

THE PALS PRINTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA PALS AND THE ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM

WINTER QUARTER 2024 • VOLUME 47

DIRECTORS NOTES: "DATA AND NUMBERS"

I hope that each of you have had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday season and are looking forward to an exciting and productive 2024! 2023 brought another blessed year for Alabama PALS, and the staff and Board of Directors are looking forward to what we feel will be the best chapter in the history of your organization. Thank you for affording Alabama PALS the blessing and opportunity to serve you and your cities, counties, and communities.

In today's world there is an abundance of importance placed on "data and numbers," whether it is within an organization, business or our daily lives. It's a fact that certainly has merit and verifies the work and successes that we all strive for in every area of our lives. "Data and numbers" are also important when we explore how we can make improvements to better accomplish the goals and standards that we set and to determine how we can adjust to make successful programs even more effective for the future. "Data and numbers" certainly have their place!

YOUR organization has grown to include 889 current Statewide Adopted miles, over 500 tons of litter picked up and reported each year during the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup, 108,0078 volunteers cleaning up 6,688 miles of coastline and picking up 1,757,902 pounds of trash during the history of the Alabama Coastal Cleanup, and thousands of students hearing the message of how they can become a part of a cleaner and more beautiful Alabama through the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program. These facts are amazing and have been accomplished due to your hard work and dedication to the goal of making Alabama truly "Alabama the Beautiful."

However, as I look at the important and impressive "data and numbers," I am more impressed at HOW Alabama PALS achieved those numbers. As I worked my way through the HOW, it became humbling and evident that the "numbers and data" are due to people, relationships, and leaders that have been nurtured and developed over the years through Alabama PALS.

I look back at a Board of Directors through the years that have remained devoted, supportive and 100% committed

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2024 ALABAMA PALS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Form/Application can be submitted online at alpals.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Partner: \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Steward: \$ 250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Free Leader: \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PALS Advocate: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> PALS Partner: \$25 | |

(Membership Dues are paid Annually)

Alabama PALS is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

Your contribution to Alabama PALS is tax deductible

Please Make Checks Payable to:

Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36106



"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"

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Social Media Director

Jamie@alpals.org

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In-State Watts 800-ALA-PALS

Fax # 334-832-9400

WEBSITE: www.alpals.org

340 North Hull Street

Montgomery, AL 36104

ALABAMA PALS MISSION STATEMENT

"Alabama Communities Working
Together for A Cleaner and
More Beautiful Alabama"

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

BY JEFF HELMS, CHAIRMAN, ALABAMA PALS

Our culture is fueled by awards and recognition. The Oscars, Grammys, and Emmys symbolize the extravagance of entertainment. Sports championships and MVPs can make idols of mortal men and women. Even long-revered honors for science, literature and culinary arts have been tarnished by controversy.

While some still pursue excellence for the good of society, it seems awards are increasingly marred by pride and politics.

That's what makes the Alabama PALS Governor's Awards different. The volunteers, businesses, local officials, and students we honored Nov. 8 don't fight litter for money or fame. They serve Alabama and their communities because it's the right thing to do.

From sanitation workers and law enforcement officers to the heads of colleges and corporations, we share a common mission and vision: "To enhance our environmental and economic impact through a litter-free, cleaner and more beautiful environment."

One of the highlights of my year is honoring the men, women, and students who make Alabama PALS great. The Governor's Awards give us a chance to spotlight people who are rarely recognized: Civic clubs that scour their adopted miles for trash on Saturday mornings when their neighbors are still asleep. Youth who ignore snide remarks and mocking looks as they pick up litter on school campuses. Business owners who prioritize community service over profits by providing time for employees to participate in cleanups. Sheriffs and judges who understand littered neighborhoods invite further neglect. And, media partners who promote and showcase Alabama PALS programs.

These recipients, and hundreds of other volunteers, are the heart and soul of Alabama PALS. Each year, their work provides millions of dollars in value to the State of Alabama.

This quiet contribution deserves to be heralded. While celebrities and superstars often expect accolades, Alabama PALS volunteers would continue their faithful work even if there were no awards or praise.

That's what makes the Governor's Awards so special. Each recipient is an unsung hero, and it's our honor to celebrate their humble service.

—Jeff

MESSAGE FROM:

JOHN COOPER

Director, Alabama Department of Transportation

As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome in a new year, I am delighted to share some remarkable achievements and milestones in our collective efforts to combat litter in Alabama and preserve its beauty. The partnership between PALS and ALDOT has truly made a difference and I am grateful for our continued partnership.

One of the highlights of this past year has been the success of the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup. Together, we have seen enormous support, with over 540 tons of litter reported to date. This impressive figure underscores the power of community and the impact we can make when we join forces and tackle litter together.

The 2023 Alabama Coastal Cleanup has been another example of our collective

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Continued from page 1

to leading PALS in a direction that has stayed true to its mission statement through both good and hard times. No organization has been more blessed to have had a more genuine group of board members than PALS. I also look at the relationships that have been formed with ADCNR, ADECA and ALDOT and other agencies and associations that continue to encourage, support and become involved with the PALS mission. We could not do what we do without their continuing genuine support.

