

The

Communicator

VOL. 10, NO. 4 • JUL/AUG 2011

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF

New Hope
Telephone Cooperative
Your Communication Connection

Spotlight on... **OUTSIDE LINE CREW**



Also inside:

**RECAP OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING**

**LEARN TO SAVE
WITH COUPONS**

**OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
DEDICATION HELD**

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New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760
www.nhtc.coop

For Customer Service: 256-723-4211

For Editorial Advertising:
Call 256-723-2008
or email communicator@nehpc.net

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New Hope
Telephone Cooperative

Your Communications Connection

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

On the cover:

NHTC's outside line crew is the focus of this month's Team Spotlight. Read about the team on page 3.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Annual meeting highlights cooperative commitment to serving their members

I want to take this time to thank everyone who participated in this year's annual meeting. It's important to all of us here at NHTC that our members are informed about what their cooperative is accomplishing, and the annual meeting is always a great way to show off what your cooperative has been up to. This year was no different. We were able to share updates on our fiber system project, our finances and more.

NHTC also welcomed a new board member. In a cooperatively owned utility such as NHTC, our members are also owners of the company. One of the rights you have is to elect representation to our board of trustees, which ultimately decides the direction that our cooperative moves.

At the annual meeting, Jeffrey Cantrell was elected to Place Seven. We are excited to be working with him, and look forward to working together to make NHTC the best it can be. We also welcome back David Ayers and Garland Elders, who retained their seats.

You can read a full recap of the annual meeting in this issue of *The Communicator*. Aside from the annual meeting, another way your cooperative is committed to keeping you informed is through *The Communicator* magazine. This year the member magazine was named as best magazine nationwide for its category by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. This is the 5th year *The Communicator* has been honored nationally.

We take pride in this publication and what it gives to our members. Seeing it recognized nationally is always rewarding. We thank each of you who read this magazine, and all of you who have helped make it a fixture in this community.

I hope everyone enjoyed the annual meeting, and if you weren't able to attend this year, I hope you'll make plans to join us next year. We are excited about what the future holds here at NHTC. Your cooperative is working very hard to prepare this area for a future where access to a reliable, high-speed Internet connection is going to be absolutely necessary for commerce, medicine, education and more. We are also aware of our members' present need is for a cooperative that saves as much money as it can while providing the best service possible. NHTC is fully committed to bringing fiber to our members without wasting their money. Through long-range planning and efficiency, we are controlling costs and being good stewards of all our resources.▲



TOM WING
General Manager,
New Hope Telephone
Cooperative



Congratulations

New Hope Telephone Cooperative is pleased to announce the marriage of CSR Becca Hyde to Ryan Foster. The couple was wed on May 14, 2011, at Nan Roberts Lane Chapel. The couple resides in Grant.

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Outside line crews work to keep members connected

If you have ever requested telephone, Internet or cable TV service from NHTC, chances are you have met someone from one of our Outside Line Crews. All calls concerning accounts with copper or coaxial cable are directed to the team headed by Donald Morrison, while fiber calls are reported to Daniel Martin's team.

Until recently, NHTC used only copper or coaxial cable to connect members to the services we provide. Now, we are building an advanced broadband network that will eventually provide every member with a high-speed fiber-to-the-home connection.

NHTC strives to keep all equipment and services running at peak performance, but if something does require attention, our Outside Line Crews are always here to help.

"We go out and install new services,"

Morrison says. "Or, members call the repair service, and they dispatch the troubles to us whether its cable or phone. Cable problems are different from phone problems." He explains that if a power surge or lightning storm blows a fuse in the amp which powers the cable service, it will affect 25 to 50 people at once. With phone service, problems are usually isolated to one line at a time.

Morrison has been with NHTC for 18 years and still loves his job. "I enjoy meeting the customers and solving problems," he says. "We've got a good bunch of guys that work here, and service is our number-one priority. We want our members to be happy."

Fiber Team Leader Daniel Martin has recently returned from overseas where he was deployed with the Army National Guard for almost one year.

During his absence, Shawn Smith filled in. Smith has been with NHTC for over 12 years. "Fiber installations are interesting," Smith says. "To see every service we offer being carried by a piece of glass no bigger than a human hair is amazing."

"Our job is to get the members' services working," he continues. "We are averaging four to eight new fiber customers a day. If there is a problem with service, we go out and fix it. We also dig trenches and bury cable or fiber lines to protect them from the elements."

