city could lose the qualities that we admire the most about Abbeville. In other words, maintaining and positioning our assets in our community requires land use guidelines. We would be unwise to expect that anyone who relocates to Abbeville would hold our community's best interests above his own.

The Abbeville Planning Commission continues to discuss ideas concerning our current and future comprehensive plan and has enlisted the assistance of The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning Commission to begin work on a future Comprehensive Plan. The commission has also worked hard to address flaws in our current zoning that are primarily a result of the plan not being updated in many years. The Abbeville City Council has also addressed several policies regarding zoning. We have added a new cell tower ordinance in order to be able to regulate the placement of communication towers. We have recently appointed new members to the Zoning Board of Adjustments, which has not been active in many years. This board is made up of residents and will give quicker redress when an exception is desired on a land use policy, primarily only when a hardship is discovered due to the shape of a particular lot. This power is given to the ZBA alone by the State of Alabama and is the only group that has the ability

to grant such an exception. Because planning and zoning play such important roles in Abbeville's future, the City will continue to enforce these zoning laws diligently. It is extremely important that you notify the City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk immediately if you are building or placing a structure on your property as this placement must be inspected to ensure proper setbacks and use. It is also important to request advice from the Clerk if you are unsure if a particular action or property use is in violation of your current zoning. The property owner will be solely responsible for the correction or removal when a violation is brought to the City's attention. My grandfather often said to me, "The world will ask who you are and if you don't answer, it will tell you." It is our responsibility to decide who we are as a city and who we are going to be. Without planning and zoning, this is not possible. If each individual is able to decide what's best for him or her, the city would become a product which we don't recognize or desire.

You will be notified of upcoming town meetings to develop our future plan. I hope you will come to the meetings and help determine who we are going to be. Trust me, in the 21st century, you won't like the result if the world chooses for us.

Mayor Ryan Blalock

FREE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AVAILABLE THROUGH CODERED



In October of 2009, Henry County went "live" with a program called CodeRED. The program is paid for in full and provided free of charge to residents of Henry County by Southern Nuclear. Since Henry County falls within Farley Nuclear Plant's zone, officials with the plant made the decision to implement this program as a backup measure in case notifications need to be sent for emergency procedures.

CodeRED has the capability of sending out weather warning information across Henry County. Residents may sign up to receive text or email alerts as well as phone calls to their cell, residence or business. Local officials also have the capability to notify residents of any other major events such as road closures, hazardous materials spills, or missing persons. Henry County EMA and Henry County E-911 encourages all residents to sign up for this FREE program so they can begin receiving weather warn-

ing alerts or any other important information that is sent out by emergency officials.

To sign up, go to www.cityofabbeville.org and click on the CodeRED logo on the bottom right of the page. Follow the instructions on the next page, and your sign up process is complete. If you have any questions about the program or need help registering, please call 334-585-6702 or 334-585-1911.

Chad Sowell
E-911 Director

Senior Living

Farmers Market Nutrition Program - New Application Process

The Farmers Market Authority has a new computer registration procedure for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) aimed at improving how Alabama's senior citizens apply for coupons used to buy fresh, locally grown produce.

"The coupon program is a great way to connect seniors who enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables with the farmers who grow them," said State Farmers Market Authority Director Don Wambles. "Many seniors already have submitted their application through the U.S. Postal Service and those applications have been processed. However, any-

one who has not already applied for the program this year should use the new online procedure. This method utilizes the best technology available and helps streamline the application process. The online application will expedite registrations and delivery of coupons that will be mailed to qualified seniors who are approved." Seniors should complete their applications at www.BuyLocalAlabama.com Eligibility requirements are:
*Age 60 or older (Must be born on or before Dec. 31, 1951)
*Total income for the household must not exceed \$16,800 for a household of 1; \$22,600 for a household of 2; or \$28,400 for a household of 3.

"Seniors who don't have computer access in their home are encouraged to ask a friend or

family member who does have a computer to help them apply," Wambles said. "Free computer access also is available at public libraries throughout the state."

For more information about the SFMNP, please visit www.BuyLocalAlabama.com and click SFMNP Application. Completing the application does not guarantee receipt of SFMNP benefits due to the fact that funds are limited and not everyone eligible can be served. The Farmers Market Authority encourages everyone to always Buy Fresh, Buy Local.

For additional help with application you may contact Abbeville Senior Center at 334-585-5900.

Amanda Gamble
Senior Center Director



Recreation



Batter's Up!

Church League softball is about to start its second season on the Abbeville Recreation Complex fields. The following information is a guide to assist your Church in estab-

lishing their team.