I also have to consider our most important PALS Corporate Sponsors, as well as the Alabama Coastal Cleanup Sponsors. Again, I don't know of another organization that has been more blessed to have a more loyal or supportive group of businesses that not only support the programs of PALS, but also are willing to become actively involved at every level. Thank each of you for your support, personal loyalty and friendship, and for giving PALS the opportunity to continue to serve all Alabama communities.

Yes, to me the "numbers and data" are important, but the relationships and the people that make the "numbers and data" possible are the MOST important factor of your organization! I know that each of you will agree.

In this issue I have included a memorial tribute written by her granddaughter to one of the longest and most dedicated PALS supporters in the history of Alabama PALS. Janice Castleberry gave everything that she had to the mission of a cleaner and more beautiful Alabama and to her "favorite organization," Alabama PALS. She was one of the most dedicated individuals that I have ever known, and it is my pleasure to honor her service and friendship in this issue. Thank you, Janice, for your dedication and wonderful friendship for so many years. The world is a better place because of you!

In closing, we look forward to working with each of you in 2024. Let's make the 2024 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup in April the largest and most effective statewide cleanup ever. Let us know how we can best assist your cities, counties, groups and communities in preparing for the 2024 statewide cleanup.

Thank you for your continued support in 2024.


Spencer

MESSAGE FROM:

JOHN COOPER Director, Alabama Department of Transportation

Continued from page 2

commitment to Keep Alabama Beautiful. With 2,368 volunteers dedicating their time, we successfully cleaned 251 miles of coastal areas, collecting an unimaginable 23,420 lbs. of litter. These numbers reflect the hard work of our volunteers and demonstrates the importance of protecting our coasts.

I am also proud that PALS Adopt a Mile program has reached an impressive 889 miles. This is a testament to the expanding network of individuals and organizations dedicated to keeping our roadways litter-free.

As we approach the holiday season and the end of the year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to PALS and every volunteer who made 2023 a record year. The passion and dedication have played a vital role in achieving these milestones and I am confident that our efforts will yield an even better 2024. I look forward to another year of working with PALS to create a cleaner and more beautiful Alabama.

PALS SUSTAINING CORPORATE SPONSORS



The "Don't Drop It On
Alabama" Spring Cleanup

The Alabama Clean
Campus Program

Adopt-A-Mile

Adopt-A-Stream

Alabama Coastal Cleanup

Adopt-A-Beach

Litter Education Curriculum

Annual Governor's Awards

Statewide Chapter Network

ALDOT REGIONAL ENGINEERS AND AREA OFFICES

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North Regional Engineer
256-505-4956

DEJARVIS LEONARD

East Central
Regional Engineer
256-234-8401

STEVEN GRABEN

SE Regional Engineer
334-353-6851

MATTHEW J. ERICKSEN

SW Regional Engineer
251-470-8204

WALLACE C. MCADORY, III, P.E.

West Central
Regional Engineer
205-327-4963



MESSAGE FROM:

JAMIE MITCHELL – Clean Campus State Coordinator

What a wonderful year 2023 has been for the Clean Campus Program! We have continued spreading the anti-litter message in nearly every county of the state through in-person visits or the Clean Campus learning video. We had more counties than ever participate in our Poster and Recycled Art Contests, and we had winners all the way from Madison to Baldwin Counties! Thousands of students heard our presentation and were given either pencils made from recycled paper, stickers to use on reusable water bottles, or cell phone stick-on wallets. Many new schools conducted campus cleanups with supplies provided by Alabama PALS, as well!

As you make your plans for the spring semester and as Earth Day approaches, we hope that you will consider adding campus cleanups or campus beautification projects into your routine. If you have not yet had an in-person visit from me, I'd love to schedule a time to come speak with your students. The Annual Poster and Recycled Art Contests will be due this year on April 19th, 2024. The theme for this year's poster contest is "From the Hills to the Shore, No More Litter in 2024!" Please

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CLEAN CAMPUS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM

Either fill out form and mail to Alabama PALS Attn: Jamie Mitchell

340 N. Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 or apply online at www.alpals.org

Current Member? ____ Y or ____ N Circle One: City School County School Private School

City: _____ County: _____

Participating School: _____

Address: _____ + _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email for Contact Person: _____

Our school has reviewed the requirements for the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program and is therefore applying to be a participating school in this statewide program.

