



The City of
COLUMBIANA
 cityofcolumbiana.com

January 2011

OUTDOOR WEATHER
 SIREN TEST
 WEDNESDAY,
 JAN. 12, 11 A.M.



JANUARY 2011

JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

BEAUTIFICATION BOARD.....	3
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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JANUARY 17, 2011

CITY HALL WILL BE
 CLOSED



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ELVIN HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year from Elvin Hill Elementary

January Calendar:

January 4th, students return to school

January 7th, 4th grade trip to the Water Festival Miss Annie visits with the K and 1st grade on Jan. 13th and 21st. The faculty and staff of Elvin Hill wish you a happy and successful New Year. We are here to uphold our belief that all students are individuals who will be treated with dignity, and have an equal opportunity to a quality education. Life is funny. If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you often get it. We want each day to be a triumph for our children. We want to instill in them the idea that it isn't how little we know that matters, but how willing we are to learn. We want to give our students the gift of a lifetime desire of learning.

Good News Recap of the first semester !!

Hailey Fant – Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Bulger – Support Person of the Year

Mary Kay Park – Credit Union Teacher of the Year Finalist

Jenny Lespi – Fox 6 Television - Alabama's Community Hero Award Recipient for September

Student Council members helped support the Skillet Bird Foundation, and raised donations for the Pets and People Food Drive, held each December.

Elvin Hill School Choir and SGA – Honored our Veterans on Veteran's Day

Elvin Hill Art Department – Numerous winners in local art shows, including the fair

Elvin Hill Community Education Dance/Baton Program – Numerous invitations to perform in our area

EHES Lunchroom Staff – Gold Medal winners in the School Nutrition Program

Elvin Hill Elementary School Staff and Students – Met state AYP progress goals on state testing.

Have a Happy New Year and as we ring in 2011, let us take a moment to remember our kind and precious Brynleigh Welch, who lost her life this first semester. We miss you.

COLUMBIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL

CMS recognized Richard Scott and Carla Hilliard as its respective faculty and staff members for the month of December.

The scholar's bowl team finished third in pool play recently at the Donoho Invitational. Scholar's Bowl team members for the school include Owen Barnes, Kyle Cofer, Justus Martin, Zac Scott, Margeaux Souter, Adriane Tharp, and Sarah Thompson.

Congratulations to the following students for helping the school to write over 350,000 words during the month of November and National Novel Writing Month. These students all completed their novels and met their word counts: Stephanie Abrams, Stephen Abrams, Jackson Bailey, Landon Bentley, Nathan Brom, Kaitlin Bosshart, Kyle Cofer, Laura Dudley, Emily Dover, Cydnee Goodwin, Raul Gutierrez, Merritt Harmon, Cameron Jackson, Kaitlin Jones, Dominique Kelley, Sydney Melvin, Caillea Schoggen, Aubrey Schreiber, Olivia Snyder, Margeaux Souter, Adriane Tharp, Sarah Thompson, Shaina Trumer, Rebecca Tucker, Logan Tucker, Kane White, and Marcy Wright.

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

With the coming of every new year, I've always found it important to look back on the past 12 months to make sure I take away from that year everything I needed to remember. I thank God for His guidance and the times I followed it, and I thank Him for His protection during the times I chose not to follow it. I also thank God for His mercy and comfort to my friends and their families as loved ones passed from us into eternity. Please continue to pray for our city and the many families that make Columbiana so much more than just a city.

Everyone would probably agree that it's best to end anything on a good note. Columbiana is blessed to end 2010 in better shape than when we began. We end in a positive way, and not just because our revenues—meaning increased sales—are above what we expected. We welcomed several new businesses, and celebrated business expansions, this past year. While we saw some dear friends and businesses have to close their doors, we also made new friends as new businesses chose Columbiana as their home. I was honored to be present at many ribbon cuttings, at all of which we prayed God's blessings of health, happiness and prosperity to be poured down upon the business owners, their employees and every person who walked through their doors. What a great place to live!

