

# THE ALABAMIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2018



## Show Your True Colors

Conference 2018







# ALABAMA STATE GAMES XXXVI

## JUNE 8-10

### HUNTSVILLE AL

Registration is now open for Youth, Adult and Senior Sports!

For a full listing of all sports please visit [www.alagames.com](http://www.alagames.com)



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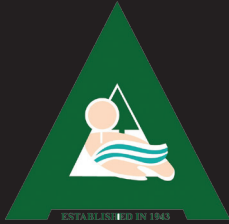


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*The Alabamian* is the official publication of the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA), an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association. The magazine is published by the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. as a service to its membership. Submissions of parks and recreation-related articles are welcomed. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ARPA. Comments/responses should be sent to:

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*From the*  
**President**  
Summer Ammons

**H**ello ARPA Family!

I started off the year with a quote from Henry Ford that stated “If was everyone is moving forward together, than success takes care of itself”. Alabama Recreation and Parks Association members have definitely succeeded in the challenge. Our State Board, Districts, and Committees are comprised of many energetic professionals stepping up to make our state organization the best. It takes everyone coming together. I want to thank you for that!

Trussville took on a challenge and hosted the ARPA State Basketball Tournament. They did an excellent job as we invaded their city with right at 150 teams for the weekend. It was a huge success! Thank you!

I am excited for this issue showing affiliates true colors. Looking at parks and facilities, throughout the state in my travels, I see the pride that each community has and it definitely shows.

Thank you for all you do and for us heading in the right direction!

Summer Ammons  
2018 President



## Call for Articles!

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If you would like to be published in a future issue of The Alabamian Magazine, please send your article and any graphics to the State Office at [nnorman@arpaonline.org](mailto:nnorman@arpaonline.org).

### **The theme for the next issue is “Out Is In.”**

What summer activities or outdoor recreation programs do you offer to encourage children, teenagers and adults to get outside?

The deadline for consideration in the Summer 2018 issue is June 29th. Please call 334-279-9160 with any questions.



*From the*  
**Executive Director**  
Natalie Norman



**W**ow! Thank you for adding so much color and beauty to the Parks and Recreation canvas!

A few things to share and gratitude to give from your State Office...

I must mention what an awesome state conference we had in Tuscaloosa. Thanks to all of you that attended and helped make it a great success. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Conference Education Committee for providing us with a tremendous slate of educational sessions and speakers. Also thank you to the City of Tuscaloosa and the entire TCPARA staff for being an exceptional host and on-target in all areas.

We also had a great State Basketball Championship! Thank you to the City of Trussville, Trussville Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreational Sports Committee for giving our youth basketball participants and fans a great environment in which to play and spectate.

The bulk of the 2018 membership drive has wrapped up. Thanks to all Affiliate, Individual and Corporate members for joining and supporting ARPA. We survive only with you present! The Buyers Guide and Membership Directory will be completed very soon, both online and emailed in a format that you can print, should you choose.

We are moving forward with great excitement and anticipation of things to come. It is truly a privilege to serve ARPA, to serve you, as Executive Director. Thank you for continuing to be difference makers, and putting color into someone's cloud each day!

Sincerely,

Natalie Norman  
Executive Director

# Show Your True Colors



**Photos Featuring Special Events at Your  
Recreation and Parks Association**



# Boaz



## Easter Egg Hunt

Hundreds came out to join in the fun at the Community Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Julia Street UMC in partnership with Boaz Parks and Recreation, Boaz Fire and Police Departments, Boaz City Hall, and St. Paul UMC. Participants donated blood with LifeSouth on site as well as food donations made to the Julia Street Food Pantry during this exciting Easter celebration.

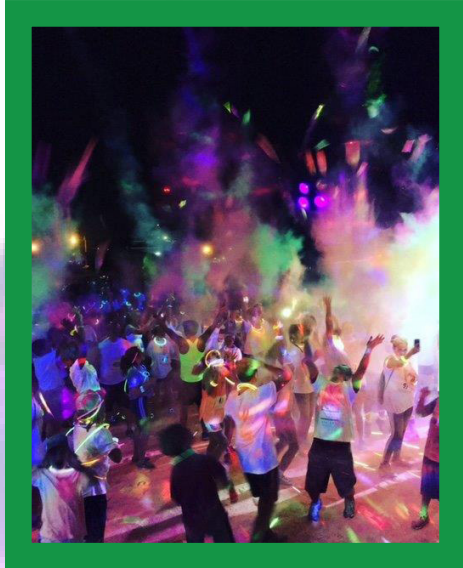


## BPL

Oh, the Things you will see at the Boaz Public Library! Preschool Storytime recently celebrated Read Across America week with a visit from The Cat in the Hat.