Signed: _____ (Contact Person)

Date: _____ Phone: _____

PRINCIPAL PERMISSION

I, _____ (Principal), give consent for _____

school to participate in the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

Signed: _____ (Principal) Date: _____

ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PARTICIPATION FORM

Please Complete and Return to The PALS Office
340 North Hull Street / Montgomery, AL 36104

Name of Participating Group _____

Name of Group or Individual on Sign _____

City _____ County _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Email Address of Contact Person _____

State Highway Number _____ Federal Highway # _____ County Highway or Road # _____

Location of Sign: Mile Marker# _____ to Mile Marker # _____

_____ Currently Participating

_____ Not Participating at This time and want sign taken down

_____ Participating But Sign Needs Replacing or Repaired

Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for Highway Adoption - State/Federal

City _____

County _____

Applicant (Participating Organization) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Highway section(s) you propose to adopt:

(minimum of one mile)

State or U.S. Highway Number _____

Milepost Number _____ to Milepost Number _____

State or U.S. Highway Number _____

Milepost Number _____ to Milepost Number _____

Authorized Signature of Applicant

Recommended for Approval:

Approved: _____
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

Alabama PALS

340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Form/Application can be submitted
online at alpals.org

County Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for County Road Adoption

County _____

Applicant (Participating Organization) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Road section(s) you propose to adopt:

(minimum of one mile)

County Road Number _____

Milepost Number _____ to Milepost Number _____

County Road Number _____

Milepost Number _____ to Milepost Number _____

Authorized Signature of Applicant

Recommended Approval:

County Engineer

Chairman, County Commission

Approved: _____
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

Alabama PALS

340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Form/Application can be submitted
online at alpals.org

MESSAGE FROM:

CHRISTY WADDELL

State Adopt-A-Mile Coordinator

As we bid farewell to 2023, we are thrilled to share the incredible success of our Adopt-A-Mile and Adopt-A-Stream programs. Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our wonderful participants, this year has been marked by substantial growth and positive impact. We are delighted to announce that we have ordered a total of 85 new signs in 2023, a testament to the expanding reach and impact of our adoptive efforts. These signs not only symbolize our commitment to environmental stewardship but also serve as beacons of inspiration for communities far and wide.

As we step into the new year, our goal is to continue expanding our adopted miles and streams. We encourage each one of you to look around your local area and consider adopting a mile or stream that could benefit from your care and attention. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to the overall well-being of our environment.

We love to showcase the incredible work of our participants, and what better way to do that than by sharing your journey with us! If you have adopted a mile or stream, please send in your pictures and stories. We would be honored to highlight your organization on our Facebook page and celebrate the positive impact you are making in your community.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has contributed to the success of these programs. Your passion and commitment inspire us all to continue working towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable world.

PALS 2024 POSTER CONTEST

GUIDELINES:

- Theme: *"From the Hills to the Shore, No More Litter in 2024!!"*
- K-6th (Two categories K-3rd and 4th-6th)
- Only one student may work on each poster... no partners, teams or groups.
- Standard White Poster or Foam Board (May be split in half)
- All mediums acceptable
- Posters will be judged on clarity of theme, age-appropriate neatness, originality, overall design and inclusion of helpful information or tips.
- Please only send in the top 3 posters from your school in each category.
- Back of Poster must include the following:
****We really need ALL this information!!****

Student(s) Name(s): _____

Current Grade: _____

Phone Number & Email for Parent: _____

School: _____

Point of Contact at School: _____

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: _____

**ALL posters are due in the PALS office by
Friday, April 19th, 2024**

WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 & Plaque

Second Place: \$25 & Plaque

Third Place: \$25 & Plaque

Honorable Mention: Plaque

****All winners will be recognized at our annual
Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2024****

MESSAGE FROM:

JAMIE MITCHELL – Clean Campus State Coordinator

Continued from page 4

have your own contest at the school level first, then send in only the top 3 posters for statewide judging. Also, note the judging guidelines that will help your students when planning their posters and for judging at the local level. Be sure to have your winners include ALL contact information requested on their posters.

There is no set theme for the Recycled Art Contest, so get CREATIVE! We will accept both 2-D and 3-D works, and the project should be made entirely from recyclable materials (or what would otherwise be considered trash) other than a small amount of fastening materials. As with the poster contest, please only send in the top 3 winners from your school. You may either deliver the pieces or submit them digitally if too heavy or cumbersome to transport for judging. If sending a digital entry and chosen as a winner, that piece will need to be delivered to the PALS office as soon as possible after notification. Be sure to include ALL contact information and turn in entries by April 19, 2024.

The PALS office will notify each winner, school and PALS County Contact by May

Send posters to:

Alabama PALS
Attn: Jamie Mitchell
340 N. Hull Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

*Please contact Jamie with any
further questions at:*
(334) 263-7737

Jamie@alpals.org

*****Winners will be notified by
May 10th. If your poster is not
chosen, you may pick it up at
the PALS office no later than
May 24th*****

10th. Winners will be recognized and presented with their respective awards at the Annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2024.

In closing, I would like to thank each school that is committed to keeping their campus and community clean. Thank you to those that are a part of the Clean Campus Program. Thank you to students that are learning to be better stewards of our environment and are participating in cleanups, contests and helping spread the word about litter. We are all in this together!

