

Alabama CURRENTS

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**Sylacauga's Magic of Marble Festival
draws attention far and wide as a centerpiece of history**

See Page 8

Energy efficiency credit gets extension through fiscal cliff package

As you are preparing your taxes for 2012, don't forget that federal tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements are back. And there's more good news: Congress made those credits retroactive; meaning improvements made in both 2012 and 2013 will qualify.



Reinstatement of the popular credits was a little-noticed part of the American Taxpayer Relief Act, the last-minute legislation that kept America from tumbling over the fiscal cliff at the start of the year.

The law allows homeowners to claim tax credits of varying amounts on improvements such as insulation, energy-smart windows and highly efficient furnaces.

The law also contains incentives for appliance manufacturers to produce efficient clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators, and for home builders to construct energy-efficient homes.

Taken together, those incentives are all really great to help make energy efficiency play a bigger role in the economy overall and save consumers money.

The legislation essentially turns back the clock to 2011, when the last batch of credits was in force. It erased the old expiration date on those credits and set a new deadline of Dec. 31, 2013.

The program still has a cap of \$500 in total credits. That limit goes all the way back to 2006, when the very first credits became available. That means if you've already claimed \$500 in credits for energy-efficiency improvements, you're not eligible for more.



Specifically, these credits are available:

- 10 percent of the cost of insulation materials and systems, not including installation.
- 10 percent of the cost of qualifying exterior doors, windows and skylights, not including installation. (Credits for windows and skylights are capped at \$200.)
- 10 percent of the cost of metal and asphalt roofs specially designed to keep buildings cooler, not including installation.
- \$50 for a furnace fan called a main air circulating fan.

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Make energy-efficiency improvements and claim tax credits

Commuters, homeowners, and appliance manufacturers – now is the time to make new energy efficiency investments and claim tax credits for improvements you made in 2012. On January 2, 2013, the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012 was signed into law, extending many expired tax credits until the end of 2013 and restoring them retroactively for 2012.

Reinstated energy efficiency tax credits can be used towards:

- home improvements and equipment upgrades
- the construction of efficient residences
- refueling equipment for alternative fuel vehicles
- employer-provided transit fringe benefits
- the manufacturing of energy-efficient appliances

Home Improvements

Claim up to \$500 in tax credits for efficiency improvements in your primary home under the extension of section 25C of the tax code, the Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit. Consider upgrading home equipment, such as water heaters and air conditioners, for more efficient models, or improving home efficiency by installing new windows and doors. Keep in mind that this \$500 credit is a cumulative cap for fiscal years 2006 to 2013.

New Home Builders' Tax Credit

Builders of energy-efficient homes also benefit from the extended tax credits. Up to \$2,000 is available for contractors that build homes that consume 50% less heating and cooling energy compared to homes built under the specifications of the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This credit, section

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MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

Alabama CURRENTS

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On the Cover

Artist Bill Cook of Tennessee carves a sculpture out of Sylacauga's white marble at the 2012 Magic of Marble Festival (*on the cover*). Sylacauga's 5th Annual Magic of Marble Festival will occur April 9-20. Sculptors will set up in downtown Sylacauga to learn from other artists and create their own art.

Started in 2009 as a way to revive the artistic, industrial and commercial uses of the resilient stone, the festival and the marble it promotes is now drawing attention from across the city, state and even the nation as a centerpiece of history and point of artistic and industrial growth.



Canadian sculptor David Perrett works on a piece of marble during the 2012 Marble Festival. Photo courtesy of *The Daily Home*.

The fifth annual event will include even more of the always-popular quarry tours at Imerys and OMYA, along with other favorites like the "Marble Mania" scavenger hunt, "Taste of Sylacauga" on April 11, the School Foundation's Jazz Night on April 13, and the Nematik 5K Run on April 20.

For more information on the festival, see Page 8.

AMEA will continue to serve as a voice for public power



Since its inception in 1981, the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) has been your advocate in the halls of Congress. As the electric utility industry faces the challenges of unrealistic regulations and mandates proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is imperative that we continue to be involved in the decision-making process. We take every opportunity we can to meet with Alabama's congressional delegation to talk about the direct impact of federal action at the local level. Our coordinated outreach efforts are strengthened because we represent not only your public power community, but also 46 million other Americans who benefit from being served by public power.

Each year, we, along with Electric Cities of Alabama, a coalition of the state's 36 municipally-owned electric utilities, participate in the American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Conference. We hold face-to-face meetings with Alabama's congressional delegation to discuss issues which impact municipally-owned electric utilities and public power. Our participation in this forum is essential to our continued success in advancing the interests of public power.

Some of the key federal policy is-

ssues that will be discussed at the APPA Legislative Conference this month will include:

- Maintaining tax-exempt financing for local governments, including public power utilities, in ongoing federal budget and tax reform negotiations;
- Maintaining cost-based rates for the federal Power Marketing Administrations in the ongoing federal budget negotiations;
- Streamlining EPA regulations that impact public power generation in order to maintain a diverse portfolio of fuel options;
- Addressing cyber security by ensuring that any legislation is built on the current NERC/FERC framework, recognizing the current cyber-security efforts that are underway, and enhancing communication between the federal government and the electric utility industry.

Public power utilities across the country will have the ears of their congressional members on these very important issues. And in our case, we are fortunate that Alabama's congressional members continue to listen to us on those matters in which we have great expertise: how to keep the lights on

and how to keep the cost of electricity affordable.

Although it is imperative to be involved in the political process, it's equally important for us to keep you abreast of issues which have a direct impact on you, the consumer.

Legislative advocacy involves taking an active role in ensuring that public power utilities and their customers are treated fairly in legislation and regulation. Throughout the past several years, I have expressed my concerns about looming environmental regulations which will lead to the shutdown of many coal-fired electric generation plants over the next several years. EPA's proposed rules would significantly impact customers and the overall U.S. economy as a result of higher costs for electricity and possible reductions of reliability. Higher electric bills will become the norm as we are all forced to comply with these mandates.

