

The
Communicator

Vol. 2, No. 4

August 2003

New Hope Fire
Department earns
lower ISO rating



INSIDE:

Coach Carpenter • Photo Contest Winners • New Elementary Principal • More!

In spite of the hot weather and heavy rains, I hope you've had a great summer. It has been an eventful one for your telephone cooperative.

Crews have begun to work on our new office building. I certainly thought we would have been in the building by now, but we've met so many obstacles along the way. Anytime you're dealing with federal funding, there's an incredible amount of red tape to work through.

Some have asked why we're building a new office. That can be summed up in two words: **customer service**. When you visit our current office, you realize there is very little space up front to conduct your business quietly and in private. Your telephone cooperative has grown by great amounts since the current building was occupied, and it's difficult to meet your needs in such cramped quarters.

As our services grow, so does the amount of equipment it takes to operate. We have no space left for expansion in our central office, as well as other parts of the building.

So you see, our new building will help us in many ways to continue growing to meet the expanding telecommunications needs of New Hope, Owens Cross Roads and Grant.

The short article below is wonderful news for many of us. The National Do-Not-Call Registry may help some of us actually enjoy an evening meal with the family without being interrupted by a telemarketer. Registering your phone number with the national registry will not eliminate these calls, but it will significantly reduce the number of telemarketing calls you receive. Look for more information about this in future issues.

You will notice a great deal of community coverage in this issue of *The Communicator*. At the Annual Meeting we encouraged members to give us feedback on what to include in the magazine. Some of you did, and the results are inside. Thank you for your input. ■



Tom Butler
General Manager

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.

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Say "Do Not Call" to unwanted telemarketing

How would you like to cut down on the number of unwanted phone calls you receive each week from telemarketers? Now you can, thanks to the Federal Trade Commission's National Do-Not-Call Registry.

It's easy. Call **888-382-1222**, or go online at www.donotcall.gov and register your phone number. The service is free. Beginning in September 2003, telemarketers will be required to access the registry's database and remove from their call lists all numbers placed on the do-not-call registry.

Note: Some companies may still be allowed to call you, including charities, long distance companies, airlines, insurance companies operating under state regulations, and companies which you have a business relationship with.

Additional information is available at www.ftc.gov/donotcall.

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is a bimonthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, © 2003. It is distributed without charge to all members/owners of the Cooperative. For questions or comments, please contact:

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This publication is produced for
New Hope Telephone by:



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New Board members look forward to the challenge

Jeff DeArmond and Dennis Pence are the newest members of the New Hope Telephone Cooperative Board of Directors.

DeArmond represents the Owens Cross Roads exchange. He worked for Onan Corporation for 23 years before taking a position in plant operations for Huntsville Hospital, where he's worked the past four years.

For 17 years, much of DeArmond's spare time was spent coach-

ing New Hope High School's girls softball team. "It was a lot of fun, and I wouldn't take anything for it," he says. He coached one more season after his youngest daughter Tosha (now 19 and in college studying nursing) graduated.

DeArmond and wife Martha have two other daughters: Tara, 24, who lives in Louisiana with her Air Force husband; and Tonya, 21, who works for Luna Tech in Owens Cross Roads. The couple enjoys traveling on their Gold Wing three-wheel motorcycle.

Dennis "Denny" Pence, owner of Pence Construction, represents the Grant exchange. In addition to excavation and backhoe work, he is also licensed to provide custom home building.

Farming is another of Pence's occupations. He sells hay to area farmers, and at one time raised cattle, too.

Pence spends much of his time supporting his daughters. Casey, 18, was Valedictorian at DAR School. After taking summer classes at Northeast State Community College, she plans to attend UAH this fall on a

scholarship. Haley, 14, plays AAU basketball in the summer, and is an all-county player on DAR's girls basketball team.

A Harley-Davidson rider, Pence also enjoys rappelling.