If your school is not currently enrolled in the Clean Campus Program, please visit www.alpals.org to sign up. The program is FREE to all Alabama schools thanks to the generosity of Coca-Cola, ALFA, and the Alabama Farmer's Cooperative. Please call or email me with any questions regarding the program or our contests at (334) 263-7737 or jamie@alpals.org.

-Jamie

ALL Recycled Art projects may either be mailed into the PALS office OR photos of your project may be submitted by email to jamie@alpals.org. If mailing/ delivering your project, send to:
Alabama PALS
Attn: Jamie Mitchell
340 N. Hull Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Please contact Jamie with any further questions at:

(334) 263-7737

jamie@alpals.org

*****Winners will be notified by May 10th. If your piece was submitted digitally and is chosen as a winner, it must be arranged to be delivered to the PALS office after notification. If your piece is not chosen, you may pick it up at the PALS office no later than May 26th. *****

PALS 2024 RECYCLED ART CONTEST

GUIDELINES:

- No set theme, so get CREATIVE and ORIGINAL!!
- 7th-12th grades
- May work alone or with one friend (no more than 2 students per art piece)
- Piece may be 2-D or 3-D and any size, as long as it can be easily moved.
- Art must be made entirely of materials that are eligible for recycling or that would be otherwise considered trash, except for a small amount of fastening materials such as screws, bolts, wire, welding, glue, tape and twine.
- Pieces will be judged on originality, visual impact, overall design and craftsmanship.
- Please only send in the top 3 recycled art projects from your school.
- Please include the following information with each submitted piece: ****We really need ALL this information!!****

Student(s) Name(s): _____

Current Grade: _____

Phone Number & Email for Parent: _____

School: _____

Point of Contact at School: _____

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: _____

Art pieces due by mail, delivery or email by April 19th, 2024

WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 (to be divided if working with a friend) & Plaque

Second Place: \$25 & Plaque

Third Place: \$25 & Plaque

Honorable Mention: Plaque

****All winners will be recognized at our annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2024****

ENVIRONMENTAL DAY

BY JAMIE MITCHELL

When I heard the theme of this issue's magazine was "harvest," it prompted me to think of how much the Clean Campus Program has in common with farming. When schools initially sign up for the program, I envision a fresh field ready to be planted. Next, we sow seeds of education to students throughout the school year with our campus visits, conducting campus clean-ups and providing contest opportunities for students.

By the end of the school year, students that are exposed to the Clean Campus Program are just like full-grown wheat in a field. They have grown and matured all year long in their litter-prevention education and are officially better stewards of our beautiful state. The true harvest comes when these students spread the word to family members or simply pick up a piece of litter rather than walking right past it.

This summer, I had the opportunity to speak at the

Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Environmental Day. The students rotated through many stations to learn about everything from local animals to caring for our environment. Many seeds were sown that day with the students, and the harvest should come soon as they join in cleaning up their local Adopt-A-Mile and participate in our contests.

It is our sincere hope that your harvest this year is better than ever! We hope the same for the efforts of the Clean Campus Program as we reach thousands of students this school year to help keep Alabama litter-free! If a school near you would like to learn more, have them visit www.alpals.org. I am happy to answer any questions, also, at (334) 263-7737 or jamie@alpals.org. Alabama PALS programs are free to schools thanks to our state partnerships and corporate sponsors. 🍅



EDUCATING YOUNG LEADERS ON LITTER CLEANUP

BY JAMIE MITCHELL

Happy 2024! The fall was a very busy time for the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program. I visited nearly 20 schools in person, Zoomed with a few more, and had meetings with various other groups around the state to help spread our anti-litter message. I spoke to thousands of students from August to December sharing why we need to all do a little bit each day to keep our beautiful state free from litter.

Two schools I visited this fall were Kinston School in Coffee County and Fairfax Elementary School in Chambers County. At Kinston, I met with 200 students in an assembly aimed at teaching the students how to be lifelong stewards of our environment. I challenged the students to look out the windows on their way home and really see the litter on the side of the road. I asked them to imagine how all that litter got there and how it may or may not ever get picked up. I suggested they start a habit now of picking up at least one piece of litter every day, because we can all make a big differ-

ence when we all do our part!

At Fairfax Elementary School, I met with their student government group. I reminded this group that they are the leaders of the school, and when they are seen doing the “right thing” by picking up litter, the other students will notice. I challenged this group to spread the anti-litter message to their fellow students by not only being an example but also by telling a few friends what all we discussed.

This spring, we hope to visit at least 20 more schools and would love to come to your town! Also, our Poster and Recycled Art Contests will be due in April, and all contest information may be found in our newsletter online at www.alpals.org. If a school near you would like to schedule a visit or has any other questions, I may be reached at (334) 263-7737 or jamie@alpals.org. Alabama PALS programs are free to schools thanks to our state partnerships and corporate sponsors. 🍊



MAKING A DIFFERENCE OVER A BIG AREA



Paulina Vives-Phillips and her beagle, Lucky

Paulina Vives-Phillips moved to the Wakefield area of Marshall County four years ago and she has been making an impact on her community just about ever since.

