

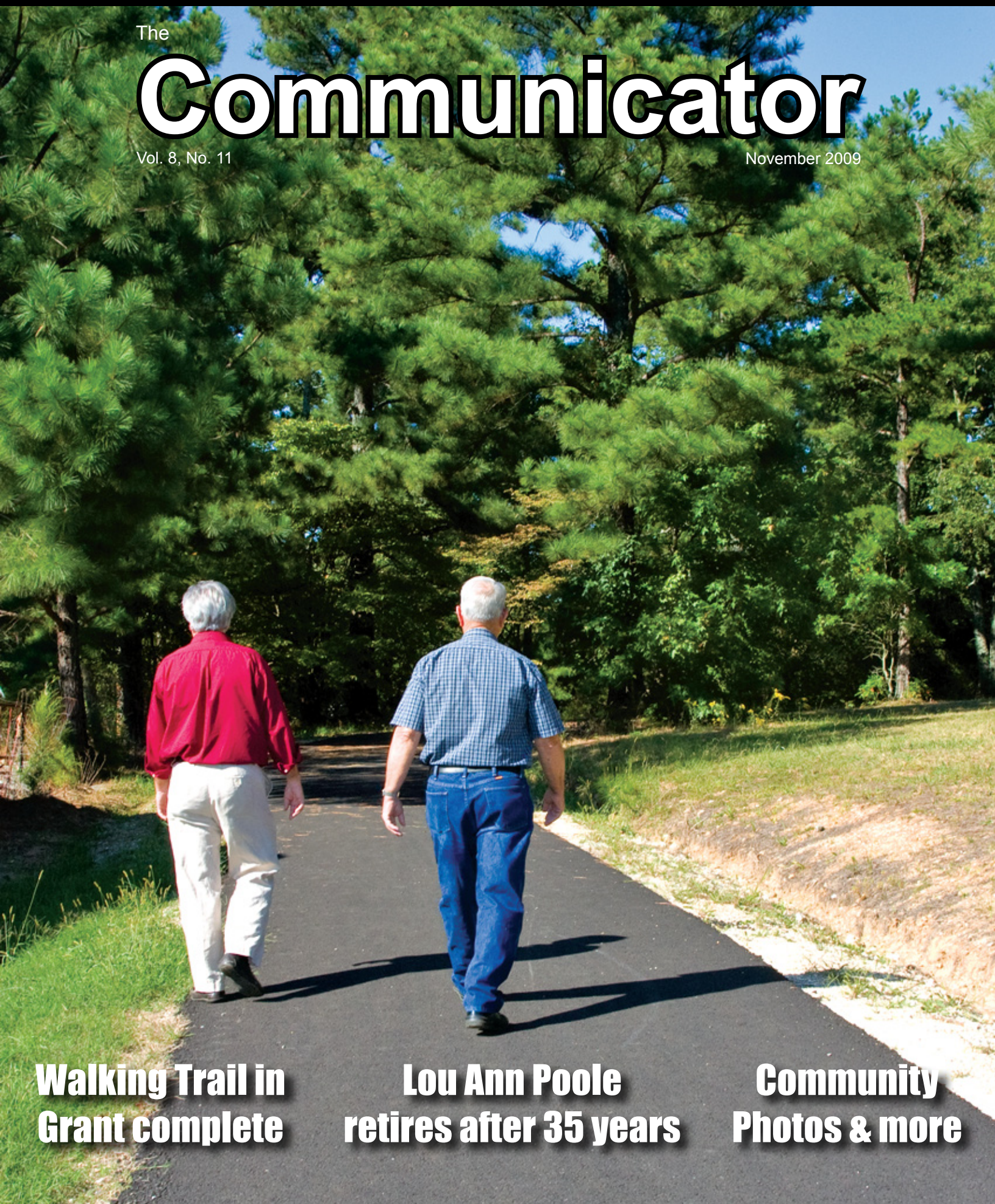
A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

# Communicator

Vol. 8, No. 11

November 2009



**Walking Trail in  
Grant complete**

**Lou Ann Poole  
retires after 35 years**

**Community  
Photos & more**



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 Jones, President  
*New Hope Exchange*

David Ayers, Vice President  
*Grant Exchange*

Jim Duncan, Secretary  
*New Hope Exchange*

Sonny Cantrell, Treasurer  
*Grant Exchange*

Jeff Cooper  
*New Hope Exchange*

Garland Elders  
*Owens Cross Roads Exchange*

Mike Whitaker  
*New Hope Exchange*

Greg Glover  
*Owens Cross Roads Exchange*

Jimmy Segler  
*Grant Exchange*

#### **The Communicator**

Vol. 8, No. 11 November 2009

is a monthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, ©2009. It is distributed without charge to all Cooperative members/owners.

