

THE PALS PRINTS

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

WINTER QUARTER 2021 • VOLUME 42

DIRECTOR'S NOTES "WHAT DID I SEE?"

As we all know, 2020 brought many challenges for each of us, our families, businesses, churches, cities, counties and neighborhoods. 2020 was a year in which we all were challenged with many new ways of doing things, while having to navigate new obstacles that at times seemed never ending. At times it seemed that "planning, replanning, then replanning again seemed the order of each week. However, as 2020 progressed, it was evident that the events of 2020 gave us the time to re-evaluate, learn new and more productive ways of accomplishing things, learn to appreciate the important things in life, and most of all to dedicate ourselves to the missions that are most important to each of us. Yes, we all saw negative points, frustration, doubt, and even a sense of defeat as we tried to move forward, but in the end I think we saw the strength of people, and the strength of people standing with those that care about each other to ensure that we can move forward stronger than ever before.

"So what did I see?"

I saw the dedication of cities, counties and statewide volunteer groups continue to plan for the 2020 "Don't Drop it On Alabama" Spring Cleanup as we learned of the first information on COVID-19. I saw county representatives picking up their supplies for the cleanup and pledging to do all they could to carry on this statewide cleanup, knowing that COVID-19 could interrupt and change the plan. I saw many groups statewide continue to hold smaller neighborhood cleanups adhering to the new social distancing and Stay at Home rules. I also saw Saint Clair County pick up over 100 tons of litter during the Spring Cleanup, using the Sheriff's Department and road crews since the COVID-19 restrictions on volunteers were in place. I saw complete support and dedication from Marcia Collier and the Alabama Association of County Commissions as we constantly updated each city, county, and volunteer as to changes for the cleanup due to COVID-19 rule changes. In essence, I saw dedication and commitment!

I saw the Alabama Coastal Cleanup TEAM adjust to the changes that were developing regarding Covid-19 daily. This

Continued on page 3

2021 ALABAMA PALS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Form/Application can be submitted online at alpals.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Sustaining Partner: \$500

☐ Sustaining Steward: \$ 250

☐ Litter Free Leader: \$100

☐ PALS Advocate: \$50

☐ 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



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Margaret McElroy
Executive Assistant
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margaret@alpals.org

Jamie Mitchell
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jamie@alpals.org

Phone: 334-263-7737 or
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Fax # 334-832-9400
NEW 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

Welcome to 2021!

While we're not naive enough to think the changing of a calendar will bring an end to the pandemic, political unrest or personal pain, there is reason to be optimistic about the new year.

The hard lessons of 2020 already are paying dividends in our families, churches and communities. Forced isolation has prompted many of us to appreciate relationships more. We are placing greater value on the small businesses that have struggled these past months. Parents are spending more time with their children. We've developed a greater understanding for the job of teachers. And, many of us have embraced technology for work and worship.

The same is true at Alabama PALS.

Rather than retreating from the challenges of 2020, your Alabama PALS staff embraced the opportunity grow, learn and improve.

One of the most notable changes is use of technology to expand the Clean Campus program. As 2021 begins, Jamie is set up to deliver lessons on stewardship, civic responsibility and recycling to thousands of students through teleconferencing. With the help of our technology consultant, Randy Bowman, we have installed a system that allows for instruction, sharing of multimedia resources and student interaction. Jamie's curriculum will be bolstered by use of a new Clean Campus video, which was made possible with funding from the Alabama Legislature through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

The pandemic also is helping improve the Don't Drop It On Alabama Spring Cleanup. As counties and communities adjusted to shutdowns in 2020, we extended Spring Cleanup to the entire month of April. The response to this change was so positive we are expanding the cleanup again in 2021. This change provides more opportunities for volunteer engagement and creates greater visibility in the community for litter-control efforts.

Meanwhile, coronavirus and Hurricane Sally combined to make the 2020 Coastal Cleanup one of the most rewarding in decades. While nothing about the annual event was "normal," the dedication of our volunteers and sponsors allowed Alabama PALS and our partners with the Alabama State Lands Division to answer the need for post-hurricane cleanup supplies. Our executive director, Spencer Ryan, personally made multiple trips to the coast, delivering bags to staging areas where first responders and volunteers were cleaning up following Hurricane Sally.

Back in Montgomery, Margaret McElroy continued to keep our Adopt-A-Mile program running smoothly. New miles were adopted, signs were replaced, reports were processed and Alabama PALS continued providing millions of dollars in cleanup services to the State of Alabama.

I personally want to thank Spencer, Margaret and Jamie for their dedication. Throughout the pandemic, they have continued to serve our volunteers, counties, communities and state. At times, they've worked in shifts to accommodate social distancing, but Alabama PALS never shut down.

We also want to express appreciation to our loyal board members and sponsors. While other businesses and groups suffered economic loss in 2020, Alabama PALS thrived. The support of our sponsors never wavered.

Thanks to our volunteers, sponsors, employees and government partners, Alabama PALS is stronger than ever and ready for whatever 2021 has to offer.

—Jeff

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Continued from page 1

special TEAM dedicated themselves to giving extra time to developing a plan where all 30 zones could pick up supplies and materials while practicing social distancing, as well as dedicating themselves to hold the 2020 Alabama Coastal Cleanup over a two week period to best serve the 5,000 plus volunteers that participate each year. I have never seen a group more dedicated than the Alabama Coastal Cleanup TEAM during this period. Then along came Hurricane Sally and it was time to do as we all agreed, "What we Have to Do vs What we Want to Do!" The TEAM developed a plan of action to distribute all cleanup materials to staging zones at municipalities, fire departments and other hurricane relief areas for hurricane disaster use. To say that this was a monumental effort would be understating the commitment of all involved. I also saw Corporate Sponsors and Partners working with us and continuing their support throughout the entire period. I saw Partnership at it's best!

I saw the PALS Board of Directors, Corporate Sponsors and staff commit themselves to developing new ways to grow and expand the already successful programs that PALS offers statewide. The PALS family has always been a unique and special group, but during 2020 that truth was manifested each day. I saw this special and dedicated group of partners exemplify a commitment that will benefit the statewide programs of PALS well into the future. Thank you to each of you for your support, friendship, sincere prayers and the dedication of your time and energy to this special organization. No Director of any organization or business has received more support than I have during my 33 years with Alabama PALS. Please take time to thank our Corporate Sponsors and agencies that support this wonderful organization!