We saw true charity and generosity from so many of our residents and businesses this past year. When tragedy struck some of our families, Columbiana opened its heart to all those affected by loss and grief. When schools needed assistance to give our children the education they deserve, businesses and private citizens stepped up and provided help.

The backbone of any community is, or should be, the spirituality of its residents. Folks, we are so abundantly and graciously blessed to raise our families where the local Christian churches join together so often and so well to demonstrate God's love as they meet physical and spiritual needs throughout the year.

Union Missionary Baptist Church reached out to families through Back to School and food bank ministries. First Baptist Church of Columbiana's Fall Festival saw hundreds of residents fellowship while witnessing God's love and delicious hot dogs and homemade chili.

The Apostolic Truth Center held three "Blessing the Community" Block Parties, giving many residents a place to come together for fun, food, fellowship and door prizes. Columbiana United Methodist Church was the venue for musical groups to praise God through their spiritual gifts at "Groovin' on the Green" and "Switchpoint". Macedonia Baptist Church's choir and praise team inspired all who heard their beautiful and holy sounds. The Columbiana Church of the Nazarene's Live Nativity moved locations to downtown so that God's Greatest Gift would be even more recognized as the reason for the season. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints constantly provided resources, assistance and workshops to help us research and appreciate one of God's greatest blessings to us: Our families. Many other churches around us presented so many opportunities for us to come together as a community of Believers, and we are thankful for each one of them.

Take all of these great aspects of small town living, throw in some of the events that give us our identity, such as Liberty Day, Monster Walk, Music on Main, Cowboy Parade, Shelby County Cattleman's Association Rodeo, Kiwanis Shelby County Fair, and the Christmas Tour of Homes and Parade, and we've got a nice place to live. I hope you agree.

In closing, I want to encourage those of you who surf the Internet to visit the city's website often, and please make suggestions how the site can better serve your needs to keep you informed about the goings on here.

I'll leave you with this last bit of inspiration. Lately, I've seen so many people who have been affected by God's little encouragements in their daily lives. It's exciting to see, and I've developed an acronym for the phrase that seems to sum up their enthusiasm. When I say this acronym to them, they always say it back to me with great joy. I want to say it to you all right now, and I hope that you will pass it on to those you love and respect. The phrase is, "We Are Really, Really, Really Excited About God's Loving Encouragement!" The acronym is "WARREAGLE!" (You didn't think I could let it pass, did you?)

Allan Lowe

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Tax Renewal Elections set for February 8, 2011

Shelby County residents will be asked to “Renew Now for Our Children’s Future” when they go to the polls for a special election on February 8, 2011. Residents will vote on whether to renew 30 mills of existing ad-valorem property tax for an additional 30 years.

The Shelby County Board of Education passed resolutions in October requesting the Shelby County Commission call a special election on the renewal request. The County Commission approved the request for the election on November 9.

Shelby County residents currently pay 30 mills of ad-valorem property taxes, which are due to expire in 2017. The request to renew the taxes early is being made to help the district plan long-term capital improvement projects and to maintain high quality instructional programs that are funded through local tax dollars.

“The vote to renew the taxes would not result in a tax increase,” Fuller explained. “Residents would continue to pay the same rate they are currently paying. For someone with a home valued at \$100,000, they would continue to pay \$300 per

year.”

Fuller explained the revenue generated from the existing taxes is used to fund additional teacher units for art, music, physical education, as well as additional core subject teachers, instructional support personnel, and guidance counselors. This revenue also helps fund rising utility costs, technology, and repayment of bonds used to finance past capital improvement projects. Over the past 25 years, these bonds have financed the construction of 15 new schools and the addition of classrooms and renovations to the remaining 24 schools.

“The bonds secured over the past 30 years will mature in six years,” Fuller explained. “A portion of our current 30 mills of property tax are used to repay these bonds. Because there are only six years left in these existing property taxes, the school district is unable to secure additional bonds for capital improvements until the taxes are renewed.”