**New Hope Telephone Cooperative**  
P.O. Box 452  
New Hope, AL 35760  
www.nehp.net

**For Customer Service:** Call 723-4211

**For Editorial Advertising:**  
Call 723-2008

or email [communicator@nehp.net](mailto:communicator@nehp.net)

Produced for NHTC by:

**WordSouth Public Relations, Inc.**  
[www.WordSouth.com](http://www.WordSouth.com)

*On the cover:*

Mayor Larry Walker and Councilman Joe Frazier take a walk along the new walking trail now complete in Grant.  
Read more on page 8.

## **Manager's Comments**

### *Voluntary 10-digit dialing now in effect*



The Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) has announced that in June 2010 every resident in the 256 area code will be required to dial all ten digits of a telephone number when making local calls.

I'm sure many of you may have heard about this in the news—as voluntary compliance of the requirement will begin Nov. 7. As can be expected with any change, there are going to be folks who are unhappy about this new way of doing things.

The reason the APSC has decided to make the change to ten-digit dialing is because a new area code—938—will soon be added to the 256 calling area. This is in response to the depletion of three-digit prefixes (the three numbers between the area code and last four digits of a phone number) in the 256 area code.

Ten-digit dialing will be necessary to distinguish between phone numbers with a 256 area code and phone numbers with a 938 area code. When the 938 area code goes live in June, everyone in our area will have to dial ten digits for every phone call.

NHTC will not need to assign phone numbers with the 938 area code any time in the foreseeable future. Our cooperative has three telephone prefixes—723; 725; and 728—prefixes that have already been assigned the 256 area code. Each prefix allows for 10,000 telephone numbers—a total of 30,000 numbers available

exclusively to current and future NHTC members. To date, we have exhausted around 5,000 numbers—leaving our cooperative with almost 25,000 unused telephone numbers with a 256 area code. Hopefully we will be able to assign 256 numbers for many years to come.

By using an “overlay” plan, the 938 area code will be assigned to new exchanges depending on when a phone number is connected instead of where it is connected. This prevents existing telephone subscribers from being forced to change their numbers—a much greater hassle than the one or two seconds it takes to dial three extra digits.

The other option considered was a “geographic split” plan. This would have split the 256 region in half geographically, and forced many individuals and businesses to change their phone numbers if they happened to fall within the newly designated 938 portion of the 256 area code. People would have been forced to pay to have their phone numbers changed on signs, letterhead or other communications—a situation I have seen first hand with the “geographic split” plan.

The “overlay” plan prevents unwanted number changes and will save this region millions of dollars on advertising and printing—at a time when we all need to save every dollar we can. Change can be costly. Fortunately for us, the only cost of ten-digit dialing is inconvenience. For that, we can be thankful. ▲

**Tom Wing**

*General Manager,  
New Hope Telephone Cooperative*

**NHTC's office will be CLOSED**  
**Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27**  
**in observance of Thanksgiving.**

*We will reopen Monday, November 30.*

## NHTC warns wireless routers should be secured

More and more people want to take their computers with them wherever they go. Laptop computers, wireless routers and wi-fi hot spots help make that possible.

Rusty Bright, Network Administrator for NHTC warns that wireless router security is essential to protect your computer from being hacked.

"If you do not have the security features of your wireless router turned on, anyone driving by your home with a laptop can access your wireless network," explains Bright.

Wireless routers are shipped from the manufacturer with the security features turned off. This makes the installation process much easier. But Bright urges everyone to take the extra time to manually turn on the security. "If you don't turn on the security features of your wireless

router and someone does access your computer for illegal purposes, you could be held accountable," he explains.

Most wireless routers offer a couple of choices for security. The two most popular are Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) and Wi-fi Protected Access (WPA). "WPA is the best choice. It is not unhackable," says Bright, "but it's the safest there is."

If all this sounds confusing, don't worry. NHTC will help set up your wireless router at no charge. NHTC members can call the Internet Department and set up an appointment. It will be necessary to bring both the wireless router and laptop to the appointment.

For more information about wireless router security or to schedule an appointment call NHTC's Internet Department at 256-723-4211.

## Email set up with Windows 7

Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows 7, hit the market on October 22. It shows promise of being the most reliable, robust system from Microsoft to date. But users will notice one thing missing — an email application. All older Windows versions came with an email client pre-installed.

A free email application is available from Microsoft, but it is a separate download. There are also email applications such as Outlook available for purchase.

"DSL customers should have no trouble with the email download, but it will take a considerable amount of time for dial-up customers," says NHTC's Network Administrator Rusty Bright.



### MORTGAGE LOANS

Is now a good time to refinance? Can I afford to purchase this home? Those are just some of the questions that our mortgage professionals can help you answer. Stop by and let us know how we can help you. You'll be glad you did!

**PeoplesStateBank**  
of Commerce  
Grant, AL

**Apply Online**  
15 & 30 Year Loans • VA Loans  
FHA Loans • Construction Loans

728-4213 • [www.psboc.com](http://www.psboc.com) • 5399 Main Street • Grant

## Don't Worry, Be Comfy



**We can service your refrigerator and freezer, too!**



**WILLIAMS**  
AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION  
256-426-9779 or 256-723-2477

LICENSED  
BONDED  
& INSURED

• Service All Makes and Models • Custom Installation & Repair  
• Maintenance Agreements Available

Marty Williams, Owner, Certified HVAC Contractor



# NHTC promotes Russell, hires three



**Rhonda Russell** has been with NHTC for more than nine years. In Sept. she was promoted to Customer Service Specialist.