She lives on Murphy Hill Road and she noticed her road – which is something of a tourist area – was badly littered. Paulina set out to do something about it.

“I picked up the loop of Murphy Hill Road, Mt. Moriah Road and South Sauty

Road,” she said. It took her a year of regular pick-ups multiple times a week to get it done, picking up small sections at a time.

Her faithful beagle, “Lucky,” makes every step she makes on these litter cleaning journeys and it was actually Lucky who indirectly led to the litter pick-ups in the first place.

“I took Lucky for a walk and saw the litter,” Paulina said. “That was the

inspiration for it.”

Paulina initially thought she’d pick up the loop one time and things would change. She thought it would stay clean. She thought neighbors would see her picking up and start picking up themselves or at the very least stop littering.

But that wasn’t what happened. It got littered again almost as soon as she was finished. But the subsequent rounds around the loop weren’t near as bad as the first one. The litter hadn’t had as much time to accumulate.

She expanded her pick-ups along South Sauty Road all the way into Jackson County, where it turns into County Highway 67. She also picked up along Highway 227 to the State Park. It’s a huge territory that she picks up litter on.

So the clean-up job she started 4 years ago continues to this day. She picks up at least 2 or 3 days a week and picks up for 2 to 3 hours on each trip.

Lucky is a 15-inch beagle, not a large dog but certainly not a small dog either, and he can be bundle of energy. Paulina keeps him on a long leash when she’s picking up litter.

For that reason, she doesn’t carry a large litter bag. She saves her small Walmart bags, carries them in a small backpack and will fill 17 or 18 of the small bags with trash on a typical pickup day.

She doesn’t use a “litter grabber” stick either. She started out bare handing the trash she encountered. A neighbor who saw her couldn’t stand to see her doing that and gave her a pair of gloves.

“I wore those gloves out and I am on my second pair now,” she said.

Litter clean-up makes a difference in how a neighborhood looks, but it’s no picnic on its best day. And it can be pretty bad on its worst days. Paulina has had at least a couple of scary incidents.

“Another dog attacked Lucky one day, and put a hole in his side,” she said. There was no way Lucky could walk back home. It could’ve made the hole bigger. Paulina called her husband Ben and he came

and picked them up. Lucky ended up at a veterinary urgent care to get stitched up.

On another day, a broken bottle in Paulina's bag brushed her leg and gashed it open. Again, she had to call her husband to come pick her up.

"He asked me once, 'Why are you doing this?'" Paulina said. Her reply was that it's good exercise for her, good exercise for Lucky and it helps the environment.

She has never figured up the miles or the number of bags she has picked up, although she plans to start doing that. She is now part of PALS – People Against a Littered State – and they like to track the difference their cleaning efforts are making.

"I'm not able to catch up," Paulina said. "My dream was to finish it. I am so naïve, honestly. I thought people were going to get motivated. If they don't get motivated, I thought, they will at least feel sorry for us."

She finds all kinds of litter, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and fast food wrappers being the main offenders.

"Mountain Dew bottles are my arch-enemy," she said. "They're green and you really have to look to see them in the grass."

The most embarrassing material she found was "adult material" scattered on the roadside.

"My 15-year-old nephew was visiting and that made it really embarrassing," she said.

The scariest item was one totally unexpected. She picked up a bag that was heavy and she had to look inside. There was a deer head in the bag.

"It scared me to death," she said.

Her imagination sometimes runs wild during her litter work.

"I make up little stories about the litter I find," she said. "Like the adult material. Was it an angry wife who found it in the vehicle and threw it out the window?"

She regularly finds "99 Bananas" liqueur bottles on her route.

"I don't know who this guy is, but he likes it and you can track him by his bottles," she said.

Has she found any money?

"In four years, I have probably found \$22 or \$23," she said. "When people stop by, they say, 'Why are you doing this?' I say 'Because every time I come out here, I find a \$20 bill.' I've tried everything to get people to pick up."

Cigarette butts are a bane to litter cleaners in town. Paulina said they're bad in the country too.

She is becoming more than just a litter cleaner now. She is becoming an anti-litter advocate. She addressed the Jackson County Commission, encouraging them to put out more roadside garbage cans, more signs and begin a campaign to encourage people to pick up in front of their own homes and businesses. She plans to speak to the Marshall County Commission about the same thing.

"I lived in Japan for several years," she said. "There, everyone keeps things clean in front of their own place. I don't know why we can't do that here."

IN MEMORY OF JANICE CASTLEBERRY



My Memama was a Patriot. The American Flag was such a symbol to her and the freedoms of our country. She was a coordinator of various Patriotic events at Red Level High School, Buck Creek Church, and probably more of those that I don't know. As I look back at the numerous newspaper articles of all kinds, it makes me so proud of her because she loved her country so well. She always wanted to make sure my children knew exactly what the meanings were behind Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. She always inquired if they were being taught this in school and the fact it was not just another day off. She loved the "Red, White, and Blue."

