

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The
Communicator

Vol. 3, No. 4

August 2004



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Board expected to name new Manager soon

New Hope Telephone Cooperative will soon have a change in leadership.

Terry Blakemore, hired earlier this year to replace retiring General Manager Tom Butler, has resigned. Citing personal and family reasons, he offered his resignation along with assistance during the transition to a new manager.

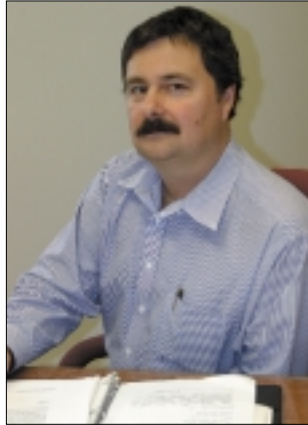
"It has been a pleasure getting to know people in New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads," Blakemore says. "This is a strong cooperative with tremendous potential, and I believe the next manager will have some exciting days ahead."

Blakemore came to New Hope from an international deregulated telecommunications company. In his

short time at NHTC, he brought many new ideas and a fresh perspective to the cooperative.

The staff and Board express their appreciation to Blakemore for the job he did at NHTC, and wish him and his family the best for the future.

The Board is currently interviewing candidates for the open position. They expect to name a new General Manager within the coming weeks.



Cooperative employees retire

New Hope Telephone Cooperative recently said goodbye to two long-time employees.

Sue Whitaker and Thurman Hubbard retired from the Cooperative after many years of faithful service.

Whitaker served NHTC members for 24 years in a variety of positions. Upon retirement, Sue was called on to function in many capacities, the most tasking of which were the processing of the toll tapes and generation of the customer bills.

"I really enjoyed working at New Hope Telephone," says Whitaker. "It was a good place to work. I'll really miss the people."

She is currently staying busy with home projects, but hopes to do some traveling at some point in the future.

Hubbard retired after 17 years of service. He worked as the outside cable TV foreman.

"I'm gonna miss the people at the co-op," says Hubbard. "They're a lot like family."

Hubbard says he enjoyed serving the members of New Hope Telephone. "I hope they know I always tried to do the best I knew how, and to treat everybody with the utmost respect."

Hubbard plans to stay active in retirement, while enjoying time with his wife.

NHTC's Board and staff appreciate the years of dedicated service these employees gave to members. We will miss them, but we wish them the best of luck in their retirement.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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

Board of Directors

Barry Mefford, President

New Hope Exchange

Greg Glover, Vice President

Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jeff Cooper, Secretary

New Hope Exchange

David Ayers, Treasurer

Grant Exchange

Jimmy Segler

Grant Exchange

Jeff DeArmond

Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jim Duncan

New Hope Exchange

Barry Jones

New Hope Exchange

Dennis Pence

Grant Exchange

The Communicator

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New home for New Hope Telephone

After months of anticipation, New Hope Telephone Cooperative opened for business on July 12 in its new customer service building on Main Drive in New Hope.

The modern facility was designed to help provide greater customer service to cooperative members. The spacious lobby offers a more comfortable place for conducting business, and offices allow members to discuss their telecommunications needs and concerns with customer service representatives in a private setting.

"We are all very proud of the new

facility," says Teresa Hunkapiller, NHTC Office Manager. "Members now have a clean, modern atmosphere in which to conduct their telecommunications business.

"This building will serve the area well as New Hope Telephone Cooperative continues to grow," she adds.

In the true cooperative spirit, NHTC employees worked throughout the weekend to have the

building ready for business on July 12. From cleaning and dusting to transporting files and computers, employees displayed real team spirit.



Looking for the drive-thru?

We are enjoying serving members from our new facility, but we're not quite finished with all the details.

Finding your way around the building can be a little confusing, since our signs are not in place yet. To access our drive-thru window, turn off of Main Drive onto Hayden Street, just to the right of the building. Turn immediately behind the building and you will see the drive-thru just ahead.

Also note that a night drop is available in this area as well for those customers needing to leave a payment after hours.

We're also working on landscaping, which has been a challenge in the recent wet weather. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work on the details of your new NHTC headquarters.