Russell's new responsibilities include processing disconnect orders, capital credits, PIC changes, new service orders, billing problems, directory publishing and more.

"I enjoy helping our members. When they come to me with a problem and leave satisfied that I've helped resolve the issue, it is very rewarding," says Russell.

Russell has two boys, Blake, 13, and Brandon, 4, who occupy most of her free time.



**Chris Childress** began his career with New Hope Telephone Cooperative

in late 2008 when he was hired as Warehouse Coordinator.

Childress is responsible for ordering supplies, keeping items stocked and taking inventory, among other things. He is also learning about telephone, Internet and cable television services.

Childress says he loves his job. "It allows me to do a variety of things without being tied to a desk," he explains. He says he also likes the way everyone welcomed him. "I never felt like a new employee."

Childress and his wife Laura reside in Grant with their son, Drew.



**Rebecca Hyde** was hired as a Customer Service Representative in August.

As a CSR, Hyde helps members by accepting payments, taking orders for new services, making changes for existing customers and answering billing questions.

Hyde is a graduate of DAR High School and is currently a sophomore at Wallace State Community College.

"I really like the people I'm working with," says Hyde. "Everyone is nice. I also like the community."

In her spare time, Hyde enjoys

watching Crimson Tide football games and playing with her dog Brody. She and her fiancé Ryan Joiner are planning a summer wedding.



**Justin Clark** is the newest addition to the staff of New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

Clark was hired in September to work in the Internet Department as an Internet Technician.

His job includes troubleshooting DSL problems over the phone and at a member's home. He is also responsible for installing DSL connections.

Clark attended Virginia College in Huntsville where he received a degree in Computer Aided Imaging and Visualizations, but says a lot of his computer knowledge is self-taught or comes from on-the-job training.

"I'm glad to help the Internet Department provide better, faster customer support," says Clark. "I want to do whatever I can to make things better and more efficient and to keep members connected."

Clark lives in New Hope. He is a member of OCR Church of Christ where he performs video and audio work. ▲



# Help support local Christmas charities

Each year during the Christmas season New Hope Telephone Cooperative supports several area charities. These programs help provide food for the hungry and presents for children who might not otherwise have a Christmas gift. Please consider helping us by donating to the following organizations:

## WAFF's Can-A-Thon

NHTC will have a collection bin for canned food, baby formula and other non-perishable food items. Everything collected will be delivered to WAFF during their annual canned food drive.

## Christmas Share Program

This local program delivers Christmas presents to needy children in New Hope and Owens Cross Roads. If you are interested in being a part

of this program, stop by NHTC and choose an 'angel' from our Angel Tree. After you choose an "angel," purchase a gift for that child, wrap it and return it to our office no later than December 10. NHTC will deliver the gifts to organizers.

## Marshall County Christmas Coalition

This program was established in 1996 to help children in need in Marshall County. Gifts and cash donations help more than 2,500 children throughout Marshall County. As with the Christmas Share Program, parents must go through an application process. Visit [www.christmascoalition.org](http://www.christmascoalition.org) for more information about the application process and how you can donate.

Thanks for helping area children!



**Unique Christmas Gifts**

**Sly Fox Art**  
etching, engraving  
& wood carving

Specializing in one of a kind Gifts like:

- \* Personalized Engraved Aluminum Cake Pans
- \* Your favorite photo etched into marble
- \* Much, much more....

Call: 256.468.1862 or order online at [SlyFoxArt.com](http://SlyFoxArt.com)

**Rich Images**  
Photography Studio and Gift Gallery

**FAMILY PORTRAITS  
MAKE GREAT GIFTS!**

CALL NOW TO  
BOOK YOUR  
HOLIDAY SESSION.  
MENTION THIS AD  
AND GET 20% OFF  
ANY PACKAGE.

Danny Rich, Photographer

Portraits - Seniors, Families, Children  
Sports and School Groups - Cash Back Program  
Custom Framing - Inspirational Art - Candles

10042 C Hwy 431 S. • New Hope (next to ALFA)  
(256) 723-RICH (7424)

# Looking back on 35 years of service at NHTC

On Nov. 1, former NHTC Service Coordinator Lou Ann Poole retired after serving NHTC for 35 years. At the time of her retirement, Poole had more years at NHTC than any active employee.

Poole says she was hired 35 years ago because she had administrative experience and, more importantly, knew how to type.

“At that time all service orders were hand-typed,” Poole says. “Fortunately I knew how because I had been at Snead for a year and was working in Huntsville for FMHA for a summer job. I heard about the position and just applied.”

Poole was hired into the NHTC Service Department where she handled service orders and repair services.