Outside Line Crews also lend support when the community needs extra help. "We have bucket trucks, so if schools or churches need signs hung up, we do that to help them out," Morrison says. "It's a small community and we work together.▲"

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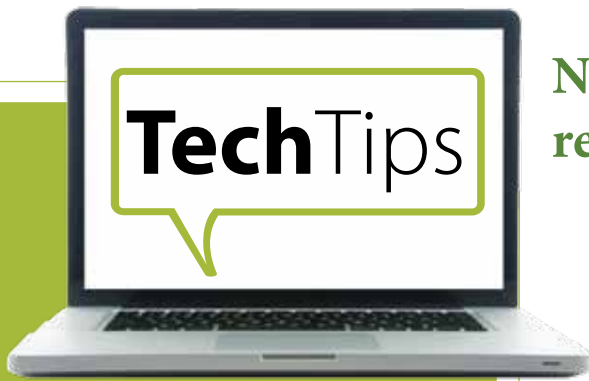
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TechTips

A growing number of companies, such as mycleanpc.com, are offering to rid your computer of nasty viruses and worms that slow it down. But do they really work? "People would be surprised to know that computer professionals DO NOT recommend using sites like this," says Rusty Bright, NHTC network manager. Many of these companies have numerous complaints against them. "The services they offer are things most people can do on their own," says Bright. "And for a lot less money." He suggests thoroughly checking out any company online before signing up. "Most will be surprised by what they find," says Bright.

Laptop batteries

never seem to last as long as we think they should. But there are ways to help your battery hold a charge longer and without decreasing strength over time. It is called conditioning. At least once a month, unplug the computer and leave it powered on. Allow it to run until the battery dies and the computer goes into "hibernation" mode. Then, plug into a power source and find the power management settings by double-clicking the battery icon in the bottom tray. Adjust settings so that battery life can be enhanced, allowing more work time and less data loss.

NHTC linemen help fellow cooperative rebuild after April's deadly tornadoes

When tornadoes ripped across the state on April 27, 2011, the area served by Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative (FTC) was devastated. Headquartered in Rainsville, Ala., in DeKalb County, FTC was left with miles of downed phone lines, no electricity and thousands of members without service.

NHTC was also left without electricity. Through the use of generators, phone lines were kept up and running so members would not be without access to 9-1-1 and other emergency phone service. The second week after the storms NHTC's General Manager Tom Wing reached out to offer assistance to FTC.

FTC's general manager told Wing what they could do to help and within days a crew from NHTC was dispatched to Rainsville.

The five-man team brought along two bucket trucks, a digger truck and a reel buggy. For four days, they joined FTC's massive efforts to restore service to the towns of Geraldine, Bryant, Rainsville, Sylvania, Pisgah, Henagar

and Ider.

Working from 5:30 a.m. each morning until 7:30 p.m. each night, the team helped in every way they could to get their neighboring cooperative back on its feet.

A good portion of their time was spent doing clean-up work like clearing away trees, downed telephone poles, cable and debris from the area. The team also helped set new poles, run new lines and restore service to single-dwelling homes.

NHTC has received help from FTC in the past, and the cooperative was glad to lend a helping hand during this disaster.

The purpose of a cooperative is to create a better way of life for its members and the surrounding communities. In this instance, a cooperative that was crippled by forces of nature, saw firsthand what the cooperative spirit it represents can do.

"We all have to look out for each other," says Tom Wing. "When one cooperative is hurting, it is up to the others to do everything in their power to help. Cooperatives are not about big business, they are about people." ▲



NHTC crews help Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative restore telephone service to their members in Ider, Ala. following the April 27 tornadoes.

NHTC awards scholarships to two deserving students



Tanya Cooper, a graduate of DAR High School, is the recipient of a \$500 NHTC scholarship. She is the daughter of Phillip and Sandy Cooper of Grant. Tanya is an outstanding student with many accomplishments. She was elected senior class president and homecoming queen, and graduated as the Valedictorian of her class. She was also a

member of the DAR Varsity Girls basketball team for 3 years. In the 2010-11 season, she made 1st team all-county, county offensive MVP, county all-tournament team and regional all-tournament team, and was selected as the team's MVP for the season.

In the fall, she plans to begin classes at Snead State Community College. After two years, she will transfer to Athens State University to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics.