I saw the completion of the NEW PALS Clean Campus Program video that can now be used by Alabama teachers and administrators statewide. A special thanks to Jamie and Lance Holloway Productions for working with us to complete this project that will give PALS the opportunity to reach even more schools in the future. Thank you to ADECA for making the production of this video possible.

I also saw Lance Holloway and Sharon Tinsley with The Alabama Broadcasters Association work extra hours to produce the NEW PALS PSA that aired March-June on statewide television and radio stations. I saw a willingness to get something done and a commitment to seeing it through.

I saw the continued growth of the Alabama Adopt A Mile Program during 2020, with new applications coming in weekly, and groups wanting to get outside and do something positive.


I saw the 2020 Alabama PALS Governors Awards Program cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but I ALSO saw the enthusiasm and excitement of each winner as the awards were presented locally through PALS coordinators and volunteers. I want to thank Governor Ivey for her willingness to produce a video to thank each of the winners for their commitment to a clean and beautiful Alabama.

I hope that each of you saw something special during this unusual year of 2020! I surely know that I did!

In closing, I know that many of the PALS family were directly affected by COVID-19. Please know that you have been and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do to make Alabama clean and beautiful, and for being a part of our growing PALS Family.

Looking forward to 2021!



PALS SUSTAINING CORPORATE SPONSORS



HONDA

Vulcan Materials Company



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

**The Alabama Clean
Campus Program**

Adopt-A-Mile

Adopt-A-Stream

Alabama Coastal Cleanup

Adopt-An-Area

Adopt-A-Beach

Litter Education Curriculum

Annual Governor's Awards

Statewide Chapter Network

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North Regional Engineer
256-505-6141

DEJARVIS LEONARD

East Central
Regional Engineer
256-234-8401

GEORGE CONNER

SE Regional Engineer
334-353-6850

VINCENT E. CALAMETTI

SW Regional Engineer
251-404-8204

JAMES D. BROWN

West Central
Regional Engineer
205-562-3100



MESSAGE FROM:

JAMIE MITCHELL – Clean Campus State Coordinator

Some say 2020 will go down as the worst year in recent history...and it certainly was in many ways. Thankfully, Alabama PALS and the Clean Campus Program were able to survive and thrive despite the many, many challenges that were presented last year. The Clean Campus spring contests were delayed until the fall, but we still had beautiful posters and recycled art entered...even if it was not "normal" timing! We still had wonderful scrapbooks submitted even though last school year was cut short. Students, teachers and administration worked together to still carve out time to make the Clean Campus Program a priority even in the strangest of times. Thank you so much for your commitment!

Another huge success for the Clean Campus Program was the completion of our new teaching video. It can be found on our website at www.alpals.org and can be used as a teaching tool in lieu of in-person presentations. We are so excited that the Clean Campus message can now be shown at your convenience and in any location that works for you!

As spring brings the hope for new beginnings, we hope that you will consider adding campus cleanups or campus beautification projects into your routine. We are also hoping for a record number of poster and recycled art entries in 2021! The theme for this year's poster contest is "Litter is DONE in 2021!" Remember to have your own contest at the school first, then send in only the top 3 posters for statewide

Continued on page 6

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 2017-2018 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:

JOHN COOPER

*Director, Alabama Department
of Transportation*

As the Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation, I travel a lot for work. I spend most of my time visiting our offices around the state. Because of the decline in road trips and family visits this year, there was less traffic on our roadways and far less litter because of that. Alabama relies on travelers to do the right thing to keep litter numbers down, but she also relies on volunteers who care about their beautiful home.

Litter poses a serious threat to Alabama's natural beauty. Together, ALDOT and PALS are making this program a huge success, removing hundreds of tons of litter from highways and natural areas annually. This effort helps keep our state beautiful and saves Alabama tax payers millions of dollars in clean-up costs. This is only possible with the dedicated volunteers who work diligently to ensure our roadways are clean.

The men, women and particularly young people who volunteer their time to helping keep Alabama's environment beautiful and roads clean are the most important factor in our efforts. These dedicated volunteers remove hundreds of tons of litter from highways every year. The impact on the environment is immeasurable.

Although 2020 won't be remembered as a regular and typical year, I hope Alabamians can make a promise to Keeping Alabama Beautiful in 2021. On behalf of ALDOT, thank you for your commitment to our ongoing battle against litter. Together, we're making a difference.

— John

PALS 2021 POSTER CONTEST

GUIDELINES:

- Theme: "Litter is DONE in 2021!"
- 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 23rd, 2021**

WINNERS:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| First Place: | \$200 & Award |
| Second Place: | \$25 & Award |
| Third Place: | \$25 & Award |
| Honorable Mention: | Award |

****All winners will be recognized at our annual
Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2021****

judging. Please 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 the backside of their posters. Entries are due April 23rd, 2021.

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 recycled materials 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 enter 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 requested. Entries are due April 23rd, 2021.

The PALS office will notify each winner, school and PALS county contact by May 14th. Winners will be recognized and presented with their respective awards at the Annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2021.

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 14th. If your poster is not
chosen, you may pick it up at
the PALS office no later than
May 28th*****

In closing, I would like to thank every school that is enrolled in the Clean Campus Program for your commitment to teaching students how to be lifelong stewards of our beautiful state. Even in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, students need to be reminded that litter cleanup is still a priority because it is still a problem!

If your school is not currently enrolled in the Clean Campus Program, please head to www.alpals.org to sign up. The program is FREE to all Alabama public, private, city and county schools thanks to the generosity of ALFA, the Alabama Farmer's COOP and Coca-Cola. Please call or email me with any questions regarding the Clean Campus 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 14th. 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 28th. *****

PALS 2021 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 23rd, 2021

WINNERS:

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

Second Place: \$25 & Award

Third Place: \$25 & Award

Honorable Mention: Award

****All winners will be recognized at our annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2021****



Centre Middle School Receives Grant

Centre Middle School has been a member of the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program for a few years, and this summer the school was awarded a three-year grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center's afterschool grant program. We are thrilled for CMS to have an extra funding source this year to continue with their commitment to environmental education and programming.