- Each Church will be responsible for its members conducting themselves in a Christ like fashion while on the park grounds.
- Waiver forms for each church will be required with the minimum of 16 years of age to play.
- ASA Rules for slow pitch softball will apply with 52 core 275 composition softballs to be used as well as ASA approved bats. Three homeruns per game, singles from then on. Ten homerun rule after five innings.
- All players must attend at least one church service a week to play and this will be policed by each church. The roster will be complete by the second game of the season otherwise you can pick up players to play on a game by game basis as needed. They have to be signed up to play within the league.
- Umpires are in charge with Zero Tolerance for misconduct.
- Home team is responsible for prayer prior to each game.
- No more than twelve teams will participate in the league. Start times

will be at 6:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. on Thursdays.

- The final schedule for the start of the official games will be set on June 7th.

Anyone interested in playing or establishing a team, please contact one of the following:

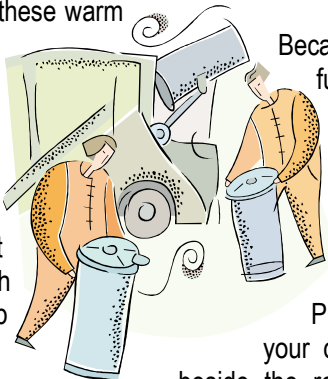
Kevin Watford at 441.9078 or thewatfords@comcast.net

Ron Abernathy at 726.2744 or ron.abernathy.lxml@statefarm.com

Chris Jones at 585.2143 or kaj0510@aol.com.

Street & Sanitation

Now that we are moving into the spring and summer months, residents are mowing grass, trimming trees and shrubs, cleaning out sheds, planting flowers, and all that goes along with these warm days. I ask the residents of Abbeville to please have patience while we remove all the debris that goes along with these clean up activities.



and trying several new routes that may affect your pickup of yard trash. Be assured that we will be doing our very best to complete the job timely and efficiently.

Because of the high fuel costs, we will not be able to make second and third trips to remove debris in the same week. Please ensure your debris is placed beside the road, behind the curb (not in the street) on your regular pickup date.

On May 31, 2011, the sanitation and street departments will begin our summer sched-

ule of working from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This schedule will be in effect until September 5, 2011.

Please adjust the time you set your garbage out by one hour earlier than usual during this time period.

I believe we can get the job done, if we all work together. Again, if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at: rwright@cityofabbeville.org or by phone at 334.585.6444.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and have a safe summer!

Robert Wright
Superintendent

REMINDER!

When your garbage collection day falls on a holiday, your garbage will be picked up the following day.

For example:

**Memorial Day
Monday, May 30th
(No garbage pickup)**

**Garbage pickup will
be on
Tuesday 5/31**



Beyond the Shelves

Thank you!
The library staff would like to thank everyone for

their patience as they make the transition to a new book system. All patron information must be updated in the new system, so please be prepared to show your driver's license and verify/change necessary information. This new system does not allow items to be checked out if a fine of any amount is owed so please take advantage of National Library Week's fine forgiveness and keep your account up to date and cleared of any fines.

Friends of the Library

The 2010 Membership Cards were a HUGE success! So, this year they are BACK!

The 2011-2012 Membership Cards provide FRIENDS with:

- \$5 off 3 months @ Abbeville Fitness gym
- \$1 off pedicure @ #1 Nails
- \$1 off ice cream cones @ Jimmy's BBQ
- \$1 off family haircuts @ Styles by Carole and Charla
- Buy one cone / get one free dip @ Huggin' Molly's
- 10% off with \$25 order @ Money's Grill
- 9% off with \$20 order @ El Burrito Mexican Grill

- Free brownie with \$10 order @ The Dogg House
- Free ice cream with dessert @ Ruby's

Library Services discounts:

- 10¢ copies
- 50¢ fax
- 50¢ coffee
- 50% fine forgiveness

Membership Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Membership:

- () Individual \$15
- () Family \$25
- () Clubs/Organizations... \$25
- () Business \$50
- () Benefactor \$100
- () Corporate\$250

Please make checks payable to: *Friends of the Library*

Drop this form and your membership dues off at the Library OR mail to:

Lisa Sanders, Treasurer
Friends of the Library
c/o Abbeville Memorial Library
301 Kirkland Street
Abbeville, Alabama 36310

Summer Reading Program

2011! For Children in K-5 to 5th grade: (Registration forms available at the library.)

June 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 2:00—3:00 p.m. at the library.

This year's theme: ONE WORLD – MANY STORIES

For students in grades 6 and up: (Registration forms available at the library.)