Understanding that public power customers will bear the brunt of costly regulations is what motivates AMEA to stay engaged with members of Congress. We will continue to serve as your voice on the state and federal level.

Fred D. Clark, Jr.
AMEA President & CEO

Just do the best you can



My wife and I married as college sweethearts. Our first residence was a two-bedroom, 750-square-foot duplex unit. It met our needs, we were happy, and it was the best we could do at the time. After graduation and the acceptance of a job offer in another town, we purchased a two-bedroom, 850-square-foot mobile home. It met our needs, we were happy and we thought that it was the best we could do at the time.

Soon we both had a job, times were good, and we were living the American dream as a young couple. About two years later, God blessed us with our first child, a beautiful little girl. The mobile home was fine, but it wasn't long until we desired a larger living unit. Times were still good, so we sold the mobile home and purchased a modest three-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot house. It was about the best we could do at the time and we were thankful for it.

It was while living in this house that I became involved and interested in energy efficiency. During the next few years, interest rates and utility rates increased substantially. Perhaps for the first time ever, homeowners found that the utility bill was an important part of the monthly budget.

My job was working for an agency that made loans to rural families to build new houses. I learned that utility bills were a big factor in determining how much loan a family could afford. I think that you would agree that that is still true today. If the utility bills are lower, one has more money for a house payment.

During these same years, the federal government was placing more and more emphasis on energy efficiency and I was getting more and more involved in learning all I could about the subject.

And about this same time we were blessed with our second child, a perfect little boy. And guess what? It wasn't long until we wanted more space again. I was also getting the urge to put these new energy-efficiency ideas that I had into practice. So we sold our house and received a loan to purchase a five-acre lot and build a new energy-efficient house. The new house would be for my wife and daughter, and the five acres would be for me and our man child to be used for baseball, football, basketball, a garden, and lots of grass mowing.

As I drew the house plans, I remembered how hard it was to cool the mobile home in the summer. I also knew that our present house had major energy and comfort problems. I was determined to do the very best I could on the new house.

Well, it was interesting and challenging to say the least. I shall never forget the look on the banker's face when I showed him the house plans and explained that I was going to use 12" thick insulated walls, triple glazed windows, 3" of perimeter slab insulation, 12" of attic insulation, duct work

furred down into the conditioned space, and a little 2-ton heat pump on this 2,000 square-foot house. He just stared at me with a little smile for what seemed like forever. Finally he said to me, "Mr. Rye, I don't think that you can find a contractor who will build it for you". If that seems a little strange to you please know that the year was 1982. He was right and it took a lot of negotiations before the bank allowed me to be the contractor. Construction started and word spread quickly about this energy nut fellow who was building this crazy house. We had visitors regularly, including newspaper and television coverage.

After a few months of living in our new house, I learned that nearly every month, our electric bill was just about half that of our neighbor's. That is when I realized that regardless of what the electric rate may be in the future, our bill would always be about half of their bill unless they make energy-efficiency improvements.

We became good friends with our neighbors and were asked to conduct an energy audit on their house. We did the audit using a blower door. Among other things, we found one, 8" round supply duct that was totally separated from the rest of the system by several feet. Our neighbor couldn't believe what he saw. He said, "Now I know why I have had so much trouble heating and cooling our den for the last five years." We still find lots of houses with disconnected duct work.

We later installed 12 solar panels on our house and even later installed geothermal heating and cooling. Since space is limited, let me sum up what we learned on our house.

1. 12" walls are not needed. Only 4" walls are needed if you use cellulose or foam insulation.
2. Triple glazed windows are wonderful for both summer and winter.
3. 1" perimeter slab insulation is adequate for southern states.
4. Cellulose or foam insulation is best for attics.
5. Solar did heat water well at times, but was not dependable or feasible.
6. The geothermal heating and cooling system provided total comfort 24/7 at a super low monthly cost.

I also learned that five acres is a lot of grass to mow when the man child goes away to college. So we sold the house and built a new super energy-efficient house using every feasible energy-efficient technique that we knew.

In the next few issues, I will discuss many of these techniques to help you in building your new house or in making your existing house more energy efficient. If for any reason you can't implement them all, just do the best you can.

Doug Rye, an Arkansas architect, is known as the 'King of Caulk and Talk' and 'America's Energy Expert.' Doug has helped thousands of homeowners save money on their power bills. He hosts the popular "Home Remedies" radio talk program, which has been on the air for 15 years in 14 states. Doug speaks annually at American Institute of Architects meetings to hundreds of other architects on energy efficiency. He conducts over 150 energy-saving seminars per year all across the U.S. Have a question for Doug? Contact him at (501) 653-7931, or www.dougrye.com.

Energy efficiency credit gets extension through fiscal cliff package

Continued from Page 2

- \$150 for a natural gas, propane or oil furnace or hot water boiler with an annual fuel utilization efficiency rate of 95 percent or greater.
- \$300 for an electric heat pump water heater with an energy factor of at least 2.0.
- \$300 for a highly efficient electric heat pump.
- \$300 for a highly efficient central air conditioner.
- \$300 for a natural gas, propane or oil water heater with an energy factor of at least 0.82 or a thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent.
- \$300 for a biomass stove.

The improvements must be made to the taxpayer's principal residence and must be placed in service by the end of 2013.

To claim a tax credit, you'll need to file Form 5695 along with your federal income tax return for the year the improvement is made. The credit will be subtracted from the amount of tax you owe or added to your tax refund.

Before you file, you're required to get a manufacturer's certification statement, a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying the product qualifies for a tax credit. You should keep it in your files, but you don't have to submit a copy of the statement with your return.

That requirement may create a documentation challenge for consumers who made improvements in 2012. Some manufacturers provide those documents on their websites, but consumers may have to go back to the contractor or retailer who sold the item to get a manufacturer's certification statement.