Both DeArmond and Pence say they look forward to learning more about New Hope Telephone Cooperative, and working with the company's great employees to offer exceptional service to members.



Jeff DeArmond



Denny Pence



Neighbors help neighbors to prevent flood damage

We've seen our share of flooding in the past, but the heavy rains in May pushed waters to record levels. This caused trouble for a piece of NHTC's equipment. Julie Brown, Marshall County EMA Director, said she had never seen the water reach this height before. She was instrumental in coordinating with Rainsville police and DeKalb County EMA Director Ricky Little, who supplied us with sand bags. The picture at left, NHTC crews are joined by volunteers from the community in an effort to sandbag the equipment. We would like to express our gratitude to these individuals, Grant Water, Danny Bates, Joe Manley, Grant Fire Dept., Joey Sutphin, Robert Patterson, Jr., Adam Davis, Doug Hartman, Contractors, Denny Pence and Randy Arnold. Sand was donated by Billy McDonald. The hard work paid off, as we were able to prevent serious damage to our equipment. This is a prime example of neighbors helping neighbors.

Lower ISO rating means better fire protection for New Hope

Hard work and dedication to community service have made New Hope a safer — and less expensive — place to live.

The ISO (Insurance Service Organization) rating for New Hope Volunteer Fire Department has been reduced to a four, a substantial drop from the previous rating of seven. This rating has an impact on homeowners insurance premiums.

"Depending on the type of home, I've been seeing decreases of \$30 to \$40 per year in premiums," says Alfa agent Jim Kenamer. "To qualify, they must live within five miles of the fire station, and within 1,000 feet of a standard hydrant."

Homeowners will not see the decreases, Kenamer added, until their policies renew.

While lower insurance rates are a positive benefit of the ISO rating reduction, citizens should be most excited about the work required to achieve the rating. After years of planning, the area protected by New Hope Volunteer Fire Department is a much safer place.

"This has been a joint effort between volunteers, the City of New Hope, and Madison County to provide fire protection and suppression for people who live, work or travel through our coverage area," says Ronald Schrimsher, the department's chief. A career fire fighter who works for Redstone Arsenal, Schrimsher



leads a group of volunteers dedicated to serving their neighbors.

"We started making efforts eight years ago to lower our ISO rating," says Schrimsher. "We knew that in order to lower the rating, we had to do business in a different manner."

The process began by doubling hose sizes to five-inch supply lines. The department also purchased new fire trucks and equipment, and built a new station on Russell Drive off Hobbs Island Road.

Prefire plans were developed for every commercial building in the department's 70-square-mile coverage area. These exhaustive documents fill two large three-ring binders, and feature such information as building dimensions, contact numbers, utility shut off locations, hazardous materials on site, and fire response concerns. Each truck carries its own copy of the binders.

An ISO inspection looks at department records covering the past three years, Schrimsher said. Because National Fire Protection Association

standards change frequently, requirements for ISO ratings are constantly changing.

New Hope's water department played an important role in achieving the lower rating. As the city water began a system upgrade, Schrimsher worked closely with them to ensure the upgrades would meet ISO standards.

"We appreciate the fire department for all their hard work in helping get the lines upgraded," says David Pritchett, the New Hope City Councilman who oversees the water department. "These dedicated volunteers worked on their own time to help Donald Clark and the water department crew with the upgrade."

In addition to fire protection, the New Hope VFD responds to medical emergencies and traffic accidents. Their equipment includes two "Jaws of Life" sets and numerous other extrication tools. Six volunteers are certified as EMTs.

Such service is expensive. To help the fire department (which is a non-profit organization), tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

New Hope Volunteer Fire Dept.

PO Box 142

New Hope, AL 35760

The fire department will also be selling chicken and ribs at the New Hope Founders' Day Festival. Proceeds will help volunteers pay down their debt of \$262,000 associated with upgrading fire equipment.