Fuller noted that Shelby County continues to grow each year, with a projected total of approximately 3,000 students over the next six years. In the coming years, the district will

still have a need for additional classrooms and new schools. The district is already developing a capital improvement plan that would target communities with the highest level of growth including Alabaster, Calera, Helena, and Chelsea. Schools in other areas of the county would also be included for improvements and modernizations.

“Without the renewal, we will be unable to build any new schools or make future plans for additions or renovations to our existing schools,” he said. “By holding a special election, we will be asking Shelby County residents to make a 30-year investment so that we can maintain the high standard of education that we have all come to expect. That would include our ability to finance much needed capital improvement projects in some of our highest growth areas.”

The present economic environment provides opportunities to take advantage of the near historical low interest rates and low construction costs. In addition, the board will be able to reduce the existing debt service, as well as provide additional financing for planned new construction projects

ADVERTISE IN THE COLUMBIANA NEWSLETTER

Call Jessica Hardin at the Shelby County Reporter
(205) 669-3131

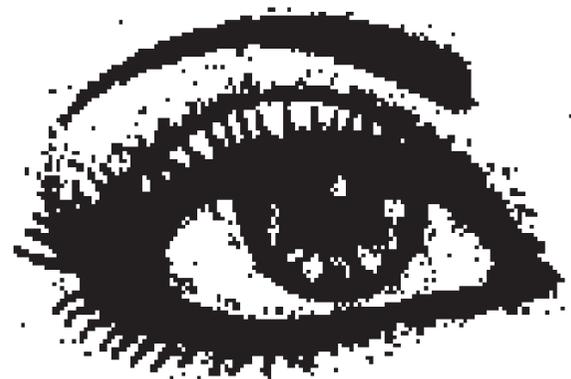
Columbiana Christmas Parade 2010 Awards & Trophies
Grand Champion Award (Best Overall Entry)
Boy Scouts-Scout Master Side Wheeler

Best Christmas Theme Award
(Entry that depicts the theme of the Parade)
Bethlehem Baptist Church-Minister Rodger Hammaker

Christmas Spirit Award
(Entry that personifies a spirit of dedication, ingenuity, originality, enthusiasm, response from audience)
Columbiana Health and Rehabilitation
Comfort Care Hospice

Most Original Award
(Outstanding Entry in any category)
Alabama Twirling Academy
Director-Tiffany Winfrey

Christmas Parade Winners



Dr. Stancil Handley

“Cares For Eyes”

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DRUG FREE MESSAGE

Two thirds of youth ages 13 to 17 say losing their parents’ respect is the main reason they don’t use drugs. Let your children know every day that you expect them to be drug-free.

The Shelby County Drug Free Coalition provides the drug free message each month. The Coalition is a program of Family Connection made up of volunteers who are concerned about and want to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among our youth. Representatives from law enforcement, health agencies, businesses, church and civic groups and Shelby County Schools are part of the Coalition.

Join the Seniors

Columbiana Senior Center at the Rec. Building
Monday – Friday 9 AM until 1 PM
For More Information call Donna Higgins at (205) 669-3969

Know your city

We are excited to bring you a new series of articles in 2011 allowing our citizens to get to know more about the City of Columbiana! The first series of articles will feature our elected city officials, beginning with District 1.

Frieda Abrams was born locally in Montevallo, Alabama but is a life long resident of Columbiana.

She is now serving her 3rd term as a member of the City Council, being first elected in August 1996 and the re-elected in 2004 as well as 2008.

Ms. Abrams currently serves on the following boards within the city: the Library Board, Public Safety and Public Works.

She is currently employed with Alabama Power Company as an administrative support specialist, where she has 32 years of service.

Frieda Abrams goals for the city in 2011: 1) Get more new businesses in the city to occupy the vacant buildings & 2) Have more sidewalks installed within the city for safety, exercise and other recreation.