My Memama was a Servant. This is an understatement. It was such a wonderful gift from God to have a woman whose primary spiritual gift was "Acts of Service" matched to such organizations and ideas that would help more people than herself. PALS, being the "Trash Lady", Red Cross, "being the Blood Lady", "the Commissioner's wife", the right-hand lady to help her husband, Johnny, making sure that his people were loved and cared for beyond their roads and community. I have asked her numerous times how many cream cheese pound cakes she's baked and delivered over her lifetime. She always just sort of had a quiet laugh because she'd lost count too. The servant and volunteer list could go on and on. Memama sometimes had a "way" of how she executed ideas—trust me, I know; however, I always knew and will forever remember that anything she wanted to accomplish was based on doing the right thing for a greater cause.

In closing, when Memama was lying there before she entered the pearly gates of Heaven, I told her that she was going to have to find a new servant job. There would be no trash in Heaven and no need for blood drives! However, I know she is putting to use the old hymns she had memorized and sang throughout my childhood. And maybe, just maybe, she is singing in one of Heaven's many choirs in the alto section, accompanied there to her left by my sweet mother, her daughter, Janna.

I love you Memama- you will always be in my heart and soul, and you have done your job here to teach me what it means to be more than a Memama.

It is hard to imagine that the 2024 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring Cleanup is just a few months away. I trust that each of you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year’s holiday and that 2024 will bring you and your families much happiness, fulfillment and joy.

Due to many requests to extend the Spring Cleanup through the month of April, PALS has designated the ENTIRE month of April for the 2024 Spring Cleanup. This will give cities, counties and volunteers the opportunity to designate the time needed to complete their respective cleanups.

We have begun the initial planning for the 2024 Spring Cleanup and wanted to update each of you about the dates for the shipping of materials for the cleanup. PALS is so very fortunate to have Coca-Cola United as our Title Sponsor again in 2024. Coca-Cola United and our other valued Sustaining Corporate Sponsors make the cleanup materials available to all Alabama counties, cities and communities a reality. These dedicated sponsors make all of the statewide PALS programs possible, so please be sure to take time to thank each of these sponsors for all that they continue to do to accomplish the goal of a clean and more beautiful Alabama.

Feel free to contact your respective County Commission Chairman or Engineer and thank them for their part in supporting the “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring Cleanup each year. Also, take time to thank them for their willingness to pick up their respective county’s materials in Montgomery, as they did in 2023. The willingness of the Alabama Association of County Commissions to assist PALS in this distribution plays a huge role in PALS being able to meet the growing needs for each county. Each County Commission office will be contacted prior to the 2024 cleanup.

Also, on a very important note, PLEASE fill out the attached information sheet, complete with email address and return it to the PALS office at 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery AL 36104. We will be sending out e-newsletters with information for the 2024 Spring Cleanup, as well as using the PALS web page (alpals.org) and the PALS Facebook page (facebook.com/alabamapals) to send out information, as well as posting updated pictures and news relating to the 2024 statewide cleanup.

Important Facts for Counties Recycling Plastic Bottles

For 2024, PALS is offering cities, counties and volunteer groups the opportunity to recycle plastic (PET 1) soda bottles and aluminum soda cans. Recycling bags will be provided for those that will be participating. PALS is extremely excited about furthering the recycling effort into the 2024 Spring Cleanup. Please fill out the Information Form and indicate if you and your locality will be participating in the recycling effort during the 2024 cleanup.

Important Dates Relating to the 2024 Spring Cleanup

| | |
|------------------|--|
| January | PALS has Ordered all Spring Cleanup Materials |
| January/February | All County/Group Contact Info to PALS Office |
| March | Groups may order additional materials if needed and if AVAILABLE |
| March 15 | Materials and Supplies in Warehouse for Pick up and Shipping |
| April 1 | Groups may order additional materials if AVAILABLE |
| April 2024 | “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring Cleanup Month |
| May 30 | All Report Forms Due in PALS Office |

Materials Provided by PALS for 2024 Spring Cleanup

| | |
|---|--|
| Large Trash Bags with Corporate Sponsor Logos | Recycling Bags for Counties and Groups Participating |
| Spring Cleanup Ad Slicks | Reporting Forms |
| Window Decals | New PALS Program Brochures |
| Adopt A Mile brochures | Clean Campus brochures |

I would also like to encourage each of you and your groups to commit to adding new participants in the Adopt A Mile, Clean Campus and Adopt A Stream programs during this year’s cleanup. This is an excellent opportunity to involve additional numbers of groups and volunteers for the cleanup, as well as growing the active involvement in the mission of Alabama PALS. PALS is setting a goal of 50 new adopted miles during cleanup week. If you need additional brochures for any PALS program, please let us know and we will mail the brochures prior to the cleanup date. The program brochures can also be found at alpals.org.