Energy-efficient improvements can make a home more comfortable and save money. Remember, you have the power to control your energy usage and your utility bill. It's all up to you.

For more information on the credits, visit www.ase.org/taxcredits.

Lisa Miller

AMEA Manager of Communications and Marketing

Make energy-efficiency improvements and claim tax credits

Continued from Page 2

45L of the tax code, applies to qualified homes constructed and acquired before December 31, 2013.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Refueling equipment for alternative fuel vehicles can also qualify for the reinstated tax credit - Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property (section 30C of the tax code). This credit covers up to 30% of the costs for refueling equipment for vehicles that run on hydrogen, natural gas, electricity, and other alternative fuels. Credits for light and heavy duty hybrid vehicles have also been extended to December 31, 2013. These apply to vehicles that meet the specified requirements and are placed in service between 2011 and 2013. Sections 30C and 30D in the tax code outline the details of these credits.

Mass Transit Benefits

The American Tax Payer Relief Act also extends mass transit fringe benefits (section 132(f) of the tax code). The maximum monthly transportation benefits are increased to \$245 (up from \$125 a month) this year and run through January 1, 2014. These incentives apply to qualified employer-provided benefits such as transit passes, parking, and vanpool benefits.

Energy-Efficient Appliances

Finally, the Manufacturers Energy Efficient Appliance Credit encourages innovation by providing federal tax relief for industrial and appliance manufacturers that produce qualified energy-efficient products. Qualified models manufactured in 2011, 2012, or 2013 can receive incentives up to \$75 per dishwasher, up to \$225 for clothes washers, and up to \$200 for refrigerators. Check out the Department of Energy's Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency for more information.

Energy Efficiency Clear Priority

While budget uncertainty remains, energy efficiency emerges as a clear priority in the fiscal cliff negotiations. Tax season is right around the corner, so be sure to take advantage of the reinstated energy efficiency tax credits that make efficiency improvements more affordable. Tax credits for electric vehicles and geothermal heat pumps are also still available to help you save money on your energy bills.

For more information, visit:

Energy Efficiency Home and Vehicle Tax Credits, <http://ase.org/taxcredit>

Commercial and Manufacturing Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency, <http://ase.org/resources/commercial-and-manufacturing-tax-incentives-energy-efficiency>

Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

Source: *The Alliance to Save Energy*

Safety NEWS You CAN USE

Be prepared for severe storms

The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes, and tornadoes. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe before, during and after severe storms.

Before the storm:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes the electric utility. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Maintain a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing. Understand the National Weather Service warning classification system. A tornado or severe storm watch means that conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means that dangerous weather conditions are developing and imminent.

- Consider having Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed or purchasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs can cut off power if there is a problem and are recommended for outdoor outlets and areas of the home that are prone to water exposure such as basements, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.
- Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm, so seek shelter as soon as you hear thunder.

After the storm:

- When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.
- When using a generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations to avoid tragedy. Keep the generator dry and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power.

For additional safety tips, visit www.safeelectricity.org, or www.amea.com, Publications & News, Safety Resources.

WATTS NEW IN Sylacauga



The Imerys Gantt's Quarry Observation Point, which opened last May, gives a striking view of one of Sylacauga's historic marble quarries. Convenient to U.S. Highway 280, the point has been added as an official state tourism location. Photo courtesy of B.B. Comer Library.

Marble Festival hitting its stride in fifth year

By Emily Adams

Five years ago, Sylacauga's pure white marble was a virtually forgotten treasure.

Thanks to a vision and a dedicated group of city leaders, however, that has all changed through the Magic of Marble Festival.

"The first thing going on now that wasn't five years ago is an awareness of the city of Sylacauga and the different artistic and industrial opportunities that it provides," Marble Festival Chairman Ted Spears said. "The second thing is a renewed interest on the part of the citizens of Sylacauga to recapture the history of something they didn't know existed."

Started in 2009 as a way to revive the artistic, industrial and commercial uses of the resilient stone, the festival and the marble it promotes is now drawing attention from across the city, state and even the nation as a centerpiece of history and point of artistic and industrial growth.

Since last year's festival, which Spears called a "definite turning point," Sylacauga has developed partnerships

with educational institutions like Auburn University and the University of Alabama to promote marble's many uses, and a marble curriculum was implemented in local schools. Sylacauga was added as a destination point for the "Year of Italian Culture in America," potentially attracting international tourists, and will be featured on a new Travel Channel series called "Monumental Mysteries," among other exciting prospects.

The city also opened the Imerys Gantt's Quarry Observation Point that provides a strikingly beautiful view of an inactive quarry convenient to U.S. 280, and the "Sylacauga Emerging" marble sculpture, which depicts a quarry worker carving himself out of stone, by artist Craigger Browne was completed at City Hall and stands as a permanent and public reminder of Sylacauga's identity as the Marble City.

Additionally, Sylacauga continues to draw industries, like Heritage Plastics and IKO Roofing Products, specifically because of its marble, which businesses are turning to with increasing frequen-

cy for use in thousands of domestic and industrial products.

"I think, not only is Sylacauga emerging, but marble is just emerging, because there are so many things you can do with it that you couldn't do before," Spears said. "It's an environmentally friendly product, and that is its saving grace."

Because of these accomplishments, organizers are anticipating a bigger crowd than ever at this year's Marble Festival, set for April 9-20. The fifth annual event will include even more of the always-popular quarry tours at Imerys and OMYA, along with other favorites like the "Marble Mania" scavenger hunt, "Taste of Sylacauga" on April 11, the School Foundation's Jazz Night on April 13, and the Nematik 5K Run on April 20.

It will also feature a Master Sculptor and other marble sculptors from around the U.S. and Canada who will set up camp in downtown Sylacauga for a two-week living art show as they carve pieces of Sylacauga stone.

Five years in, the Marble Festival has settled into its niche as it continues to define Sylacauga as a destination point and a place of cultural exchange.

Forgoing the usual vendors, crowded streets and fried foods that many festivals rely on, Sylacauga's Marble Festival remains squarely focused on its mission, and that will never change.