Jonathon Steinman, is the NHHS recipient of a \$500 scholarship from NHTC. He is the son of Dana Adams.

Jonathon plans to attend the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa where he will study music education.

His many high school accomplishments include serving as vice president of the Student Government Association

and representative of the National Honor Society, and being a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was an Honor Band member and received the DAR Good Citizen Award. Jonathon was also voted Most Outstanding Band Member and Most Outstanding Concert Band Member by his fellow students.

Jonathon is the pianist at Cave Springs Baptist Church and has served for many years as a music teacher for children in the church's vacation bible school program.

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Trimming your budget with coupons

The television show Extreme Couponing featured on TLC showcases the stories of men and women who have turned saving money into a lifestyle. These consumers take couponing to a whole new level. While they stockpile hoards of food, paper products and other household goods, they are able to walk away from the register with little or no money out of pocket.

Tonya Moore of New Hope is quick to point out that while she loves couponing, she is not an extreme couponer. But, after seeing a couple of features on television about couponing, Moore decided to try it herself. "My husband Darryl suffered a stroke in August of 2010," she explains. "We lost one income but we still had bills and we still had to eat." That is when she began researching practical ways to cut expenses and save money.

"I already had a newspaper subscription and Internet, so I decided to do some research and figure out how they were doing it," she explains.

Success did not come right away. "The first few times, I only saved about \$40 or \$50 dollars on my total grocery bill," she says. "Then I figured out what I was doing wrong."

She discovered that her biggest mistakes were trying to be brand specific and not reading the coupon. "The picture on a coupon can be deceiving," she says. Moore explains that in hopes consumers will buy the pictured item, manufacturers will often picture a more expensive item on their coupon, even when less expensive items can be purchased with the coupon.

Once she adjusted her approach, Moore was saving some 50% off her total grocery bill within two months. "That is when I felt like I was successful," she says.



Tonya Moore has been cutting coupons to save on her family's grocery expenses for about a year. On average, her savings equal 50% of her total.



By combining sale prices with coupons, Moore was able to buy all 10 of these bottles of laundry detergent for only \$1.27.

Armed with her coupon binder, she now heads out to the grocery store each week without a grocery list. “I don’t like taking a list,” she says. “I read the sale circular each week and I buy what is on sale.” Moore says that she also makes all her grocery purchases at one store.

“My favorite grocery store will match a competitor’s ad price so there’s no need to go from store to store,” she explains. “And they double coupons worth 50¢ or less every day of the week. That means my 50¢ coupon is now worth \$1 off, and I can shop any time it’s convenient for me.”

Moore cautions that not every store has the same policy when it comes to coupons. “You have to know your store’s coupon policy,” she says. Some stores will not double any coupons, some will not accept coupons that were printed from a coupon site and some stores limit the number of coupons they will accept in any one transaction.

“I do have a stockpile,” she admits with a smile, “but I’m not like those people you see on TV.” Moore explains that most of the items she normally buys go on sale in cycles. “My goal is to wait until an item goes on sale and I have a coupon before making a purchase. Then, I know I’m getting the best deal. And

I buy a three-month supply for my stockpile. Then, I won’t buy that product again until it goes back on sale.”

Incredibly, Moore says that while searching for the best bargains, she has found deals that actually pay her. Sometimes her coupons are worth more than the sale price of an item. Those deals are hard to pass up. “If I find something for free, or better yet, if the store will give me money to buy it, I’m not going to leave it on the shelf,” she says.

While couponing can be very rewarding, Moore has discovered that some people are reluctant to try it. “A big misconception some shoppers have is believing that stores lose money on coupons,” she says. “They actually get paid a handling fee for every coupon they take from the manufacturer — that is in addition to the value of the coupon. Once you understand that, you can shop without feeling guilty about finding a great deal using coupons.”