District 2

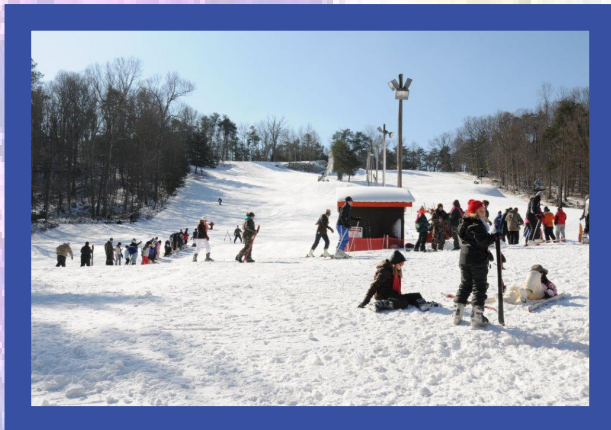
# Cullman



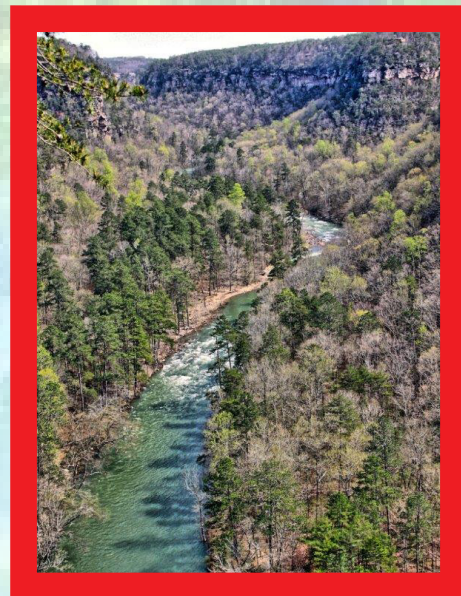
Cullman Parks and Recreation  
2017 Midnight Run 5K

District 2

# Fort Payne



Snow at Cloudmont in Fort Payne by John Dersham, Executive Director of Dekalb County Tourism



Little River Canyon in Fort Payne  
by John Dersham, Executive  
Director of Dekalb County Tourism



# Guntersville



Guntersville  
Yacht Club,  
credit Justin  
King, Beech  
Creek  
Photography



Guntersville  
Snug Harbor  
Sunset, credit  
Lisa George



# Huntsville



## Alabama v Auburn Gymnastics

The Huntsville Sports Commission helps to bring in big sporting events like the Alabama V. Auburn Gymnastics meet at the Von Braun Center in March 2018.



## Kite Festival

The Community Kite Festival took place on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at John Hunt Park Festival Grounds. The festival is a joint effort with Asha Kiran and Huntsville Parks & Recreation to foster inclusiveness and harmony, as well as increase awareness of social issues in the community.



## Doggies Downtown

The City of Huntsville is a very dog friendly place-check out how happy these pups are at the Downtown Dog Park!



# Madison County

Autumn at Sharon  
Johnston Park



Preparing the 1833 Snider-Fanning Cabin  
for the move to Sharon Johnston Park





# Birmingham

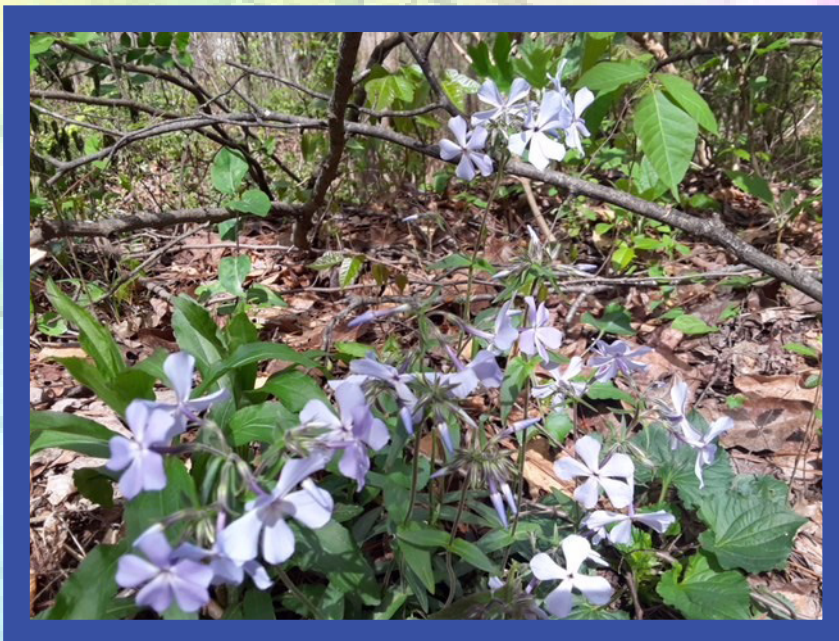


More than 350 thousand annual visitors walk through the entrance at the Birmingham Park and Recreation Birmingham Botanical Gardens.