A meeting was recently held by the CMS student leadership council to map out a plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The group is planning to sponsor campus litter cleanups every other month, in addition to working to increase the amount of waste that is recycled across the campus weekly. Also, the students attending CMS's 21st Century Community Learning Center program will have the opportunity to participate in a service-learning project and will have an in-person visit and presentation from me later in the school year. As a part of the CCLC program, students will study civic responsibility for the environment and present small group programs to peers about the importance of maintaining a clean campus. They also plan to create small "Clean Teams" to monitor campus cleanups and the effectiveness of their goal to become a litter-free campus.

Congratulations to Centre Middle School on their

successful grant application and commitment to a clean campus! Education is a key component to keeping your community clean. If a school near you would like to learn more about the Clean Campus Program, please give me a call or email at 334-263-7737 or jamie@alpals.org, or schools may also find more information at www.alpals.org. As always, the Clean Campus Program is available at no cost to schools thanks to our wonderful corporate sponsors. 🌻





Small Hands Change the World

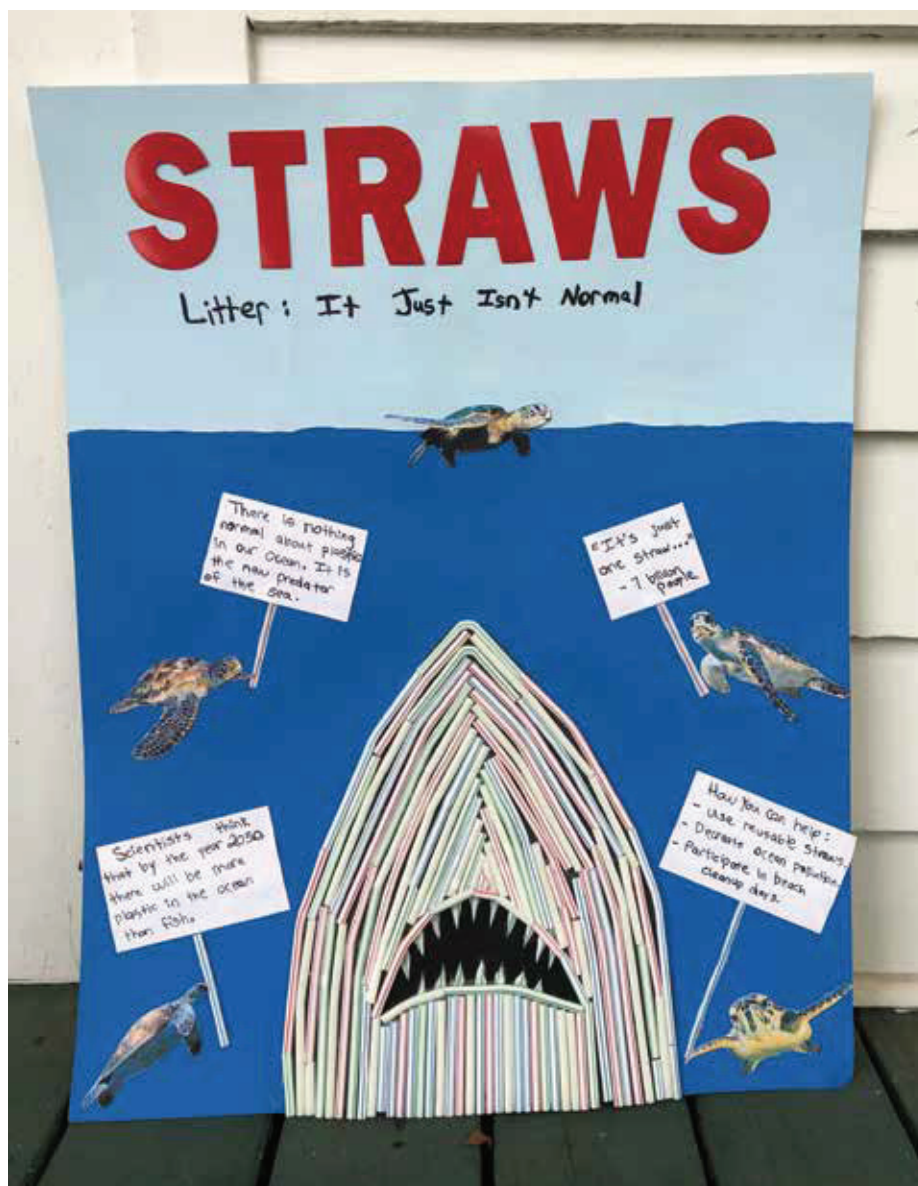
West Blocton Elementary School (WBES) is gearing up for the 2020-2021 school year by creating and implementing their schoolwide plan for helping the environment and taking pride in their school. WBES and their afterschool program, CUBS, are implementing a lot of exciting things this year and completing their plan from last year, despite the challenges of COVID-19. The slogan for the CUBS Program is "Small Hands Change the World." They are teaching students that just one person, one hand and one idea, can make a huge impact on helping others and the environment.

Last year, the students were able to participate and help with school improvements such as painting benches and handrails, cleaning up trash and cleaning out flower beds. A few of the things they have planned for this year will be to make Christmas ornaments out of recycled materials and conduct a book and blanket

drive to give back to their local community. They are even planning West Blocton Elementary's first Earth Day Celebration in many years! The Earth Day celebration will have the following activities: creating flower beds, planting trees and hosting a few wildlife presenters. COVID-19 will not keep the students at WBES from lending a hand to help others. Small hands can change the world one hand at a time!