She says her favorite part of the job was interacting with NHTC members and helping people.

“I really enjoyed getting to know the customers and putting faces with names,” Poole says. “When I can be a help to someone and help make them happy, that’s just rewarding to me. I made a lot of very good friends through the years, sometimes just over the phone. Over the years I have made life-long friends with coworkers and customers.”

Poole says interacting with NHTC is much different than dealing with a large business or corporation—both for employees and members.

“We were always able to give each customer something personal, not just business,” Poole says. “Our members are the people we see every day in the community. They’re not just customers.”

“I can remember years ago before we had an after hours service, it was nothing for somebody to either call or stop by my house in the evening and report a service call,” Poole reflects. “I’d just take their information and log it when I got to work

changed over 35 years. One of the largest changes Poole saw was the implementation of the 911 address system.

“This was a big deal at the time,” Poole says. “A lot of people didn’t particularly like the change, but it was probably one of the best things that could have happened. It was a headache at first because I had to change every single address with a typewriter and send them to Birmingham. But the address system was so much better than before, when everyone was a post office box number and we couldn’t associate them with a name and physical address like we can now.”

Poole says she saw considerable changes in technology as well.

“It has really been amazing to see how far we

have come in 35 years,” Poole says. “To see this cooperative go from five or six customers on a system to several hundred members working out of a single remote has really been something. Just to know that we are a rural telephone cooperative and we’ve stayed up with the times and often ahead of the times, it’s just wonderful.”

When Poole started her work at NHTC, the cooperative used primarily copper wire for telephone service.

“To go from all copper lines to underground fiber has changed the quality of our service tremendously,” Poole explains. “I can remember when we just ran open wire across fields to get to people’s houses. That was fine until dove season and hunting season opened. Then the guys would kind of shoot that off the



Former NHTC employee Lou Ann Poole poses with husband Mark Poole at New Hope's 2008 Christmas parade. Lou Ann recently retired from NHTC after serving the cooperative for more than 35 years.

the next morning. I didn’t think anything about it. I was just helping a friend or a neighbor. You don’t get that kind of thing with a big company.”

Poole says she was always proud to work for NHTC.

“I was proud because I knew we did a good job,” Poole says. “I was always glad to be associated with the co-op and glad to tell someone I worked in the communications field. I’ve lived in this community all my life and I’m just glad that I could provide service to my neighbors, my family and my friends. To be associated with such a good group of people—a group of people that became my co-op family—I just enjoyed that.”

Poole says that while customer service and cooperative values have remained constant at NHTC, a lot has



poles as they shot at birds. Our systems today are, and will continue to be, more reliable than ever before.”

Poole says computers have had more influence in the way NHTC operates than any other technology.

“Another big change was when we got a computer,” Poole says. “The first computer we had filled up one whole room in the office. But we were one of the first telephone companies to have a computer and use it for in-house billing. We thought it was amazing to be able to take our people off paper and put them in the computer.”

Poole says the addition of Internet and the expansion of cable since she began work at NHTC 35 years ago has also greatly impacted NHTC members.

“Internet did not exist,” Poole says. “We offered just a little bit of cable TV right in downtown New Hope. It cost

\$3.95. I remember when it went to \$10 a month, I thought it was just crazy! It’s amazing to see what we offer now as far as TV and Internet goes. Needless to say, we’ve come a long way.”

Poole points to NHTC’s excellent management and hard-working employees as the reason NHTC has been able to consistently offer members quality service and the most current technology.

“Our management and board of directors and employees have always been very good,” Poole says. “We have always been able to stay up with technology and keep up with our members’ needs. We have always managed to keep our members happy over the years. I think that says a lot for everybody involved.”

Poole says she looks forward to spending more time volunteering as a historic interpreter at the Burritt on the Mountain museum. But most of all, she



Lou Ann Poole poses on her first day of work at NHTC, more than 35 years ago.

says she looks forward to being able to spend more time with her mother, Syble Whitaker.

“She’s 84 years old, but she stays on the go,” Poole says. “She may have to slow down to spend time with me.”

Lou Ann is married to Mark Poole and has two sons, two step-daughters and three grandsons. ▲

## Homemade Pies for the Holidays

only \$11.00

Place your  
order early!



Coconut • Chocolate  
Pecan • Peanut Butter  
Lemon Ice Box

G&G is now Smoke Free!

723-4181  
Hwy 431 S. • New Hope

See our complete menu on the Web at [www.newhopebiz.com/g&g](http://www.newhopebiz.com/g&g)



## NEW HOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- Teen Study Time every Monday from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Nov. 2 - Teen Book Club at 4 p.m.
  - Nov. 7 - K-3 Story Hour at 10:30 a.m.
  - Nov. 9 - Inspiration Book Club at 1 p.m.
  - Nov. 10 - Children’s Story Hour at 10:30 a.m.
  - Nov. 12 - Genealogy at 7 p.m.
  - Nov. 13 - Sit-n-Knit at 5:30 p.m.
  - Nov. 14 - Movie Day at 4 p.m. featuring the movie Up!
  - Nov. 21 - K-3 Story Hour at 10:30 a.m.
  - Nov. 21 - New Moon celebration featuring Twilight movie and games at 4 p.m.
  - Nov. 24 - Children’s Story Hour at 10:30 a.m.