These days, Moore is saving more than \$100 each week at the grocery store. She has found a plan that works for her family. “Even if I won the lottery, I would still coupon,” she says. “I’m always going to want to save money. Couponing is a lifestyle. Once you start really saving, you don’t want to stop.” ▲

8 Tips

for beginning couponers

- 1 Learn the lingo.** Not sure what stacking, BOGO or catalinas are? Go to coupon-wizards.com for these and other definitions.
- 2 Be prepared to invest time.** It can take hours of preparation to make couponing work, but more time can equal more savings.
- 3 Don’t be embarrassed.** Companies offer coupons in hopes that you will use them, buy their product and become loyal to that brand.
- 4 Get the Sunday newspaper.** It is a great source for coupons. There are usually two inserts, sometimes three, each Sunday.
- 5 Buy smaller.** If coupons don’t require that you buy a certain size, you will save more money buying the smaller size.
- 6 Stay organized.** Whether you use a binder, box or file cabinet, you need to keep up with coupons and trash expired ones.
- 7 Print coupons.** If you don’t want to invest in a newspaper subscription, you can print coupons from sources like coupons.com.
- 8 Do some online research.** There are dozens of websites that can help teach you how to start your own coupon system. Check out these:
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Cooperative on course for a strong future with fiber

New Hope Telephone Cooperative held its annual meeting on May 17, 2011, at the New Hope Elementary/Middle School Auditorium. The meeting was well-attended by cooperative members from New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

Two places on the Board of Directors were up for reelection and one place was left open after board member Sonny Cantrell passed away in October. Members cast their votes to fill Grant Places Six and Seven and Owens Cross Roads Place Nine.

After voting, everyone was treated to entertainment by Robert Galloway on acoustic guitar while they visited with friends and enjoyed refreshments.

Down to business

The business meeting began with a prayer by Board President Barry Jones who also led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

As three volunteers from New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads carefully tallied each vote, members of the Board of Directors were introduced and a 15-minute video was presented by NHTC's General Manager Tom Wing.

In the video, members were informed about changes which are coming to the telecommunications industry

through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and how NHTC is already preparing to respond to those changes.

The video explained how the fiber-to-the-home system they are building will meet the higher broadband speed requirements the FCC is suggesting be imposed.

When complete, this system will connect every member of the cooperative to an advanced telecommunications network capable of delivering the voice, data, video and other high-bandwidth services members will demand in the future.

Dollars and sense

Members were assured that as NHTC builds the fiber system, every possible precaution is being taken to control costs. The cooperative is using low-cost government loans, building one phase at a time and using a closed bidding process to ensure the best price possible.

The video informed members about the great strides NHTC has made since the Board of Directors hired General Manager Tom Wing in 2007. By renegotiating contracts, correcting outdated policies and trimming operating costs, NHTC has reduced one-time and ongoing expenses by well over one million dollars. The result is a leaner, more stream-



lined utility which is positioned to compete strongly in the new telecommunications industry of the future.

“Our cooperative is moving forward with a solid plan which will keep our members connected with the latest technology,” Wing says. “We have been very careful to stay on track with that plan and I’m very pleased with the progress we have made so far.”

NHTC’s Balance Sheet for the year ending December 2010 shows the value of the cooperative’s property, plant and equipment to be almost \$32 million. That number is thanks in part to the fiber network NHTC is building.

The 2010 Income Statement for the cooperative shows net margins of more than \$400,000 — almost 10 times more than last year’s margins. These audited figures are proof that even during these tough economic times NHTC remains on solid ground.

Everybody wins

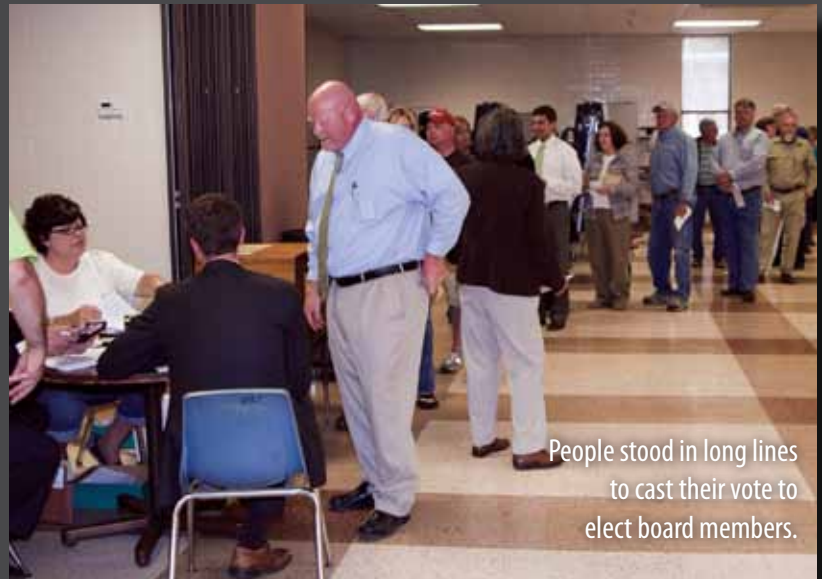
The video presentation updated members on the success of Residential and Business Bundles, which offer members savings for combining services from their cooperative.