Way to go, WBES! It is so nice to see that even in this unusual school year, we can still make an impact on our campuses and in our communities! If a school near you would like to learn more about the Clean Campus Program, please give me a call or email at 334-263-7737 or jamie@alpals.org. Schools may also find more information at www.alpals.org. As always, the Clean Campus Program is available at no cost to schools thanks to our wonderful corporate sponsors. 🌻

Poster and Recycled Art Contest Winners



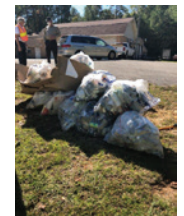
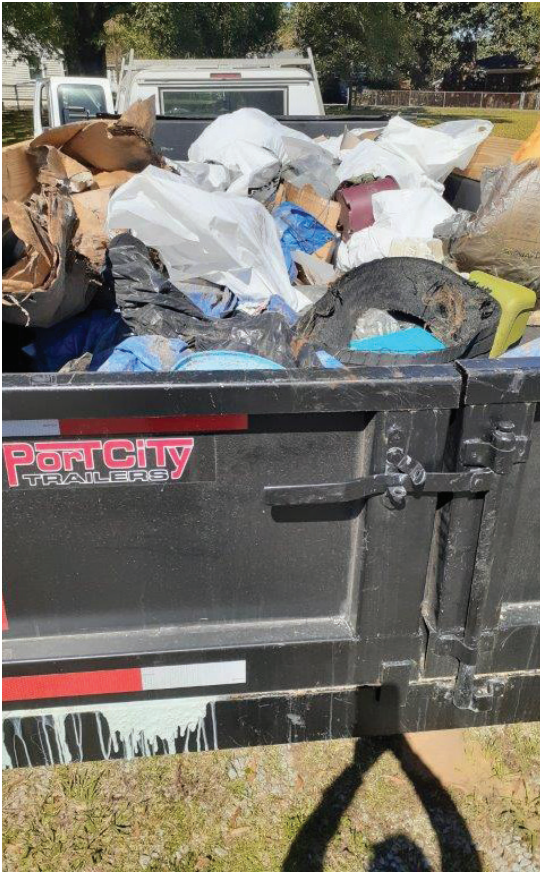
The Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program Poster and Recycled Art Contests are traditionally held in April every year, but with the school shutdown last spring, our contests had to be postponed. We were overjoyed in September when we received a high volume of entries in our contests despite the unusual circumstances surrounding this year's contests.

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 winners! First place in the K-3rd Poster Contest is Grant Glasscock from Crestline Elementary in Morgan County ("Straws" Poster). First place in the 4th-6th Poster Contest is Jane Kimbell Wells from Trinity Presbyterian School in Montgomery County (Turtle Poster). First place in the 7th-12th Recycled Art Contest is Lauren Bonikowski

and Caitlin Russell from LAMP High School in Montgomery County (Flower Sculpture). Each winner will be presented with a monetary scholarship and a plaque at a local ceremony in their county.

Our contests for the 2020-2021 school year will still be held in April 2021, and the theme will be announced in the January PALS Newsletter. If a school near you would like to learn more about the Clean Campus Program or our contests, please give me a call or email at 334-263-7737 or jamie@alpals.org. Schools may also find more information at www.alpals.org. As always, the Clean Campus Program is available at no cost to schools thanks to our wonderful corporate sponsors. 🌻

JEFFERSON COUNTY VOLUNTEER CLEANUPS



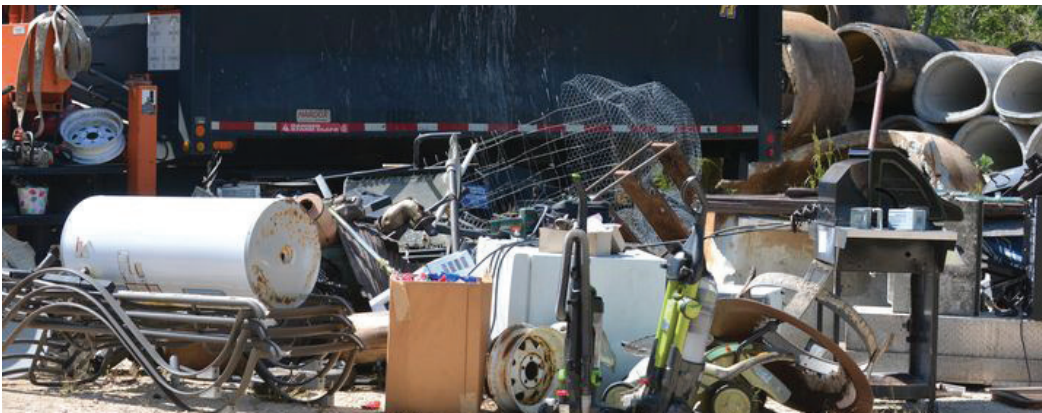
MOBILE COUNTY CLEANUP & RECYCLING EVENTS

The Fernland Community Action Group in Grand Bay AL, removed 19 bags of litter, 27 tires, 6 bicycles, a camper shell and misc. rubbish on November 14. Thanks to Wayne Robinson, Rev. Nathaniel Wilder Jr., Johnny Miller, Tony Rogers, Charles Wilder and Bernice Carter (Pictures: Mobile Cleanup

and Mobile Cleanup2)

Mobile County Environmental Enforcement has continued to collect items for recycling during the Covid -19 pandemic. Five Recycling Events were held in 2020. 605 loads containing electronics, tires, and scrap metal were collected and recycled.

23,889 lbs. of electronic waste was recycled, 1,735 tires were recycled and 41,424 lbs of scrap metal was collected and recycled. 0 loads to the local landfills. Thanks to the Mobile County Commission for supporting these events during the pandemic. (Pictures Mobile Cleanup 3,4,5).



UNITED WAY HANDS ON MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE ROADSIDE CLEANUP PROJECTS VILLAGE CREEK WATERSHED – MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

This project is being spearheaded by the Village Creek Human and Environmental Justice Society and coordinated by a working committee of various organizations and multiple jurisdictions.

This project was heavily impacted from the COVID-19 Pandemic. For example, the portion of the event spearheaded by students and faculty at Minor High School and Minor Middle School cleaning up along Minor Parkway did not take place because of the school's policy with the virus. The Community of Docena's event was not scheduled given there wasn't adequate space for social distancing in the community for a registration site.

Our annual event, normally much larger, only consisted of **8 hosting / supporting organizations and 2 volunteer registration locations this year**. Those that participated came together to pick up litter along roadways and ditches in the Village Creek Watershed preventing these items

from becoming water pollution.