June 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 3:30-4:30 at the library.

This year's theme: YOU ARE HERE

*If you or someone you know would like to share stories about your travels, or if you would like to help with our summer program, please call the library and leave a message.

NEW ARRIVALS:



A mountaineer who survived a near-fatal accident by amputating his arm when it became trapped behind a boulder in Utah describes how he endured five days of hypothermia, dehydration, and hallucinations before managing his own rescue.

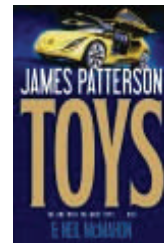


Encourages a life lived around

core values, but with a sense of balance, so that one can enjoy little splurges and frivolities without a crisis of conscience.



Traces the life of the former child television star best known for her role as Erin Walton on "The Waltons," and reveals intimate details about her life after the program's run, including her depression and personal insecurities.



Agent Hays Baker and his wife, Lizbeth, who are part of a group of genetically engineered and technologically enhanced superhumans called Elites, are tasked with saving the human race from extinction.

.....AND MANY MORE NEW BOOKS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN!

SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY!

Debbie McLain
Library Director

How do I calculate my water bill?

Water customers often have questions regarding the calculations of their water bill. Our water system billing is based upon cubic feet and not per gallons used.

One cubic foot of water is equal to 750 gallons of water. On your monthly statement the cubic feet is measured in units under the usage column. Each unit is equivalent to 100 cubic feet. To convert your gallons used monthly from cubic feet you must take the number of units used under the usage column and add two zeros. Then you will take that number and multiply it times 7.5 to get the gallons used for the month. For example, if your statement has 2 units used your formula will be:

$$200 \times 7.5 = 1500 \text{ gallons.}$$

During this time of year many people begin filling pools and watering lawns. The water board does not allow adjustments for preparing pools for the summer. However, after 12,000 gallons of water used the sewer rate caps off and does not increase beyond this amount on residential customers.

If you have any questions on the cost of filling your pool you may call our office at 334-585-6444.

Our office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8 AM until 5 PM. Also, remember if you are watering your flowers and your lawn the best time for this is

early morning. Not only does this prevent the growth of fungus it helps prevent the evaporation of your water.

Many helpful tips on ways to save water and money are on the internet. If

you do not have access to the internet you may visit our Library where they have several computers with internet access.

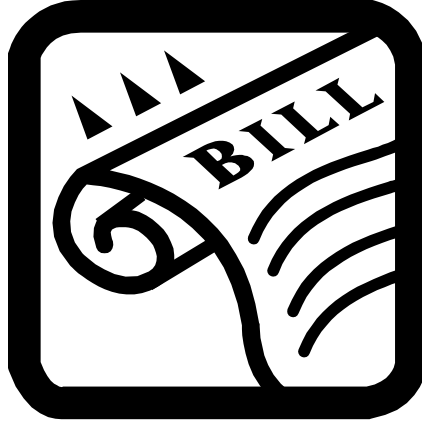
To find tips on saving water and money you can go to Google.com and type in "tips on

ways to save water". This will carry you to many different websites with great ideas.

Remember you may now pay your bill online by visiting our website at : www.cityofabbeyville.org and clicking on the Nexbill Pay link. Although this process of paying started off a bit slow more and more of our customers are using this pay method.

When choosing to pay online be sure you have your account number and the amount due. Do not use this payment process if your account is past due and is within the time of being locked off.

Aggie Barron
Customer Service



DID YOU KNOW ?

The City web site contains a lot of useful information for our residents. Did you know the community calendar lists events, meetings, holidays, etc?

If you have an event you would like placed on the calendar, please contact City Hall, with the details and we will be glad to get the word out!

See us at:
www.cityofabbeyville.org

Business About Town

Did you know that when you have to go out of town to buy an automobile, you can require the dealer deliver it to Abbeville? Hopefully, supporting Abbeville businesses that support you is a priority. However, if your choice is not available locally, it might be necessary to buy from out of town locations especially in the case of purchasing used cars. Having those vehicles delivered to Abbeville ensures that the sales tax is paid to Abbeville instead of the city in which you found the vehicle.

This may not seem like a very big deal at first thought, but when you consider that a percentage of every dollar spent on that vehicle goes to sales tax, it is quite a big deal. That is a big chunk of revenue for our city!