Colorful abstracts and portraits are just one way young artists in Birmingham Park and Recreation programs express their view of the world.

# Birmingham



Star Chickweed, Woodland Plox and many more wildflowers flaunt their colorful blooms along the path at the Birmingham Park and Recreation Flora Johnston Nature Trail.



# Tuscaloosa



Bama Theatre Marquee



Bobby Miller Center Indoor Playground



Palmore Skate Park Half-Pipe Mural



# Tuscaloosa

Space Net and Tall Tube Slide at Snow Hinton Park



# Auburn



Spring Sundown Concert Series every Thursday in May at beautiful Town Creek Park in Auburn, Alabama a different band every Thursday night.



# Auburn



SummerNight Downtown Art Walk and Parade Friday, June 8 in Downtown Auburn.



The 18th Annual Auburn CityFest at Kiesel Park. Auburn Parks and Recreation's largest outdoor Festival held the last Saturday in April for 18 years!



# Lincoln



Lincoln Park Sports Complex in January



2017 Blue Eye Creek Festival Youth Fishing Derby



2017 Veteran's Day had to held at our City Hall due to Rain



# Lincoln



Sparky and the Easter Bunny are ready for the 2018 Egg Hunt



Ballerina Bunny made an appearance at the Egg Hunt – Hartley Kate



Not sure if I like Sparky, but dad does.



Never know who will show up at the Blue Eye Creek Festival

# Opelika



CJ and Lainey Johnson play on the new playground equipment at Monkey Park



February Fitness Challenge with Opelika's Recycled TeenAgers. They were challenged to walk 20 miles and do 10 fitness classes during the month. Here are our winners!



Opelika Parks and Recreation Trampoline and Tumbling athletes learning how to master a new skill.



## District 5

# Opelika



Mardi Gras in Fairhope with our Recycled TeenAgers! Never dull!



Young at Heart Dance Fun!

## District 5

# Tuskegee



While this picture may seem like a basic basketball photo, this picture represents an international relationship. Since 2013, the Youth Sports Exchange (YSE) Belgium Lion basketball team has come to America annually in July for a series of games. Each year, the organization makes a stop in Tuskegee to tour the University, museums, and to play the Tuskegee Flyers Basketball Club. This basketball series has been lead by the Tuskegee Parks & Recreation Department since the beginning. Tuskegee Parks & Recreation is opening opportunities for the youth of their community to make international friends. YSE Belgium will be in the United States from July 5 - July 18, 2018. They will have stops in Charlotte, NC; Atlanta, GA; Auburn, AL; Montgomery; and of course, Tuskegee, AL.

# Enterprise



## Bates Memorial Stadium

A comprehensive renovation project of Bates Memorial Stadium was completed late in 2017 and the facility is now used for city wide functions and activities by the City of Enterprise. Renovations included new restrooms and a concession stand on the home side, renovations of all other buildings incl. new paint, new roof and upgrade of restrooms on the visitor side.



# Enterprise



## Skate Park

The City of Enterprise repurposed un-used property to create a new recreational facility for skateboard enthusiasts. The skate park was opened in November 2017 and provides a safe and designated area for our youth to play and practise their sport.



## Donaldson Park Playground

The City of Enterprise and Rotary Club partnered to build a new playground at Donaldson Park, replacing worn and outdated playground equipment. The project started in January last year and was completed in October 2017.

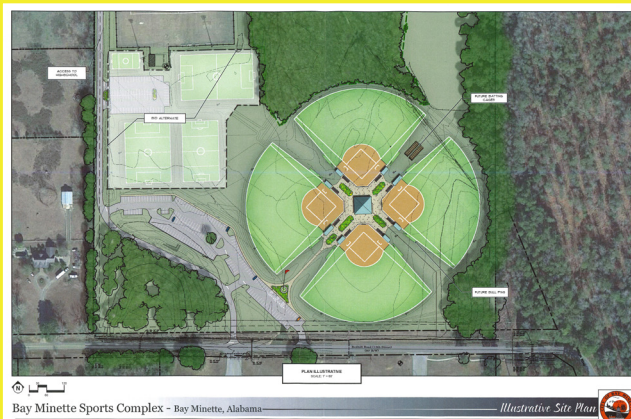


# Mobile



Here at the Bay Minette Recreation Department we strive to keep the community active and involved. Our department is always evolving and adapting to fit the community's needs. We are excited about some of the upcoming events that will be taking place here in our community. Saturday April 7th is our Opening Day for our youth spring softball season. We have five different age groups this year; our Pre-t is ages 3-4 and has 3 different teams, our T-ball is ages 5-6 and has 4 different teams, our 8U