# Enjoy Grant in a whole new way

The citizens of Grant can now enjoy their picturesque surroundings in a whole new way. Thanks to grants and money from the town's general fund, the people of Grant can stroll or bike along a new trail connecting downtown Grant with the scenic city park.

## *The Vision*

"It's been years in the making," says mayor Larry Walker. "We received a grant more than five years ago for a safe linkage path to the park." The 80/20 grant, totaling more than \$75,000, helped pay for a portion of sidewalk, as well as a paved path that led to the park. Once the work was completed it became clear that the



sidewalk needed to be extended to make it safer for those walking or riding bicycles from downtown to the park.

Fortunately, Congressman Robert Aderholt was able to help the town obtain a 100% funded grant for \$25,000. That grant paid for the completion of the sidewalk project. "There was no good place to walk if someone wanted to, and there was too much traffic in town to make it safe to ride bicycles on the road. "The roads are too heavily used for it to be safe for kids to get to the park," Walker says. "Completing the sidewalk fixed that."

But one critical element was still missing. "The original grant specified the path could go to the park, but didn't cover any expenses that would allow the pathway to go *into* the park," Walker went on to explain.

"Our city is blessed with some nice facilities.

---

Bikers and walkers cross this wooden bridge at a section of the new walking path in Grant. From its start at the corner of 5th and Main, to its end at the swimming pool, the path is .9 mile long.





We have baseball fields, a swimming pool, a Kidtopia playground and a soccer field in the park,” explains Walker. But uneven terrain and muddy ground during rainy seasons made walking to those facilities dangerous. The city council understood that for the trail to really be beneficial, the pavement needed to continue into the park itself.

Earlier this year the city council decided to use nearly \$10,000 from the general fund to finish the project. County Commissioner James Maze understood the need and helped the city reach a solution. He brought in paving equipment from the county and supplied the labor force for the job.

“Commissioner Maze was great to work with,” says Walker. “The city only had to pay for the materials. The county provided the labor.”

## *The Benefits*

The town is excited about the new addition. Many people are taking advantage of the opportunity to exercise in an enjoyable and safe environment. “We have more than sixty people walking or cycling along the trail on any given day,” claims Walker.

The sidewalk at 5th and Main Street marks the beginning point of the .9 mile long trail. Walkers and cyclists follow the sidewalk until it ends. There, a paved pathway leads over a wooden bridge, leads around ball fields, meanders past the Saddle Club, bends at a pine thicket, climbs up a gentle hill and finally ends at the swimming pool. “The trail is designed to be safe. It’s peaceful without feeling secluded,” says Councilman Joe Frazier.

That peaceful feeling sparked an idea. Frazier built four sturdy wooden benches and placed them at integral stopping points along the path. “We want everyone to enjoy the walking trail,” says Frazier. “These benches will enable those who might not be able to

complete the walk without stopping to rest, to take a break and take in the scenery.”



The dirt pathway leading around the soccer field above will one day make a nice addition to the pedestrian and bicycle trail in the park.

## *The Future*

Although the trail is great for walking or cycling now, additions are being considered. Both Walker and Frazier would like to see the dirt path around the soccer field paved one day.

“The soccer field had fallen in disrepair,” explains Walker. “We’ve sown new grass in the field and hope to have lights installed soon. We want to pave the surrounding path so it will

make a loop and tie back into the trail, bringing the trail’s total distance to about one and a half miles.”

“Our hope is that people will put the trail to good use for many years to come,” says Walker. ▲



City Councilman Joe Frazier sits on one of four benches he made for the park. The benches provide peaceful rest stops along the walking trail.





---

# OCR's Furlough brings new life to old buildings

*Larry Furlough has restored or renovated several buildings in downtown New Hope and Owens Cross Roads, including the Old Vienna Cafe shown behind him.*

---

For Larry Furlough, this month's featured New Hope High School alumnus, hard work has always paved the road to success.

Furlough is a member of the NHHS class of 1982. During high school, he took classes for auto mechanics and art, both of which he found very interesting.

"I really enjoyed going to New Hope High School," comments Furlough. "I had teachers along the way that seemed like family, Mr. Burton in particular. He always came up with neat things that would catch your attention."

Furlough also enjoyed the closeness he experienced with his classmates. "I made lifelong friends," He says. "We still have class reunions every five years, and everyone is still close and in touch."

Furlough was a member of the football team from his freshman to his junior year. "My senior year, the school offered a program where students could attend school, but leave early to go to work," says Furlough. "My father ran the Union 76 Service Station, as well as a towing business, and he needed my help. I drove a tow truck as soon as I got my driving permit."