"The festival is always going to be for these two things: recognize the marble industry and its contribution and importance in industrial and business development, and highlight the artistic realm," Spears said. "That's all we're trying to do. It's extremely important that we stick to our true purpose, and I'll put that up against cotton candy and snow cones any time."

For more information on the festival, visit www.bbcomerlibrary.net/marblefestival or call (256) 249-0961. Updates and photos are available on Facebook by searching "Sylacauga Marble Festival."

Emily Adams is a staff writer for The Daily Home newspaper in Sylacauga.

Robert Davis selected as Riviera Utilities' 2012 Employee of the Year

By David Horton

Robert Davis, Chief Operator, Riviera Utilities' Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been named the utility's 2012 Employee of the Year. Davis is a man of few words and usually lets his actions speak for him. He is a man that leads by example and takes tasks to heart.

Robert began working at Riviera in 1997 as an operator and then in 2005, he left to be a supervisor at the Town of Summerdale's wastewater plant. The Summerdale plant was sold three years later and Robert returned to Riviera in 2008. Shortly after his return, the chief operator retired and Robert stepped into that position and has been doing a fantastic job ever since. He says that thanks to management, the addition of new equipment and process control instrumentation, he and his team have been able to improve the plant's effluent quality tremendously.

His favorite things about working at Riviera are the atmosphere and his co-workers, whom he is quick to credit for their hard work at operating the plant.

When Davis was asked about his announcement as Employee of the Year, he was quick to speak and heap praise on his co-workers and not himself. "I was in a distinguished party of employees for this award and any one of them could have been chosen for this award. I didn't say much that night because I am not really good at speeches. I was surprised and honored at my selection. But, I will tell you, it is because of my co-workers at the Wastewater Plant that I was given this honor. I really appreciate the job they do each and every day to keep the plant running. They work hard to make the plant the best it can be for our customers and the city and we work as a team."

"Robert is a dynamic leader in the Wastewater Department," said Mike Dugger, General Manager, Riviera Utilities. "Under his leadership, the Wastewater Treatment Plant won two awards last year for operations in the state of Alabama. Those awards were the 'Best Operated Plant' by plant size and awarded by the Alabama Water Pollution Control Association (AWPCA) and the Alabama Water Environmental Association (AWEA). Robert is well on his way to a Bachelor degree in Environmental Management through Columbia Southern University. He is a wonderful family man and is active in the community as a volunteer youth football coach."

As Chief Operator of Riviera's Wastewater Treatment

Plant, Davis is a Grade IV Wastewater Operator and a Grade III Water Operator. His job involves protecting water quality by monitoring and testing influent and effluent at the treatment plant. Davis conducts facility tours for schools and other groups, oversees plant operations, and is responsible for submitting monthly, quarterly and annual reports to various regulatory agencies. He has been designated a plant inspector by the Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association, and as such, inspects other treatment plants throughout the state of Alabama once a year. He reviews their paperwork, their lab testing, the aesthetics of the plant and the quality of its effluent.

Davis is married to Chasity York Davis and they have three children, Ryanne, Madison and Mason. Davis' parents are Gary and Teresa Davis and they live in Magnolia Springs. Davis' grandfather, Bob Davis, is a long-time, retired board member at Riviera Utilities.

Other Riviera employees recognized during the year for Employee of the Month were: Danny Scott, December 2011; Roby Tomlin, January; Rick Castillow, February; Davis, March; Ruthie Holt, April; Brad Johnson, May; Richard Hoffman, June; Eddie Bullard, July; Daniel Staimpel, August; Jody Johnson, September; William Burgett, October; and Troy Leitermann, November.



Mike Dugger (right), General Manager, Riviera Utilities, is shown with Riviera Utilities' 2012 Employee of the Year, Robert Davis.

City welcomes new Code Enforcement Officer

By Jennie Gunnells

The City of Lanett has a new Code Enforcement Officer, Sgt. Gregory Reagan. Sgt. Reagan has hit the ground running and is doing an excellent job of helping us clean up the city. Angela Spates, Police Chief, stated that she is pleased at his performance.

Sgt. Reagan came to the City of Lanett with several years of police experience with the Lee County Sheriff's Department and the Foley Police Department. He was on the SWAT Team at Lee County Sheriff's Department and was in the Special Operations Unit in Foley, which related to Street Narcotics. He served two years in the Navy.

Sgt. Reagan is responsible for enforcing the environment, sanitation, housing and utility codes of the City of Lanett and the State of Alabama. He reports to the Police Chief.

Some of his duties are:

- Responds to customer complaints about improper landscaping, dilapidated houses, business licensing, abandoned cars, unsightly growth and poor sanitation practices throughout the City of Lanett;
- Works effectively with the Street and Utility Departments to identify and prosecute cases of illegal dumping or stealing power by manipulating the utility meter;
- Works with the Patrol Division in serving warrants, backup on calls, handling Code "1" from City Hall and filling in on patrol when needed.

- Summons violators to court as necessary;
- Gathers evidence and presents in court as required;
- Stays informed about changes in the environmental, housing and utility codes;
- Maintains detailed records of work performed;
- Prepares case files for all felony cases for the Chambers County District Court;
- Condemns dilapidated houses according to the Code of the State of Alabama;
- Reports case statistics to the Chief of Police as needed;
- Sends out certified letters and correspondence as needed;
- Must be certified as a Police

Officer through the Alabama Peace Officers Standard Training Council;

- Maintains good public relations with individuals and groups.

Sgt. Reagan is married and has five children, including three girls and two boys. His 18-year-old son has joined the Marines. He left for Marine Corps Boot Camp in Parris Island, SC, the end of February

We appreciate Sgt. Reagan's dedication and devotion to his job. Citizens of Lanett are already seeing Sgt. Reagan out and about in the city.

If you are interested in learning more about the City of Lanett, please check out our website, www.cityoflanett.com, or our City of Lanett Facebook page. The website will give you some history and photographs are available. Please like us on Facebook.