NHTC was also proud to announce that *The Communicator* has again been honored by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association as the best magazine in its category nationwide. The industry’s First Place TeleChoice Award is the 5th national award *The Communicator* has earned.

When the votes were tallied, it was announced that David Ayers was re-elected to Grant’s Place Six, and Jeffrey Cantrell was elected to fill Place Seven, a seat left open after his father Sonny Cantrell’s passing in October. Garland Elders was re-elected to fill Owens Cross Roads Place Nine.

Finally, NHTC announced the winners of several door prizes, including many cash awards, flat-screen televisions and a Blu-ray DVD player.

As the evening came to a close, members were thanked for their participation and invited back for next year’s annual meeting of NHTC.▲



People stood in long lines to cast their vote to elect board members.



There was a large crowd in attendance at the annual meeting.



Robert Galloway entertained the audience with a wide variety of songs.

2011 NHTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Following the Annual Meeting, members of the Board of Directors conducted a brief business meeting. As required by the company bylaws, they elected new Board officers. Members of the Board are, left to right: (seated) Jim Duncan, Secretary; Jeff Cooper, President; Jimmy Segler, Vice President; David Ayers, Treasurer; (standing) Tom Wing, General Manager; Jeffrey Cantrell; Greg Glover; Barry Jones; Mike Whitaker; Garland Elders; and Doug Martinson, NHTC Attorney.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, something disheartening happened at a recent event that opened with the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer. With a thousand people in attendance, many continued talking and cutting up during this acknowledgement of our nation and God. Maybe some of these folks forgot about the cost of freedom, or maybe they attend one of the churches doing away with national symbolism, music and patriotic messages. "It takes away from Jesus and reflects a semblance to nazi Germany", they proclaim. Well, Scripture is full of patriotism, and I know you've heard the Psalmist's words, "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord...". History is full of defeated nations, including nazi Germany, who turned from God to rely upon their own power and (mis)understanding.

Paul tells the Corinthian church that we grow in faith like a baby goes from mother's milk to food. As I grow in faith, I may one day omit patriotism. Until that time, I know we're not perfect, but as long as we say "In God We Trust", and we don't use that motto to justify ungodly actions, I will believe in America. In the meantime curiosity might ask, how many anti-patriotic church leaders would preach in a country where caught doing so is a sentence of death; or how quickly anti-patriotic neighbors would stand at attention when not doing so is subject to a beating? Jesus is the Means to Righteousness. Can Righteousness not be a means of patriotism, in a community program or a church near you? Many of our Founding Father's thought so.



*Michael Carpenter,
Pastor of New Hope
United Methodist
Church & Oak Bowery
United Methodist Church*

NHTC's newest Board member carrying on family tradition

NHTC congratulates our newest board member, Jeffrey Cantrell, who was elected at our annual meeting on May 17. Jeffrey is the son of Sonny Cantrell, who served on the board for several years before his death in 2010. It was his father's wish that Jeffrey would one day be elected to take his place. "My dad actually asked me to run for this position many years before he passed away," Jeffrey says. "I did this to honor my father and to serve my community. I believe in the cooperative spirit."

Jeffrey and his wife Christen have two children: Collin, age six, and Olivia, age five. They are members of First Baptist Church in Grant. "The most important things to me are my family, my church and my community," he says.

Growing up, Jeffrey was instilled with a strong work ethic and sense of community which he attributes to his mother, Marsha Keller, as well as his father. He paid his way through college by working at Cantrell Masonry, a business he started with his twin brother, Jerred. After graduating with an associate's degree in engineering

design technology, he went back to school and got a bachelor's degree in education.

Cantrell taught school for four years and coached cross country and baseball at Brindlee Mountain High School. He left his teaching position to become the facility manager at Digium, a company which manufactures custom phone systems for businesses.

"I believe Digium provides me with many resources concerning the future of the communications industry that may help me make informed decisions concerning the cooperative," he says. "Because of my personal experiences and accomplishments, I truly believe that I can be an asset to the Board at NHTC."