Furlough's father made a huge impact on him by pushing him to do well in

all areas. "Dad was a strict parent on both my brother and me," Furlough recalls. "He expected no grades lower than a C, and he wanted us to work. He was trying to instill something in us."

After high school, Furlough went to work full-time at his family's towing business.

In 1995, he began working as a general contractor building houses. The following year, Furlough wed his wife Tara and changed career paths. He began working as the Chief Operations Officer at Tara Manufacturing, which includes serving as the head of maintenance, safety, purchasing for graphics, and research and development for the company.

While he continues to work at Tara Manufacturing, Furlough also renovates properties with his wife. The couple created Furlough Land Company and has been very successful in their renovation efforts.

"My passion is saving buildings from being demolished or flattened," Furlough says. "I have so many ideas, I want to save those buildings and implement my ideas to make them something better."

One example of Furlough's imagination at work is the Sugar Shack's transformation into the CARE Center. "As

soon as I saw the building, I went home and made some drawings of what I knew it could be," Furlough recalls. With the help of his wife, the building took on a whole new life. "Without Tara's support, it wouldn't have happened," he says.

Today, Furlough resides in Owens Cross Roads. He has three children: Drew, a student at Jacksonville State University, and Tayler and Savana, who both attend OCR Elementary School.

Furlough is a member of OCR Church of Christ, and he tutors elementary students through the CARE Center. He is currently serving his second term on the Owens Cross Roads city council and serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the town.

In his spare time, Furlough works on his small farm caring for his family's horses. He also enjoys traveling around the globe with his wife.

Furlough encourages kids to receive a quality education and work hard to find true success in life. "I would like to tell students to stay in school and learn all you can. Teachers are trying to feed you knowledge, so take it and digest it," he says. "All of my learning came from asking. If you have a question, ask until you find the answer."▲



# CARE Center thrift store sets up ministry

The CARE Center in New Hope has made some changes in its thrift store. The purpose of the thrift store has always been to provide people in the surrounding communities a place to purchase clothing, housewares, appliances, books and other items at an affordable price.

But the center recently restructured the thrift store to develop a ministry for local women.

Originally the thrift store had only one full-time employee and several volunteers. New Hope native Tammy Pritchett has come on board as the new thrift store manager. Pritchett runs the day-to-day operation of the thrift store and is coordinator of the new ministry.

She has hired five women from the area, two who work full-time and three who work about 12 hours a week.

The women under Pritchett's guidance are women who are looking for a job but might not be able to find work at other places at this point in their lives.

"All of us are in a position where we have overcome certain obstacles in our lives," thrift store employee Annie Keel says. "This job helps us get back on our feet by being productive and working a normal job."

In addition to offering employment, the CARE Center teaches the women life skills that will help prepare them to eventually move on and find full-time employment elsewhere.

The women meet together every Tuesday for fellowship and skills training and every Wednesday with Rev. Michael Carpenter for spiritual guidance. The women also do educational book studies

and frequently meet with other ministers and local businesswomen who provide additional training.

"I never dreamed how incredible this experience would be for me," Keel says. "So many positive things have happened in my life because of God—because of the CARE Center—because of these ladies. They're helping me get my life back through learning and fellowship. They have taught me so much. I would not be where I am today without this ministry."

Pritchett says that while they are fully staffed for paid positions at the moment, the thrift store is always looking for volunteers.

For more information or to donate to the CARE Center thrift store, please visit [www.thecarecenter.us](http://www.thecarecenter.us) or call 256-723-CARE.▲



**Are you prepared  
for the road ahead?**

MEMBER FDIC. EQUAL HOUSING LENDER.

Start securing your  
future with help from  
Citizen's Bank.

- ◆ CDs
- ◆ IRAs
- ◆ Savings Accounts
- ◆ Money Market Accounts



**CITIZENS**

**BANK & TRUST**

*Our Greatest Asset is You*

5053 Main Drive • New Hope, Al  
[www.citizensbanktrust.com](http://www.citizensbanktrust.com)

Our hometown staff can help you  
Call us at 256-723-4600



## Legislative Update

By Rep. Butch Taylor

Alabama House of Representatives, Dist. 22



As you probably saw in the news, Alabama's 2009-2010 fiscal year began Oct. 1 with an announcement from Gov.

Riley of a 7.5 percent cut from the Education Trust Fund.

That is in addition to the 11 percent proration from the previous year—a total of 18.5 percent cut from the education budget over two years.

Our education budget is funded almost exclusively through sales tax and income tax. Because of the recession, Alabamians are not spending as much money, resulting in fewer tax dollars for education. With Alabama's unemployment at 10.4 percent—the highest rate in 25 years—less money is generated from income taxes for education as well. Frankly, proration was inevitable.

However, things could be much worse. Thanks to the federal stimulus package and the foresight of the Legislature to spread Alabama's education stimulus dollars over two years, we were able to save the jobs of 3,800 Alabama teachers this school year and should be able to do the same with the money we set aside for the next school year.