Sgt. Gregory Reagan

★ WATTS NEW IN
Alexander City

Minnie Lamberth visits library

Courtesy of Adelia M. Russell Library Staff

Minnie Lamberth, a native of Alexander City, will visit Adelia M. Russell Library on March 6 to discuss her new book, *Min at Work: Stories of Writing, Painting, Aunting, and Believing*. In this work memoir, Ms. Lamberth recounts her journey to and from the publication of an award-winning novel. In doing so, she tells how her work as a writer intermingles with cookies, carpool, aunthood and art – all to learn the lessons that every heart needs to know.

Ms. Lamberth will also discuss how her published writings have been influenced by her experiences in Alex City. She based many of the qualities of small-town life found in her novel, *Life with Strings Attached*, on her experiences in Alex City. In addition, in *Min at Work*, she recounts the 14 months she visited Alex City during a family illness.

“My mother, Jane Lamberth, was a public school teacher in Alex City for many years. She passed away in 1997 from cancer, and in the months preceding that time, I was in Alex City often to help her or take her to her treatments. I was amazed by how meaningful it is to be sick in a small town and by how many people reached out to her in small and large ways. One section of this book is about those experiences of my frequent trips home to a caring community.”

Ms. Lamberth has been a self-employed copywriter in Montgomery for 12 years. In addition, she is the author of *Life with Strings Attached*, a novel; *Min at Work*, a work memoir; and *Alabama: Moving Forward*, a coffee table book written for the Business Council of Alabama.

She grew up in Alexander City and received her B.A. in English from Huntingdon College in Montgomery. She began her career as a copywriter for Cunningham, Black and Farley, a Montgomery advertising agency, and later served as public information officer for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. She returned to Huntingdon to serve part-time as media relations director prior to launching her own freelance writing business in 2000.

Honors received during the course of her career include 1996 Practitioner of the Year for the Public Relations Council of Alabama’s Montgomery Chapter; 1998 ByLine Literary Award Winner in fiction for “The Right Hand of God,” a short story entry published in Feb. 1999; 2004 Paraclete Fiction Award for a novel; and the 2006 Huntingdon College Alumni Achievement Award.

Ms. Lamberth Minnie also paints mini-portraits of children that she calls her “Lambscapes.”

She is a member of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, where she works as a volunteer in the church kitchen on Wednesdays and is a teacher in pre-school Sunday School. She is an active aunt to many nieces and a nephew.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE IN ALEXANDER CITY:
Day Time (256) 409-2080, After Hours/Holidays – Call Police Dept. (256) 234-3421
Please do not call 911

★ WATTS NEW IN
Dothan

Water system improvements to South Saint Andrews Street in the works

By Lindsay McDonald

Dothan Utilities’ water distribution system consists of over 500 miles of buried water pipe of various sizes, along with thousands of valves, fittings, and fire hydrants. This extensive system has been constructed over many years, with some components dating back to the late 1800s. As this infrastructure ages and as development continues, it becomes necessary to replace or upgrade portions of the water distribution system.

The City of Dothan plans to undertake a drastic repair/resurfacing project along South Saint Andrews Street, an area with 90-plus-years-old water mains, prompted concern by Dothan Utilities of this aging water infrastructure’s ability to withstand the heavy vibratory equipment that would be used during the resurfacing. Past experience has proven that the use of large vibratory/construction equipment over water lines and services of this type can cause leaks both during and after construction. When a leak occurs, often water can travel long distances from the leak before reaching the surface, especially under concrete. For this reason, finding the leak may require a great deal of damage to the newly resurfaced roadways, resulting in large and multiple patches.

Therefore, the existing 6-inch diameter water line that runs under South Saint Andrews Street is being replaced prior to resurfacing activities. In addition to upgrading the pipe material during replacement, Dothan Utilities is taking this opportunity to upsize the water line to an 8-inch diameter water line.

Approximately 9,000 feet of 6-inch cast iron water piping is currently being replaced by 8 inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) piping with installation by a local contractor. PVC piping is durable and long lasting, therefore best suiting the City’s infrastructure needs.

The once bumpy ride along South Saint Andrews Street will be a memory of the past upon completion of the resurfacing project. In addition, by improving the City’s water infrastructure piping, water customers served along this route will benefit from improved system reliability and fire protection services to be enjoyed for years to come.

★ WATTS NEW AT Utilities Board of Tuskegee

Utility industry gravitation to smart meters

By Gerald Long

In 2012, the Utilities Board of Tuskegee (UBT) began the system-wide deployment of the Sensus Flexnet Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. This state-of-the-art metering system will allow UBT to automate the meter reading process, provide customers the ability to monitor their utility usage and offer Pay-As-You-Go service. From my vantage as UBT Assistant General Manager, I see utility costs continuing to rise in the future and therefore a need to empower our customers with information that they can use to assist them in managing their monthly utility expenses. We are excited about the capabilities of this AMI and the benefits it will provide to our community.

Customers will be able to subscribe to a usage monitoring service at no cost, where they can view their daily utility usage and receive alerts when their usage exceeds certain levels.

In addition, UBT will offer a Pay-As-You-Go service that will allow customers to choose how much and how often they want to pay before they use their utility services. Traditionally, customers receive a utility bill at the end of the month for all of the services they used in the previous 30 days. Pay-As-You-Go works the other way. This program allows a customer to choose how much and how often he/she wants to pay before using utility services. Pay-as-you-go



Gerald Long, Assistant General Manager, Utilities Board of Tuskegee (UBT), says new technologies are beneficial to customers and UBT.

is similar to putting gas in your car: You pay for it before you use it. You can purchase small amounts every few days or “fill up” the tank and not worry about it for several weeks. When your supply is low, you simply purchase more. Because a customer pays for utility services in advance, the Pay-As-You-Go program does not require customers to have a security deposit, there are no monthly bills and no late fees.