The 2021 MLK Day of Service project was coordinated by representatives from United Way Hands on Birmingham, Jefferson County Commission, and Village Creek Human and Environmental Justice Society.

The following areas were targeted:

- Residential roadways and ditches within the Jefferson County communities of Edgewater B and Mulga Mines. The volunteers for these areas came from the participating communities, Village Creek Human and Environmental Justice Society and United Way Hands on Birmingham.
- New Mulga Loop Road, an arterial roadway. The volunteers for this area came from St. John's Baptist Church, Edgewater B and United Way Hands on Birmingham.

Project results:

- **80 people** (volunteers, administrative and safety support) participated on the day of the event. (28 with Mulga Mines; 52 with Edgewater B)
- **18.24 tons** of material was picked up by volunteers and properly disposed of by Jefferson County Roads and Transportation Department. (15.24 tons in Edgewater B and 3.00 tons in Mulga Mines)
- Traffic control was provided by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.
- Volunteer resources / materials such as trash bags, gloves, trash grabbers, backpacks, water, and snacks were provided by the following: Alabama PALS, Hands on Birmingham, Jefferson County Stormwater Program, Shady Grove Baptist Church, St. John's Baptist Church, and Village Creek Human and Environmental Justice Society.

EDGEWATER B COMMUNITY



MULGA MINES COMMUNITY



5 Questions

Micky Hunt

Siding with PALS in the constant war against littering across Marshall County

Story and photos
by David Moore

It was almost surreal, the ugliness of the moment rearing up, seemingly from nowhere. And it remains burned into the mind's eye of Micky Hunt. It happened one Saturday last fall, and, of all things, the president of the Marshall County PALS – People Against a Littered State – was on his way to a trash pickup.

"I saw this old, 1940s pickup truck that had been beautifully restored," Micky says. "It had been repainted and had wooden slats on the bed and baby moon caps on the wheels."

A grandfatherly gentleman was driving, a young boy of about 10 next to him on the passenger side, a Norman Rockwell moment.

Micky pulled alongside them and waved.

"I like your truck," he called out the window, giving a thumb's up.

"Thank you!"

About that time, they turned off the highway. And, as Micky watched, the grandfather threw a big bag of fast food containers from Hardee's right out the window.

"Damn!" Mickey thought. "The guy is so proud of his clean truck that he doesn't want garbage in it, so he just threw his litter right out the window."

Then, Micky still watching, the young boy likewise threw a bag of fast food trash out his window.

Aghast, Micky laid on his horn.

Where was the guy's civic pride? And what was this child learning from him? The obvious answers – "he had none" and "to be a litterbug."

Micky credits his father's deep involvement in the Huntsville Civitan Club with instilling in him a strong sense of civic-mindedness at an early age.

"I was probably 10 when he had me out in front of the old G.C. Murphy

five and dime store selling Claxon Fruit Cakes," Micky laughs. "He knew people might buy them from a kid."

Curtis Hunt rose to be vice president of Civitan International by the time his son was at Lee High School. With urging from Curtis, Micky eagerly started a Junior Civitan Club. Calling a meeting of 30-40 kids, it became the first Junior Civitan club in North Alabama. Before graduating, he started 17 clubs in the region, including Marshall County High School.

"That's how I got used to doing public service," he says. "And luckily we lived a few blocks from a church that sponsored a Boy Scout Troop. In the Scouts, they teach you to leave no trace wherever you go ... care for the land and appreciate what you have."

Even if simmering in the background, that appreciation remained with Micky and later dovetailed with his TVA career. But it was not in his foremind when he left for Jacksonville State University.

Later, at The University of Alabama, Micky worked up to three jobs while taking classes: apartment complex security guard paid poorly but came with a free apartment and time to study in the guard shack; he worked midnight to 6 a.m. at a convenience store before showering for class; weekends it was deli work.

The deli job was located across from the football practice field, a perk for any Crimson Tide fan. But the biggest benefit of the job is that Cindy Mattson was his boss. They married in 1975.

In 1977, the second semester of Micky's senior year, his dad started a business, contracting to build barracks on Redstone Arsenal. Back surgery left Curtis unable to fulfill the contract so, with bankruptcy pending, Micky headed home to complete the job, ending his college days just short of a degree.

For a while he did construction,

worked in a convenience store and managed a gift shop at the former Parkway City Mall.

In 1980, his life found direction – though not the one he initially intended – when he applied for a job at Bellefonte with TVA, which was training people for nuclear jobs. This was shortly after the partial meltdown at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island, and in the two weeks between his application and acceptance, the glow of Bellefonte turned negative in Micky's mind.

TVA's hydropower division, however, hired him for a dam job. He spent two years training at Wilson Dam and two more in Tennessee at Phipps Bend. He got his first hydro operator job – "dam" job, as he likes to say – on the Ocoee in 1983 before upgrading to senior operator at Kentucky Dam in 1987. He transferred to Guntersville Dam as senior operator in 1990.

It was here when those "leave no trace" lessons of Micky's younger days struck home – or floated home, as the case might be. Guntersville Dam not only backs up water to fill a 67,900-acre lake, it also works like a seine to catch trash.

Micky quickly noticed how trash backed up at the spillway floodgates, most of it, because of the hydraulics, at gate 18, closest to the power house.

Some of the trash was organic, but there was plenty of Styrofoam, life vests, noodles and drink bottles. Some of the trash blew out of boats; much was deliberately discarded.

"We've become a consumer-disposable society, which leads people to litter," Micky says. "I wish I owned stock in Mountain Dew."

Normally, TVA didn't let the trash get too backed up. But sometimes employees themselves were so backed up with work that the trash became problematic from an operations standpoint.

"When it got bad, we'd shut down

the turbines and get the garbage out of the (upstream) forebay," Micky says. "I actually got out in the forebay – walking on the litter. It was about nine feet thick where we measured. My feet got wet but I was able to walk on it."

They had to use a crane on a barge to clean it up.

It opened Micky's eyes. He began noticing trash on county roadways, notably on Snow Point Road, running from Union Grove Road to the dam.