MasterCard and Visa accepted here!

New Hope Telephone now offers members greater flexibility in paying their telecommunications bills. Besides the option of having the amount of your bill drafted from your checking account, you can now pay for telephone, cable, long distance and Internet (including modem purchases) directly to your MasterCard or Visa credit or debit card. Contact an NHTC customer service representative to find out how!



**Open House set
for Wednesday,
August 18
2 – 4:30 p.m.**

Join the staff and directors of New Hope Telephone Cooperative on Wednesday, August 18, for Open House festivities as we celebrate the opening of our new office building. The Open House will be held from 2 - 4:30 p.m. Please drop by and see the new facility, which was designed to help us better provide you with quality customer service. We hope to see you there!

City elections set for August 24

It's time once again for citizens to choose their local governmental leaders. Municipal elections are scheduled for August 24, and we have list-

ed below those candidate who have qualified for the Mayor and Council positions in Grant, New Hope and Owens Cross Roads. Please make an

effort to go to the polls on August 24 to cast your ballot. Remember, voting is more than a right — it's a privilege we should never take for granted.

2004 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

OWENS CROSS ROADS

MAYOR

Curt Craig
Travis Day

PLACE # 1

Charles Furlough
John Ikard Jr.

PLACE # 2

Ed Bican
Larry Furlough
Al Taylor

PLACE # 3

Tony K. Craig

PLACE # 4

Audie Craig
Gary Ikard
Michael E. Walls

PLACE # 5

Tommy Barry
Cathy Craig Bounds
Christine Young

GRANT

MAYOR

Carolyn Dennis
Jack Hodges

PLACE # 1

Larry Walker

PLACE # 2

Charles H. Ayers, Jr.

PLACE # 3

Samantha Lemley

PLACE # 4

Doug Campbell

PLACE # 5

Don Milligan

NEW HOPE

MAYOR

William "Brad" Beasley
Dave Mann, Jr.

PLACE # 1

Brian Largen
Dean Manley

PLACE # 2

Johnny Cobb
Jason Otis Smith

PLACE # 3

Barbara J. Arends
Frita Rogers Keel

PLACE # 4

Craig Hill
John Lee Howard
John "Radon" Morton

PLACE # 5

David Pritchett

Group formed to preserve New Hope history

A group of citizens is working to form a non-profit organization to help preserve the history of New Hope.

The New Hope Historical Association is in the planning stages, and organizers hope to formalize the entity soon. The initial vision of the asso-

ciation will be to preserve buildings, homes and the history of New Hope.

The group meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. on the first floor of New Hope City Hall. They are looking for persons willing to invest time and efforts to preserve

New Hope's heritage. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the upcoming meeting, Monday, August 16, 2004.

For more information about the association, contact Lou Ann Poole at 723-2525, or Billy Jones at 723-4241.

Martin recounts heat, danger of Iraqi desert

NHTC lineman Daniel Martin, who has spent the past several months in Iraq with his National Guard unit, enjoyed a brief visit home last month.

The 279th Signal Battalion shipped out earlier this year to provide tactical communications for the United States Army serving in Iraq. Additionally, Martin's unit was scheduled to help rebuild Iraq's war-torn telecommunications system.

Those plans changed, however, due to the conditions in the city of Najaf. "It's too hostile to be outside rebuilding the country," Martin says.

The violence, however, is not widespread. "Three percent of the population is making it rough on everybody," says Martin. "Most people are very thankful we're there."

Conditions in the city of one million people are deplorable. "They beg for food and water," Martin says. "Clean water is not something they come by. They bathe, drink and wash in the same stream.

"We see kids on the streets who are just pitiful," he continues. "They don't have air conditioning, so many



Daniel Martin, wife Marla and daughter Erin visited the new NHTC office last month.

people just hang out on the streets, where at least the wind blows."

The heat in Iraq is incredible. "I think the hottest I've seen it was 150 degrees," Martin says. "But it's not humid like our heat, it's dry heat."

Najaf is considered the most holy city in Iraq, Martin says. When Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled, Martin says an additional two million people flooded into the city on holy pilgrimages.