R. A. Carpenter gave much to students, community of New Hope

Robert Allen Carpenter, affectionately known as "Pig," was born on Christmas Eve, 1910. What a great Christmas present to the people of New Hope. He graduated from Alabama in 1934 with a

Doctor of Law degree and returned to New Hope to start his career in the legal profession. He worked as a lawyer until some years later when the call came from the coaching and teaching profession. He answered the call and spent the next 20 years coaching and teaching at New Hope.

Coach Carpenter received many awards during his 27 years of teaching and coaching, but his ultimate award was the everlasting love and respect of his former players.

The Physical Education Building at New Hope High School is named in honor of Coach Carpenter.

In addition to his coaching and teaching, Coach Carpenter served nine years as the Mayor of New Hope. During his time as only the second mayor of New Hope, he secured funds that enabled the town to have the first rural YMCA facility in the nation. His support enabled the Huntsville Metro YMCA to construct a gym and other facilities on a 17-acre complex in New Hope.

Coach Carpenter had been married to his wife, Bertie, for 42 years when he passed away in 1975. Mrs. Bertie Carpenter still resides in New Hope.



County Commissioner Jerry Craig (left) and Ogie Whitaker (right) honor Mrs. Bertie Carpenter when her husband was inducted into the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Carpenter was for many years the only coach at New Hope School. He coached the Jr. High, Jr. Varsity and Varsity basketball teams as well as the baseball team. He is best known in the coaching circles for his basketball teams, but he was also instrumental in starting the football program at New Hope.

During his tenure as the basketball coach, Coach Carpenter's teams never had a losing season. They won 13 county championships and played in the finals the other 7 years.

DAR's FFA String Band wins state honors

It had been 24 years since string band music was heard at DAR

School. David Gamble decided that had been long enough.

As FFA faculty advisor at DAR, Gamble encouraged students to pick up the traditional instruments and form an FFA String Band. His encouragement, and the hard work of students, brought home a state award earlier this year.

The DAR's FFA String Band placed second at the North District FFA Eliminations

to advance to state competition. In June, the group took the stage at the 74th Annual State FFA Convention in Montgomery and came away with third place honors.

Members of the group are: Louie Ogle, lead and rhythm guitar, vocals; Andy Stapler, mandolin; Tyler Campbell, upright bass; Josh Cheesman, lead and rhythm guitar; and Missy Pedersen, vocals.

As an interesting footnote, the upright bass played by Campbell is on loan from Bentley Ayers, who played the same instrument in DAR's FFA String Band from 1976 through 1978.



Photo Contest Winners

1st
Place



A PLACE OF BEAUTY—MaHaley Belle Mann discovers the beauty of 7 Mile Beach, Grand Cayman. Photo by Davina Mann.

2nd
Place



A DAY AT THE BEACH—Allison Ruth Burleson enjoys the sand and sun in Perdido Key, Florida. Photo by Sara Burleson.

3rd
Place



MANY SUMMERS AGO—This 1964 photo captures a vacation in Destin, Florida, featuring Syble Whitaker, Dimple Martin, Lou Ann Whitaker Poole, Regina Martin Childers and Mike Martin. Photo submitted by Lou Ann Poole.

PHOTO CONTEST: We're looking for your favorite photos depicting fall colors, Halloween, or other autumn scenes. Send them to NHTC, and we will select winners for publication in our next issue of *The Communicator*! If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print, plus receive a free gift from New Hope Telephone. Deadline for entry: August 29, 2003

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.

RECIPES

Submitted by Ann Graves

Hummingbird Nectar



ingredients:
4 cups water
1 cup sugar

Boil water, add sugar and stir until dissolved. Cool before putting in feeders. Will keep in refrigerator for 1 week. It is not necessary to add red food coloring.

Butterfly Brew



ingredients:
Overripe fruit mash
Molasses
Sugar
Fruit Juice
Stale Beer
Water

Spread generously on tree trunks and rocks or serve on a soaked rag or sponge. Simple rotten bananas work well if you are not into brewing. Create a nice mud puddle... butterflies need wetness rather than water.