One day, he attended a meeting with TVA supervisor Randy Battles and several county officials organized by Jean McCrady, Faye Markum, Jane Walley, who recently chartered a county chapter of Alabama PALS at the former office in Warrenton and were three local women who were bothered by litter and discussing Alabama PALS. They also discussed the Adopt-A-Mile program, which stirred Micky and others to action.

"The seeds were planted and volunteers sprouted up," he says. "I filled out a form, and it was one of the first Adopt-A-Miles in Guntersville."

He recruited TVA employees, and

one Friday morning every three months they'd pick up the litter along Snow Point. In the afternoon they'd hit the picnic area below the dam.

"We would have two or three pickup trucks heaping over with hundreds and hundreds of bags of garbage," Micky says. "As the years went by, we noticed we were picking up less and less litter. I believe that some people saw us and would think, 'Maybe I should not be throwing out my garbage.'"

Micky tried to attend meetings of the county's PALS chapter, but shift work at TVA made that all but impossible. That changed with retirement in 2007.

"After retirement," he laughs, "I found out they will hunt you down and make you volunteer."

Micky had been a PALS volunteer three or four years when the former president resigned, then executive director Jeannie Wilder asked him if he'd fill the opening.

"I've never been president of anything but a Junior Civitan Club," he told her. "But I will if you will help me."

By then, PALS operated out of a

small, ground-floor office in the Marshall County Courthouse.

Micky soon hit his pace.

"People would call and say, 'My road is dirty, come pick it up,'" he recalls. "I'd say, 'We will if you apply for Adopt-A-Mile.' It was a mutual back scratching."

At the time, PALS has more than 100 dues-paying members.

"We still have a small handful of dedicated volunteers who will actually go out and pick up trash," Micky says.

While numbers have dropped, Marshall County PALS remains an acclaimed chapter. Last year it won six "Governor's Awards" from the state organization:

- County Award – Marshall County PALS;
- Adopt-A-Mile Award – Marshall County Democratic Club for its Adopt-A-Mile section of U.S. 431 just north of Veterans Memorial Bridge;
- Business and Industry Award – Federal Mogul Corp., Boaz;
- Law Enforcement Award – Sheriff Phil Sims and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.

• Media Awards – *The Sand Mountain Reporter* and *The Advertiser-Glean*.

1. *Marshall County has many beautiful places. What are our ugliest places when it comes to litter?*

Sadly, you can go about anywhere in Marshall County and see litter. It's there, even if it's covered up in the late spring, summer and fall.

These are some of the areas where we get our most complaints ...

- Alabama 79 North from U.S. 431 to the Jackson County line.
- Cox Gap Road in the southern part of the county, right off Alabama 79 South is horrible. It's a mountain road.
- Swearengin Road, which drops off the mountain from the light in Grant, gets a lot of litter. So does Simpson Point Road off U.S. 431 North going up to Grant.
- Red Barn Road in Guntersville, where the Cracker Barrel is, is a little side road. People pulling out of the shopping center and restaurants there don't go 100 yards without throwing out garbage.
- One of the worst places for litter

is Fry Gap Road from Arab down into Browns Valley.

• Another of the worst areas we've picked up is called Jughandle Hollow. (I think at one time you could buy moonshine there.) That's a back way from Guntersville to Albertville, off Alabama 227 going up Wyeth Mountain Road. Among others, employees at the feed plants on the lake use that road.

When R.E. Martin was District 2 commissioner and found out PALS would clean it up, he sent a big old truck, and we picked up two and a half tons of garbage in a two-day period.

I don't know why people especially litter roads going up and down our mountains. I guess it's just something in their head ... they have to get rid of that garbage. They also seem to love littering at bridges and streams. And the lakeshore. PALS does lakeshore cleanup with TVA from boats.

2. *What sort of things turn up as roadside litter?*

PALS has found drugs and drug paraphernalia thrown from vehicles.

Blasting caps and dynamite. Even a new iPhone and a \$100 – though those might not have been discarded on purpose.

Along with all of the usual stuff, there's glass, plastic, metal, car parts and tags, construction materials, furniture, mattresses and carpet. We find lots of tires, some car batteries, tools, life jackets and floats, fishing rods and reels and tackle boxes. Some people need to be more careful tying things down in the trucks and boats. If something blows out, it becomes litter.

At Honeycomb Cemetery off U.S. 431 is the TVA day-use area. We've had some "homesteaders" there, and I've had to call the TVA police to run them off. PALS has done a President Day's cleanup there in February the last few years and got a huge pile of trash that includes tires, construction materials, bags of garbage and even a toilet.

3. *If there's a way to stop litter, what is it, short of summary execution?*

Education.

Trying to fight litter, our executive director Cecilia Pullen, other volunteers

and I make anti-litter presentations at schools and to civic clubs. And Boaz Intermediate School has done great things with the PALS Clean Campus Program.

Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job. I think we're the only non-profit trying to do that.

Coronavirus got some of our projects off track, but one was distributing 25 books – "Earth Remembers When" – to all of the school libraries. It's an award winning environmental book by Dawn Wynne. Each page shows a beautiful scene of the earth or ocean, and the page opens out to show what it will look like if we continue trashing it.

In the past, every fall, busloads of school kids attend the ARTS program at the lake. I set up a PALS booth, and we have groups and classrooms come to the booth. I like to educate them on who, what, when, where and why people litter.

If you can educate the kids and they tell their mom and dad what they learned, then maybe their parents will stop littering.

A lot of litter is containers for food and drinks. If you buy a Coke, you also buy the container.

People need to realize that what you do with the container is very important.

Some folks say people litter because they are lazy or because they don't care. I have my own thoughts about it – I think they litter because they only live in the now. They don't think of the past and future. It's all about me. Today.

We are all connected, bound together by three basic needs – clean air, clean water and clean land. People who understand this do not litter. It's the ones who don't feel that humankind connection who litter. They are the ones who are living in the now.

It really comes down to a personal decision. You either litter or you don't.

No one is born a litter bug. You are actually taught to litter by your parents, friends and family.

It's like monkey see, monkey do ... like that littering grandfather in the pickup truck. His grandson was sitting there learning to litter from him.