The Legislature will meet in January to start writing the fiscal 2011 budgets. As a member of the House Education Appropriations Committee, it is my job to ensure that education dollars are spent wisely.

As January approaches, I will be working diligently to continue to make sure our Education Fund Budget is in line with the important needs of our children and our educators.▲

## New Hope High School Teacher Spotlight

Ninth grade English teacher and assistant baseball coach Chris Hicks is the spotlight Teacher of the Month for New Hope High School.

Hicks is a 1989 graduate of NHHS. After high school, he went on to play baseball at Motlow State Community College in Tennessee, then transferred to Faulkner University in Montgomery. He finished his teaching degree at Athens State in Huntsville.

Fifteen years ago, Hicks began his teaching career at Sparkman High. A year later, he came to NHHS to coach and teach. He was the head baseball coach for 10 years. "It was really like homecoming," says Hicks of his return to New Hope. "I knew all the kids, their parents and even grandparents."

Hicks and his wife Sharlene have two sons, Peyton, a freshman at NHHS, and Ryne, who is in the sixth grade.

"I find it very rewarding," says Coach Hicks, "to have former students come up to me in a store, or at a ball game and thank me for helping them. That's makes what I do meaningful."



## ✝ Inspiration Corner

I pray your Thanksgiving is in remembrance of how it began, when a Native American made the choice to help a group of starving Pilgrims. Squanto found himself the remaining survivor of his tribe, after being kidnapped twice as a slave. When Squanto finally made it back home, he found his whole tribe dead from the plague. Finding refuge in a neighboring tribe, Squanto was told about a small band of pilgrims settling on his tribal land. Squanto had a choice to make. He could take his adopted warriors and reclaim his land, or let the pilgrims be. Deciding to meet them, Squanto found them with practically no food. In his compassion, Squanto helped them survive a northeast winter.

After stories of Squanto spread across the northeast, Governor William Bradford met Squanto and showed him

a bible story about a man named Joseph. Like Squanto, Joseph was sold as a slave, worked his way up as a king's helper, and used his position to save a nation. Through that story Squanto came to understand his life had a genuine purpose. Later when Squanto was dying of "Indian Fever", he asked Governor Bradford to pray the white man's prayer with him so he could go to the white man's God.

As we observe Thanksgiving, I pray we all realize there is more to Thanksgiving than a day off, football games, and shopping. I challenge you to read the stories of Thanksgiving, and seek the genuine purpose for your life, in a church near you.



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



## Community Events

**November 3**

### **Family Reading Night & Chili Dinner**

New Hope Elementary PTO hosts this event at the school at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free for NHES students, adult admission is \$3, or free with PTO membership. Contact the PTO at [nhespto@nehf.net](mailto:nhespto@nehf.net) for membership information.

**November 7**

### **Lions Club Pancake Breakfast**

The New Hope Lions Club will once again host their annual pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the New Hope Elementary Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

**November 16**

### **We Care Grief Recovery Group**

A meeting will be held at the New Hope Care Center at noon for anyone struggling with grief and will be facilitated by

experienced professionals who will offer support and encouragement. For more information, call William at 256-288-0094.

**December 4**

### **Grant Chamber of Commerce Early Bird Breakfast**

Beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Mimi's Country Tea Room. Sponsored by Linda Burlough.

**December 5**

### **Open House**

Owens Cross Roads Town Hall will host an Open House from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the new town hall. Everyone is invited to come out and see the new facilities. Refreshments will be served.

### **Grant Christmas Parade**

The parade starts at 1 p.m. beginning at DAR and finishing at the old VFW building in Grant off Main Street. Everyone is invited – build your own float.

## Protecting yourself against the influenza virus

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the flu season usually begins in Nov. and runs through March of each year. This year, the season started early in the Southeast. There have been widespread reports of the H1N1 virus, commonly referred to as swine flu. It is very important to take measures to keep you and your family safe.

- **WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY.** Be sure to use plenty of soap and warm water. Keep an alcohol based hand sanitizer available for times when you do not have access to soap and water.

- **DON'T TOUCH YOUR EYES, nose or**

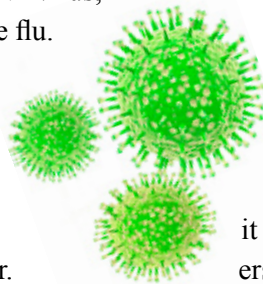
mouth to prevent spreading germs.

- **COVER YOUR COUGHS.** Use the bend of your elbow to cover sneezes and coughs if a tissue isn't handy.

- **GET THE FLU VACCINE.** If you do not have access to the H1N1 vaccination, it is still important to get a seasonal flu vaccine.

- **STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK.** If you feel sick, and especially if you are running a fever, it is best to avoid contact with others to prevent spreading the virus. Do not return to school or work until you are symptom free.