As a board member, he wants to be a voice for the people of his community. "I want every member and employee to know that they can bring questions and concerns to me regarding the cooperative in confidence," he says. "In my opinion that's one of the main duties of board members, to take concerns and wishes of the membership to the meetings and act on them in good faith, so we have the cooperative that we all want." ▲



Newest Board member Jeffrey Cantrell with his wife Christen and their children, Collin and Olivia.

An outdoor classroom was established in honor of teacher's aide Jeffrey Hughes who passed away in March. His brother Toby Garter (center back) stands with students Kyle Dunn (left) and Josh Green.



Outdoor Classroom honors teacher's aide

Jeffrey Scott Hughes touched many lives during his time as a school aide at New Hope Elementary. Hughes passed away in March and the school has constructed an Outdoor Classroom to help students share his passion for the environment.

New Hope Elementary School recently dedicated space to open an outdoor classroom in honor of school aide Jeffrey Scott Hughes who passed away unexpectedly on March 28, 2011, at the age of 49. Hughes served for three years as an aide to student Kyle Dunn, who is visually impaired.

During a special ceremony at the school in May, several students and others spoke about how Hughes had impacted their lives and the lives of their fellow students. "Everyone knew him," says Karen Hill, Kyle's sixth grade teacher. "All the students looked forward to seeing Mr. Hughes in the halls. He'd call out math problems to the first and second graders as they passed him, and they would all try to answer back."

Hill says that Hughes' presence has been greatly missed. "He was in the classroom every single day," she says. "You could depend on Jeff for anything, and for a lot of the students he was their go-to man for any problem they were having. Since March, we have been missing a huge piece of our classroom."

Kyle Dunn, the student who Hughes spent the most time with, also spoke at the assembly. "Before Mr. Hughes came

into my life, I didn't know Braille, and so I couldn't read," says Kyle. "When he met me, Mr. Hughes didn't know Braille either. He learned Braille so that he could help me. Now, I can read. He wasn't easy on me, and at times I thought he was too hard, but now I'm very thankful for his being rough. I'm the student I am today because of Mr. Hughes."

Kyle's mother, Nichole Ortega, also spoke of the close relationship her son had with his aide. "Mr. Hughes was more of a friend than a teacher. He was with Kyle all day every day, and that friendship has meant a lot to Kyle and to my family."

Respecting the environment, recycling and being outdoors were all things that Hughes tried to ingrain in all the students he came across. He was responsible for many recycling initiatives in the school, and was known for helping teach students about environmental awareness. The Jeffrey Scott Hughes Outdoor Classroom will stand as a testament to these values. "My brother was a very simple man who tried to live in total reverence of nature," says Darrell "Toby" Garter, who represented Hughes' family at the assembly. "I know he would be honored by this, because I am greatly honored. Thank you for this." ▲

Volunteers keeping roadways clean

Individuals and groups participated in the New Hope Lions Club spring street cleaning. Volunteers gathered early in the morning and walked the streets, collecting litter and garbage from along the roadside.

The annual event is made possible thanks to the help of the New Hope City Council, Madison County Commissioner Jerry Craig, Madison County DOT and Green Team who provide garbage bags, safety vests and sticks for picking up debris.

Ava Cambron has coordinated the event for several years. Now that the roadways are clean, she encourages everyone to put forth a little extra effort to keep them that way throughout the year.

If you see litter on the roadways, please stop and pick it up.



It helps improve the beauty of this great town. If you see someone littering, please report them to authorities. ▲

O'Neal receives special honor



The Madison County Homemakers and Community Leaders Club is proud to announce Debbie O'Neal as Woman of the Year for Madison County, 2011.

Debbie is the state treasurer for the organization and is a member of both the Owens Cross Roads and the Family First of New Hope clubs.

She was nominated by her fellow club members for her tireless efforts in promoting and participating in club projects and events throughout her 20 years of membership.

Debbie has been a driving force behind such events as the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Telethon, the Special Olympics Track and Field Event and the Hospice Caring House Carnival and Bowling Parties, a bereavement program for children ages 3-18.