Mark Ennis, UBT General Manager, said other utilities that offer this Pay-As-You-Go program have seen a reduction in the amounts their customers pay for their monthly utility bills.

“We anticipate our customers will experience similar reductions in the amounts they pay for their monthly utility services.”

In addition to these benefits, this AMI system will serve as the backbone of UBT’s power outage management system.

Jerry Posey, UBT Engineering Manager, elaborates, “The electric meters that we are installing are intelligent devices that will report, among other things, power outages. Once our AMI system is integrated with our Geographic Information System (GIS), we will have near real time reporting of power outages.”

Posey said, “When a power outage occurs, the meters that are impacted by the power outage will send a signal to the office or to on-call personnel that the power is out. Our personnel will have in-office and/or in-vehicle displays that show the locations of the power outages and the protective devices that are most likely tripped. This information will be invaluable as we evaluate, mobilize and respond to power outages.”

Posey added, “Our goal is to offer highly reliable electric service. We have performance targets related to the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index and this technology will be an invaluable tool in reducing the frequency and duration of power outages.”

Along with these new electric meters, UBT is installing intelligent water meters throughout its water distribution system. These water meters will have the ability to report water leaks. Ennis says this will improve operational efficiency.

“Each month we have customers who receive large water bills as the result of water leaks. When a meter reader detects a leak, we attempt to notify the customer of the leak. However, the leak may have been occurring for several days. With these new meters, we will receive an alert as soon as the meter detects a leak, and we will be able to notify the customer before the customer receives a large water bill.”

Similar to the electric meters, these water meters will be interfaced with UBT’s GIS to provide better leak detection and response.

UBT expects the AMI system will be fully deployed throughout the electric system within the next 18 months and fully deployed throughout the water system in the next 24 months.



WATTS NEW IN
Fairhope

New and improved Festival of Flight planned for 2013

By D. Fran Morley

A new and improved Fairhope Festival of Flight is taking wing this fall, according to officials with the City of Fairhope. The City Council recently approved providing up to \$50,000 in cash or in-kind donations to support the festival, which will include a trade show and possibly an aviation job fair along with the popular air show and displays of military and other aircraft at the H.L. "Sonny" Calhahan Airport.

The Festival of Flight attracted nearly 15,000 people in 2008, the last year it was held. Council President Jack Burrell believes that it will do even better this year.

"The festival was very successful in the past; it just ran into trouble with the recession. Now, we have the Aviation Tech School planned to break ground at the airport (in conjunction with the Baldwin County Board of Education, Faulkner State Community College and Enterprise State Community College) and we have the prospect of businesses that Airbus will attract to our area. The Festival of Flight is a great way to showcase it all."

Fairhope Mayor Tim Kant agrees.

"We made a large investment to purchase land out there with the hope that the property would be sold (or

leased) to different companies, but everything stopped during the recession. Now it's time to think about economic development again and market that location for aviation-related businesses. The air show is a fun festival for our area but it's also a viable tool to market Fairhope's resources for aviation and high-tech businesses."

Burrell, who serves as the City Council liaison to the Fairhope Airport Authority, said the festival committee and Airport Authority are hoping to find ways to help the festival pay its own way.

"We're developing sponsorship levels and already getting people lined up. We hope to offer opportunities for underwriting certain portions of the event, and we're looking for grants and other funding sources."

It's possible that the City's contribution, if needed, could be drawn from money BP made available for Gulf Coast communities to market themselves after the oil spill in 2010.

"We still have around \$400,000 from the BP oil response fund sitting in an account," Burrell said. "We have to have the right project on which to spend that money, or it will go back to the state, and we're looking into the possibility of using some of those funds to promote the Festival of Flight. If we can raise enough money through sponsorships, we may not need that money from the City."

The 2013 Fairhope Festival of Flight is planned for Saturday, Sept. 28.

For questions or information on sponsorships, call (251) 990-0218.



Places to Go & Things to Do

Alexander City

March 15 and 16, 5-11 p.m., Alexander City Rodeo. ACHRC Arena at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex, Alexander City. Two-night event benefiting the Tallapoosa County Relay for Life Campaign. This is the seventh year for this favorite event. Kids games, pony rides, concessions and the best rodeo in east Alabama. Call (256) 329-6736 for more information.

March 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 2nd Annual ACSF/CACC Golf Tournament. Willow Point Country Club, Alexander City. Hosted by the Alexander City Sports Foundation (ACSF) and Central Alabama Community College (CACC). Driving range available at 9 a.m. Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Four-person Ft. Lauderdale Scramble: 80 percent of handicap. Entry forms available at the Alexander City Chamber, or contact Dave Jennings at CACC.

March 21, 7:30-8:30 p.m., The Alex City Arts Council presents, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?* By the Virginia Samford Theatre. BRHS Auditorium.

March 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 199th Anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. For more information, call (256) 234-7111.

April 13, Highway 22 from New Site east to the Georgia line. Spend the day shopping along Alabama Highway 22 as you travel through Tallapoosa and Randolph counties to the Georgia state line. Be sure to go to Rock Mills for Rock Mills Heritage & Pottery Day (www.rockmillsheritagepotteryday.blogspot.com). A 'Tour East Alabama' event.

April 26, 10 a.m.-April 28, 5 p.m. Boat Show. Ridge Marina, Lake Martin. Southeast's largest inland, in-water boat show. Visit www.russellmarine.net, or call (256) 212-1479 for more information.

Dothan

March 2 and April 6, 9:30 a.m., Wiregrass Woodturners. Ag Museum, Landmark Park. Open to the public. Free with paid gate admission.

March 2 and April 6, 1 p.m., Landmark Dulcimer Club. Landmark Park. Must have a dulcimer. Classroom. Free with paid gate admission.

March 1-April 8, Landmark Park Photography Contest Exhibit. Interpretive Center Lobby, Landmark Park. View photography entered in the first Landmark Park Photography Contest. Free with paid gate admission.