Martin has seen some changes with the transition from coalition control to the new Iraqi government. "A lot of Iraqis are coming on the post now," he says. "They are proud to be part of something they volunteer for and aren't forced to join."

The new Iraqi soldiers are beginning to recognize rank structure, Martin says, and are being given such responsibility as control over highway checkpoints.

As he made ready for his return trip to Iraq, Martin reflected on the things he missed while away from home. "I missed my family a lot," he says. "I missed cold cokes, just stopping by the store and grabbing a cold coke. I also missed seeing my friends, and being able to get in the car and go somewhere."

The dry brown landscape of Iraq stands in stark contrast to the lush green environment of Martin's north Alabama home. "I missed the vegetation, too" he says.

Martin says he appreciates the letters and packages he has received while serving in the Middle East. "It really helps you get through," he says. "You get tired of being there sometimes."

LOCAL HEROES



Joseph Ryan Anderson of New Hope is an E-2 Airman with Patrol Squadron #47, United States Navy (this month's cover photo features the plane Anderson is assigned to). He is currently stationed at Kailua, Hawaii. Ryan is a 2001 graduate of New Hope High School. Anderson's family includes: father and stepmother Billy & Andrea Anderson of New Hope; mother and stepfather Jody & Brian Walker; grandparents Mr. & Mrs. George Anderson and Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Stapler.

Help us honor our local soldiers

We want to help the community say 'thank you' to all our men and women serving in the War on Terror. Send us the name, and a photo, of your family member from Grant, New Hope or Owens Cross Roads who is serving our country overseas. Please include the names of their family members, their branch of service and the unit they are assigned to. We'll publish them in *The Communicator* throughout the year to show our appreciation for their sacrifice. Send material to New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Attn. Tammy Pritchett, PO Box 452, New Hope, Alabama 35760.

Program helps children get off to a good start

"Parents as Teachers" is an early childhood parent education and family support program. Through "Parents as Teachers," families can receive services throughout pregnancy until their child turns three.

This program is open to all families in Madison County. Participation is voluntary.

For more information, contact Yuri Craig at New Hope School by calling 723-2988.

Music in the Park

at New Hope City Park

August 10 - Robert Turner (Country)

August 17 - Bobby Rodgers (Bluegrass/Old Country)

August 24 - Ross Hill (Bluegrass/Old Country)

August 31 - Bud Buckner & The Cumberland Mountain Boys
(Gospel/Bluegrass)

Come enjoy an evening of great music! Hope to see you there!

15th annual NEW HOPE FOUNDER'S DAY FESTIVAL

— October 8-9, 2004 —

- Entertainment
- Arts
- Crafts
- Games
- Parade
- Food & Fun

*For more info contact: Dianne Beal at 723-4322
or Billy Jones at 723-4241*

Grant Founder's Day Festival

August 27 - 28, 2004
Main Street

at the Fire Station

Sponsored by
Grant Fire & Rescue

Kick-off Friday at 6 p.m.

All Day Saturday
beginning at 7 a.m.

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- DISPLAYS
- CONTESTS
- GAMES
- ENTERTAINMENT
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- FOOD AND DRINK



Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

August 28

at Grant Memorial Chapel

REGISTRATION 8 A.M. - 12 NOON

JUDGING 12 - 1 P.M.

AWARDS 1 P.M.

Registration Fee: \$15

For more information call

Wade Morrison

Home: 728-2154

Cell: 571-6248



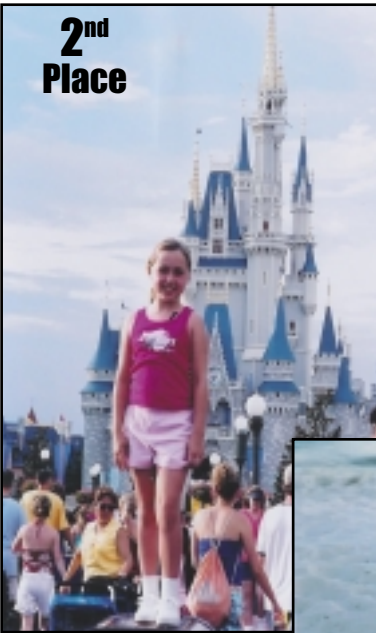
VACATION

Photo Contest Winners

**1st
Place**



**2nd
Place**



First Place – Enjoying the beach are Hannah Hill and Kolby Bolton. Photo by Sharon Hill.