A fun fact about Frieda Abrams: She loves to shop for herself, family members, friends and the needy. Frieda says that she just loves to shop!



Frieda Abrams
City Councilwoman
District 1



Featured in the photo above are (seated, L-R) Mrs. Deborah Cartwright, Ms. Angela Washington and Ms. Beth McCandless, (standing, L-R) County Commissioner Corley Ellis, State Representative Mike Hill, CMS Principal Cristie Muehlbauer, County Board of Education Member Peg Hill, Mayor Allan Lowe and City Councilman Stencil Handley.

Students and faculty of Columbiana Middle School are witnessing what true corporate citizenship really means through the recent acts of generosity from the employees of Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility (ATEF). Several weeks ago, ATEF donated two digital imaging cameras (or, "Elmos") to CMS to better aid the teachers in the classrooms. Realizing that another camera was still needed, the employees of ATEF, and J.F. Ingram Post-Secondary Education donated from their own pockets enough money to present a third camera. Debra Cartwright, ATEF employee and organizer of the effort, praised her fellow workers by saying, "Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility, as a local business, has always supported our community, and we wanted everyone to know that we care about them." Ike Hadley, Director of ATEF, bragged on his employees and said the donation was solely their idea. "I've always been proud of our staff for their strong community spirit, and this latest act of generosity lets everyone else see what I've always known," he said.

Columbiana Middle School Principal Christie Muehlbauer first contacted Mayor Allan Lowe, requesting assistance to purchase the "Elmos". Mayor Lowe contacted Director Hadley, who had recently said that ATEF would like to help the community in some way. CMS's request was a perfect fit, and now the school has three new Elmos, thanks to the Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility and its caring employees.

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6 Arts Calendar



Arts Council
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Portraits in Watercolor

Instructor: Pat Hall

Come learn how to create a gorgeous, realistic portrait step-by-step! Under Instructor Pat Hall, you'll learn to draw more accurately, mix colors to match skin tones, layer washes of paint, and more!

Date: January 15, 2011

Time: 9am - 1pm

Price: \$20 tuition

Supplies: \$6 (optional)

Location: Shelby County Arts Council

To register: call 205-669-0044 or email: info@

shelbycountyartsCouncil.com

www.shelbycountyartsCouncil.com

Art Metal Clay Jewelry Workshop

Instructor: Nancy Burlison

Under Certified Art Metal Clay Instructor, Nancy Burlison, you'll learn to manipulate metal clay into a unique pendant you can wear home from class! Explore the tools you will need to make metal clay pieces. Learn about finishing, and firing your metal clay with a micro torch.

Date: January 29, 2011

Time: 9am - 4pm

Price: \$165 tuition

Supplies: Included

Location: Shelby County Arts Council

To register: call 205-669-0044 or email: info@

shelbycountyartsCouncil.com

www.shelbycountyartsCouncil.com

Director's Invitational Exhibit

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 13th, 2011, 6:00 - 7:30pm

SCAC will be showcasing the great talent and professionalism of art teachers in Shelby County Public Schools

Exhibit dates: January 13 - February 24, 2011



Shelby County Arts Council Music Program Explodes!

The Shelby County Arts Council's music program is growing in leaps and bounds. "Our underlying goal is to encourage lifelong learning and enjoyment of music", states Susan Gordon, arts and education director.

Recently, Paul and Rhonda Wharton gifted a beautiful baby grand piano to the arts council. Students love the sound and feel of the new piano.

Nic Patterson, the voice and piano instructor, has started a youth chorale for students in 4th-8th grade to supplement the musical training offered in local schools and provide advanced choral experiences to children in the area. Enrollment is ongoing and a spring concert is being planned.

The arts council also offers guitar, violin, piano and voice lessons for youth and adults. Financial scholarships are available for eligible youth.