March 10 and April 14, 4 p.m., Reptile Feeding. Interpretive Center Classroom, Landmark Park. Watch park staff feed the snakes and learn why these animals are important to the environment. Free with paid gate admission.

March 16, Spring Farm Day. Landmark Park. Turn back the clock 100 years and experience living history demonstrations of sheep shearing, blacksmithing, plowing with draft animals, basket weaving, quilting and other traditional spring farm activities. Plus, the "Old Time Fiddlers Convention." Adults, \$8; senior citizens and active military, \$6; children, \$4; members, free.

March 25-27 and April 1-3, 2:30 p.m., Spring Family Days. Landmark Park. Afternoon programs for families. Free with paid gate admission. Registration required. Schedule will be posted at www.landmarkpark.com.

March 25-27 and April 1-3, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Spring Break Camps. Landmark Park. Registration required. Download schedule at www.landmarkpark.com.

April 8 (Members) and April 15 (Non-Members), Summer Camp Registration. Landmark Park. Day camps for ages 4-11. Registration required. Download the schedule at www.landmarkpark.com. Camps run in June and July for one week.

April 12 and 13, 8th Annual Tri-State BBQ Festival. Houston County Farm Center. Last year, teams from around the Southeast competed for over \$10,000 in prize money, trophies and bragging rights. Professional and backyard competition teams are urged to register early to guarantee a spot in the competition that was featured last year on the hit TV show, BBQ Pitmasters. The event also offers more than barbecue, showcasing regional and local music, arts and crafts vendors, children's activities and loads of family fun the entire weekend. Team entry forms and additional information can be found at www.TriStateBBQ.com, or by calling The Main Event at (334) 699-1475.

April 13, 10 a.m., Tree ID Workshop. Interpretive Center, Landmark Park. Veteran forester Ed Lewis will share his extensive knowledge of trees. Free with paid gate admission. Registration required.

April 20, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Spirit of Service Day. City-wide workday. Volunteers will help with various projects around Landmark Park and then enjoy lunch. Free admission. Registration required.

Fairhope

March 9, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., March Fantasy Doll and Toy Show and Sale. Sponsored by the Eastern Shore Doll Study Club of Alabama. Fairhope Civic Center Auditorium. Admissions is \$3 for adults; children (ages 6-12), \$1. For more information, contact Ruth Ann Brett, (251) 980-5958.

March 15-17, 41st Annual Arts & Crafts and the Outdoor Art Show. The combined festivals take place on the streets of downtown Fairhope. Booths are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day with free admission. Once again, BRATS (Baldwin Rural Area Transportation) will offer shuttle service from shopping center parking lots on Greeno Road. Parking there is free and the five-minute shuttle ride to downtown is \$2 one way. For more information, call (251) 928-6387, or visit www.eschamber.com/artsandcrafts; for information on the Outdoor Art Show, call (251) 928-2228, or visit www.esartcenter.com.

March 16, 35th Annual Spring Fever Chase. 10K race and two-mile fun run sponsored by Fairhope's Thomas Hospital and Wells Fargo and held on the Saturday of Arts & Crafts. In Fairhope, race applications for 10K runners are available at Wells Fargo and at the Thomas Hospital Fitness Center. Participants can also pre-register online or download and print applications at www.thomashospital.org. Day-of-race registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. at registration tables located at the intersection of Bayview Street and Fairhope Avenue, near the starting line. For more information, call (251) 435-3500.

March 23, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Visit the Easter Bunny. Fairhope Welcome Center. Bring your camera. For information, call (251) 929-1466

March 24, 2 p.m., Fairhope First's State of the City Address. Fairhope Civic Center. Mayor Tim Kant will give an overview of the City, upcoming plans and review the finances for the past year. The 2013 Quality of Life recipient will also be announced. For information, call (251) 990-0100.

April 27, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., 24th Annual Earth Day Mobile Bay.

Activities will take place at the Fairhope Pier Park. Admission is free. The largest and oldest Earth Day celebration in Alabama features environmental displays, films, exhibits, and educational activities for all ages. New for 2013 are plans for a children's parade, said committee vice chair Suzi Spies, who has worked with Fairhope's Earth Day celebration since 1990. For more information, visit www.EarthDayMobileBay.org.

April 26, 6:30 p.m., 5th Annual Hoot Scoot 5K and 1 Mile, Run With the Owl. Benefiting the Fairhope Public Library. Owls of all ages will take to the streets in their glow in the dark race t-shirts, running through the beautiful neighborhoods of downtown Fairhope. At the finish line, runners will be welcomed by a party under the stars - the Fairhope Library lawn will be filled with food, beverages, music and dancing with our race mascot, the Owl. For more information on entry fees, registration guidelines or volunteer opportunities, please visit the Library website, www.hootscoot.racesonline.com, or email HootScoot@att.net.

Foley

March 16, 5th Annual BBQ & Blues Cook-off. Heritage Park, downtown Foley. Proceeds will benefit the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation and its many programs. The event is a gated, ticketed event. Companies and individuals will compete in a BBQ cook-off. Attendees will enjoy live music, free children's activities, silent auction and a BBQ tasting. Tickets are available at the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce office, 112 West Laurel Ave., Foley. Visit www.southbaldwinchamber.com/majorevents for more information.

April 13, Relay for Life South Baldwin. Heritage Park, downtown Foley. Starting at noon on April 13 and ending April 14 at 6 a.m. For more information, contact Chairman Randy Whiterington, (251) 747-3907, cancercops@gmail.com, or Co-Chair Zana Price, (251) 943-1124, (251) 942-4241, or zqueenoffoley@gmail.com. You can also visit www.relayforlife.org/southbaldwinAL for more information.

Luverne

March 12, Fourth Annual Dinner Theatre. Luverne United Methodist Church. Hosted by the Luverne Public Library. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction, Dinner will be served promptly at 6 p.m., and the production begins at 6:30. Actress and storyteller Dolores Hydock will present "Footprints on the Sky." Tickets are \$25 per person or \$175 for a table of eight. For more information, please contact the library at (334) 335-5326.