Did you also know that if your vehicle is involved in an accident, you can request your vehicle be repaired at one of our local repair or body shops? Abbeville has three great collision repair shops to choose from. Many times, insurance companies will tell you that they only use a certain out of town repair or body shop. They may also tell you that they require your vehicle be taken and repaired there. This is illegal. Insurance companies can not force you to use any certain repair shop. You have the right to choose where you want your vehicle to be repaired. Stand firm in your choice of repair shop, and

require the insurance company to honor that decision. Do not allow insurance companies to persuade you otherwise. This will ensure that our local businesses benefit from the money being spent to repair your vehicle.

Simple decisions such as the two options named above can ensure your money stays in Abbeville instead of benefiting other towns and cities. Let's keep our money at home!

Melissa Cheek
Licensing & Payroll Clerk



Abbeville Recreation Tennis Camp



Registration begins on

Monday, May 14th through Friday, June 3rd at City Hall

Ages 7 through 14

Beginners – Intermediates - Advanced

STARTING: June 11, 2011

FEE: \$25.00

45 Minute lessons beginning at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

You will have 8 weeks of fun while learning the basics of tennis including rules, basic tennis strokes, tactics, strategy, and etiquette. The basic strokes taught are forehand drive, backhand drive, serve, forehand volley, backhand volley, half-volley forehand and backhand. The last day of camp is a review of all strokes, and a fun match between students and parents.

William Motley - Certified Instructor

Abbeville Farmer's Market Opens June 3rd

Lasts year's market was a huge success and we expect even more participation this year. The market will open this year on Friday June 3rd from 3—6:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church parking lot on Kirkland Street near the Abbeville Memorial Library.

Thanks to a grant from the Wiregrass Resource, Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), we have been able to purchase additional tents, tables, chairs and signs. This will allow more local producers to be part of

our market.

The market carried local blueberries, watermelons, cantaloupe, green beans, peas of all kinds, peppers, squash, zucchini, egg plant, honey, fresh baked goods, home made ice cream, tomatoes, corn, onions, jams, jellies and much, much more.

The weather has been brutal this spring with a very early spring, cold snaps and dry weather, but we will have plenty to choose from.

The Abbeville Farmer's Market will be open each Friday starting June 3rd and into July or as long as the crops hold out.

If you know anyone interested in selling their produce, home-made goods, etc., please contact Felicia Wojtala at 334.58531274 or on her cell at (808) 341-6123.



Come join us for The City of Abbeville 1st Annual Employee Softball Challenge

The City employees have been challenged to a throw-down softball challenge to see who is the best! Come cheer your favorite city employee in to home base and victory.



Friday, June 3rd, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Abbeville Recreation Complex
Hwy 27

Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected to replenish the Judson Food Bank.

On the Beat

The Abbeville Police Department has three new members in our department. Jade Vanlandingham has been hired as a 911 Dispatcher. Ryan Lassiter and Neal Bradley are certified Police Officers now serving the City of Abbeville Police Department.



Summer months are coming, and we would like to ask everyone to please be careful and obey our traffic laws. We have a federal grant for our officers to work traffic, concentrating on seatbelts use.

Excessive noise continues to be one of our largest complaints. If you hear loud music, call the police department at 585-2221, give us the loca-

tion and, if possible, the kind of vehicle and/or tag number.

The Abbeville Police and Henry Co. Sheriff's Department Investigative Task Force are investigating the murder of one of our local citizens. If you have any information please call; 585-2221 or 585-3131. The information will be kept confidential and after an arrest and conviction, you will be eligible for a reward.

Afternoon traffic on West Washington St. continues to be a problem, and we are continuing to write citations.

One more time, please be careful and slow down.

Chief Mike Jones
Abbeville Police Dept.



Quality On Tap

The Facts on Leaks:

Leaks can account for, on average, 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool.

The amount of water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons per year. That's equivalent to the annual water use of Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami combined. Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.

Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable.

Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills. Keep your home leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet valves, and showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts don't require a major investment and can be installed by do-it-yourselfers.

Leak Detection:

A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month.

Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.

Faucets and Shower heads: A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. A home with WaterSense labeled toilets could use that water to flush for six months!

Leaky faucets can be reduced by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary. If you are replacing a faucet, look for the WaterSense label.

A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher.

Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench

Toilets:

If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting

200 gallons of water or more every day.

If your toilet is leaking, the cause is most often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.

If you do need to replace the entire toilet, look for a WaterSense labeled model. If a family of four replaces its older, inefficient toilets with new WaterSense labeled ones, it could save more than 16,000 gallons per year. Retrofitting the house could save the family approximately \$2,000 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

Outdoors:

An irrigation system should be checked each spring before use to make sure it was not damaged by frost or freezing.