For more information about the flu, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



### PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEW HOPE

Every man and woman who serves in the armed forces of this great county are often reminded that they may have to give their lives for the liberties we so often take for granted. Our military men and women are required to memorize "The Six Articles of The Code of Conduct". Military men and women recite, "I am an American, fighting in the forces that guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense." The code concludes with "I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom". Good words that remind us of the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and freedom we so enjoy.

I have a great sense of pride when the American flag is being raised. When the Pledge of Allegiance is being recited I recite "one Nation under God". The Star Spangled Banner contains these great words "America the land of the free and the home of the brave." All of these and more are reminders of why I am so thankful to be an American.

Every since our great nation was founded we have been celebrating days of thanksgiving. In 1789 George Washington, the first president of the United States, proclaimed November 26 a day of Thanksgiving. He proclaimed days of thanksgiving and called upon army chaplains to prepare discourses and hold services to acknowledge the blessings bestowed upon America and her military forces.

It makes me angry when people try to take away our freedoms and terrorize our great nation!

America is not perfect but I do have the freedom to worship God and profess Jesus Christ. For this I am thankful and will be eternally grateful.

See you in church Sunday!



# COMMUNITY



# SNAPSHOTS

## Iron Bowl



Brady, Caroline, and Carlee Largen, and Claire Keel enjoy Dreamland ribs before the Alabama football game.



Lilly Brown (Roll Tide) & Chloe Tart (War Eagle) Homecoming Week at NHES 2008. Photo Submitted by Melissa Brown.



Blaine Haywood. Photo sent by parents, David & Kim Haywood



Erin Sloan and Addie Thompson. Iron Bowl 2008-submitted by Salee Sloan.



Roll Tide - Lily Kate, Anna Rae & Ruthie Claire Dewberry. Photo taken by their mother, Heather Butler Dewberry.



Ryan Furlough ready for the game! Roll Tide Roll!! Photo by mom Teresa Furlough.





Go Bama! Landen Pence. His grandparents are Mickey & Beth Pence. His parents are Daniel & Meagen Pence.



Spencer & Lesa Warden.  
Photo taken at Bobby Butler's Barn Party.



Austin & Aiden Smith. Photo submitted by their mother, Karen Smith.



Margaret Meeks in front of the old home she lived in for 39 years.



Matthew Franks.  
Photo sent by Jennifer Franks.



Jacob, John Alan & Jackson Stapler.  
Photo taken by mom. Roll Tide!

"Classic Cars" is the photo theme for January. Send pictures matching the photo theme to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You may prefer to e-mail your photo to [communicator@neh.net](mailto:communicator@neh.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 January is November 20th.**

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.



New Hope Telephone Cooperative

P.O. Box 452

New Hope, Alabama 35760

Pre-sort  
Standard  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Metro Mail  
36201

Postal Customer

Enjoy Holiday  
Savings by the  
**BUNDLE**

**Sign up by December 31st  
and you'll get:**

- ➔ **1/2 OFF First Month's Bill**
- ➔ **FREE Installation**
- ➔ **NO Activation or Upgrade Fee**

**HURRY, THIS SPECIAL WON'T LAST LONG!**  
**CALL TODAY, 723-4211**

#### **NHTC ADVANTAGE**

- ▶ **Unlimited Nationwide  
Calling (Local and  
Long Distance Service)**
- ▶ **DSLmax Internet Service**
- ▶ **5 Calling Features**

**All for only \$79.95/mo.**

#### **NHTC ELITE**

- ▶ **Unlimited Nationwide  
Calling (Local and Long  
Distance Service)**
- ▶ **DSLmax Internet Service**
- ▶ **5 Calling Features**
- ▶ **Expanded Cable TV\***

**All for only \$119.95/mo.**

NHTC Bundles are available to Residential customers only. All bundled services are subject to NHTC's Customer Service Agreement, Acceptable Use Policy, Fair Access Policy and the provisions of NHTC's Price List (subject to the advertised discount). These can be found at [www.nhep.net](http://www.nhep.net). Basic Local Service rates do not include federal and state access charges, fees and taxes; they will be billed in addition to the package price. Unlimited long distance is for typical domestic voice use only. Typical long distance usage is 2000 minutes per month. It does not include 900 calls, 800 services, Calling card calls, International calls, Directory Assistance, Operator Assistance, multi-line conference calls, chat services, or data services – standard rates apply for these services. Long distance is not intended for use to connect to Internet service providers, data providers, or information services. Commercial facsimile, auto-redialing, resale, telemarketing, and general business use are strictly prohibited. Should NHTC determine that usage is not consistent with typical residential voice usage, NHTC reserves the right to immediately suspend, restrict, bill excessive usage charges, or cancel your service without prior notice. Customers must subscribe to NHTC Long Distance and a qualifying NHTC Bundle Plan. All rates are subject to change. NHTC reserves the right to eliminate NHTC Bundles at any time upon appropriate notice to all customers subscribing to these Bundles, consistent with the existing Alabama law and the rules and regulations of the Alabama Public Service Commission. Some areas may not yet be capable of receiving all services. Additional requirements and restrictions may apply.