New Hope's Activities in the Park

Work days

A committee is being formed for New Hope's Activities in the Park. Recently, the Friends of the Park had a small work day. Minor maintenance was performed, including weed eating, spraying Round Up and picking up trash. Participants also evaluated other items in need of attention.

Additional work days are planned for the park and the Kidzone playground: August 23rd, Sept. 27th, and October 18th. Work will be conducted from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

"If your family has enjoyed Kidzone, please come and help keep your

playground in good condition," says Dale Ballard. "Kidzone and the entire City Park are such an asset to our community, and we want to ensure that your future generations can enjoy it as well."

Anyone interested in participating should contact Brian Largen at 732-8687 or Dale & Priscilla Ballard at 732-7791.

Softball

Ready for some softball? Join a fall softball team! Open registration runs through August 15. To register, call Brian Largen at 723-8687.

Walkway bricks

The City of New Hope is selling engraved bricks to add to the walkway at Kidzone. The bricks are \$50 each. Proceeds will be used for main-

tenance. Each brick can be engraved with three lines of 14 characters each (including spaces). Add your family name, kids' names or a special message to the Kidzone walkway. To order your brick or for more information, call New Hope City Hall at 723-2616, ext. 13. Deadline for ordering is October 1.

Music in the Park

The New Hope City Park is alive with sound thanks to the Citizens of New Hope. Now through September families can enjoy music from a variety of groups at Music in the Park. Shows are held each Tuesday night from 6 - 8 p.m. Admission is free, so bring a lawn chair and listen in! (No coolers or alcoholic beverages allowed.)

New Hope gets new elementary principal



There's a new face in the office at New Hope Elementary. Lavell Everett is the school's new elementary principal. A native of Mississippi, Everett has served at Monrovia Elementary and Madison County High School. "I enjoy the small town atmosphere that goes along with a school of this size," Everett says. "I look forward to the 2003-2004 school year."

In his new role, Everett says he hopes to continue the welcoming environment at New Hope, and will work to partner with the community and maintain a warm learning environment.

Everett is married to the former Lesha Campbell. The couple have two sons, Judson and Campbell.

Grant Founder's Day Festival

Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, August 22 - 23, as Grant hosts its Founder's Day Festival.

Sponsored by the Grant Fire Department, this event features entertainment, gospel singings, and children's activities. There will also be games, contests, displays and plenty of arts and crafts.

Crowds are sure to enjoy the car show, parade and Sons of the Confederacy. There is no fee for festival admission.

To register for a booth, call Chief Robert Patterson at 728-2286, or Grant City Hall at 728-2007. You may also write to: Grant Fire Department, 4780 Main Street, Grant, AL 35747

New Hope Founder's Day Festival

Don't miss the fun and excitement of the 14th annual Founder's Day Festival in New Hope. This year's event promises to be better than ever with plenty of great activities.

The dates are set for Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11.

A great line up of musical talent will please the crowd this year, and

there will be plenty of food available. A parade, games for all ages, and a wide selection of arts and crafts will highlight the event.

To register for an event or booth, contact Wes Paradise at 723-2616, ext. 11. You may also write to: Founder's Day Festival, PO Box 560, New Hope, AL 35760

Get one month free!



*Get online today with
Dial Up
Internet Service
from New Hope
Telephone Cooperative*

**When you sign up between now and September 30,
you'll receive a free month of service - a \$21.⁹⁵ value!
PLUS we'll waive the 12.⁵⁰ activation fee!**

**Call NHTC today at 723-4211
for more information about this special offer!**

Don't miss these upcoming community events

Blood Drive

Saturday, August 23 at the Grant Fire Station
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Grant Fire & Rescue

Cherokee Tribe Pow Wow

Sept. 12 - 14 at Grant Park.
For more information, contact Charlotte Pierce at
878-3721

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