For more information about lessons, the youth chorale or financial scholarships, please visit the website at www.shelbycountyartsCouncil.com or contact Susan Gordon at 669-0044 or info@shelbycountyartsCouncil.com

The Shelby County Arts Council is a not for profit, 501c3 organization. The attached picture is Rhonda Wharton, SCAC board member, standing and Susan Dennis, arts and education director, seated.

Vignette Club — The Vignette Club recently lost one of its charter members with the passing of Elizabeth "Sis" Wallace. Sis Wallace moved to Columbiana when she was six years old. She graduated from Shelby Co. High and later from Alabama College (now the University of Montevallo). Throughout her time in Columbiana she worked in her husband's law office, was an active member in the United Methodist Church, a leader in the Girl Scouts and served as secretary for the Vignette Club as well. In her memory, the Vignette Club has purchased an American Flag.

We just added the feature a few weeks ago and have a couple of events there but anticipate that it will become a fast favorite.

The city calendar of events now utilizes the Google calendar application, which gives us greater flexibility in posting events, including the ability to open the item up for Internet searches on the web.

We will keep you posted about new enhancements to our website but if you haven't taken a look at the site, please do and let us know if there is something that you would like to see there that we don't have.



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What's New At The Library

By Jane Bailey - Director

Just a quick note to wish our community a very Happy New Year and to thank you for the response to the library's Giving Tree. As you know, we placed a bare Christmas tree in our hallway and asked our knitting group and our patrons to place hats, gloves, scarves, & socks on the tree.

These items were picked up by the folks at Family Connections and distributed to homeless "street" teens in the Birmingham area. Thanks to everyone for their kindness this Christmas season.

The staff and I sincerely hope that you will make visiting the Columbiana Library part of your

New Year's resolution. There is so much to do and so much to see at the library. We offer classes of all types, children's and adult programming, free computer use, movies, books, storytimes, copier and fax services and much, much more. Please use your community library; we'll be looking for YOU!

Columbiana Friends of the Library

Wednesday, Jan. 12th – 9 a.m. – Iron Tote Class
Come and learn to sew a tote for your iron, cute & practical!

Tuesday, Jan. 11th – 1 p.m. - Monthly Friends of the Library Meeting

Adult Knitting Classes

The Loose Stitches

Every Tuesday from 10 until noon

This group works on projects together, shares laughter and fun and teaches "newbies" to knit & crochet.

Pre-school Storytimes with Ms. Jane

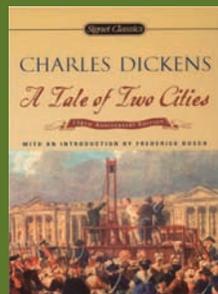
Join us every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 4th – Let it Snow, Jan. 11th – Pooh Stories, Jan. 18th – Winter is here, Jan. 25th – Polar Bears

Monthly Recommended Reads

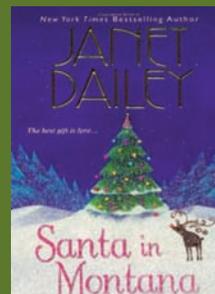
Jane

"A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens



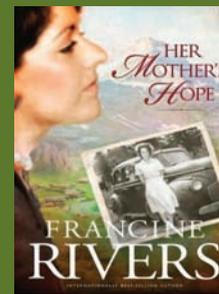
Shelia

"Santa in Montana" by Janet Dailey



Barbara

"Her Mother's Hope" by Francine Rivers



South Shelby Chamber of Commerce

Winners of the 2010 South Shelby Chamber of Commerce Diamond Awards

2010 New Business of the Year
Joey Roberto, Owner
Napa Auto Parts
Columbiana

2010 Business of the Year
Tim Prince, President and Publisher
Shelby County Newspaper Inc.
Columbiana

Scrapbook All Weekend

Friday, Jan. 28 ~ 6 pm - Midnight
Saturday, Jan. 29 ~ 10 am - 6 pm

Columbiana United Methodist Church

For more information contact Kathy Corbitt
(205) 919-6089 or e-mail kathycorbitt@aol.com.

The



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