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way in your planning for the 2024 Spring Cleanup. Thanks again for all that you and your groups do to further the goal of a clean and more beautiful Alabama. It is because of each of you that we can truly say “We Are Making A Difference.”

Spencer Ryan, Executive Vice President, Alabama PALS



2024 Alabama PALS

"Don't Drop It On Alabama"

Statewide Spring Cleanup

Entire Month of April 2024

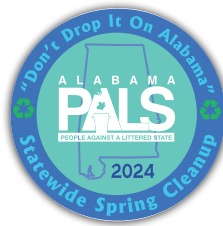
ALL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FURNISHED

Make Plans NOW for your City, County, School, Neighborhood or Volunteer Group to Join Volunteers from Every County in Alabama For the Annual Statewide Spring Cleanup!

Cleanup Coordinator's Name _____

Contact Phone Number _____ Email Address _____





2024 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” SPRING CLEANUP CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Affiliation _____ County _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

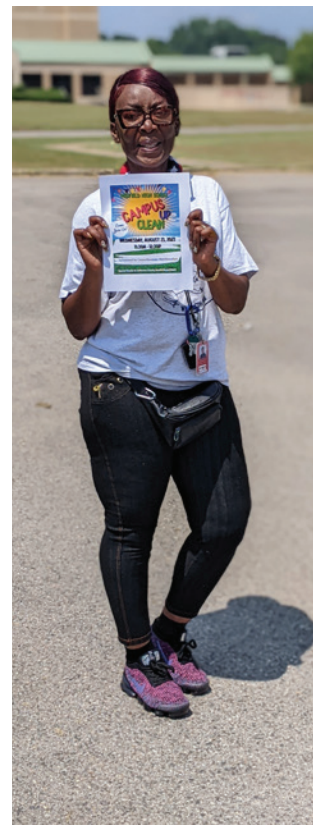
Shipping Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

We are interested in RECYCLING aluminum CANS and Plastic Bottles during the 2024 Spring Cleanup?

YES _____ NO _____ Have Questions _____

PLEASE send completed Form to **Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104**
or Email to spencer@alpals.org or mcollier@countyrisk.org

MIDFIELD SPRING CLEANUP

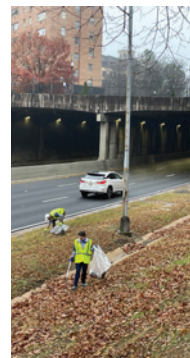


RED MOUNTAIN CUT FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS PICK-UP 800-LBS OF TRASH ON HWY. 280

On Saturday December 9th, the Red Mountain Cut Foundation hosted a litter pick-up on two miles of Highway 280 running through the Cut in Red Mountain between Homewood and St. Vincent's Hospital. More than 20 volunteers came together for 3 hours and cleaned-up almost 800 pounds of litter between mile markers 272 and 274. Thank you to all of our volunteers who came out on a foggy Saturday morning to help keep Birmingham beautiful!

Having formally adopted these two miles of roadway through ALDOT's Adopt-a-Mile program, which is administered by Alabama PALS (alpals.org), the Foundation plans to host regular quarterly litter pick-ups. Our goal is keep this highly visible gateway between downtown Birmingham and our Over-the-Mountain communities looking its best for residents and visitors of the Magic City. With almost 100,000 cars traveling this artery daily, the appearance of this space sends an important message of the pride we take in our community. Please help us out by not littering!

Interested in volunteering? Check redmountaincut.org and Eventbrite.com for future clean-up dates and more information.





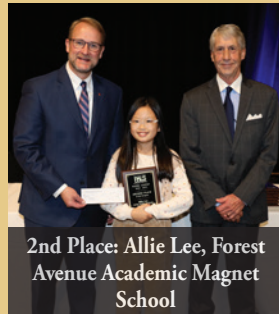
Speaker, Sec. of ALEA,
Hal Taylor



POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – WINNERS



1st Place: Mary Gehring, Bear
Exploration Center

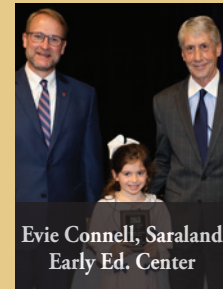


2nd Place: Allie Lee, Forest
Avenue Academic Magnet
School

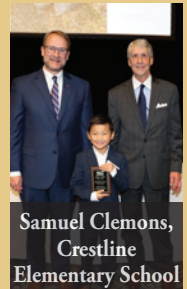


3rd Place: Itzel Tujuan, Bob
Harding Shawmut School

POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – HONORABLE MENTION



Evie Connell, Saraland
Early Ed. Center



Samuel Clemons,
Crestline
Elementary School



Hudson Tokar,
East Elementary
School

Not Pictured: Kentley Sellers, Millry Elementary School, Honorable Mention

POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Bella Hubbert, Hubbertville School