Debbie has organized food drives, attended countless county activities and meetings, and has served as Chairman on many committees. Debbie also serves on the budget and membership committee in the Homemaker's Club. ▲

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2011-2012 School Calendars

Marshall Co. School Calendar

Aug 15 – First day of School
 Sep 5 – Labor Day
 Oct 20-21 – Fall Break
 Nov 11 – Veterans' Day
 Nov 24-25 – Thanksgiving
 Dec 19-Jan 2 – Christmas
 Jan 13 – Teacher/Staff Workday
 Jan 16 – MLK Jr. Day/Weather
 Feb 20 – Presidents' Day/Weather
 Mar 26-30 – Spring Break
 May 24 – Last Day of School

Madison Co. School Calendar

Aug 15 – First day of School
 Sep 5 – Labor Day
 Oct 17-21 – Fall Break
 Nov 11 – Veterans' Day
 Nov 23-25 – Thanksgiving Break
 Dec 23-Jan 2 – Winter Break
 Jan 13 – Teacher/Staff Workday
 Jan 16 – MLK Jr. Day
 Feb 20 – Presidents' Day
 Mar 26-30 – Spring Break
 Apr 6 – Weather Day
 May 4 – Weather Day
 May 28 – Memorial Day
 May 30 – Last Day of School

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Upgrades made in the town park

Good things are happening at Grant City Park. Several upgrades have been added. These include new parking lots, a sidewalk, a new practice field and new lights.

Mayor Larry Walker says that District 2 County Commissioner James Maze helped make the upgrades possible. "James Maze is always willing to help us in Grant," says Walker. "He was instrumental in making the walking trail a success. He listens when we have an issue and usually has an idea about how to solve the problem.

"Grant has a great park system," he adds. "We're glad that we have a safe, fun place for families and people of all ages to enjoy. The park is an asset to the town and we've been working hard to make it more accessible and usable to everyone."

Among the upgrades are a french drain to eliminate the issue of standing water near a soccer field. Walker explains, "The ditch could not be mowed; it wasn't safe. Commissioner Maze suggested we install a french drain. We dug a trench, filled it with gravel and a drain tile, then refilled the trench. It solved the problem."

An additional parking lot was created behind the Kidtopia play area. "That makes it much safer," says Walker. "People were using Park Road for parking and on occasion children were darting into traffic. It also creates more parking for special events."

The addition of an extra ball field helped solve another problem. With 22 ball teams and only 3 fields, that meant some kids weren't getting home until 10 or 10:30 p.m. "We've added lights to our third field," says Walker. "That will help tremendously. And the extra field will be great for T-ball. It can also be used for soccer or even football practices."

A sidewalk was added to connect the parking lot next to the city pool to the concession stands, Kidtopia playground and ball fields.

Besides the city park, Walker says the city council is also interested in building a multi-purpose facility that would house a recreation center for children and adults, a senior center and the North Marshall EMS Rescue Squad. The rescue squad is a volunteer group that performs rapid response for medical calls and accidents.

"With summer in full swing," says Walker, "I hope everyone will make time to visit the city park and see the improvements. We have swimming, picnic facilities, pavilions, playgrounds, ball fields and more." ▲



A NEW SIDEWALK at Grant City Park connects the concessions at the ball fields to the parking lot near the city pool. It also leads to the Kidtopia playground. This is just one of many improvements made at the park.



Larry Durham

Michael Durham



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Summer vacation COMMUNITY PHOTOS



Trent Meeks at Blackwater River, FL
July 2010



Nathaniel Meeks and Major Walker
Photo sent by Kristin Walker Meeks.



Braydon Roe at Navarre Beach, FL
July 2010



Kara-Lynn Craig of Grant, AL
Photo taken by Steven Craig



Destini and Roman Callahan on a 4th of July camping trip.



Hunter and Grant Maples
Sent in by mom Rachel (Pence) Maples.



Reece Erwin's first trip to the beach
Jumeirah Beach, Dubai

"Football Fever" is the photo theme for September/October. Send to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, AL 35760, or e-mail your photo to communicator@nehp.net. Follow these guidelines for publication: (1) Photos must match theme. (2) Photos must be high resolution. The resolution offered by some printers is not high enough for publication. (3) Do not write on the back of photo. Include names of persons in photo, as well as, photographer, address and phone number on paper taped to back. (4) Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your photo returned. (5) The **Deadline for July/August issue is May 30th**. By submitting your photos: (1) you attest that you are the creator and owner of the photos, (2) you give New Hope Telephone permission to publish your material in *The Communicator*, (3) you agree to offer said photos without the expectation of payment from New Hope Telephone, and (4) you understand that photos are selected for publication in *The Communicator* at the sole discretion of New Hope Telephone, and that submission of your photo does not guarantee your photo will appear in the magazine.

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