Magnolia Springs

April 6, 10th Annual Magnolia Run. Oak Street, Magnolia Springs. 5K Run, Run/Walk, 1-Mile Fun Run. Presenting Sponsor is the South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. A portion of the proceeds helps support the Hattie Little Smith Scholarship Fund. The run takes place down a beautiful scenic route with majestic oak branches canopies overhanging the road, lovely azaleas, flowering plants and historic homes. Awards will be presented to all age groups. Post-race activities for runners include music, food, beverages and door prizes. This course is USATF certified 5-K #AL05017JD. For more information, contact Kristin Roberson, Kristen@southbaldwinchamber.com, or (251) 943-5590. You can also visit www.southbaldwinchamber.com/majorevents/magnoliarun for more information.

Opelika

March 1, First Friday. Downtown Opelika. Includes after hours shopping, live street corner entertainment and many delicious dining options.

March 28, 7:30 p.m., Great Flashlight Egg Hunt. Moore Stadium. Kids 3rd – 5th grade are invited to bring a flashlight and a basket and hunt for eggs in the dark. Look for special prizes and "rock eggs."

March 30, Easter on the Square. 10:00 a.m., Easter "Egg-tivities"; 10:45 a.m., the Ultimate Parade; 11 a.m., Super Spectacular Egg Hunt Children. 2nd grade and younger are invited to bring their baskets to gather more than 25,000 eggs. Look for special prizes and "rock eggs."

April 5, First Friday. Downtown Opelika. Includes after hours shopping, live street corner entertainment, and many delicious dining options.

April 6, 8 a.m., Camp Good Grief. Opelika SportsPlex. A free one-day camp for children ages 5-17 who have suffered the loss of a loved one through death. Camp Good Grief is a day camp offered once a year that provides therapeutic activities and groups to help children process the complex feelings that a loss can bring.

Piedmont

March 30, 7 p.m., Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt. Piedmont Sports Complex. Piedmont PARD and Piedmont H&R Block will sponsor the event. For more information, please contact Piedmont Park and Recreation Department, (256) 447-3367.

April 6, Baseball and Softball opening Day. Piedmont Sports Complex. Opening ceremony will start at 8 a.m. To register for baseball or softball or for more information on opening day, call (256) 447-3367.

April 21, 20th Annual Cheaha Challenge Century Ride. The bike ride is known as "The Toughest Ride in the South." This ride allows the rider the option to ride 26, 44, 66, 88, or the full 102 miles. The Cheaha Challenge will start at Piedmont Civic Center, travel to the top of Cheaha Mountain and then return back to Piedmont Civic Center. For more information or to register for the race, log onto www.neabc.org or www.cheahacallenge.com.

Sylacauga

For the month of March, the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will feature Darol Ezekiel's collage work. A reception will be held on March 21 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

March 2 and 3, Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen Pageant. Sylacauga High School Auditorium.

March 6, SouthFirst Lecture Series will continue with a presentation by Dolores Hydock "Behind the Covers: Norman Rockwell as Storyteller". The lecture will be held at the B.B. Comer Memorial Library. Lunch at 11 a.m. and lecture at 12 p.m.

April Walking Tours. Annual walking tour of downtown Sylacauga. Every Saturday in April. Tour will begin at B.B. Comer Memorial Library at 10 am. Free to the public.

For the month of April, the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will participate in the 5th Annual Marble Festival exhibiting marble sculpture from several participating sculptors.

April 6, 8 a.m., 5K Walk/Run. Central Park. To benefit the Autism Society. Sponsored by the Sylacauga Civitan Club.

April 9-20, 5th Annual Sylacauga Marble Festival.

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Frederick Road construction to begin this spring

By Jan Gunter



The City of Opelika wants to let citizens, businesses, and visitors know that the long-awaited widening of Frederick Road between Tiger Town and the Auburn City limits will be getting underway during the spring months of this year.

The project will begin with various utilities relocating their wiring, pipelines, poles, phone lines, etc. It is estimated that this will take through the month of March to complete, and possibly a week or so into the month of April. In fact, Opelika Power Services has, for the most part, finished with their relocation efforts; however, there are a few juxtaposition areas, which will have to be coordinated with other agencies, still to accomplish.

When all of the initial utility work is completed, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and their contracted construction company will begin the process of widening the road. The entire project will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete. During that time

Frederick Road will never be completely closed to traffic, but there will be numerous times when the road will be filled with road paving equipment and construction trucks and possibly have only one lane of traffic open in certain areas as work crews 'do their thing'. Of course, that will greatly increase the amount of time it will take motorists to travel from Auburn to Opelika and vice versa.

Because of this, Walter Dorsey, Opelika's City Engineer, said, "I strongly recommend all drivers traveling between Opelika and Auburn to take an alternate route whenever possible during the construction period. The nearest alternate and parallel route is Interstate 85, between Exits 57 and 58. Another parallel route is Pepperell Parkway / Opelika Road between Gateway Drive (in Opelika) and East University Drive (in Auburn)."

Dorsey said that even though the travel distance may be greater along the alternate routes, drivers will likely save themselves a lot of time by avoiding the slower speeds and congestion caused by the ongoing road construction.

If there is a reason motorists must travel through the construction areas of Frederick Road, the City of Opelika urges you to 1) give yourself plenty of time for travel; 2) realize that during construction hours there may be times when you will have to stop for other traffic whenever there is only one lane open for travel, and 3) be patient with other drivers.

"We know that during the construction period it will be frustrating for motorists to travel on and around Frederick Road, but just remember that it will most definitely be worth it when the construction is complete," said Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller.

The City of Opelika will keep a regular posting on Frederick Road construction updates on both the city's website, www.opelika.org, as well as the city's Facebook pages, "City of Opelika – Community Relations" and the city's App for iPhones and iPads. (If you do not have this App, simply go to your device's App store and type in "City of Opelika". The App is free.)