2nd Place: Jase Hill, Hubbertville School



3rd Place: Darli Smitch, Fairfax Elementary School

POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – HONORABLE MENTION



Matthew Ng,
Horizon Elementary School



Luke Lee, Forest Avenue Academic
Magnet School



Ella Rae Harris,
Arab Elementary School

RECYCLED ART CONTEST 7-12TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Phoenix Wallace and Ellis Andrews, Gulf Shores Middle School



2nd Place: Isaiah Rhoden, Rhoden Home School



3rd Place: Daniel Noland and Timber Bowles, Pickens Academy

CLEAN CAMPUS SCRAPBOOK CONTEST



1st Place: Valley High School



Honorable Mention: Sage Beck and Cody Wallace, Kinston High School



2nd Place: Bear Exploration Center



Honorable Mention: Kaitlynn Keller, Trinity Presbyterian School



Honorable Mention: Lott Putnam, Conecuh Springs Christian School

COCA-COLA SPRING CLEANUP/ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARD



3rd Place: (tie) East Elementary School , Parkside School



Gadsden State Community College

2023 ALABAMA



PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD
Association of County Commissions / Marcia Collier



PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD
Osprey Initiative / Don Bates



PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD
Alabama Broadcasters Association / Sharon Tinsley



ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD
Dale Strange, Marshall County



ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD
Montgomery Alpha Kappa Chapter, Montgomery County



ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD
Southside High School Air Force JROTC AL-961, Dallas County



SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD
Lions Club of Prattville, Autauga County



SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD
Marybeth Nicodemus, Jefferson County



SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD
Kim Broughton, Jefferson County



SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD
Max Langley, Jefferson County



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD
Office Depot / Birmingham



SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD
Yolanda Y. Dawson and Darrell J. Lebeaux, Jefferson County



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD
Parker-Hannifin Corp.



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD
Hyco Alabama LLC

P A L S A W A R D S



CITY AWARD
City of Cullman Sanitation
Department



COUNTY AWARD
Chambers County



COCA-COLA "DON'T DROP IT ON ALABAMA" AWARD
Cullman County PALS



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD
Sheriff Matt Gentry,
Cullman County

MEDIA AWARDS Not
Pictured: Sand Mountain
Reporter, Advertiser Glean



COUNTY AWARD
Marshall County Commission



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD
Sheriff Phil Sims, Marshall County



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD
Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept. Reserves



COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD
Meaher State Park



COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD
Ryan Davis



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD
DeKalb County Sheriff's Litter Work Detail



EDUCATION AWARD
Oak Grove High School



EDUCATION AWARD
Homewood High School



JEAN McCRADY SERVICE AWARD
Paulina Phillips,
Marshall County



VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Scott Mann



VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Freddie Freeman



EDUCATION AWARD
Clay Chalkville H.S. Broadcast Academy



VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Tony Speegle

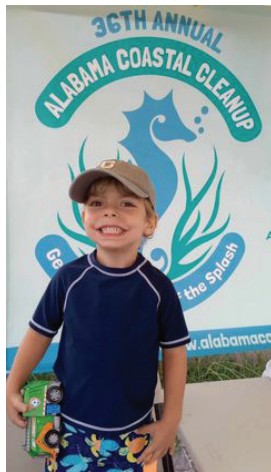
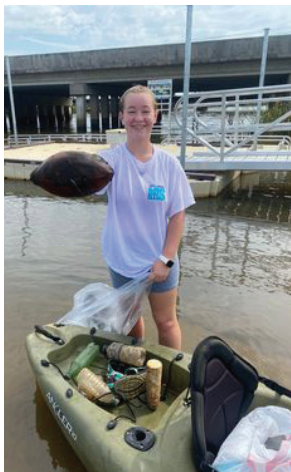


DON HINES MEMORIAL AWARD
Cecilia Pullen, Marshall County



EDUCATION AWARD
Minor High School

ALABAMA PALS COASTAL CLEANUP



FLORA BAMA ZONE



RIVIERA UTILITIES



OSPREY INITIATIVE



ALABAMA PALS COASTAL CLEANUP





ADOPT-A-STREAM APPLICATION FORM

Name of Participating Group _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Contact Person: _____

Location of Proposed Stream Crossing: _____

_____ County: _____

Location for Adopt-A-Stream Signs (Hwy #'s, Mile Markers, etc.) _____

Send Applications to Alabama PALS, 340 N. Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Application can be submitted online at alpals.org



"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"

Alabama PALS Newsletter

People Against A Littered State

340 North Hull St.
Montgomery AL 36104

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Montgomery, AL
Permit No. 571

2023 ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

THE POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

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Alabama Power Company • City of Orange Beach • LuLu's Homeport

City of Gulf Shores • Riviera Utilities • Flora-Bama • Evonik • Rock n' Roll Offs

Coastal Conservation Association-Alabama • Compass Media • Coast 360 • ALDOT

ALFA • Coca-Cola • Vulcan Materials Company • Honda Mfg. of Alabama

Alabama Farmers' Cooperative • Association of County Commissions of Alabama

Kommerling USA • Perdido Beach Resort

*Thank You
To Our Valued Sponsors and Partners!*