has 6 different teams, our 11U has 4 different teams, and our 15U has 4 different teams. We will begin construction on a new softball and soccer sports complex soon. The new complex will consist of 4 standard 300-foot softball fields, a small soccer field, a medium sized soccer field, and 2 standard sized soccer fields. This will include new parking lots for both the softball and soccer fields. This coming May we will begin gearing up for our Summer Adult Softball League and Kelly's Kids summer camp. This year's summer camp begins June 4th and will be the largest (75) group of kids we have ever had in the program. We will be doing some new and exciting field trips this year for our summer program. To make registration less stressful for parents, we have implemented a new website that includes online registration and payment. This will make it possible for our busy parents to be able to register their child in any of our programs without even having to leave their house. We have just built three courts for a sport called pickleball that is rapidly increasing in popularity. To go along with these new courts, we have pickleball equipment for rent. Exciting things are happening here in the City of Bay Minette and we look forward to future endeavors that will continue to help build and grow this community. For any information regarding any of the Recreation programs or facilities, you can go onto [www.teamsideline.com/BayMinette](http://www.teamsideline.com/BayMinette) or call (251) 580-2546.





# Mobile

## Instructor Aids in Keeping Adults Healthy & Fit

The Special Activities department is offering seven new classes at the City of Mobile Adult Center. The classes are being taught by instructor Gerry Lowe.

Gerry Lowe is making a difference in the lives of the citizens of Mobile, AL. He gets his students energized and ready for the health and fitness challenge of daily living. Mr. Lowe has a master's degree in Sports Management from the United States Sports Academy and a Personal Trainer certification. He has a second master's degree in Sports & Recreation from Liberty College. He has always been involved in sports, health and fitness since he was a young child. Mr. Lowe's passion for sports spreads throughout his classes.



He is a charismatic, enthusiastic teacher. He enjoys sharing his knowledge with his students.

His two most popular classes are Seated Cardio, Flexibility & Strength Chair Exercise and Body Sculpting. Mr. Lowe knows exercise is an important part of our lives. His classes are for the serious exerciser and motivated individual and also for the beginners just starting out. Mr. Lowe modifies the exercise movements to the level of the participants' ability. The Body Sculpting Class uses weight training, resistance and strength training to help you get in shape, tone the body and lose weight.

Some of the reasons he is such a successful teacher is that he changes his music and exercise routines weekly. He offered a "Biggest Loser" contest this past winter to his students. The winner of the contest lost 47 pounds. Mr. Lowe is providing a caring, fun, and dynamic fitness environment where he is inspiring results and taking people with him to the next level of fitness.

Come out and meet Gerry at the City of Mobile Adult Center. It might just be the beginning of a life changing adventure.

# Mobile



Palestine Temple #18 helped out with the Easter event by showing the boys and young men how to tie a bow tie.



The City of Mobile's Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle



SPRINGHILL COMMUNITY CENTER  
1151 Springhill Ave.

**Annual EASTER ACTIVITIES**

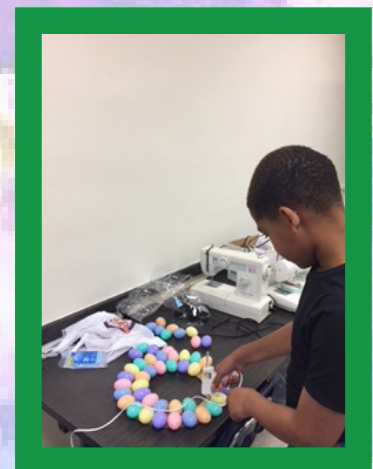
Sponsor by  
Palestine Court #49  
Daughters of Isis



Friday, March 25, 2016  
4:15PM - 6:45PM  
(Egg Hunt begins at 4:45PM for children 12 and under)

Activities include: Coloring, Face Painting, Musical Chairs, Nail Polishing, Arts N Crafts, Egg Hunt, and Refreshments

For additional information call 438-7415.



Springhill Recreation Center Easter Arts and Craft



# Conference 2018:

Board of Directors and President's swearing in





# Photos from the District VI Meeting





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# 2018

## Calendar of Events

### June

- 6** District I Meeting, Winfield  
District II Meeting, Arab  
District IV Meeting, Oneonta  
District V Meeting, Phenix City

- 13** ARPA State Board Meeting  
Montgomery, AL

### August

- 22** District I Meeting, Limestone
- 23** District III Meeting, Homewood

### September

- 12** District II Meeting, Fort Payne  
District V Meeting, Valley
- 19** ARPA State Board Meeting  
Orange Beach, AL

### November

- 14** District I Meeting, Sheffield
- 15** District III Meeting, Tuscaloosa
- 28** District II Meeting, Boaz  
District IV Meeting, Jacksonville  
District V Meeting, Opelika

### December

- 5** ARPA State Board Meeting  
Montgomery, AL

### January 2019

- 27-29** 2019 ARPA State Conference  
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel