

The

Communicator

Vol. 3, No. 3

June 2004



Annual Meeting 2004 Coverage



We're moving in!



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. Be sure to drop by and see the new facility, which was designed to help us better provide you with quality customer service. We'll see you there!

Barry Jones elected to NHTC Board



At the Annual Meeting of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, members elected Barry Jones to the Board of Directors.

Jones, 42, works for the Madison County Commission Water Department, supervising the water treatment plant at New Market.

"I know a lot of people who work here, who've retired here," says Jones. "This is a good company, with good employees and management."

Community service is an important part of Jones' life. He has spent the past 12 years coaching girls softball, and he serves on the board for the New Hope Recreation Center.

Jones also serves as a trustee for New Hope Middle School. He's a volunteer with the New Hope Fire Department as well.

A life-long resident of New Hope, Jones and wife Sandy have been married 16 years. They have two daughters — Brittney, 14, and Megan, 10.

Jones says the future of NHTC looks bright. "I'm excited about the new office building," he says, adding that he's also impressed with the cooperative's new general manager.

Directory Correction

There has been some confusion regarding the phone numbers for the Town of Grant as they appear in New Hope Telephone Cooperative's 2004 telephone directory. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. The numbers should be presented as follows:

GRANT TOWN OF

Town Hall	728-2007
Fax	728-5739
Fire Department	
Emergency	911
Non-emergency	728-4314
Library	728-5128
Comp Line	728-8652
Park	728-7575
Police Department	728-4233
Fax	728-7958
Comp Line	728-8156
Pool	728-8943
Recreation Center	728-2513

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 Hope Telephone Cooperative

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www.nehp.net

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Dial '711' to make a relay call

7-1-1 is a telephone service that connects standard (voice) telephone users and users who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and/or who have speech disabilities and use text telephones (TTY). It is easier to

remember and use than traditional 800 relay numbers, while creating more user-friendly access for less experienced relay users (including businesses and friends or family members of TTY users).

Dial 7-1-1 or use these toll free Alabama Relay numbers:

1-800-548-2546	1-800-548-2547	1-800-548-0259
TTY/ASCII	Voice	Voice Carry-Over
1-800-548-2928	1-800-548-8317	1-900-646-4323
Speech-to-Speech	Spanish (TTY/Voice)	900 Services
Relay Customer Service	Servicio al Cliente de Relay	
1-800-676-3777	1-800-676-4290	
TTY/Voice/ASCII	TTY Voz ASCII	

2003 Memberships and Voting Progress

In efforts to more strictly adhere to the bylaws of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc., we have undertaken a major review and overhaul of our membership records. Our bylaws specify in Article I, Section 1 (d), "Members may hold more than one membership in the cooperative but shall only be entitled to one vote..." Given the existing proprietary software and manual voting procedures, adherence to this portion of the bylaws presents some unique challenges that needed to be addressed.

Acting on the advice from our legal counsel, an extensive program was implemented to meet this voting limitation. For subscribers with multiple telephones on multiple memberships, the membership information has been consolidated. This has also been applied to sole proprietorship businesses that are owned by someone already having service in one of our exchanges. Reconciliations of all equity accounts were performed before

and after this extensive consolidation project to assure that monies on the separate memberships ended up on the remaining membership.

Furthermore, customer correspondence software retrieves information such as names and addresses from various fields within the computer system. Any activity on your account will update certain name and/or fields but not others. You may have received your refund check made payable to your main line or any of your secondary lines (i.e., child's line, computer line, etc.). We are manually updating and cross-checking all accounts to provide consistency. Please bear with us and **let us know if your capital credit refund check and your admittance ticket had different names and addresses.** Once we have completed this extensive process, we will implement a process to keep it consistent.

We are using due diligence to ensure that we can continue to operate as a cooperative.

LOCAL HEROES



Wayne E. Wilbourn II (Eugene) of New Hope is a Lance Corporal with the United States Marines. He is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, and is on the list to be deployed back to Iraq between now and December for six more months. A 2002 graduate of New Hope High School, Wilbourn's family includes: father and stepmother, Wayne and Deborah Wilbourn of New Hope; mother and stepfather Cathy and Joe Widner of Huntsville.

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.

Manager Blakemore reports sound financial standing at Annual Meeting

Members elect Jones, return Mefford to Board of Directors

Several hundred residents of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads filled the New Hope High School auditorium Tuesday night, May 18, for the Annual Meeting of their telephone cooperative.

A total of 483 votes were cast in an election that returned current Board



Terry Blakemore provides his first Annual Meeting report as NHTC's General Manager.

of Directors president Barry Mefford to his seat representing the New Hope exchange. Barry Jones was also elected to the Board for the New Hope

exchange.

The business meeting was opened with prayer, followed by a moment of silence for those serving in the military — including New Hope Telephone Cooperative lineman Daniel Martin, who is serving in Iraq.

Mefford acknowledged the dedication of Tom Butler, Jr., who recently retired as NHTC general manager. During his 30 years of service, Butler was "concerned 100 percent for the people and the co-op," Mefford said, and a round of applause was offered in Butler's honor.

Mefford then introduced Terry Blakemore, who was recently chosen by the Board of Directors as the new general manager. Blakemore reported the following financial facts for

NHTC's 2003 performance:

- **Total Revenue**
\$8,827,471
- **Total Operating Cost and Expense**
\$7,261,920
- **Total Net Margins or Profit**
\$1,565,551

"It was an excellent year for the co-op," said Blakemore. "You have a very strong company."

Blakemore reported that NHTC operates with 25 percent debt versus 75 percent equity. "That's a great position to be in for a business," he said, adding that the typical debt-to-equity ratio is 40/60.

NHTC has been involved in a cable system upgrade program for the past four or five years, Blakemore said. "We can now offer our high speed Internet broadband DSL service anywhere, to any customer we have on our system," he said. "I am proud to report that job is complete."

Blakemore said he was pleased to learn upon becoming general manager that NHTC crews typically respond to service calls within two hours. "Outside this area, some phone companies guarantee only that they'll get to you within five days," he said.

Blakemore also reminded members that NHTC offers a wide array of services — local phone service, long distance, cable TV, and DSL Internet access — available on one bill each month. "And remember, with capital credits," he added, "you get back part of the money you spend at the end of year." ■



SONG AND DANCE—The DAR Show Choir, directed by Natasha Tidmore, entertained the crowd with a variety of musical styles — from rock to country to patriotic tunes. These enthusiastic students share their talents at school events and community functions.

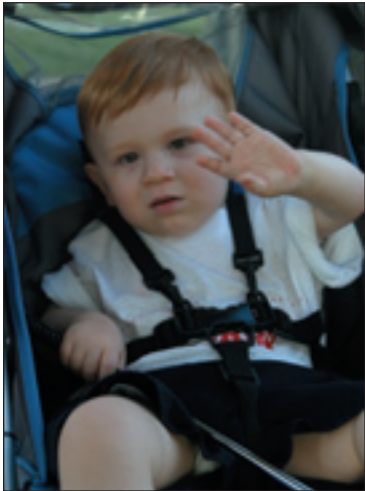
Annual Meeting 2004



Members register to vote... and hopefully win door prizes.



Volunteers count ballots in the Board of Directors election.



Greetings from a future cooperative member.



Board elections are an important part of cooperative membership.



Following the business meeting, a drawing was held for a number of nice door prizes.



THE NEW HOPE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Following the Annual Meeting, members of the Board of Directors met at the New Hope Telephone Cooperative office for a brief organizational session. During this meeting, officers for the Board were elected. From left to right are: (seated) Jeff Cooper, Secretary, New Hope Exchange; Greg Glover, Vice President, Owens Cross Roads Exchange; Barry Melford, President, New Hope Exchange; David Ayers, Treasurer, Grant Exchange; (standing) Dennis (Denny) Pence, Grant Exchange; Barry Jones, New Hope Exchange; Jimmy Segler, Grant Exchange; Jim Duncan, New Hope Exchange; and Jeff DeArmond, Owens Cross Roads Exchange.

Library kicks off Summer Reading Program

A love of reading is one of the most important traits that can be developed in a child. Through the Summer Reading Program, children will not only grow but they'll have loads of fun.

"Step to the Beat...Read!" is the theme of this year's Summer Reading Program, sponsored by the Elizabeth Carpenter Public Library of New Hope. A weekly Storyhour for preschoolers is held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., with a Familyread Storyhour on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Children are awarded prizes through the program for time spent reading, and they enjoy a variety of presentations during the weekly sessions.

The library operates as a branch of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. It is celebrating 15 years of service to the New Hope area.