4. *So, fighting litter is a tough war. How do you keep volunteers going?*

PALS info

The executive board members of Marshall County PALS are:

Executive director - Cecilia Pullen

President - Michael Hunt

Vice president - Alan Scott

Treasurer - John Zibarth

Secretary - Rebecca Whitaker

Wayne Whitaker

John Zibarth

Jean McCrady

Lynn Hurley

Talmadge Butler

Funding by annual membership: \$20, individual; \$25, family; \$30, business; sponsorship are \$100.

Want to volunteer? Got questions? Call Cecilia Monday-Thursday at the PALS office: 256-582-1918; or Micky: 256-582-1610; or visit Marshall County PALS on Facebook.

It is hard. I have had people argue with me that they even have a right to litter – "Who are you to tell me I cannot litter. I can litter if I want to." And I am thinking, "Man, you are one shortsighted individual."

I think the old saying is true: Think globally but act locally. You have to keep the big picture in focus, but it's sometimes difficult when you see our littered roads. Without our volunteers doing what they do, however, it would be so much worse.

How to keep going: I contact each person doing an Adopt-A-Mile or Adopt-A-Stream program and tell them I will provide PALS volunteers. I will provide the bags, the gloves, safety vests and litter grabbers.

We encourage our volunteers to pick up four times a year. Essentially, they have to have it in their heart. Or they have to hate litter bad enough to get out and pick it up.

I look at PALS as a pebble tossed into calm water. We send out ripples in the water... ripples of awareness about litter.

Another thing I hope will help the cause is the state law passed last year that changes litter violations from Class C misdemeanors to Class B. That means first-time offenders can be fined up to \$500. Second offenses carry fines from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and up to 100 hours of community service picking up litter along the highways or waterways. Conviction also means possible jail time up to six months.

The law kicks in additional penalties for certain types of littering from a vehicle or vessel, including tossing out cigarette butts, cigars and food containers. Those violations will cost you an additional \$500.

5. *What's something most people don't know about Micky Hunt?*

When we were at UA in 1977, Cindy got a job in the university records department. She came home one day and said she knew where Bear Bryant lived. He had moved, and she had changed his address for the records. I was like really excited!

The next Saturday Alabama won a big home game, and Cindy and I partied all night and went to eat breakfast the next morning. At the restaurant I got a free map of Tuscaloosa, and we located Watermelon Road.

So at eight o'clock we found ourselves parked in front of Bear's house. In about 15 minutes the paperboy came and threw the Sunday paper on his sidewalk.

Suddenly, without much thought, I decided to give Bear his Sunday paper and walked up to the door and rang the bell.

In a minute the door opened and there stood Bear Bryant in his housecoat and slippers.

I suddenly felt so intimidated.

In his gravelly old voice he asked, "What are you doing, boy? What do you want?"

"Ah, ah, ah ..." I stuttered, red-faced. "Ah ... here's your Sunday paper, Bear."

I handed him the paper and ran to the car like a scared cat. We went home and laughed for two days at how scared I had been. My wife still laughs about it.

Good Life Magazine

Marla and neighbors picked up 0.105 tons of trash from along 2 miles in Forestdale this past weekend!



2021 Dates to Remember

January

2021 Spring Cleanup Materials Ordered
PALS Newsletter Mailed

February

All Spring Cleanup Info Forms (Counties and Groups) Due in PALS Office

March 10

PALS Board of Director's Meeting (Possible Zoom)

March 15

2021 Spring Cleanup Materials Ready for Pickup

Entire Month of April

2021 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup

April 23

Clean Campus Posters and Recycled Art Contests Entries Due in PALS Office

July

PALS Board Meeting
Newsletter Mailed

September 16

2021 Alabama Coastal Cleanup Materials Distribution Day

September 18

2021 Alabama Coastal Cleanup

October 20

Alabama PALS Governor's Awards Nominations Due in PALS Office

November 17

Alabama PALS Board Meeting
Alabama PALS Governor's Awards and Luncheon



2021 Alabama PALS

“Don’t Drop It On Alabama”

Statewide Spring Cleanup

Entire Month of April 2021

MATERIALS FURNISHED FOR CLEANUPS

**Large Trash Bags, Ad Slicks, Reporting Forms, Safety Tip Sheets,
Window Decals, Recycling Bags if requested, PALS Program Brochures**

All Materials Will Be Ready For Pickup on March 15, 2021

*We look forward to working with each of you and your respective counties as we
make the 2021 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring
Cleanup the largest and most successful cleanup in Alabama history.*





2021 “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 2021 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**

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

POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – WINNERS



1st Place: Grant Glasscock
2nd Place: Jackson Stalnaker
Crestline Elementary, Morgan Co.



3rd Place: Emma Cho
Bear Exploration Center,
Montgomery Co.

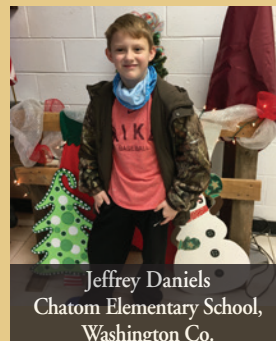
POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – HONORABLE MENTION



Wyatt Reed
McIntosh Elementary,
Washington Co.



Alyssa Wright
Leroy High School,
Washington Co.



Jeffrey Daniels
Chatom Elementary School,
Washington Co.

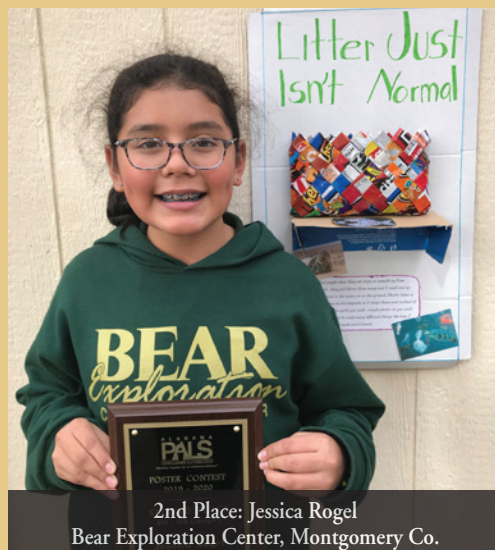


Makaia Blakely
Millry High School,
Washington Co.

POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Jane Kimbell Wells
Trinity Presbyterian School, Montgomery Co.



2nd Place: Jessica Rogel
Bear Exploration Center, Montgomery Co.



3rd Place: Carleigh Tidwell
Hartselle Intermediate School, Morgan Co.

POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – HONORABLE MENTION



Anna Hudson
Trinity Presbyterian School, Montgomery Co.

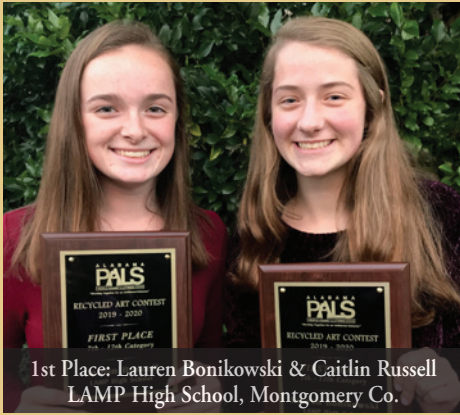


Ruby Thompson
Bluff Park Elementary, Jefferson Co.



Scarlett Worley
Bluff Park Elementary, Jefferson Co.

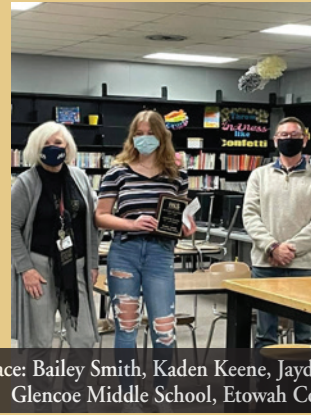
RECYCLED ART CONTEST 7-12TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Lauren Bonikowski & Caitlin Russell
LAMP High School, Montgomery Co.



2nd Place: Bailey Smith, Kaden Keene, Jayden Daniel
Glencoe Middle School, Etowah Co.



3rd Place: Delaney Stanley
Honorable Mention: Stuart Edwards
Trinity Presbyterian School, Montgomery Co.



Honorable Mention: Hope Thomas & Grace Thomas
Pike Liberal Arts School, Pike Co.

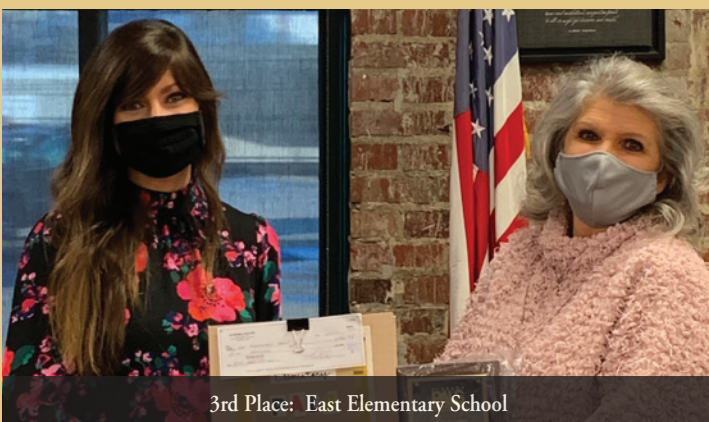
CLEAN CAMPUS SCRAPBOOK CONTEST



1st Place: Hanceville Elementary School



2nd Place: Crestline Elementary School



3rd Place: East Elementary School



Honorable Mention: West Blocton Elementary



PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD
Marcia Collier
Association of County Commissions



Sharon Tinsley
Alabama Broadcaster's Assn.



VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Keith Golden, Jefferson County



JEAN MCCRADY SERVICE AWARD
Jonika Smith, Jefferson County



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD
Sheriff Matt Gentry
Cullman County



Senior Conservation Officer Curt Porter
Fayette County



SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD
Adger Community



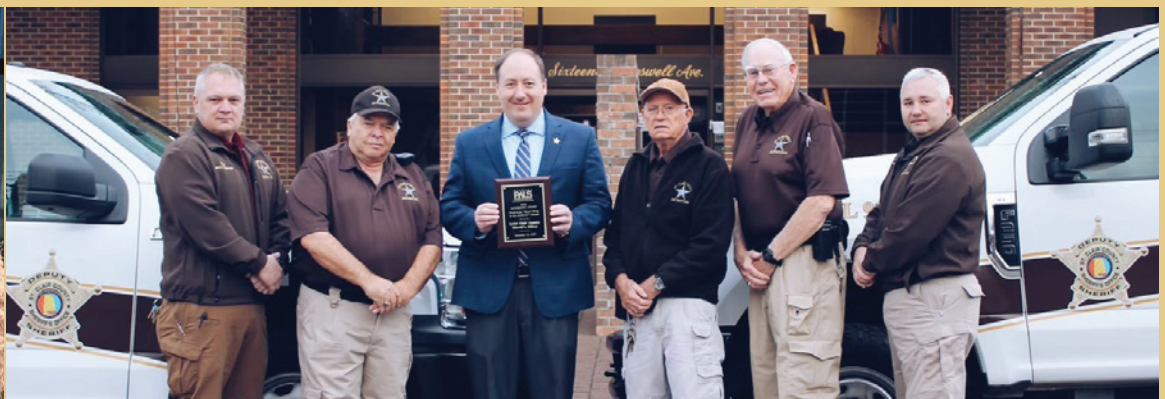
ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD
Alabama Community College Association



COUNTY AWARD
Jefferson County Roads and Transportation Department



Cullman County PALS



COCA-COLA "DON'T DROP IT ON ALABAMA" SPRING CLEANUP AWARD
Saint Clair County Sheriff's Office



Red Mountain Heights Community



Martintown Raimund Community



CITY AWARD

City Of Cullman Sanitation Department



MLK Cleanup-Minor High School



EDUCATION

MLK Cleanup Minor Junior High School



Woodlawn High School



Ramsay High School



EDUCATION

G.W. Carver High School



Oak Grove High School



Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Alabama PALS Newsletter
People Against A Littered State

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