An irrigation system with pressure set at 60 pounds per square inch that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

To ensure that your in-ground irrigation system is not leaking water, consult with a WaterSense irrigation partner who has passed a certification program focused on water efficiency; [look for a WaterSense irrigation partner](#).

Check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

A lot more water comes out of a faucet than we realize:

- A tiny drop of water can add up to 15 gallons a day
- A stream of 1/32" loses 25 gallons per day
- A stream of 1/16" loses 100 gallons a day
- A stream of 1/8" loses 400 gallons a day
- A stream of 1/4" loses 1,600 gallons a day
- A stream of 1/2" loses 6,400 gallons a day

As you can see, it doesn't take much to run your water bill sky high. Help conserve water and manage your water bills by checking for leaks. If you need further assistance, please feel free to call the Water Department to schedule an appointment.

Mike Johnson
Water & Sewer
Superintendent

Tips from EPA—WaterSense
<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/fixleak.html>



We all want that lush green lawn that makes people passing by stare with envy. Achieving such a beautiful healthy lawn this summer may not be as difficult as many folks might think.

1. Proper Watering.

Usually summer is when we receive the least amount of rain which makes watering your lawn a critical step in summertime lawn care. Usually 1 to 1 ½ inches of water aside from normal rainfall is sufficient for your lawn most of the year. If you see that your grass is turning yellowish or losing its green color, you may want to increase watering to 1 ½ to 1 ¾ inches to insure that your lawn is getting enough water. Be careful not to over water either.

It may be better to give your lawn a good watering on one or two days a week

rather than smaller amounts of water each day throughout the week.

Watering before midmorning will allow more water to soak into the ground and minimize evaporation. Be careful watering your lawn at night because it may promote fungus and other diseases.

2. Proper Mowing.

Mowing your lawn a little higher during the summer is very important in maintaining a healthy lawn. The sun's heat can seriously damage the roots and cause your lawn to suffer what is sometimes called "burning" or "yellowing". The higher the temperature, the higher the grass needs to be in order to protect the roots. The type of grass you have will also need to be taken into consideration, but 3 to 3 ½ inches high is a good height for many

grass types.

Mowing grass less often (every other week) is actually better for your lawn in the summertime. It is best not to mow your lawn during the hottest part of the day. This can cause your lawn to "scorch" or "burn up".

Lawn mower blades should be kept sharp. Sharp blades give a clean even cut. Dull blades tear the grass leaving it susceptible to disease.

Consider adding the steps above to your springtime lawn care routine and you will see positive changes in your lawn. (So will your neighbors!)

Danny Creel
Grounds & Beautification Director



School is Out!

please remember the
children are
out of school.
Drive safe and enjoy the
summer!

Abbeville...First in the nation alphabetically...

City of Abbeville
101 E. Washington St.
P O Box 427
Abbeville AL 36310

Phone: 334.585.6444
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E-mail:
pward@cityofabbeville.org

*We are on the web at
www.cityofabbeville.org
and on Facebook at
City of Abbeville*

Community Calendar

- City Council Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. Please join us and become an active participant in how your city government operates. To be on the agenda, contact the City Clerk no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting at 585.6444.
- The Abbeville Chamber of Commerce meets the first Thursday of each month at the Great Southern Conference Center on Kirkland Street at noon. Please contact the Chamber at 585.2273 for your lunch reservation.
- The Water Works and Sewer Board of Abbeville meets the fourth Monday at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall.
- Planning Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month in City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- July 4th—Independence Day—City Employee Holiday. Monday garbage pickup will occur on Tuesday.
- September 5th—Labor Day Holiday for Employees. Monday garbage pickup will occur on Tuesday.



Increasing Our Knowledge...

Our Mayor, City Council and employees are constantly working toward improving their skills. The following is a list of education activities they have attended over the last few months:

- Pam Ward attended training for Planning & Zoning Administrators for Comprehensive Planning and Zoning & Subdivision Regulations as well as the Flood Plain Administrators training for Mapping
- Debbie McLean attended technology training for Library system in Huntsville and Administrator's/ Summer Reading Meetings at the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS).
- A Public Information Officer Training Class was held for city and county officials. The following attended these classes from the city: Chief Mike Jones, Neil Bradley, Dawn Jones, Eric Duhaime, Pam Ward, Connie Hicks and Mayor Blalock
- Neil Bradley, Noel Vanlandingham, Eric Duhaime, Jermaine Reeves, Ronnie Moody and Chief Mike Jones completed additional training in effective police procedures.
- Davey Dozier and Dawn Jones attended CJIS training
- Tim Baxley attended Water and Wastewater Certification Training