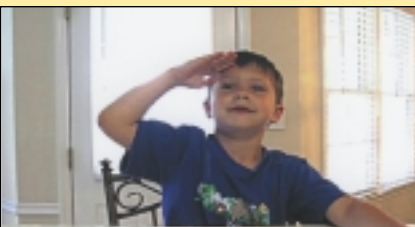
Second Place – Katelyn Anderson, age 8, visits Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. She is the daughter of Greg & Nancy Anderson of New Hope. Photo taken by Nancy Anderson.

Third Place – Kristy Finley, daughter of Kelly & Donna Finley. Photo taken by Donna Finley.

**3rd
Place**



Honorable Mention



"Salute to all the troops in Iraq"
Jansen - Grandson of Joe & Teresa Hunkapiller



Paige Smotherman & Hannah Gwathney in Gulf Shores.
Photo by Teresa Layne

RECIPES

Old Fashioned Teacakes

2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 Tbsp. water

1 cup shortening
1 tsp. vanilla extract
self-rising flour

Mix all ingredients well (use just enough flour to make the dough stiff). Chill for several hours. Place dough on floured pastry sheet & roll out to about 1/4-inch thick. Cut out teacakes into desired shape. Place on greased cookie sheet and cook at 400 degrees for 6-7 minutes. Remove from oven and cool. Teacakes finish cooking while cooling.

—Submitted by Glenda Moody

Chicken Pot Pie

1 can cream of chicken soup
1 lg. can white chicken meat

1 can Veg-all™
2 9-in. deep dish pie shells

Mix first 3 ingredients in mixing bowl and cook in microwave for about 5 minutes. Pour into one of the deep dish pie shells. Turn other pie shell out onto waxed paper and place in microwave for about 5 seconds to soften. Turn softened pie shell onto top of other shell to make a crust. Pinch edges together and punch holes in top of shell with a fork. Bake at 375 degrees until pie crust is golden brown.

—Submitted by Glenda Moody

Easy Rich & Chewy Oatmeal Cookies

3-3/4 cups 3 Minute Brand Old Fashion Oats
6 Tbsp. butter
1-1/2 cups packed light brown sugar
1 cup peanut butter
1-3/4 tsp. baking soda
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup candy coated pieces, or chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat sugar, peanut butter, and butter until creamy. Add eggs, baking soda, and vanilla. Mix well. Blend in oats and candy pieces. Drop by spoonfuls several inches apart on baking stone (or ungreased cookie sheet). Bake for 10-12 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before moving from stone or sheet to cool.

PHOTO CONTEST: We're looking for your favorite **family photos** to use in the October issue of The Communicator. Send them to: NHTC • Attn: Tammy Pritchett • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. We will select winners for publication in our next issue! If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print, plus receive a free gift from NHTC.

Deadline for entry: August 30, 2004.

NOTE: Be sure to include photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as name of any people featured in your photos.

All submissions become the property of New Hope Telephone Cooperative and will not be returned. 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.

Look who's calling!


Why Caller ID?

With Caller ID from New Hope Telephone, you can know who's calling before you answer the phone. No more interrupted meals or disturbances from telemarketers or other unwanted callers. With Caller ID, one look at the screen tells you the name and number of the person calling. No more guessing!

Double your phone's efficiency!

You get twice the work out of your phone when you combine Caller ID with Caller ID/Call Waiting. If you're on the phone and another call comes in, Caller ID/Call Waiting will give you a beep and display the name and number of the incoming call. Then you decide whether you want to accept the call!

Offer good through the end of September! Stop by and sign up today!



***Sign up now for
Caller ID from
New Hope
Telephone, and
we'll waive the
connection fee!***

Bonus: You'll save the connection fee on any calling feature when you sign up at the same time you sign up for Caller ID!

New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, Alabama 35760

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