"Everyone has an open invitation to come by and visit us to see what the library has to offer," says librarian Mary Lou Glass, Branch Manager. "In addition to books, we also have movies and books-on-tape that can be checked out."

Glass also invites area residents to support the library through the Friends of the Library organization, which meets the second Thursday of each month at the library beginning at 6:30 p.m. The library is located on Main Drive next to New Hope City Hall. ■



Getting ready for the Summer Reading Program are librarian Mary Lou Glass (foreground), with volunteers Mary Doss (right) and Shirley Kimbrough.

Communities celebrate beauty queens of all ages

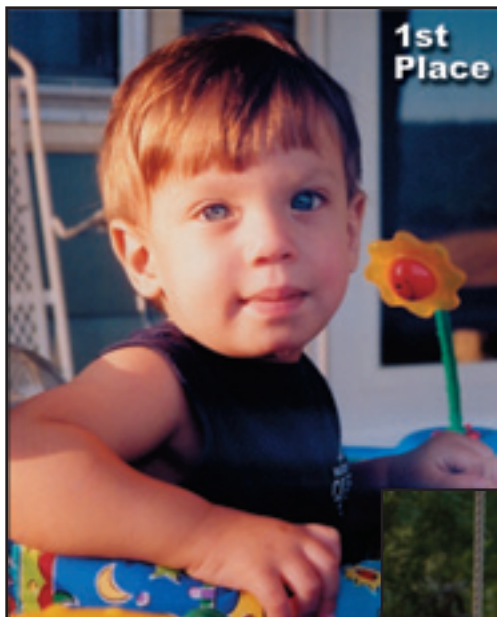
Dorothy Hodge, a resident of South Hampton Nursing and Rehab Center in Owens Cross Roads, recently earned the crown in the 2004 Ms. Nursing Home Pageant. She was one of six residents of the long term care facility vying for the coveted title. "I still can't believe I won," the 82-year-old queen said. Selected as members of the Queen's Court were Debra Meeks, first runner up, and Patricia Jackson,



both of Huntsville. Roland Roberts escorted the ladies for the event. The local pageant is held each year at the facility to provide recognition for nursing home residents and their contributions to their fellow man. On August 10, Hodge will join other winners from nursing facilities across the state in Birmingham to compete for the statewide title of Ms. Alabama Nursing Home 2004. ■



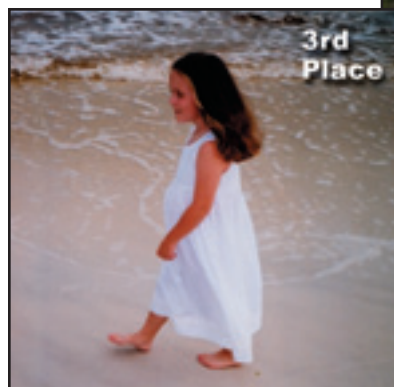
New Hope Elementary School held its Sweetheart Pageant earlier this year (winner in various categories are pictured above). A total of \$2,400 was raised to be used toward a mini computer lab in the library. The faculty and staff of New Hope Elementary would like to thank the following community members and businesses for their contributions to the pageant: Donald and Babs Bridges, photography; Deborah's Florist; Country Design Florist; New Hope Funeral Home; Sunshine Gifts and Baskets; and Scott Adams, coordinator and emcee for the event. ■



First Place – Hunter Stapler. Photo by Angie Whitt.

Second Place – Gracie Weeks. Photo submitted by Tammy Weeks

Third Place – Molly Duncan, age 7. Daughter of Brian & Lisa Duncan of New Hope. Photo taken by Lisa Duncan.



Honorable Mention



PHOTO CONTEST: We're looking for your favorite **Back to School** photos to use in the August issue of The Communicator. Send them to: NHTC • 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: June 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.

RECIPES

Dill Pickles

Ball Canning Salt
Fresh Dill
Jalapeno

Apple Cider Vinegar
Garlic
Cucumbers

Put flats in water on stove and heat. Mix quart of apple cider vinegar to 2 quarts water. Add 1 cup of canning salt to vinegar (or 3/4 cup if you don't want it salty). Put garlic, fresh dill, jalapeno and cucumbers in jars. Bring vinegar to rolling boil, then pour over cucumbers and put lids on. Sit jars on a towel & cover with a towel until all have sealed. Pickles should be ready in three weeks.

—Submitted by Paula Hendrix

White Chocolate Chunk Cookies

1/2 cup butter or margarine	1/2 cup shortening
3/4 cup sugar	1 egg
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar	
1-3/4 cups all purpose flour	2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda	1/2 tsp. salt
10-oz. white chocolate, coarsely chopped	
1/2 cup lightly toasted macadamia nuts, coarsely chopped	

Soften butter and cream with shortening; gradually add sugars, beating well at medium speed of an electric mixer. Add egg; beat well. Combine flour, soda, and salt; add to creamed mixture, mixing well. Stir in vanilla. Stir in white chocolate and nuts. Chill dough 1 hour. Drop by 2 Tablespoons full, 3 inches apart, onto lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12-14 minutes (cookies will be soft). Cool slightly on cookie sheets; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Yield: 1-1/2 dozen.

Cumberland Apple Tart with Oat Crust

Crust:

1/2 cup or 1 stick butter or margarine, softened	
1/4 cup brown sugar	1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup quick oats	1/2 cup finely chopped pecans (optional)

Filling:

2 large Golden Delicious apples, peeled & thinly sliced (about 3 cups), tossed with juice of half a lemon
1/2 cup sugar 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 375°F. Lightly grease a 9-inch pie plate. To prepare crust, cream butter & sugar with electric mixer in large mixing bowl. Blend in flour, oats, and if desired, pecans. Form dough into ball. Dust fingertips with flour. Press into bottom and up sides of pie plate. Arrange apple slices evenly over crust in a circular pattern starting from outside edge working toward the middle. Fill in any gaps until all apple slices are used. Combine sugar & cinnamon & sprinkle evenly over apples. Bake 35-40 minutes, or until crust is lightly browned and apples are tender. Cool on wire rack. Store covered in refrigerator. Makes 8-10 servings.

—Submitted by Tammy Nelson Carlisle

**It's a great time
to get connected!**

Sign up for
Cable TV service
and

SAVE
\$25

Now through July 30, sign up for
Cable TV service from New Hope
Telephone Cooperative and we'll waive
the \$25 installation fee.

Call 723-4211 and get connected today!

NHTC payment policy reminder

Payments must be in our business office by the 20th of each month in order to avoid a late fee and a final notice.

Payments must be in our business office by the last day of the month in order to avoid interruption of service.

Please remember that when you drop your payment in the mail or pay in person at one of the banks in Grant, the payment may take several days to reach our business office.

Bright earns MIS degree from UAH



a proud moment for his family, who had to endure all the night classes. "I took one or

There's something to be said for persistence. On May 16, one of our own finally graduated college. Rusty Bright, Internet Administrator, finished his Bachelors degree. It was

two classes a semester and just kept at it," Bright says. "I earned my Associates degree in 1983, but it took 21 years to get the last two years of college because I kept changing my mind. I have enough credit hours to get a Doctorate degree... just not in any one subject!"

Bright earned a degree in Managing Information Systems from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. New Hope Telephone is proud of Bright's accomplishment, and we know it will benefit our members.

Notice regarding DSL modems

As a service to our Internet customers, New Hope Telephone Cooperative offers the Alcatel Speed Touch Home™, an ethernet-based DSL modem that combines fast data transfer with ease of use. We sell the units for \$150, which includes a three-year warranty (excludes lightning strikes).

We have recently received questions regarding other DSL modems, particularly ones available in Huntsville for \$20. These units are the Alcatel 1000, which was the first DSL modem on the market. Because of advances in technology, these first-generation units do not work properly with our Internet service.

"Several of our customers have bought these \$20 DSL modems, and I've only been able to get one of them to work on our system," says Rusty Bright, Internet Administrator for New Hope Telephone. "And that one died after six months."

There are other options to the modem offered by NHTC. Manufacturers making units that will work with our system include Efficient Networks, Alcatel (some, but not all), BestData, VisionNet and SpeedStream.

"If a customer is interested in purchasing a DSL modem from another source, I will be glad to research it to see if it will work with our system," Bright says. "If they want, I will even test it for them after they buy it — so they should hang on to their receipts and paperwork."

For questions regarding DSL modems, or any other Internet issue, contact Bright at 723-4211 or rusty@nehp.net.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

P.O. Box 452

New Hope, Alabama 35760

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